



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 14 June 2018

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## THURSDAY, 14 JUNE 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.

### SPEAKER'S RULINGS

#### Question on Notice No. 359 of 2018



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 6 June 2018 I received a complaint from the member for Burleigh that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy did not answer question on notice No. 359 of 2018. The member for Burleigh has asked me to rule the question unanswered. I am not ruling the question unanswered. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 June 2018, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a complaint about an answer to a question on notice [\[870\]](#).

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

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—QUESTION ON NOTICE, ANSWERED

On 6 June 2018 I received a complaint from the Member for Burleigh that the Minister for Natural Resources Mines and Energy did not answer Question on Notice 359 of 2018.

The question related to the "Queensland Competition Authority's public workshops carried out as consultation on the setting of regional electricity prices".

The minister in his response pointed out that the authority is administered by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the question should be directed to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. The Member for Burleigh argues that the Minister for Natural Resources Mines and Energy has delegated functions under the Electricity Act 1994 to the Queensland Competition Authority (QCA) and that the minister has stated in that delegation that the consultation undertaken by the QCA is sufficient. The member essentially argues that the minister had information regarding the QCA's public consultation workshops and that the Minister could have answered the question and has asked me to rule the question unanswered.

The question asked by the Member for Burleigh does not reference the minister's delegation, it simply asks for detailed information about the QCA's public workshops carried out in the setting of regional electricity prices. If the member had asked a more specific question requesting the minister's knowledge or information at hand about the QCA's public consultation in terms of the minister's delegation power under the Electricity Act 1994, the result may have been different. But the member did not ask that question. Instead the member's question broadly asks for information about the activities of the Authority which sits within the responsibility of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

#### Question on Notice No. 85 of 2018



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 13 June 2018 I received a complaint from the member for Southern Downs that the Minister for Transport and Main Roads did not answer part of question on notice No. 85 of 2018. The question had multiple parts. The minister has provided a detailed, responsive answer. I am not ruling the question unanswered.

If members ask questions with multiple parts they run the risk that some parts will not be answered to their satisfaction. They also run the risk that the question will be ruled out of order. If the member requires further information then the member may ask further questions. I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 12 June 2018, from the member for Southern Downs, Mr James Lister MP, to the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding a complaint about an answer to a question on notice [\[871\]](#).

## PETITION

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

### Recreational Fishing, Size Limits

From 460 petitioners, requesting the House to maintain the existing possession and size limits for Queensland recreational fishers [\[872\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

#### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Premier and Minister for Trade (Hon. Palaszczuk)—

[873](#) Correspondence in relation to the Speaker's proposed overseas travel

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles)—

[874](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (2903-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 116 petitioners, requesting the House to prioritise funding for shared models of care between alcohol services and domestic and family violence services

[875](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (2928-18) presented by Mr Mander, from 27 petitioners, requesting the House to evaluate the need for additional car and motorcycle parking requirements at the Prince Charles Hospital taking into account any planned development and to make the evaluation publicly available

Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace)—

[876](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations (Hon. Grace), to a paper petition (2929-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (2857-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 16 and 1,002 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to call on the State Government of Queensland to investigate a business model for a High School in the South West area of Toowoomba that will accommodate these growth areas and reduce the pressure on Harristown and Centenary Heights High Schools which are reaching capacity

Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner)—

[877](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (2930-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 167 petitioners, requesting the House to review the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries decision to deconstruct the Jimna Fire Tower

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey)—

[878](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2893-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 46 petitioners, requesting the House ensure that the safety guards at the level rail crossings located in the Rockhampton CBD, along Denison Street and the following cross streets of Cambridge, Archer, Fitzroy, Denham, William, Derby and Stanley are upgraded to include the installation of boom gates, flashing lights and better lighting

[879](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2931-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 16 petitioners, requesting the House to allow private enterprise to construct a bridge to the Moreton Bay Islands, including North Stradbroke Island

[880](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (2932-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 357 petitioners, requesting the House to direct the feasibility study to investigate alternative routes for the Light Rail to head South and not the Gold Coast Highway route alone

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Hon. D'Ath)—

[881](#) Electoral Commission Queensland Statistical Return for the 2017 State General Election Report

[882](#) Letter, dated 28 May 2018, from the Acting Electoral Commissioner to the Attorney-General attaching the Statistical Return for the 2017 State General Election Report

Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer)—

[883](#) Response from the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Farmer), to an ePetition (2911-18) sponsored by Ms Simpson, from 93 petitioners, requesting the House to ask the Minister for Child Safety, Youth & Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic & Family Violence to provide additional support under the Local Area Priority Projects (LEAPP) initiative to enable the Family Support Program at the Maroochy Neighbourhood Centre to continue beyond June 2018

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Herston Quarter

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): I am pleased to inform the House that my government is on track to deliver crucial public health infrastructure to meet our growing health demands. Later today I will join the Minister for State Development, Cameron Dick, and the Minister for Industrial Relations, Grace Grace, to see firsthand the work that has started on the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter redevelopment right here in Brisbane, next to Queensland's largest hospital, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The precinct will be part of one of the nation's largest health innovation and knowledge hubs.

There is a great story to this project. My government saved this crucial site from the LNP's asset sales agenda. I am pleased to say that construction is now underway on a new \$340 million specialist public health facility. This will be the first health building delivered as part of this innovative redevelopment. The centre will boast seven operating theatres, procedure rooms and consultation spaces for a range of specialties combined with short-stay elective surgery. This will help free up other hospital beds and reduce waitlists for Queensland hospital patients. Once the health facility is operational in 2021, it will support approximately 900 clinical and non-clinical jobs. During construction of this facility approximately 250 jobs will be generated and approximately 700 jobs overall throughout the life of this project.

This health focused redevelopment project is facilitated by the Herston Quarter priority development area, which was declared in November 2016. It is being delivered in public-private partnership with Metro North Hospital and Health Service and Australian Unity. The master plan for this site also includes a new private hospital, aged-care and retirement living, residential and student accommodation, retail development, and public realm and other infrastructure to support the precinct.

Over the next 10 years Herston Quarter will be redeveloped into a world-class health and wellbeing precinct where Australia's brightest minds can live and work on site to further health education and research for Queenslanders. I look forward to keeping the House updated on this exciting project that will benefit all Queenslanders.

### Literacy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): My government is committed to giving Queensland children a great start in life. One of the ways we are doing this is through our commitment to increasing literacy levels. Literacy is a powerful tool which builds a solid foundation for lifelong learning. One of the best ways we can improve literacy levels is by helping children to develop an early love of reading. We know that sharing stories, rhymes and songs with children from birth builds the foundation for their future development. Put simply, literacy is life changing. That is why in this year's budget we are investing \$20 million over four years for the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative.

First 5 Forever is an early literacy initiative to provide strong foundations for Queensland children under six years of age. It is delivered in Queensland's 350 public libraries and Indigenous learning centres and provides the important support that parents and caregivers, the first educators of our children, need to encourage a love of reading. The program's flexibility allows local libraries to tailor story time, rhyme time and baby time sessions to best suit their communities.

Since we introduced this initiative in 2015 it has been a huge success. It is loved by libraries, by families and by local governments. The LGAQ president and Sunshine Coast mayor, Mark Jamieson, this week welcomed our commitment to the initiative, saying—

Council-run libraries have the potential to reach 98 percent of Queensland's population, including children and their families at a critical time in their development.

First 5 Forever is complemented by another important reading program my government has reintroduced, the Ready Reading program. At the last election I told Queenslanders we would bring back this important initiative that was scrapped by the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP in 2012. In April this year I announced we would invest more than \$1.5 million over three years to reintroduce this important initiative. This program will see up to 3,000 reading volunteers trained by Volunteering Queensland to go into schools across our state to share the love of reading with students. Through these two important initiatives my government is giving all Queensland children the best start in life.

### Proserpine Entertainment Centre

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Last month my cabinet spent a week governing from the Mackay and Whitsunday region, meeting with local stakeholders and businesspeople about the issues that matter most to them. During my visit my government announced more than \$18 million in funding for the revitalisation and restoration of three Mackay beaches, the Bluewater Trail, Queens Park and the Whitsunday Regional Council administration building.

Today I am pleased to announce that a key Whitsunday arts and cultural precinct, the Proserpine Entertainment Centre, will be returned to its former glory. The centre was significantly damaged last year during severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie. I am pleased to be able to provide \$500,000 to ensure its restoration. When I had the opportunity to go to the local primary school it was holding an open day, which was being attended by a lot of community members. They asked me if I could please look at fast-tracking the redevelopment of Proserpine Entertainment Centre because a lot of the seniors had nowhere to meet. It was their annual meeting place. I immediately spoke to my cabinet colleagues and to the mayor. I advised the mayor yesterday that this money would be forthcoming. It is needed for the community. The community is still having an incredibly tough time. I want to make sure that my government is doing everything it possibly can to help that community get back on its feet.

I want to acknowledge the hardworking commitment of Whitsunday Regional Council and the mayor. I know this funding will be a welcome boost to the community. The Proserpine Entertainment Centre provides the Whitsunday region with a significant space to enjoy live performances and events, movies, conferences and functions. I know the reopening will be well received by locals and tourists who will once again have access to high-quality arts and culture in the Whitsundays.

### Budget

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.39 am): Budgets are about choices and the Palaszczuk Labor government has chosen to deliver for Queenslanders. We are delivering the infrastructure, the jobs and the services that Queenslanders need. We are choosing to invest in our state's future, not to cut, sack and sell. The choices for Queensland could not be clearer. This government has chosen to keep our income-producing assets in public hands. This has allowed us to invest those dividends into keeping—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Apologies, Deputy Premier. Minister for Education and member for Chatsworth, you are both warned under standing orders. We are not going to get off to this kind of start today.

**Ms TRAD:** This government has chosen to keep our income-producing assets in public hands and this has allowed us to invest those dividends into keeping electricity prices low. This government has chosen to pursue a renewable energy industry. Our focus on renewables has allowed us to drive a renewable energy industry with an estimated \$4.2 billion worth of projects in the pipeline or financially committed to across the state. Our government has chosen to manage our state's balance sheet in a stable and sustainable way that has allowed us to invest in the services and the infrastructure that we need. We have chosen to be up-front and honest with the public. We took modest revenue measures to the last election that would not impact ordinary householders and our budget has delivered on that promise. We have chosen to do all of those things without savage cuts to front-line services that hurt Queensland families. We have record spends in Health and in Education. We have a \$45.8 billion infrastructure spend over the next four years and we continue to invest in the job-creating programs that have seen us create more than 83,000 jobs in the last year and more than 150,000 jobs since we were elected in 2015. Even the federal Treasurer, Scott Morrison, last month claimed credit for our strong jobs record. He said—

... one in five of those jobs went to Queenslanders. One in five. So Queensland is really sharing in the growing economy ...

We are not sharing in it; this Palaszczuk Labor government is driving that economic growth.

The choices we have made in this budget will continue to support strong economic growth into the future. The 2018-19 budget shows that economic growth in Queensland is expected to strengthen to 2¾ per cent in this financial year, growing to three per cent in the next. A renewed strength in domestic activity has been a feature of our economic growth. State final demand has risen for nine consecutive quarters and is expected to be a key driver of growth over the forward estimates.

Queensland's economy has strengthened on the back of a strong rebound in business investment in 2017-18 to be one of the key drivers of growth. Billions of dollars in investment are in the pipeline, including substantial investment in renewables such as solar and wind farms. Our budget strategy has been endorsed widely since the budget was handed down on Tuesday. Deloitte Access Economics called the budget safe but smart. It said—

Safe, in that it manages to increase expenditure, retain a surplus—

over the forward estimates—

and deliver on election commitments, all at the same time.

Smart, in that it targets areas that will help the continued transition of the Queensland economy away from those 'rocks, crops and cameras'.

In its analysis, the Commonwealth Bank said a ratings upgrade was not yet on the agenda but that such a move is more likely than a downgrade. Many more stakeholder groups across the state have recognised and endorsed some of our key budget initiatives. The LGAQ welcomed the state government's 2018-19 budget, saying that it contains critical commitments to help ensure Queensland councils continued to provide the services and infrastructure that their communities need. CCIQ said that the continuation of the payroll tax rebate for employers taking on apprentices and trainees, the extension of the successful Back to Work program and skills and training initiatives were wins for Queensland small business. The Australian Industry Group welcomed the significant lift in infrastructure spending and the renewed commitment to some targeted business building and skills development programs.

These positive comments speak to the fact that we have listened and we are now delivering for Queensland. We are doing exactly what we said we would do. The choices that governments make define them. We stand by the commitments we made at the last election and we are delivering on each and every single one of them. We have chosen to invest in Queensland and in Queenslanders. We have chosen to put Queensland first.

### **Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): There is no more basic responsibility for government than to ensure that communities are protected from disasters and can recover from them. That is why I am so proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided for a \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund in this budget which will support local governments, state agencies and non-government organisations deliver mitigation and resilience projects across four years, starting in 2018-19.

This important program provides a damning contrast with the Turnbull government. As I have said many times in this place, the Turnbull government has been failing in its responsibilities to Queensland by refusing to clarify the funding changes it is making to the Natural Disaster Relief and Recovery Arrangements, the NDRRA. With barely three weeks to go until the cessation of the NDRRA, the Commonwealth finally released the new disaster recovery funding arrangements just last Friday. The arrangements will apply to natural disaster events from 1 November, with the existing NDRRA determination to apply in a transitional arrangement for any disasters that occur between now and 31 October.

While finally we have some certainty with the disaster recovery funding arrangements, there has been no commitment from the Turnbull government to continue the Natural Disaster Resilience Program past the end of the 2017-18 financial year. What that means is that there is a funding gap where we will not see federal money made available for resilience works until after disasters occur. The LNP and Malcolm Turnbull want Queenslanders to wait until disaster strikes before they will pay for preventative works, but thanks to the Palaszczuk government Queenslanders can rest assured that they will be supported to undertake resilience works in our local communities. We will not make Queenslanders wait for a disaster in order to get critical works underway.

With the establishment of our \$38 million Disaster Resilience Fund, we will bridge the gap between the cessation of the Natural Disaster Resilience Program and the allocation of funds that will eventually flow from the disaster recovery funding arrangements. Once again, I call on the Turnbull government to match our government's \$38 million funding commitment dollar for dollar across the next four years. We cannot wait for disasters to strike and wreak havoc, because history shows that up-front investment in stronger infrastructure and more resilient communities saves money for all levels of government in the long term.

### Queen's Wharf; Topgolf

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.47 am): Today construction started on the 172-metre-long river wall at the Queen's Wharf site. This is a key construction milestone in the development of this \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf Brisbane project. The concrete diaphragm wall is 22 metres long and will create a watertight underground barrier between the Queen's Wharf project and the Brisbane River. Queen's Wharf is generating thousands of jobs during construction and will support thousands of jobs in ongoing operational works. From this week the consortium will start advertising through Destination Brisbane for jobs in industry skills such as painting, steelwork, glazing, metalwork, carpentry, roofing, hardware supplies and many others. I urge subcontractors, suppliers and tradespeople to log on to the Destination Brisbane Consortium's website and register.

In other great news for the tourism industry today, I am also pleased to recognise that the latest tourism offering on the Gold Coast will open its doors. Village Roadshow's Topgolf is the first for Queensland and will be a game-changer for the Gold Coast. I know that the Premier and I very much wanted to be there for the opening, but of course we have key business to do here. Very excitingly—and this is a pun that you would like, Mr Speaker—this will drive many more visits to Queensland and is supporting more than 400 jobs.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Hole in one. Well done.

### Budget, Small Business

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.49 am): The Queensland budget backs small business. With the release of the first ever small business budget statement, we are signalling to small and medium businesses across Queensland that we recognise that they are the engine room of our strong economy. The small business budget statement will be essential reading for the more than 6,000 participants in our recent Queensland Small Business Week.

The range of support on offer has been very warmly received. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry welcomed the focus on small business, saying—

... this budget acknowledged that it is small business that grows Queensland's economy, and we saw this reflected in the priority given to small business in the budget papers handed down today.

The CCIQ also recognised how our \$45 billion infrastructure budget will support 38,000 Queensland jobs every year, powering apprenticeship and traineeship opportunities in small business. That is not all. This week's budget also confirmed our ongoing support for our apprentice and trainee payroll tax rebate. This \$26 million initiative will support the employment of more than 26,000 apprentices and trainees in the coming year. We want to encourage growing small and medium businesses to take on apprentices and reduce their business costs at the same time.

Work to provide incentives such as this was described as an 'excellent decision' by Nick Behrens and a 'winner' by BDO. Why? Like this government, they know that it works. The latest figures from the National Centre for Vocational Education Research show that in Queensland commencement numbers of apprentices and trainees are up by 8.5 per cent while the nationwide number fell by 1.7 per cent. Queensland is bucking the national trend, because we are putting in place the measures to promote apprenticeships and traineeships.

Although Queensland is leading the nation, we still want to do more. We want to continue to grow that number and continue to support apprentices and trainees through to the completion of their training. To do this, we need to partner with industry. That is why last month, at Airlie Beach Welding and Fabrication, along with the Premier I announced our \$1 million Advancing Apprentices Fund. This fund will enable the Palaszczuk government to partner with industry to encourage more people into apprenticeships and, most importantly, give them the support to complete their apprenticeships. I am looking forward to working with industry groups and business at the upcoming Advancing Apprentices round tables to generate greater interest among Queenslanders in taking up apprenticeships and traineeships.

### Budget, Law and Order

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.51 am): More police, more police stations, more technology, new police boats, more specialist officers, more support for at-risk young people—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** They like to talk, but that is all they do. They talk but never do. Unlike them, we are delivering for our police. These are the Palaszczuk government's commitments. What do they mean? They mean a safer Queensland. They are advancing Queensland's priorities. This is the Palaszczuk government delivering for Queenslanders and the Palaszczuk government honouring its commitments. This is the Palaszczuk government giving the Queensland Police Service the resources and personnel that it needs to keep Queenslanders safe. We have more police personnel in Queensland than ever before. They are better qualified, better trained and better equipped than ever before. After a recent trip to Kowanyama and Thursday Island, I came away from those far-flung places reassured that the Queensland Police Service is properly resourced to keep Queenslanders safe no matter where they live.

The Palaszczuk government is building on its commitment to invest in policing, but it is also looking to the future by allocating funds in this year's budget for emerging threats such as terrorism. There will be 85 new counterterrorism specialists embedded statewide. There will be a new dedicated counterterrorism police command. In addition, we will be investing in new police facilities—\$2.4 million to start construction on a new policing hub at Arundel. We will also continue to invest in our Water Police, with \$5.4 million to develop new Water Police boats to replace existing vessels.

Technology plays a big part in modern policing, enabling officers to be more mobile and rapid-response ready. That is why we are rolling out an extra \$1,400 QLiTE mobile tablet devices. We are also making sure that vulnerable people in our community get the support they need, with \$4 million to fund 24 new domestic and family violence coordinators. These specialist officers will be allocated across the state to provide direction, guidance and training to other officers.

The best crime fighting is crime prevention. That is why my government is continuing its support for the award-winning Project Booyah program for at-risk young people—a program that has steered hundreds of young people away from crime and back to education, training and employment, a program that we back to the hilt and one to which the federal government has recently demonstrated its lack of commitment.

When it comes to law and order, that is what the Palaszczuk government is about. We do not just talk; we also act. We back our police to the hilt and we give the police the resources they need. I take this opportunity to commend our Queensland Police Service officers for their tireless efforts in keeping us all safe. There is no greater calling and no higher priority than that.

### **Budget, Health**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.55 am): We are seeing unprecedented demand for public health services right across Queensland. We have an ageing population, increased rates of chronic illness and longer life expectancies. Additionally, Queenslanders are shifting away from private health insurance owing to increased costs and more exclusions. To meet this demand, the 2018-19 state budget is providing an extra \$729.3 million on last year's budget for health services. This funding will ensure that our hospitals and health services continue their strong performance in the face of significant growth in demand. This growth in demand is also why we are investing an additional \$154 million over two years to extend the Specialist Outpatient Strategy. The now \$515 million program is ensuring that patients have access to safe, quality health care when and where they need it.

To address demand in the long term, preventative health services are crucial to stop disease so that Queenslanders can live longer, healthier lives and stay clear of our emergency departments. Based on the most recent data, chronic diseases have caused around 80 per cent of health problems and early deaths in Queensland. That is why we have boosted funding to preventative health services that tackle obesity and chronic disease rates, mental health and wellbeing, and vaccination rates. We have committed an additional \$575,000 in programs to improve the health literacy and reproductive health of young Indigenous Queenslanders. We have also increased access to free 12-week quit-smoking programs for an additional 5,000 Queenslanders.

As promised, our government will create the Healthy Futures Commission Queensland, delivering on our election commitment. That commission will focus on two headline measures: reducing childhood obesity and increasing physical activity. Those measures will look at the conditions in which people live, work and play and ensure that children and families have the support they need to adopt a healthy lifestyle. We have committed \$20 million for local businesses, community organisations, academic institutions and government agencies to encourage regular physical activity and healthy eating. The Palaszczuk government is committed to enhancing the health of Queenslanders. This budget will clearly deliver on that commitment by supporting our preventative health services.

## Budget, Early Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving all Queensland children a great start, no matter where they live. That is why we have prioritised early childhood education and care in this budget, with over \$270 million in funding. In 2017 more than 95 per cent of Queensland children were enrolled in a kindergarten program before starting school. That is a great result, but we want to do more with a range of targeted initiatives to increase access to quality early childhood education and care, particularly for the most vulnerable in our community.

Through the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme we are investing \$150 million to reduce out-of-pocket expenses for families with kids in care, including \$25 million to ease the burden on vulnerable families through a targeted QKFS Plus subsidy. We are continuing to deliver greater access to kindergarten through our remote kindergarten pilot in 38 Queensland state schools across the state. In 2018 we have almost 100 children taking part in the remote kindy program in schools such as Mount Perry State School in the electorate of Callide and Dingo State School in the electorate of Gregory.

This year, our \$1.9 million eKindy program provides access to kindergarten through distance education for almost 200 Queensland children. We are investing \$24.3 million to support the operation of more than 50 dedicated early years places across the state, such as the one I visited in Mackay last month—one-stop shops that provide a suite of services to families with children up to eight years old ranging from education, parenting and family support to child and maternal health and referrals to other services.

We delivered on our commitment to establish seven new early years places in Barcaldine, Blackall, Gordonvale, Inala, Lockhart River, Tara and, most recently, the Redlands. This year we are investing a further \$3.9 million in capital funding to build a new fit-for-purpose building at the early years place in Tara to support local families. In addition, there is \$4.5 million to continue refurbishment and enhancement of existing facilities across the state. We are continuing the fabulous Play Stars program, which offers families with children aged under one free Playgroup membership for 12 months. This has benefited around 5,700 families since 2016. More than 120 new playgroups have been created right across Queensland.

I am delighted to announce that under this budget the department will commence a 12-month pilot to offer a tailored kindergarten program to kindergarten age patients of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital and the Mater Children's Private Hospital. This is a great initiative to support kids and their families who find themselves in very trying circumstances. The early years are a critical time in a child's development so it is important we invest in programs that give all Queensland children a great start.

## Budget, Domestic Violence Shelters

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.01 am): I rise to speak on the Palaszczuk government's continued commitment to domestic and family violence shelters across Queensland. Last month I had the pleasure of standing with police and corrective services minister Mark Ryan to announce two very important investments we are making to keep people safe from violence. Firstly, as Minister Ryan announced, an additional 24 specialist domestic violence police officers will be appointed, bringing the total number of specialist domestic violence police officers across the state to 54. This fulfils a key election promise of the Palaszczuk government. Secondly, I announced that we have renewed the funding contracts of more than 50 domestic and family violence shelters across the state, many of them for up to five years, so that these incredible services can continue to provide a safe haven for women and children escaping violence.

Both of these announcements help to meet our key objective of keeping communities safe. We know that there is an increase in reporting of domestic and family violence and, although we do not like seeing these figures, in some ways it is good thing in that it means people are realising that what is happening to them in their homes is not okay, they are reporting it, we can act on it and they also know that there is support available to them.

These contract renewals for the shelters represent a \$133 million commitment over the next five years, showing that this government is indeed delivering for Queensland. As part of that commitment we are also planning and implementing the services that will be needed in the future. We are establishing new shelters in the northern Gold Coast, in the Caboolture region and in Roma, bringing

to seven the number of new domestic and family violence shelters built with funding from the Palaszczuk government. These are the first shelters to be built in more than two decades and that speaks volumes about the level of importance we place on this issue.

Having brought domestic and family violence out of the shadows and committing to investing more than \$323 million over six years to tackle the issue, this government is delivering for Queensland. We are doing more to help keep victims of violence safe than has ever been done in this state and this week's budget continues that investment. It continues a \$14.2 million investment in counselling for victims, court based support, sexual assault services and post-crisis support. We are also funding a further two domestic violence high-risk teams, in Mackay and Moreton Bay, to complement those already established in Logan, Beenleigh, Mount Isa, Cherbourg, Brisbane, Ipswich and Cairns. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering for vulnerable Queenslanders.

### **Budget, Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade Project**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.04 am): The Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade Project is recognised by the Palaszczuk government as a critical project for Queensland and was recently elevated to priority project status by Infrastructure Australia. The north coast rail line is one of the few remaining sections of single track in Australia that carries a combination of freight, commuter and long-distance passenger services. On completion, the Beerburrum to Nambour Rail Upgrade Project will deliver a more integrated transport system with increased capacity, providing travel time savings for passenger and freight services and increased reliability on the north coast line in that rapidly growing Sunshine Coast region.

While we welcome the Australian government's recent \$390 million funding announcement for this project, it is important to note they have not contributed their fair share under the National Land Transport Network agreement. Indeed, \$190 million from the federal government is beyond the forward estimates in 2022-23. Despite the Beerburrum to Nambour rail line being part of the National Land Transport Network and running adjacent to the Bruce Highway, which receives 80-20 funding, the federal government has so far only offered funding on a 50-50 basis. The Palaszczuk government is simply playing by the rules introduced by the federal government in 2014. The document I have here outlines that very specifically when it says that the Australian government has reintroduced the traditional 80-20 funding split for new road and rail projects on the national network outside metropolitan areas. They are not my words, they are the words of the then deputy prime minister of this country.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I am calling the House to order. I am listening to the minister's statement very carefully.

**Mr BAILEY:** They themselves even amended the National Land Transport Network to include the north coast line. A ratio of 80-20 funding on rail is unprecedented in Queensland simply because this is the first time since 2014 that there has been an investment by the federal government into a new project on the National Land Transport Network. It is a shame that after four years they are still not playing by their own rules. The Turnbull government announced \$5 billion for a rail link to Melbourne Airport without a business case, yet federal and state LNP members make excuses for not being able to deliver \$230 million for this vital project on the Sunshine Coast when it has a strong business case that the Palaszczuk government started and completed after nothing was done under the previous government.

Importantly, the state government's contribution of \$160 million in this year's budget will allow work to commence on this vital upgrade that I know will be welcomed by commuters. We are committed to delivering the full scope of the project. In addition, I have approved the gazettal of the land requirements for the project to progress, giving the local communities from Beerburrum to Nambour more certainty and opening up the option for any impacted properties to apply for early acquisition, subject to meeting early acquisition criteria.

All the Palaszczuk government wants is a fair share for Queensland. We will continue our clear track record of investing in public transport infrastructure in Queensland, whether it is the Beerburrum to Nambour upgrade, Gold Coast Light Rail stage 2, the duplication of the heavy rail from Coomera to Helensvale or Cross River Rail. When it comes to public transport, this government invests in the infrastructure we need.

## Budget, Mining Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.07 am): The Queensland resources sector is going from strength to strength. In the words of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, who on Tuesday delivered the 2018-19 budget, Queensland is experiencing a never before seen resources boom. This is an industry responding positively to a government that has fostered a climate promoting exploration, responsible development and expansion. In fact, Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane, following the budget, said—

I'm pleased to say those high-vis workers are the highlights in the budget.

...

Every Queensland—regardless of where they call home—shares in the wealth of the sector through royalties paid to the Government.

The benefits of the resources sector can be seen in infrastructure all across Queensland: in hospitals, schools, roads and rail. The industry, and through jobs and royalties the people of Queensland, is reaping the rewards of higher global prices. Over the 12 months to April our resources exports were worth almost \$59 billion—a 20 per cent increase on the previous corresponding period.

Metals exploration has increased by 51 per cent to \$168 million over the past 12 months to March, with the state's north-west minerals province the primary driver. The next round of tenders for exploration of this area have closed and assessments are being finalised. Queensland's gas industry is continuing its strong growth, with LNG exports valued at \$10.3 billion in April, which is \$2.3 billion higher than for the same period last year. In the first quarter of 2018 alone, Queensland exported over 277 petajoules of LNG, valued at \$3.1 billion. Investment in our resources sector is continuing, development is continuing and job numbers are increasing. This industry is kicking goals and will continue to do so with the support of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

## Budget, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.10 am): During last year's election campaign, the Premier promised to invest \$29.5 million over four years to boost Queensland's world-leading fire and emergency services. At the time, the Premier said that funding from a re-elected Labor government would equate to an additional 100 firefighters and 12 fire communication officers statewide. I am proud to say that the Palaszczuk government has delivered on that promise, with a record \$702 million budget commitment for QFES in 2018-19.

QFES will fully implement the Premier's election pledge by recruiting an extra 25 full-time firefighters this calendar year and another 25 full-time firefighters each calendar year for the next three years. The QFES commissioner will determine the recruitment program for the 12 additional full-time fire communication officers and all those officers will be deployed across Queensland, including to regional areas most at risk from natural disasters. Often Queensland is at the mercy of extreme weather events and it is vital that our entire state has the highly skilled Fire and Emergency Services teams required to respond swiftly and effectively if disaster strikes.

A sum of \$44 million has been allocated for the replacement and delivery of 180 new QFES urban and rural fire appliances. This government does not discriminate when it comes to who gets what. So far this year, I have travelled to 45 electorates around the state, 21 of them held by the LNP, including the opposition leader's patch, and all three held by the Katter party. I have had the privilege of personally opening nine QFES stations, in total valued at more than \$25 million, including the facility at Mackay with the Premier, as well as at Proserpine, Bundaberg and Charleville.

Since the start of this calendar year I have personally handed over more than 20 new fire appliances, flood boats and trailers, worth about another \$10 million. I want to attend as many of those events as possible, because it allows me to tell QFES personnel just how much we appreciate their commitment and dedication. This government is committed to ensuring QFES continues to meet the growing demand for fire and emergency services and continues to deliver first-class world-class services to Queenslanders, no matter their postcode.

## Budget, Seniors

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.12 am): Supporting our seniors is a priority for the Palaszczuk government and we are delivering for them. For Queensland seniors, elder abuse prevention is an important part of

the 2018-19 state budget, with financial and legal services across the state set to be expanded. The expansion of our Elder Abuse Prevention Unit will see seniors legal and support services rolled out in Gladstone, Rockhampton, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Mackay. The rollout of the five new services is funded through \$900,000 per annum announced in the 2016-17 state budget.

For their entire lives our seniors have worked hard contributing to their thriving communities and they deserve to live free from elder abuse and financial scams. In addition to elder abuse prevention services in five new locations, we will continue to fund existing services in Toowoomba, Brisbane, Hervey Bay, Cairns and Townsville. The Palaszczuk government is continuing to provide an extra \$100,000 per year for the next two years to expand the seniors inquiry line to improve services that allow seniors to access expertise and advice on consumer protection issues and scams.

This state budget also benefits Queenslanders of all ages by delivering on our commitment to create an age-friendly state. Already we have seen the benefits of projects delivered through our Advancing Queensland: an Age-Friendly Community grants program and these will continue with funding of \$1 million per year for the next two years. By investing in innovative ideas from Queensland's thriving communities, we will continue to empower Queenslanders to create a more age-friendly state.

Housing and the cost of living are two of the biggest issues facing our seniors, which is why we have always worked hard to ease some of that pressure on households. The Palaszczuk government is continuing to manage concessions for eligible Queensland households, including electricity, rates, water and gas concessions, with an estimated total budget of \$283.8 million in 2018-19. There is an additional \$200 million over two years for the electricity asset ownership dividend to deliver an electricity rebate with a credit of \$50 a year in 2017-18 and 2018-19 for every household electricity bill. This is a budget that has it all for seniors: cost-of-living concessions, elder abuse prevention services and grants to make our communities more age friendly.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, today question time will conclude at 11.15 am.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, State Debt

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. The Premier has abandoned the policy priority of paying down Labor's \$83 billion of debt. When in New York earlier this year, did the Premier take the time to meet with expert credit rating agencies to seek their advice about how Labor's debt bomb would affect Queensland's credit rating?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Obviously, she was not listening to her shadow Treasurer on ABC Radio this morning. There was no leadership talk there. He was asked whether they have a plan to stabilise debt.

**Ms Trad:** What did he say, Premier?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection from the Treasurer. He said, 'It would be crazy to come out with a detailed plan on how we are going to reduce debt.' Today we will hear the opposition reply to the budget. We will love to hear what the opposition is going to do, because it has no plan. Today the Treasurer stood in this House and talked about all of the third-party endorsements from people who are backing in our plan. She talked about what the CBA, Deloitte and the LGAQ have said. They are all backing in our plan.

At lunchtime yesterday it was great to attend a business function where once again the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and I were able to outline our plan for delivering for Queenslanders. We have a very clear plan that we took to the election about building the Queensland of the future that we need. There is no starker contrast than what we are doing to deliver infrastructure in this state and what those opposite did. We have a plan that will ensure that we have teachers and teacher aides in our schools and that we have doctors and nurses in our hospitals—unlike those opposite, who wanted to cut services and sack staff. While we will not hold our breath, today is the day that those opposite can outline their plan for Queensland.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Hang on! Speaking about crazy, we knew what their plan was during the election: it was to do a deal with One Nation. We will continue to deliver for Queenslanders, no matter where they live in this state. This morning we talked about some of the small things that are helping people, from our Ready Reader program to our focus on early—

*(Time expired)*

## Budget, Taxation

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is to the Premier. Labor's budget hit Queenslanders with five new taxes and four new charges, to rip \$2.25 billion out of the hip pockets of Queenslanders. Given Labor's rookie Treasurer failed to rule out any more tax increases, will the Premier now do the right thing and give Queenslanders certainty and rule out any more tax increases this term?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Premier, I point out that there was talk going on during the question. I expect questions to be heard in silence. I will not give anyone a warning on that matter again today.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me make it very clear that the Treasurer has handed down the budget. Those opposite can read the documents. There are enough of them. We have produced a really good document—it is in summary form. They can have a look at how much we are spending in Education and Health.

That is our plan and that is our blueprint for the next four years. That is the plan that we took to the people of Queensland. We will honour that plan. We will honour that plan because the people of Queensland once again put their trust in this government. I am happy to go back over history, like I did yesterday.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We look forward to your plan today. What are you going to do?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What is the Leader of the Opposition going to do?

**Mr Mander:** You're going to find out.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are looking forward to it. It is obviously going to be a bit crazy if the shadow Treasurer has had anything to do with it.

Let me make it very clear. We took a plan to the electorate and we have implemented that plan. Before the Leader of the Opposition was elected and when Campbell Newman was in government they did not talk to the people of Queensland about their plans. Some \$3.4 billion was not discussed with the people of this state before they came into office. Do not come in here and lecture us when we have been up-front—

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You want to talk about asset sales. I will take that interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** As per my instructions yesterday, I am continually hearing tedious repetition in terms of interjections. If you wish to make your point, make your point. You do not need to repeat things over and over again.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The shadow Treasurer is having a great day today. He is having a great day today.

**Ms Trad:** He's having a crazy day.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He is having a crazy day. First of all he is on the ABC warming up for the Leader of the Opposition because he thinks he should be the Leader of the Opposition and now he wants to interject about asset sales. Honestly! The opposition wanted to sell off our electricity assets.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order is with respect to relevance. The question was asking the Premier to rule out any more tax increases. I realise the Premier still has a minute on the clock, but she has not ruled out or ruled in tax increases under her government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Kawana. I am listening to the Premier's answer. I certainly also appreciate that there have been interjections made and she is responding to those interjections. I am listening carefully. I will be careful when it comes to relevance.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, what we take to the election is what we implement. Those opposite, including the member for Kawana, who sat in cabinet—and we all know how that ended; very, very badly—wanted to sell our electricity assets. I said very clearly that we would keep those assets in public hands. That is exactly what we did. Now we see downward pressure on prices that Queensland families are now benefiting from.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let us hear what you want to do about assets today.

## Budget, Advance Queensland

**Ms PUGH:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier please outline what funding has been provided in the budget to continue the successful Advance Queensland strategy to create the much needed jobs of the future?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question. Advance Queensland is one of our signature projects. It is very important to help drive our economy and to set our economy up for the future. As I have said during this week, everywhere we went in the United States everyone was impressed by our Advance Queensland agenda. Why do they say that? No other state in Australia has an agenda like we have. No other state in the US that we could see has such a focus in terms of government setting up funds to enable innovation and entrepreneurship to happen.

That is why I am very pleased that our combined total for Advance Queensland is \$650 million. We have lifted our investment by \$130 million, including boosting our Business Investment Fund by \$40 million to help emerging Queensland businesses secure extra investment. We have added \$60 million to our Industry Attraction Fund to help lure businesses from interstate and overseas. We know how important it is to attract investors to Queensland because we are the gateway to Asia.

We are also investing \$50 million to position Queensland as a world leader in artificial intelligence and robotics. I know that the Minister for Innovation recently attended the world robotics conference here in Queensland. This is setting us up for the future. We have committed money to expanding the precinct in the valley. We have also extended our Ignite Ideas Fund.

When we are talking about Advance Queensland we need to hear what third parties are saying. I want to update the House with what people have said. Here is an endorsement from the Mayor of Bundaberg, Jack Dempsey. He said—

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the state's ongoing strong support for biofutures and, in particular, the positive impact it will have on regional Queensland.

Mark Sowerby, Queensland's first Chief Entrepreneur, said—

I absolutely believe this will create jobs for Queensland and it will be worth the investment.

Campbell Newman—we all know that name—the former premier, said—

It's great to be involved in the start-up space #AdvanceQueensland.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It was a different quote.

**Ms Jones:** There's so many.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There are so many. Andrew Price, from start-up BlenderGuru, said—

The hot desk initiative is having a positive impact on the start-up—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Perhaps we will go to an LNP document. Let us see what they had to say about Advance Queensland. In that they say, 'Maintaining Advance Queensland funding'.

*(Time expired)*

## Queensland Rail

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. When the Premier jetted off to Japan last month was the Premier up-front with our trading partners that she was one of the Bligh cabinet ministers who made the decision to sell off part of Queensland Rail, leading to the dispute with Aurizon which threatens their coal supply and \$2 billion worth of royalties?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the shadow Treasurer for the question. We got to six budget questions yesterday and today we have hit two. I would urge everyone to listen to the shadow Treasurer's interview that he did on ABC this morning. I would urge all members to have a listen to that. It puts in context what the shadow Treasurer thinks about the opposition's response to the budget that will be made very shortly. I have answered the honourable member's question this week, but I am happy to talk about it again.

Let me say very clearly that Japanese investors are very supportive of this government. As I said this week and I will say it again, I had the opportunity not only to meet with the Minister in charge of the Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games but also to meet with the Minister for Foreign Affairs. I am very

grateful that the government made time to meet with me as Queensland Premier. I was very honoured to host a dinner where over 50 investors came along to hear about our plans for Queensland. I talked to them about how our budget will be coming down this week, once again delivering for Queensland but also strongly backing our resources sector and our innovation sector. Once again, I gave them the clarity that we would maintain our long-term coal commitments to them, and for that they were grateful.

I intend to continue to meet with the Japanese coal companies. In fact, I toured the Japanese steel mill—the first Premier to ever tour the JFE steel mill—on my previous visit to Japan. They know my government's commitment to them. They know my government's commitment to growing this state. My government will continue to engage with Japan. While other states are focusing firmly on China, I believe that, as Queensland is the gateway to Asia, we will continue to honour our trading relationships. Japan is our second largest trading partner and we will continue to have a full presence there. In fact, I know that the Deputy Premier and Treasurer will also be travelling to Tokyo in the next couple of months—I have advised the Japanese government of that—as well as a number of other senior ministers. We will back our trade and we will back Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Renewable Energy

**Mr STEWART:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier please update the House on private sector support for her government's commitment to developing Queensland's renewable energy sector?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Townsville for that wonderful question, because it appears that on the opposite side of the House there has been a sudden conversion. There has been a conversion. We read today—

**Ms Jones:** Crazy day!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. Anything can happen today because, as Tim Mander has said, it is a crazy day.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, please refer to members by their correct titles.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry—the Minister for Innovation and the shadow Treasurer. I think everybody would have been aghast this morning when they picked up the *Australian* and there was an article about the LNP leader who is going to be looking towards the word that they dare not utter—'renewables'! It has been the word that they have not uttered in this House for almost three years, but suddenly they have seen the light.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I have spoken on numerous occasions about interjecting across the chamber.

*An incident having occurred in the public gallery—*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, whose phone is that? Please take it outside. Is it in the gallery? Please, members of the gallery, we ask that you have your phones turned to silent while proceedings are in session. Members, the level of interjections across the chamber makes it very difficult to hear the member answering the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** While we were talking about Japan earlier, I had the honour of giving a lecture at the University of Tokyo on Queensland's renewable energy future—our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. Suddenly, they have seen the light. It is like a conversion. For three years they could not utter the word.

How many times have we stood up in this House talking about the regional jobs that will come with the broadscale solar farms and wind farms happening across our state? How many times have I talked about our \$20 billion worth of renewable energy projects on our books? The Treasurer, in her budget documents, talked about our \$4.2 billion worth of renewables underway in this state. Suddenly—suddenly—it has dawned on them. There is a new dawn in the opposition. It is like the sun coming up.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Member for Caloundra and member for Capalaba, again cease the cross-chamber chatter.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We cannot wait for the reply today. It was the member for Nanango who said in October last year, 'Fifty per cent renewables is going to shut down these small regional towns.' They are going to shut them down. One of the projects is happening in her own electorate. It is going to shut the town down. I have done more for Kingaroy than any other premier, and that is saying a lot.

*(Time expired)*

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition and Minister for Local Government, I had called the House to order. You are both warned under standing orders.

### Water Prices

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Premier. When the Premier and her entourage were in Boston two weeks ago, Labor snuck out a hit to household water bills of up to \$90, hoping Queenslanders were distracted with the State of Origin. Is the Premier so out of touch with going away on her second international trip in six months that she could not be bothered being up-front with Queenslanders about their bills going up?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. It will be interesting to hear what he has to say about renewables later on today. I will be looking forward to hearing what the member for Burdekin has to say about renewables. For the benefit of the member, I am the Premier and Minister for Trade. If you are going to trade with other countries, you actually have to go and visit them.

**Mr Bleijie:** And you love it!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will tell you what I love doing. It is getting jobs for Queenslanders. That is what I love. I love getting jobs for Queenslanders. Every single thing—

**Ms Trad:** Record trade figures.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. We have record trade figures, with over \$70 billion in exports.

**Ms Trad:** And lots of jobs for Queenslanders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is nearly double than under the LNP, creating jobs for Queenslanders. It is very interesting to hear members on that side of the House criticising me, as the Minister for Trade and the Premier of this state, getting jobs for Queenslanders. We often hear criticisms from those opposite. Remember when they criticised the movie industry. They criticised that until the federal government—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I am listening very carefully to the answer to the question. I would like to steer you back to the question, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They asked me about trade.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, I ask you, under standing order 118(b), to be relevant in answering the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They asked about trade, Mr Speaker.

**Mr Powell:** No. We asked about water.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It was hidden in the question. Go back and read your question. I am answering your question.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. There is nothing hidden about the water price increase in the question. It is all about the water price increase under her government. I ask that she answer the question.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question specifically made reference to the Premier's international trade missions. That is what she is speaking to, so it is relevant to the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. I am listening to the answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Premier. I am listening to the answer. It did mention overseas travel. It also mentioned water prices, which I would suggest is the core of the question. I would like to hear a response to that particular component of the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As the QCA handed down their determination, we know that there is a smoothing of the price path to—

**Mr Bleijie:** Smoothing!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is. Everyone has known that for years. Let me make it very clear: that has been a price path that everyone has been made well aware of for many years now.

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra, you are warned under standing orders. You are continuing to have cross-chamber chatter. You have been doing it all morning.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In stark contrast, we have put downward pressure on electricity prices as opposed to those opposite—

**Mr Powell:** Water goes up; electricity goes up.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Do you want to hear the answer or not? Honestly.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. Mr Speaker, constant interjections when I am on my feet answering the question—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier. I have the situation in hand.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left! Members, I will not tolerate a disorderly House, albeit the robust period we are in in question time.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. In stark contrast, on this side of the House we have put downward pressure on electricity prices as opposed to a 43 per cent increase in electricity prices when those opposite were in government. I will back our record—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Burleigh is questioning their price increases when they were in government. I am quite sure that the Minister for Energy—

**Dr Lynham** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection: 43 per cent for water as well.

### **Budget, Economic Strategy**

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier explain how the budget handed down on Tuesday delivers on the government's economic strategy and whether there are any alternative strategies?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Macalister for the question because she is deeply interested in making sure that our strategy to grow jobs and grow the economy in Queensland delivers for her local community. More jobs, more businesses and more economic growth—that is our plan for Queensland, unlike that of those opposite.

I was very interested in what the plan from those opposite would be that the Leader of the Opposition would outline today, and I am still very interested although we have had some glimpses. Of all the things that have been announced so far it appears that much of it is based on our plans—our plans for the renewable energy industry. It was interesting to listen to the shadow Treasurer on 612 ABC this morning when asked to explain whether this was a backflip on their obsession with coal as they are now thinking about renewable energy. The shadow Treasurer said, 'We have always supported renewable energy. We have always thought it would be part of the energy mix, but maybe we did not announce it very well.' When they say things like, 'Every single North Queenslanders is paying record high electricity bills because of Annastacia Palaszczuk's ideological obsession with green energy and she expects North Queenslanders to pick up the bill,' I do think they have a problem with their announcement.

Then there was what was not said in the media articles this morning from the Leader of the Opposition about new taxes. What she did not say was that she would not repeal the taxes that have been brought in in this budget. I am very interested to hear in the Leader of the Opposition's budget speech whether or not she has decided to remove the additional charges that we took to the people of Queensland at the last election. We were absolutely honest about what we would do, and in this budget we have delivered exactly what we said we would. The Leader of the Opposition has to explain if she finds these charges so abhorrent whether she is going to repeal them.

What I loved most this morning about the shadow Treasurer's performance on 612 ABC was his response to what they would do to pay down debt. As the Premier has already said, he did not want to come out with anything crazy. It was a little hard to pinpoint what they were going to do. We are going to wait another 2½ years before we tell Queenslanders. We know that they have a track record of not being honest with the people of Queensland about what they are going to do. They say one thing before the election and they do exactly the opposite after the election.

*(Time expired)*

### Betting Tax

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. While the Premier was hobnobbing with celebrities on the Vegas strip a couple of weeks ago, did the Premier seek advice from the Nevada gaming industry about the impact of Labor's \$366 million wagering tax—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are clear imputations in that question. They have been continually doing this, and that question should be ruled out of order.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will allow the question to be re-asked without some of the language that the Leader of the House has referred to.

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. While the Premier was meeting with celebrities on the Vegas strip a couple of weeks ago, did the Premier seek advice from the Nevada gaming industry about the impact of Labor's \$366 million wagering tax that will make Queensland bookies the highest taxed in the world, and how will that affect racing and wagering jobs?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** When we talk about the point-of-consumption tax, this was clearly what we said to the electorate before the election and this is clearly what we are implementing after the election. I want to know what their views are. Do they support this or not? Are they going to repeal it or not? Do not come in here attacking us if you are going to keep the tax. The point-of-consumption tax will apply from 1 October 2018 to provide time for more consultation with the industry, and the threshold will have the effect of providing an exemption for local on-track bookmakers. This approach that is being taken in Queensland is the same as South Australia and as that being considered in Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales. The fact is that the industry is on board supporting this. I want to know whether they support this or not.

We will listen very carefully to the Leader of the Opposition's speech which is going to outline their sudden ability to say the word 'r-r-renewables'. We look forward to hearing the conversion to renewables, because I remember the days when the member for Clayfield called those people supporting it champagne sippers and latte-drinking people. All of a sudden they have seen the light. Let me say from the outset: the reason we back the renewables industry is that it provides jobs for Queenslanders. It is providing jobs in regional Queensland. The renewables future is not just on the radar of Queensland; it is on the radar of other countries across the world. I am glad that the question mentioned Las Vegas, because when I flew from Los Angeles to Las Vegas I saw one of the largest solar farms there. We will continue to back new industries in this state. I look forward to seeing how many times the Leader of the Opposition will say the word 'renewables' in her speech this afternoon.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind all members asking questions that if you have questions with preambles or multiple issues contained in them you may not get the answer to the main question that you are seeking, and I will allow more latitude in the question being answered. I want to put that out to members for your consideration.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please advise of any initiatives to support the growth of renewables in the state development portfolio? Is the minister aware of any other approaches to this issue?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Aspley for his strong and consistent support for renewables over many years. Last week the department of state development announced development approval for up to 195 wind turbines at Clarke Creek, north-west of Rockhampton. This \$1 billion wind farm project will provide 350 jobs during construction and when it is completed will provide 800 megawatts of power for Queensland. This is a great example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government's policies are working.

Today I was surprised to read some incredible and unexpected news. The Leader of the Opposition has swung behind renewables. It is a budget miracle. She has had a Pauline conversion—another one. Once they were blind but now they can see. They are all on the green bus. There is the Leader of the Opposition filling the kombi up with the biodiesel, the member for Everton has the tie-dyed headband on and the rose-coloured glasses in the shape of love hearts, the member for Whitsunday has a peace sign on a bumper sticker, the member for Hervey Bay is out the back making the mung bean stew, and how could we forget the dreadlocks on the head of the member for Mermaid Beach. They are learning new catch phrases: save the planet, save the whales, make love not war. Put aside the big peanut Leader of the Opposition, because she is now chasing magic mushrooms.

It is not going to be easy because we remember what has happened, and we have long memories in the Labor Party. We only need to remember last month when the member for Callide was lauding the coal resources in his electorate and he said, 'We should celebrate, not fear, the Modern Warm Era.' The member for Callide is not opposed to climate change; he wants to accelerate it. Member for Callide, do not be troubled. After question time, the Leader of the Opposition will have a latte ready for you, and the champagne is on ice. She is the latte-sipper-in-chief.

The LNP and the Leader of the Opposition are simply not credible on this. She does not believe this stuff. She believes it as much as she believes in selling assets. She will say anything or do anything to stave off the leadership challenge that is coming. That is all she can think about—the leadership challenge. She knows it is coming. That is all that is bothering her. It is why she cannot even ask questions on the budget because she is preoccupied with the leadership. We know it, she knows it, but the person who knows it the most is the member for Broadwater because he is coming for her job soon.

### Queensland Rail

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I table a letter sent by the member for Nudgee to the minister.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 25 May 2018, from the member for Nudgee, Ms Leanne Linard MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding rail services to Nundah [884].

The constituents of Nudgee are concerned and fed up with Labor's rail fail and the member for Nudgee has not received an update from any of Labor's transport ministers since March 2017. Will the minister tell the House when Labor's rail fail nightmare will end?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for his question. We know that the reasons we have experienced some issues in the rail sector relate to the fact that the member for Chatsworth, as the assistant minister for public transport, was part of a government that saw not a single train driver commence their training in their last year in government—not a single driver. That is an extraordinary achievement. They had the Moreton Bay Rail Link coming up, with six extra stations, and they had the Commonwealth Games coming up, yet they stopped the commencement of training of drivers for the entirety of 2014, they sacked 1,700 staff from the sector and they ordered trains from overseas that were not disability compliant.

We have the extraordinary performance of the member for Chatsworth and the member for Everton on radio claiming, after that kind of a record, that they had the best rail system in the country. They ordered trains worth \$4.4 billion that were not disability compliant, they sacked 1,700 staff and they did not commence the training of a single train driver in their last year in government—and apparently that is their idea of the best rail system in the country. We have been left to clean up the mess they left us with. We have trained 80 new drivers, we have 73 drivers under training now and we will commence the training of another 60 drivers before the end of this year. We are at a net increase of 38. In relation to the reform measures from the Strachan report that the Palaszczuk government is implementing, there were 36 recommendations and 18 of them have been fully implemented and a number of them are partially done.

The Citytrain Response Unit is a really important part of that recovery. What did its recent master report show? It showed customer satisfaction over the last three-quarters was up. It showed on-time running over the last three-quarters was up. It showed services delivered was up. During the Commonwealth Games, we saw the doomsdaying of those opposite, yet the transport system worked

beautifully because we built light rail stage 2 and we duplicated from Coomera to Helensvale. We saw people move around easier than they ever have because the system is stabilised, it is recovering and it is improving. However, it will do so gradually because there is a massive hole in the training of train drivers because of the incompetence of the member for Chatsworth and his ministerial colleagues who mismanaged the rail system—there was no disability compliance, they sacked people and they did not start driver training. What an appalling record.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, member for Toowoomba North, member for Theodore and member for Southport, I caution you. The next interjections will be dealt with with warnings.

### Renewable Energy

**Mr KING:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's efforts to support innovation in renewable energy technologies?

**Ms JONES:** I thank my good friend the honourable member for Kurwongbah for his question. As we know, he was an electrician for many years before he entered the parliament so he knows firsthand how critical it is that we continue to invest in technology to develop jobs. As the Minister for Innovation and the minister responsible for the Advance Queensland agenda, one of the things we are doing—as the Premier has clearly said today—is partnering with the private sector to create jobs in the renewable energy sector. In fact, because we set a very clear target about how we wanted to grow this energy, we are now seeing about \$20 billion of a pipeline of infrastructure coming our way here in Queensland. Excitingly, this is not just supporting jobs in Brisbane; it is supporting jobs right across our great state, particularly in regional Queensland and, as we have heard, in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate.

One of the companies we have been working with is Redback Technologies, which received a \$4 million grant through Advance Queensland. Their job is all about how we can improve battery storage of renewable energy to bring down prices for Queensland householders. Not only is it creating jobs in regard to the renewable energy pipeline; it is also looking at new innovative ways that we can reduce the electricity bills for Queensland households. To me, they sound like win-wins.

Therefore, like everybody else, I was surprised when I woke up this morning and I was sipping my latte—as you do in the electorate of Cooper—to see that the Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango also wants to become the latte sipper that she used to deride. I am so pleased about that, and I have a renewable cup for her. It is a KeepCup from KeepKate just for her.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members about the use of props. If you are intending on tabling that, I would advise against that.

**Ms JONES:** It is a gift from me. I will give it to her later. We know one thing about the Leader of the Opposition: she cannot keep a position from breakfast to lunch. Ever since she entered parliament, her position on renewable energy has been against every single decision we have made to do it. Last year, she described our Renewable Energy Target as a crazy green scheme. We do know that it is crazy day, as her deputy said this morning.

Unfortunately, what we have seen and heard here all morning—and it has been seen and heard by those in the gallery who believe in renewable energy, like our government does—is the member for Southport and the member for Theodore saying that the only reason we do this is to support our seats. Are they disagreeing with their leader? Is it only the member for Nanango who has had this epiphany this morning, or can we rely on the whole of the LNP, after they have been dogged in their position of not supporting renewable energy, to today say, 'Hey presto. We believe in it'? We know that the LNP do not support renewable energy. There is only one side of politics that is creating renewable energy jobs and that is the Labor government.

*(Time expired)*

### Transport, Funding

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. I table a report in which the member for Ipswich West comments on the minister's petty squabbles over federal-state funding splits, where he said, 'I think the state government should accept the 50-50 proposal,' and, 'That's all the Shorten opposition is offering too. There's nowhere else to go.'

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Queensland Times*, dated 6 June 2018, titled "'Accept the feds' funds": MP urges' [\[885\]](#).

Why didn't the minister listen to his caucus colleague?

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, you are warned under standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for his question. There is a number of aspects that I would love to address. For instance, it is the federal government's own rules—and let me quote from a document from the Deputy Prime Minister of the country in 2014. This is his document; this is the LNP federal government. It says, 'The Australian government has reintroduced the traditional 80-20 funding split for new road and rail projects on the national network outside of metropolitan areas.'

The project that the member for Glass House is referring to, Yamanto to Ebenezer, is outside a metropolitan area, so it should attract 80-20 funding. We see the federal government is happy to offer \$5 billion to Melbourne for an airport without a business case, but it comes to Queensland with a rip-off deal and expects us to roll over. We will not. We will stand up for a fair deal for Queensland every single time. It is pathetic that those opposite will not stand up to their own party in Canberra.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Resume your seat, Minister. Member for Broadwater, you will refer to people by their correct title in this House. You are warned under standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** We will stand up for a fair deal for Queensland. It is pathetic that the opposition never stand up to their own party in Canberra; they never do. They are patsies for Canberra. They will not stand up for Queensland. They are not standing up for Queensland on this project. They are not standing up for Queensland or the Sunshine Coast on the Beerburrum to Nambour upgrade.

I am glad it was the member for Glass House who asked the question, because he sat in the Newman government for three years and did not even start the planning for the business case for the Nambour to Beerburrum project. It was the Palaszczuk government that did that. It was us who got going, got the business case done, submitted it and now there is \$550 million in joint funding from us and the federal government. We would like to see them give a full funding commitment of 80 per cent, as they should under their own rules. They even put the Nambour to Beerburrum project on the NTLN themselves and then they did not fund it.

What we want is a fair deal for Queensland. If the opposition really wanted to wear the maroon jersey, they would stand up for our state and tell Canberra to get their act together. They will not fund Cross River Rail; there is not a single dollar for Cross River Rail, yet those opposite will not stand up for this state. They will not stand up for Queensland on Beerburrum to Nambour; and they will not stand up for Queensland on Yamanto to Ebenezer.

On this specific project when I look at the federal government allocations, what do I see? Out of their allocation of \$170 million I see that \$115 million is in the beyonds; it is in 2022-23. Members opposite should not come to me and say that it is actually funded; it is two elections away.

When will the opposition stand up to Canberra? Never! They never do. They are jelly backs when it comes to standing up for Queensland. This government will always stand up for Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

## **Renewable Energy**

**Mr RUSSO:** My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the government's nation-leading progress on renewable energy?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Toohey for the question. What a wonderful question. The Queensland government has been resolute in our support of the renewable energy sector and of our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. Over the past 18 months alone we have seen nine large-scale solar projects commence worth \$750 million, and it gets better. In the next 12 months renewable energy capacity will more than double, from a current 1,030 megawatts to almost 2,200 megawatts of renewable energy power for our state.

There is one team that is already up and running and another which only now has seemed to have figured out the way towards the future, but have they? The Leader of the Opposition has backflipped. Did she consult with her federal visionaries and coal-fired champions such as Senator Matt Canavan and George Christensen? Probably not. Is this the Leader of the Opposition's road to Damascus moment?

Apparently they want GOCs to now own renewable energy capacity. Their policies are spinning faster than a wind turbine. Make no mistake: their motivation is to simply sweeten the pot for eventual sale. They are sweetening the pot for sale; that is all they are trying to do. They went to the election wanting to build coal-fired power stations. They went to the election to abolish the renewable energy target. Are they simply reclassifying coal as renewable? Is that what they are doing? Are they supporting our 50 per cent renewable target or something less? Do they even have a target, which would be remarkable after the three-year blackout, of zero renewable energy targets and slashing our \$400 million to the Queensland Climate Change Fund?

I remember when the Leader of the Opposition was assistant Treasurer we heard promises that birds would be singing, the sun would be shining and public servants would have nothing to fear, and now we are supposed to believe in this shiny new renewable future. This is really fairies at the bottom of the garden stuff.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will wait for silence, members.

### **Dimbulah Health Clinic**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. The new Dimbulah health clinic, opened by the former health minister, is a wonderful facility. However, the clinic has limited staffing and opening hours causing frustration in the community. What action will the minister take to fix this problem?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Hill for his question. I do know that the community of Dimbulah is very appreciative of that new health centre built by the Palaszczuk Labor government after years of neglect by the LNP, like so many health facilities across the member for Hill's electorate. Let me go to the staffing arrangements at the clinic. As I understand it, the clinic is open from eight till three, but the community is concerned that three days a week the clinic is closed for the lunch break and while the director of nursing conducts home visits, school visits and some palliative care work. I can understand that the community, which is so excited about that health clinic, would like it open more. I am certainly happy to continue to work with the local community there, the staff at Dimbulah, the HHS and everyone else involved to see how we can continue to invest in health services in Dimbulah and right across that region.

I know how important it is for people to be able to access health services close to home in addition to, over time, building up those clinic hours. I think the other priority should be investing in the telehealth infrastructure there so that people can access specialists in Dimbulah rather than having to travel. It strikes me as sensible. As I say, it is just one of a range of big investments in health in that region. Of course, the centrepiece of that is the \$70 million Atherton Hospital upgrade of which I know the member is also very appreciative. We are investing in the Mareeba Hospital for which I know the member for Cook has been a passionate advocate also.

These kinds of investments are only possible because we are a government that invests in health services; a government that employs more doctors, nurses, midwives and health professionals compared to those opposite, who did nothing but sack them. When they were in government, 1,400 nurses were sacked while we are employing 3½ thousand more. The reason that people could not have those nursing services in Dimbulah under those opposite is that they were busy sacking the nurses. We are employing the nurses, rebuilding those facilities and investing in front-line services in places like Dimbulah and right across Queensland. That is something I know those on this side of the House support—and it seems the crossbenchers support—but those opposite have done nothing but cut.

### **Private Hospitals**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I refer to comments made over the weekend by the opposition leader suggesting that the LNP government would spend more money on private hospitals to meet increases in demands. I ask: will the minister explain what impacts that would have in my electorate where there is no private hospital?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Maryborough for his question. It is an excellent question which is asked, no doubt, on behalf of all of the members in this place whose communities only have access to a public hospital. The fact is that in this state there is no private hospital west of Toowoomba, so you can imagine how excited I was at the weekend when I heard that the LNP was finally going to release its health policy. I wondered, 'What will their health policy be? Will they change direction, like they have

on renewables, and start supporting health workers rather than sacking them? Will they change direction and stop bagging our hospitals and health services? Will they stand up to Malcolm Turnbull and demand that our hospitals get their fair share?’

When I read the announcement I learned that it was none of those things. It was not a plan for our public hospitals. It was, to use the words of the member for Everton, a ‘crazy plan’. Their plan to fix our public hospitals is to take money off the public hospitals and outsource and privatise our hospital services. I wondered why they would do that, because there are so few private hospitals in the places they plan to represent. Is it because the member for Nanango needs all of those Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast votes where they do have access to a private hospital? Is that what it is? I did a bit more digging, and for the benefit of the House I can explain why their policy is to take money from public hospitals and give it to private hospitals. For the benefit of the House I table the donation records of private hospitals to the federal LNP.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled ‘Private Hospital Providers’ Donations to the Federal LNP’ [\[886\]](#).

There are \$750,000 in donations from private hospitals to the LNP, and that is why their only health plan—the plan presumably we will hear more about later this morning—is to take money from the public hospitals that serve constituents in towns and cities without private hospitals and give all of that money to private hospitals. Mr Speaker, \$750,000 is all it costs to buy those opposite to turn their backs on the communities they claim to represent and give that money to the people who prop up their party machine and Malcolm Turnbull. That is why those on this side support this week’s budget with record health spending to deliver more health services to Queenslanders. Those opposite want to take it from our doctors and nurses and give it to their mates in private hospitals. It is a shameful disappointment for regional and rural Queensland. All they can count on is the Katter party to stand up for them and Labor to deliver for them, because those opposite have given up.

*(Time expired)*

### Renewable Energy

**Mr HART:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the ETU’s media statement this morning calling the establishment of CleanCo a ‘PR exercise’, ‘sham negotiations’ and ‘privatisation by stealth’, and I ask: will the Premier adopt the LNP’s policy and mandate existing government owned corporations’ investment in renewable energy?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. I am sorry that I have not had enough time to go through *Hansard* to see how many times he has spoken against renewables, but I will make that a priority for today. I will make sure that we get back to him about how often he has spoken about renewables in this House. My government is committed to setting up CleanCo. We took that to the election, and I know that the Treasurer is having ongoing discussions with the Minister for Energy about that.

Whilst I am on my feet with a couple of minutes to go until the Leader of the Opposition stands up in this chamber to deliver the reply to the budget, we need to see clearly what the opposition’s plan is for Queensland. Today is a clear test for the Leader of the Opposition. Does she accept our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030? Does she accept that there are \$20 billion worth of renewable energy projects on our books in Queensland? Does she accept our plan to power jets and other Navy equipment through biofuels, which would mean regional jobs across the state? Obviously, all we know now is that the Leader of the Opposition is following the Nationals’ David Littleproud, who earlier this month said that climate is changing and the transition in the energy market with renewables displacing traditional power generation sources is ‘exciting, not only for the environment but for the hip pocket’.

We have seen a change of direction, and the Leader of the Opposition now has to follow her National Party federal member in the federal parliament. Today we want to know if the Leader of the Opposition accepts our plan for Queensland. Will she repeal the taxes that we have taken to the people of Queensland and have been elected to introduce? Where is her other source of income? Will they rule out asset sales? Will they rule out cuts to our Public Service? Will they rule out cuts to services? Today is the day. In less than 17 seconds the Leader of the Opposition will be on her feet talking about the road to Damascus, the new-found friend of renewables. I am glad she has adopted our policy of growing jobs in regional Queensland—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time has expired for today.

**APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL****APPROPRIATION BILL****REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL****BETTING TAX BILL**

Appropriation (Parliament) Bill resumed from 12 June (see p. 1425), Appropriation Bill resumed from 12 June (see p. 1432), Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill resumed from 12 June (see p. 1434) and Betting Tax Bill resumed from 12 June (see p. 1435).

**Second Reading (Cognate Debate)**

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.17 am): I move—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.17 am): This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. After 3½ years Labor's legacy for Queensland is no less than five taxes, an \$83 billion debt bomb and the worst unemployment in Australia. This is a budget of broken promises and broken dreams for Queensland's next generation. This is a budget that shows Labor have given up and have no plan for Queensland—just a plan for taxes. The Treasurer's five new taxes will see money taken from the pockets of Queenslanders and deposited in the government's coffers. These five new taxes will rip \$2.25 billion out of our economy. The five new taxes will hit households and businesses in every corner of this state.

Labor's addiction to taxes is predictable and mistaken. It is mistaken because increased taxes destroy jobs and economic confidence. No place on earth has ever taxed its way to prosperity. You cannot tax your way to prosperity—it is as simple as that—but you can tax your way to failure and decline, and these new taxes are an admission of failure by Labor. Labor have run this state for almost a generation but they still cannot keep Queensland afloat without imposing new taxes. Every Queenslanders should be disturbed by that, just as they should be disturbed by the broader economic picture in Queensland. After 3½ years in office Labor has no economic plan for Queensland. The Palaszczuk government has failed to create conditions for steady and sustainable domestic economic growth.

Prevailing national and international conditions have given some businesses a lift, but we continue to underperform across-the-board. Our tourism sector had the second lowest growth rate in international visitors of any state last year. They are spending less time in Queensland. We should be leading the tourism charge, but instead we are being beaten by Tasmania. Our retail sector is also weak, with only South Australia recording weaker growth in turnover.

Globally there has been good news for Queensland with the surge in commodity prices, but our royalties are being threatened with a \$2 billion hit because of Aurizon's dispute with the Queensland Competition Authority. It is Queenslanders who will pay for this dispute—a dispute that stems from Labor's decision to sell off the QR rail network.

Nothing illustrates Queensland's poor economic performance more clearly than unemployment. The April ABS statistics revealed that Queensland had the joint highest unemployment rate in Australia, at 6.5 per cent. The Premier had previously said she was targeting an unemployment rate with a '5' in front of it. This hollow rhetoric has been laid bare in the budget. The unemployment rate will be higher than previously forecast next year and remain unacceptably high for the next three years. After 3½ years in office, the Premier has failed to deliver on her own target.

Regions across the state including North Queensland, Wide Bay, Fitzroy and the outback are suffering unacceptably high levels of unemployment. In April, youth unemployment was 18 per cent in Townsville and 29 per cent in Wide Bay. In outback Queensland youth unemployment has now reached 54 per cent. The potential of too many young Queenslanders is being wasted under this government. A generation of Queenslanders are being denied the dignity of work by a government with no economic plan. Young people are missing out on opportunities in employment and in training. The number of completed apprenticeships has fallen by 14 per cent under Labor's watch. The capacity of the next generation to build our great state is shrinking.

We are failing the unemployed and we are failing employers too. Unlike most of those opposite, I am not a career politician. I know what it is like to run a small business—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my right. I listened to the budget speech on Tuesday and I would like to hear the reply.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Unlike those opposite, I am not a career politician. I know what it is like to run a small business, to balance the books and to employ people. I got into politics because I saw how Labor, under Anna Bligh and Anastacia Palaszczuk, had squandered our mining boom. I want my three daughters to grow up in a Queensland where our best days are ahead of us.

Businesspeople have been angered, disappointed and frustrated by the Palaszczuk government's policies. According to the CCIQ Pulse survey, business confidence is now at its lowest point since September 2016. Confidence has been negative for most of the last four years. The Queensland government scored minus 19 per cent in the Sensis survey of small and medium sized businesses. Our government, along with that of South Australia, was judged to have the worst business policies in Australia.

The views of small and medium sized businesses matter, because they are our biggest employers. They decide when to hire, when to fire and when to give their workers a raise. If they are not confident about the future, the rest of us should be worried. This budget will do nothing to boost the confidence of small businesses. There is no relief on tax or electricity prices and no action to speed payments for small business. The Palaszczuk government continues to use small businesses as a bank and take them for granted. The LNP is the party of small business and we will not take small business for granted. Under the LNP fair pay policy, government contracts worth up to \$1 million would be paid between 20 calendar days, down from the current 30. Reducing the time it takes for state government to pay its bills will improve cash flow for small businesses.

It is not just small businesses that have lost faith in this government. Big businesses have learned that the Palaszczuk Labor government simply cannot keep its word. ASF's \$3 billion Gold Coast project was killed off by this government on a whim, along with an estimated 13,000 jobs. All Queenslanders were left with a reported \$13 million bill for costs. Labor's backflips on the Adani NAIF loan and the Logan housing renewal initiative have damaged Queensland's reputation as a place to do business. It comes as no surprise at all that business investment has plummeted by \$76 million under Labor—a 40 per cent drop.

As business investment declines, population growth is becoming a crucial economic driver for Queensland. That growth is being heavily driven by interstate migration from Sydney and Melbourne. The surging economies of New South Wales and Victoria are encouraging southerners to sell up, cash in the equity in their homes and head north. I say: good on them and welcome to Queensland. Obviously our rising population will require extra spending on schools, hospitals and other public services. We all know that a growing population needs more teachers, nurses, doctors and police. That is simply the government doing its job.

People should not be fooled by the big talk of the Treasurer about her so-called infrastructure budget. Labor has a sorry record of underinvestment in infrastructure. The first Palaszczuk government cut an average of \$3 billion a year from the state infrastructure program. Of this, \$2 billion a year was ripped from the regions. This meant that our bush roads, our regional hospitals or even boat ramps could not receive vital upgrades. As a proportion of gross state product last year's infrastructure budget was the joint lowest in living memory. The other record low year was 2016-17, when just 2.2 per cent of gross state product was invested in infrastructure. Queensland's infrastructure crisis has been caused by this Labor government.

The infrastructure increase announced in this budget will only restore spending to the long-term average level. Let us not forget that the last LNP government invested an average of 3.2 per cent of gross state product in infrastructure. We invested a greater share of our wealth in infrastructure than Labor because it is the right thing to do for our economy and our society. We invested in 11 new schools, the Gateway Upgrade North, the 10-year plan for the Bruce Highway and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, but Labor cut back investment and we are now all living with the consequences.

It is no wonder that congestion on our roads is increasing. It is no wonder construction spending is shrinking. Labor is sacrificing the infrastructure needs of the whole state for Cross River Rail. Just look at how Sunshine Coast commuters are being short-changed by this government. The federal government has pledged \$390 million to fund half the cost of duplicating the region's rail line. Labor has

offered to pay 20 per cent of the project, leaving about a \$230 million shortfall and placing the project in doubt. While the Sunshine Coast gets a 20 per cent commitment, Cross River Rail gets a 100 per cent commitment from Labor. In fact, Labor's commitment to the Sunshine Coast is around one per cent of the real cost of the \$14 billion budget for Cross River Rail.

The first Palaszczuk government did not just squeeze the infrastructure budget; it also ripped \$6 billion from public servants' superannuation and \$3.4 billion from long service leave. Can members imagine the outcry from union leaders if an LNP government had done that? I do not know what is worse: Labor's greed or the unions' silence. Both those barrels have now been well and truly scraped. They are not the solution to the rising costs of this Labor government.

Under Labor the Public Service has continued to grow at a faster rate than population, with more than 20,000 FTEs added to the payroll since 2015. Of course public services must expand as our population grows, but the number of senior and senior executive public servants has grown by more than 30 per cent under the Palaszczuk government. Labor has hired an extra 4,158 senior and senior executive staff in just three years. These are not nurses on the ward. They are not teachers in the classroom. They are not police on the beat. This ballooning bureaucracy helps to explain why the Public Service pay bill has grown by \$5.2 billion under this government. That is a big increase, and what have Queenslanders got in return? Are we any safer on our streets or in our homes under the Palaszczuk government? Robberies are up 26 per cent, assaults are up 11 per cent, home invasions are up 12 per cent and car thefts are up 19 per cent. On top of that, our child protection services are still in crisis. We have had review after review, excuse after excuse, but still our children are not safe.

Is our health system any better or worse? More patients are spending longer stuck in ambulances before they even get into an emergency department and, when they do get into an ED, they are having to wait longer to be treated. The median wait for an elective surgery was down to just 28 days under the LNP, but it is back up to 50 days under Labor. Every Queenslanders who relies on the public health system should be concerned, but instead of reassuring patients all the Treasurer did this week was boast about a record Health budget. That boast could have been made by every Treasurer Queensland has ever had. Under the LNP government, the Health budget increased by an average of seven per cent a year. They were all record Health budgets too. The Treasurer's 4.6 per cent increase does not even come close to matching the LNP's record. For all its boasting, Labor is failing to deliver for patients. Queenslanders are not getting better and faster health services.

What we are getting is debt, and lots of it. Debt will hit \$83 billion under the Palaszczuk Labor government. It does not matter how you look at it, \$83 billion is a big number and that is a big problem for Queensland. Labor's massive debt will cost Queenslanders \$3.7 billion a year in interest payments. That is over \$10 million a day or over \$7,000 a minute. In the time allocated for my speech, Queenslanders will have paid \$420,000 in interest payments on Labor's debt bomb, so I was astonished that the Treasurer could not even bring herself to say the word 'debt' in her speech. I know it was not a very long speech, but surely debt was worth a mention. It seems the Treasurer has a bad case of debt denial and denial is not a solution to this problem.

The budget shows fiscal deficits as far as the eye can see. The budget shows that the Palaszczuk Labor government is in structural deficit. These deficits mean that our debt will exceed \$83 billion. Our huge debt is not just a number; it takes billions away from schools, hospitals, infrastructure and policing. It leaves Queensland vulnerable to economic downturns and natural disasters, but it is now clear that Labor has no intention of paying down debt. It is not even committed to stabilising debt. Under Labor, our debt will keep on growing. It will never be repaid, but I can assure Queenslanders that an LNP will make stabilising debt a fiscal principle. Once we stabilise Labor's debt we will start to repay the debt and we will target a debt level that will see the return of Queensland's AAA credit rating.

Unlike Labor we will deliver on our fiscal principles, but the LNP knows that there is no quick fix for this problem. Queensland's Labor debt is huge and it is the result of years of irresponsible financial management by Labor. Labor is simply unable or unwilling to tackle wasteful spending. For example, earlier this year we saw that ICT projects have blown out by nearly \$300 million under the Palaszczuk government. We have paid out \$41 million in overtime for train crews, even though we are getting 470 fewer services a week. Soon Queenslanders will pay for a multimillion-dollar advertising campaign to tell farmers that they are wrong about Labor's draconian vegetation management laws. These mistakes all have a financial price, and there have been many more mistakes like them. It is not bad luck that has caused \$83 billion worth of debt; it is bad government.

What is the response of the Palaszczuk Labor government to these economic and fiscal problems? After 3½ years, does this government have an economic plan? No, it does not. All it has on offer is more tax—and not just one tax but five new taxes. The first four of these were announced just 48 hours before the state election and after the advertising blackout had begun. Is this what Labor calls open and transparent government? It was a last-minute tax statement that looked pretty sneaky and like a political trick to me. Even the details of Labor's releases to voters were not accurate. The four new taxes were predicted to raise \$492 million, but now we have been told the figure is more like \$900 million. Labor does not want voters to know what is in store until it is too late.

Many thousands of Queenslanders had actually voted before Labor unveiled its new taxes. Labor did not want the hassle of having to justify more taxes. Voters might have asked the hard questions about Labor's tax plans and Labor answers are not any good. The Premier fobbed off the criticism by comparing herself to Robin Hood, and I do not think that is very fair on Robin Hood. Robin Hood did not go around levying new taxes on the people of Sherwood Forest. He took taxes off government and gave them back to the people. It was the Sheriff of Nottingham who spent his days squeezing more money out of taxpayers. The government now collects \$65.5 billion in revenue a year. That should be enough.

Taxes impact the whole economy. If treasurers could tax their way to growth they would all put up taxes, but in developed economies the trend is towards cutting taxes, not increasing them. The new Treasurer should be trying to give struggling families and businesses a lift, not taxing them more. However the Palaszczuk government spins it, the new taxes will affect us all. The increase in land tax will be passed on to tenants, which in most cases are business owners. In a stronger economy businesses might be able to absorb higher costs, but most of this tax will be passed on to the public. Targeting overseas property investors will inevitably have an impact on the level of activity in the construction sector. Less activity means fewer jobs.

The wagering tax also has a price. Stephen Conroy of Responsible Wagering Australia has warned the tax could put more than 300 jobs at risk in our betting and racing industries. You cannot have a successful racing industry without punters—or racetracks, for that matter. The extra duty on premium cars will impact motor dealerships and their sales. The fifth new tax, a waste tax, was not even included in last year's last-minute tax reveal. This tax perfectly illustrates Labor's 'tax first and ask questions later' approach. The Premier first claimed the tax was needed to stop the waste from New South Wales being dumped in Queensland, but the reality is only one city is a magnet for interstate waste—Ipswich. That is because Ipswich's Labor council gave the green light to private waste dumps to operate in the city.

The government's argument was looking shaky, but then Ipswich's Labor council messed up again. When the Ipswich City Council announced that it was ending the recycling, the Treasurer did not waste a moment before declaring that she would fast-track the waste tax. When the Ipswich City Council announced just a day later that it would continue recycling, there was no change of heart by the Treasurer. The Treasurer had found another excuse for the tax and the facts were not going to get in the way.

Despite initially welcoming the principle of a waste tax, the LGAQ soon started to have doubts. This month, the LGAQ warned that the state government was not being up-front about the waste tax. I could have told them that. That is exactly what I have been saying about this waste tax. The new waste tax is twice as high as that imposed by the Bligh government and it will hurt Queenslanders from the Cape to Coolangatta. It all began with an incompetent Labor council in Ipswich and a Labor council that is now in disgrace.

The Master Builders say that the tax will add \$1,400 to the cost of a new home at a time when young Queenslanders are struggling to get on the property ladder. Together with Labor's other property taxes, an estimated \$3,000 will be added to the cost of a new home. The tax will hit small businesses everywhere. The Palaszczuk government does not have a waste strategy; it has a tax strategy. Labor simply cannot kick its addiction to taxes. Its taxes destroy jobs and economic confidence. This government is big on tax, but short on results. Queensland can do better than this. Queenslanders deserve to do better than this.

I have said where we are going wrong, but I also want to say where we are going to put things right. I know that in a world outside of politics people have to solve problems if they want to be a success. No-one gets ahead without knowing where they want to go and having a plan to get there. Success does not just happen. It will not get anywhere without a sound plan and hard work to back it up.

Unlike Labor, the Liberal National Party has a plan for Queensland. Our plan is designed to make it easier for Queenslanders to get a job and get ahead. Today, I am launching the LNP's economic plan because it is clear that this state is stagnating. If Queensland is to start climbing the economic ladder again, we need to take action. I am more interested in solutions than spin. Politics is not a game to me. Politics affects the lives of millions of Queenslanders. I am launching our economic plan because I respect Queenslanders. I want them to know that I have the energy and the ideas that this state needs. Make no mistake, I will keep calling out this government and hold it accountable, but I will not just say where Labor has gone wrong; I will say where we should go.

Our economic plan is the right path for Queensland. The LNP's plan will help businesses grow and create more jobs for people in every corner of this state. It will get Queensland's economy back on track, but I want to do more than that. I want to improve education for our kids and health care for our sick. I want to build communities that are secure and strong. I want every Queenslanders to be confident that, once again, we are heading in the right direction. My plan lays out five goals and how the LNP would deliver each of them: bust congestion, provide cheaper electricity, ensure better health and education services, deliver water security, and guarantee no new taxes.

Everyone who lives in South-East Queensland knows that our roads are getting worse. Average peak hour speeds are slowing. More congestion means that each morning drivers have to leave home earlier and get home later. More congestion means that people will spend less time with their families and have less time to unwind. More congestion damages our quality of life and our economy. The productivity of Queensland suffers because we spend so much time sitting in traffic.

I was relieved when the Palaszczuk government finally agreed to match the federal government's \$1 billion investment in the M1. It is a win for the Gold Coast, but more action is needed. The upgrade of the M1 is the beginning of the LNP's transport plan for the Gold Coast, not the end. It is clear that the Gold Coast needs another major road connection between Brisbane and Logan. The motorway is the busiest road in Queensland, carrying 145,000 vehicles a day. The M1 was built by an LNP government 20 years ago and population growth has now exceeded the road's capacity. The congestion on this road is simply unacceptable. We cannot keep adding lanes to the M1 and cutting the speed limit is a bandaid, not a solution.

The LNP's plan includes building a second M1, taking up to 60,000 vehicles a day off the existing road. The proposed corridor between the northern Gold Coast and Beenleigh exists already; we just need to commence planning and design work. The need for this road is clear. I promise motorists that a future LNP government will begin the second M1.

As our population grows, the need for new routes is not confined to the Gold Coast. Our major arterial roads, including the Centenary Motorway and Old Cleveland Road, are choked with congestion, but in the past decade there has been no comprehensive study of alternative road corridors in Queensland. In partnership with the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors, an LNP government will provide better coordination of state and local roads. We will preserve future road corridors and begin planning for what we need over the next two decades. We will develop a road infrastructure plan to keep Queensland moving. Under the LNP's economic plan, we will invest in smaller roads, too.

Motorists are sick of the buck-passing and the blame game. They are tired of it taking longer to get to work, to drop the kids off to school or to go to the shops. The LNP will work with councils to deliver upgrades to strategic intersections and local traffic bottlenecks. We will also work with councils to draw up a priority list of bottleneck upgrades before the 2020 election. We will bust bottlenecks in cities and communities across the state.

Our plan will also finish the task of building a better Bruce Highway—a task that the LNP began in 2012. Because of years of neglect by Labor, the Bruce Highway used to be known as the deadliest road in Australia. The LNP's \$8.5 billion Bruce Highway Action Plan, funded in partnership with the federal government, has resulted in road upgrades from Cairns to Brisbane, but there is more to be done. Queenslanders do not need a Bruce Highway trust; they need action.

Our economic plan includes a commitment to accept the federal coalition government's \$3.3 billion boost for the Bruce Highway. We will provide the \$825 million that is required by the state government to get to work on three major projects: six-laning the Bruce Highway between Caboolture and Caloundra, upgrading the Dohles Rocks Road interchange and the final stage of the Gympie bypass. We will also accept the federal government's \$200 million commitment for road safety improvements and fund the state government's share. The LNP believes in working with the federal government to deliver better roads. That is how we delivered section A of the Cooroy to Curra Bruce Highway upgrade. That is how we delivered the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing and the Gateway North Upgrade projects.

It is not just our roads that have been badly neglected by Labor. Rail passengers have never before experienced such chaos, confusion and incompetence. Labor was gifted the most reliable rail network in Australia and in just three years it has made it the nation's worst. What a shambles. Just like his predecessors, the transport minister has tried to dodge any responsibility for this epic rail fail. If he were as good at finding drivers as he is at finding excuses, our trains would run like clockwork. Instead we have 470 fewer services a week, trains skipping stations to meet punctuality targets and a \$41 million overtime bill. Under this minister, the only train that runs smoothly is the union gravy train.

This government should have stood up to the RTBU years ago and got on with recruiting the 200 drivers our system needs. Under my economic plan I promise to get the drivers we need and to restore the high levels of service commuters enjoyed under an LNP government. I know the LNP can fix the rail network because we have done it before. We will not just deliver a better rail network, we will deliver a bigger rail network too.

The Sunshine Coast is now one of Australia's 10 largest urban centres but its rail line is an absolute shocker. The coast is expected to grow by almost 200,000 new residents over the next two decades. This growth is being directed by the state government, but Labor is refusing to properly fund the infrastructure the region needs. Commuters were first promised the Sunshine Coast rail line duplication in 2009. Anastacia Palaszczuk was the transport minister under the Bligh government.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, I ask you to refer to people by their correct titles in the House.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. The member for Inala was the transport minister under the Bligh government. The member for Inala failed the Sunshine Coast then and she is failing the Sunshine Coast now. The project has been assessed by Infrastructure Australia. It is shovel ready, but a petty argument over the funding split is causing more commuter uncertainty. If elected, an LNP government would accept the federal coalition's \$390 million funding offer to deliver stage 1 of the Sunshine Coast rail duplication upgrade. We would match the \$390 million and the \$780 million project would be built once and for all. Duplication will provide more than 150 weekly services, improve transport reliability for Sunshine Coast residents and ease congestion on the Bruce Highway. This project is ready to go. Under our economic plan this project will finally leave the station.

The LNP will also back the Brisbane Metro project. Two-thirds of public transport passengers in Brisbane now use the bus, but the network is under increasing pressure. The Brisbane Metro project will boost busway capacity by 22,000 seats per hour between Roma Street and Mater Hill and end the bus logjam that impacts all road users. Metro is Infrastructure Australia's highest ranked project in Queensland. It is needed now, but for political reasons the Labor state government is refusing to work with the LNP Brisbane City Council on this project. If elected the LNP will contribute \$20 million of state government land at Rochedale and South Brisbane to ensure this project is delivered. The LNP will also provide the regulatory approvals needed. Whether you drive, take the bus or use the train, the LNP's plan will get you home safer and sooner.

The second part of my economic plan will bring relief to every household in Queensland. From our elderly to our most disadvantaged to young people just trying to get ahead, Labor's secret tax and record high bills hurt Queenslanders. Labor's secret tax on every Queensland electricity customer is well documented. A staggering 47 per cent of network charges paid by Queenslanders go straight to the government. That is about \$470 a year taken from the typical family. This price gouging must stop and will stop under an LNP government.

The first part of our plan for cheaper electricity would see the LNP restructure our government owned power generators from two to three entities. The government's own modelling shows that creating three state owned generation companies will reduce wholesale prices by more than eight per cent. This is a long-term structural reform that is backed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission as well as small businesses and consumer advocates. The LNP will also support additional jobs and investment in Queensland's renewable energy sector.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, the Leader of the Opposition is not taking interjections.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** South Australia's headlong rush to a 50 per cent renewable energy target has resulted in blackouts and volatile prices. Queensland cannot afford to go down that path. As green technology becomes cheaper and more reliable it could generate a growing share of our power needs. An LNP government would mandate government owned energy companies to support renewable energy generation. We would work with the Australian Energy Market Operator to find the right mix of energy generation to ensure our electricity supply is affordable, secure and clean. I promise

Queenslanders that the LNP will plan for a future beyond coal. These government owned businesses need a future beyond the current generation stock and should be allowed to look at new technologies when it makes economic sense to do so.

We will protect the environment and ensure that Queensland is as beautiful in the future as it is today. That includes protecting the Great Barrier Reef for our children and grandchildren and beyond. I can also promise Queenslanders that their electricity assets will be run in their interests. We know that union stacked boards will put the demands of union bosses above the needs of consumers, so we will make electricity board appointments on merit and not use them for union paybacks. Our electricity reforms will not stop there.

The LNP believes free competition in the marketplace is the best way to drive down prices, and that is why the last LNP government introduced competition into the retail electricity market in South-East Queensland. Labor decided to block this reform and its delay ended up costing households in South-East Queensland around \$400 a year. We are seeing competition deliver real savings in the South-East. Competition drives efficiencies and it cuts bills. That is why market reform and increasing competition is part of the LNP's DNA.

Today I am announcing that a future LNP government will extend retail competition to the whole of Queensland. Regional Queenslanders are being squeezed by an energy market that is stacked against them. Labor has allowed Ergon to enjoy a monopoly in the regional areas, despite the Productivity Commission calling for greater competition outside the south-east over a year ago. If elected, the LNP will implement the recommendations of the Productivity Commission's report into electricity pricing. The LNP will end the electricity divide between the south-east and the rest of Queensland. Queenslanders north of Gympie and west of Toowoomba should not be treated like second-class consumers. Allowing retail competition everywhere will ensure all Queenslanders can look for better deals. We will do this by providing a community service obligation to Ergon Energy's distribution businesses to reduce the cost of energy distribution across regional Queensland. This will make it more attractive for retail operators to freely compete in the regions. This would also maintain the uniform tariff policy. Giving households in the regions an opportunity to shop around should save them up to \$300 per year.

Our economic plan will help drivers too. Fuel prices in Queensland are among the highest in the country. I know how much high fuel prices hurt families and that is why I led the campaign to introduce real-time fuel price monitoring to Queensland. Real-time fuel price monitoring sharpens competition and according to the RACQ could save Queensland motorists \$70 million a year. The NRMA has said it could save families up to \$500 a year.

What are we waiting for? Why does Labor have to drag their feet on every good idea? Their two-year trial shows that their heart is not in it. They would rather back big fuel companies than struggling motorists. I promise that a future LNP government will make it compulsory for every retailer to provide full price information in real time. We will provide competition and drive down the cost of fuel. Queenslanders are doing it tough, but the LNP will deliver cheaper fuel and cheaper electricity.

I believe we should give the regions a break and that is just what our economic plan will give them. An investment in water security is an investment in jobs. It is now 13 years since the last dam was built outside of South-East Queensland. The Commonwealth government has billions of dollars available for dams, but it has gone begging under this Brisbane focused Labor government.

A future LNP government will boost agriculture and industry by investing in dams. We would immediately begin work on advancing the Nullinga Dam on the Atherton Tableland and the Urannah Dam near Mackay, and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam near Townsville. We would also work with the federal government to finally deliver the Rookwood Weir for Central Queensland. Labor has been talking about the Rookwood Weir since 2006. Peter Beattie promised it, but over a decade later Labor is still arguing about the costs. There is already strong local demand for extra water from the region's beef and macadamia industries. Queensland industries need water, not waffle. The LNP will not just talk about it; we will build it.

Water is the lifeblood of agriculture. Agriculture drives the economy and creates jobs in much of regional Queensland. As well as feeding Australia, our agriculture also contributes to feeding and clothing the world. After resources, rural produce is Queensland's second biggest export. Our food and fibre exports are now worth around \$10 billion a year. The demand for food from China, India and other Asian economies is only going to increase. Labor is hurting agriculture just when the opportunities in that industry have never been greater. I want us to seize those opportunities and create new jobs and businesses in our regions. The careful allocation of water will be essential for the future production of our world-class food and fibre.

An LNP government will work with Seqwater, SunWater and councils to develop a 30-year water security plan for Queensland. We believe there is capacity to support more jobs in regional Queensland, but we also need to ensure our water is affordable. Labor has approved above-inflation price rises until June 2019, but we believe those should be reviewed in consultation with the industry. The 30-year water security plan we develop will also look at further dam and water infrastructure such as the Hell's Gate Dam and the Tully-Millstream hydro-electricity project. If you have water, you have jobs. Our dams program is about securing the future for regional Queensland.

I have spoken about the LNP's economic plan and how it will help business create jobs and lower the cost of living. However, government is about more than creating prosperity. Queenslanders rely on the state government to provide the most essential services of all. We rely on our teachers to educate our young. We count on our doctors and nurses to care for our sick. I am proud—very proud—of the LNP's record in government. I am proud—very proud—of the LNP's record of improving health services. In 2012 Queensland Health was in a critical condition. It was a complete basket case. Day after day the system let down Queenslanders. That is Labor's legacy and we will never let them forget it.

The last LNP government reduced waiting times for surgery. We reduced the public dental long waitlist. We reopened regional maternity services that were shut down by a Labor government. We reduced ambulance ramping. However, Queensland Health is sickening again under the Palaszczuk government. Our emergency department waiting times are blowing out with almost one-third of patients not being seen in time. Ambulance ramping is back. As of March this year, 23 per cent of patients were left waiting in the back of ambulances for more than 30 minutes. We have also seen the public dental waitlist blow out by over 100 days in just over a year. Queenslanders are now waiting more than 400 days for general dental treatment. Elective surgery wait times are up too, with the median wait time almost doubling under the Palaszczuk government. The public deserve better than that.

Queensland Health's performance should be improving, not declining. The present Minister for Health is a doctor, but not a doctor of medicine. He is far more interested in politics than patients. He is more interested in scoring points than cutting waiting lists. Patients are our priority. We need a public health system that is focused on better outcomes for them. Our hardworking doctors, nurses and paramedics clearly need more help.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister for Tourism and Minister for Small Business, the Leader of the Opposition is not taking interjections. I ask you to cease interjecting.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** To get resources where they are needed, the LNP will introduce incentive funding pools for health and hospital services that are tied to the care that patients receive. Incentive based funding will ensure that hospital directors focus their attention on improving front-line services, not expanding backroom bureaucracy. We will give our nurses, doctors and paramedics the resources they need to treat the sick. We will partner with the private sector to slash waiting lists and ensure elective surgery is completed on time. We will ensure dental waiting lists are reduced by increasing the options for care. We will ensure the Surgery Connect program is reviewed as part of our health initiative.

The LNP's plan will help Queenslanders where they need it most. It will help those who are battling addiction as well as those who are battling disease. Across Queensland, particularly in regional and remote communities, ice use has exploded. A future LNP government will build four new rehabilitation centres across the state, with more detox facilities to help people kick their addiction and stay clean. Our focus is on more treatment, more prevention and more rehabilitation. However, we will also shut down the criminal gangs that peddle drugs to the young and vulnerable. We will fight the war on ice at every front. I refuse to give in to drug dealers who profit from the misery of others. They cannot be allowed to win.

There are many impressive public schools in this state. They are schools where everyone in our school communities, including principals, teachers, parents and students, all pull together. I do not believe we can create a great school system from the top down. I believe we can only create great schools from the ground up.

That is why the LNP government introduced independent public schools in 2013. That is why more than 250 school communities have seized the opportunity to take more control over their own affairs. More power for schools means less power for the unions. Labor has slammed the brakes on the IPS system. This government is not neutral on independent public schools and I fear its review will be a cover for axing independent public schools altogether.

Queenslanders pay for our schools and they should be allowed a say on how they are run. We want to have the best schools and the smartest kids in Australia. The IPS system will help us get there and so will decluttering the curriculum. The curriculum is the bedrock of our school system, but it has been weighed down by the extra demands placed on it over the last several years. Teachers and P&Cs have the same concerns.

A crowded curriculum compromises literacy and numeracy, especially in the early years of school education. Under my plan, a future LNP government would ensure a greater focus on literacy, language and numeracy. To achieve this we would partner with teachers, parents and principals to develop guidance for teachers through the Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority. This is similar to the model adopted in New South Wales under the K-10 curriculum framework.

Our plan is to get back to basics and declutter the curriculum, giving kids a better chance of acquiring the skills they need while taking the pressure off our teaching staff. Our plan will also ensure that English retains its importance throughout the school system. It was recently revealed that English will not be a mandatory component of the new ATAR education system. This foolishly diminishes the importance of this subject. It sends the wrong message to our kids. A future LNP government would overturn this decision and ensure Queensland schools give English the same importance schools in Victoria and New South Wales do—two states which outperform Queensland.

I recognise that our schools sometimes have different needs to schools elsewhere. For instance, it gets hotter in Queensland than it does in the southern states—a lot hotter. 2017 was the hottest year on record. Many communities in southern and South-East Queensland recorded their highest ever temperatures—Gatton hit 45.7 degrees; Dalby, 43 degrees; Warwick, 42.2 degrees; Toowoomba, 40.8 degrees. Brisbane is not much cooler. In January the city's maximum was 37.5 degrees.

Imagine a child in a classroom with no air conditioning when the mercury hits 37.5 degrees or even 45.7 degrees. How can they possibly learn in these conditions? How can teachers teach? They cannot. That is why my LNP team is today committing to air-conditioning every classroom in this state. Cool kids are smart kids.

I remember taking a phone call this year from a gentleman called Ian. He said, 'Deb, my grandchild goes to school in Yarraman and it is hot—very hot. Please help them get air conditioning.' Ian Winks, today I can say I can. Right now the Queensland government only funds air conditioning in state schools in tropical and Western Queensland. I want air conditioning in each and every school. We air-condition our hospitals, our prisons, our parliament, but we let our kids swelter.

In our worst hotspots teachers are sending kids home with heat exhaustion. Labor has been in power for a generation, but they have let this problem go on and on. It is just not good enough. I want our schoolkids to be cool kids. That is what the LNP will deliver in government. It will take time and require significant investment, but I will not accept the status quo. Kids deserve better protection and teachers deserve more respect. The LNP's plan will give it to them.

The LNP will back extra investment in public services like our schools and our hospitals. When extra money is spent wisely it makes a difference. We will never forget that every cent comes from the pockets of taxpayers. The LNP's economic plan recognises that Queensland has to reform its high-tax, low-growth economic model. We want Queensland to be a state of opportunity once more.

That is why an LNP government will guarantee no new taxes if we are elected at the next state election. I will not introduce job-destroying taxes under the radar. I will not introduce a single tax. We will also make stabilising debt a fiscal principle and once we stabilise debt we will start to repay Labor's debt.

We will target a debt level that will see the return of Queensland's AAA credit rating. A future LNP government will focus on the conditions for growth, including a level playing field for Queensland businesses. We have seen the Palaszczuk government give out handouts to too many interstate and international businesses. Corporate welfare for Scottish breweries makes no sense when we have an abundance of homegrown breweries right here in Queensland. If elected the LNP would ensure that government assistance is provided to Queensland businesses as a priority.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I have asked members to cease their interjections. The Leader of the Opposition is not accepting those interjections.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** The Treasury will also report on existing grant programs and whether those deals are in the best interest of Queensland taxpayers. I do not believe it is smart to bet our money on individual firms. If the private sector will not risk the bet why should the rest of us.

The one thing people can stake a bet on is more energy and more ideas from the Liberal National Party. Our economic plan includes policies that will lower bills, create jobs and improve our schools and hospitals. Our plan already has more depth, more detail and more imagination than the policies that Labor offered at the last election. We have a plan for Queensland, Labor does not. This government does not know where it is going and it never has. Labor is content for Queensland to stand still as long as it keeps office.

I want to deliver a better future for each and every Queenslanders. The LNP's economic plan outlines what we would do right now and what we plan to do from 2020. It is the beginning not the end of our commitment to Queensland. There will be much more to come because we want Queenslanders everywhere to have jobs and great opportunities. We want Queensland's best days to be ahead of us not behind us. We want substance not spin, actions not excuses, policies not postures. Only the LNP has a plan to get this state moving again and ensure Queensland's best days are ahead of us.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.18 pm): I begin my contribution on this important debate on the state budget by saying that as dreary, as flat and as forgettable as the member for Clayfield's speech was last year, it stands as a shining beacon of Lincolnesque eloquence compared to the tirade of negativity we have just heard from the Leader of the Opposition. It may not be the end, but it is the beginning of the end of her leadership. Based on past performance, we fully expected the Leader of the Opposition to drop the ball, but we were just hoping this time she might at least find the playing field. No matter what else one can say about the Leader of the Opposition, in particular what else she can be accused of, one certainly cannot accuse her of being consistent.

Her policy about-face on renewable energy has elevated the political backflip to an Olympic sport in which she would get the gold medal in every division in every event. The absolute temerity of it is breathtaking. To declare today in this House that they would compel the electricity generators they wanted to sell to invest in renewable energy they have never supported is a monumental piece of hypocrisy, even by the low standards of the LNP. It is not just LNP nonsense; it is LNP nonsense on stilts. The Leader of the Opposition saying that she supports renewable energy is like Pauline Hanson saying that she leads a united and unified Senate team in Canberra. It is simply unbelievable.

Today was supposed to be the big day, the chance for the Leader of the Opposition to establish her credentials as the alternative premier of an LNP alternative government. The Leader of the Opposition had a series of tests to pass and she failed each and every one of them.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! There is too much noise in the chamber. To those who are leaving the chamber, could you leave quietly. To those who are having conversations in the chamber, could you take them outside please.

**Mr DICK:** It is no wonder the LNP does not want to hear this. The Leader of the Opposition complained of debt but neglected to mention that it increased under the LNP. Debt in this state increased under the LNP and is today lower than what they predicted it would be under their policies in their last budget. Under the LNP, debt was projected to hit over \$82 billion. When? In the financial year that is just about to pass—2017-18. They are complaining about \$83 billion of debt but they were going to hit that this financial year. Our debt has stabilised. Our borrowings have stabilised. Why? It is because of the prudent fiscal management of the Labor government.

If they are so worried about debt—and I look forward to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the shadow Treasurer, reporting on this—what are they going to say about the Australian government debt? What are they going to say about Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison's debt? If they are so worried about debt being 30 per cent of national gross domestic product, let us hear them criticise Malcolm Turnbull. I will tell you one thing they will not do, and that is criticise the Turnbull government on their gross fiscal mismanagement.

The Leader of the Opposition complained about unemployment but neglected to mention that unemployment is today lower than when they left office. She complained about taxation but made no mention about how she was going to replace the revenue. She says she wants lower taxes and lower debt. If you want lower taxes and lower debt, how do you get the money? How are you going to fund the second M1, the Bruce Highway upgrades, the traffic bottlenecks they say they are going to fix or the new dams? Where is the money coming from for the \$2 billion to air-condition state schools in Queensland alone, plus the money that they will now commit to the non-state sector because the Leader of the Opposition said they will air-condition every school, not just state schools? Where is the money coming from?

Let me give the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the Opposition a lesson in government finance 101. If you are not going to raise taxes, there is only one road you can go down. You can cut services, cut jobs and sell assets. That is the only alternative. I say to the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition: show me the money.

The Leader of the Opposition has never apologised for what she did to Queensland when she on her own admission was sitting around the CBRC table as the assistant minister. She was there. She was complicit in every single decision they made and so was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, who was a minister in that government. They can talk about the health system as much as they like, but there is one apology they have never made. They have never made an apology for the fiscal decisions they made in the CBRC, ruining the lives of thousands of Queenslanders.

When it comes to health, they have never apologised to the Barrett families. I will never, ever accept any criticism from the LNP until they apologise to the families whose lives they destroyed by their decision to close the Barrett Adolescent Centre against advice that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had as a cabinet minister not to close that centre without a replacement. The Labor government will never be criticised by the Leader of the Opposition, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition or any of those members opposite on health until they right the wrongs of the past.

All we got from the Leader of the Opposition was thought bubbles—thought bubbles on energy, thought bubbles on health, thought bubbles on education. In our system the Leader of the Opposition relies on her parliamentary team and most particularly on her deputy. Anyone who heard the member for Everton's train wreck interview on ABC Radio this morning would have further insight into why the opposition is in such disarray. Having provided more sidesteps than a Billy Slater kick return, the member for Everton pressed on with the genius LNP strategy, finally settling on this piece of genius: 'For the LNP to deliver a plan to deal with debt would be irresponsible and irrelevant.' That pretty much sums up the performance of the shadow Treasurer and the LNP in its entirety—entirely irresponsible and entirely irrelevant. I can assure the member for Everton that I will be reminding him about that tragic train wreck of an interview for the rest of his time as the shadow Treasurer. When the member for Clayfield was in charge, I said about the LNP that they played follow the leader and it was like walking in a circle, but at least a circle has a shape.

Let us look at infrastructure. The Leader of the Opposition has criticised our infrastructure underspend. She has criticised our investment in infrastructure. I quote Campbell Newman, who said about the Leader of the Opposition, that this is more 'Populist, retrograde nonsense from @DebFrecklington who has never delivered any infrastructure.' It is populist nonsense what she has put in this House. She did not even believe it. What about the lack of energy and enthusiasm? I will say this about the Leader of the Opposition: she has no ticker. She does not have the ticker to lead the opposition and she does not have the ticker to lead the state.

What a contrast it is between the absolute incoherence of the LNP and the Palaszczuk government and what we are delivering—a detailed and comprehensive financial blueprint for our state, set out by the Treasurer on Tuesday. A budget is more than numbers on a spreadsheet, more than a financial blueprint, more than a balance sheet for the state, more than a record of revenue and expenditure, more than a plan and more than a program. That goes for each and every one that we have been delivering as a government.

At its heart a budget is a statement of intent and a declaration of values, the exposition of a government's character through an expression of its policies and priorities. Framed, as this budget so clearly is, by adherence to the principles of fiscal rectitude, it nonetheless promotes the agenda of a government that is committed to investing in the people of Queensland. It is a Labor budget, founded on Labor principles, driven by Labor ideals—a budget where we talk about numbers but always think about people. It is a budget that promotes our commitment to inclusiveness and shared opportunity, to building an economy where no-one is left behind, to tackling disadvantage and inequity by investing in the social capital that improves the lives of Queenslanders through the delivery of accessible and affordable services and the provision of infrastructure that enhances public amenity and economic productivity in Queensland.

There is probably no greater distinction between the government and the opposition than in the areas of health and education. To this side of the House, they are central to the purpose of government, critical in driving future prosperity and the wellbeing of Queenslanders. To those opposite, they are too often seen as merely burdens on the budget, targets too tempting to ignore when they default to their instinct, which is always to cut, sack and sell. That, more than anything else, displays the absolute poverty of their vision and their dogmatic allegiance to the kind of economic nihilism articulated in their

discredited Commission of Audit—they have never apologised for that—that finds virtue in the retreat of government from the economy which we have heard. They do not want to have business attraction funds, retreating from the economy. ‘Let the market decide’ is and always has been their position: ‘Let’s not be active. Let’s not be engaged. Let the market decide and leave the people behind.’

They want to support tax cuts for the one per cent. Well, let them be the voice for the one percenters in this parliament. The Labor government will be the voice of the 99 per cent, and we always will be. Their politics is a toxic formula drawn from the rancid practices of austerity which do little more than drain confidence and promote hardship. It ignores the fact that the individual life represents the touchstone of social value and that all the services and instrumentalities of the state exist for the betterment of individuals. They betray the disadvantaged who disproportionately rely on government services to sustain their material sufficiency necessary to live a dignified life.

Earlier in this debate the member for Everton called out to me, ‘Do you know where Woodridge State High School is?’ I certainly do. It is the most hardworking Queensland community that I am proud to support in this state. He wanted to sell a school in his electorate. We will back schools every day of the week. Does he know where Everton High is? When he was the minister for public works he put up a sign at Everton High that said ‘For sale’. That is what the Deputy Leader of the Opposition did.

What a pathetic effort by the member for Nanango today. What a genuinely pathetic effort. She knows that her time is passing. We heard hollow claims of corruption and criminality in government which within hours she could not support or substantiate. She could not put anything in the public domain. If there was ever a political leader who wanted a cheap headline but was hollow and meaningless in their commitment to public office in this state it is the Leader of the Opposition.

No matter how bitter the lesson, no matter how stern the rebuke by Queenslanders, no matter how clear the rejection by the Queensland electorate, the LNP will never ever learn. The LNP are the scorpion on the back of the Queensland frog—unable to resist the impulse to sting because it is fundamentally in their nature. When they were in government they went to war with doctors, nurses, teachers, the environmental movement, scientists, judges, lawyers, public servants and, finally, with each other. It is a war which, if the recent exchanges between the Leader of the Opposition and her former leader, the person she admired so much, Campbell Newman, is anything to go by, continues unabated.

The contrast between this government and those opposite—between the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition—could not be more stark. Where the Leader of the Opposition has failed the test, the Premier has on each occasion lifted the bar promising to govern for all Queenslanders and promising to deliver for all Queenslanders. That is exactly what the Premier and the Deputy Premier and Treasurer have done for our state.

It was a very dreary morning for those of us in the government to have to listen to the Leader of the Opposition in this debate. There is so much in this budget that will drive our state forward—drive forward economic growth, drive forward employment, drive forward opportunity and optimism for our state. It is a budget of fairness. It is a budget that supports a fair go. It delivers opportunity, vision and hope for our state. It sets out a clear path of how we will deal with the growth that is the dividend of our success and a pathway to building a better Queensland. It is a budget that is forward looking and financially responsible. I commend the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. I commend the Premier and I commend our government, and I support this state budget.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! Before I call the member for Everton, I will run through the list of members who have been warned: McConnel, Chatsworth, Sandgate, Nanango, Caloundra, Buderim, Broadwater and Capalaba. I warn others to be careful or they may find themselves in the same predicament.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.33 pm): I rise to address the 2018-19 budget and support the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition in her reply. My mum told me many years ago that what people do when they have nothing to say in substance is to get personal, and that is exactly what we have just heard from the member for Woodridge. He has absolutely nothing of substance whatsoever so he has to personally attack the Leader of the Opposition. That is how desperate this person is.

**An opposition member:** No substance at all.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection: no substance at all. The member for Woodridge and the member for Cooper are sitting side by side, both auditioning for who will be the next leader. In terms of what the time frame will be, there is lots of speculation as to when that will happen.

This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. This is a budget of broken promises and broken dreams. The Treasurer got up this morning quite proudly talking about those few people who endorsed her budget, many of them very worried about their future such as whether they will get government contracts in the future. They know they had no other choice but to say a few positive comments. What did other stakeholders say about this budget? Chris Mountford from the Property Council said—

Quick tax grabs are not a substitute for the long-term economic and tax reform that Queensland requires. They just push us further down the list in the global battle for job generating investment.

The tax increases locked in by the budget will increase the cost of housing for Queenslanders, increase rents for Queensland businesses, and reduce the amount of offshore investment in this state, which will ultimately translate to fewer jobs for Queenslanders.

That is the Property Council. What did the CEO of AgForce, Mike Guerin, say? He said—

Agriculture is one of the pillars of the Queensland economy and the fastest growing industry in Australia but has been largely forgotten in a State Budget focused more on big spending infrastructure initiatives in the south-east corner.

What did Shane Rodgers from the Australian Industry Group—someone who has incredible insight—say about the waste tax? He said—

... a new tax on business—

that is what the waste tax is—

in the state dressed up as an environmental initiative.

That is exactly what it is. Mark Jamieson, from the Local Government Association of Queensland, said about the waste tax—

On this we are on the side of local communities, who have said loud and clear that they want to see the waste levy money drive innovation not go back into general Treasury coffers.

We have already heard where 30 per cent of that money will go. Paul Turner from the RACQ is quoted as saying—

RACQ has however criticised the Palaszczuk Government's slug on drivers' hip pockets, with motorists set to be taxed more than ever before for registration and licensing fees.

Paul Bidwell from Masters Builders said—

It's a triple whammy for housing builders, with the Treasurer calling an end to the first-homeowners boost, the recently announced waste levy and the impact of land tax increases, which together will raise the cost of building a new home.

The President of the AMAQ has said—

For weeks now the government has been talking about the obesity scourge that we have in Queensland, and the AMA has asked for a whole of government solution to our obesity crisis. This was not delivered today.

Steven Conroy, the Executive Director of Responsible Wagering Australia and a former federal Labor minister, stated—

The Queensland Government's decision to pursue a significantly higher 15 per cent POCT—  
point-of-consumption tax—

will make it the highest effective wagering tax rate in the world. This punitively high tax rate poses immediate and significant risks to the already parlous state of racing in Queensland.

They are just a few comments from stakeholders who have seen through the spin and who have seen through this obscene tax grab by this Palaszczuk Labor government. Let us start with those tax increases.

**Ms Jones:** How are you going to fund the air conditioning? How are you going to fund it?

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the member for Cooper. I cannot wait until she goes back to her electorate and says that she will not support state government funding of air conditioning in her local schools, because we will. We are proud about it.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Smart kids are cool kids.

**Mr MANDER:** I will take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. Smart kids are cool kids. We intend to deliver that promise to make sure that our kids are in a cool environment—one where they can learn without sweating and being in absolute hotboxes that some of our schools are.

This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. This is a budget of broken promises and broken dreams. After seeing \$83 billion of debt on the horizon, it is hard to believe that this government apparently has a fiscal strategy. What is easier to believe is that this budget has managed to break

two-thirds of this government's fiscal principles that are supposed to underpin this grand fiscal strategy. First, despite targeting ongoing reductions in Queensland's relative debt burden—which is one of their principles—the debt to revenue ratio is projected to increase every year from now into the forwards. This is not only a blatant failure to keep one of their own fiscal principles; it is also a complete failure to plan for the future fiscal sustainability of Queensland.

The next principle that this government has failed is to primarily fund new capital equipment through recurrent revenues rather than borrowing. With debt growth set to outstrip revenue growth, it is pretty clear to see that the only way that this government is funding capital investment—which I note is still lower than the LNP's time in government—is through debt, debt and \$13 billion worth of more debt. Another failed principle is to manage a consistent flow of capital works programs. This shows that this government is not only breaking its fiscal principles but also breaking its infrastructure promises. This government consistently underspends on its infrastructure commitments. In the last year alone, it underspent by \$500 million—risking public works, risking jobs and risking a backlog of work into the future.

The alleged infrastructure budget that this Treasurer is crowing about is a hoax. Labor is trumpeting a \$3 billion increase on last year's budget. However, last year's budget was the equal lowest investment in infrastructure in living memory. It is equal to Labor's 2015-16 budget, which saw a mere 2.2 per cent of gross state product invested in infrastructure. Labor has created an infrastructure crisis and is now trying to claim credit, restoring infrastructure spending to what is only equal to the decade long average. The infrastructure investment is still lower than that of the LNP's. The LNP agrees that a growing state needs more infrastructure, but Labor's infrastructure spend has not kept pace with Queensland's economy, and Queenslanders are suffering because of it.

Under the LNP, we invested an average of 3.2 per cent of GSP in infrastructure. This enabled the delivery of 11 new schools, hospital upgrades, the fast-tracking of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and major road projects like the Gateway Upgrade North, a 10-year plan for a better Bruce Highway and the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, to name a few. Annastacia Palaszczuk's legacy is spending less on infrastructure than any previous premier. Labor has cut an average of \$3 billion from the state's infrastructure program each and every year. We have an infrastructure crisis thanks to the legacy of the former infrastructure minister, now the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, trying to clean up her own mess. The infrastructure cuts in regional Queensland are the most savage, with \$2 billion cut per year.

To add one final broken promise in this budget of broken promises and broken dreams, there remains the constantly ballooning public service. This ballooning bureaucracy helps to explain why the public service bill has now grown by \$5.2 billion under this government. As I have said previously, this is a budget of taxes, of debt and of unemployment. This is a budget full of broken promises and broken dreams.

Let me quickly look at these taxes one more time. There are five new taxes worth over \$2.2 billion but their election costings were for \$491 million of new taxes. This is a massive breach of trust. This is an obscene tax grab. Let me go through those taxes one by one. We have a waste tax of \$1.32 billion, 30 per cent of which is going, by their own accord, straight back into general revenue, and I bet you it is more than 30 per cent in the end. This is a waste tax that was brought on through a hoax as well—an interstate dumping problem that was totally due to the policies of the Ipswich City Council, which used superdumps as a way to boost their economy and then used the excuse of the recycling fiasco in Ipswich as well when they said, 'We need to bring it a year earlier,' and then two days later, wham bam, what do we find? They have solved the problem; there is no more recycling problem in Ipswich, but still they are bringing in the wagering tax—it is not the wagering tax, it is the waste tax; I am getting the taxes mixed up—and they brought it a year forward without any justification.

Then we have the other taxes: a wagering tax, which I have mentioned already, of \$367 million; a land tax of \$311 million; a property investors' tax of \$132 million; and a car stamp duty of \$100 million. The government has claimed that all of these taxes will not flow on to everyday Queenslanders. That is a total farce. Of course they will be passed on to Queenslanders and we will feel it. Just wait, over the next 2½ years, people will feel the pain of these extra taxes and they will vote with their feet.

Labor has also slammed Queenslanders with four new fees—on vets, on homestay international students in regional Queensland, on labour hire companies and on hazard perception. With all of these new taxes that Queenslanders are being slugged with and a massive boom in resource royalties, Labor has still incredibly managed to rack up a massive debt bill of \$83 billion for our kids and our grandkids to pay back. The Treasurer could not even bring herself to mention the word 'debt' in her budget

speech—a debt of \$83 billion, a debt that has an interest bill of \$3.7 billion per year, \$7,000 a minute, \$420,000 an hour, \$10 million a day and \$71 million a week. That is the interest bill that has been put on Queenslanders today, our children tomorrow and our grandchildren into the future.

**Mr Powell:** And on to baby Elizabeth.

**Mr MANDER:** I take that interjection from the member for Glass House. This debt comes about because the government's 1.7 per cent average revenue growth is expected to fall below the average expenditure growth of 2.1 per cent over the forward estimates. Moody's rating agency stated—

This imbalance would lead to a growth in debt over the forecast period, challenging the state's credit profile.

The opposition leader this morning quite eloquently outlined the LNP's plan for the future. The LNP's economic plan will do the following (1) bust congestion; (2) provide cheaper electricity and fuel; (3) ensure better health and education; (4) deliver water security; and (5) stand for lower taxes and not bring in any new taxes in the first term of an LNP government. We will continue to listen to Queenslanders and make our state a better place for our kids. As a grandfather, I am particularly proud of our investment in education. We will provide a better environment for our teachers and kids to improve learning and change the failing NAPLAN results. Air-conditioning every public school classroom in this state is a bold commitment and an important one, and we are proud of it and we will proclaim it from the ceiling.

This is part of our plan to make Queensland kids the smartest in the nation. Labor like to talk big about education but they are failing to deliver. It is not just about major road upgrades, like the Bruce Highway. They are important, but it is also important to invest in busting local road congestion. That is important as well. This morning we heard a credible alternative plan. The LNP has a plan for the future.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Members, could we just lower the noise level a little bit.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (12.49 pm): There we have it; they could not even hold their position on air-conditioning schools for one hour—not even one hour. We had the Leader of the Opposition give a commitment to air-condition every single classroom in all schools across Queensland—all schools, every classroom. Now we have heard her deputy, who we all know wants to have the top job, sneak in here and say, 'No, that is not what we meant. That is not the LNP's position. Our position is that it is only state schools.' I wonder why there has been a change of position. In all of their contributions—I think 35 minutes worth that we just heard—was there any mention of how they would fund this commitment?

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I am not worried, brother. Was there any mention of how much this would cost? None, zero, zilch! All we heard was that they had no plans to pay down debt, no plans to grow jobs, no detail about how they would fund their promises and no commitment to say how they would do it. If they want to know the costs of what they have promised they have only to look at what the former LNP education minister said at the time. John-Paul Langbroek said that the cost of doing this just for state schools—and if I were them I would make sure I have my phone handy because independent schools and Catholic schools in Queensland will be ringing to see why members opposite sold them out within one hour—it would be \$2 billion, and the advice I have is that it would cost around \$50 million a year to maintain.

Here we have 20 minutes worth of speech about how there is too much debt, there are no plans to grow jobs and there is no detail in our policy. What did Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition, have to offer the people of Queensland today? Absolutely nothing! Today was an opportunity for her to step out of the shadows of the Campbell Newman government and say—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock for a second. There is a lot of chatter up the back. If you could take that outside it would be great.

**Ms JONES:** It looks like a coup from here. Bring back Tim, I say! I want to table for the record that after Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition, stood in the parliament and said she would air-condition all schools—air conditioning in every classroom—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** That is right. She also then put out a tweet saying she only meant state schools. I table those for the record so the people of Queensland know that they can never trust the words that come out of the member for Nanango's mouth.

*Tabled paper:* Documents, updated, depicting Twitter feed of the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, regarding air conditioning in schools [887].

We know this. As I was saying, this was meant to be the day when she would step out of the shadows of the Campbell Newman government. I actually thought that we would get a contribution about how things were going to be different under Deb Frecklington, the member for Nanango, if the people of Queensland ever chose to put their trust back in a team of people that was so untruthful to them in the past. However, that is not what we got. In stark contrast, she actually said—and repeated it multiple times—that she was very, very proud of how they treated hospitals and schools. We know what their record was. We know that they cut nurses and doctors from our hospitals and teachers from our schools. That is the record that she is still clinging onto.

The most depressing thing I think was the fact that there was no alternative plan. We know that the Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk, promised that she would provide good, decent, responsible government, and that is exactly what we have been doing. We know that the Queensland economy has grown by more than 7.2 per cent in real terms since the December quarter 2014. In this budget there is a surplus of \$1.5 billion, more than three times the midyear fiscal and economic review forecast. It also includes operating surpluses over each and every year of the forward estimates, including \$148 million this year.

We know that, unlike when the LNP was last in government when we saw the Queensland economy stagnate—and every single one of us remembers going to small businesses in their local communities that had to shut their doors; George Street turned into 'ghost street' with a number of small businesses that could no longer make a profit because of the former government's heartless treatment of the public sector in this state—we have seen economic growth forecasts accelerate from 2.5 per cent to three per cent and Queensland now has the second highest annual employment growth in the country. This is because we are a government that is creating jobs. More than 150,000 jobs have been created since we came into government. That is equivalent to around 4,000 jobs a month.

We know that by making the right decisions, the tough decisions—not fairytale decisions, not where you can jump over the rainbow, meet a little leprechaun, have a chat and pick up a magic pudding and a pot of gold. That is the only way the promises made by the Leader of the Opposition could be funded. By the way, she also said, 'Let's make \$3 billion worth of promises at taxpayers' expense. Then we will promise not to increase any taxes. Then we will promise to build everything that the Labor government is doing. Then we will criticise the government for the taxes they have introduced, but we will not get rid of them.' This was the time for the LNP to come clean and say, if they do not like the taxes, which taxes they will cut. Which taxes will the LNP cut to fund their promises? It just does not add up. It does not add up, any way we cut it.

Today we saw that the LNP have no plan for Queensland. There is only one side of politics that is making the responsible economic decisions to grow Queensland. We know that the LNP in Queensland has also failed to stand up to their federal colleagues in Canberra who have short-changed us on our hospitals, on our infrastructure spending, on Cross River Rail and on the M1.

We did have to make some tough decisions. Government is about making tough decisions. That is what we do. What Queenslanders can count on is that we will always make those tough decisions in the best interests of them and their children, whether it is funding our hospitals and our education systems or investing in the infrastructure that will grow the economy and grow jobs. That is why I am so proud to be a part of a government that in this budget is committing up to \$46 billion on new infrastructure projects.

Of course, as someone who has the great privilege of serving as the tourism minister, I spend a lot of time on the M1. I heard the Leader of the Opposition interjecting about baby Elizabeth. What she does not want to talk about is that baby Elizabeth will be in prep by the time we get any decent money out of the federal government when it comes to the M1. Let us start talking about that. However, under this Treasurer and under our minister we are going to get on with the job. We will do the heavy lifting of the LNP, whether at a state or federal level.

If anyone did bother to stay until the end of the Leader of the Opposition's speech they would know that her word is not worth the paper it is written on. Already, within one hour, the members opposite have had to correct themselves on their major announcement of the day. In relation to the one announcement they had in their budget reply speech they have already had to correct the record and say, 'Oops, sorry, independent schools. Sorry, Catholic schools. We did not actually mean you.'

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** ‘Your kids are smart kids’, to use their mantra. How embarrassing! It shows that the people of Queensland made the right decision in placing their trust in our Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, and our government. Our Treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, has done a great job in ensuring that we are making the tough decisions to rebuild Queensland’s economy after the damage that was wrought on it by the LNP when in office, when we saw unemployment at 10-year highs, we saw economic growth stagnate and we saw people leaving Queensland instead of coming to Queensland. What we have seen in these budget documents is that we are now returning to a time when people believe that the best place to raise their family is in Queensland and they are coming back to our state.

Before I conclude, I want to make another point. I am very proud that this is the first budget speech that I will be making to the parliament as the member for Cooper. The new electorate of Cooper was created in the most recent state redistribution with most of the suburbs from my former electorate of Ashgrove included along with the newly added suburbs of Paddington, Red Hill, Milton, Newmarket and Kelvin Grove as well as most of Bardon. While these might be new suburbs to my electorate, they are certainly not new suburbs to me. I had the great privilege of growing up in Bardon before I moved to Ashgrove. I attended Rainworth State School as well as Kelvin Grove State High School, which is now Kelvin Grove State College. I even learnt Irish dancing at Newmarket as a girl and I went to QUT, the local university.

I also did what many generations before me have done, which is move out—probably too young—into share houses at Red Hill and Paddington. I certainly feel that this community is one that I am very proud to continue to live in and represent in this state parliament.

This first budget as the member for Cooper delivers on my election commitments to my local community. There is more than \$10 million for upgrades and improvements to our local schools. This includes millions to finish construction on the state-of-the-art science and robotics centre at The Gap State High School and a new world-class sports hall at the Kelvin Grove State College as well as extra classrooms at Red Hill Special School, which services many suburbs in my local community.

Every school in our community will benefit from this state budget, with extra funding for Catholic, state and independent schools. This also includes \$170,000 towards the Des O’Connor playing fields at Ashgrove—Marist Brothers Ashgrove opens up those fields for the benefit of the broader community—and \$300,000 for stage 2 of the lighting project at GPS Rugby and Valleys District Cricket and \$250,000 for the Bardon Latrobe soccer club. As the member for Cooper I am very proud that this state budget delivers for our local community.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.00 pm): Following on from the member for Cooper, I rise to contribute to the debate on this year’s state budget. I have to say that I normally enjoy following the member for Cooper because she does get quite animated in her speech. I thought she was very subdued today, but I will try to get that finger-pointing right. It may not look quite the same with me, but I will try.

I want to firstly touch on the budget as it relates to my electorate of Burleigh because, quite frankly, the Labor gravy train did not stop at my electorate: it went straight by. When I look at the ‘Delivering for the Gold Coast’ highlights in the budget there are only four things I can see that are somewhat close to my electorate. The biggest one, of course, is the funding for the M1. I thank the federal LNP government for putting forward the \$1 billion, which has now spurred on the state Labor government to come to the party after years of not doing anything.

It is very important to realise that in the last 30 years we have had 25 years of Labor governments in this state, so it is a bit rich for those opposite to blame the LNP for everything that happens in this state when they have been here for 25 of the last 30 years. We look forward to the M1—the Pacific Motorway, as it is known down on the Gold Coast—being widened to six lanes from Varsity Lakes to the border, but a bigger issue down there is going to be the M2.

I am very happy that the LNP is going to build the M2. It will absolutely fix congestion problems on the Gold Coast. Anybody who lives on the Gold Coast—especially on the southern end of the Gold Coast where I live—will tell you that the big issues on the M1 are the feeder roads that lead onto it. Bermuda Street in my area is a prime example. It runs basically the whole length of the Gold Coast and feeds quite a bit of traffic onto the M1 late in the afternoon, especially around three o’clock, at school finishing time. Widening the M1 south of there is the next big thing we need to do—widening the M1 from Varsity Lakes to the border will fix that—but the M2 is the big thing that we need now.

There is \$4.5 million for work at the Gold Coast Recreation Centre, which is in my electorate at Tallebudgera. It is a great facility and I am looking forward to that. The Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, which was in the member for Currumbin's area but I am grateful is now in my area—thank you, member for Currumbin, for passing that on to me—is getting \$1.5 million for some of its buildings. The final \$2 million of the \$10 million is for the next stage of the light rail which will be coming to Burleigh. I am looking forward to that, although I think I have made my feelings quite clear on the Gold Coast about where the next stage after that should go. If it goes down through Palm Beach, I do not think that is a very good idea. I will endeavour to meet with the Minister for Transport in the next few weeks to have a chat about that.

I would like to cover a few things in the budget that relate to my portfolio. As we have heard today, this is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. All three of those are going up and up under this government; it is completely out of control. This morning we heard the Treasurer say that she was honest with the people of Queensland before we went to the last election. She claimed that what she told the people of Queensland is exactly what the government did.

The interesting thing to note is that before the election—and only the day before the election when the media blackout had already stated—the government said there were going to be some new taxes in Queensland and they would raise about \$491 million. We have really seen a key promise broken, and it is obscene. It is a breach of trust with the people of Queensland because the waste tax will generate \$1.32 billion, the wagering tax \$367 million, the land tax \$311 million, the property investor tax \$132 million and the car stamp duty \$100 million.

All up, that is \$2.231 billion, not \$491 million. That is \$1.74 billion more than the government said it would be before the election. If that is not a breach of trust for the people of Queensland, then I do not know what is. That means that every Queenslanders, including all of us here, will pay \$3.7 billion every year in interest alone. That equates to \$7,000 a minute, over \$420,000 an hour, \$10 million a day and \$71 million a week.

When they were in opposition this government used to like to talk about net debt. If you turn to page 85 of Budget Paper No. 2, you will see at the bottom of the graph that net debt this year is \$1.6 billion, but in 2021 it goes out to \$13.7 billion. This is net debt blowing out by \$12 billion in the period 2017 to 2021. When you look at borrowings inside the government, let alone the GOCs, the borrowing in the government goes from \$31.367 billion to \$42.29 billion in the same period. That is an increase of 30 per cent in general government debt—30 per cent! That is what the Labor Party is going to push our debt out by in those five short years to 2021. That is a 30 per cent increase in debt. I really am staggered, but that is Labornomics for you. Even in a period where we have booming coal royalties and billions and billions of dollars coming into the state coffers, they still cannot cut down on debt. They are still binging on debt in this state.

I want to touch briefly on small business and housing, because the \$1.3 billion waste tax that has been imposed on the people of Queensland is going to have quite an effect on building a house. When somebody goes to get a mini skip in the future, you can imagine how much extra that will cost. How much will that all add—

**An opposition member:** It will add \$1,400.

**Mr HART:** Approximately \$1,400. There you go. Paul Bidwell from Master Builders said—

This is a triple whammy for housing builders, with Treasury calling an end to the first-homeowners boost, the recently announced waste levy and the impact of land tax increases, which together will raise the cost of building a new home.

That is what Master Builders is really concerned about.

I want to move on to energy, because I saw a few puzzled looks over there when the Leader of the Opposition was outlining where we will go on energy in the future. Quite clearly, the Labor Party has been using energy as a hidden tax, and that is well proven now. We have laid that out for the people of Queensland. We have shown exactly how this is happening. Billions and billions of dollars are being ripped out of people's pockets and into the coffers of the government, and Queenslanders are just getting a small proportion of that back.

We intend to transition to renewables in a sensible way. We are not going to rush into this ridiculous 50 per cent target that those opposite want to set for this state. Quite frankly, it will not work. We will split the GOCs from two into three. It was the Labor Party that took us from three to two and tried to go to one in the last few years, but we said it should go from two back to three. We want to introduce some renewable energy into those companies.

This morning I heard the Premier say that she would look to see how many times I had said I am anti renewables. She will find that it is none. What I have said every step of the way is that the LNP and I are technology neutral. We are very happy to have renewable energy, but it has to make sense. It has to be reliable—

**Mr Bennett:** It has to stack up.

**Mr HART:** It has to stack up financially. It means that when people come home at night and they turn on the light switch the lights come on and they can afford the bill when they get it. That is what the LNP is all about. We think the correct mix of renewables, base load power and some storage inside these GOCs—one way or the other—will lead to far more competition. Competition is what will help in this marketplace.

We have said that we will extend retail competition into the Ergon area by shifting the CSO that is presently paid into the network costs. That is exactly why Ergon Retail gets the CSO to start with—because there is an inflated network cost because of the distance that has to be covered in delivering electricity in regional Queensland. It gets the CSO specifically to reduce those network costs. We are saying, 'Let us take that CSO off those network costs for everyone and introduce competition in regional Queensland.' Then we can have lots of companies, as we are now starting to see in South-East Queensland, enter the regional market. That will make quite a difference to the price of electricity in regional Queensland.

As I said earlier, the Labor Party has been gouging people on electricity. There is no clearer evidence than last year's budget papers. Electricity generation earnings were budgeted to be \$482 million and the estimated actual was \$892 million, an increase of \$410 million. I thought, 'Wow, suddenly they have stumbled across an extra \$410 million in electricity earnings from the generators.' In this year's papers the actual is \$1.24 billion—\$759 million more than they had budgeted for. One would think that these budget figures are prepared in May or something like that so people would have a fair idea of the earnings of the two generators. That is what goes into the budget papers. In fact, just a couple of weeks later they had made another \$349 million! That is a great coincidence. That is a great accident to come across.

Let us talk about the \$759 million. A few days ago we heard that the Queensland population had hit five million, when baby Elizabeth was born. Members should get their calculators and divide \$759 million divided by five million. It comes to \$154 per head. That is how much extra this government made in electricity in 2016-17. That is \$154 per head more than it expected to make. If we assume that a typical family has two parents and two kids, that equates to an extra \$600 per household—on top of what was budgeted. This is extra money that the government was not expecting to get. Its response to that is to give back an asset ownership bonus of \$50 per household—not per person but per household—for two years. It is ripping \$600 out of people's pockets. In fact, based on the \$1.24 billion it made it is \$250 per head, or for a household of four people \$1,000—that is just on the earnings of generators; I am not talking about networks, retailers or anything else—and it is going to give back \$100. Don't people feel happy about that! Is it any wonder that the government wants this tax to continue? It wants this to go on year after year.

Debt, price gouging and hidden taxes are what this government is all about. It is all about Laboronomics. I do not see this changing anytime soon. Unfortunately, 15 minutes is not long enough for me to say everything I would like to say. I say to the minister that I fully support something happening in the Daintree. I have been up there several times. I notice from the SDS that we are looking at that. I am very happy to support the government in whatever it decides to do there. I have seen Russell O'Doherty up there a couple of times. I encourage the minister to speak to him. I will go with the minister, if that is of any assistance. I think the people there deserve to have grid power.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.15 pm): I am happy to speak to the Appropriation Bill, introduced by the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Hon. Jackie Trad. This is my fourth year of being able to respond to a good Labor government budget and my first time as the member for Kurwongbah. The Treasurer said that this year's budget is about delivering, and that is what it does in spades. I feel a great amount of pride in the great outcomes that this budget will bring for all Queenslanders, none more so than my constituents in the Kurwongbah electorate.

As our population continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the country, we need to keep pace with the jobs and infrastructure that our new Queenslanders will require. The 2018-19 budget delivers a capital program of over \$45 billion over the next four years including major projects all over Queensland. It puts the front-line services of health, education, police and emergency services, along

with a strong Public Service, front and centre, delivering for our community. It is a budget that delivers jobs for my community through the infrastructure projects and real employer incentives that we need. It delivers a budget surplus of over \$1.5 billion, which is more than three times the Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review forecast. It forecasts operating surpluses over the forward estimates, starting nicely with \$148 million in 2018-19.

This budget invests heavily in infrastructure—over \$45 billion in spending over the next four years. It will continue to drive the jobs that are the major focus of this outstanding budget. All of this comes without the toxic asset sales agenda that the Newman government proposed and the current leadership still craves.

This budget is again a stunning vindication of the decision by the Palaszczuk government to protect the assets of our state and our people by ensuring that our state profits benefit our children's future—and we Queenslanders are the shareholders, not some private, for-profit company that only wants to bolster its bottom line and its shareholders whilst Queenslanders would have paid more and more for vital services like power. I repeat what I have said before in this place: you do not have the sell the family silver, and in fact it pays well to keep it. This budget highlights that well.

This budget delivers on the important needs of health in our community. Another record Queensland Health budget is delivered, with an increase of over four per cent in the total budget for the state and six per cent for our region. Important for me as the member for Kurwongbah is a focus on local hospital and health services. A highlight is Caboolture Hospital's emergency department upgrade, to be delivered by June 2019. Another highlight is the multimillion dollar investment in the expansion of Caboolture Hospital to meet our community's growing needs. Redcliffe Hospital will get funding for upgrades to its children's health facilities, birth suites and car park. That is just some of the Health funding in this budget. Prince Charles Hospital will see the adolescent extended treatment health centre commence, with funding allocated to the project.

The hospital and health services and their staff do amazing work. I know from many conversations with local people how proud they are of our health workers. We need to—and will—give them the infrastructure and staff they need to do their jobs well. I note the recent sad calls of LNP members and candidates, trying to make a silk purse out of a pig's ear—no disrespect to the pigs—by trying to create a fiction about their Health funding achievements. People are not fooled in Kurwongbah or Longman. They know that in health it is Labor that protects both the community needing health care and the workforce that delivers it from the 'cut, sack, sell' ideology we saw when those opposite were last in office.

To think that anyone has forgotten this is foolish and with the current LNP federal government, which thinks we need less money in health, not more, we can use this state Labor Treasurer and health minister's health commitments to show once again that it is only Labor MPs at state and federal levels who deliver for our demanding health needs.

The electorate of Kurwongbah has done well in this budget and I am proud to have stood up for what our community needs. There have been great outcomes for my electorate and I am excited by so many of them. I am pleased to highlight just a few of them. I announced at the last budget that the initial design money would be allocated to start the long overdue upgrade to the intersection we all know locally as the Petrie roundabout. Let me deliver on my commitment to my constituents by highlighting that this budget allocates the balance of the \$30 million to finish the upgrade of this roundabout.

The growth of the northern corridor of my electorate in the past few years in the suburbs of Petrie, Whiteside, Narangba and Burpengary and further north in particular has seen this road infrastructure become a source of frustration to those many people travelling to and from their homes, work and schools. There has been in my opinion frankly no more important road project required in my electorate. The exciting Petrie university campus only further exacerbated the upgrade requirement, but it is not a cheap road project. Amongst so many in the state that was a demand of the Treasurer to find a way to fund, find a way she has and I am pleased my consistent voice over the past four years has made this difference. I do not give up—never have, never will.

Our community will have to endure the roadworks associated with the build and I commit to working hard to make this process as painless as I can. However, I know my community understands the importance of this budget win for us. It is somewhat a surprise that this announcement has met with sneering and jeering from the local LNP echo chamber, unable and unwilling to do what it takes to get this project to the top of its government's agenda despite the need then and now. All it does now is sit on the sidelines and throw wet lettuce leaves, whingeing about the project.

We have and will ensure that this project is delivered for Kurwongbah and the region and the Minister for Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, agrees with me that we need to compress the time frames to work in as best as we can with the university project opening. My community knows that I will pursue this with as much vigour as I have this funding to undertake the building of the upgrade. The response on social media and after speaking to so many constituents shows that this delivers a big tick from our community and that I am not alone in my delight for this outcome.

Last term we delivered the Boundary Road-Bruce Highway interchange and this term we will continue the planning, design and early works on the next interchange to the north—the New Settlement Road-Deception Bay Road highway overpass with \$4.4 million in 2018-19 from a total project cost of \$150 million. This overpass continues to be a choke point during peak times. This project had been scrapped from QTRIP by the previous LNP government. If it had not been, it is likely that it would be shovel ready by now and we would be seeing more of the jobs our region needs.

At the last budget I was very pleased to announce that our community had finally been successful in our campaign for an upgrade to the Dakabin Railway Station. Since the state redistribution and election, I now share this station with my friend and colleague Dr Steven Miles, the member for Murrumba, and we are working together to see that this project gets completed properly and is what we need for the future. Community feedback has been strong and we were proud to announce \$1.9 million in 2018-19 from a total spend of \$39 million to continue design work of Dakabin station upgrades, which include a car park and bus facilities. There will be no more band-aids but a full upgrade of Dakabin station, as promised by our government. Again, I want to thank the partners we have in this project—Gemma Gale and the Dakabin Station Action Group, Moreton Bay Regional Council and many local residents and commuters—for their hard work in making this station a priority build.

But wait, there's more. This budget will also deliver \$1.8 million this year from a total spend of \$7.1 million for the construction of more parking at Lawnton station in the form of a park-and-ride on the Kurwongbah side of this station that borders my neighbour Nikki Boyd's electorate of Pine Rivers. Our local stations and their parking spaces are of vital importance to our Moreton Bay Labor MPs to ensure that our commuters and road users have a well-integrated system—a system that gives them the very best way to move around their community so they can get about their lives and not sit wasting time in traffic.

This budget will allow us to continue the vital work on the Sideling Creek Dam, which we know as Lake Kurwongbah, which my electorate takes its name from. I am pleased to announce that \$10 million will be invested to continue the safety upgrade for Sideling Creek Dam through Seqwater, which is just another step the Palaszczuk government is making towards securing recreational access to Lake Kurwongbah into the future. I have been working with Seqwater on this since I was elected in 2015 to allow access to all recreational users after the waterskiers were kicked off the lake during the dark days of the Newman government after 50 years of being on there. This lake has now been taken off the water grid and there was community concern that the wall would not be repaired. I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government is delivering for recreational users of the lake.

This budget also delivers \$400,000 for Narangba Valley State High School to refurbish its home economics kitchen, a quarter of a million dollars for Jinibara State School to refurbish the teaching block and, continuing the works that we have done throughout my electorate on our schools, projects like the disability access path to the hall at Petrie State School—and I want to thank the former education minister, Hon. Kate Jones, for delivering that—and projects like the path to the oval at Narangba State School which was completed very recently. We will spend a further \$660,000 for maintenance and minor works across other schools in the Kurwongbah electorate.

I want to take this opportunity to thank our ministers and their staff for listening to my constant and somewhat tenacious lobbying on behalf of my community. This is what I do and what I will continue to do. Our Moreton Bay region is growing at an extremely rapid rate and we need to continue to keep ahead of this growth with our infrastructure rollout. The residents of my community can take comfort that we have a government that listens and delivers and has their best interests and the interests of all Queenslanders first and foremost. I am proud to support this budget.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.26 pm): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2018. So much paper was left on my desk yesterday—so much debt, so many new taxes for Queenslanders and, unfortunately, so little for the Nicklin electorate. The Nicklin community has felt neglected for some time. Our community is suffering from several hits over the years.

The hub of the electorate, the suburb of Nambour where the Sunshine Coast Regional Council is currently situated, has suffered the closure of its sugar mill and the ripping out of 1,800 staff from its hospital with no indication of when they will return, leading to business stress and several closures. The

Sunshine Coast Regional Council has also announced that it will be moving to the coast. The opportunity was there for the government to deliver some good news for Nicklin. Nicklin needs some good news, some vital infrastructure improvements. I have provided the various departments and ministers with our priorities through questions on notice, letters and emails, only to be denied.

All I hear day after day in this parliament is the government blame, blame, blame. Labor has been in government for around 25 of the last 30 years and yet for anything it cannot or will not do it wants to blame the federal government and previous state LNP governments. If there is an infrastructure crisis, it is of the government's own doing and there are no excuses anymore for neglecting the Nicklin electorate. Unfortunately, today all I can do is point out the deficiencies in this budget. I would love to be able to talk about the great funding we have received and the fair and equitable share, but it just is not so. Despite \$2.2 billion in new taxes and huge borrowings for infrastructure, Nicklin still misses out on our share while its small businesses are put under further stress with higher power prices and extra new taxes.

Obi Obi Road is a state road connecting our beautiful Sunshine Coast hinterland with the rural area of Kenilworth. Visitors to the Sunshine Coast cannot visit the hinterland and then head out to Kenilworth with a caravan or camper on board as the road is not suitable. Until the recent opening of the ambulance station at Kenilworth, the Kenilworth community has had to supply its own community first responders emergency first-aid group because ambulances could not get through Obi Obi Road.

This road is a tourist gateway. The farming community of Kenilworth, particularly those in the dairy industry, have experienced hard times. The community has worked hard to provide some outstanding tourist attraction events, such as the Kenilworth Cheese, Wine and Food Fest, which attracts tens of thousands of people; the Kenilworth Show and Rodeo; and the Kenilworth car show, to name a few. The local bakery has become famous for its one-kilo doughnut, attracting visitors to the town—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** Attracting police to the town—to take up the challenge of eating it. It has become a social media success and the town itself is reaping the benefits of having more visitors. The showgrounds, along with several other beautiful local camping spots, also host regular campers and caravaners. Kenilworth deserves a road into town that allows access for all of these visitors. Unless people are game enough to drive the Obi Obi trail, they have to take the long way around via Eumundi to get into Kenilworth. Certainly, for those people who have a longer vehicle or anything in tow, it is impossible.

The upgrade of this road has been on the agenda for a long time and for a long time has been pushed into the too-hard basket. There must be a solution. The upgrade of this road has been costed. It just needs to be funded. Recently, I was told by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that the upgrade was a low priority because it does not have the necessary volume of traffic. Of course, it does not. People are choosing alternative and much longer routes to avoid the road.

To make matters worse, we see in the budget Labor feathering its own nest at the expense of the needs of regional areas. I understand there is not a bottomless pot of money for every possible project, but the people of Nicklin have waited patiently. When the Minister for Transport can find \$45 million to build a path for bike riders in his patch in Brisbane, people in my electorate become very frustrated. That amount of \$45 million for that project could easily fix this vital gateway road once and for all and provide Mapleton, Kenilworth and the Sunshine Coast hinterland tourist areas the roads that are needed to support locals, local jobs and tourism.

During the 2017 election campaign the LNP committed \$1 million to partner with the Sunshine Coast Council to provide streetscaping and traffic calming through the town of Palmwoods on the state controlled Woombye-Montville Road. This shovel-ready project is important for the safety of pedestrians and vehicles travelling through the town. The town is growing and businesses, such as Rick's Garage, often hold major community events, with people parking and crossing roads. The design of Woombye-Montville Road means that people enter the town on blind bends and the traffic needs to be slowed. This is a project that has been identified. Despite my representations to the minister on this relatively small but important project, again, the people of Palmwoods were denied.

The residents of Cooroy have two of the worst intersections in my electorate. For many years the community has been advocating to fix the intersection of Elm and Myall streets and the intersection of Elm and Diamond streets. The community of Cooroy has waited and waited for government action, with various proposals but no solutions. Once again, this project was put to the minister and brushed aside as not being a priority.

Those are just a few examples of road spending that the government could have done but chose not to. In this budget, there is not one cent specified for roads in the electorate of Nicklin. That is unfair and unacceptable to my community. As I said, when the government can find millions for pet projects in Brisbane, the regions suffer and the electorate of Nicklin has suffered for long enough.

This government has also completely dropped the ball on the Nambour General Hospital project. In 2015, the then minister for health, the current member for Woodridge, said—

For a period, after the opening of the—

Sunshine Coast University Hospital—

... in late 2016, this will be reduced to 129 beds while necessary refurbishment takes place.

However in accordance with Health Service planning requirements, in 2018 Nambour General Hospital will increase to its long term bed number of 248. This will ensure that it has the capacity to continue its role as a major hospital.

In 2018 it was to be ready and opened again. What do we have in 2018? Nothing but a business case that took three years to do. This go-slow saw 1,800 staff pulled out of the hospital early last year with no indication of a return date. Several businesses around the hospital have closed and the area is like a ghost town.

During the election campaign last year I was contacted by a number of business operators near the hospital who pleaded with me to get some action on the return of services and staff as their businesses faced incredible stress. The owner of one of the businesses, a hamburger shop, was working a day job and hiring a junior casual just to try to keep the doors open. Unfortunately, because of Labor's go-slow, that business is no longer there. It is one of the many businesses around the hospital that have closed owing to the mismanagement and go-slow of this government. These local businesses employed local people and they are gone. Jobs have been lost, opportunities have been lost and people have been left in financial hardship.

Wishlist is a local hospital foundation charity that provides much needed extra equipment and support for our hospitals. The bulk of Wishlist's operating income comes from the Nambour General Hospital car park. Over the past year, owing to the slashing of staff and services at that hospital, there has been a serious downturn that has affected the ability of Wishlist to meet its operating costs. Elderly people have been forced to travel regularly down the coast to receive services at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. This budget has only drip-fed the funding to the hospital. This is not good enough. The people of the Nicklin electorate are suffering because the government has taken its eye off the ball and has neglected this project for too long.

During the election campaign the Minister for Police came to Nambour to announce that, finally, Nambour was getting its long overdue police station. It was a \$9 million commitment to replace the demountable police station that was delivered on the back of a truck around 10 years ago. In the last few days I got a tip from the local police that the government was going to push out the program for another year. When I read the budget papers, that tip was confirmed. The police in my area deserve better. When the government makes promises about their facilities and then lets them down, that affects the morale of officers who are already doing a difficult job. I call on the minister to get on with the job and get this station built. There was no excuse to push out the project until next year. Construction of the station needs to start this year.

On Tuesday morning I had some optimism when the Minister for Education said in a ministerial statement words to the effect that we on this side of the House might be pleasantly surprised by the allocation of school funding in our areas. I read the budget papers with anticipation. Sadly, that funding did not include the Nicklin electorate. Just one solitary school in the Nicklin electorate received any capital funding.

The Nicklin electorate misses out on road funding, education funding, law and order funding, health funding. Fail, fail, fail, fail. In every respect this budget is bad news for the Nicklin electorate. There are more taxes and next to no funding in all areas and, where there is funding, that funding is trickling out or being pushed out to next year in a go-slow.

Finally, I want to touch on the Sunshine Coast rail duplication. In 2009, Labor was going to fully fund this project. In 2015, the LNP agreed to fully fund it. Now, we have the federal government gifting us 50 per cent of the project cost. It is time to get it done. People are sick of the politics over this project. They just want to see it done. A future LNP government will fund the other 50 per cent of this project and it is shame that Labor will not.

I am disappointed but not surprised. During the election period the LNP committed to several projects around Nicklin and these have been put to ministers as community priorities and denied. Yet once again we see pet projects and money for cycling in Brisbane while our roads are neglected, our hospitals are neglected, our police are neglected and our schools are neglected. No-one could argue Nicklin got its fair share of anything in this budget. The government can look forward to me continuing to fight for our fair and equitable share of capital expenditure in Nicklin.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2018 appropriation bills before the House and to celebrate what the state budget means for my community across the Nudgee electorate, but first I want to take a moment to congratulate the Treasurer, Jackie Trad, on this her first budget. I thought the Treasurer's speech on Tuesday was incredibly eloquent. It spoke for all of our vast state, for every Queenslanders, and it was a very clear articulation of both her and this government's values and vision for our great state in the coming years. It is also only the third time in 159 years since the formation of Queensland as a separate colony that a woman has been appointed to the role of Treasurer in this House. I think that is noteworthy. The Treasurer deserves to be proud of what she delivered on Tuesday. I am sure that her husband and their two boys are equally proud of her.

Queensland is in a period of growth and rapid change. Having recently passed the five million mark, our population is one of the fastest growing in the country. Change, transformation, growth, progression, whichever adjective you choose to use, Queensland is experiencing it. Labor governments have always believed we have a strong role to play in helping people deal with these challenges, embracing the opportunities and making sure no-one is left behind. In addition to population growth, economic growth is forecast to accelerate from two and a half to three per cent. This growth has directly resulted in increased employment opportunities and Queensland now has the second highest annual employment growth rate in the country. Business investment has rebounded strongly in 2017-18 to be a key driver of economic growth. The entry of jobseekers encouraged by greater opportunities has seen the participation rate rise sharply and the unemployment rate stabilise with an expected fall in the out years following stronger domestic activity.

We were elected with a commitment to make jobs for Queenslanders a priority and this is a priority that has not changed. Approximately 150,000 jobs have been created since we came to government in January 2015 through investment in essential services and infrastructure. These are numbers, but behind these numbers we are talking about real people who now have a place in our economy and hope for their and their family's future. But our work is far from done. This budget will invest almost \$45.8 billion in infrastructure over four years, an increase of more than \$3 billion on last year's budget. From the south-east to the regions, projects such as completion of the Gateway Upgrade North, M1 and Bruce Highway upgrades, the Cairns Convention Centre and the Townsville stadium will drive the economy, deliver better services and support tens of thousands of Queensland jobs every year.

It is truly a pleasure to see that Brisbane's cultural precinct will also form part of this list, with \$125 million allocated towards a new theatre at QPAC. My husband and I recently had the pleasure of spending some time with Li Cunxin, or, as he is commonly known, Mao's last dancer, Queensland Ballet's artistic director. He spoke so passionately of why Brisbane, of why Queensland, desperately needed a new or extended performing arts space as we reach capacity and start to turn away major productions of dance, music and theatre. As Thomas Merton famously said, 'Art enables us to find ourselves and lose ourselves at the same time.' This investment in a world-class arts precinct will leave a legacy for our community for generations to come.

None of these infrastructure projects could be of more direct benefit to my community moving forward than the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. With 12 train stations and three major train lines across the length and breadth of my electorate, this project is truly a game-changer for the thousands of commuters who call the Nudgee electorate home. Cross River Rail, once built, will allow more trains to run more often, enabling a turn-up-and-go transport system, a system that commuters demand of a modern city like Brisbane.

From \$5 billion to \$50,000, it is not always the big-ticket items that will make the biggest impact on a little person's life and I want to turn now to education. Since March 2015 we have employed more than 4,700 extra teachers and teacher aides because we know that it is teachers and teacher aides who make a real and lasting difference to student outcomes. This budget commits to employing an additional 3,700 teachers over the next four years; it commits to additional instrumental music teachers and musical instruments for schools as part of the world-class education election commitments; to refurbishing and upgrading existing primary and high schools; and to building new schools to meet

growth. Back to my \$50,000 reference. Amongst this record \$14.1 billion education and training budget is funding for two very large industrial fans for the hall at Nundah State School to make 750 young students very happy.

Nundah State School is a new school to my electorate post the redistribution late last year. When I attended their student leader induction at the beginning of the year I experienced firsthand the heat inside their hall and the effect it had on students. Principal Deb Cox was very excited to hear this week that they will receive not only this funding in this year's budget but also \$136,000 for science, technology, engineering, arts and maths classroom upgrades that she has had her heart set on for some time. After phoning Deb at Nundah it was a pleasure to call the principal of Virginia State School, Roger, to let him know that this year's Education budget also contains \$111,000 to upgrade pool amenities at the school.

The Virginia State School Swim Club executive, but particularly president Carlie and vice-president Clive, have literally stalked every community barbecue and mobile office I have done—rain, hail or shine—in Virginia to raise the importance of this issue with me. It was such an example of a cohesive community campaign and truly one that it was my pleasure to support and see come to fruition. These improvements at both Nundah and Virginia state schools are also complemented by more than \$400,000 across schools in my electorate for maintenance and minor works that truly make all the difference. I give my sincere thanks to Minister Grace Grace and her office for listening to the needs of my community.

From education to local community improvements, I was very excited to see the words 'to complete' after the \$9 million entry in this year's budget for the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway. This \$1.143 billion project, including widening of the Gateway from four to six lanes from Nudgee to Bracken Ridge, has been a massive undertaking. I think they have done an excellent job, but as any community that has experienced extended roadworks of this nature can attest, we are looking forward with much anticipation to its completion.

From cars to trains, this budget will see \$700,000 and \$500,000 respectively delivered to extend park-and-ride facilities at Geebung and Virginia train stations. An increase of 70 spaces at Geebung station in my electorate and 30 at Virginia will make an appreciable difference to commuters and local streets that often feel the brunt of commuter overflow parking. These extensions are in addition to the extensions I was able to deliver for my community at Nudgee, Banyo and Nundah stations during the last term and will take place alongside the continuing accessibility upgrade at Boondall station with \$6 million in this year's budget at a total budget cost of almost \$19 million. I thank the transport minister, his office and Queensland Rail for these investments in my community.

Last year my community was the beneficiary of a new emergency services complex and 24-hour ambulance station and step-up step-down community mental health facility. A Labor government will always prioritise the essential health services needed by people when they are at their most vulnerable. This budget continues that commitment with a record \$17.3 billion operating budget and a \$985 million investment in capital.

Since March 2015 we have employed more than 4,800 extra nurses, 1,600 doctors and 370 ambulance officers. We said we would employ an additional 400 nurse navigators to help Queenslanders navigate the often complex system of tertiary health care and an extra 100 midwives to help birthing mothers. This budget achieves both.

With an estimated 4,000 small to medium sized enterprises across my electorate, I was very pleased to see a further \$123 million in the budget to back our entrepreneurs, funding industry research fellowships and helping small to medium sized businesses innovate, grow and create jobs. This, coupled with an extension to the Business Development Fund of \$40 million over the next two years, a further \$180 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to deliver more training opportunities and workforce participation and an extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate scheme to June 2019 to support up to 26,000 apprentices and trainees, is all about supporting Queensland businesses to grow, create jobs and boost Queensland's economy.

Building the productive capacity and resilience of our state's traditional and emerging industries remains a critical focus for our government, both to maintain economic momentum and to support the ongoing prosperity of Queensland families and communities.

I have large areas of manufacturing across my electorate, in Banyo, Northgate, Virginia and Geebung, ranging from broad-based to advanced manufacturing. I eagerly await the outcomes of the environmental scan and forecasting piece that Jobs Queensland is currently undertaking to ensure that,

as a government, we are best placed to provide the assistance required to successfully transition workers from traditional to emerging industries where structural change requires it to ensure that no Queenslanders is left behind.

This budget is all about delivering the infrastructure, skills and services that equip Queensland and Queenslanders to manage growth and navigate the changing economy. Our No. 1 priority continues to be jobs for Queenslanders. It is a responsible and measured budget and one that delivers operating surpluses over the forward estimates, starting with \$148 million in 2018-19. However, it is also a budget that moves Queensland forward and articulates a vision of where we are going as a community and as a state.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.50 pm): This Labor budget is like *Back to the Future*. This is a true-to-form, real Labor budget: more debt, more taxes, more and more spending of hardworking Queenslanders' tax dollars and a ballooning Public Service that will cost over \$1 billion more this year with no discernible improvement in public services. That is in Labor's DNA. They are price gouging all Queenslanders on their electricity bills and, in South-East Queensland, their water bills, hurting the most vulnerable pensioners and farmers. As the member for Burleigh said, in the last financial year alone \$759 million more has been taken out of Queenslanders' pockets through the hidden electricity tax in the government owned corporations.

This budget sells all Queenslanders down the river, but most of all it is the children of today, including the much spoken about five millionth Queenslanders, Elizabeth, who will pay the price for having a Labor government for 23 of the past 28½ years. Eventually, debt needs to be repaid. In the meantime, it costs us all \$3.7 billion a year in interest. In practical terms, that is \$7,000 a minute. That is the cost of Labor's waste. The cost to Queenslanders of Labor's reckless spending is \$7,000 a minute, \$420,000 per hour, or \$10 million day. The Treasurer is being true to the form of one of her Labor predecessors. Upon getting her hands on the Treasury during Premier Beattie's years, Anna Bligh commenced a spendathon that continued until 2012. The Treasurer of today is pointing Queensland back into those uncharted fiscal waters.

The Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer have outlined many of the issues with this budget for all of Queensland. For the Scenic Rim electorate, there is precious little—almost no—positive news from this budget. The Treasurer said this would be an infrastructure budget. There is plenty of infrastructure that needs to be built in the Scenic Rim electorate, especially after Labor governments for 23 years of the past 28½ years, but none of it is funded in this budget. What happened to governing for all Queenslanders? The government is certainly not delivering for the Scenic Rim electorate. In reality, when it comes to roads and infrastructure, everything centres on Cross River Rail and Brisbane.

We talk about confidence in Queensland, but confidence is sapped by this budget, debt and the continuous borrowing and spending of this government. In my maiden speech in this place, I quoted the 15th Premier of Queensland, Sir Robert Philp, who said—

I believe the Government ought to be like a good merchant or a good citizen who always pays his way and never expends more than his income. I say it is this continual borrowing, lending and spending of large sums of money that is sapping the independence of the people of the country and destroying ... self-confidence ...

That quote from over 100 years ago describes exactly what this government is doing today and it is destroying confidence in our economy.

In Scenic Rim there are numerous significant road projects that need funding. There are no new works promised for the Mount Lindesay Highway; there are only old announcements. I implore the government to get on with planning a project to fix the bottleneck through Jimboomba, which is something that a lot of people in my electorate suffer through every day. No matter the works done either side of Jimboomba, until that is fixed congestion will continue. Labor needs to get on with planning that job right now, because it will take a considerable amount of time to plan.

There is no funding for the upgrade of the Coulson Crossing on the Boonah-Beaudesert Road. When will we see the outcomes of a study promised late last year or is it still lost in the department? There is no funding for the Amberley interchange on the Cunningham Highway, which is something that the Labor member for Ipswich West has called for publicly. Today, poor old Jim was completely thrown under the bus by the Minister for Main Roads. Jim knows it must be funded by the state.

If the Ipswich City Council is part of the metro area for so many Queensland government programs and if the Ipswich Motorway, which ends just a few kilometres away from Yamanto, is part of the 50-50 funding arrangement with the federal government, Yamanto to Ebenezer, which still is in Ipswich city, should be part of it as well. Once again, Ipswich is being taken for granted by Labor. Labor

simply does not deliver for the city—not even when its own members of parliament ask for funding to be made available. To make matters worse, one of the things funded in this budget is an industrial development at Willowbank, where this year \$4 million will be spent out of \$73 million budgeted. That means even more trucks, traffic and congestion on that part of the Cunningham Highway, yet still they are not funding a solution, which the federal government has put funding on the table for.

Let us not forget the superdumps. One is planned for Ebenezer, which is an area that Minister Dick failed to include in his planning protections when similar dumps just down the road, just along the Cunningham Highway in a Labor electorate, were included. Despite all of their dramas, it took Councillor David Pahlke and the Ipswich City Council to extend some planning protection to this region for dumps. Will this stop the superdumps around Willowbank? Only time will tell.

From what I can gather, the latest proposal from Lantrac involves bringing dry waste from northern New South Wales to Ipswich to fill a mine void. A couple of months ago, when we had a briefing from Lantrac at the Willowbank Area Group meeting, the government's proposed waste tax did not seem to be affecting their plans for that dump. In fact, for some time they have been working with the Ipswich City Council and, presumably, also the government on their proposal.

I would like to know, and I am sure the residents of the area would like to know, what the government's knowledge is of this 30-million-cubic-metre superdump being created to take New South Wales's waste at a time when they are claiming not to want interstate waste. How much have they participated in the planning process already without telling the public? If the government was aware of this, why has it been kept secret? Are the state departments that are assessing this application being told to reject it in light of their supposed stance on interstate waste? Then again, the government was never really concerned about waste, was it? What it really wanted were the dollars out of taxpayers' pockets through the waste levy, applied from Coolangatta to the cape. One way or another, we will all pay for this waste tax.

There is no funding for the Beaudesert-Nerang Road at Wonglepong, where residents have been waiting 29 years for a culvert to be installed and a section of road to be sealed, or at Tabragalba, where the road is narrow, cracking and in dire need of repair. I could go on and on about the roadworks that need doing and have needed doing for some time, but that this government and TMR will not fund. I say to the government that my electorate of Scenic Rim has a lot of work that needs doing and a lot of roads that need fixing. I will keep on lobbying, badgering and standing up for my constituents until the government delivers what they deserve and we see real improvement on our roads.

Not only do the people of the Scenic Rim miss out on much needed road upgrades; services in our local areas are not given the funding required, whether it is diagnostic services at our hospitals, family, alcohol and other drug addiction services or appropriate resourcing of our police stations and police officers. For example, Canungra and Tamborine Mountain police stations have two vehicles for 16 officers. Too often our region is lumped in on the end of the Gold Coast, Logan or Ipswich. That is not good enough. This budget sees the Beaudesert police station, which was budgeted for last year, put back again. Earlier this year I was informed by the Logan district police that construction would begin in October or November. This year only \$100,000 has been budgeted, so obviously it has been put on the backburner by Labor—again.

The Rathdowney auxiliary fire station is mentioned in the budget this year but not the rural fire station. In 2014 the LNP budgeted to build a new station at Rathdowney. In 2016 then minister Byrne said it would be constructed by 2017. I table an extract from estimates that year where he said that it would be built in 2017.

*Tabled paper.* Proof transcript, Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee estimates hearing—Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Corrective Services, 21 July 2016, p. 81 [\[888\]](#).

Still nothing has happened. Labor simply does not care about giving fire protection to this massive area south of Beaudesert. It has been without an adequate station for many years. It should have been completed for a couple of years now. I will continue to hold to account these ministers who continually do nothing or fail to deliver what they promise for the Scenic Rim electorate.

In government the LNP rescued Beaudesert Hospital. It brought back procedural services in 2013. In 2014 Lawrence Springborg and I reopened maternity services again after Labor let them wither and die in the early 2000s. There have been over 800 babies born in Beaudesert since that service resumed.

I hold grave fears that history may be repeating itself because there are real concerns at the hospital and in our community that services have been or will be downgraded again. I table a blog post from the Logan Country Safe City group chairman, David Kenny, Logan City's Citizen of the Year in 2017, in which he makes explosive claims about Beaudesert Hospital's emergency department being downgraded.

*Tabled paper:* Web page from Logan Country Safe City, dated 14 June 2018, titled 'When is an Emergency Dept not an Emergency Dept?' [889].

It is claimed that there has been a dispute with staff at the hospital for over 18 months, primarily about the failure of Queensland Health to correctly pay doctors for the work they are doing in the emergency department. It is said that Queensland Health claims that Beaudesert Hospital does not have an emergency department because it does not have an ICU, but neither do hospitals such as Redlands and Gladstone and yet it is said that both of those hospitals have an ED without having ICUs.

When in government the LNP agreed to pay the doctors at rural hospitals, such as Beaudesert Hospital, for the services they were offering in emergency, in theatre and in maternity. We paid rural generalists, with their specialised skill set, what they deserved to do these jobs. As I understand it, doctors at Beaudesert have just about had enough because they have basically been told by Queensland Health to continue to do their jobs in the ED above and beyond the scope of their pay status. Because of their dedication to the community and the work they do, they are continuing to work in the ED to serve the community, despite being done over by this government when it comes to their pay.

This can only go on for so long. If the situation is not fixed by the government Beaudesert may face the situation where its hospital shuts at 5 pm because the government is effectively downgrading the services there. These doctors and the community deserve better than that after the hard road that was walked to get services back into that hospital between 2012 and 2015.

This situation is just another clear-cut example of the Labor Party failing Beaudesert and the broader Scenic Rim area—allowing services to wither away again. I call on the government to sort out whatever dispute there is with doctors at Beaudesert to guarantee not only the maternity services but also the ED and all other services at that hospital and to expand the services. We get the overflow from Logan Hospital. We get people from Yarrabilba and Jimboomba—all around west and southern Logan—coming to Beaudesert Hospital to get services.

Pay the doctors what other doctors at similar hospitals are getting paid. The five millionth Queenslander may not have been born in Beaudesert, but the 800 or so babies who have been born there and their families are special too. This community deserves a hospital that meets the community's needs. Beaudesert Hospital should never again be treated as a very poor cousin to Logan or other hospitals. We lost maternity services once. Are we going to lose them again?

This budget lets down the people of the Scenic Rim electorate. It is a typical Labor budget. It again lets down farmers in the Scenic Rim electorate. Ongoing gouging when it comes to electricity prices is a major issue for our producers. I know that the government is intending to proceed with the abolition of irrigation tariffs in 2020, which will only make this situation much worse for our farmers. These are the lifeblood of many communities in the electorate as well as a source of food and fibre for Queensland, Australia and the world. We must do better when it comes to electricity prices for growers. They are too high—far too high. The fact that the government reaps several hundred million dollars a year and growing out of farmers, families and small businesses is absolutely galling.

There is funding in the budget to connect Beaudesert to the water grid. This reminds us only of the waste visited upon us by the Bligh government in building the Wyaralong Dam, which cost \$380 million, especially when Boonah, Beaudesert and other centres have not been connected to the water grid since that time. They have paid for the debt incurred for that grid and received no benefit from it.

I will give the government one thankyou. That is thank you for the funding allocated to improve or build additional classrooms at Tamborine Mountain State High School, Boonah State School and Aratula State School. These are the essential services of government. We also need investment at Beaudesert State High School to expand the footprint of that school and investment for other infrastructure, especially roads in my electorate, and other social services. With the debt visited upon us by this government it gets harder and harder each day to do that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Before calling the member for Rockhampton, I would remind all members to address other members of the House by their correct titles. Member for Scenic Rim, you did refer to the member for Ipswich West by his first name a number of times. I did not pull you up. I wanted to remind members that they know the correct way to address other members. There will be lots of speeches and I am sure you will be thanking your colleagues. Please refer to them by their correct titles.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.05 pm): I rise to speak in support of the 2018 Appropriation Bill before the House. This is the fourth consecutive true Labor budget and another one that we can be proud of. I am delighted that this budget will see the Palaszczuk government investing heavily in Rockhampton's future.

The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service's operating budget of \$610 million is almost \$44 million more than that of the previous financial year. It is a record health investment for the region. It is funding growth that reflects the government's commitment to providing quality health services to regional Queensland. No matter where people live in Central Queensland they will have access to high-quality health care.

We are investing in a new \$14.3 million 42-bed residential drug rehabilitation and treatment facility in Rockhampton to improve access to specialist alcohol and other drug services for Central Queenslanders. This is a vital investment and part of a package of measures to tackle the problems that are all too obviously created by ice addiction. We are also investing \$4.4 million across Central Queensland for community mental health services.

I was delighted to see a funding commitment of \$5.7 million for major renovations to the North Rockhampton Nursing Home to be completed by the end of this year. There is also funding to ensure that work can be completed on the much needed and very keenly anticipated \$25 million multistorey car park at Rockhampton Hospital, which will be completed in December. The Palaszczuk government will continue to advance our facilities to provide high-quality health services in Central Queensland.

I thank the Premier and Minister Enoch for their support with a funding commitment of \$8 million for a new art gallery for Rockhampton. We now need the federal government to commit. I take this opportunity to invite Malcolm Turnbull to match the state government funding. This art gallery will house one of the most envied art collections in Australia. Through this budget commitment we will be able to build an art gallery that triples the proportion of the art collection that can be displayed.

The benefits that a state-of-the-art art gallery will bring to Rockhampton are many and varied. It will enhance economic opportunities for artists and cultural service providers. It will create job opportunities in construction, ongoing and in the arts sector. It will bring more tourists to the city and increase tourism expenditure. It will make an active contribution to the revitalisation of the CBD, to name a few benefits. The Palaszczuk government is working hard to ensure a strong future for the arts, and this investment recognises the critical role arts infrastructure plays in the cultural vibrancy of Queensland.

The community of Gracemere will receive funding for a new state-of-the-art fire and rescue station under this year's budget, with the Palaszczuk government recognising Central Queensland's increasing demand for services. Gracemere's fire and rescue auxiliary station will be replaced at a cost of \$2.1 million. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring Queensland Fire and Emergency Services personnel have the appropriate facilities and equipment to continue to respond to emergencies confidently and safely. This new station will assist the critical work of our first responders, ensuring they have both the capacity and the capability to support Gracemere's current population and further expected growth. The budget also includes \$800,000 to complete the upgrade of the Rockhampton fire and rescue station and communications centre.

Since January 2015, more than 153,000 new jobs have been created in Queensland. This is something that we are proud of on this side of the House. The government's Back to Work program, offering up to \$20,000 for employers taking on eligible jobseekers in regional Queensland, will continue. The program has supported over 13,000 jobs across Queensland since July 2016, with 600 jobs in the Rockhampton local government area to June 2018.

We continue to see jobs growth as a direct result of other initiatives such as Skilling Queenslanders for Work. This program has helped jobseekers in Rockhampton develop the skills, undertake paid work placements and earn nationally recognised qualifications. Organisations in my electorate are delivering incredible outcomes from the training they offer under Skilling Queenslanders for Work, with the majority of participants going on to further education or finding employment.

Works for Queensland is delivering jobs, jobs and more jobs in Central Queensland. We see the positive impact it is having. We have listened to councils who told us they wanted more and we are delivering \$11.9 million to support job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works across local councils in Central Queensland as part of the Works for Queensland program. That is more jobs and more infrastructure for regional Queensland. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is all about.

The \$66 million announced for Rookwood Weir should bring to an end all the conjecture and negativity about the state government's support for the \$352 million project. It is so good that after so much public debate the cash will start to flow to build Rookwood Weir, with all of the benefits this priority infrastructure will bring. I join the people of Central Queensland in welcoming this budget commitment. This means jobs and business opportunities, as well as future water security for Central Queensland. Construction will bring approximately 100 jobs and an opportunity to increase and diversify our region's agricultural production well into the future. The weir will provide a backup water supply for Livingstone shire, Rockhampton and Gracemere as our communities continue to grow. Access to water is essential for growth, for agriculture, for business and industry, and for our local communities.

The budget allocates \$107.4 million out of a total of \$243.2 million for the expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre, further building on the original investment. When this project is completed, the jail will have an additional 348 cells.

It would be remiss of me not to mention some of the other infrastructure investments in the budget. There is \$40 million out of a total spend of \$121 million to duplicate the Bruce Highway to four lanes between Yeppoon Road and Parkhurst; \$8.8 million out of a total of \$14.5 million to widen the Bajool-Port Alma road; \$10.9 million out of a total of \$75 million to duplicate the Capricorn Highway between Rockhampton and Gracemere; \$10 million out of a total of \$19 million for overtaking lanes and other safety measures on the Capricorn Highway between Gracemere and Emerald; and \$9 million out of a total of \$30 million total to complete improvements to the intersections and road train access on the Rockhampton-Yeppoon Road due for completion by the end of 2019.

There is \$21.9 million out of a total spend of \$82.7 million to upgrade the capacity of the north coast rail line between Central Queensland and Townsville; \$5 million out of a total of \$17.2 million to build a mixed use development in Rockhampton's CBD; \$15.7 million out of a total of \$25.5 million for the new four-storey car park at the Rockhampton Hospital, providing 597 parking bays; \$6.5 million out of a total of \$12 million for the upgrade and repair work at the Rockhampton Courthouse; and \$1 million out of a total of \$2.5 million to refurbish classrooms at North Rockhampton State High School. There is also \$91,000 for regional councils to provide preschool literacy sessions, known as First 5 Forever, at libraries in Central Queensland, honouring our election commitment.

Since the 2015 election, the Palaszczuk government has improved front-line health and education services in Central Queensland by employing an additional 77 doctors, 144 nurses, 137 teachers and 58 teacher aides. This is a budget that will boost the local economy, create jobs and inspire confidence in the region. This is evidence that Rockhampton is on the up. Business confidence is returning, house prices are strengthening and private investment is flowing. I am very proud that the Palaszczuk government has shown the support in this budget that will accelerate that positive momentum. It is a fantastic budget for Queensland, for Central Queensland and for Rockhampton, and I enthusiastically commend it to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.16 pm): I speak to the appropriation bills now before the House. I must say that I was despondent as I heard the Treasurer's speech and ploughed through the documentation that we were given on budget day until such time as I heard the Treasurer make this comment—

Mr Speaker, whether you are in Biloela or Brisbane, Caloundra or Cunnamulla, Lockhart River or Logan, this budget delivers for all of Queensland.

Imagine my surprise to hear Caloundra mentioned! I immediately dived back into the documentation and pored over every statement, SDS and document I could find and, believe me, all that fell out was an IOU to Caloundra. I think one of the best quotes I have read in relation to this speech was by Judith Sloan in the *Australian* on 13 June. She said—

Queensland Treasurer and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad knows as much about economics as I know about astrophysics.

I think that says it all. She then says—

But what she lacks in economic expertise—at least, the bloke she ousted had half a clue—she more than makes up for with hypocrisy.

I think Judith Sloan summed up the budget entirely right: ALP—hypocrisy. Judith Sloan is a journalist with a great deal of intellectual knowledge and foresight in relation to the Deputy Premier.

As I said, I pored over the documentation again, thinking that I had missed something. Alas, that was not the case. I looked for anything in relation to the Mooloolah Community Centre, a centre that helps so many people in Mooloolah overcome their daily activities or daily concerns, providing food vouchers, a JP service, an op shop and a barbecue once a month for \$2 for a member and their family. Was there anything in the documentation about that centre being given a long-term lease or a freehold title? Sadly, no. The people of Mooloolah again have been ignored by this ALP government.

For the rail duplication to Nambour—which I will come back to in a few moments time—we got a pittance. We got 20 per cent from this Labor government towards the duplication of what is a critical piece of infrastructure on the Sunshine Coast. I remember in 2009 the Labor Party rushed up there and announced 100 per cent funding. Then they lost the election campaign in 2012 and it has come back ever since. Now they want an 80-20 split between the federal government and the state. I will come back to that.

What about the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way interchange? The Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way interchange is a major interchange for that region. We have 50,000 more people coming into the Aura development using that intersection on a daily basis. It is a logjam in the morning and the afternoon seven days a week. I scoured the documentation—the Capital Statement as well as the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay highlights document—and found nothing; not a thing. I went to QTRIP and there it is: \$1 million but only spent between 2020-21 and 2021-22—three years on the tick. Here we have a major intersection in Caloundra that is congested day in and day out seven days a week and there is nothing—not a thing.

What about Caloundra Hospital? I will have more to say about that later tonight in my adjournment speech. The Sunshine Coast University Hospital is staffed by great doctors, great nurses and a great local member as well. It was opened in March last year, but look at the ramping figures. They are growing and growing. At this point in time what the government should be doing is helping to alleviate that problem. They need to open the minor accident and illness centre at Caloundra 24 hours per day seven days a week. That takes categories 3, 4 and 5 away from the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, they can be treated locally and they can return to their own residence.

I mentioned last night Baringa state high school. It is impossible to understand how any government can plan a state primary school knowing that children will move from year 6 to year 7 in a new development but then have to go somewhere else for 12 months and then come back. This is the first STEM college in this state and this government cannot get the planning right. Who is inconvenienced? First of all, there are the parents who move into an area with the knowledge that they have one of the best and first STEM colleges in the state. They have an expectation that their children will continue to receive that STEM education for the rest of their school career. Then they are told, 'No, it's all off, forget it. We will build in 2021.' They are the first ones.

What about the children? They are going to Meridan State College, as I understand it. It is a great school with great teachers, but it is not a STEM college. They will go to a new school for 12 months. As I explained, they will need new uniforms. Parents will need to make two trips a day, not by their choice but because this government has not taken the steps required to ensure their children get the best education they can.

I will move on to what I think was one of the best budget reply speeches by a Leader of the Opposition that I have heard for a long time.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr McARDLE:** They do not like it. I hear the mock laughter from the chief justice of Logan whose great wisdom and knowledge we all tend to hook on and rely upon. It was quite clear that the Leader of the Opposition was going to tackle congestion—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order, members! The member will address members by their correct title.

**Mr McARDLE:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. I take your guidance at all times. One thing that is going to happen is a second M1 to the Gold Coast. That is long overdue. As was pointed out, it was under us—under Vaughan Johnson—that the Gold Coast Highway was built when we were in government from 1996-98.

In relation to health issues, so badly falling into disarray yet again under the Labor government, we are going to use incentive based funding to ensure HHSs come up with the best outcomes. We are going to work with the private sector—VMOs, Surgery Connect and the rest. That has been going on

for time immemorial. The health minister today had a crack at the LNP for wanting to partner with private bodies to deliver health services. This is the same health minister who is quite happy for private patients to use the public system and then the public system to bill the private funders of health cover. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been paid by the private sector to the public sector to assist them meeting their costs. The problem is that they cannot cut it both ways. Either you are full public or you are full private.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr McARDLE:** The minister cannot argue that we cannot interact with the private sector but at the same time take the private sector funding for patients who use the public health service.

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Minister! I know you are being provoked.

**Mr McARDLE:** We will build four rehabilitation centres so that we can assist people and the families of people who have ice addiction and other drug addictions. It is innovative. That is a word Labor does not quite get: innovative—or innovation. Labor tends to repeat the same mistakes it has made in the past. In relation to power prices, we are going to restructure the power entities to ensure that they get—

**Mr Kelly** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Greenslopes, you will cease interjecting.

**Mr McARDLE:** We are going to restructure the power entities so that what can be returned to the public purse, the individual and the family is returned to them. We will mandate renewable energy. That is something that I support 100 per cent. Queensland has the greatest uptake of solar panels in this nation. We have an abundance of sun that is being used by people who have solar panels. One thing that happened under Labor was the solar feed-in tariff, the 44-cent FIT. We are still paying for that because they shockingly miscalculated what it would cost. The LNP stopped that because we could not sustain the cost going forward. I note that Labor has not under any circumstances brought the FIT back in at 44 cents because it knows it was unsustainable. Renewable energy is a program for the future and it is something that the LNP will take on board and work with the industry to achieve the best possible outcomes.

I turn to the construction of dams—something that is completely alien to the ALP. The last dam it built I do not think has water running from it to anywhere.

**Mr Boothman:** Wyaralong.

**Mr McARDLE:** Wyaralong Dam—\$300-plus million to build a dam that sits there and water evaporates from. A spark of genius! We are going to take the issue of dam building to the level where it should be—to develop agriculture, to develop this state's capacity to grow, export and develop food products. That is what dams should be used for.

I turn to the 30-year water security plan. For the first time, we in government will look at a 30-year strategy to ensure that we get the water that we need in this state. In relation to power prices, we will also extend competition to the regions. Equally important is the issue of fuel prices and real-time pricing. That is what people want to see. They want to know at any given time what the cost of fuel is in their vicinity. That is something that we will commit to so as to make certain people get the best possible deal they can when they purchase petrol.

The budget before the House has been described as debt and taxes. Sadly, that is right. In an article in the *Australian* on 13 June, Jared Owens commented—

Moody's warned that the projected annual revenue growth of 1.7 per cent was "expected to fall below the average expenditure growth of 2.1 per cent".

"This would lead to growth in debt over the forecast period, challenging the state's credit profile."

There is Moody's making a clear statement. They have maintained a stable outlook in relation to the rating but have certainly raised the spectre that the revenue growth will not meet outlays and will indeed challenge the state's credit profile. That is a clear warning to this government that in this state there are forces where we could lose even our current credit rating.

Much has been made in relation to the revenue stream of dividends by this government, but when the GOCs are loaded up with debt they have to increase prices to cover that debt, and that is what Seqwater has had to do. The average is not \$27 a year; the average in some cases is \$94 a year. They have had to do that because the GOCs are loaded with debt. If they were not loaded with debt,

more dividends could flow back to the state and assist Queenslanders across a range of initiatives. This government does not have it right. It does not know how to do it. Only the LNP has a financial and economic plan to deliver this state a better outcome for all concerned.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget and the Palaszczuk government's commitments for a cleaner, greener and more vibrant Queensland. Tackling climate change, protecting the Great Barrier Reef and investing in our vibrant arts sector remain at the top of our agenda. This budget clearly reflects these priority areas and demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is firmly focused on the future and advancing Queensland's priorities.

In keeping with one of our government's main priorities, we are increasing our investment in scientific initiatives that protect the Great Barrier Reef, bringing our total funding for this natural wonder to a record \$330 million over five years. This includes \$40 million of extra funding in this week's state budget. This funding will go towards the joint field management program and, when coupled with a matching contribution from the Australian government, will result in an extra 75 field officers and rangers patrolling the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage area. We are also investing in the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program, which is a scientific program that helps graziers and cane and banana growers to transition to better practices that help reduce pollutant run-off into our waterways.

Science shows that climate change is the single biggest threat to the Great Barrier Reef. That is why in this budget we are investing \$5.6 million to help Queensland transition to a low-carbon, clean growth economy. This funding will be rolled out over four years and will help Queensland adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. Reducing Queensland's contribution to climate change is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. We are doing our part to address the impacts of climate change, but what is lacking is leadership from the Turnbull government. To further protect the reef, we need action on climate change from the federal LNP government, and I implore those opposite to call on their federal LNP colleagues to show national leadership on climate change policy. Given the opposition leader's newfound support for renewables, why not take that extra step?

In this budget, we are also supporting small businesses to reduce their energy, water usage and waste, with an almost \$4 million investment to continue the ecoBiz program. This funding will allow ecoBiz to continue helping Queensland businesses reduce their energy and water consumption and reduce their waste production. EcoBiz is delivered by the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland and helps businesses reduce their water and energy bills. On average, businesses which have participated achieved 17 per cent energy savings and 14 per cent water savings. This program has also helped divert more than 24,000 tonnes of waste away from landfill through waste reduction measures for business. So far, more than 1,000 Queensland businesses have received one-on-one support from the program. CCIQ have welcomed the funding this week, saying they are delighted the successful program has been extended.

Our budget will also see the continuation of \$35 million to improve critical infrastructure, including nature based tourism opportunities in national parks and other protected areas. Queensland's protected area estate, including our magnificent national parks, are the cornerstone of the state's tourism industry. In addition, we are continuing to support the protection of country and environmental and Indigenous cultural heritage activities through a \$12 million Queensland Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, resulting in over 100 Indigenous rangers across the state.

The Palaszczuk government is also making a significant investment in how we manage waste in Queensland, including investment toward the implementation of the Container Refund Scheme as well as our ban on single-use lightweight plastic bags. We are committed to reducing the amount of plastic pollution in Queensland and protecting our environment for the long term. The Palaszczuk government is also progressing with the development of a broader waste management strategy underpinned by a reintroduced waste levy to stop Queensland being the dumping ground for other states and to drive investment in jobs and industry for a sustainable future. In this budget, we are providing \$32 million in advance payments to councils so they can better manage, reuse and recycle waste whilst ensuring it will not cost any more for ratepayers to put their wheelie bin out.

We are making sure that our waste strategy and the levy that underpins it create industry and job growth and improve recycling. While the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply continued to reveal the LNP's lack of commitment to recycling through their opposition to the waste levy, she did not mention anything about repealing it, so today when the opposition's environment spokesperson, the member for Broadwater, stands in this House to deliver his own budget reply, will he support investment in the waste and recycling industry or will he advocate against it again? Will he back Queenslanders, or will he allow our state to be the dumping ground for our southern neighbours again?

This budget also supports our vibrant arts sector. The Palaszczuk government is providing \$125 million towards a new state-of-the-art theatre at the Queensland Performing Arts Centre. QPAC is nearing full capacity in all of its theatres, and in fact QPAC is now the busiest theatre complex in Australia. Building a new theatre will ensure we can keep attracting even more big shows and more visitors to Queensland. We fundamentally believe in the value of public funding for the arts. This investment enhances QPAC's ability to support small and medium companies and increases its capacity to deliver a vibrant regional arts program. We are also allocating \$14 million towards the upgrade of the Thomas Dixon Centre. This will allow the internationally renowned Queensland Ballet to grow even more.

I am also excited to say we are further investing in our children's future by providing an additional \$5 million per annum in the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative. This reading program, delivered through our state's public libraries, helps to give our children a great start to their education. In this budget, the Palaszczuk government has also allocated \$8 million for a new art gallery in Rockhampton which is dependent, as we have already stated, on a commitment from the federal government. The Palaszczuk government is also continuing our funding in vital arts programs, including the Queensland Arts Showcase Program, the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative and Playing Queensland Fund.

I am also excited about the initiatives that the Palaszczuk government is funding in this year's state budget for the people in my electorate of Algester. A big win for my community of Algester in this budget is the \$4.3 million that has been allocated towards a business case for the Greenbank RSL bus station park-and-ride upgrade. This project, worth a total of \$21 million, is important to my community and will add an extra 600 car spaces to the Greenbank RSL bus station in Hillcrest, bringing its total capacity to more than 840. This upgrade will provide greater capacity for commuters to access public transport, meaning fewer cars on the road.

Schools in my electorate are also getting a funding boost in this budget. Algester State School will benefit greatly with a \$350,000 investment in classroom refurbishments. Five other schools in my electorate will also benefit from investment over the coming 12 months, with almost \$1 million going towards education in the Algester electorate for the coming financial year.

Algester State School in particular is part of a large community and this much needed funding will ensure students will have the best opportunities available when it comes to their education. I am also pleased that \$2.5 million has been allocated to complete resurfacing of Beaudesert Road. This funding will benefit motorists along this major thoroughfare, making it safer and more accessible.

This budget demonstrates that the Palaszczuk government is not only delivering on its commitment to the environment, science and the arts sector in Queensland but also delivering for my community in Algester. Through this budget the Palaszczuk government is ensuring Queensland will continue to thrive. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.39 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government's state budget for 2018-19 can only be described as one of spin and rhetoric—two words that go hand in hand with the Palaszczuk Labor government. Both sides of this chamber know that the Palaszczuk Labor government continually tries to hide the true economic picture that is facing everyday Queenslanders, including my constituents in Moggill, particularly with respect to higher cost-of-living pressures and state unemployment, which is currently at 6.5 per cent and is projected to stay at over six per cent for 2018-19. Employment growth is forecast to be down on the 2.75 per cent figure in 2017-18 to 1.5 per cent in 2018-19.

The Labor government's only economic plan is more taxes. After nearly four years in government, Labor still does not have a credible economic plan. The Palaszczuk Labor government's budget will damage Queensland with record debt, and households in the electorate of Moggill will be hurt with new taxes. Debt in Queensland is projected to increase to over \$83 billion in the next four years by 2021-22. This will lead to an interest bill of \$3.7 billion each year, which will be nearly \$7,000 a minute. At the same time cost-of-living pressures continue to increase for families and residents in my electorate of Moggill.

We are all being slugged with higher electricity prices, higher water costs and now a waste levy under this Labor government. What does this Labor government stand for? The answer is: tax, tax, tax and debt, debt and more debt. The legacy of the Treasurer's first budget—the member for South Brisbane—will be one of tax, unemployment and debt. This is a true Labor budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. We know those Labor members opposite are reckless debt deniers. Queenslanders want and expect more from their state government. However, it is evident that only the LNP can deliver them stable, sustainable and responsible economic management.

Over the last few years we have also seen the state Labor government slug local Moggill constituents and the people of Queensland with 3.5 per cent increases in car registration. Last term the Palaszczuk Labor government treated Queenslanders like cash cows and it is clear they are going to do that again with more taxes. It must be remembered that the Liberal National Party froze car registration for three years when last in government. Despite the Palaszczuk Labor government allocating \$18.3 billion to health, one-third of emergency department patients are not being seen within clinically recommended time frames; a fifth of all ambulance patients are not unloaded at emergency departments within 30 minutes; there has been a blowout in elective surgery waitlists; and median wait times have nearly doubled from 28 to 50 days under the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Whilst I am mentioning the discipline of surgery, can I take this opportunity to acknowledge and pay tribute to Dr David Ruddel Martin, one of Queensland's great and last true general surgeons, who is turning 80 this month. Dr Martin was one of five children born to decorated Second World War Brigadier Eric Martin in Rockhampton. He went on to become a highly regarded, exceptionally skilled general surgeon who worked at Norwich in the UK and undertook an academic placement in San Francisco before returning to Queensland, where he was director of surgery at the Greenslopes hospital and one of the founders of the Wesley Breast Clinic.

My former role was deputy chief medical officer for UnitingCare Health, so I can attest to the fact that Dr Martin was one of the few surgeons who could perform complex surgery on all sites of the body with the highest level of skill and care. He was also a pioneer of laparoscopic—keyhole—surgery with first-class results. Dr Martin certainly understood the importance of lowering surgical waitlists within the public hospital system. He was the 'go to' surgeon when all else had failed. He will be celebrating his 80th birthday this weekend with his wife of nearly 58 years, Pam; his sons, Mark, a QC in Brisbane, Ian and David, both leading upper GI surgeons in Brisbane and Sydney respectively; their partners; and his 10 grandchildren.

In the electorate of Moggill and more broadly in the western suburbs of Brisbane there is a desperate need for an integrated and coordinated road and public transport plan funded collaboratively by all levels of government. Since first being elected at the 31 January 2015 Queensland state election, I have been consistently advocating and fighting for this plan. Appropriately considered and designed engineering solutions with respect to bridge and rail access can be an important part of regional transport infrastructure planning to ease traffic congestion. However, importantly, this planning requires good community consultation on locality and functionality to avoid unintended consequences and to deliver the desired outcomes.

Despite raising this issue in the Queensland parliament on numerous occasions and asking questions about various issues in correspondence to the relevant ministers and departments, the Palaszczuk Labor government has once again failed to act by including it in this state budget. Due to their consistent mismanagement in government, Labor has still failed to progress such local road and transport infrastructure, and it must be remembered that Labor has been in power in Queensland for 25 of the past 29 years.

Traffic congestion on Moggill Road, the Western Freeway and the Centenary Motorway is at crisis point and it must be addressed. Labor has also conveniently and continually ignored the plight of residents in the electorate of Moggill and also many residents in the adjacent electorate of Ipswich West with respect to additional high school infrastructure. Investing in a new high school for the residents of Mount Crosby, Karana Downs, Lake Manchester, Karalee, Chuwar and Barellan Point is very much needed. Local residents are overwhelmingly calling for this investment to occur.

Why will the Labor Minister for Education, the Hon. Grace Grace MP, not act on this not only for the residents of the Moggill electorate but also for the residents of the electorate of Ipswich West? The Labor member for Ipswich West, Jim Madden MP, is still right behind the campaign to get an additional high school, and I thank him for that. Once again, I ask the Minister for Education to please listen to a member of her own government in relation to the educational infrastructure that is needed.

There is also a requirement for a continued financial investment in classrooms and facilities at our local Kenmore State High School. Local residents, parents, students and teachers as well as P&C representatives are all in agreement about this and have been calling on the Labor government to deliver this for many years. Why has the Labor government not allocated additional infrastructure funding out of its over \$200 million education infrastructure boost to help make Kenmore State High School 2020 ready? It is clear that Labor does not care about students in the Moggill electorate or local residents who sit in traffic congestion each and every day.

Labor's election costings included \$1.3 billion of recurrent initiatives and \$1.4 billion of capital projects. The major measures to offset the new commitments announced at the time were four new taxes, ripping out nearly \$500 million from the Queensland economy. What we have with the state budget for 2018-19 is \$2.25 billion of new taxes and fees, ripping money out of our economy and hurting businesses and households across the electorate of Moggill and also Queensland.

There are five new taxes worth \$2.2 billion but the election costings were for \$491 million of new taxes. There is a waste tax, \$1.3 billion; a wagering tax, \$367 million; a land tax, \$311 million; a property investors tax, \$132 million; and changes to car stamp duty, another \$100 million. There is reprioritisation of all government departments' operating budgets, excluding Queensland Health, and reprioritisation of the State Infrastructure Fund and other unallocated capital programs. Queensland desperately needs a Frecklington LNP state government.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** They do not like it, but that is what Queensland needs: a Frecklington LNP state government who will work to truly bust traffic congestion and ensure sensible and sustainable urban development, secure Queensland's water supply, provide cheaper electricity and deliver better health and education outcomes including making English a mandatory component of the ATAR tertiary entrance system. We have also announced a guarantee of no new taxes in the first term of a Frecklington LNP government.

The LNP has already committed to fixing the trains and fixing Labor's rail fail debacle, providing a new 10-year plan for the Bruce Highway, busting traffic bottlenecks in South-East Queensland, providing better parking in order to access public transport, and we will back the Brisbane Metro. The LNP will secure Queensland's water supply via our dams plan with respect to the Nullinga Dam, the Urannah Dam, raising the wall of the Burdekin Falls Dam and by delivering the Rookwood Weir, providing water security, importantly, for agriculture and industry, which is vital for our state of Queensland.

The LNP has a plan to deliver cheaper electricity by restructuring our government owned generators from two to three entities, which will drive down prices through more competition and introducing retail competition to regional Queensland. The LNP will deliver better health and education results by: supporting our world-class public health system, partnering with the private sector to clear waiting lists, providing more rehabilitation and detoxification centres to tackle crystalline methamphetamine addiction and other substance dependency disorders, protecting our independent public schools, getting back to basics in our schools and committing to air-condition every classroom in Queensland.

Finally, the LNP will lower taxes whilst seeking to improve Queensland's tax competitiveness for all businesses. What we have in Queensland is an arrogant and out-of-touch Palaszczuk Labor government.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** I hear members opposite interjecting. They do not care whether students have air conditioning in schools, but we believe that is very important for the children of Queensland. At the 2015 election Labor promised to reduce the number of ministers from 19 to 14, then they backflipped last term and extended their cabinet to 18 ministers and five assistant ministers. Labor promised to reduce Queensland's debt with a debt reduction strategy, but now that has been forgotten as Queensland's debt rushes towards \$83 billion in four years.

I will now make some comments with respect to my shadow ministerial portfolios. With respect to the arts, \$150 million has been allocated for a theatre addition to QPAC, while the market-led proposal by foundation theatres for a new \$100 million commercial theatre which could cost taxpayers only \$25,000 has received absolutely nothing. Queenslanders will fork out six times more than they need to. It appears there is a reduction in staff numbers at the Performing Arts Trust and the State Library of Queensland. However, having visited the Thomas Dixon Centre and having good discussions with the Queensland Ballet, I know that the funding that has been allocated in this budget will be welcomed by them.

With respect to the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, both the LNP and I have provided bipartisan support to the Labor government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reconciliation Action Plan 2018-2021, but why is the Labor government not supporting the IDEAS Van? Up to 2,500 patients have been referred to the IDEAS Van for treatment to save their eyesight. Thousands more diabetic patients have had vital screenings, but why can't a little bit of funding

be found from the \$18.3 billion Health budget to assist with closing the gap with respect to diabetes in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population? We know that Indigenous councils in remote Queensland communities have seen their infrastructure funding placed in jeopardy due to Labor's inability to negotiate in good faith with the Turnbull federal coalition government.

In relation to communities, disabilities services and seniors, the National Disability Insurance Scheme is rolling out stage by stage but with no real leadership from the state Labor other than to blame the Commonwealth government when things go wrong. Our Queensland minister will not step up and outline how Queensland will provide continuity of support for people with a disability who are ineligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme. Meanwhile, the Queensland Audit Office has said that fewer than 60 per cent of all people who are eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland are likely to be in the scheme by the time it reaches its full rollout, and only seven per cent of the total projected number of Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants for 2019 were reported by the Queensland Audit Office to be in the NDIS so far. However, I will acknowledge the government's commitment to peer-to-peer advocacy services and enhanced electronic platforms as part of the NDIS planning process. I think it is very important to do that in a bipartisan manner.

I also acknowledge the Labor government's \$ 5.5 billion to be spent on concessions, although Queenslanders need to be able to access them and told how to do so. Queensland needs a credible economic strategy to maintain such concessions longer and into subsequent years. Without a credible economic plan for Queensland, that is going to be extremely difficult to do. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is tomorrow, 15 June. We must all work together to address this issue. I certainly acknowledge the minister's additional funding in relation to new elder abuse prevention services. We continue to see Queenslanders struggle as the Labor government's fees and charges go up at almost double the rate of inflation in some cases. Importantly, the Liberal National Party had a plan at the last state election to help seniors by offering a number of sensible support measures.

The legacy of Labor is always mismanagement, broken promises and economic vandalism. Only the Liberal National Party will tackle rising water and electricity costs and get the finances of our great state of Queensland back on track. This year's Labor state budget must be seen in the context of the Palaszczuk Labor government's previous raids, rip-offs and writedowns, which included ripping \$6 billion from public servants' superannuation; ripping \$3.4 billion from public servants' long service leave entitlements; and raiding \$5.1 billion of equity from government owned corporations. The Public Service has also grown much faster than population growth, with a 7.1 per cent increase in 2015-16 and 2016-17, followed by an estimated 3.9 per cent this year. With Public Service numbers likely to be in excess of 224,000 full-time-equivalent positions this year, Queensland's Public Service wages bill is growing at more it than \$1 billion a year.

Queensland's prosperous future is being squandered by a taxing, debt ridden Labor government. Only the Liberal National Party has a plan to build a better future for the residents of my electorate of Moggill and all Queenslanders.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.54 pm): Is there a doctor in the House? Because after listening to that, I think I need a bit of help. As most people know, I can be a bit cranky sometimes, but I am very happy with the first budget from the Treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, in this Palaszczuk Labor government. I am very happy for my electorate, the great electorate of Maryborough, because once again a traditional Labor government has delivered for a Labor area four years in a row. How many times do we have to deliver for those opposite not to realise that this government is delivering for Queenslanders? All I have heard from those opposite is that nothing is being delivered in regional Queensland, yet 65 per cent of the infrastructure in this budget is being delivered in regional Queensland.

I will talk about what is being delivered in the Maryborough electorate. In 2017 when I was re-elected by the good people of Maryborough I said that, for me, our first budget would be an Education budget. I would like to thank the education minister, Grace Grace, for delivering for the Maryborough electorate. Areas like mine desperately need money spent on education because that is what will lift the standard of living in our area. The minister has delivered in spades. One thing I will say about the minister is that, not only has she delivered for the area, but she has listened to me and delivered for the regional outpost schools in my electorate. I am not speaking about the major schools, but the rural communities in my electorate. I will just run through them if you give me a bit of leeway, Mr Deputy Speaker.

There is \$250,000 to upgrade Brooweena school. Brooweena is a very small school in my electorate. They are good people, and I believe they have the same right as every other person across this state to a good education. That is what a Labor government does. That is what a Palaszczuk government does: we deliver. No matter where you are in Queensland, we deliver services to you. Howard is a great community and one of the first coalmining communities in Queensland. The Howard State School has not had money spent on it for years, and it received \$420,000 to upgrade A block and sporting facilities for the students. Albert school in Maryborough is a very small school. The school was opened in Maryborough in 1867. It is one of the first schools and there is a great principal there too, Principal Phil. Following through with what the Palaszczuk government delivers, we are upgrading the classrooms there for STEM because we all know how crucial STEM is for the future education of children throughout this state.

We are getting ready for the digital economy, and this is what a traditional Labor government does: we spend on education. We try and make sure that everyone, no matter where they live in this state, gets a fair go at education. I am sure that everyone has driven through Tiaro on the Bruce Highway. Tiaro school is getting an upgrade and Sunbury school in Maryborough is getting an upgrade. This is what a Labor government does: we invest in education. We do not cut teachers. We do not cut teacher aides' hours. We invest in teachers and teacher aides and we invest in school facilities so that our children have the best facilities to learn throughout Queensland. That is what we do as a Labor government. The Maryborough electorate has received a very fair share. I am still smiling about the budget.

There are upgrades to the air-conditioning at the Maryborough Hospital, and we are also putting in a brand-new \$10.4 million accident and emergency which will be one of the best on the east coast of Australia. I would like to thank the former health minister, the member for Woodridge, and the current health minister who came up to the hospital, had a look and made sure that we received adequate funding to upgrade our air-conditioning and other things at the hospital along with the new accident and emergency and the new CT scanner. The CT scanner was promised by the LNP in 2014, but it has been delivered by a Labor government. We are committed to making sure that health care in the Maryborough electorate is up to standard.

I refer to the Bruce Highway. There is \$200 million for section D, including the bypass of Gympie, in conjunction with the federal government. The federal member and I have worked as a team to get funding from both the federal government and the state Labor government. That project is crucial for the benefit of the Maryborough electorate and the trucks from Richers Transport travelling to Brisbane. The bypass will save valuable travelling time and improve safety for residents along the Bruce Highway. There is also money for a new bridge over Saltwater Creek on the Bruce Highway heading towards Bundaberg. We have worked with the federal government to realign the highway to improve safety for all road users.

I refer to a wonderful small grant included in the budget. There is \$20,000 for a great bunch of people in the Maryborough electorate to establish a military trail across the electorate. This \$20,000 will start off the Maryborough Military Aviation Museum. Maryborough was crucial in the training of Air Force personnel during World War II. The amount of \$20,000 is not a great deal of money for a lot of people, but it is a great start for the military museum. I thank the Premier for it. When she was in Maryborough she spoke to people from the committee about this military museum, which is part of a military trail that starts in Maryborough and goes through to Hervey Bay, with Z Force—we have the Duncan Chapman memorial in Maryborough—and out to Toogoom and the Vietnam veterans museum at the RSL.

The budget is very good for the Maryborough electorate. There is record spending in Health and Education. Electorates like mine need that. I am also very happy with the upgrade to the Maryborough Correctional Centre, with a \$12.4 million spend over two years. The minister spoke with and listened to Corrections. We are improving the safety of Maryborough Correctional Centre and ensuring it is a world-class facility.

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take the interjection from the minister. I thank him on behalf of all of the correctional officers because it is a good spend. It will make their lives easier. I thank the minister very much for the \$12.42 million.

I cannot make a speech without mentioning trains. We know that Maryborough is the home of trains in not only Queensland but also Australia. There are some great workers at Downer. In the budget is more money for contracts for Downer, for rail. We also see that the NGR trains are coming back to Maryborough to be modified.

**Mr Madden:** They should have been built there.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I take that interjection from the member for Ipswich West. They should have been built in Maryborough. It was an absolute disgrace. Today I heard the Leader of the Opposition say that she was proud of the former Newman government. I challenge the Leader of the Opposition to come to Maryborough, stand shoulder to shoulder with me and the 242 workers at Downer and say that she is proud of the decisions made by the Newman government. She would be the only one in the crowd who is proud of the decisions of the Newman government.

This is a great traditional Labor budget. I thank the Premier, the Treasurer and the cabinet for talking and listening to Queenslanders. This is a good budget for the Maryborough electorate.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.03 pm): It is a rare occasion on which I agree with something said by the member for Maryborough, but this is a traditional Labor budget. It is a budget of higher taxes, higher debt and higher unemployment, so I concur with the member for Maryborough. He is on the money in that this is a traditional Labor budget. Here we have a budget that shows that economic growth is weaker, employment growth is falling and unemployment has been revised to stay higher for longer. Queensland has the worst unemployment rate in Australia, at 6½ per cent.

The Palaszczuk Labor government does not have an economic plan beyond more taxes and higher debt. Let us remember when those opposite said that they could build the infrastructure Queensland needs without raising taxes or increasing debt. Tuesday's budget shows that to be the lie that it was. There is absolutely no way a Labor government could deliver the infrastructure Queensland needs without raising taxes and debt.

There is \$2.25 billion in new taxes and fees over the next four years. There are five new taxes. Their election costings were \$491 million in new taxes, yet we now have a waste tax of \$1.32 billion. Government members cannot tell me that the residents of the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay will not be paying part of that \$1.32 billion. Of course they will. That is to solve a problem in the Labor run Ipswich City Council. I am offended that residents in the electorate of Glass House will be contributing to a \$1.32 billion waste tax. There is also a wagering tax of \$367 million, land tax of \$311 million, a property investors tax of \$132 million and car stamp duty of \$100 million. That is on top of a whole lot of new fees.

With all of these new taxes that Queenslanders are being slugged and a massive boom in resources royalties, Labor has still—incredibly—managed to rack up a massive debt of \$83 billion. That is \$83 billion that our kids and grandkids will have to pay back. As others have said, that means an interest bill of \$3.7 billion a year, each and every year. That equates to \$7,000 a minute, over \$420,000 an hour, \$10 million a day or \$71 million a week.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** I take that interjection. That is at current rates. Those rates could change at the drop of a hat and before you know it \$3.7 billion could become \$4.7 billion or \$5.7 billion a year. Unlike the ALP, the Liberal National Party, as enunciated this morning by our leader, Deb Frecklington, will not introduce any new taxes in our first term should we be elected to government in 2020.

While this classic Labor budget is taking more and more money off the residents of Glass House, the government is putting less and less back into the electorate. In the budget papers there was no mention of any roads in the electorate of Glass House, so I had to go to the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program. There is nothing for the stretch of Mount Mee Road from Ocean View to Dayboro. There is nothing extra for the D'Aguilar Highway, other than the funds that Wyatt Roy, the former federal LNP member for Longman, and I fought hard to get and those extra overtaking lanes that are currently going in.

There is nothing new for Steve Irwin Way. There is nothing for Maleny Kenilworth Road—our goat track north of Conondale. Even when the federal government puts an extra \$800 million on the table to add extra lanes on the Bruce Highway between Caboolture and Caloundra, what do we get from those opposite? Zero, nothing, nada. There is one project only—that is, the Kilcoy Beerwah Road-Old Gympie Road intersection. How many years of lobbying, petitioning and pleading on behalf of and alongside the residents of Beerwah, Peachester, Glass House Mountains and Landsborough, not to mention the school community of Beerwah State School, did it take for the state Labor government, on the eve of last year's election, to come out with a \$4 million election promise? They only knew about it because we had been banging on for the last three years to try to get something done about it. We will see \$1.6 million go towards that this year. Let us hope it is not too late, that there will not be accidents on that intersection in the lead-up to that work starting.

What about other congestion-busting projects? There is not much for roads. What about rail? The government has squibbed it again. For the first time in the history of the north coast rail duplication project we have a federal government willing to contribute—and contribute significantly, to the tune of \$390 million. I am sorry, but the residents of the Sunshine Coast are fed up with the state and federal governments squabbling over who puts in what.

To be blunt, why would we knock back the offer of 50 per cent on a rail project that up until recently has been 100 per cent fully funded by both the Labor and the LNP sides of this House? I am so pleased to inform the residents of the Sunshine Coast that, as the Leader of the Opposition said this morning, we will build it. We will stop the arguments over funding. We will put the \$390 million on the table and this much needed piece of infrastructure will be built.

We heard the member for Maryborough waxing lyrical on just about every single school in Maryborough receiving an upgrade. I can tell members that not a single school in the electorate of Glass House is going to get an upgrade—nothing, nada, none. Again this morning we heard the Leader of the Opposition say that we will invest in our education system, we will declutter the curriculum and we will make sure English is a mandatory subject. We will also put air conditioning into our state schools. What a fantastic policy. I cannot tell members the number of times—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting. The member has not taken your interjections.

**Mr POWELL:** Thank you, Mr Deputy Speaker. What a fantastic initiative. I cannot tell members the number of times that P&Cs from Montville, Peachester, Glass House Mountains and Wamuran have come to me asking for support as they apply for grants for air conditioning in their classrooms. I can now tell them that if an LNP government is elected in October 2020 those classrooms will be air conditioned. What a fantastic initiative.

Turning to the Maleny Rural Fire Brigade, what a botch-up! After three years of lobbying to try to find it a new home and ignorance from the then minister, a last-minute election announcement was made that the government would spend \$3 million to co-locate the Maleny Rural Fire Brigade on the premises of the Maleny auxiliary brigade. What do we find in the budget? It is there, but one has to read the fine print. It says—

Part of the \$3 million commitment for a new complex for emergency services in Maleny. \$1 million for this project is included in Strategic land acquisitions, offset by \$500,000 for property disposal.

The election commitment was to build it on the site of the auxiliary brigade and now we find out that it has to go and find another block of land. The government had no idea what it was doing when it made the announcement, so the rural fire brigade is going to have to bump in and bump out of the cattle pavilion at the Maleny Show Society for at least another two years while this bumbling government goes running around trying to find a block of land that it never promised in the first place. I reassure the members of the Maleny Rural Fire Brigade: we will deliver for them and we will get this out of the government. We have also heard in the last weeks that water bills on the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay are going up—\$80 for a typical household on the Sunshine Coast and \$43 for a typical household in Moreton Bay. We see more taxes, more fees and more charges.

Turning to the portfolio of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the Treasurer's record \$1 billion coal windfall boost was not enough for this spending addicted government. Labor is also racking up a record-breaking \$83 billion on the credit card, as I said, and slugging taxpayers with five new taxes and four new fees costing \$2.25 billion. Despite Labor's cash funnelling, unless you live in an inner-city electorate like that of the Treasurer's under this government your infrastructure needs are not a priority. Let us take, for example, the statistical area that covers the electorate of Glass House. Compared to the LNP's last state budget, Labor has cut more than \$234 million and 725 jobs from capital spend infrastructure investment alone. Let us compare that with the Treasurer's inner Brisbane statistical area which is receiving a massive year-on-year capital spend increase of \$613 million, generating nearly 2,000 jobs. It is very clear where this government's priorities are when it comes to infrastructure.

On top of that, \$500 million of promised infrastructure was not delivered last year. Labor has cut \$9 billion from infrastructure over this Premier's term. It has caused the infrastructure crisis it has been banging on about all this week. No-one else is to blame for the infrastructure crisis. It is. If we look at the department's funding, I have a bit of a concern here because the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning is virtually unfunded over the forward estimates. The funding is cut from \$600 million in 2018-19 to less than \$200 million in 2021.

It is clear that there is one of two things going on here. One option is that the government is using this to fudge the figures to make its out years look better than they actually are. The second is that it is going to severely decimate the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, which would not surprise me for a green agenda driven Labor government that is focused on stopping farmers from agricultural production and stopping economic growth wherever it can find it. We have one of two options: either it is fudging the figures or it is going to decimate the Department of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

I notice that that may have already started, because we see a drop in numbers of employees from 949 in 2017-18 to 936, so it is already cutting 13 jobs. Those jobs happen to be in areas like driving enterprise development, economic growth and job creation and in infrastructure policy and planning sections of the department. Given that Queensland has the highest unemployment rate in Australia under Labor and an infrastructure crisis caused by Labor cutting \$3 billion a year from the infrastructure budget in its first term, it seems extraordinary that Labor would cut any staff from these areas. However, those cuts are indicative of the underperformance of the department, full stop. We are facing a shambolic program delivery across a range of areas within the department. In market-led proposals, last year's budget mentioned the aquarium and Maritime Museum at South Bank.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr POWELL:** That is hopelessly stalled; I take that interjection from the member for Broadwater. The proponent estimates that the project may attract up to 750,000 visitors a year, inject up to \$200 million a year into the Queensland economy and create ongoing employment. It was first spruiked back in March 2016, but under Labor nothing has happened. The project is hopelessly stalled—yet another example of Queensland being closed for business. Is it any wonder that business investment has fallen off a cliff under this government?

If we turn to manufacturing, ironically whilst the government is increasing the funding to attract businesses from overseas and interstate to Queensland it has stopped funding its Made in Queensland program. Not a single new dollar of funding will be available in 2018-19 for the Queensland manufacturing industry under Labor's Made in Queensland program. It is an indictment on Labor and its program that Jackie Trad has not allocated a single dollar for this year. For all the political posturing during the recent election campaign, Labor shows it is all talk when it comes to putting Queensland businesses and Queensland jobs first. It would rather have a Scottish brewing company coming to Queensland to sell beers than support our local brewing company.

I have spoken about the infrastructure situation. We have a situation where compared to the LNP's last state budget the following regions are facing infrastructure funding cuts and job opportunity losses: Wide Bay, nearly \$460 million and 1,423 jobs; Moreton Bay south, \$288 million and 892 jobs; Gold Coast, \$286 million and 888 jobs; Sunshine Coast, \$31 million and 688 jobs; Cairns, \$31 million and 96 jobs. Areas plagued by some of the highest unemployment rates in Australia such as Wide Bay, which has 9½ per cent unemployment, will miss out on hundreds of jobs from cuts to infrastructure investment. It is just not good enough.

Labor has failed to meet its efficiency target for administrative cost per decision made by the State Assessment and Referral Agency—an award-winning LNP program—and its flagship program, Economic Development Queensland, has failed dismally. It has missed its target to facilitate private sector investments by 40 per cent or over \$120 million. That is another example of why we have the worst unemployment in the nation. Economic Development Queensland has also discontinued four other measures after failing to achieve three of these targets. Basically it has given up, but then that is much like this Labor government, isn't it? It keeps shifting the goalposts. It shifts the goalposts on debt, it shifts the goalposts on its promises to Queenslanders regarding tax and it shifts the goalposts on unemployment and what you get, in the words of the member for Maryborough, is a typical Labor budget.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (4.18 pm): This budget can seem a dry document filled with numbers. For many in Logan, that can feel remote. This Labor budget is a budget for all of Queensland, and it is not just about the dry figures: it is delivering better connections for work; more opportunities for jobs; a secure Logan through better police facilities and bases for ambos and our fireys; a better educated Logan with new classrooms and specialist learning hubs; a stronger Logan community through funding our neighbourhood centre and a health hub.

The budget is alive with new initiatives for the Logan electorate and I endorse every piece of this investment in the Logan electorate. As many members know, southern Logan is growing very fast and it is vital that that area is supported. I will continue to advocate for more support for this growing community. My job is to stand up for the people of the Logan electorate and to be on the side of every resident of the Logan electorate. I will continue to do that every year for every budget.

We have heard about the five-millionth Queenslander, baby Elizabeth. I would like to think that the five-million-and-first Queenslander was a baby born in Logan Hospital, meeting the new nurses who have joined our health team—

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr POWER:** No, not Cairns, at Logan Hospital. That baby would have been helped out by the new neonatal and postnatal services at the Logan West community health centre and would be looking forward to the redevelopment of the Logan maternity ward. I am proud that we are restoring the services for the babies born in Logan that were cut by the LNP and funding them in this budget.

Little baby five million and one, born in Logan, might have been driven home through the roadworks on the Mount Lindesay Highway, or on Waterford-Tamborine Road. Under the LNP, the need for that work was completely ignored but under Labor it is being delivered. Baby five million and one might, with their mum, use the new demand responsive transport service. As baby five million and one from Logan gets older, they might be educated at the new Yarrabilba State School or high school or in the new classrooms at Logan Village, Park Ridge or Flagstone State Community College. They might use the health services at the new Yarrabilba Health Hub or attend a function at the Yarrabilba neighbourhood centre.

This budget is for the future. It is for that five-million-and-first baby who was born in Logan to a Logan family. This budget is not just dry numbers; it is alive for the families of Logan who are working hard and looking for a government to support them with jobs, services and education. That is what this Labor government is delivering. Every time I advocate for better services for Logan, I am thinking of that young family and baby five million and one.

During the last election campaign, as part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, I made commitments to the families of Logan. This budget is delivering on those commitments in black and white. When it comes to road funding, this is especially true. It is important to understand the key documents behind our roads budget. When the people of Logan elected me in 2015, we were still working under the LNP funding for roads from its 2014-15 budget, which laid out funding from 2014 to 2018. That budget reveals that, in the three years of the LNP government, it budgeted only \$846,000 for the construction of the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba. It is more important to look at the funding allocated in that budget for the years 2016, 2017 and 2018. In those years the LNP had budgeted nothing for the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba—nothing at all.

Since that time, I have fought to make up for this lack of investment by the LNP during its time in government. The Leader of the Opposition sat on those key CBR committees that would have decided on investment in the Mount Lindesay Highway and rejected or did not even consider that investment. Since that time, we have gone some way to make up for the failures of the LNP government, and that is outlined in the QTRIP 2018 document. We have invested \$20 million in duplicating to four lanes the highway at Park Ridge South between Rosia Road and Stoney Camp-Granger Road. That is a key intersection where there is a bottleneck in the afternoon. There is \$20 million extra in funding to put in a service road north of St Aldwyn Road through to Greenbank Road and to upgrade to four lanes the Greenbank Road intersection.

The budget also includes an upgrade of the Camp Cable Road intersection and uplifting to reduce flooding and four-laning between Camp Cable Road and Jimboomba and upgrades to Stockleigh Road. In this budget, there is \$36 million of committed budget investment that is new to the Mount Lindesay Highway north of Jimboomba. That is 42 times—42 times—just in this budget, what the LNP government delivered in three years of its budgets. Members may think that 42 times the investment of the LNP government is a good outcome, but I continue to argue that that only indicates how woeful the LNP government's investment was and how much we need to make up for that lack of investment. I will continue to fight for more funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway and to refresh the priorities on the Mount Lindesay Highway through the existing west Mount Lindesay Highway development corridor study, which was simply abandoned by the LNP.

This government is not just investing in the Mount Lindesay Highway. We have brought forward the four-laning of Waterford-Tamborine Road between Hotz Road and Anzac Avenue and the upgrade to four lanes of the North Street intersection, where the roundabout is being overwhelmed and creating congestion. There is \$5.8 million to improve the Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road between Dunns Road and Luscombe Crescent.

This government is also improving public transport in the Logan electorate, with funding for the demand responsive transport system and upgrades to Loganlea station to improve access for people with disability, for which the member for Waterford and I fought so hard—more the member for Waterford. The government is also increasing parking capacity at the Greenbank RSL park-and-ride. The member for Algeester and I fought hard for that. The Springfield park-and-ride will also have increased capacity. The member for Jordan and I also pushed for that increase. I will continue to fight for an expansion of public transport services and remind the residents of the Logan electorate that the LNP government cut services to the growing areas of the Logan electorate, including the 560 bus that connects West Logan through to Logan Hospital.

This budget also funds the construction of the Cross River Rail connection from the south side of the city to the north. We know that the river crossing is a bottleneck that stops services coming through the Loganlea station more frequently. As well, Cross River Rail is required for the future Salisbury to Greenbank to Flagstone rail line. We need Cross River Rail. We saw the LNP members back a rail line to Melbourne airport that does not even have a route, much less a business plan, but they will not support Cross River Rail in South-East Queensland. I am disappointed that the LNP members put Malcolm Turnbull's career above Queenslanders.

We cannot go back to the cuts, the sackings and the chaos of the LNP government. We cannot face years of no funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway, which we saw from the LNP in its last term of government. The people of the Logan electorate know that. They know that we need to continue to back our teachers and build new classrooms and specialist learning areas in our schools. As a former high school teacher, I have always backed our schools and students and fought for new classrooms in schools. That is why in this budget there is funding for the new Yarrabilba State High School—a school that I fought for—for the Logan Village, Stockleigh and Yarrabilba communities. Kids going to prep at the new Yarrabilba primary school will be able to go just over the hill to the new high school when they finish primary school.

This budget also funds stage 2 of Yarrabilba State School, which has seen a strong level of enrolments. There are also new classrooms at Park Ridge State High School—six additional learning areas and two specialist areas—and at Flagstone state high school, which is now in the electorate of Jordan. Planning continues for a new school to meet future growth in Logan Reserve. There is also a new playground for seniors at Boronia Heights State School.

Southern Logan is a growing community. Families are moving in and they need classrooms. We have built over 30 classrooms for the students of the Logan electorate. How many classrooms do members think the LNP would have delivered? I cannot hear any of the LNP members chipping in to help. Are there any bids on 25 classrooms they would have built for these growing communities? Ten? Even five? There are no bids. The answer is zero. Despite knowing about the growth in the number of students, the LNP government did precisely nothing for the Logan electorate. The Logan electorate has always been let down by the LNP, but Labor backs the Logan electorate.

A growing community wants a budget that backs the need for more and improved services to meet that growth. That is why this budget funds the new Yarrabilba Ambulance Station, an upgrade to the west Logan permanent fire and rescue station, an upgrade for more staff and offices at the Logan Village police facility and an upgrade to the Logan Village rural fire station.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr Butcher** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! Member for Gladstone and member for Gregory, there is too much cross-chamber chatter.

**Mr POWER:** I know they are excited about the upgrades to the Logan Village police facility and the Logan Village rural fire station as well as a new facility at Yarrabilba. This budget delivers record funding for a healthier Queensland, with funding for an upgrade to the learning and specialist area of Logan Hospital, an upgrade to maternity services and funding for the Yarrabilba child services health and community hub.

Health is not just about hospitals; it is also about sports groups. The Jimboomba Redbacks AFC has received funding for the construction of female change rooms and a community area. Importantly for the Yarrabilba community, a new trail will be built in the Plunkett Conservation Park, which is right next to Yarrabilba. I have taken my kids to this area to experience nature.

The key point to make about this budget is that Labor backs the services that growing communities need and understands what those communities need. We cannot go back to a complete failure in the funding of those services. We need to stay committed to expanding our roads, our services and our education and health facilities. That is what this budget does. That is why I commend it to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.29 pm): Five new taxes, spiralling debt, unemployment on the rise, falling service standards despite record expenditure. I will make my contribution today in three parts: firstly as a Queenslander, then as a shadow minister and finally as a local member of parliament. In Queensland we do not have a revenue problem; we have a spending problem. The five new taxes are an admission of failure. It is an admission of failure by a government that has not been able to do the basics right. I will discuss these five new taxes and the one I wish to make the longest contribution about, which is the waste tax—not an environmental initiative but a big money grab—I will make in the second part of my speech.

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order!

**Mr CRISAFULLI**: I do not need to be protected. I am quite comfortable. I will save my contribution on the waste tax for when I address the budget as a shadow minister.

Let me begin with the wagering tax, a \$367 million grab, but, worst of all, set at a rate that will make us uncompetitive. If you believe in competitive federalism, if you believe there is a role for you in this House as legislators, surely you want your state to be competitive. When the state beside you is 50 per cent lower and Victoria is nearly half the rate, you know something is wrong. The land tax was a \$311 million attack on the property industry delivered at two minutes to midnight before the election.

Those opposite will see it and say, 'Well, this is an attack on those wretched developers.' It is an attack on the young bloke who just wants to put a hard hat on and go to work and be able to go home and say to his family that he has done a decent day's work. Unfortunately, in a world where people make decisions based on margins, based on certainty, based on mobile workforces—they can make them across the globe; they certainly can make them across Australia—if you make yourself uncompetitive that investment will walk across the border and with it walks the job for that young bloke with the hard hat.

The property investor tax will raise \$132 million right at the time when the market is softening. When everybody is wondering where the next wave of investment is going to come from, at a time when the property industry is deeply concerned about the year ahead, we go and signal an attack on them with another tax. Then there is the car stamp duty to raise \$100 million. Those opposite will say, 'Well, this is just a bit of a grab at that wealthy dealer or that person who just wants to drive a Porsche.'

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI**: I will take that interjection. What about the young girl who just wants to move a spanner around in a workshop, who just wants her first apprenticeship?

**A government member**: Do you think she is driving a Porsche?

**Mr CRISAFULLI**: She works on a Porsche, Minister. She is a young apprentice and she turns up and all she wants to know is that someone on that side of the House cares about her future. Under the guise of attacking the wealthy, that young girl may not have a job. I would cop these new taxes if we were making a little bit of an inroad into the debt, but it is going to hit \$83 billion and those opposite have given up trying. We lost a AAA credit rating in this state in about 2009 and I can remember collectively what that did to our reputation and to the way we felt as Queenslanders. We have given up even dreaming about getting it back. Somehow we are clawing on to AA-plus as though that is the zenith of where we are going to reach. We have given up.

We have five new taxes and debt continues to increase. It is \$83 billion. For those opposite it probably just rolls off the tongue. Let me break that down. That is \$3.7 billion a year. Still too big to grasp? That is \$71 million per week. That is getting a little closer to understanding, but here we go, that is over \$400,000 per hour. I ask every one of the 93 members in here, I ask those everyday people, what could \$400,000 per hour that is being spent on interest repayments do in their community? What would happen if the AA-plus rating gets further downgraded and that \$400,000 clocks up? What then?

**Mr Perrett:** Interest rates go up.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Interest rates go up, as the member for Gympie says. All of a sudden the spiral gets worse and worse and you keep going down. We have given up on talking about debt. We talk about this being a budget where we are funding infrastructure. The level of expenditure on infrastructure is going back to what it has traditionally been. It is going back to a time when we actually built things in this state, but here is the difference: if you judge the record of what is budgeted and what is actually spent that is where there is a real discrepancy. If we do nothing else in this House—all of us: those who are ministers who are responsible for departments and those who sit on the other side of the chamber who are there to hold the government to account—we must ensure that what is allocated in the budget actually gets spent because otherwise Queenslanders are taxed for things they will never benefit from.

We hear about record Health spending and yet one in five people in an ambulance is not seen within 30 minutes. Again we are talking about ambulance ramping in this state, a term which disappeared from our vocabulary a few years ago. It had been fixed. When the opposition leader stands up and talks about an innovative approach to try to fill a void by working with the private sector, she gets pilloried for it by those opposite. There were some absurd claims.

The most absurd was today in question time, when the member for Maryborough said that because he does not have a private hospital in his electorate somehow that does not make sense. Might I suggest that some of the constituents he represents in fact go to private hospitals in Hervey Bay. Might I suggest that some of his constituents get treated in the public system in Hervey Bay and this might relieve some pressure. Might I suggest that the opposition leader was not talking about doing away with funding for public hospitals; she was talking about a way of partnering with the private sector to reduce waiting times, which is what good governments do. It is what we exist to do.

I will move into my role as a shadow minister and talk about the waste levy. When those opposite say, 'We took our taxes to the election. We said what taxes we would be ramping up,' there is a little asterisk there that says 'at 10.30 on Thursday night after the blackout'. If you say it really quickly it is like an episode of *The Simpsons*: it all flows really well. Once the blackout had occurred they said, 'There's four new taxes,' but they did not even have the ticker then to talk about the waste levy.

Let me give members some numbers in relation to the waste levy. In the last two months we were told the waste levy was designed to stop interstate waste—little asterisk: there are only about four or five dumps in one city taking it which we could have fixed in a heartbeat without a very big tax. When that did not float it was because China was no longer taking our recycling. That did not float. Then it was to stop Ipswich stopping the services. They reversed it so that did not work. Finally they came up with the one that might actually float and that is to fund recycling programs.

As much as I think things like that could probably be funded by everyday government revenue in a state that is one of the highest taxing in the nation, I would cop a big waste tax if it really did fund recycling initiatives. However, to give the House a number, over the next four years the waste levy will gouge \$1.3 billion out of the Queensland economy and return \$100 million in recycling initiatives—that is, \$100 million out of a \$1.3 billion tax grab. Today I am not even going to go into how the figure of \$1.3 billion was arrived at. Either there are some interesting funding calculations or it might be a little larger than \$70 a tonne.

The costs outlined in the budget documents are all over the place in different departments. My good friend the member for Buderim and I spent some time trawling through the documents. About \$418 million goes to councils, there is about \$40 million in operational costs and there is \$100 million for the resource recovery. I think that the big winner in that equation is a line item called 'consolidated revenue'. When you have a minister who does not have either the political capital or the intestinal fortitude to stand up to the Deputy Premier, it will be business as usual.

I will quote what the industry sector has had to say. Some excellent contributions have been made, including by Shane Rodgers from the Australian Industry Group, who said it was 'a new tax on business in the state dressed up as an environmental initiative'. Councillor Mark Jamieson, the President of the LGAQ, said 'we are on the side of local communities, who have said loud and clear that they want to see the waste levy money drive innovation not go back into general Treasury coffers'.

I have only four minutes remaining, so I will make a brief contribution on tourism before talking about my electorate of Broadwater. In tourism, our market share is sliding. What I offer my ministerial colleague is an approach from this side of the House whereby we will support what is right. We will back ecotourism. We will back adventure tourism. I urge the government to find every way within their budgets to return the stability for the sovereign risk that now exists because of some of the projects that they have pulled. Governments can put forward all sorts of programs, but they get judged by their

actions and not by line items in budgets. Therefore, I was disappointed to see no individual funding for a dive site on the Gold Coast. I live in hope of seeing that, because it is a good niche and would add to the Gold Coast tourism offering. I would like to see the government follow the council's lead. Let us work with the federal government and make it happen.

As the local member for Broadwater, I live in an established area of the coast. We certainly do not have the growing pains that my neighbour and good friend the member for Coomera has. However, each and every day we feel the pressures of the M1. I ask the government to stop playing games. No-one cares about their blue with Malcolm Turnbull. They would have a little bit more credibility if they said that Bill Shorten's offering, which is the same dollar-for-dollar offering, was also a stinker. If they said that, they would have one ounce of credibility. The fact that they will not say it shows that the whole debate is a fraudulent one that is based on the fact that they do not want to build the road. They need to get on with building it and, at the same time, get on with building the parallel motorway. Both are needed. If they build it, the great City of Gold Coast will reach its full potential, because at the moment the M1 is choking the lifeblood out of the city.

On the local front, in my electorate only one road project is funded. It is great that the Minister for Transport is in the House today. The one road project we have is the duplication of the Jabiru Island bridge. Some years ago there was a fatality there. There was a bit of action and a lot of talk, but the bridge has not been delivered. I would like to work with the minister and his department to deliver that.

My final contribution is about schools. I was delighted to see the commitment from the Leader of the Opposition to air-condition schools. There are only three schools in my electorate. I have to say that the demountable classrooms at Biggera Waters State School and Coombabah State School are not fitting for a beautiful city and beautiful, proud schools. Those classrooms were brought in on the backs of trucks decades ago. They do not have air conditioning, they do not have heating and, in one case, there was asbestos until we made enough noise to have it removed. Those classrooms need to be updated and replaced. I will continue to advocate for that.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.44 pm): The state budget handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday represents the keeping of a significant commitment to the people of Queensland. Clearly the Palaszczuk government made a lot of promises in the lead-up to last November's state election and I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering on those promises. This budget shows the character that is at the heart of this government. We are a government that takes our plans to the Queensland people and then we deliver on those plans with our actions.

I consider it one of the great honours of my life to have been appointed as the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. As the minister responsible for those portfolios, I get to work with people who are changing the lives of Queenslanders for the better, each and every day. I get the chance to do whatever I can to make sure that the many Queenslanders who are doing it tough and who need support get whatever help is possible to get them onto a path towards happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

I am talking about families who, through poverty, dislocation and sometimes abuse and substance problems, have reached the low point of their lives and struggle to maintain or provide a safe place for their children. I am talking about Queenslanders, mostly women, who have been caught in a dangerous cycle of domestic violence and have nowhere else to turn. I am talking about young people, many of them traumatised by abuse and neglect, who have strayed into trouble with the youth justice system. This budget keeps the Palaszczuk government's promises to those vulnerable Queenslanders.

The state budget invests more than \$1.6 billion in keeping vulnerable Queenslanders safe. Over the past few years, the Palaszczuk government has made unprecedented investments in child safety, in fighting domestic and family violence, and in improving the outcomes that we get from the youth justice system. Over three state budgets we have created over 420 new Child Safety staff positions, bolstering the front-line response to vulnerable and at-risk children across the state. That includes 56 new staff to be employed in the 2018-19 financial year, making a total of 292 over the past two years as part of a \$200 million commitment.

In this most recent state budget, those additional staff and other initiatives implementing critical reforms to the child protection system represent a \$52.8 million investment this financial year alone. We have allocated \$20 million to support children in care with complex needs. There is \$2.2 million to create 19 positions in specialist service teams to facilitate assessments and therapeutic interventions for young people with complex needs and challenging behaviours. There is \$3.3 million for 16 additional staff in the Office of the Child and Family Official Solicitor and \$3.2 million to maintain Indigenous family

support services. I am also very pleased to say that the budget includes \$500,000 towards the government's contribution to the Morcombe Foundation to help establish its permanent headquarters on the Sunshine Coast.

When talking about these investments and interventions by government, it is only right that we again acknowledge that institutions, both government and non-government, have at times over many years failed the children they were supposed to protect. In recent months, in the wake of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, we have seen that we have reached a critical juncture in terms of taking action to provide redress for those who were harmed so significantly by that kind of abuse. Queensland has signed up to take part in the national redress scheme and earlier this week it was my honour to introduce the enabling legislation into this parliament.

The state budget makes the first allocation of funds to meet the Queensland government's commitment of \$500 million over 10 years to provide redress to people who suffered sexual abuse as children in those institutions. That funding will support redress payments of up to \$150,000 and will also invest in providing support and counselling services to those people who have had to live with the consequences of that abuse, some of them for decades. This is an investment in doing what is right and it is something that I think will be supported by all Queenslanders.

It was startling this morning to hear the Leader of the Opposition attack the incredible work that our child safety staff are doing to make vulnerable Queensland children safer and, then quick as a flash, propose nothing to address what they say is disgraceful about our system. This is from the very LNP that cut 225 positions from Child Safety when it was in government and attacked our child safety staff at every opportunity. Do not even get me started about how they tried to undermine our foster carers, who are absolute saints. This is from the very LNP that cried 'crisis' at every opportunity while we were getting on with repairing the damage that they caused. This is from the very LNP that went to the last state election proposing absolutely nothing in child safety.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** That is right. After three years of complaining bitterly in the face of the results that our investments in extra staff had achieved, they proposed not one single child safety policy at the 2017 election. They did not propose new investments. They did not propose new staff. They did not suggest doing a single thing different from what the Palaszczuk government is getting on with doing. They did not do it then and they did not propose it this morning. That could mean one of two things. Either they 100 per cent agree with our groundbreaking investments and reforms to the child safety system or they are still clinging to their policy when in government to slash and burn their way through child safety and cut the very staff who are out there saving lives every day.

I am proud to talk about the initiatives in the state budget that underpin our reforms in child safety and the successful delivery of our youth justice reforms. We know that about 80 per cent of the young people in youth detention centres are on remand. Many of those are remanded to the centres for the sad reason that they just do not have a safe and stable home to be released to on bail. That is why the budget includes a \$17.1 million investment over three years for bail support and advocacy so we can find better options for these young people.

We have committed to invest \$10.2 million for 84 additional staff positions across the youth detention centres in Brisbane and Townsville, and a further \$6.5 million will continue to implement the recommendations of the independent review of youth detention. We will continue to invest in the community youth response initiative in Townsville with \$2.9 million and will put \$2.5 million into continuing the Transition 2 Success initiative that is getting great results in reducing rates of youth reoffending. This budget includes \$19 million in capital works to support the transition of 17-year-olds to the youth justice system—a long overdue and groundbreaking reform—as well as 12 beds of additional capacity at Cleveland Youth Detention Centre.

The Palaszczuk government has shown remarkable leadership in implementing the recommendations of Quentin Bryce's landmark *Not now, not ever* report into domestic and family violence. This budget commits \$14.2 million for new and enhanced specialist and general domestic and family violence services, \$3.6 million to continue implementation of DV high-risk teams and further investment in changing perpetrator behaviour and services to support women and girls who have experienced sexual assault.

I wish to briefly highlight the commitments in this state budget that will make a specific impact on my electorate. Like many members here, I am very proud of the electorate I represent. It is wonderful to be able to stand here and speak on the things that the state budget is delivering in the community I love.

I am very proud of the schools in my electorate. They do an absolutely amazing job. Through the budget the Palaszczuk government is continuing our proud record of supporting schools in Queensland. We will see \$402,000 to repair the swimming pool at Bulimba State School, \$300,000 for Seven Hills State School, \$150,000 for Norman Park State School and \$150,000 for early years classrooms at Morningside State School.

Public transport is very important to the people in my community. That is why Cross River Rail is so important. I want to thank all of the people who worked alongside me to lobby for the upgrade to Cannon Hill station and for the car park. We will see \$1.5 million towards commencing design work for the \$18 million upgrade. I am so grateful for the other initiatives, including maintenance at a whole lot of my schools, design of the Eastern Transitway and grant funding for restoring the Bulimba park memorial.

This state budget is delivering for Queensland in so many ways across the areas of my portfolio and across my electorate of Bulimba. I thank the Premier, the Treasurer and all members of this government for their commitment to delivering for Queenslanders.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.54 pm): Budgets are important. Budgets are an opportunity. Despite an increasing ambivalence towards budgets by the media and the general public—they would rather perhaps see the outcome of the State of Origin, understandably; they might like to see something else—they remain fundamental to the business of this place. Budgets remain fundamental to the business of this state. Indeed, the whole reason we have parliaments is to scrutinise the expenditure by government. That was the reason they came about.

I have to say that I had hoped that the new Treasurer of this government would bring some understanding, some life and some passion back to this most important aspect of government. It is the setting out of the government's economic and fiscal plan for the next 12 months, at the very least, and for the term of this government given that it is just the beginning of a two-year-and-10-month term.

Sadly, I was disappointed. I suppose I was as disappointed as the previous treasurer who might have felt somewhat aggrieved. His hard work—and it is hard work preparing budgets—was not even recognised. There was not one word. There was not a mention. I thought in 2017 the lack of mention by everyone else apart from the then treasurer of his budget was bad, but this year we have seen it carried on to a higher level. The member for South Brisbane, the Treasurer, did not even do the former treasurer, the now Speaker and member for Mulgrave, the courtesy of acknowledging the work that he had put in during the last three years, even though all of those budgets were dismal failures. She did not even do him the courtesy of recognising that. There was not a word of thanks for his efforts.

Now we have the fourth Palaszczuk Labor budget. I am disappointed that it is the fourth Labor budget. I had hoped it would be different, but that is not to be. That is the way our system operates. The fourth budget, brought down by the member for South Brisbane, has again been described—we have heard this ad nauseam—as a typical Labor budget. How many times have I heard that phrase used to describe a lacklustre document that has no plan, no idea and no hope for a secure economic future? This is such a typical Labor budget that even the Treasurer could only devote just over 20 minutes to extolling its virtues. That is how typical this Labor budget is.

What could we expect? We read stories about the member for South Brisbane—about her passion and how she is a dedicated, social activist and that she was going to bring this to the Treasury portfolio. We were expecting more vim, more vigour, more enthusiasm. What did we see—nada, blah, bland, nothing. What did we hear or, more importantly, what did we not hear? We never heard anything about coal. We did not hear about mining. We did not hear about debt. We did not hear about a fiscal balance. We did not hear about taxes. We did hear about broken promises. We certainly did not hear any new ideas. There were no new ideas.

It has been my great misfortune to have to endure too many Labor budgets I am sad to say. Last Tuesday I heard it all again. I was reminded of the failure of the Labor Treasurer's hero and idol Anna Bligh. Others may wish to forget, but I remember that government and I remember its budgets. I remember the member for Inala, the member for Woodridge, the member for Cooper, the member for Sandgate and the member for Macalister were all part of that government that rightfully got turfed out in 2012. I remember the member for Miller. I remember him when he was part of a Labor council that got turfed out in 2004 as well—a man so game he did not even want to go back. He took eight years off. He went to find himself. I remember them all.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! I ask you to return to the long title of the bill please.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Others, as I say, may wish to forget but I remember. I remember that government and I remember what they did. What had they done? They had gone bust in a boom. They had frittered away the best terms of trade that this nation had seen at a time when our resources could not be pulled out of the ground fast enough, at a time when the price we were getting for those resources could not have been higher—more than \$300 a tonne for coal. What did that government do? They went bust in a boom. They spent it all. They lost Queensland's prized AAA credit rating. They started borrowing at unsustainable rates. Let me be a little clearer, as I quote from a very good budget speech in 2012 from someone who had a bit more vim and vigour in those days. Under the heading 'Fixing our Finances', they state—

... Labor had a fire sale of assets, abolished the fuel subsidy—

Do members remember that?

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. As fascinating as 2012 is and the member's speaking notes from the time, this is the 2018 budget. I ask him to come back to the budget that is before the House.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the member to return to the bill.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am discussing the budget. I am discussing the economic plan. As the member for Woodridge, the member for Cooper and I think even the member for Stretton have all talked spoken about past budgets and about past activities of the LNP government, I would think that this is exactly on point. They continue—

and made buying the family home up to \$7000 more expensive—

Do members remember they abolished the stamp duty concession on buying the family home—\$7,000? They increased tolls by 30 per cent on all of the motorways throughout Queensland and also made Queensland the most expensive state in Australia to register and run a motor vehicle.

What were we told when we came to government? This has been raised. This is what the Queensland Treasury government brief said—there are those who might remember—

Queensland's fiscal position and outlook is unsustainable and restoration must be an urgent priority for this term of Government.

What did the Queensland Treasury Corporation say? They said—

The State's debt has reached unprecedented levels. Together with its published forward estimates showing an even greater volume of debt required, Queensland is now in uncharted waters with respect to the volume of debt on issue and the resultant interest bill.

We had the Commission of Audit. The government is very keen to point out that it was headed up by Peter Costello, as it was, but they seem to skip over the fact that it was also headed up by Dr Doug McTaggart, the head of the Queensland Investment Corporation under Labor, and Professor Sandra Harding, the Chancellor of James Cook University. It was not a one-man show; it was all three of them. They conveniently forget that. They said—

The magnitude of the task is substantially larger than previously recognised because the former Government has built in unrealistically optimistic Budget assumptions that have masked the magnitude of the underlying structural problems.

What else happened? Who else said something about it? Here is an article I managed to dig up about what we faced after coming to government—'For Labor ex-minister, a time of atonement', by Tony Moore, 30 July 2012. What does this luminary say? Here is a quote from the article—

As we worked through the interview, he described how he felt the party should have concentrated more on the economy during the election campaign, emphasising the decisions it had made.

"I do think Labor fell into the error, or seriously miscalculated and under-estimated the desire for Queenslanders to hold onto the AAA credit rating," he said.

"And I think the concern Queenslanders had generally about government debt and deficit."

"And I think we were unable to effectively tell our story ...

Who was the luminary who said that? Tony Moore had rung a few people. It is interesting that prior to those quotes he said—

Most felt it was not yet time to speak publicly.

But not this former Labor luminary. Who was it? It was the member for Woodridge. What a surprise! Never short of a word is the member for Woodridge. We remember him well.

What are we seeing in this latest incarnation of a budget? We are seeing the complete abrogation of responsibility by an innumerate Premier and an economically reckless Treasurer. We are seeing five new taxes—four slipped in under the cover of an advertising blackout period during the last election

and a new waste tax justified under many guises and excuses but we all know that it is simply because Labor cannot manage its finances. Expenses grow exponentially and this government ignores its own fiscal principles. What is the result? It is debt and deficit. What is so important about fiscal deficits? They mean more debt. More debt is just a tax on future generations. It has to be paid. There is no other way. It has to be paid.

The Leader of the Opposition has clearly outlined a plan for a better Queensland under an LNP government—a clear plan, with clear priorities and clear commitments. The shadow Treasurer has outlined the failings of this budget. While that is not as difficult a task as it might otherwise be, I comprehensively applaud both of them for their work and their speeches outlining the issues here this morning.

We will hear much from those opposite that we on this side will complain that not enough is being spent on projects while not saying where the money will come from and opposing tax grabs in this budget. They will say that. They always do. Let me say this: they are not mutually dependent. Better spending of the funds that are already granted to us by taxpayers can still deliver the services and infrastructure this great state needs. It requires a lot of hard work. It requires discipline but it can be done. It just cannot be done by Labor—not with a government in thrall to the union movement, with ministers who have inappropriate backchannel communications, who cannot or will not act in the best interests of Queenslanders but rather in the interests of their union mates.

Fundamentally, this budget highlights in the starkest terms the fundamental difference between our side of the House and those opposite. They think that they can tax and borrow the state into financial prosperity, save families money and deliver services. We know they cannot. We know it is individuals, freed of the shackles of the state, who receive reward for effort, who are not taxed every time they are successful, who are not subject to the politics of envy who will truly drive growth, jobs and prosperity for the future.

In the short time I have left I want to deal with a couple more issues. One not dealt with in this budget is to do with the parity of pay for front-line therapy staff. This would have been the appropriate time to deal with that. I declare my interest. My wife is an occupational therapist. She works in Education Queensland with disabled children and has done so for 25 years—a great group of people who work with those kids in our state education system. I have seen what they do. There is a significant pay disparity between OTs employed by Education Queensland and those employed by the Department of Health. In year 8 for a qualified therapist—not just OTs but physios, speech therapists and others—it amounts to almost \$20,000 worth of difference between someone employed in the education department and someone employed in the health department doing exactly the same job with exactly the same qualifications. This has been raised with the minister, who has done nothing about it. This budget would have been the ideal time to do something about it.

In Clayfield, the difference in spending is quite stark. There is a more than 25 per cent decrease in spending for Brisbane north compared to the last LNP government. In my own electorate, the schools continue to receive the rough end of the pineapple from this government. In fact, there is no funding for the Kedron State High School performance hall, which is a sorely needed requirement for a school with almost 1,600 students.

We have seen a miserly amount of funds for some school classrooms and a pool upgrade. The Kedron State High School Performing Arts Centre is the No. 1 priority for that school. In fact, the only thing in relation to education that Labor has done in my electorate is close the Pinkenba State School. That is the only thing they have managed to do. Traffic congestion remains.

This budget disappoints in all critical respects. It was an opportunity for the new Treasurer to set out a pathway forward. It was an opportunity to show what this government plans for the future of this great state. It is my misfortune to see yet another typical lazy Labor budget.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.10 pm): The Palaszczuk government's 2018-19 budget is a budget for all Queenslanders. This budget delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitments and pumps billions of dollars into the Central Queensland economy.

Just eight months ago I gave birth to my beautiful and clever daughter, Odette. Every day I love and cherish her more and more. It is an honour to be her mum. I love watching her grow and learn, and on the weekend I watched on proudly as she crawled for the first time. Like all parents, I want the best for my baby. Becoming a mum has instilled in me a deep, fervent desire to leave our world a better place than I found it—a better place for Odette; a better place for the five millionth Queenslander, baby Elizabeth; and a better place for all Queensland children.

We know that governments that fail to plan plan to fail, and there is no greater reminder of the importance of planning for the future than our children. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government is delivering a great start and a bright future for our children. Since March 2015 we have hired 3,634 more teachers and 1,135 teacher aides across Queensland including 137 extra teachers and 58 extra teacher aides in Central Queensland. We are going to hire thousands more because we are building six new schools and we are spending more than \$200 million refurbishing existing schools including \$10 million on each of 17 high schools.

In Keppel, Yeppoon State High School is receiving \$4.2 million for a new school administration building and new classrooms as well as \$124,000 for the school's new e-learning hub in the library. I have spoken with Principal Ruth Miller and she is delighted with the news that the school is receiving this funding to help build this growing school. In North Rockhampton we are spending \$2.5 million to refurbish classrooms at the North Rockhampton State High School.

We believe that Queenslanders, whatever their age and wherever they live, should be able to get the health care that they need. This budget provides a record \$17.3 billion operating budget for Queensland Health and \$985 million in capital investments to deliver first-class health services and facilities for Queenslanders. Since March 2005 this government has been rebuilding front-line health services that were savaged under the LNP. We have employed more than 4,800 extra nurses, 1,600 doctors and 370 ambulance officers. In Central Queensland we have employed 144 extra nurses and 77 extra doctors. However, it is not enough to repair the LNP's damage; we must create excellent and responsive services for Queenslanders when they need it most—when they need hospital care. We are building better hospitals, health facilities and emergency departments. The Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$610 million in health care in Central Queensland—a record Health budget for the region and almost \$44 million more than the 2017-18 financial year. We are delivering a Health budget that focuses on strengthening front-line services and managing rising demand.

I heard many stories from local people and families about the devastating impacts that ice is having on people in our Central Queensland community so I fought for our local community and I am proud to be delivering \$14.3 million for a new 42-bed residential drug rehabilitation and detox facility in Rockhampton. This new centre will create jobs during the construction, but it will also give Central Queensland residents improved access to vital drug treatment services and support.

I am delivering on the commitment I made to refurbish the North Rockhampton Nursing Centre. I visit the staff and patients at this nursing centre regularly, and in 2016 I fought for funding to refurbish this important public aged-care facility. I was proud to announce last year \$8 million in funding to refurbish the Cec Pritchard Wing and for a new kitchen, and I am proud that this budget includes \$5.7 million of that \$8 million for major renovations which are expected to be completed in December this year.

We are also investing \$4.4 million across Central Queensland for community mental health services. We are investing \$9.1 million to help our hardworking doctors and nurses meet the increase in demand at our hospitals including at the emergency department and \$1.3 million to improve gastrointestinal endoscopy services.

It is for our children that we are building the economy of the future. We want to create jobs in a strong economy. The two go together. We want to create secure jobs that come with fair pay and safe working conditions to provide families with the confidence they need to spend and invest. That is the foundation of a strong economy. We will equip our workers on the front line of a fast-changing world with the skills and support to succeed. We will encourage innovation and give businesses and industry the confidence to grow. We will direct every effort to our No. 1 priority—jobs for Queenslanders—and we will do that by delivering the infrastructure, the skills and the services that our strong, diversified economy needs by including everyone in the benefits regardless of who they are or where they live.

The 2018-19 budget includes over \$1 billion for infrastructure in Central Queensland, over \$600 million for our local hospitals and over \$30 million for our local schools. There is \$66 million in the budget to support the \$352 million project to build Rookwood Weir. The budget allocates \$107.4 million out of a total of \$243.2 million for the expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre, further building on the original investment. This investment will create approximately 172 jobs over the four years of construction, and once all new sections of the centre are in operation there will be 130 extra full-time jobs created at the prison.

A total of \$11.79 million is allocated to support job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works across local councils in Central Queensland as part of the Works for Queensland program. Growing jobs in regional Queensland is the Palaszczuk government's first priority, and we are doing

just that by providing \$25 million towards water and electricity infrastructure to support tourism on Great Keppel Island. Tourism operators, residents and future tourism development projects will benefit from improved access to infrastructure that will create jobs and provide a catalyst for tourism and economic development across the region.

We are delivering improved marine infrastructure with \$3.4 million to upgrade two popular local boat ramps at Corbetts Landing and Thompsons Point. The budget also delivers \$1.4 million to fund two all-tide lanes and a floating walkway for the boat ramp at Corbetts Landing, improving safety and accessibility for boaties using the facility. We are also delivering \$2 million to upgrade the Thompsons Point boat ramp. Labor is currently delivering \$3.1 million in improvement works at North Rockhampton's Callaghan Park facility, and the Palaszczuk government has already invested \$250,000 on improvements at Ski Gardens and \$147,000 at Mulambin Causeway Lake.

Importantly, we are restoring front-line services, which is in stark contrast to the LNP which sacked tens of thousands of public servants right across our state. Since the 2015 election the Palaszczuk government has improved front-line health and education services in Central Queensland by employing an additional 77 doctors, 144 nurses, 137 teachers and 58 teacher aides. People want their children educated in good schools. They want to be looked after when they are sick. They want to be able to turn on a light without taking out another mortgage, and they want to do it without destroying the planet. All of these things the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering in a methodical, ordered and well-planned way. I grew up in Central Queensland and I love living there. In the last three years I have been standing up and fighting for our community, and now I am proud that the Palaszczuk government's 2018 budget is delivering on its commitments to Central Queensland.

Becoming a parent has changed my perspective on life. I was fighting for Keppel's future before, but now I see the future in a whole new light. I have found that being a parent and a member of parliament gives me a greater vested interest in our future. The decisions we make today affect our children well beyond our own life spans.

I am proud to be a part of a government that is planning for our future, that is building the infrastructure that we need, that is delivering better services, that is protecting the Great Barrier Reef, that is combatting climate change—a government that is growing jobs and steering the economy through change. This is a budget for prosperity, a budget that will deliver on our economy's future, a budget that delivers fairness and a budget that will deliver a bright future for the entire Central Queensland region.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (5.20 pm): We all should be concerned about what we have seen in the last couple of days about Labor's economic plan, which is more taxes and fees—some \$2.25 billion in new taxes and fees for Queenslanders. We know that these taxes will destroy jobs in the Bundaberg region and cost Queenslanders more. What is of concern is that, after four Labor budgets, we do not see an economic plan.

Let us have a look at the five new taxes worth \$2.25 billion, and remember that the election costings were for around \$500 million. The new taxes are: the waste tax, \$1.3 billion; the wagering tax, \$367 million; the land tax, \$311 million; the property investors' tax, \$132 million; and the car stamp duty, \$100 million. There are also four new fees on vets, homestay international students, labour hire companies and hazard perception. There is a higher unemployment rate in this budget of 6.25 per cent across Queensland, but let us not forget that the youth unemployment rate locally in my part of the world in the Wide Bay is nearly 30 per cent.

The predictions of this \$83 billion debt liability for every Queenslanders are disturbing, and we all know how damaging that is for our future. Let us remember that this is \$3.7 billion worth of interest each and every year, and this equates to \$71 million every week, \$10 million a day, \$420,000 every hour or \$7,000 every minute. That is the liability for Queenslanders for many generations. The 2018 Queensland budget is proof that Labor not only does not understand but does not care about the farmers in the Bundaberg region and the rural and regional communities they support. The only additional information from this budget for Queensland farmers is funding to increase regulation and red and green tape that will continue to suffocate our agricultural sector. This budget is not about supporting Queensland farmers; it is about protecting Labor politicians in seats in South-East Queensland by making it harder for farmers to farm in the future.

Interestingly enough, we see the much needed investment of \$4 million to fix and establish a scientific program called SLATS, which we know was the flawed program that this government used to destroy agricultural production in Queensland through the regressive vegetation management reforms. We are now spending \$4 million of taxpayers' money to fix a program that was flawed but was used in

this House to destroy regional Queensland. The local fruit fly trail in my region has again been announced in this budget. It has already been spent, and \$400,000 is not enough. That needs to be doubled and we need to make sure that our regional areas continue to get support in this very important area.

We know that new home buyers in the Bundaberg region will be worse off from this week's budget. The removal of the \$5,000 first home owners boost at the end of the month, the introduction of the \$70-a-tonne waste levy, increasing to \$90 a tonne, and increases in land tax will all make it harder for new home buyers in my area to make it and to get a leg up. Housing affordability clearly is not a priority for this government. At a time when new work in the home building industry is slowing and population growth is picking up, Queensland needs policies and programs that will support the future demand for housing—not more costs on the already over taxed new home building projects. Regional Queensland towns like Bundaberg are likely to be the hardest hit by these measures.

In replying to the budget, we must address the waste tax, as the Local Government Association of Queensland has publically rejected the Palaszczuk government's plans to apply a waste levy on all domestic and household waste. Not one person in my electorate was aware of a wheelie bin tax being introduced prior to the election. We continue to see the conversation about our needs for a level 5 hospital in my area. We are over the planning and business case issues; we just need to get on with it. Additional works at the port of Bundaberg need to be progressed as a key economic driver for the region. Our per capita spend is insulting. At nearly \$600 million, it is the second lowest in regional Queensland even though we have the second highest geographical base of population.

I welcome the advocacy we have had for additional music teachers across the state, particularly in my area where we have remote schools. For years, we have seen the need for additional resources, particularly in the remote areas of my electorate. We have seen the haves and the have-nots in the schooling system. I want to acknowledge the schools in the northern part of my electorate which hopefully will get access to these teachers. We all know how important music and other extracurricular activities are for teachers and students.

I want to acknowledge the extra money for the additional school transport infrastructure program. This will allow the Agnes Water State School disaster—which is the drop off and pick up area—to be funded and we now need the council to get on with the job, as per the government's fifty-fifty funding option. With \$20 million, we can get some of this and fix this dangerous situation for those children and parents at the Agnes Water State School.

The Mon Repos Turtle Centre has maintained its necessary funding. I must remind the House that this was announced in the LNP government and we continue to have the announcement every budget. We have not awarded a contract yet and now we are forecasting the bill to be \$17.5 million. It is not that I am worried, but it was budgeted at \$8 million when we announced it in 2015 and I just want the thing built. The people who deal with nesting sea turtles and the conservation of this very important iconic species want to make sure that this project becomes a reality. Can we just get on and award the contract and make sure these projects are no longer talked about but delivered?

Work on the North South Road, which was mainly funded by the federal government, is nearly finished but it was announced again anyway. I do welcome Gooburrum State School finally receiving funding for additional classrooms, and hopefully the toilet facilities will be a reality in this budget. For the benefit of the members of the House, this is a result of the 2013 floods where we used this school as an evacuation centre during those horrific flood events. These state schools need our support to make sure their facilities are world class so our children can get the best curriculum outcomes.

The funding at the Elliott Heads foreshore development is much needed. The fire station in Childers is nearly finished. I was there the other day and the paint is still wet, but it is in the budget again and we want to make sure that our hardworking fire men and women can open this project sooner rather than later. We will wait for the Labor ministers to come up and cut a ribbon on it again, but it is great to see that it continues to be announced in the budget.

A new initiative this year which we welcome is the Indigenous Land and Sea Ranger program, which is contributing to our cultural heritage and values. Our area has been advocating for Bundaberg to get more land and sea rangers. This is a very important part of the coast as part of the PCC environmental protection area. We are delighted that this advocacy for those local Indigenous groups has finally been reflected in the budget.

When we reflect on the disaster of Labor budgets for Queensland, we must provide our electorates with an alternative. That is why I was delighted to hear today about a real economic plan for Queensland that will create jobs, cut the cost of living and improve our schools and hospitals. All we have seen in the last 3½ years is more tax, debt and unemployment, particularly in my electorate. We must deliver a plan—a plan designed to make it easier for Queenslanders to get a job and get ahead.

We heard today about the real economic plan from the LNP. We will bust congestion, provide cheaper electricity, ensure better health and education services, deliver water security and guarantee no new taxes. We must help businesses grow and create jobs in every corner of the state.

The LNP has said today that we will improve education for our students and health care for our sick. We must make sure that our sick and our children become our priority. We want to build communities that are secure and strong, as we reflect on the strong history of success of previous LNP governments.

The LNP's plan for cheaper electricity is a real plan, a real policy. We will boost competition by restructuring government owned power generators from two to three entities. We will introduce regional electricity retail competition. Why that did not happen years ago is beyond any of us. We will mandate investment in affordable green energy by government owned electricity companies, which is something we all must focus on. We must make sure they stand up and are sustainable. We must be proud of them going into the future. They need a good mix of not only coal but renewables.

The LNP's plan for better health and education services includes: introducing incentive based funding for health and hospital boards to improve patient care; partnering with the private sector to reduce surgery waiting times; and tackling the ice addiction by building four new rehab centres and targeting drug gangs. I want to thank the IWC, who are here for the Bundy promotions night in Parliament House tonight. They have been a really strong advocate and have continued lobbying over many years. They will be delighted to know that the LNP has committed to four new ice rehab centres across the state. We have to acknowledge real action and real community advocacy so that we stop the scourge of ice taking further hold in our communities.

The LNP's plan for better health and education services also includes rolling out the independent public schools initiative to empower principals and school communities to make those decisions. We do not need bureaucrats telling them how to run their schools. We also have a back-to-basics plan to declutter the curriculum and ease the pressure on teachers. We must make English a mandatory component of the new ATAR tertiary education entrance system.

We have made a huge commitment, even for the Bundaberg community, that we will air-condition every public school classroom in Queensland. Many parents and P&Cs from around my electorate will be delighted that finally one side of politics has listened and is prepared to fund this important initiative. All of us on this side of the House have fought hard for this and we are glad that all the hard work is going to pay off. This is about students, teachers and learning outcomes, and we must provide an environment where they can thrive and be the best they can.

Let's talk about water security and the progressing of new dams. We have been developing a long-term water strategy to safeguard supply and support local jobs. Can honourable members understand how frustrated the farmers in the agriculture and high-value agriculture areas in Queensland must be due to not knowing from one cycle to the next what governments are going to do, what they are going to say or what they are not going to do about water security for this great state? Water is the lifeblood of our community.

The LNP's plan for lower taxes includes: a guarantee that no new taxes will be introduced by a future LNP government; ensuring government assistance prioritises Queensland based businesses; and fighting for a fairer GST proportion by pushing for royalties to be excluded from the distribution model. While the issues of the budget crisis are being realised, I need to reflect on the budget of my shadow portfolio of Child Safety, Youth, Women and the Prevention of Domestic Violence. Labor's child safety crisis continues as funding has failed to keep up with the standards in not only the 2017-18 budget but also this budget. Labor have also finally signed up to the national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse, but no funding has been allocated to their \$500 million announcement. I know it is dependent on the federal government. However, after a year of waiting we hope it is not a cruel hoax on those survivors. I think we should have money in the budget; we should be fair dinkum about addressing this issue and not paying lip-service by not even having a line item with money allocated to it.

They are also failing to deal with the revolving-door youth justice system. An amount of \$40.7 million is being spent over four years to deal with detention capacity and issues with remand. That is on top of the \$40 million over two years to support 'children and young people with complex and challenging behaviours'. They have no real solutions other than throwing taxpayers' money at the issue and hoping it goes away. After some 60 reviews, I think it is time that we do so much better in dealing with child safety in this state.

Labor's business as usual approach will not sort out Queensland's youth justice system. This is on top of their completely bungled attempt to transfer 17-year-old prisoners from adult jails to youth detention centres without a proper plan, as well as their youth bail house initiative, which puts community safety at risk and does not help to rehabilitate the offender at all. Urgent reforms to the blue card system have not been implemented and do not look like being done any time soon as there is no clear date outlined. We must do better.

In closing, I want to talk about our veterans, returning men and women—those hardworking people who have given so much for our country. We were so disappointed to see in this year's budget only \$200,000 over two years for an online portal for information sharing and \$2.6 million to refurbish a government owned building in Townsville. There is half-price public transport for veterans, a great LNP policy that we are happy the government has copied. We want to make sure that there is a real plan, a real policy in place that reflects the appropriate respect for our returning men and women, who have done so much. I do encourage the government to consider the LNP's policy taken to the last election about making sure that veterans do matter in any future policy.

With those words I close. Of course, we do say to our electorates that we will continue to fight for what is important to our electorates, and that is a fair share of the distribution of funds across regional Queensland.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Members in the House, there is far too much chatter in the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.33 pm): This budget is proof that we in Labor have a clear economic plan to drive growth and, most importantly, to create jobs. We want to create secure jobs that come with fair pay and safe working conditions to provide families with the confidence they need to spend and invest. That is the foundation of a strong economy. An amount of \$11.6 billion is allocated to our Capital Works Program in the coming financial year. It alone will support 38,000 jobs. For example, \$900 million from our infrastructure plan is being spent on building and adding to our hospitals.

Queenslanders are living longer and healthier lives. That is why we are hiring 3,500 nurses and midwives over four years not to mention the other doctors and health professionals in the system. Since 2015 we have employed over 4,800 nurses, over 1,400 health professionals, over 1,600 doctors and over 350 ambulance officers. In this budget the Prince Charles Hospital and local health services will be receiving a six per cent increase. That is \$2.8 billion for Metro North. This budget also delivers a safer community with money to provide for the local delivery of childhood immunisations across our community clinics. This record Health budget will mean our health professionals will have the best facilities to deliver world-class health care.

We are delivering a great start for our children, but we are also delivering in training and skills as well. Locally in my region, Skilling Queenslanders for Work has employed over 2,600 people, and some fantastic community organisations are rolling through that project day by day. I congratulate them on their fantastic work. Back to Work has employed over 670 people in our region and this budget will give additional money to these programs as well as the apprentice payroll rebate. Since March 2015 we have hired an additional 3,634 more teachers and 1,135 teacher aides. It is all for our children that we are building the economy of the future.

Before 2015 renewable energy was a futuristic suggestion, but we are building the biggest solar energy plants in the world. Our state schools are among the government's largest energy users, with an annual energy bill of more than \$50 million. Unlike the LNP, we in Labor are determined to reduce costs and make our schools more sustainable through the Advancing Clean Energy Schools. Dayboro State School, Bray Park State High School, Bray Park State School, Mount Samson State School, Pine Rivers State High School, Pine Rivers Special School, Samford State School, Strathpine State School and Strathpine West State School are our local schools sharing in the \$97 million funding over three years to install solar power and energy efficient measures. That is a win for our schools, local suppliers, businesses and tradies.

Queenslanders want their children to be educated in good schools and provided with the foundations to reach their full potential. Our schools will continue to see essential maintenance and minor work funding throughout the year. Of particular note is the Mount Nebo State School, which will have an outdoor learning space constructed and two modular buildings removed, and Mount Samson State School, which will have blocks B and C refurbished. I would like to thank the Minister for Education, who is in the chamber today, for that investment in our local schools.

We are keeping safe all people in our communities throughout Queensland by increasing the number of police and emergency workers, giving them the best equipment and every support to combat the scourges of drugs and domestic violence. Locally in the communities of Pine Rivers and Bancroft we will benefit from a new support service program for young people experiencing domestic violence in addition to the current communities and legal programs and services funded and provided locally by our amazing public servants. We are also upgrading and expanding the audiovisual capacity at the Pine Rivers Magistrates Court.

People in my community do not want to waste time on congested roads. Our congestion-busting projects in Pine Rivers and surrounding areas are considerable: from the works right down South Pine Road, Everton Park, to the Ferny Grove train station precinct transit oriented development funding, the on ramp extension overpass works for Linkfield Road, a design study for the Strathpine Road overpass in Bald Hills and the Petrie roundabout upgrade. We will see an additional 250 park-and-ride spaces at Lawnton train station. Works on Dayboro Road for safety upgrades for Farm Animal Rescue and the tip—an election promise—have already been delivered and are funded in this budget. Our Strathpine train station upgrade will finally make it accessible for all.

An amount of \$1.143 billion will be allocated to the Gateway Motorway north upgrade and \$5.4 billion will be allocated for Cross River Rail to provide more trains and get more cars off our roads. Works will be completed this budget to remove the Dixon Street and Gympie Road roundabout and two signalised pedestrian crossings either side of it and replace them with a single signalised intersection. An amount of \$2.5 million is allocated to commence a high-risk road route study for Mount Glorious Road and Samford-Mount Glorious Road with the total safety works project being in the tune of \$11.3 million.

Our transport services and roads will receive considerable upgrades through this budget, as they have under each and every Palaszczuk Labor government. In 2015 we promised that we would be a government that would work with people and not fight them. In 2017 we promised we would just get on with it, and for my community this budget does just that. I would like to thank my comrades, my team in Moreton Bay whom I work alongside—many of whom are in the chamber today—particularly the member for Aspley and the member for Murrumba, new additions who have come in locally. It is great to have them as part of the team. I also commend the Treasurer and the Premier for another outstanding Labor budget.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.42 pm): It is true, as I think the member for Clayfield said, that the budget is a serious document and it requires sober and wise contemplation. I think it was a very sober, sound and wise contribution from the Leader of the Opposition today along with the shadow Treasurer, who set forth not just a plan, but a vision. It is one thing to have an economic plan, but it is another thing to have a vision for the state. I think there was an outstanding contribution by the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer today.

I will break up my contribution into three areas: economic analyses, portfolios and my local electorate. It is one thing to play politics with the budget, but because it is such an important document and sets the tone for government it is sometimes important to take these documents apart. I would argue that what we have here is a Treasurer who has been gifted with some very good luck. I will take a couple of moments to look at the revenue lines and where that luck has come from.

Firstly, there has been a bump of \$1 billion in coal royalties in this budget. Those are royalties from an industry that the Treasury and many in the Labor Party would see shut down. The second little bump in revenue they received is from Commonwealth transfer payments. That is a fancy economic term for GST revenue. We hear an awful lot from that side of the House about Malcolm Turnbull. I have not heard them congratulate Malcolm Turnbull for gifting them a large GST pool which benefited Queensland by \$900 million, so that is another little benefit in this budget. Thirdly, there are electricity dividends amounting to an additional \$600 million, and they have left Queensland's general government revenue 4.3 per cent higher than it was in the 2017-18 budget.

The improvement in the 2017-18 actuals reflects a higher royalty revenue—mostly from higher hard coking coal prices—and those royalties lifted 11.6 per cent. We see some downside risks to the revenue line, and I just want to comment on those for a moment. I would argue that the budget's revenue

projections are overly optimistic in that there is a weaker housing market and lower sales volumes from tightening credit conditions which will likely negatively impact transfer duties and land tax revenue. We know that there is an oversupply of apartments in Brisbane, and when you have that, together with new taxes introduced in the budget, it adds to the downside risks of this part of revenue. Foreign landowners will be hit with an additional 0.5 per cent in land tax for properties worth more than \$10 million, plus an increase in the foreign transfer duty from three per cent to seven per cent. Both of these taxes will raise \$326 million over the next four years. My question is: how much can this government tax the property industry?

As we know, these taxes were disseminated during the darkness of the media blackout immediately prior to the election and have not undergone any particular analysis. It will be a drag on the property industry in Queensland which this government relies on to underpin its budget. The numbers speak for themselves. Fifty per cent of Queensland's state taxes and local government fees and charges are derived from the property industry: that is \$10 billion. It is not just the amount of tax we are talking about here, but one in six Queenslanders directly or indirectly draws a wage from the property industry. When we continue to go after the property industry and tax it that raises the risk of an adverse impact to the revenue line of the budget.

Speaking of potential downside risks to revenue, Treasury has anticipated significantly higher coal royalties relative to its Mid Year Fiscal and Economic Review, MYFER. Increased volume accounts for some of that but it is mostly attributable to new Treasury coking coal price forecasts, which were \$120 a tonne in MYFER but are now US\$130 a tonne. Some analysts believe that this is an optimistic forecast, and I too share concerns about the downside risks in this regard. For instance, NAB thinks that coking coal prices will bottom at \$100 a tonne by the end of 2018-19.

Why does this matter? It matters because there is great sensitivity to small changes in coal prices. This budget, as I have already said, has had a \$1 billion lift from coal. A one per cent change in coking coal prices will see movements in coal royalty revenue of \$50 million, so that shows the sensitivity of this government's revenue to minor changes in coal royalty prices. There is another downside risk that was mentioned only briefly in the budget papers, and that relates to the ongoing dispute between Aurizon and key mining companies. It is estimated that an ongoing dispute there could see coal exports reduced by up to 20 megatonnes per year.

The second major economic point I want to raise relates to Queensland's credit rating. It has been said a couple of times by those on this side of the House that somehow at the height of the mining boom a Labor government conspired to lose our AAA credit rating. It is an extraordinary story of mismanagement and waste that our AAA credit rating was lost back in 2009 at the height of commodity prices around the world. Moody's has noted some—what I might categorise as clouds—challenges, as royalties are likely to fall and the population increases. This is all at the same time as Labor has suddenly decided that it has to spend something on infrastructure. Moody's has stated—

This imbalance would lead to growth in debt over the forecast period, challenging the state's credit profile.

This matters because credit ratings relate directly to how a government funds its debt. We should also acknowledge the role of the QTC, which has the responsibility of going to the market to refinance the state's debt. We are fortunate they are on the job. I note that QTC significantly prefunded for 2018-19, thereby minimising net new borrowing needs for the year with most issuance simply being refunding maturities.

I will turn to my portfolio as shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice and address the additional funding to Queensland courts and justice services. That is welcome funding because it will help respond to increased criminal, domestic and family violence, dangerous sexual offenders and other justice system initiatives. It is pleasing to see increased funding of \$11.4 million over two years to provide victims of crime with additional financial support. They are all too often forgotten in the criminal justice system.

In the 2016-17 Supreme Court of Queensland annual report I note the Chief Justice observed that the courts' criminal workload has almost tripled over the years, but the number of judges sitting in the trial division was one fewer than in 2012-13. Her honour added that the ratio of staff numbers to finalisations of matters in both the civil and criminal jurisdictions was lower in Queensland than in any other state or territory. We will watch with interest if this injection of funding assists the courts in their weighty responsibility of dispensing justice throughout Queensland.

The Crime and Corruption Commission allocation went back \$500,000 in last year's budget. This was at a time when Labor had weakened criminal gang laws, overturned strong juvenile justice reforms and underfunded the court system—all against a backdrop of increasing crime rates across

Queensland. They have now, in the face of ongoing and widespread allegations of corruption in councils, especially the Labor controlled Ipswich City Council, allocated appropriately an injection of funding to the CCC to support it in its activities.

I note that the Attorney-General has allocated \$2.3 million to the Anti-Discrimination Commission to prepare for the operation and administration of the proposed human rights act in Queensland. This is a piece of legislation that has been talked about by the Labor government for a number of years. There has never been any certainty about when it could be released. There has been no discussion paper and no clear leadership from the Attorney-General on what is happening here. We know that the former Victorian attorney-general who introduced a human rights act in Victoria has been meeting with the government. My question is: given there is no bill on the table and there is no law to be implemented or managed, what will the Anti-Discrimination Commission be doing with the \$244,000 allocation in the 2018-19 budget?

Perhaps instead of spending \$2.3 million over the forward estimates, or \$244,000 this year, it would have been far wiser to invest further in community legal centres around Queensland. That probably would have been wiser, because they are the ones actually on the front line right now, dealing with people who are struggling to gain access to the legal system, the underprivileged and vulnerable people. Surely it would have been a better use of taxpayers' money to service those needs in the community. It has been one of the most rewarding privileges of my shadow portfolio responsibilities thus far to meet so many community legal centres right around Queensland—in Brisbane, Townsville, Cairns, Gold Coast and of course my home town of Toowoomba. Next week I will be visiting the Sunshine Coast.

The member for Burnett spoke briefly about a number of other issues, including blue cards. An awful lot of money is being thrown at the blue card issue—\$17 million over the next couple of years. There have been many reports recently of significant problems with the blue card system. I certainly will be taking that up with the Attorney-General at estimates. I find it confusing that the budget for the Queensland Family and Child Commission is being reduced by \$575,000 in 2018-19. This does seem strange, particularly when it was important for the commission to monitor, implement and watch over the blue card reforms throughout Queensland. I note that the member for Burnett also spoke in relation to a number of youth justice concerns. When the minister was delivering her budget speech I lost track of all the money that is being distributed. The problem is that more money is not solving the problem. Again, I will be taking that up with the minister at estimates.

I have spoken repeatedly in this House about the need in the community for a car park at Glenvale State School. Again it has been ignored. The LNP has committed \$500,000 to this major project. The Labor government and the education minister have continued to ignore this need in the community. They have also ignored the need for some future planning for a high school south-west of Toowoomba. Some 30,000 people are moving into the western and southern suburbs of Toowoomba and there is absolutely no planning whatsoever. There is no funding. If the minister would like to make a public commitment tonight to funding the Glenvale State School car park, I would welcome that. In fact, I will be listening to the education minister—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection. I cannot wait for her speech tonight. I would love for her to commit to \$500,000 in funding to get this project built for the protection and safety of children in our region.

Worst of all is the complete lack of vision for the Toowoomba and Darling Downs region. We are an economic powerhouse. During the budget speech the Treasurer could not even mention Toowoomba and the Darling Downs. She has ignored the Toowoomba Regional Council's infrastructure priorities, whether it be flood mitigation, new roads or connecting Highfields in the north to Toowoomba, to Westbrook in the south.

There is no vision for our region. Thankfully for the Toowoomba region there is a thriving private enterprise, with families like the Wagners and the Gardners that are willing to invest millions of dollars of their money into our economy because this Labor government does not see the benefit of Toowoomba to the Queensland economy. It will never understand what drives the Toowoomba economy and how it can be a beacon of light for Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.55 pm): I begin by congratulating the Treasurer and Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, on a budget that delivers for Queensland, for Ipswich and particularly for my electorate of Ipswich West. This budget delivers on Labor's 2017 election commitments and demonstrates our faith to the people of Queensland. This is a strong Labor budget that delivers for all Queenslanders. The Premier said yesterday—

This government is delivering a blueprint for creating jobs and delivering infrastructure for Queensland. Over the next four years we will spend \$45.8 billion building and investing in this state: unclogging roads, building schools, expanding hospitals, growing water supplies, protecting from natural disasters and promoting productivity and efficiency. Why? Because that is what responsible governments do.

Our Capital Works Program will support 38,000 jobs in the next financial year alone. We will spend \$11.6 billion starting right now, because a job means a pay packet and a pay packet means the confidence to spend, and that is supporting Queensland business.

This is a budget that will deliver an estimated surplus of \$1.5 billion. Fiscal responsibility has been a feature of the Palaszczuk government in both its first term and its second term. This budget will deliver our fourth consecutive surplus. We are focused on responsible budget management, linked with our job-creating initiatives that build business confidence and open up opportunities for growth and investment. The Palaszczuk government's priorities are job creation and a strong economy, and building an economy of the future by encouraging private investment in Queensland.

The population of Queensland recently reached five million, and we need to build infrastructure and increase front-line services to accommodate that growth. That is why we are spending nearly \$46 billion on projects delivering jobs and infrastructure, with \$11.6 billion on our Capital Works Program allocated in the coming financial year.

We want to create secure jobs that come with fair pay and safe working conditions to provide families with the confidence they need to spend and invest. That is the foundation of a strong economy. We will be spending \$900 million from our infrastructure plan building, refurbishing and improving our hospitals, because we want to keep Queenslanders healthy. We will also be hiring an additional 3,500 nurses and midwives as well as more doctors and other health professionals.

We will be delivering not just for our current Queenslanders but also children yet to be born, because they are in every sense our future. Education is the key to their future. To ensure they have access to world-class education facilities, since March 2015 we have hired 3,634 more teachers and 1,135 more teacher aides. We are going to hire thousands more, because we believe in a strong public and private school system. We are building six new schools. They include a new high school in the ever-expanding Ipswich suburb of Ripley, which will have an estimated population of 120,000 people. That follows on from the construction of a new state primary school at Deebing Heights in the southern suburbs of Ipswich.

Our existing schools are not missing out. We are spending more than \$200 million expanding and refurbishing existing schools in the next financial year. In my electorate of Ipswich West the budget provides for funding for a new performing arts centre at Ipswich State High School with a commitment of \$7.72 million in this budget and a total commitment of \$9 million. Ipswich State High School is a great school with a suite of programs that puts it in a class of its own—programs like the Dance Academy of Excellence, the Rugby League Academy and a trade school, as well as specific programs for Indigenous, Polynesian, special needs, young mothers and mature age students.

The performing arts centre will be a real asset not just for Ipswich State High but for the whole of the Ipswich community. The two-storey building will comprise a 450-seat auditorium, ticketing and refreshment facilities on the ground floor and specialist rooms on the second floor. The school's Dance Academy of Excellence will transfer to this new centre where students will be learning, performing and honing their creative skills. A stand-out feature of the building is a soundproof teaching and rehearsal space. As well, the centre will feature multimedia recording and editing suites. Most importantly, the new performing arts centre will allow Ipswich State High to grow.

The Ipswich State High School catchment area takes in all of the northern suburbs of Ipswich and has enrolments approaching 1,560 students, but this is anticipated to increase to 1,900 students by 2020. This building will accommodate the school's growing population by freeing up the current performing arts and music rooms for other purposes. Not only will the performing arts centre have eight classrooms, but it will free up other classrooms that the Dance Academy of Excellence is currently using.

I congratulate INTREC Management on being the successful tenderer for this project. Based at Milton in Brisbane, INTREC will have benefited from the Palaszczuk government's procurement strategy 2017, Backing Queensland Jobs, introduced to give priority to contractors located within 125

kilometres of the project site. Trainees and apprentices working on the project will also benefit from the state government's 10 per cent training policy. This is a project I have fought for since I was first elected to state parliament in 2015 and I want to thank Principal Simon Riley and his staff, the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, and the former minister, Kate Jones, as well as the Treasurer, Jackie Trad, for their hard work in bringing this project to fruition. As a bonus, the budget provides \$250,000 to refurbish the junior manual arts building at Ipswich State High.

Another school in my electorate of Ipswich West that benefits from the budget is Rosewood State High School, with \$130,000 allowed for construction of facilities for the school's agricultural students funded through the Palaszczuk government's smart schools subsidy program. I have worked with Principal Nicole Sherlock and the Parents and Citizens Association to improve facilities at the school. The Palaszczuk government demonstrated its commitment to Rosewood High soon after I was elected in 2015 with major roadworks undertaken by the Department of Transport and Main Roads to reconstruct Lanefield Road, the major primary access point for the school. Ongoing improvements to Lanefield Road and nearby Rosewood-Laidley Road have continued and most recently there was an upgrade to the very busy Lanefield-Albert Street intersection, improving pedestrian safety for staff and students at Rosewood State High School.

In January 2017 the school benefited from the Palaszczuk government's \$667 million school infrastructure program where \$820,000 was used for works to refurbish the special education classrooms, demolish modular blocks, refurbish the resource centre, construct a dance floor and repair the sports hall flooring. Just in March of this year Rosewood High was one of the state government's public schools that benefited from the Palaszczuk government's \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program that saw the installation of a solar system, delivering huge savings for the school and supporting our environment.

Rosewood High will also benefit from the state government's Get Playing Places and Spaces grant of \$105,000 for the Rosewood branch of Little Athletics because this group is based at the school. The grant will fund the installation of an automated irrigation system and water catchment system servicing the school's sports playing fields. The grant will also deliver a high-quality running track with an automated timing system for use by both club members and students at Rosewood High. Rosewood High students will also benefit from the Palaszczuk government's grant of \$2.7 million over two years to the Ipswich City Council to construct a much needed public library at Rosewood. The budget also supports the Ipswich City Council's libraries programs, with \$165,000 in 2018-19 for library resources and \$13,000 to deliver the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative.

Other public schools in my electorate of Ipswich West where buildings will be built or refurbished include Ipswich North State School, Marburg State School, Brassall State School, Amberley District State School and Haigslea State School. As well, \$564,000 has been allocated to 14 schools in the electorate of Ipswich West for maintenance work.

This budget also invests in skills and training for Queenslanders. The very successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, mercilessly slashed by the Newman-Nicholls government, has received \$420 million in the budget, including \$8.1 million in 2018-19 in Ipswich alone, to support more training opportunities and increase workforce participation. Ipswich continues to experience challenges experienced right across the state with youth unemployment, but this program has had a positive impact on tackling this issue and providing real opportunities for our young people. I am also very pleased to see that payroll tax rebates for businesses employing apprentices and trainees have been extended in this year's state budget, maintaining them at 50 per cent until 30 June 2019. This \$20 million initiative is a win-win, providing tax relief for small businesses in my electorate and supporting the employment of apprentices and trainees looking to get a foothold in the job market.

There is also support for local jobs in the meat industry in Ipswich. The government is providing \$20 million for a budget boost to the successful Jobs and Regional Growth Fund to continue to deliver in Ipswich and regional Queensland, taking the program's total funding to \$150 million over three years. Under this initiative, JBS Australia, located at Dinmore, has created a targeted meatworker assistance program to employ and train up to 400 displaced abattoir workers from the Churchill abattoir and Woolworths Churchill abattoir from the Ipswich region.

I am very pleased to be part of a government that is committed to world-class education facilities, not just in my electorate of Ipswich West but in all other public and private schools in Queensland. I am pleased to be part of a government that is committed to workers' rights, creating jobs, providing safe work conditions and providing hope for the people of Queensland. I am pleased to see that the budget

also provides for increased roadworks in the electorate of Ipswich West, supports the homeless and provides grants to community groups like the RSL Ipswich Railway subbranch, as well as funds to complete the refurbishment of Borallon Training and Correctional Centre.

I again congratulate the Treasurer and Deputy Premier, Jackie Trad, on her budget. This is a great budget for my electorate of Ipswich West, for Ipswich and for Queensland and I am pleased to commend it to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.08 pm): Labor's budget luncheon lasted longer than the Treasurer's budget speech in this parliament. I think that might be a record. We saw a Treasurer of this state bring in a budget in 25 minutes flat.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** She could not wait to get out of here. I think that tells us everything. For this Labor government, parliament is an inconvenience. The members opposite prefer to schmooze people at a luncheon and suck up to their mates. When it came to the important issue of explaining to this parliament this government's economic plan and how it was going to spend the hard-earned cash of the taxpayers of Queensland, this Treasurer did not want to spend the time doing that.

It is incredible that this government is bringing in new taxes that are going to whack Queenslanders by more than \$2.3 billion. This government did not want to explain how large those taxes would be. During the last election campaign, this government misled Queenslanders. In the last 48 hours before the election, during the media blackout, this government tried to quietly release some of the new taxes. We are now finding that not only are those taxes far larger than what the government released at that time but also it did not release the waste tax.

This waste tax is a doozy. This waste tax is not about stopping the trucks travelling from New South Wales and dumping waste illegally—or legally in the case of this government's mates in the Ipswich City Council who made a business out of waste. They said, 'Please give us your trucks of waste,' and they made money out of it. No, this waste tax is about a government wanting to reach into the pockets of Queenslanders and take out every last dollar they can by way of a new tax. At least one-third of the revenue generated by this waste tax that this government is introducing will go back into general revenue. It will not go into the recycling industry.

We have heard the Labor government try to justify this waste tax. The one thing I have learned about Labor in this state is that, when Labor says it wants to give people a hand, it means it wants to put its hand into their pockets. This waste tax is going to add about \$1,400 to the cost of every new house in this state. Thanks to this Labor government, those people in North Queensland who do not have a problem with the Labor Ipswich council making money out of its superdumps are going to get whacked with this waste tax. That is \$1,400 on a new build in Queensland.

I think Labor has become so used to imposing taxes that it thinks that people will not notice. People are going to notice the additional cost that is put on a skip bin when they renovate their house or do other work. The ridiculous thing is that there are people in this state who have been able to create a recycling industry and, as good business operators, have done very well. I use the example of those who collect fat from fish and chip shops, recycle it and sell it as biodiesel. This waste tax is just another rip-off of Queenslanders.

When the LNP was in government, it released policies that helped small business, not hurt small business. The former Labor government had a waste tax. The LNP government removed it, because it recognised that it was not doing what the former Labor government said it would do. That tax was penalising Queenslanders. It was a waste of Queenslanders' money. Under this Labor government mark II, here we go again. It has doubled the Bligh waste tax.

The LNP recognises the need for important policies for small business. Recently, with the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, I was delighted to announce our fair pay policy. During her budget reply, our Leader of the Opposition asserted how much the LNP values small business. Labor's response to small business is to put out glossy papers and say, 'We value small business,' but its actions are very different. That waste tax is one example. We asked this government whether it even bothered to talk to its Small Business Advisory Council before it announced this waste tax. We did not receive an answer. The government did not say, 'Yes, we have.' It said, 'We're going to consult with people now in regard to the impact of the tax on small business.' That is not good enough. That is why we know that this is an unfair way to whack a tax on people.

The LNP's fair pay policy announcement is significant. Small businesses should not be the bank of government. Under our fair pay policy, in the terms of government contracts up to \$1 million in procurement, the fair pay policy will mean that small businesses will get paid quicker. Perhaps those members of the Labor Party do not understand that business, and particularly small business, should not be bankrolling the government.

Under our fair pay policy, the terms of payment is 20 days instead of 30 days. That means the money flows quicker into the community. That will unlock jobs and opportunity. That is what has happened in places where the government has led the way in regard to fairer terms for business, particularly small businesses. That has significantly helped those small businesses to be able to compete. The big guys at the big end of town have deeper pockets, but those operators at the smaller end do not. For them, cash flow matters. In terms of this policy, we would like to see people in industry follow the lead of the LNP.

We have also announced targets with respect to regulatory reform. This is a significant policy. Once again, under an LNP government we have shown that we can do it. We not only reformed WorkCover that saw a reduction of 17 per cent of the average premium, which helps small business, but also attacked the regulatory burden. We independently audited those regulations and saw more than \$400 million in savings in regulatory reform for business, predominantly small business, which is about 97 per cent of those businesses that operate in this state.

The contrast is that Labor taxes, while the LNP recognises that the best people to manage the dollars of this state are those who employ people—and that is predominantly small business. Obviously, a significant role of government is to provide services and deliver infrastructure, but it has to make sure that it does not burden the small business sector, which predominantly carries the burden of taxation.

This Labor government talks big about apprenticeships and training, but since 2015 there has been a 14 per cent freefall in apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates. That is a shocking situation. We want to see these young people well trained, but, under Labor's watch, that fall-off in training has occurred. Under this Labor government, there are 3,650 fewer Queenslanders completing their apprenticeships and training than there were under the LNP in 2015.

We are committed to ensuring that young people receive the training and get work. Under this Labor government, which talks big about jobs, we have seen a continuing increase in youth unemployment in so many areas across this state. That is unacceptable. The LNP is committed to fighting youth unemployment and supporting those who create jobs. I want to mention the operation of TAFE under this government. Although apprenticeship and traineeship completion rates are in freefall, this year Labor has chopped about 52 jobs and will cut another 106 jobs from Queensland TAFE. That should be highlighted, because it is contrary to what the government says it is doing. We want to see training supported in our state to ensure that people are skilled so that they are well placed to get the right job.

In regard to my electorate, I was pleased to see \$3.5 million set aside this financial year for Maroochydore State High School. I have been advocating for that funding and committed that an LNP government would provide that funding. I am pleased to see the Labor government fund those new classrooms for Maroochydore State High School in this budget. There are some great new expansions of schools on the Sunshine Coast and I welcome that. We need to make sure that we have the space and the modern facilities to cope with a growing cohort and the changing needs of our schools.

I support the back to basics policy that the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, has announced. I support, in particular, recognising the value of parents and professional teachers having input to ensure that we get the best outcomes that support young people. We are also very much in support of independent public schools that are being shown to empower local communities, parents and the professional teachers who are together involved in delivering those outcomes.

I am disappointed in the infrastructure delivery in this budget. Unfortunately it follows on from a \$3 billion cutback during this Labor government's first term per year. It has created a—what did we hear the Treasurer say?—crisis in infrastructure delivery. The Treasurer did not want to take responsibility for the fact that it was her government that cut infrastructure spending in this state. The LNP, in real terms as a proportion of the state's finances, invested in infrastructure. As a result we saw a new hospital commenced on the Sunshine Coast.

I am delighted to see \$390 million from the federal government for the Sunshine Coast rail. This is the first time we have had federal funding towards a State Infrastructure Plan. In 2009 Anna Bligh promised to duplicate the Sunshine Coast rail and then after the election pulled it off the table. That

was a travesty. I am urging this Treasurer to get on board, to embrace that \$390 million contribution that we have never had from a federal government because it is a state infrastructure project, and ensure that the state contribution is there. People want to see this built.

I have previously stood in this House and said that sections of the Sunshine Coast rail line only allow trains to travel at 50 kilometres an hour. I was wrong. In one section the train actually gets down to 30 kilometres an hour. A very fast cyclist, as the transport minister knows, could go faster than some of our trains on the Sunshine Coast. This situation is ridiculous when one considers that over the next 20 years we will see an estimated 200,000 extra people between Moreton Bay and the Sunshine Coast. We must see this rail duplicated. It will unlock the public transport network for the Sunshine Coast. That rail spine is vital to a truly integrated Sunshine Coast public transport network that will get people off the Bruce Highway, get them back and forth across the region and to integrate other public transport networks that need to be built and augmented so that we can see true mass and rapid transport links across the Sunshine Coast.

I see there is some funding in the budget for design work on the Mooloolah River interchange. I welcome that funding but we need to see more from this government. Under the LNP most of the houses that were along that corridor were acquired to commence that project. The department undertook a preliminary redesign to enable that to be staged. We need to see this government get on board. It is about safety. We need to see the Sunshine Motorway upgraded and those black spots dealt with. It is a tragedy that people are facing a life and death situation.

I want to also speak about the Sunshine Coast Entertainment, Convention and Exhibition Centre, which is vitally important to deepening the economic base of the Sunshine Coast. The council has an application in through the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program to help facilitate the business case. It has done a lot of work to re-scope that project and I am certainly keen to see that business case completed and funded and a submission put to government so that we can see this centre built.

I want to also talk about the need for rehabilitation for ice addiction and back our policy to see drug rehabilitation across the state.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise today to speak in favour of the budget bills before us. I want to start by rebutting some of the things that we have heard today. We heard that dreaded phrase that we hear in education: 'Let us go back to basics.' The member for Macalister and I immediately thought: what does that mean for teaching critical thinking, teaching kids to evaluate what they read and to ask questions? According to those opposite, we just need to teach our kids how to read and write and to add up. It used to be that the LNP had its 19th century philosophy: all working class kids needed to do was the basics so they could get on to work. I would hate to see them returning to their philosophy.

Tonight my three children—Guy, Arabella and Rebecca—are watching this debate being streamed over the internet and I want to tell them that we will not allow the LNP to drag us back to a 19th century mentality in regard to education. I reject that ideology.

The other issue those opposite have talked about is air conditioning. Was it, 'Let's air-condition every school, every classroom'? I forget. We are already on the way to doing this. Many of our classrooms are already air-conditioned. The best thing we can do to air-condition our schools is to implement the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. We are putting \$97 million worth of solar panels on the roof of 800 schools out of the 1,200 across Queensland, saving them about \$10.2 million a year. We are already on the way to doing that.

I want to point out that the electrical infrastructure in many of those schools need to be upgraded. There are two schools in my area that have electrical infrastructure that is about 40 years old. They tell me that the fuses in one of those schools go every time they put an extra oven on in the tuckshop. Money needs to be spent on evaluating and upgrading the electrical systems at all of these schools. I have taken that up in my region and we are doing that. Last time those opposite thought about this they said it would cost about \$2 billion. Who knows how much it will cost this time as they will have to upgrade all the electrical systems in the schools. I do not think they have thought about these costs. They have already backflipped on this as well.

**Mr Madden** interjected.

**Mr WHITING:** I take that interjection. Where are they going to get the money from if they get rid of all of these taxes? Labor is always proud to bring down budgets that deliver the jobs, education and health systems needed by Queenslanders and Australians. Jobs, education and health care are more

than just wants; they are profound needs for working Queenslanders. They are non-negotiables we need to deliver. We are conscious that it is up to us to do the hard work and make it a reality. This budget is doing exactly that.

Traditionally, local members focus on the physical infrastructure that has been funded as part of this budget, and I am very pleased to see in my area funding for the Morris Road-Deception Bay Road intersection. This \$6 million project will increase the capacity of this intersection. We will spend \$2.3 million on it this financial year. It will connect to the works we have already done at the \$38 million Rothwell intersection that, once again, Labor has delivered. In the last term we did \$6 million worth of work on Deception Bay Road. Compare that to the under half a million dollars that the LNP spent on it in its last term. Add to that the \$6 million worth of work we will do on this intersection and add on to that, at either end of Deception Bay Road, the Rothwell intersection at \$38.5 million and the \$30 million we are putting into the Deception Bay Road overpass. It just goes to show that in my area it is only Labor that people can rely on to deliver the infrastructure that we need.

My focus this year, and indeed in this term, is the social infrastructure. We are making major inroads into providing the social infrastructure that our communities need. They are the systems that provide the education, the health care and the jobs that we all need. We desperately need this social infrastructure in my area because I still see the same level of disadvantage—the same households that are struggling to get ahead throughout my electorate, which are the same ones that I saw many years ago.

The best social infrastructure that we can provide are initiatives that give people the education, skills and training to get them into jobs. The best of these initiatives—and members have heard me talk about it—is the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. In Bancroft \$5 million has been spent on 25 community driven projects under the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. There have been 683 people assisted by these programs and 514 have got jobs as a result.

**Mr Madden:** Fantastic!

**Mr WHITING:** That is a great result. We are boosting the budget by \$20 million this year to \$80 million for 2018-19.

**Mr Madden:** Didn't they get rid of it?

**Mr WHITING:** I take that interjection. They told me that they did not want to get rid of it, that they would keep it, but we heard later during the election they would only cut it by about 40-odd per cent. Maybe that was not getting rid of it: they would just cut half of it out. We are extending it for another two years with another \$160 million. As we have heard, that is \$420 million over six years since the Palaszczuk government was elected in 2015, supporting 54,000 Queenslanders into work.

Another part of our social infrastructure is great schools. The Palaszczuk government is making sure our local schools are the best they can be with the best teachers, the best support staff and the best classrooms.

Sitting suspended from 6.30 pm to 7.30 pm.

 **Mr WHITING:** As I was saying, in terms of social infrastructure under this budget we will also finish the new \$15 million five-storey senior classroom block at the senior campus of North Lakes State College.

**A government member:** Hear, hear!

**Mr WHITING:** Hear, hear! It is a great achievement, as will be the new high school at Mango Hill, which is on its way and will take pressure off North Lakes State College. Under this budget, another two initiatives are very welcome pieces of social infrastructure. The Mango Hill Progress Association will receive \$9,800 for their festival in the lead-up to the 100-year commemoration of the armistice. This stellar local organisation runs many family friendly events that really build the community capacity in our area.

The other welcome news is that we are getting \$15,000 to deliver the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative at our local library. Deception Bay has a strong record in delivering that community run program where parents, often young mothers, spend time reading to their toddlers at our local library. While the kids get so much from that, so do the parents. They get increased contact with other parents, connections with other community and family-support organisations and an enhanced education outcome. It is not as big a program as some of the huge road programs and the like, but it is one of the most delightful things that I have been involved in as the local member.

For my electorate, some of the best pieces of physical infrastructure are also social infrastructure and the best example is Cross River Rail. I calculate that each week it will take about an hour and a half off the total commute time for Bancroft residents travelling to and from the city every working day. More trains in peak hours and more seats for passengers mean more time at home with families. This is another great social outcome from that infrastructure.

Another great example of physical infrastructure that is also good social infrastructure is our hospitals. I am very pleased to see \$252 million allocated to the redevelopment of the Caboolture Hospital. I commend the member for Morayfield for his role in that project. The Caboolture Hospital is one of the two public hospitals in my area. I have only good words to say about the Caboolture Hospital. I have taken family members there. They are always busy, but all patients are processed very quickly. The hospital will only get busier and we need that \$252 million.

**Mr Harper:** The nurses are great.

**Mr WHITING:** I take that interjection from the member: there are always great nurses there as well. I say to our local residents that they can place their faith in the staff and facilities at the Caboolture Hospital.

I only have a few minutes left, but I want to talk about how this budget is not just about the physical and social infrastructure that we can build but also about the economic infrastructure of the state. We are building real strengths into our economy as the Palaszczuk government diversifies the economy outside the traditional areas of mining and agriculture. Our renewable energy sector simply did not exist under the previous LNP government. Now we have a \$4.2 billion pipeline of projects underway or financially committed to. The Advance Queensland program will set up our economy for the future. It builds up our entrepreneurs and helps small and medium businesses to innovate and grow. This year an extra \$132 million will go to Advance Queensland, making about \$650 million in total.

I find it very satisfying to tell people in my area how Labor is actively supporting small businesses throughout our region. In North Lakes we have more startups and home based businesses than anywhere else in the region. I always tell my constituents about things such as the ecoBiz program, to which another \$4 million has been allocated in this budget. The program helps business save money by lowering operating costs and lessening their environmental impact. More than 1,000 Queensland businesses have already been helped through ecoBiz.

I tell my constituents that we are extending the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees which is a real financial incentive that I hope will tip their decision into employing more young people in our region. I also tell them about the Business Development Fund, which will receive an extra \$40 million over the next few years to help people turn an idea into a commercial reality or help stabilise things for an angel or venture capital investment. This is a great budget and I commend it to the House.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (7.35 pm): The Pumicestone electorate has been hung out to dry. There is nothing in this budget for Pumicestone. Right from the outset I have to ask: what will it take for this government to commit to fully funding an upgrade of the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road? I can assure the House that if Dora the Explorer ever decided to explore the sand dunes of Woorim or if the Premier's favourite photo opportunity, Jeff Horn, ever decided to schedule a fight at the Sandstone Point Hotel, this Labor government would pave the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road with gold. It should come as absolutely no surprise to the Premier and the government that updating our state road network in Pumicestone is an absolute must.

The Premier's former hand-picked Labor candidate for Pumicestone, Michael Hoogwaerts, made it clear that his top priority would be to improve our road network. That is right: the Premier selected and endorsed a candidate who made an election commitment to improve Pumicestone's state road network. I think it is safe to say that if the Premier endorsed that candidate then she endorses the need to upgrade Pumicestone's state roads. However, sadly, in this budget neither the government nor the Premier give a commitment to upgrade our state road network, which includes Caboolture-Bribie Island Road and Beachmere Road.

To fully grasp the manner in which Pumicestone has been treated in this budget, one needs look no further than the contribution to last year's budget by the former member for Pumicestone, the sacked Rick Williams. So long and so detailed was his list of funded items being heaped onto the Pumicestone electorate that the former member actually chose to have that list of funding incorporated into *Hansard*. That is right: the former member—he was a Labor member until he was sacked, one day before the 2017 election was called, for not doing his job well enough—found it easier to hand in his list rather than read it aloud. If only more of us had that issue.

Isn't it amazing how much things can change in 12 months? This year, Pumicestone residents will have to pool together shopper docket just to get by under this government. This is not a budget that will set Queensland up for the future, as the Treasurer has trumpeted. The only thing it will set Queensland up for is more taxes, levies and government charges, more debt, more slugs on already overstretched household budgets and more pain for our hardworking Queenslanders. The big ticket items for Pumicestone have been completely left out of the budget and previous commitments have been slashed.

The Minister for Main Roads has some explaining to do. In one of my very first questions on notice to the minister, I sought a commitment to fund and commence works on upgrading Caboolture-Bribie Island Road. For the benefit of all, I quote the minister's response. He said—

Funding of \$3 million has been allocated to undertake planning to upgrade a two-lane section of Caboolture-Bribie Island Road to a four-lane, median divided carriageway between the Hickey Road and Saint Road intersections. This planning is underway and is expected to be completed by mid-2019.

To my complete shock, in the recently released QTRIP statement I read that funding has been slashed to just \$2 million and planning for the upgrade will not be completed until 2020—mid-2020. Isn't that just a bit before an important date? Isn't that just a bit convenient? I call on the minister to explain to the people of my electorate why he is short-changing them and delaying important upgrades to Caboolture-Bribie Island Road.

The intersection of Old Toorbul Point Road and Caboolture-Bribie Island Road is particularly problematic. There are cars and buses carrying hundreds of young children to and from school each day forced to navigate oncoming traffic travelling at high speeds. This has been an issue for a long time and it needs to be addressed now, not in years to come as Labor would prefer.

Beachmere Road has parts that need upgrading now. We are talking about very narrow driving lanes with unsafe shoulders. In fact, part of the road has no sealed shoulders whatsoever. Constituents have been raising their concerns about the safety of Beachmere Road with me and I have spoken about this in the House. I have written to the minister and the Premier and I have tabled pictures to show just how dire the road conditions are and how desperately an upgrade is needed for Beachmere Road.

To not see this upgrade appear in the budget papers is no surprise given the Premier has previously fobbed it off. I am sure it will leave a sour taste in the mouths of all who live in Beachmere. They are not a priority of this government. Pumicestone residents have eagerly awaited a commitment from this government to provide the massive investment required to bring our roads up to par. Yet again they are left begging for funding investment to rectify decades of Labor negligent of Pumicestone roads.

This is not a budget to set Queenslanders up for the future. Just hours before the Treasurer handed down her first budget, she was quoted in the *Courier-Mail* promising the budget would not contain any new taxes on top of the five already announced, including the waste levy. At the last election the Labor Party went to the people of Queensland and said, 'Here are our four new taxes, but trust us that there will be no more.' In fact, it was the Treasurer yet again who back in February said that there were no plans to introduce anything beyond the four new taxes they took to the election. Within months this promise was broken. There will be new taxes which will cost all Queenslanders.

This government must now feed its hunger for our hard-earned dollars by announcing an additional four new taxes in this year's budget. To make matters worse, the new land tax imposed on those who invested in property was introduced by stealth—another punishing blow to hardworking Queenslanders.

Not one Queenslanders should take any comfort in what the Treasurer spruiks to be a budget to set Queenslanders up for the future. She promised no new taxes, but all we see in this budget is broken promises. It is all lies and they are content to drown Queenslanders in more debt. Just this morning, as we all heard, the Premier still would not guarantee that there would be no new taxes introduced by Labor in this term. If Queenslanders wanted to get the real lowdown on the Treasurer's budget speech, I would encourage them to read Michael Madigan's commentary on page 25 of Wednesday's *Courier-Mail*. It is a fascinating read.

By contrast, we on this side of the House want to empower Queenslanders and free them from the tyranny of tax increase after tax increase and higher debt. As the Leader of the Opposition made clear this morning, in stark contrast to Labor's multimillion dollar slug on Queensland taxpayers, if the LNP were elected at the next state election there would be no new taxes. Let us not forget that it was the LNP's continual pressure on the Premier to give Queenslanders a break at the petrol bowser that

real-time price monitoring was implemented, but we are still waiting for the trial to begin. They like to announce, but they do not like to deliver. There are many in my electorate struggling to just put petrol in their cars. For some of them it goes straight on the credit card. Do my locals have a government ready to jump on a scheme that could help them save money? No, they do not.

They then introduce a waste disposal levy. Rather than do the right thing by policing this issue so that New South Wales trucks are turned around to dump their waste in their own backyards, what did the government do? They set up a new supertax and expected our Queensland businesses to pay for New South Wales rubbish. It is all because this government is too weak to stand up and fight for the best interests of our state.

Then there is the 3.5 per cent increase in water charges for South-East Queenslanders. More money will need to be found to pay for water bills over the next three years. Queenslanders are expected to pay more for their electricity. These basic amenities are now the bane of households. This is all due to this government's incompetence and failure to plan. The cost of registration is up by an extra 9.1 per cent. The cost of electricity is up and the cost of water is up. The five new taxes introduced by the Treasurer on Tuesday are a tax grab like never before. It is hardly a budget to set Queensland up for the future.

While Queenslanders try hard to live within their means, there is an element to cost of living that goes largely unspoken—that is, the inability of families to thrive under the Labor government. Children are growing up watching their parents pull into a petrol station and put \$10 worth of petrol in their car because that is all they can afford.

A trade mission for many Queenslanders is what they can take to the pawn shop this week. People are watching the six o'clock news not so much to keep up to date with current affairs but to find out how they can prepare meals for a dollar and how to feed a family of five for \$30 or under a week. This is a common feature of the news nowadays. Is this really where we are heading?

We are now in Labor's fourth year of exceptionally high debt and it is mounting. The debt train has left the station. Sadly, it is the only train leaving the station under this Labor government. The Treasurer and Premier have closed the door and thrown away the key on getting back Queensland's AAA credit rating. They are happy to carry on the sad and sorry legacy left by the Bligh Labor government.

Yet another broken election promise is that debt is projected to peak over \$83 billion by 2021-22, impacting on generations of Queenslanders to come. There is only one thing that this budget succeeds at and that is offering Queenslanders the downside of what to expect from a do-nothing government. As far as jobs go, this budget produces an exceptionally low rate of job creation. Queensland's unemployment rate will continue to sit well above the national average and remain one of the highest rates in Australia. That is hardly what we would call a jobs budget. It is an unemployment budget.

I spoke earlier about the need to upgrade the roads in my electorate. A priority issue it is indeed. Given his election commitment to improve our road network, I trust we will see the Premier's hand-picked Labor candidate for Pumicestone, Michael Hoogwaerts, join me in publicly condemning this Labor government for failing Pumicestone so gravely. They cannot say it is their No. 1 priority on one hand and then stay silent on the other. Residents will not forgive this.

The LNP will stand up for Queenslanders' future whilst Labor continues to wish it away. We will fight for Queensland whilst Labor caves in. We will better manage the state's finances whilst Labor increases taxes and raises the state debt. We will put Queenslanders first while this Labor government will only ever look after themselves and their union mates.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.48 pm): For the third year in a row the Palaszczuk government is again delivering a record investment in road and transport infrastructure—\$21.7 billion over the next four years. That is the third record investment in a row after four years in government. We topped the previous QTRIP funding by \$700 million, with state funding up 10 per cent over four years and a federal government reduction of 6.2 per cent for Queensland. That is an absolute disgrace.

In the 2018-19 financial year, we will invest \$4.4 billion to deliver the commitments in the transport and rail space that we made during the last election campaign, to make sure that we have the infrastructure for the future population growth that our state needs. One of those key commitments is delivering upgrades on the M1. We did not see a single new dollar spent on the M1 in the entire three years of the Newman government. That is an extraordinary record when you think about it. That was three years of leaving people on the Gold Coast and in Logan in the lurch. We have committed funding

to four upgrades: one is underway on the Gold Coast now and the other upgrade to the border will commence immediately after; the merge upgrade is underway and the fourth one will commence straight after that. The previous government ignored the M1 and they let people down. Every time the Gold Coast LNP MPs drive on the M1 they must ruminate and think, 'Gee, we could have done this but we didn't. We could have but we didn't.'

We have seen the Palaszczuk government invest right across Queensland, not just in the south-east corner, with 65 per cent of our infrastructure spend outside the greater Brisbane area.

**Mr Millar:** What about Western Queensland?

**Mr BAILEY:** I will come to Western Queensland. I take that interjection from the member for Gregory. When we came to government I had a conga line of mayors from Western Queensland complain about the performance of the Newman government—about how they cut funds, how they cut TIDS, how they cut jobs in Western Queensland. We had a western roads package and we continue our commitment to western roads in a way that the member for Gregory and his team never did when they held the reins of power.

There is \$514 million for the Bruce Highway Houghton River flood plain project; \$497 million allocation for the Mackay Ring Road; and \$481 million for the Cairns southern access corridor stages 3 and 4. We have the Ipswich Motorway project underway—another project ignored by the Newman government. It is a project that is welcomed, I know, by our Ipswich MPs, also by the Premier and me and no doubt by the member for Mount Ommaney. There is a \$189 million allocation for the Peak Downs Highway and Eton Range realignment and \$121 million for the Rockhampton northern access upgrade. Even the Capricorn Highway duplication from Gracemere to Rockhampton gets \$75 million.

The member for Barron River was instrumental in getting the Smithfield bypass underway—something the Newman government ignored for three years. They did not do a thing. What happened? They lost every Cairns seat. There you go, Mr Deputy Speaker. That is the sort of thing that happens when you do nothing in government. We also see \$65 million over the forwards for the Sumners Road interchange. That is something the member for Mount Ommaney worked very hard for and something the Newman government ignored for three years.

Western Queensland communities will get more than \$800 million over the next four years, with \$5 million as a supplement this year. I know that the member for Gregory is embarrassed that the previous government let his communities down.

In the rail space, the Palaszczuk government delivered the Gold Coast Light Rail in 18 months flat and we duplicated Coomera to Helensvale. We set it up for the Commonwealth Games. The Commonwealth Games transport plan was on a road to disaster under the LNP because they were not investing in infrastructure. We have done those two key rail projects. We are continuing on with Cross River Rail and the duplication of Nambour to Beerburrum—a project that the previous government did not even start the planning for. One of the most amazing things about the LNP in government was that, even if you accept their mantra of cuts and austerity, they did not even invest the modest amounts to get the planning done to get these key infrastructure projects underway. That is where the great failure is under the LNP. They could have started all of the planning, but they did not even do that. It has been left to Labor to deliver the Nambour to Beerburrum upgrade after three years of nothing by the Newman government.

We see a commitment of \$21 million in the budget for the north coast rail line between Townsville and Rockhampton and \$380 million over five years to upgrade the Mount Isa to Townsville rail line. We will see station upgrades at Cannon Hill, Albion, East Ipswich, Fairfield, Dakabin, Loganlea and Buranda. Design is underway for those. There are major constructions underway at Morayfield, Strathpine and Boondall thanks to our hardworking MPs who stand up for their electorates. They go in and advocate for it. We have to ask: why did 'Big Trev' lose Kallangur? It was because he did not stand up for his electorate. The current member for Kallangur does. That is why he has the Petrie roundabout funded. That is why the member for Pine Rivers has upgrades for her Strathpine station and other stations as well. We see \$12 million-plus going into park-and-ride upgrades at Geebung, Springfield Central, Lindum, Darra, Salisbury, Virginia and Lawnton during this term. There is the Northern Transitway and the Eastern Transitway. If you want public transport and a balanced transport network, you have to vote for the Labor Party because we deliver.

With the opposition you only get confusion or entirely the wrong track. Cross River Rail is a no-brainer. It has been a no-brainer for nearly a decade. Yet we have the Leader of the Opposition coming in here still opposing it to this day. Every commuter on every single South-East Queensland rail line will benefit from more trains more often by unplugging the blockage in the middle of the system

where there is only one inner-city rail crossing. It is a pretty simple idea, but the opposition to this day oppose it. It shows the lineage from Campbell Newman to Tim Nicholls to the member for Nanango. They are like peas in a pod: the policy does not change.

In this budget we are spending \$240 million on bike-riding infrastructure over four years. The Veloway on the south side is an awesome project. If the Brisbane City Council stops blocking the North Brisbane Bikeway, we will get that done as well. We are investing in bike-riding infrastructure in Toowoomba with the New England Highway Cycleway and in Mackay with the bikeways on the Ron Camm bridges. Statewide there are 56 new cycling infrastructure projects. If you think that that is a fringe issue, you have lost the plot. It is a fundamental part of our transport system.

Then we have our electric vehicle superhighway, which we are adding to. The electric vehicle revolution is coming. If you do not understand that yet, broaden your reading because it is going to have major ramifications in terms of road infrastructure. Most other countries are way ahead of us. We have our own unique pattern here in Australia. We in Queensland are ahead of the curve—the first state with its own superhighway. It is the largest electric vehicle superhighway in one state in the whole world. The Palaszczuk government is ahead of the game on that.

Let me make a couple of comments about the Leader of the Opposition's contribution on the budget in the transport space. What a classic case of magic wand economics. We have ultra complaints about us not doing enough here and not doing enough infrastructure spending there. Then we get the complaints about debt, debt, debt. We are not doing enough here but debt is a problem. It is magic wand economics from the Leader of the Opposition.

Probably the only person on the other side who has a little spring in their step this week would have to be the member for Broadwater—the shark from the Broadwater. He is watching them sink. The Leader of the Opposition should find the person who wrote the line, 'I'm proud of the Newman government.' She should find that person and sack them because they set her up something fierce today. That will be an albatross around the opposition leader's neck until she loses the leadership probably next year to either the member for Everton or the member for Broadwater. It is unbelievable that she would sign up to that line. It shows her lack of judgement. It shows that she is not fit to be premier of this state.

We are already seeing the leadership of the Leader of the Opposition unravel when her commitment on air conditioning lasted about 30 minutes today until it had to be clarified because it had not been thought through, just like when she thought the games lanes for the Commonwealth Games should be put in later but her opposition shadow said they should be put in earlier. There is no coordination and no teamwork from the opposition. She also came into this place saying there were 326 complaints. How many were there? There were three pages from one complaint. It is becoming pretty clear that it is a shambles beneath the veneer of the opposition leader's leadership.

When it comes to transport, let us look at their position on the Gold Coast Light Rail. They opposed Gold Coast Light Rail stage 1. They said the world would fall in. The member for Surfers Paradise, the then leader of the opposition, opposed it. Now they say they will support it because people support it—they love it. Yet we have the member for Burleigh out there trying to spike it, trying to stop it, trying to send it off to the boon docks, trying to kill it with a ludicrous policy. Once again, they are trying to stop Cross River Rail and they are trying to stop the Gold Coast Light Rail. They do not understand a balanced transport network. That is probably why they do not hold too many seats in Brisbane. They went backwards. There was a massive swing against the member for Clayfield. He was the leader. He had all the publicity. He had all the focus and he had a 4.2 per cent swing against him. Moggill is down to five per cent. They hold Chatsworth by a string.

They have no idea about urban policy and transport infrastructure in South-East Queensland. This was their opportunity to pivot and get their heads around decent policy, but we get the same old stuff from the member for Clayfield and the former member for Ashgrove, Campbell Newman. They opposed Cross River Rail and now we get nothing new from them whatsoever. What a laugh their renewables commitment is. If they support it, they would support a target. The opposition has no target. We have a 50 per cent target that is driving massive investment in a boom.

This is a very strong budget. It is a fair budget. It is a jobs budget, it is an investment budget and it is an infrastructure budget, and it is taking this state forward.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (8.00 pm): Just a few days ago the Treasurer stood on the other side of the House and declared, 'Whether you live in Brisbane or Blackall, this is a budget for all of Queensland.' How wrong that was. This budget is predominantly a budget for Brisbane. It does absolutely nothing to support the hardworking Queenslanders in the electorate of Gregory. It is a complete and utter failure for rural Queensland.

It was billed as a big win for Queensland. The Treasurer went on to say that there was a grand infrastructure spend in regional Queensland with a touted 65 per cent of infrastructure funds being spent outside the greater Brisbane area. However a casual glance at the budget papers showed worrying signs, and further investigation proved that the Treasurer's comments were at least misleading to the hardworking people of Gregory, especially those who toil away to produce the wealth that the Treasurer has squandered in her seat of South Brisbane.

In my electorate of Gregory there is no additional funding for new or upgraded schools. There is no funding for new road projects. For an electorate that covers more than 450,000 square kilometres, there is just \$2.9 million for hospital upgrades. The Central Highlands and central west hospital and health services will see no additional services and no renal dialysis chairs for any communities in the electorate of Gregory. To make matters worse, my constituents will be slugged with five new taxes, higher electricity prices, higher water bills, and more red and green tape for their small business and agricultural enterprises.

Education is paramount for a growing state. A quality education allows young people the opportunity to grow into whoever they desire. Regardless of their circumstances, quality education ensures that we get the best out of our state's young people, but, sadly, this budget ignores the Central Highlands and the central west students completely. The budget delivers \$668.4 million of new capital spend for schools throughout Queensland, but disappointingly there is not much going to schools in the electorate of Gregory.

Not one of my 58 state schools is receiving any additional funding from the budget for new classrooms or updated facilities. This is in comparison to more than \$195 million being spent on schools in Brisbane. It beggars belief that the Treasurer stood up on Tuesday and claimed 'at the heart of any Labor budget is education' and then went on to deliver a budget that does nothing to support rural Queensland students and does not deliver for Central Highlands or central west schools.

It is not just rural Queenslanders who are being failed by the government. Our schools statewide failed to meet the national minimum standards for year 3, year 5, year 7 and year 9 in 2017. This government has failed Queensland students by not supporting schools to grow and be the best they can be, by not developing better facilities and by failing to improve education standards.

The electorate of Gregory is crying out for better health services. Throughout Queensland our hospital and health services are at breaking point. The category 1, 2 and 3 emergency patients are not being seen within recommended clinical time frames and, with ambulance ramping up, a whopping 22 per cent of Queenslanders are being stuck in hospital waiting bays for longer than 30 minutes. These Queenslanders are not going to hospital with a sore toe or a sniffle; they are presenting at our emergency departments with immediate or potentially life-threatening injuries. The government has failed to keep Queenslanders safe and healthy.

This budget has not just failed Queenslanders needing to use their local hospital's emergency department. It has totally failed people in the electorate of Gregory. Rural Queensland is crying out for better health. Sadly, in the budget handed down by the Treasurer only a few days ago there is no new money for services for the Central Highlands or central west.

We have a serious issue in regard to renal dialysis services throughout the Central Highlands and central west. Currently there are no renal dialysis chairs in the region. This is impacting constituents dramatically, with one of my constituents travelling back and forth from Emerald to Rockhampton three times a week every week to receive dialysis treatment. I have also talked to a number of constituents who have left their families and friends in Longreach and moved to Townsville just so they can receive their treatment. I have made representation to the health minister in regard to this service, but clearly these pleas have fallen on deaf ears. It is devastating that this budget provides no additional services to my constituents.

Not only have services been forgotten by this budget for Brisbane; the biggest health failure in the budget is infrastructure. The big health investment in the electorate of Gregory was the announcement of the redevelopment of the Blackall Hospital, and I welcome that and thank the minister for putting that in the budget papers. However, there is a small issue with that announcement in the

budget. The budget delivers only \$1 million for this project but it is a \$17 million development. Where is the other \$16 million and when is it going to be committed to Blackall Hospital? This is an utter failure for the community of Blackall, but what is more shocking is that \$1 million committed to the Blackall Hospital is the only new health investment in the Central Highlands and central west region. It is obvious that this budget is a budget for Brisbane and will do nothing for rural Queenslanders.

It was clear before Tuesday that the Labor Party has turned its back on Queensland's agricultural sector, and this budget proves it. There is no extra funding for Queensland farmers and graziers and only more red tape, regulation and green tape. There is nothing in this budget that assists the farmers and graziers who, putting it bluntly, have been thrown under the bus by this government with the recent vegetation management changes.

Farmers and graziers throughout regional Queensland have lost hundreds of millions of dollars off the value of their agricultural properties and have had thousands of hectares locked up and seen this city-centric Labor government declare our great state closed for business when it comes to building new high-value agricultural projects in Queensland. The only money we have seen that will help farmers and graziers who are battling these unfair vegetation management changes is \$4 million allocated to improving the Statewide Land Cover and Trees Study. Any farmer, grazier and agricultural scientist will tell you that the SLATS report is extremely inaccurate. Now that the government is locking up more and more land it is critical that this report is well funded and accurate. Four million dollars is a measly pittance that will not go nearly as far to build an accurate report into statewide land cover. It shows once and for all that the government holds farmers and graziers in total disregard and will not back them at all.

Even worse is the announcement snuck deep in the budget papers of funding for cluster fencing being halved to \$5 million over the next two years. Wild dogs, as we all know, have decimated the once booming sheep and wool industry in Western Queensland, and the drought was just another kick in the guts. Cluster fencing is working and it is working well. This is a game-changer for graziers who have seen lambing rates climb from 20 per cent to 90 per cent at a time when wool prices are at 1,500 cents per kilogram clean. It is helping restore confidence to the region and is bringing people back to towns like Longreach, Blackall, Yarka, Isisford, Barcaldine and Muttaburra. These regions are struggling with the devastating drought which never seems to give. To make matters worse, they are stuck with a state government which is pushing them to the brink with red and green tape, and now it has halved the funding for cluster fencing. This is absolutely appalling, especially at a time when we should be increasing funding for cluster fencing to secure more and more pastoral land.

Labor's disappointing budget for Brisbane does not just stop at demonising the agricultural sector. It fails to deliver adequate water infrastructure for Queensland. While it is pleasing to see that the government has finally delivered funds to build Rookwood Weir after 871 days since the federal government announced the project, the state government has failed to take advantage of the \$3 billion in federal funding for water infrastructure. That is a failure to invest in Urannah Dam, Nullinga Dam, Burdekin Falls Dam and a failure to duplicate the Ross River Dam pipeline. I state the above water projects because they are what the LNP went to the 2017 election with. We are committed to delivering water infrastructure projects that are vital for regional Queensland and that take full advantage of the \$3 billion on offer from the federal government.

The biggest blunder of this budget for Brisbane is the debt bomb that we are handing over to our children and grandchildren and the extra taxes that we are slugging on hardworking Queenslanders. That is \$2.25 billion in new taxes and fees over the next four years for every single Queenslanders. Car stamp duty is being increased, property investors are being taxed, land tax is increasing, there is a new tax on betting and of course there is the famous waste tax.

The waste tax, which the Treasurer claims will not cost residents anything, is budgeted to bring in a whopping \$1.32 billion. The Treasurer now tries to cover this up by saying that it is not a tax on Queenslanders. The Treasurer does not seem to understand that if you tax Queenslanders—whether it be directly, through imposts on local councils or by taxing waste—you rip dollars out of their pockets, meaning less money to be spent in their local communities. Even with five new taxes, Queensland's debt has ballooned to \$83 billion. That is \$3.7 billion in interest alone every year, \$71 million a week and \$10 million a day. Just think how much we could invest in regional Queensland roads and hospitals if we were not paying the debt back.

There are winners in this budget. Yes, there are. It is the constituents of South Brisbane who are the big winners. This budget provides \$776 million for the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. This is a project that has been knocked back by Infrastructure Australia—knocked back because the

government's business case projected growth that is seven times faster than actual growth, knocked back because they found more than 20 instances of unsubstantiated opinions, assertions or errors, and knocked back because it does not meet the basic cost-benefit ratios, with the cost of the project likely to exceed the benefits.

There is more. There is \$17.3 million for a three-metre-wide bike track—the V1 Veloway—with a total project cost of \$45 million. Just for comparison, we could seal the remaining section of the Blackall Jericho Road and upgrade the Bauhinia Downs to Duinga road. We could also continue to seal the Longreach to Muttaborra road and continue to seal the Tambo to Springsure road. This would provide all-weather access to more communities in the electorate of Gregory for vastly less than this cycleway. I suppose that is the benefit of being the Treasurer—you can spend big in your own electorate and throw rural Queensland to the kerbside.

The Treasurer has handed down a budget purely for Brisbane. The Treasurer has failed on delivering for my constituents in Gregory. The Treasurer has failed on delivering for better schools, better hospitals, better roads and a better state. She should be ashamed of her budget for Brisbane that has utterly failed rural Queenslanders.

Just before I finish, I would like to speak as the shadow minister for fire, emergency services and volunteers. It is good to see that the state government is finally supporting our local fire and emergency services and I commend the minister on his commitment to that. There is over \$82 million invested in facilities, fire appliances, communications and equipment. Finally, regional Queensland is seeing an investment in fire and emergency services, including in Esk, Childers and Richmond. The member for Glass House would be happy to see money for the new emergency services facility at Maleny as well. I think that is wise money being spent on our first responders who do a fantastic job. As we go into the winter months and the feed dries off, one of our biggest issues is bushfires, and we need our first responders in the fire and emergency services to have the right equipment to make sure they can continue to provide an absolutely excellent service. I do welcome that.

I have spoken to the minister about our desperate need for a new fire station in Longreach. I know that the state government does own the land, and I know there are some preliminary discussions on that. We need to make sure we get that project into next year's budget so that the people of Longreach who are dedicated to the fire service have the facility that they need today. The Emerald Fire Station on Andrews Road is an excellent facility, and I think we need a similar facility in the Longreach area.

We need to continue working with the Alpha fire brigade to make sure they have the right equipment and access. We have a new fire station there, but we need to make sure they have the right training facilities so they can continue to train. We need to remember that a lot of these bush firefighters are volunteers and they do it because they are dedicated to their service. They have full-time jobs themselves and they do an excellent job. There is nothing better than going around and catching up with them and seeing their dedication.

We need to continue to support our rural firefighters, the SES and every volunteer in Queensland. There are a massive number of people who volunteer in our state. The government needs to make sure they have support, and I certainly welcome the additional funding that the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services has given to our fire and emergency services in this year's budget.

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (8.15 pm): I thank the member for Gregory for his kind words. I can report to the House that commencement of construction of the Longreach fire and rescue station is scheduled for 2019-20 with completion in 2020-21. I look forward to keeping the member up to date on that.

I rise to support the Appropriation Bill 2018 and contribute to the debate on the Queensland state budget. First and foremost, I am the state member for Barron River, and I am delighted that this budget delivers for people across the far north. The Palaszczuk government will deliver \$253 million of road infrastructure in 2018-19 for Far North Queensland as part of another record investment—for the third year in a row. After my strong advocacy, I am particularly excited that this budget commits funds to begin construction of the \$152 million Smithfield bypass—delivering on yet another of our commitments in the region and ensuring we provide the infrastructure that will service our growing communities well into the future. This budget commits \$17.5 million to begin work on the project to construct a bypass route connecting the Yorkeys Knob Road roundabout and the McGregor Road roundabout to bypass the town of Smithfield. This project is 100 per cent funded by the Palaszczuk government.

I am very proud to be part of a government that is supporting our key industries by investing in Cairns and the far north in areas that truly matter to the local residents of my electorate. This is a budget that will boost my local economy, it will create jobs and it will inspire confidence, building on the work that has been done since 2015 to support our region. Since the 2015 election, the Palaszczuk government has improved front-line health and education services in the far north by employing an additional 143 doctors, 364 nurses, 182 teachers and 86 teacher aides.

This year we commence a \$1 million business case study into the Wangetti Trail. If members have not heard of the Wangetti Trail, I urge them to do some investigations. For those members of the House who like adventure trails such as the ones down in Tasmania, I can say that the Wangetti Trail will outshine them all. I am sure the member for Cairns will join me in that testimony. People in the far north have put in the hard work on this, with advocacy groups, councils and business progressing this to the point where we now have the funding for a business case to move forward.

The budget commits \$10 million to significant school infrastructure in my electorate, including the Tropical North Learning Academy, which is the Smithfield State High School and the Trinity Beach State School. Over four years, \$10 million will be spent to refurbish that school and bring it up to speed. Also, \$109,000 will be used to refurbish the home economics block, block 7, at the Kuranda District State College.

Across the Cairns region, I want to recognise my parliamentary colleagues—the member for Cairns, the member for Cook and Mr Speaker, as the member for Mulgrave, for the work that has gone into preparing this budget for the far north.

There is also \$26.4 million of \$66.5 million to go towards the construction of the Cairns Performing Arts Centre on the site of the existing Cairns Civic Theatre in the Cairns electorate. More than \$26 million is allocated to support job-creating maintenance and minor infrastructure works through the Works for Queensland program in the far north. I have to say that I have never met a mayor who has not talked constantly about Works for Queensland and what they have managed to do in their patches.

The Cairns Indigenous Arts Fair will receive \$1.9 million in 2018-19 as part of a \$6.2 million partnership between all levels of government to build and celebrate culture and create economic opportunity for Indigenous artists. This funding is on top of \$1 million from a \$4.1 million pool to provide Indigenous artists access to space, training, education and enterprise development. The 2018-19 budget also delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election promise to refurbish the Cairns State High School classrooms in the electorate of Cairns, with \$900,000 of \$1.8 million allocated this year. There is \$116,000 for regional councils to provide preschool literacy sessions, known as First 5 Forever. I am sure that the libraries and our schools across the far north will enjoy this funding.

As someone who appreciates just why the Great Barrier Reef is such a priority for this government, I applaud the \$6.3 million commitment to achieve this government's targets for the uptake of best management practices by farmers in pursuit of Great Barrier Reef water quality targets. That cannot be talked up enough in the city of Cairns and in the region of Far North Queensland. Tourism drives our economy and the Great Barrier Reef is at the heart of our tourism. This is another important step for the 69,000 people who rely on the reef for their livelihood and it is important for the range of industries it supports, from tourism to commercial fishing, that inject over \$6 billion into our regional economies.

There is a \$1.9 million commitment for a multifunction facility in Atherton for natural disaster resilience and preparation training, as well as the local disaster coordination centre. The government has always been—and will always continue to be—committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders. That brings me to the record 2018-19 budget commitment for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. Nowhere in Australia is more at the mercy of natural disasters than Queensland, which is why we have the best emergency services teams in the world and why the Palaszczuk government is committed to maintaining their lofty standards. Queensland is growing and the operational response of our emergency services needs to grow with it. QFES provides vital front-line services to the Queensland community and it is important we show our support, allowing for our emergency services to continue their great work within their local communities.

The Palaszczuk government has committed to spend \$702 million on QFES in 2018-19, promising to deliver jobs and upgraded front-line services, facilities and equipment. The funding included in this budget is for staffing for more than 3,300 full-time-equivalent firefighters, delivering on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to enhance community safety across the state well into the

future. As I mentioned this morning, the budget includes a \$29.5 million commitment over four years to provide 100 front-line firefighters and 12 extra communications officers, ensuring communities continue to receive quality services. This delivers on an election promise made by our Premier.

The budget invests \$82.3 million in Fire and Emergency Services facilities, vehicles, information and communications systems and equipment. I am pleased to announce here tonight that we will be building new staffed fire stations at Charlton and Pimpama. The budget has allocated \$7.6 million in 2018-19 to the commencement and delivery of new auxiliary fire and rescue stations in Childers, Rathdowney, Richmond, El Arish, Esk, Gracemere, Kilkivan, Wooroolin and Yarraman. I want to thank the member for Gympie for helping me with the pronunciation of Kilkivan.

Gracemere will receive funding for a \$2.1 million state-of-the-art station, recognising Central Queensland's increasing demand for services. Building modern facilities means the community can feel at ease knowing our fire and emergency services are properly equipped and ready to respond at a moment's notice. An amount of \$2.5 million will ensure fire and rescue stations in Loganlea, Mount Ommaney and West Logan receive their upgrades in 2018-19. It was great to be out at Mount Ommaney the other day with the member for Mount Ommaney while we had a look at the station and spoke to the crews. They will be moving out for nearly six months before they will come back to their new, renovated facility around Christmas time.

Planning is underway for the construction of a multimillion dollar auxiliary fire and rescue station at Yarrabilba in coming years. I want to thank the member for Logan for his strong advocacy leading into the last election. I thank both the member and the former minister for fire and emergency services, Mark Ryan, for committing to the future for Yarrabilba. We have now put that into play. That will be a magnificent facility that will serve that community well.

The government's record funding demonstrates our commitment to meet Queenslanders' current and future needs by delivering quality facilities. I am pleased to announce that the 2018-19 budget also includes more than \$1 million of the \$3 million committed during the election campaign towards the commencement of a new QFES complex in Maleny that will accommodate the local Rural Fire Service, State Emergency Service and Auxiliary Fire and Rescue Service.

In addition, the budget commits \$44 million for 180 new urban and rural fire appliances. Cutting-edge vehicles will soon be rolling out the doors of new fire and rescue stations and rural fire stations right across this state. I am confident that the projected delivery of 61 new fire and rescue vehicles, as well as 119 Rural Fire Service vehicles, will go a long way in bolstering our firefighting efforts across the state of Queensland. These 180 new appliances due next financial year are on top of more than 100 which have already been delivered under our capital works program. That will be a statewide total of more than 280 new firefighting appliances over two financial years. Even better, they will all have been completed locally by Queensland companies. In addition, local parts are sourced to provide maintenance and servicing for the life span of vehicles.

About \$2.7 million has been allocated for the commencement or completion of joint Rural Fire Service and SES facilities in Howard, Horn Island and Mount Isa. We are upgrading communication facilities in Cairns and Rockhampton, spending \$3 million to upgrade those communications centres. The Cairns fire communications facility deals with calls from up to a thousand kilometres away. That facility is currently shared with the Queensland Ambulance Service. The new communications centre will be incorporated into the overall design with QAS when we build a new facility at the Cairns Ambulance Station.

The state's far north is no stranger to severe weather and it is important that QFES has the support to effectively serve the Queensland community. Damage caused by severe weather events, such as Tropical Cyclone Nora, continues to influence the region's disaster management. Community safety is also a priority in Weipa where we are investing \$400,000 for the commencement of a \$1.2 million emergency and disaster centre. These capital works in the far north are crucial for the community, particularly for those in isolated areas.

I enthusiastically commend this budget to the House. I want to thank the Treasurer and all members of cabinet for their input into the budget.

**An honourable member:** Bring back Ray!



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (8.28 pm): Ray is back! I rise on behalf of the good residents of the Mermaid Beach electorate to again point out the fiscal irresponsibility of the Palaszczuk Labor government in sinking Queensland taxpayers further into debt and inflicting higher taxation—fact. It is in Labor's DNA: debt, taxes and rubbery figures.

When they get lucky with a windfall in mining royalties, they immediately rush out and spend it on more staff and fairyland projects such as Cross River Rail. They also put more debt on the credit card, taking Queenslanders to \$83.5 billion of debt which they have no intention of repaying. It just puts a higher burden on taxpayers, who pay an extra \$1,000 million a year in wages to a Public Service they are intent on bloating to falsify the real employment problems out there in the private sector. Regions across the state are struggling, and on the Gold Coast the infrastructure spending associated with the Commonwealth Games has come to a screeching halt, leaving thousands of workers looking for jobs. When the current high-rise building boom stops, this budget does nothing to provide jobs for the Goldie through the private sector and makes business investment through higher taxes more difficult again.

People on the Gold Coast want the M1 travel snarl fixed. They could not care less about the Treasurer's pet project in her electorate of South Brisbane: Cross River Rail. Another \$733 million on top of last year's almost \$2,000 million for Cross River Rail is pork-barrelling of the South Brisbane electorate in the extreme. We have seen some monumental pork-barrelling done in this House, but Cross River Rail is the big daddy—or should I say 'big mama'—of all. Ask the people of Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay or Sunshine Coast if they would like almost \$3,000 million splashed on a big project in their area, which would create huge employment, and they would jump at the chance.

This obscene and reckless spending is typical of a government characterised by financial mismanagement and broken election promises. In 2015 Labor made a six-year commitment to cut Queensland's debt. Instead, they have opted to go on an irresponsible and careless spending spree. The result of this negligent credit spending is a whopping interest bill of almost \$3.7 billion per year. That is a lot of capital infrastructure every year. It is unconscionable, but unsurprising, that at the same time Labor is tipping \$83 billion in debt onto the heads of Queensland families and businesses it hits them with \$2.25 billion in new taxes and fees over the next four years. The Appropriation Bill reveals yet again a broken commitment from the government, which gave election costings before the election of \$491 million in new taxes but has betrayed the trust of Queenslanders by delivering a waste tax \$1.32 billion; a wagering tax of \$367 million; a land tax of \$311 million; a property investors tax of \$132 million; and a car stamp duty tax of \$100 million.

If the government wants to focus on rail issues, it would do well to accept responsibility for the abysmal state of Queensland's rail service, which has spent a staggering \$65 million over 18 months in overtime and replacement buses. That is almost \$1 million in overtime per hour. Queenslanders still have to endure reduced services, driver shortages and, compounding this, outdated restrictions on hiring externally for Queensland Rail. This is a blatantly defective system that is consistently ignored by an incompetent Labor government and transport minister, who blindly do the bidding of the Rail, Tram and Bus Union. Queenslanders are forced to sit back and watch their hard-earned taxpayer dollars being poured into the void that is the Cross River Rail project while having to endure restricted services in the ongoing debacle that is the Queensland rail fail, all so that the Labor government can point the finger at the federal government for refusing to take part in the Cross River Rail pork-barrelling scheme.

Turning to how the Gold Coast fared in this year's state budget, it is disappointing and saddening to see that once again our city has been overlooked by a government that does not care about the Gold Coast because it has only one out of 11 seats on the Gold Coast. The fabulous seat of Bonney is represented by Sam O'Connor, who is brand-new. The Gold Coast repeatedly misses out at budget time under the Labor government because its residents made a mindful decision to vote in the LNP as a majority across-the-board. Given the damage done to businesses across the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games—former Labor premier Peter Beattie told them to 'suck it up' after exaggerated projections by the Labor government—one would think that Labor might feel an obligation to pay attention and help small businesses on the Gold Coast. Instead of delivering opportunities for business growth on the Gold Coast, this Appropriation Bill delivers another slap in the face in the form of Labor's waste tax, which will cost Queensland's small businesses and their customers \$1.3 billion over the next four years.

Having heard of the struggles endured by many Gold Coast businesses as a direct result of Commonwealth Games disappointment, I am disgusted to have to report to my Mermaid Beach constituents that once again they have been overlooked by this cash-grabbing and dishonest Labor government. I am also ashamed to report to the Mermaid Beach electorate that nothing has been done to address the record electricity and water prices that derive from Labor's irresponsible investment choices last year. We heard that the budgeted generator income was \$482 million. This Appropriation Bill exposes the truth: Labor made \$1.241 billion from government owned generators. By extracting record dividends from government owned corporations Labor is using electricity as a secret tax, and Queensland families are paying the price. In terms of direct funding for the Mermaid Beach electorate,

I am pleased that the government has announced \$2 million towards building at Varsity College, and any addition to education for our schoolchildren is always welcome. I also think it is appropriate that \$2 million is committed to a study on the extension of light rail to Burleigh to answer questions on the viability, route selection and cost benefit of extending the current light rail system south.

In relation to state government revenue from slot machines, I cannot let this opportunity pass without highlighting the desperate ploy by the Palaszczuk Labor government to fatten their revenue streams to pay for their ballooning debt through the addition of more gambling machines on the Gold Coast. The Gold Coast is well served now for all forms of gambling by a plethora of clubs, pubs, sporting clubs and the Star Casino, which contributed greatly to the income line of this year's state budget, paying for Labor's debt and mismanagement of the Queensland economy to the tune of \$2.3 billion as reported by the *Gold Coast Bulletin*.

To avoid the very real possibility of a financial downgrade of the state's credit rating by Moody's and the like, this deceitful Labor government has recently spruiked about a Gold Coast gambling hub similar to large gambling venues in Las Vegas, which the Premier and tourism ministers have recently visited and enjoyed the hospitality of. They have disguised their blatant attempt at gambling revenue raising under the guise of a tourism hub under the integrated resort model of development to hide the fact that it is the government's cut of poker machine revenue they are after to fund their skyrocketing debt and soften the income fall from mining resource royalties when coal stops being a boon to the Queensland economy.

The clubs, pubs and community facilities with pokies cannot compete with the large promotional budgets of the big casinos, and another large casino and any so-called Gold Coast tourism hub would be the death knell for the many small operators who eke out a small income stream to supplement their community interest. The Star Casino itself has just invested \$600 million in good faith to upgrade their casino and committed over \$2 billion to build Queen's Wharf in Brisbane to further cater for gambling needs in South-East Queensland.

Saying that the Gold Coast needs another slot machine is like telling an alcoholic he needs another brand of whiskey. The Palaszczuk Labor government has just paid the ASF consortium \$9 million in hush money for its failed, Labor government instigated project on the Spit. There has been no business case provided to outline the necessity for another casino on the Gold Coast; nor has there been any impact study done on the effects of another couple of thousand poker machines that a new casino would need to make itself viable.

I am aware that some have reportedly expressed a view that they would like to see the Gold Coast adopt a Las Vegas model for many casinos, but I am sure that is not the view of the vast majority of Gold Coast residents. Las Vegas draws on a gambling population of almost a billion people, yet the Gold Coast draws on a very small population of a half a million residents and an inbound tourism number of eight million tourists to Australia. If you cannot access a slot machine on the Gold Coast now, you are seriously not trying.

The slot machine pie is finite. Another major incursion, or slice of that pie, will mean less return for the current operators and the communities they support. The LNP supported the mayor's proposal for a cruise ship terminal, which required a casino licence to support the development of that proposal. Times change and move on. With the cruise ship terminal proposal not surviving, it is hard to identify any reason for the Labor government to be pursuing another casino on the Gold Coast—other than to bolster its revenue take from the slot machines to prop up more Labor debt.

We have integrated resort developments working sensationally well on the Gold Coast—Sanctuary Cove, Hope Island, Royal Pines and Robina Land Corporation—without casinos as their financial foundation. I might add: these were approved during my tenure as Albert shire councillor and mayor and also when the Queensland state government was great under the LNP banner. Let's make Queensland great again!

To finalise my contribution on the absolute non-need for a Las Vegas style pokie palace on the Gold Coast, another casino is a clear and obvious attempt by the Palaszczuk Labor government to generate more revenue streams for the income side of the state budget to underwrite the Labor Party's obsession with creating debt to fund their wilful spending ways. Hiding their profligate fiduciary irresponsibility under the blatant disguise of a global tourism hub is a cheap Labor Party trick that does not fool anybody. The only fools it identifies are the propagators of this fraudulent nomenclature, to their eternal shame.

We had the 'world's greatest treasurer' from the Labor Party in the shape of Andrew Fraser, who lost Queensland's AAA credit rating under the Beattie-Bligh regimes. Now we are staring down another downgrade, to Queensland taxpayers' great expense, under the Labor Party's newest 'world's greatest treasurer' in the shape of Jackie Trad—member for South Brisbane and left-wing warrior of financial irresponsibility—whose only vision in this year's state budget is hanging on to her seat against the Greens onslaught in her electorate with her infamous, unfunded Cross River Rail project. She can thank the LNP for her opportunity to deliver her first budget, which really gives me no pleasure at all. This budget is consistent with the Labor Party policy of Labor premiers—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr STEVENS:** I look to the member for Logan; we got him a gig too! This is consistent with the Labor Party policy of Labor premiers gone by in that it concentrates on more taxes, more borrowings and more debt to fund media friendly projects. People do not seem to worry about the long-term pain being inflicted on Queensland taxpayers with the implementation of Labor's wild and costly projects. A blowout in the current Public Service wage of \$1,000 million per annum to stump up Queensland employment numbers with more public servants does not seem to raise an eyebrow. It is particularly galling in regional Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (8.44 pm): This budget is not just about economics. It is not just a set of numbers. It is not just a financial statement. It is a moral statement. It is a statement of intent. It is a statement about what the Palaszczuk government stands for. It is a statement about what our government believes in. Most of all, it is a statement of how the Palaszczuk government is helping Queenslanders. It is not just about dollars and cents; it is about common sense—the common-sense, practical ways the Palaszczuk government is delivering for Queenslanders: a safer Queensland, a healthier Queensland, a richer Queensland, a better Queensland that gives our young people a great start in life.

Before I talk about the detail of what this budget means for the portfolios I represent, Police and Corrective Services, I would like to talk about my home, the Morayfield state electorate, because first and foremost I am the state member for Morayfield. This budget brings to the electorate of Morayfield many benefits and many opportunities. This budget highlights for the people of the Morayfield state electorate what the Palaszczuk government stands for.

In this budget we see funding provided to continue construction on the replacement police station and district headquarters at Caboolture. The result of that will be better policing services delivering greater community safety. Our government is also making a big commitment to child safety in the Morayfield region. More than \$11 million is allocated in this budget to provide out-of-home-care placement services to ensure children and young people in need of protection are supported and safe.

There is also over a million dollars to provide domestic and family violence services to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, particularly those in high-risk situations. I am very pleased to see in this budget that one of the new domestic violence shelters will be built in the Caboolture region. There is also over \$7 million to provide family support services to work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills and give parents the support they need to prevent problems from escalating to crisis point.

I am using these numbers—the dollars and cents destined for the Morayfield state electorate—to paint a bigger picture. What is happening in our community is a portrait of Labor values. The broad brushstrokes are fiscal responsibility and restraint, but the detail is always coloured with an eye to the human impact—delivering our investments to deliver the best practical outcomes for people.

Again in education in the Morayfield state electorate we see a template for what our government stands for. We see funds committed for a new special school in the Caboolture region, with construction starting this financial year. We see minor works and maintenance funding for all of our state schools in the Morayfield state electorate. We also see funds committed for refurbishments and upgrades at Caboolture State High School, Morayfield State High School, Burpengary Meadows State School, Caboolture State School and Caboolture Special School. Each of these investments is targeted at places of need, to deliver the best bang for our education bucks. Also, they are investments destined to deliver the best outcomes for the people in these important educational institutions.

Then there is health. We see funding committed in this budget for the detailed planning and preparatory works for the proposed \$253 million redevelopment of our local hospital, the Caboolture Hospital, to increase capacity and support the provision of quality and safe services to meet current

and future healthcare needs. Funds are also committed to start construction of the new Caboolture emergency department, effectively doubling the size of that emergency department to enable provision of quality and safe emergency health services for our region. The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering a healthier Queensland, and no region will be left out. For the people of the Morayfield state electorate, these investments in the Caboolture Hospital will mean a great deal.

For the people of the Morayfield region, getting around on the roads in their daily life is a critical issue. We see in this budget funding towards design work for an upgrade of the Bruce Highway between Pine Rivers and Caloundra. We also see funding committed to improve intersections and upgrade signals on Lower King Street, King Street, Morayfield Road and Beerburrum Road. There are also funds committed for the upgrade of Morayfield train station and funds to commence construction on the new Morayfield bus station upgrade.

Whether it be in public safety, education, health or transport, the Palaszczuk government is certainly delivering for the people of the Morayfield region and for all Queenslanders for that matter. It is the same across my portfolio responsibilities of Police and Corrective Services. This budget continues the Palaszczuk government's commitment to advancing Queensland's Department of Corrective Services. This budget includes a \$41 million commitment to expand the Capricornia Correctional Centre. This is on top of the previously announced \$200 million funding boost, with the total \$241 million investment delivering 348 new cells and 396 beds. The expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre will create approximately 172 jobs over the four years of construction and, once all new sections of the centre are in full operation, there will be 130 extra full-time jobs created at the prison which is a big boon for the Rockhampton local community and economy.

There are other key budget commitments. There is almost \$4 million to expand the Supreme Court bail application service to male prisoners. There is almost \$3 million to support prisoners with a disability. There is over \$1 million to support supervised community service projects implementing the Palaszczuk government's tackling alcohol fuelled violence program. There is over \$9 million for expansions to the Probation and Parole service which includes additional front-line staff. Importantly, the Palaszczuk government is also delivering the funding that our Queensland Police Service needs to keep Queenslanders safe. Domestic violence is a blight on our society and we are acting. The state budget is allocating \$4 million to fund 24 new domestic and family violence coordinators. These specialist officers will be deployed across the state to provide direction, guidance and training to other officers.

We live in a world of emerging threats which include terrorism and this budget is investing an extra \$15.7 million to enhance the counterterrorism capabilities of our policing service. There is also funding for police infrastructure, for vehicles and for vessels for our police officers. Technology also plays a big part in modern policing. It enables our officers to be more mobile and more rapid response ready. That is why we are rolling out an extra 1,400 QLITE mobile tablet devices. The best crime fighting is crime prevention, and that is why our government is continuing to support the award-winning Project Booyah program for at-risk young people with a significant contribution over five years.

I could go on about what the Palaszczuk government has done, is doing and will continue to do to advance Queensland's priorities, but I think it is fair that we also give a bit of coverage to those opposite in the chamber. While our government continues to increase the number of police, which will total 535 additional officers over the next four to five years—that is our commitment—we also have to look at what the LNP did when it had its five minutes of sunshine, its one term in power. When the LNP was in power it went on a bit of a crime spree of its own, slashing and burning with abandon. Who can forget how 106 senior police officers were dismissed under the LNP and who can forget how it shifted front-line officers to desk jobs in the PSBA?

We got a bit of an insight about what those opposite would do if they were in government again with the Leader of the Opposition's budget reply speech today when she said that she was very proud of the record of the former government—very proud, I guess, of the cuts, the sackings, the selling, the 43 per cent increase to power bills that they imposed when they were in government. If she is so proud of those things, it means she will do it again if she ever gets in government. The leader in waiting, the member for Broadwater, said in his contribution tonight that the problem with the budget in his eyes is a spending problem. Do members know what that is code for? More cuts.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** We see from the current Leader of the Opposition and the leader in waiting that what they will do in government is what they have done before.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, if you are going to interject, you need to be in your correct seat.

**Mr RYAN:** What they will do if they ever get on the treasury benches again is what they did before, and that is cut, sack and sell, and we can never allow that to happen. We can never allow that to happen because the LNP does not get government. The LNP does not get that when you make a decision—any decision—in government you have to consider the impact on the community. It is because of that that we are in government. We are in government to look after the community, to advance Queensland's priorities, to make our state a safer, healthier, richer place. The members of the LNP do not get that. They are the do-nothing experts, and why are they the do-nothing experts? It is because they get so much practice at it. You get a lot of practice doing nothing when you are in opposition, and that is where the LNP belongs. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is getting on with the job—the job of governing for all Queenslanders and advancing Queensland's priorities.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (8.56 pm): Tonight I rise to speak on the 2018 budget. This is a budget that shirks the hard work. This is a budget that avoids tough decisions. This budget is an emblem of this government—content with standing still and avoiding trouble rather than building Queensland's ambition. This is a budget and a government that lacks leadership, lacks vision and fails to foster the economic conditions in which Queenslanders can thrive. This budget is not just an emblem of the current government; it is covered in ALP DNA because more debt and higher taxes are at the core of the Labor Party's DNA. We have had more than a century of Labor administrations addicted to debt and taxes and, no matter what one says about this government, it is following lock step in that tradition.

There are five new taxes including a waste tax, a property tax, a land tax, a car tax and a gambling tax and there are four new fees that are set to rip \$2.2 billion from the pockets of Queensland taxpayers. The state is on a downward spiral to reach a record debt bomb of \$83 billion. Once again, this budget has confirmed that the government has no inclination to arrest the decline to this dungeon of debt—a debt it seems happy to pass on to our kids and grandkids. The Palaszczuk government won the 2015 election on the back of a promise to resolve the debt without the need to sell assets. It was a totally disingenuous statement then that has now proven to be a lie. The Treasurer in her budget speech did not even mention the debt, hoping that by not mentioning it maybe no-one would remember. But people do remember. In the last term the government paid \$5.6 billion in interest—enough to cover the cost of its pet Cross River Rail project, an interest bill that equates to—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Sorry, member. If members want to have a conversation, take it outside please.

**Mr PURDIE:** That is enough to cover the cost of its pet Cross River Rail project with an interest bill that equates to \$10 million a day, \$420,000 per hour and more than \$7,000 per minute. History shows that this is a government that robs Peter to pay Paul. Even with raids on the superannuation funds of public servants—the same public servants those opposite tout to respect—this government still has no plan to steer our state into a future position of prosperity.

Even with the benefit of blind luck and a \$2 billion windfall from royalties, that is lipstick on this pig of a budget—lipstick that comes from higher royalties from coal. Ironically, that is the same commodity that this government traitorously tries to undermine in Queensland primarily to save the political career of the person delivering this budget.

The Palaszczuk government is trying to fudge the debt by cooking the books and parking debt on state owned corporations that, in turn, charge every Queensland and Queensland family through higher fees, charges and tariffs—hidden taxes on top of the recently introduced five new taxes. Once again, we have seen a new Labor Treasurer, but the same strategy of shirking the hard work, fudging figures, totally ignoring the real issues and failing to make the tough decisions to deal with debt. In line with true Labor tradition, the government is spending more than it can afford and it is happy to leave the hard work and heavy lifting to a future competent government.

The Treasurer claims that this continued spending is required to avoid an infrastructure crisis. I think that all members would agree that we are facing an imminent infrastructure crisis. The RACQ has been warning that Queensland is in danger of grinding to a halt. As it constantly does, the government has tried to pass the buck and accept no responsibility for this crisis, but the people of Queensland know better. They have watched consecutive state Labor governments recklessly waste their money. History shows that 25 out of the past 30 budgets in this state have been delivered by a Labor Treasurer. There is no shying away from the fact that our infrastructure crisis and alarming debt bomb are thanks to the recent 25 years of Labor rule in this state. Moreover, a large portion of this debt was created because Peter Beattie wanted to prepare South-East Queensland for the future. Apparently, he borrowed to avoid an infrastructure crisis. We now have the debt but not the infrastructure.

This budget also confirms that the Palaszczuk government is still a Brisbane-centric government. It purports to fight for Queensland and all Queenslanders, but all it really cares about is the inner city and South Brisbane and firming up its coalition with the Greens to secure its own seats. An example of this Brisbane-centric attitude is \$65 million allocated to bike paths in Brisbane. Half of that money could solve all the congestion-busting and critical infrastructure projects that are desperately required across the electorate of Ninderry. At the last election, the good people of the Ninderry electorate spoke loud and clear and endorsed a number of infrastructure upgrades across the electorate, none of which have been addressed in this budget. All of those could have been solved with less funding than that allocated to bike paths in the electorate of the transport minister.

Another essential priority that the good people of the Sunshine Coast demand is the north coast rail duplication where the government is, once again, a day late and a dollar short. Infrastructure Australia has identified the north coast rail duplication project as a top priority—a project that the former Bligh government pledged to fully fund over a decade ago. This government is refusing to contribute any more than 20 per cent of the \$760 million that is required. A number of previous state governments have committed to fully funding this project and never before has the federal government contributed any money to a state rail project. The federal government has gifted the state \$390 million towards this upgrade. This government commissioned and submitted the business case for this project and is now deflecting its responsibility to deliver it.

Another much needed and long overdue project for the Sunshine Coast is the upgrade of the Bruce Highway. The federal government has pledged \$880 million towards this upgrade, but the state government has again dropped the ball and has not allocated any new money to upgrade the Bruce Highway. This \$880 million, coupled with the \$370 million contributed by the federal government for rail, equals a total of \$1.25 billion gifted by the federal government towards these vital projects and the government is refusing to contribute a fraction of this amount to see these long overdue projects built. The residents of the Sunshine Coast deserve better. The people of the Sunshine Coast are sick of the blame shifting and want results. Squabbling over who is responsible for what percentage is irrelevant to them. That is why I am glad that Deb Frecklington and the LNP have stood up for the Sunshine Coast and confirmed their commitment to six-laning the Bruce Highway all the way from Caboolture to Caloundra.

The LNP understands that the north coast rail duplication and the Bruce Highway upgrades are vital infrastructure projects not just for the Sunshine Coast but for all of Queensland. It is not just commuters who rightly demand better connectivity and more reliable and efficient transport options to Brisbane; it is also imperative for freight and businesses across the state—businesses that have again been neglected by the Palaszczuk government in this budget.

There are 4½ thousand small businesses in the Ninderry electorate—small businesses that are the backbone of our economy. If we support small business, they will do the heavy lifting by driving employment and economic growth, but this government has again proven that it has no interest in supporting the mums and dads who make up a large proportion of our small family-run businesses. These families are working hard and making sacrifices to improve their lot, to employ people and to give back to the community. It is these small businesses that will be hit the hardest by the new taxes introduced by this government—taxes such as the waste tax that will cost them and their customers \$1.3 billion over the next four years.

Thirty years ago, Queensland was an economic powerhouse, but now it is battling it out for the wooden spoon. Business confidence is at its lowest level since 2016, productivity is down off the back of 34,000 work days lost to trade union strike action and we have the highest unemployment rate in the country at 6.5 per cent. Local infrastructure investment is an absolute priority for the electorate of Ninderry and the Sunshine Coast. Compared to funding allocated in the LNP's last state budget in 2014, the Sunshine Coast is facing an infrastructure funding cut of \$234 million.

The roundabout at Yandina-Coolum Road and South Coolum Road can no longer accommodate the 8,000-plus residents of Coolum and the thousands more tourists who visit the area. Parents, teachers and kids from Coolum State School need to negotiate that roundabout every day on their way to and from school. The roundabout is not only a bottleneck but also the site of an accident waiting to happen. This roundabout is also the main entry and exit point for the emergency services based on South Coolum Road. Ambulances and police get caught in the inevitable logjam that this roundabout often becomes.

Once again, the local Coolumb police have been let down in this budget. Coolumb police have worked out of a temporary demountable for 13 years and have continually been promised a more permanent, secure and appropriate facility. In the past 13 years, the surrounding population has exploded and police numbers have grown. The temporary police facility is no longer adequate. The police of my local area work around the clock day and night to keep my community safe. They are often required to detain violent offenders and seize exhibits, including drugs and guns, and they require suitable, modern and up-to-date facilities to properly perform their duty. It is disappointing to see that the promised funds to upgrade this station have again been pushed back to a future date. My local police and my local community deserve better.

The electorate of Ninderry borders the Sunshine Coast airport, which is undergoing a \$350 million expansion. We must leverage off this expansion and improve intra-city connectivity so that businesses operators, visitors and locals can move around safely and with ease. One of the main access routes from the Bruce Highway to the airport is through Bli Bli. The residents of Bli Bli and its surrounding suburbs are daily negotiating dangerous narrow bridges. The single-lane bridge over Caboolture Creek at Yandina-Bli Bli Road has seen its fair share of accidents, as has the narrow bridge on the David Low Way. This bridge was originally built over half a century ago as a cane train bridge and it is now the main arterial for the 8½ thousand residents of Bli Bli and many others who travel to and from the airport. These numbers will continue to grow with the residential expansion continuing in Bli Bli and the planned increased capacity at the new Sunshine Coast airport.

For a fraction of the \$65 million allocated for bike paths in inner-city Brisbane, the residents and families of Eumundi could get a pedestrian bridge they have been begging for for over 20 years. Many families and kids need to cross the North Maroochy River near Sieb Road to get to and from school every day. Currently, they have to run the gauntlet and shimmy across the bridge on Eumundi-Noosa Road, sharing the roadway with cars and trucks travelling at 100 kilometres an hour. This pedestrian bridge has a price tag of only \$400,000, less than one per cent of the transport minister's bike paths in Brisbane and only one hour of interest payments on our state debt.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Nicklin, if you want to engage in the debate you will need to be in your own seat.

**Mr PURDIE:** Arguably one of the coast's worse intersections is at Killick Street and Maroochy Road in Kundah Park in the heart of the region's industrial hub. Despite community petitions and TMR's own detailed investigations, the Labor government has once again failed to commit any money to upgrade this dangerous intersection. TMR has already identified a preferred solution for the staged upgrade of this intersection and yet despite the significant community concern about the safety and efficiency of the existing Pike-Killick Street intersection, this is another important local infrastructure project in the Ninderry electorate that has failed to make it into this budget. Only the LNP has the plan, the motivation and the capacity to return our state to the economic powerhouse it once was.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.11 pm): The Queensland budget presented on Tuesday afternoon was one for all Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges that it was elected to represent people from metropolitan and regional Queensland. This is not a government that represents only special interest groups. From Cook to Keppel to my own seat of Stafford, for which I am a very proud representative, Australian Labor and, more specifically, Queensland Labor, is a party as diverse as it is accessible. The 2018-19 budget reflects this.

The Treasurer spoke of the benefits that royalties from the resources sector will provide for infrastructure across the state. The resources industry is responding positively to a Palaszczuk government that has fostered a climate conducive to exploration, responsible development and expansion, a fact acknowledged by the Queensland Resources Council, which said—

Every Queensland—regardless of where they call home—shares in the wealth of the sector through royalties paid to the government. These royalties go to schools, hospitals and roads in the south-east of Queensland.

No-one, the Treasurer excepted of course, is arguably more aware of the contribution our natural resources make to our great state. It is appropriate that regional Queenslanders, explorers and the Great Barrier Reef benefit from this budget. More than \$660 million will be invested into Queensland's economy with a focus on renewable and non-renewable natural resources delivering safe, secure, affordable and sustainable energy and water. This is an investment that will provide long-term benefits

for all Queenslanders. This is an opportune time to mention how pleased I am to discover that the LNP members have finally discovered the word 'renewable' in the 21st century dictionary. They just need a bit more of a policy than the three-line synopsis they have provided. The LNP also lack credibility when it comes to lowering power prices.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order!

**Dr LYNHAM:** They made similar promises in 2012 and pushed power prices up by more than 43 per cent in just one term of government.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

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

**Dr LYNHAM:** As for the figure of a \$300 saving for regional householders, honestly, where does that come from? I am yet to see any proof of this figure, or any other figure for that matter. The Palaszczuk government, on the other hand, is delivering for regional Queenslanders, as has been supported by the independent Queensland Competition Authority. Only last month the QCA confirmed our initiatives are working for regional Queenslanders when it announced the largest decrease in tariffs in a decade with a typical regional household seeing a reduction in bills of 1.3 per cent. This will be the second time that electricity prices have decreased under the Palaszczuk government. We are already doing better than anticipated in meeting our pledge to keep changes to electricity prices below inflation for the next two years. We guaranteed we would keep electricity prices below inflation but we are doing better than that.

We have allocated more than \$464 million to ensuring families in regional communities and areas like Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa pay a similar amount for their electricity to a family or household here in Brisbane. The reason we can maintain this downward pressure is because we own our assets. Building on the benefits of keeping energy assets in public hands, we are providing each household with a \$50 per year asset ownership dividend. This \$50 credit is being provided directly to customers via their electricity accounts in 2018 and again in 2019.

We are also investing \$212 million to fund a range of energy concessions for vulnerable Queenslanders in 2018-19. This includes the \$341 per year electricity rebate which we extended to Commonwealth health care card holders and asylum seekers. This is in addition to seniors, pensioners and veterans who also continue to benefit from this assistance.

I will talk more about the fanciful ideas of those opposite a little bit later. Under the Palaszczuk government, regional Queenslanders will benefit from water projects that will boost local economies by providing better access to water for irrigators and local communities. Regional Queenslanders will continue to benefit from investment in soil health, land management and reef protection. Our investment in disclaimed mine management and remediation is money well spent as it potentially saves Queenslanders billions of dollars down the track. Just last month at the old Mount Chalmers goldmine near Rockhampton, a goldmine where my great-grandfather was a miner, I saw and heard of the benefits of remediating our old or abandoned mines, keeping them safe and, in some cases, preparing them for a new lease of life.

Further for Queensland's resources industry, \$9.8 million will go towards consolidating exploration, geophysical, geochemical and geological datasets. Queensland already outperforms the national average of exploration expenditure and this measure will aid the industry to maintain this position, boosting exports and the tens of thousands of jobs generated by the industry.

Water winners in the 2018-19 budget include: \$66 million for Rookwood Weir; \$5 million for the Glen Niven Dam; and \$4.2 million to retain and expand the Queensland Water Regional Alliance Program—and wasn't that well accepted by the local government community! In the south-east corner Seqwater has budgeted a record \$147.2 million in capital expenditure for the next financial year and will continue to develop South-East Queensland's 30-year water supply plan. The capital program focuses on continuing to provide a safe, secure and reliable water supply for South-East Queensland.

Our primary land management projects include: \$61.7 million over the next four years to help improve the quality of the state's land, vegetation, water and reef—of this \$19.4 million is directed to projects directly supporting the Great Barrier Reef; up to \$4.2 million in fee and land rental relief as part of the drought assistance package; and \$800,000 in funding to maintain the stock route network.

Key mine remediation and management investments include \$13.9 million to continue to deliver reforms to the regulatory framework for addressing mine dust lung disease here in Queensland and \$17.6 million to continue managing and remediating the state's disclaimed mine sites and research into new techniques.

As I said previously, the 2018-19 state budget will continue to drive down energy prices, fuel Queensland's renewable energy uptake and deliver a reliable electricity supply. The budget will continue to reinvest dividends from publicly owned electricity businesses to deliver more affordable energy.

We are spending \$2 billion over two years to deliver our Affordable Energy Plan. The dividends from our electricity businesses in 2018-19 will help pay for concessions and rebates to support vulnerable electricity customers and drive down prices. I must repeat that the only reason we can do that is because we own our assets. We are committed to helping Queensland families reduce their energy costs and we are delivering on our commitment to a two-year cap on electricity price rises to average inflation. We are already seeing results, as last week Origin and AGL announced respectively a 1.3 and a 1.6 per cent reduction for Queensland households, on the back of the 1.3 per cent reduction for typical regional households as recommended by the QCA. As I said before, more than \$464 million has been allocated to ensuring families in regional Queensland pay the same as those in South-East Queensland.

We have \$20 million for the regional Business Energy Savers Program, resulting in millions in annual savings for our farmers through energy efficiency programs. There is \$1.461 billion in electricity distribution networks, so that Queenslanders can continue to enjoy a safe, secure and reliable electricity supply. Included in that last figure are substantial works in Caboolture, Clayfield, Emerald, the Gold Coast, Howard, Inala, Maryborough and the Sunshine Coast. We are working for all Queenslanders.

In direct contrast, we have seen the height of irresponsibility from those opposite. As the minister responsible for energy, it would be remiss of me not to take to task the opposition for six years of criticising renewable energy, not only here in Queensland but also nationally. They have endlessly opposed any policy supporting renewables. There is the embarrassing imagery of a former prime minister stalking the current Prime Minister, ambushing every effort to put together a rational national energy policy. Yet today the Leader of the Opposition walked in here, wanting us to forget the past and now believe that she is truly committed to renewables.

No-one can believe the Leader of the Opposition. Where is the detail? Does she have a renewable energy target? No! She will hand it to the Australian Energy Market Operator to create some renewable energy target—something in the vapours. The Leader of the Opposition will not even say if she will back our policy. Will she rule out privatisation? No, she will not make that commitment, because she cannot! It is in their DNA.

When we get to the nub of the opposition leader's plan for reducing electricity prices, all we get is a vague imitation of our policy that she took to the election last year. After that, we know nothing. The Leader of the Opposition criticises the return from generators to government, but does not say what the LNP would do. She proposes a new community service obligation to subsidise competition on the Ergon network so that competition can reduce prices in regional Queensland, which might suggest that she intends to remove the \$500 million tariff equalisation—remove \$500 million of the community service obligation—hoping on a wish and a prayer that competition will bail her out.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Member for Burleigh, your interjections are not being taken.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I was also extremely disappointed by the opposition leader's appalling attacks on the board members of our GOC generators. The member for Nanango made a cheap and cowardly shot at those men and women by saying that the boards were union stacked. I suggest that the member for Nanango might want to look at the credentials and skills of the people who make up those boards and return here to apologise to those fine people.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Burleigh, I have spoken to you several times now. I give you a warning.

**Dr LYNHAM:** After listening to the Queensland Deputy Premier and Treasurer on Tuesday, I can only shake my head at the Leader of the Opposition's clueless budget reply.

Finally, much closer to my home, the people of Stafford will benefit from the Palaszczuk government's commitment to health, healthy lifestyles and, in particular, the wellbeing of women. On the back of the hugely popular AFLW League, in Wilston the AFL is getting a huge boost to attract greater numbers of women and girls to participate in the AFL with over \$270,000 of valuable funding. That is fantastic news for our local sporting community. Wilston Grange AFL will use the funds to make major improvements at its facilities at Hickey Park, to make it easier for women and girls to participate with suitable facilities to accommodate them as players, umpires and coaches. Those improved facilities will address some of the longstanding barriers discouraging more women and girls from being part of the Queensland sporting community.

Unfortunately, always some clubs must miss out. I hope that the Brisbane Netball Association, the Grange Thistle Soccer Club, the Grange Thistle Football Club and the Newmarket Football Club will be active participants in further grant rounds. Once again, I commend the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for an excellent forward-thinking budget that will benefit all Queenslanders.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Before I call the member for Hervey Bay, I clarify that warnings will stand until the adjournment. I remind all members that we need to listen to speeches in an orderly and courteous manner. I do allow some degree of robust debate and interjection, but if the member on their feet is not taking the interjections there is no point continuing. If I am giving a ruling, I expect people to be silent.

**Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (9.25 pm): I rise to speak on this budget. I start by commenting on the unbelievable misinformation coming from across the chamber, especially about asset sales. I know the member was not here when the asset sales were on, but I have this document on Queensland assets sale headed 'The myths vs the facts'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, are you intending to table that document?

**Mr SORENSEN:** I am reading from it and then I will table it. I have no worries about doing that.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, we are not having a debate. I am giving you some instructions, so please follow those.

**Mr SORENSEN:** The first myth states—

The five commercial businesses the Government plans to sell generate a lot of income for the state.

The fact states—

The total return from all five businesses in 2008-09 was approximately \$320 million. This is less than 0.9 % of the Government's income. For every \$100 of Government income that's less than 90 cents.

When the sale process is completed, it is anticipated the Government will save \$1.8 billion every year in interest payments.

Who sold those assets? This is a Labor government document. It also states—

Why the assets are being sold

With the global recession costing Queensland \$15 billion in future income the Government had a choice—stop building or find money from somewhere else.

We chose to sell five commercial businesses to reduce State debt ...

Who pays down state debt by selling assets? The Labor Party does! It is in their DNA, because when the debt gets too high they sell assets and that is for sure. The document states—

We chose to sell five commercial businesses to reduce state debt and continue the building program, which is protecting 127,000 jobs across the State and delivering the infrastructure and services we need, including:

new hospitals and upgrading existing ones

more roads, bridges, and busways

new schools ...

The document then outlines the five commercial assets to be sold. The first is—

- Forestry Plantations Queensland (the trees not the land)

I think that was a bit of a porky pie, because there is a 99-year lease over the land, so there is a difference with that. The second asset was the port of Brisbane, which they sold off, and then Queensland Motorways Ltd, which was discussed the other day.

**Mr BAILEY:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. As fascinating as this trip down memory lane is, the year is 2018. Could I suggest that the member actually join this decade and participate in the debate on the budget that is before the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir):** I have listened to a lot of speeches today. If we were going to make that ruling then I think 95 per cent of speeches would not have been allowed. There is no point of order.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It states that the other assets to be sold include—

- Queensland Motorways Limited (the toll rights on the Gateway and Logan Motorways, not the roads and bridge infrastructure)
- Abbot Point Coal Terminal (north of Bowen)
- Queensland Rail's (QR) coal transport business and assets.

I remember Rachel Nolan sitting in the chair across the chamber shouting, 'Queensland Rail is not for sale.' Do members remember that? Yes, we do. The very next sitting little Andrew Fraser hopped up and said it is for sale. He flogged it off. Another myth states—

These businesses are cheap to run.

The fact states—

Keeping these businesses would cost the Government \$12 billion over the next five years. That's \$12 billion spent on new coal trains and new wharves that can't be spent on roads, schools and hospitals.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is an awful lot of chatter in the chamber. I ask members to show the speaker the due courtesy he deserves. I am sure it will be returned.

**Mr SORENSEN:** This is a real doozy this one. The next myth states—

Privatisation leads to job losses.

This a really good one. The fact states—

The Government cannot grow these businesses, without cutting back public infrastructure building. The private sector can and will grow them. The success of former government-owned companies such as Qantas—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, could you stop for a moment. If anything the noise level rose. If members want to have conversations please take them outside. We will wait until the chamber is silent before we continue.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It reads—

The success of former government-owned companies such as Qantas and Brisbane Airport have shown us what can be achieved through private ownership. Free of government restrictions, commercial businesses are free to grow and create even more jobs.

Since privatisation, employment at Brisbane Airport has grown by 11,000 employees. Similarly, Qantas has grown by 6,700 employees.

It just goes to show that when we get rid of a Labor government businesses will grow. Do not come in here and preach to me about who sells assets. Here it is.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hervey Bay, please direct your comments through the chair and not across the chamber.

**Mr SORENSEN:** The previous Deputy Speaker told to me to table this document. I am really happy to table it.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Queensland assets sale—the myths vs the facts' [\[890\]](#).

It is a good history lesson for all those who have not been here since the days of the Bligh government. The Bligh government flogged these assets off.

Sheer disappointment does not come close to describing what this budget means to Hervey Bay. This budget will hurt householders with new taxes, debt and rising unemployment. There are five new taxes and four new charges worth \$2.2 billion. None of this is good for businesses or employment. This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. There will be \$2.25 billion of new taxes and fees over the next four years.

The election costing for the five new taxes was around \$491 million. This is a broken promise. The waste tax will raise \$1.3 billion. Who is going to raise this money for the government? I will guarantee it will be the poor old councillors who will have to put up the rates and charge the waste levy. Then they will give the revenue to the government.

**Mr Molhoek:** It is cost shifting, Ted.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It is cost shifting. It is the oldest trick in the book. They get local governments to raise money for the state government and then the councils look like the bad guys. That is what that is all about. Why can the government not go out and raise it themselves. It is unbelievable. It will be \$70 a tonne.

The thing that upsets me most of all is that Fraser Island is run by the department of environment and the Minister for Environment and yet they do not do any recycling on Fraser Island. The tonnes of rubbish coming off Fraser Island will now be taxed at \$70 a tonne. Is that not ridiculous? The government says that we are going to have recycling but there is none done on Fraser Island. Truck loads of rubbish come off the island. It will now cost \$70 a tonne. Who is going to pay that? Who is going to raise that money? Are we going to shift it from one department to the other? It is crazy stuff.

The wagering tax will be the dearest in the country. The land tax is only going to do one thing. It is going to increase rents for shopkeepers. When rent goes up they cut staff. It is a stupid tax. It is ridiculous. Then there is the property investment tax and car stamp duty. They will raise \$100 million from the car stamp duty. Some of the things going on are ridiculous.

The land tax will see an increase in rents, especially in shopping centres and tourism accommodation in the Hervey Bay electorate. Hervey Bay depends on the tourist dollar and everything that it brings. Accommodation, food and retail industries make up 23.5 per cent of employment in the Hervey Bay electorate. Accommodation accounts for 10.3 per cent and retail accounts for 13.25 per cent of employment in Hervey Bay.

In Hervey Bay we have some tourism accommodations places with about 30 units compared to others with about 10 units, but the land footprint is the same. They will have to pay the same land tax. It is not fair. A bigger building with more units can generate a lot more wealth than a smaller block even though they have the same land footprint.

Hervey Bay businesses cannot stump up the extra dollars for these taxes. They are going to be hit with the waste levy; that is for sure. The Treasurer gets excited about rubbish. The waste tax will generate \$1.3 billion. How much are we going to give back to councils? Are we going to do something for the councils? No, because a heap of this will go into general revenue.

They say that this will not affect mums and dads. Of course it is going to affect mums and dads. Every piece of rubbish people throw in the bin goes to the tip and goes to landfill. Of course it is going to affect every person in the street. It is rubbish to say that it is not going to affect them. How can you sit there and say that. It is just rubbish.

**Ms Grace:** Rubbish.

**Mr SORENSEN:** You are dead right. I take the interjection. It is totally rubbish.

The Queensland average jobless rate is forecast to climb to 6.25 per cent, higher than what the government had originally forecast. Hervey Bay's unemployment is over 10 per cent. In the Wide Bay, youth unemployment is up around 29 per cent. What did we get out of this budget? We got a few titbits here and there. There was an announcement of \$300,000 for a new ambulance station, but that is just the start of it. I would like to know when that is going to start and when the ambulance station will be completed. The rest are regurgitated announcements from three years ago. There are no new roadworks. Even the maintenance of the roads is very poor. The road from Maryborough to Hervey Bay is cracking up in many places. The maintenance of those roads is not happening. The Booral Road needs maintenance. There was one prang there and I complained about the road. There was a four-car pile up. The maintenance is not being done. How come?

Does somebody have to be killed before we do something about the maintenance of these roads? There is one corner on River Heads Road on the way to the airport that is really dangerous. That is where the four-car prang was the other day. Maintenance needs to be done. People are killed on these roads. People suffer injuries on these roads. It is not the fault of the driver. I was following a truck the other day when he hit a rut and the whole truck went over to one side and came back again. The maintenance on the roads around the place is not happening.

Then there is the cost of living. I have to congratulate Deb Frecklington on her speech this morning. She needs to be congratulated because she did a fantastic job this morning. At least she spoke for an hour, not like the Treasurer, who only spoke for 25 minutes.

**Mr Minnikin:** Twenty-four.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Twenty-four minutes. We talk about the coal industry propping up the budget here in Queensland, but \$100 million went up in smoke with Japan buying US coal over the strife with the railways. It is ridiculous. China has 220 new coal-fired power stations under construction and is planning to build another 266. India has 70 coal-fired power stations under construction and is planning to build 116 in the future.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (9.42 pm): Our future as a state relies on the groundwork that we put in place now—the infrastructure, the jobs, the education, training and skills for the future. Our future depends on Labor governments being in place, being true to the values of the movement started by the working class and the trade unions towards a fair and balanced community, but it also depends on honest public administration.

I am very pleased to say this evening that this budget provides 10 new learning spaces for Goodna State School. I am very proud of all of our state schools in the electorate of Bundamba. Schools are filled with dedicated teaching and support staff, and they give above and beyond to the students in my local area.

Goodna is also an area rich with pride, abundant in community spirit and wealthy in terms of its culture. The young people of Goodna deserve and demand every opportunity to progress in life and build on this great community. To this end, we need to resolve the issue in relation to Goodna Special School by providing a crossing on the busy Redbank Plains Road for the safety of the special school students, the parents, the staff and the visitors. This road is extremely busy. There has been a lack of action by the Ipswich City Council to put in lights or a crossing there. Tonight I am going to ask the Minister for Transport to please look at this for the safety of our school students from this special school and also their families, because only two weeks ago we had a near miss there at this school.

On education, I welcome the reannouncement of the schools for the growing community of Ripley. In fact, I have been in this place so long that I remember these schools being announced when Rachel Nolan was the MP for Ipswich. Ripley is the latest suburb expanding in our community.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs MILLER:** Well, it is true, Minister for Education. It is absolutely true. Schools should be built on time and when they are announced they should be shovel ready. Schools are but one component of a vibrant new suburb, particularly the new areas at Ripley. They become a hub for growing communities which are striving for facilities that allow the community to come together and form strong bonds and social networks that give communities a sense of wellbeing. The education department has had many years to get this right. The sooner the ground is prepped, the sooner the classrooms are built and the sooner the students can start school.

It is great to see that the government is keeping its election promise to provide the First 5 Forever preschool literacy lessons in libraries throughout our region with an investment of some \$74,000. This will be a big challenge in my electorate because Redbank Plains Library has been gutted of library books to supply the new library at Springfield. It will be a remarkable feat to improve literacy in a library without many books. I hope that the decision of the council is reversed following the community getting behind a petition against this ludicrous decision of the council to strip books out of a library. The petition was organised by Dawn Howser, and I thank the many people who took the time to sign the petition and to say that it is simply not good enough.

This is indicative of a council under a cloud of investigation of serious misconduct and alleged corruption, serious mismanagement and systemic issues of incompetence and poor, but excessively expensive, governance. This budget funds the CCC, the police, the department of local government and various other government departments which then provide grants and subsidies to Ipswich City Council and councils throughout Queensland, not to mention the cost of the administration of the various statutes as well.

For too long Ipswich has been run by a council desperate to resolve its underlying financial issues by allowing rampant development without infrastructure to sustainably support it. The Ipswich City Council relies on state government grants and subsidies to prop up its relatively low rate base, which is around half of its budget. For too long they have been far too close to developers. For too long they have relied on the Queensland government to mop up their failures by bailing them out by providing infrastructure budgets to alleviate their planning failures. For too long we have had a council culture of attacking those who have spoken out about those failures and demanded something better. This council has bullied staff and members of the community. They have intimidated staff and members of the community. The people of Ipswich deserve better.

As the Premier and Minister for Local Government said when they initially talked about this council in the chamber and the minister issued a show-cause notice as to why they should not be sacked, everyone in Ipswich—the people and the business community—deserves better. The precedent is there for this government to act in the best interests of the long-suffering residents of Ipswich. This budget is not the talk of the town in Ipswich. They are not talking about this budget at all. It is the Ipswich City Council that they are talking about and its alleged corruption in every cafe; every bar; every TAB; every hairdresser; over the shopping trolley at Woolies, Coles, Aldi and IGA; over the water cooler; at the Scout hall; and in the dressing sheds at the Rugby League. The people of Ipswich have had enough.

Inevitably, most conversations at the dinner table get around to it at some stage. It is a grave disappointment, and the people of Ipswich have an almost unspeakable anger. It is a despairingly gloomy feeling of embarrassment over a city which had pride and honour in its people and its institutions. The people of Ipswich have been deceived. They have been duped, they are angry—angry that it has happened and angry that it has been allowed to happen—and they are wondering why it takes so long for action to take place when they know that if they were to have allegedly undertaken far lesser infringements at their own workplace their feet would never touch the ground. It adds to the negative perception in our community that there is one rule for politicians or the elected elite and another rule for them as ordinary people and ordinary workers. They have lost faith in this system of government that is supposed to be there to benefit them, but all they see is benefits going to councillors.

This budget is about jobs. Well, let us have a look at jobs and the ratings in Ipswich. The medium wage in Ipswich is \$45,000, almost three times less than a councillor in Ipswich who now, I am told, has at least two electorate staff. They have one electorate officer and I understand that there is now a media adviser to every councillor. They have an office, a home office, a car plus allowances. Some Ipswich ratepayers or renters are lucky enough to have a job—even a part-time job. They are very lucky if they have a full-time job. Most have insecure part-time work if they are lucky. The right thing for us to do as a government is to help restore some public faith in government and to act in the public interest. As I said earlier, the precedent is there to act.

Investigating local governments costs money in the state budget—the Ombudsman, the CCC, the department of local government, the Attorney-General's department and administration in the courts. Let us look interstate for some precedent. In Victoria in the last 10 years the government has dismissed four councils including Wangaratta rural city council where the dismissal was in response to a workplace culture of bullying and intimidation. In Brimbank City Council the dismissal was in response to conflicts of interest—where have we heard that before?—and leaking of confidential information. In Greater Geelong city council the dismissal was in response to below standard governance and performance of the council. In the Central Goldfields Shire Council the dismissal was in response to governance concerns including a lack of transparency—well, hello, look at Ipswich—policy failures and financial mismanagement. In terms of policy failures, let us have a look at the recycling decision and then the reversal of that decision.

Furthermore, in New South Wales over the last 10 years we have seen councils either suspended or dismissed. In Auburn City Council the suspension was in response to allegations that decisions made by the council in relation to planning and development matters may have inappropriately benefited a number of councillors. In Murray Shire Council the suspension was in response to performance and behavioural issues which had impacted the council's ability to function. In the Central Darling Shire Council the suspension was in response to council's financial problems, and in Wollongong City Council the dismissal was in response to systemic corruption. With these in mind, the state governments acted in Victoria and New South Wales, and in some cases they acted swiftly.

Numerous residents and local businesses have approached me from all corners of the city of Ipswich. They have written to the relevant ministers. They have outlined issues that are not isolated mistakes or simple administrative errors. They have highlighted issues that can only be described as systemic. What has been so far reported in the media barely scratches the surface in my view. In the end, it probably will not all come out because people are still fearful. There is simply far too much, but we as a government can begin the healing. We can begin the process of restoring trust and integrity to this council. The good staff of Ipswich council deserve that and the business community deserves it.

Ipswich truly deserves better and so do Robbie and Jackie Sellars, and I table the documents in relation to this matter. The Clerk has had a look at these documents and he has approved them for tabling.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of letters from MA Kent & Associates, Solicitors, regarding the Queensland Ombudsman investigation into complaints by Mr and Mrs Sellars about Ipswich City Council [891].

In relation to Robbie and Jackie Sellars, they went to the CCC, the Ombudsman and I understand the Auditor-General and they wrote letters to ministers and departments. There was a recommendation from the Ombudsman a long time ago, but what happened in relation to that? It went to Ipswich City Council and they put it in a bottom drawer. They could not care less. They take no notice of the Ombudsman. They take no notice of his office at all. In those tabled documents everyone will be able to read the absolute shocking situation that Robbie and Jackie Sellars have had to go through.

I want to turn to Swanbank in relation to dumps. Swanbank and New Chum in my electorate have been dumping grounds for many companies, both interstate in New South Wales and Victoria as well as locally. I applaud the government on its decision to bring back the waste levy. I think it is very good because there are many rogue industries at Swanbank and New Chum, and we have to stop this interstate dumping from New South Wales and Victoria because it is me and my punters—my constituents—who put up with the smoke, the smell and the dust that come from these dumps. We are over it and we want it stopped. The levy is a necessary taxation on industry where rogue operators have no regard for our local environment and no respect for our residents. We have literally mountains of trash there.

The roads are in a deplorable state. When the dust comes off it is dry and it is choking. The dust gets muddy when it is wet and it is dangerous on the roads. That is only if we presume the dust and dirt is only on the roads and we are not inhaling it. We know that we are inhaling it because that is why we have such high respiratory illness in my electorate. The ABC and Fairfax exposed the dodgy practices of some of these rogue companies like BMI and Cleanaway. Despite this, Cleanaway have the hide to want to expand their operations in spite of the temporary planning instrument instigated by Minister Dick. We are not going to cop it anymore. In my local electorate we are saying get the hell out of my electorate. We are not going to cop it. Our local community has put up a sign five metres high and 30 metres long which is lit at night which says 'No superdumps for Ipswich'.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is an insult to me and my people from Redbank Plains that the Springfield Central Station is supposed to be completed in 2020 or 2021. That is years away. That is absolutely insulting to our people who use the train network. We also need something done about the Centenary Highway. We are sick of being in the traffic. It is no good and we want something done.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (9.58 pm): In rising to make my contribution to the 2018 appropriation bills, I make the comment that here we are in June addressing the 2018 budget. The state election was seven months ago and many honourable members still have not been given the opportunity to give their first speeches since the election. I am one of those members, and I wish to place on record my frustration that I have been unable to formally thank all those who helped me win a sixth term at the 2017 election. Whilst I am on my feet delivering my budget reply, may I say a huge thank you to everyone who helped with the Currumbin LNP campaign. You are simply the best.

The Treasurer's 2018-19 budget slugs Queenslanders with five new taxes. In typical Labor fashion, they revealed four of them just prior to the 25 November election saying they would be the only ones they would introduce for this 2018-19 budget, but now there are five. The fifth is a waste tax. It was not part of an election promise but is a devious money grab from a government that grows more arrogant by the day. It is estimated that \$1.3 billion will be raised over four years, but it is going into Treasury coffers and there is no guarantee it will not hit families hard too.

Of note is what was not in the past few budgets—that is, several billion dollars in underspend, and that should be concerning to all Queenslanders. Interest on current debt borrowing was \$6.2 billion over the past three financial years. These years of Labor inaction slowed Queensland's economy, and now they want you to believe that we are the land of milk and honey as they splash billions of dollars of cash they have borrowed and every Queenslanders will have to pay it back infinitum.

Now we know that Queensland is heading for a record \$83 billion worth of debt. Treasurer Trad sounded proud of it in recent interviews; she used that word a lot. Queensland's debt per capita is the second highest in Australia at \$14,000, and we are paying off about \$1.7 billion in interest every year. Rather than forge plans to pay down debt, the Palaszczuk government will do the usual finger-pointing and blame the federal government. Labor spends, spends and spends like there is no tomorrow and then expects someone else to pay for it.

Greater royalties from coal than were expected is a case of good luck rather than good planning. Estimated at around \$3.7 billion, this represents an increase of \$530 million or more on the midyear forecast. Here Labor show their true, sneaky and shameless form as they play the anti-coalmining game

to appease the Greens. In the *Courier-Mail* on Saturday, 9 June, senior political reporter Steven Wardill commented that Labor's search for an economic narrative since winning government in 2015 has been largely fruitless. That is a profound understatement, as Labor's economic narrative does not exist. Here we have a Treasurer who thinks being a good Treasurer is to spend what you do not have and to heck with the consequences. This is a borrowing budget that will bury us further into debt.

It is hard to know what Labor stand for as they sway this way and that, dancing to the beat of their masters, the unions, and also the Greens. It certainly is not jobs for Queenslanders, unless of course it is the public service. Before members opposite get their knickers in a knot, let me say that I have a lot of respect for public servants. I have family members who worked at state and federal levels. The Premier's mantra that she is rebuilding the Public Service rings hollow, or perhaps she just cannot count. Who could forget that she did not even know the GST rate?

CCIQ said the Public Service headcount continues to grow unsustainably, demanding a heavier reliance on tax revenues. CCIQ are calling for a moratorium on pay rises for public servants until private employers can catch up. They were not alone in their criticism. On 23 April, the *Courier-Mail's* front-page story by Steven Scott headed 'Fat Cat and too many friends' stated—

The Queensland Government has gone on a staggering hiring spree for highly paid public servants, ballooning the number for senior bureaucrats by 30 per cent in Anastacia Palaszczuk's first term in power.

More than 4,000 extra jobs were created at the top end of the Public Service on salaries of more than \$147,000, exploding at three times the rate of the rest of the bureaucracy and costing taxpayers a minimum of \$700 million a year. How many front-line teachers, nurses or police are on \$147,000? Not many that I talk to in Currumbin. So much for their 'jobs, jobs, jobs' mantra. Queensland had the worst unemployment rate in Australia under this Palaszczuk government at 6.5 per cent, with 9.5 per cent and 8.7 per cent reported for Wide Bay and Ipswich respectively.

It is this government's attacks on small business and private enterprise that are causing enormous angst. Everyday living costs have shot up under this fake regime. Water and electricity costs have skyrocketed and the new waste tax will cripple many. I am proud to be part of the LNP which genuinely backs small business. We always have, we always will. Labor continually tear them down, drown them in red tape and punish them.

Premier Palaszczuk let Peter Beattie loose again in Queensland to wreak havoc, this time as chair of the Commonwealth Games, where he showed his hatred of and disdain for small business on numerous occasions, labelling them whingers, telling them to suck it up and casting their genuine concerns aside with a sneer. What did the Minister for the Commonwealth Games do? Did she defend them? Of course not. She was too busy trying on her dresses and deciding what to wear. She completely ignored their pleas for help.

It was just like the poor residents who were told the Tugun desalination plant was for the common good. The contractors visited them to document the status of their homes pre construction, but once the plant was built they left town and left residents high and dry with damage to their homes. The same has happened to businesses which lost weeks of trade due to the Commonwealth Games. They were told business would be booming, that the games would be a huge opportunity, but that was not the case for so many of them who now find they have no-one to report their complaints to—no claims, no compensation.

That is why I will be encouraging them to send submissions and respond to the survey launched by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's wage theft inquiry. It is not good enough that hundreds of small businesses have to wait until next year for Goldoc to hand down any reports into their losses. They are hurting now. Why isn't there money in this budget for them?

Like all Labor MPs, Ms Jones pays lip-service to small businesses because they cannot and do not understand them. They are too infatuated with unions, and now they have introduced another five taxes to whack them some more. That is why the term 'milkshake duck' fits this Labor government so well. 'Milkshake duck' was Macquarie Dictionary's word of the year for 2017. The dictionary defines it as—

a person who is initially viewed positively by the media but is then discovered to have something questionable about them which causes a sharp decline in their popularity.

It plays to the simultaneous desire to bring someone down and the hope that they will not be brought down themselves, which is exactly the strategy adopted by the Palaszczuk government—do nothing, set up 150-plus reviews, blame the LNP for everything and scare people with fake news. There is something highly questionable about this government.

I move now to my beloved electorate of Currumbin. There was not much new money in this budget, with projects such as the Coplick's sports park receiving funds allocated in previous budgets. New classrooms for Palm Beach Currumbin High School—which is now in the Burleigh electorate but has the majority of its students living in Currumbin—are also part of an ongoing development. Our local councillor advised me that \$2 million of funding has apparently been approved from the Cycle Network Local Government Grants for an ocean pathway to be built from Bilinga to Tugun, but I have not been able to trace that in the budget papers.

After years of inaction from successive incompetent Labor governments, there is finally movement on upgrades to the M1 in my neck of the woods. Minister Bailey and the newbie member for Gaven can finger-point all they want that the LNP in less than three years of government did not build new roads, but talk about the pot calling the kettle black. Labor had the best part of 20 years and they did nothing about the increasing congestion, and meanwhile costs soared. They did not even do a business case to get the M1 into the infrastructure queue. Of the 16 priority projects listed in Infrastructure Australia's 2017 report, the Varsity-Tugun section of the M1 was not mentioned. The milkshake ducks were at it again.

The honourable member for Gaven is trying to take credit when she did nothing to get the ball rolling. I bet she did not sign my M1 petition. Labor were too busy building stadiums that no-one can afford to go to and that have little or no public transport—even the sporting teams cannot afford to play there. It took the Turnbull federal coalition government to break the impasse of M1 funding. This was swiftly followed by a pledge from our leader, the honourable member for Nanango, to match the funding and get on with the job of upgrading this road that is commonly known as the car park.

A huge thank you goes to the long-suffering people of Currumbin whose lobbying of the Palaszczuk government through a 10,000-plus petition in 2016 got the ball rolling, with a commitment of \$5 million for a business case into the widening of the M1 from Varsity Lakes to Tugun. Then the federal government came on board in the beginning of April this year, and the Premier was forced to bow to pressure after forceful vocal advocacy from the majority of Gold Coast residents and shaming from our local newspaper, the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. It was then that the Premier announced she would match the federal government's funding.

Labor's track record for delivering major infrastructure on the southern Gold Coast on time and on budget is woeful. I remind honourable members of the Tugun bypass debacle once again. It was the federal government that put the money on the table, while Queensland under Labor failed to get New South Wales Labor to come to the party.

New South Wales not only did not pay a cent for the road but held a weak Queensland Labor to ransom by wanting a route that ended up costing almost 10 times the original project cost. To add further insult, New South Wales Labor tried to slug Queensland with a \$235,000 land tax bill for building part of the bypass on their land. At just one minute past midnight on 3 June Queensland finally handed responsibility for the bypass tunnel over to New South Wales. It has cost Queensland taxpayers upwards of \$70 million all because Labor could not get their Labor counterparts in New South Wales to pay anything for it. That is Labor's economic credentials for you—or lack thereof—and they have not changed.

Take a look at the desalination plant—\$1.2 billion—built with countless avoidable problems that cost taxpayers plenty. It was rushed through by the asset-selling Bligh government because Labor had not planned for water security or built any dams. The words 'Mary River' still haunt many to this day. Labor owes the good people of Currumbin big time: all that lost revenue—hundreds of millions that could have fixed the M1 congestion years ago.

In the past three years attacks on bus drivers, escalating rock throwing at buses and a massive increase in fare evasion have largely been ignored by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Yes, they did commence a bus safety review in 2016, and we have just heard there is a five-point strategy that includes a voluntary code of conduct for passengers. However, there was nothing to stop the appallingly high number of fare evaders, which has jumped from 425,000 in 2015-16 to over a million in 2016-17, costing \$25 million in lost revenue per year. It took 18 months for this review to see the light of day. Whilst there are some positive initiatives, tens of millions of dollars of revenue every year is lost through fare evasion and nothing is being done to stop it. Meanwhile people say they will not use public transport such as trains because the fares are too expensive. Why should honest passengers have to foot the bill for cheats?

Bits and pieces along Currumbin Creek Road were spruced up for the Commonwealth Games cycling events, but instead of a long-term legacy for the people of Currumbin, who suffered significant disruption, a few signs is all we get. Minister Bailey simply cannot be serious about cycle safety if he is prepared to promote a narrow, dangerous section of road to cyclists yet refuses to widen it. Minister Jones led people to believe she was serious about getting some legacy items. That is what she said in front of a crowd at a chamber breakfast held in Currumbin before she shot off to bask in the limelight where she could avoid difficult questions.

I have often spoken of my admiration for the staff who perform miracles at Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary Hospital, treating in excess of 10,000 injured wildlife each year. Numbers are rising and funding is critical to carry on this wonderful work. I note the budget has \$250,000 for the hospital—the third year of a four-year commitment. The LNP promised \$350,000 a year for four years commencing this final year, which was significantly more than Labor's offering and gave longer certainty. Given Labor's proclaimed desire to protect koalas and other wildlife one would think they could allocate more.

Finally, we have seen Labor's long overdue Koala Expert Panel's final report released. It is interesting that of the six key objectives there are 43 recommended actions, but only half of those actually get full government support. Most are in principle. It is little wonder that peak environmental groups are seeing through Labor's sincerity on this issue with the government's response slammed by the Australian Koala Foundation as just hot air.

I cannot speak about Currumbin without acknowledging all of the fantastic community and sporting groups, our surf lifesavers and front-line service people: our police, ambos, teachers, health workers and many more.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.13 pm): What a fantastic budget for Queensland we saw handed down by the Treasurer on Tuesday. It was fantastic for Queenslanders in rural and regional communities, fantastic for Queenslanders in the south-east corner and particularly fantastic for those who live in the electorate of Ferry Grove. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor team that is delivering for Queenslanders, especially for people—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Member for Ferry Grove, there is a bit of chatter from my left and those interjections are not being taken.

**Mr FURNER:** I thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Not only was this a budget that delivers for Queenslanders today but it is, importantly, a budget that delivers for the next generation of Queenslanders. Firstly, there are the big headline-grabbing announcements that will have a massive impact on the future of those people who live in Ferry Grove. There is \$17.3 billion for health, a record spend that will ensure everyone has access to first-class medical treatment; \$45.8 billion for infrastructure, including more than \$5 billion for Cross River Rail that will cut travel time from Ferry Grove station to the CBD by up to 15 minutes; and \$14.1 billion for education.

I want to focus on education specifically this evening because nothing is more important to the Palaszczuk government than ensuring the next generation of Queenslanders have a great start to their lives and are healthy, safe and ready to be productive members of society. That is why since the election in November I have been advocating hard for our local area, and this budget delivers in spades for educators in Ferry Grove. There is \$18.1 million to build a new three-storey block, complete with state-of-the-art classrooms and science labs at Ferry Grove State High School. I want to pay particular attention and thank the Minister for Education, Minister Grace, and also the Deputy Premier and Treasurer who came out on Monday to make that announcement. There is \$10 million each for school hall improvements at the Mitchelton and Ferry Grove state high schools and a total of more than \$800,000 for works at another 10 schools in the Ferry Grove region.

Other highlights in my electorate include more than a quarter of a million dollars to be spent to progress the Samford Road business case and more than \$3.7 million to build 24 new units of accommodation. Not only does this budget deliver for Ferry Grove; it backs in all of Queensland by investing millions of dollars in rural and regional communities.

In my role as agricultural industry development and fisheries minister, I have travelled extensively around the state, covering more than 22,000 kilometres, visiting more than 30 towns and cities, including your own electorate, Mr Deputy Speaker. What I have heard on the ground from primary producers and industry groups is that the drought and pests are two of the things that have the biggest impacts on our agricultural industry. This budget will provide relief and support where it is most needed, including \$5 million over two years for wild dog exclusion cluster fencing in Western and Southern Queensland.

With more than half of our state still in drought, the Palaszczuk government will maintain existing drought relief arrangements, with up to \$34.6 million in the whole-of-government drought assistance package, up to \$20 million of which will be available under the Drought Relief Assistance Scheme. We are also continuing efforts to eradicate fire ants and stop any further spread of threats such as Panama TR4 disease with new funding allocated in the biosecurity space.

This portfolio is more than just dealing with issues that our farmers face on a daily basis. It is about growing our industry in domestic and international markets. That is why there is \$10 million over three years for the Rural Economic Development Grants Scheme, which promotes agricultural industry development and jobs in rural communities, and a further \$3 million over three years for the successful Rural Jobs & Skills Alliance and to extend the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network.

We are planning for the future by providing \$1 million over two years for research, development and extension in pulse storage to support the rapidly expanding chickpea and pulses industry. An amount of \$400,000 has been allocated to tackle fruit flies in Bundaberg through a regional agriculture data collection trial with Bundaberg Fruit & Vegetable Growers. It was a pleasure to catch up tonight with Allan and Bree from that organisation, and I know many of the members in the chamber also attended. I want to pay particular credit to the member for Burnett for organising that along with the previous member for Bundaberg. We will continue to implement the Queensland Sustainable Fisheries Strategy announced last year, which provided additional funding of \$20.9 million over three years to ensure that our fisheries resources are managed in a sustainable and responsible manner that recognises the interests of all Queenslanders.

This is a budget that delivers on our election commitments for the agricultural industry. AgForce and QFF, which I look forward to working with on the Agricultural Ministerial Advisory Council, agreed and said that this budget delivers on our election commitments. So far our budget initiatives have also been supported by Growcom, Canegrowers and the LGAQ. It would come as no surprise that the opposition spokesman for agriculture has been less than complimentary about this wonderful budget. No, I am not talking about the member for Gregory, who is a true advocate for the bush. I am talking about the absent opposition spokesman, the member for Gympie, who instead of talking up our agricultural industry is more focused on getting his name printed in the *Gympie Times*.

Let us have a look at what he said about this budget. The member for Gympie in an article in—where else—the *Gympie Times* said, 'Labor's four new taxes were ushered in under the cover of an election campaign.' We all know there is no greater cover for a party to make a tax announcement than an election campaign. I also found it disappointing that the member for Gympie is looking after the high end of town with his comments about the state budget. He said that struggling families will be impacted by the new taxes, but that is misleading. How many struggling families do we know, colleagues, who own a car worth more than \$100,000? It is time the member for Gympie realised that working families drive Holdens, Toyotas and Fords; not Rolls Royces or Lexuses, like some of those opposite.

The member for Gympie said that this budget is all smoke and mirrors. Well, I say that this budget is straight fire, with a \$481 million agriculture budget—up \$57 million from last year—that not only deals with the pests and diseases that are affecting our farms but is looking forward to develop our industry into the future. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that delivers on its commitments, delivers for agriculture and delivers for Queenslanders. I commend the appropriation bills to the chamber.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (10.20 pm): Today I appreciate the opportunity to contribute to the debate on the appropriation bills. Importantly, I want to reaffirm the promises I made to those I represent and for whom I will continue to fight: to deliver the projects we need and question why their needs have largely been ignored in this budget. This budget of taxes, debt and unemployment is not a budget for all Queenslanders, as some may have us believe: it is a budget for Queenslanders in our cities. The small rural communities like those I represent have been ignored. It is a budget of five new taxes worth \$22 billion and four new fees, including fees for vets and labour hire companies.

I have said it before and I will say it again: without Lockyer, Queensland would not be the state that it is today. As the seventh most fertile valley in the world the Lockyer Valley, together with the Brisbane Valley, provides much of the healthy fresh food that feeds and fuels our state. For generations it has served as one of the most productive areas of agricultural production, which is one of the cores of our state's economy. This productivity has not come easily though. Lockyer is also one of Australia's driest regions, with droughts such as the one we are currently experiencing a constant concern for our dedicated farmers. For years they have worked day and night to keep our state's people and its economy fed, but we need assistance to get better infrastructure to access the water we desperately need.

How are these men and women expected to continue to provide the same quality produce they have done in ever-increasing quantities with the constant fear of running out of water hanging over them? Every day they fear not having access to the water they need. Every day our farmers get one day closer to the day when they may not have water to grow crops and are no longer able to pay their bills or keep a roof over their families' heads. People's lives and livelihoods are at stake here. It is not just the Lockyer that will be affected if we fail to do nothing. Without the food produced and employment opportunities provided by our farmers, the entire state will suffer. I am heartened by the work of the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative and the cooperative efforts and success this may bring.

I welcome the Leader of the Opposition's announcement of the five-point plan to fix Queensland by busting congestion; providing cheaper electricity; ensuring better health and education services; delivering water security; and—this is the big one that many people are interested in—the guarantee of no new taxes. Our leader's vision to develop a 30-year water security plan working with local governments, Seqwater and SunWater is a key strategic move to make sure that water is available and affordable. This project has the opportunity to unlock water capacity. Water equals security and food and jobs in all our businesses, and every aspect of our community benefits.

Like others in this House, I was cautiously optimistic when I heard claims that this budget would contain record levels of spending on transport infrastructure. As this area is one of great concern for the people of Lockyer I thought to myself, 'Have we done it? Have the pleas of my constituents and me to fund road and transport upgrades managed to win some desperately needed funding to ensure the safety of my constituents?' The answer to that question was a resounding no. Sadly, my optimism was misguided and my dreams of being able to tell my constituents that they have been heard by this government were dashed.

The Warrego Highway is a key freight and commuter route in my electorate. Does the safety of road users west of Ipswich not matter? I have been campaigning to secure overpasses and improvements to intersections along the Warrego such as a combined vehicle and pedestrian solution at Withcott, a town divided by the highway; improvements at the notorious black spots of Minden, Glenore Grove and the Summerholm crossroads; and the Fairways intersection. I have been told by many, and I have seen it throughout my professional career as a police officer, that these intersections are incidents waiting to happen. People risk their lives using them each day, and it is only a matter of time before more lives are lost. My predecessor in the Lockyer electorate fought successfully for an overpass at the Warrego Highway intersection at Plainland which I know has ensured the safety of many. We need more overpasses like this one. Lives are in danger when people are forced to use outdated intersections in various states of disrepair. This is not a matter of getting home 14 minutes early: people are dying crossing the highway.

The Warrego Highway is not the only road in my electorate that was short-changed in this budget. The Brisbane Valley Highway, which supports residents in areas such as Lowood and Fernvale, is in a state of disarray. Particularly in Fernvale, where the highway serves as the town's main street, residents have told me how they fear their morning commute to work along the highway or worry about another road user crashing through their front fence. Nevertheless, as was the case with the Warrego, nothing was provided.

In fact, on Wednesday morning I received an email from the Department of Transport and Main Roads informing me that the highway has been noted as dangerous but that, unfortunately, no funding is available to facilitate repairs. It stated that when some did become available, the department will conduct a study of the road's needs. A study? I could not believe it. If the highway is already considered dangerous, why is another study needed and why was no funding to improve the highway included in this budget? Luckily, common sense has not evaded me or my community and, together with the member for Nanango, we will continue to fight for a safer Brisbane Valley Highway. The Forest Hill-Fernvale Road through Lowood to Fernvale is also in much need of repair. We will continue to fight for these improvements.

This budget promised increased spending on education. If this is true, I am sure that there are one or two very happy members sitting on the other side of the House; however, I know that my electorate received the bare minimum. The government finally came to the table to match the LNP's election promise to build desperately needed classrooms at Laidley and Lowood State High School, but the budget left the other 32 schools of Lockyer wondering when their share of the pie was going to arrive. No mention was made of improving parking facilities at Lockyer High or Hattonvale State High School, where teachers and visitors are forced to park on the front yards of nearby homes just to get to

work or pick up their children. Nor was any consideration given to upgrading facilities at Fernvale State School, which faces growth. I look forward to working with the minister to achieve these outcomes in the near future.

The government has also dismissed the opportunity to match the LNP's promise to provide air conditioning and improved facilities at Lowood State School. I queried the honourable Minister for Education on this opportunity, and I was told that, despite there being only a single degree yearly average temperature difference and comparable levels of average humidity between Lockyer and Bowen—an area in the cooler school zone—this opportunity would not be considered. For me and others lucky enough to call Lockyer home this just is not good enough. Education is by far the single greatest investment we can make in the future of our state, and I will continue to fight tirelessly to ensure that Lockyer gets its fair share. I again thank the Leader of the Opposition for her vision and for the commitment she made earlier today to provide air conditioning to every state school classroom in Queensland. Cool kids are smart kids.

Another promise made by this budget is a dramatic increase in funding for Queensland's vital emergency services agencies. During my long policing career I had the wonderful opportunity to work amongst the most devoted members of any community—the police, firefighters, ambulance officers and of course SES volunteers—who give up their time, energy and sadly in some cases their lives to protect others and make our communities safer. Along with all others in this House I listened intently as the budget was handed down and eagerly pored over the papers tabled to see if any of the much needed funding I had fought for on behalf of our emergency services staff and volunteers in the electorate had been provided. Once again, I was met by a blank sheet and left aghast. Those dedicated few in my electorate whose only concern is for the safety of others had been left wanting.

Lowood and Fernvale are amongst the fastest growing communities in my electorate. With growth comes the need for more and more services, particularly emergency services and personnel. With this in mind, prior to the election the LNP made a promise to provide a \$2 million renovation of the Lowood Police Station in order to ensure the safety of the community and provide officers with a more viable working space. This commitment sought to provide desperately needed upgrades to a station where officers work in cramped conditions. The government has failed to match this commitment. As such, officers in Lowood and the community as a whole will continue to suffer. This is unacceptable. This is not an isolated case of poor forethought in this budget.

Fernvale, a town of more than 3,000 people, is in emergency situations only serviced by a small brigade of rural volunteer firefighters. Though they are incredibly dedicated and competent, these volunteers themselves openly admit that they are neither equipped nor trained to deal with the full range of emergency incidents. Indeed, for residents of Fernvale to get assistance in the case of a traffic incident or structural fire they must wait for auxiliary or permanent firefighters from either Lowood or Brassall, almost 20 kilometres away, to respond. In any emergency, time is of the essence. Waiting for these appliances to respond is too long to wait. People's lives are threatened daily by this lack of resources and to see—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Members, there is too much noise in the chamber. Please keep it down.

**Mr McDONALD:** People's lives are threatened daily by this lack of resources. To see no funding pledged towards ensuring the safety of those communities is astounding. Once again, this budget has let down a rural community. I certainly will not be doing the same. I will continue to fight for the people of Lowood and Fernvale.

My electorate is home to two small local councils, the Lockyer Valley Regional Council and Somerset Regional Council. Noting this, it would be remiss of me to not make mention of the government's planned waste levy. As we all know, this was not a tax taken to the election, coming instead as somewhat of a shock to all shortly after. This tax is another case of rural communities being left worse off. Our small councils do not have the same waste disposal capacity as city councils, so the added pressure of this tax on waste will force small regional councils to pass this cost on to already struggling ratepayers.

This is not the only tax that will disproportionately affect those in small communities. The government's new wagering tax of 15 per cent is set to rip over \$360 million from Queensland's racing industry. As Terry Kirkwood, President of the Lockyer Valley Turf Club, said—

For the industry to go ahead in Queensland, the tax generated has to go back into the industry for prize money and infrastructure.

I share Terry's concern and believe that if this does not happen this tax will be a hit that country racing will not survive. This loss would negatively affect our small communities, where the local race day is often one of the few social events of the year. Unlike our cities, small towns often do not have other attractions or events to fall back on. This attack on racing is also an attack on the uniqueness of small communities like those I represent.

As members may have already noted, the livelihoods, safety and sustainable growth of the communities and individuals I have the honour of representing are matters very close to my heart. Nothing gives me more pride than being able to stand and fight for what my constituents need and deserve, and this budget fails to provide that. Despite claims to the contrary, this budget does not deliver for all Queenslanders. It simply delivers for Queenslanders in cities or with easy access to them. This is unacceptable. I believe that Queensland's government should represent all of Queensland, not just its cities or the electorates the government feels are vulnerable. I stand for a state that provides equal services and equal opportunity to all no matter where they live, what they do or how they vote. That is why I stand here to say that the people of Lockyer will not accept this budget as a fair one—and nor do I.

Despite the election costings providing for only \$491 million in new Labor taxes, we see five new taxes worth \$2.2 billion introduced. The people of Queensland cannot trust this government.



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.35 pm): Anyone who knows our Premier and Treasurer would know that this budget would build our state, support front-line services, give Queenslanders who need it a helping hand, be fair and be visionary and deliver. In September last year this government introduced our new procurement policy, the Buy Queensland policy. We made a conscious decision to establish a framework that levels the playing field for Queensland business and, importantly, for Queensland workers, because Labor believes that every Queenslanders should get a fair go.

Labor believes that it is the government's job to address inequality in all its forms. When our Premier launched the Buy Queensland policy there were those who criticised her decision. They said that government should not attempt to address social ills through the way in which it delivers its spending. We believe that we absolutely should, that we absolutely can and that we absolutely must choose how and where to spend taxpayers' money in order to address inequality. We must invest taxpayers' funds carefully to create secure quality jobs for Queenslanders in a strong economy—jobs in their local community. We must invest carefully also to support healthy Queenslanders, to make sure our kids, like my kids, Scarlett and Charlie, get the best start they can in life, to make our communities safer, to protect our precious Great Barrier Reef and to put Queenslanders at the centre of every decision government makes. I will come back to that later.

The budget delivers on our commitment to addressing inequality in all its forms. At its heart is the principle that every Queenslanders deserves a fair go. We are delivering on our commitments in housing, public works, digital technology and sport. Sport is at the heart of Queensland communities, whether you watch it, you play it or, like most of us, you just love it. Sport keeps Queenslanders healthy and it brings communities together.

When I see the joy that sport brings to my daughter's life, it breaks my heart to know that the kids and families in Queensland who would most benefit from getting into sports and active recreation are often those who have the least opportunity to do so. That is why the Palaszczuk government has made a \$37.3 million commitment in this budget to fund initiatives to upgrade sports infrastructure to support Queensland's children and healthy communities. A further \$31 million of capital including grants will deliver grassroots sport and recreation clubs the vital infrastructure they need. That includes \$7 million for the University of the Sunshine Coast and its indoor courts; \$5.5 million for the Zillmere Sports centre projects; \$4½ million for the delivery of a capital works program at the Gold Coast Recreation Centre; and \$9.1 million for the Underwood sports park.

Income equality is not the only barrier to participation in sport and active recreation. We know that there are also barriers preventing women and girls from playing and participating in sport, so we have taken steps to address some of those most fundamental barriers. The Premier's Female Facilities Program has been an incredible success right across the state, with 45 projects in Queensland sharing in \$15.2 million in funding this year alone. It has delivered functional and inclusive change rooms and sporting facilities for women and girls. At the same time it does something very important: it creates local construction jobs in those communities. It is no accident that we have delivered a program that supports local sporting clubs that also supports local jobs.

I want to speak for a moment about my local electorate of Springwood. Underwood Park is a community facility built by the blood, sweat and tears of our forefathers—people like my own father—and the facility needs an upgrade. It is getting a bit old, a bit like my dad. As Springwood's elected representative and as Minister for Sport, I am proud that this budget delivers \$9.1 million to support the first phase of a long-term redevelopment of the facilities that he helped build at Underwood Park.

From this funding we will see new netball courts and a clubhouse for the Underwood Park Netball Association. We will see storage facilities for clubs like Logan City BMX and the RATS Cycling Club. We will see the redevelopment of the Rochedale Rovers facilities including a multipurpose community facility and space for Meals on Wheels. The \$15 million Female Facilities Program that I spoke about just a moment ago delivers new change rooms for the girls and women at Rochedale Tigers Rugby League Football Club, meaning that all sports at Underwood Park are top notch. This investment will make Underwood Park a first-class community asset.

The first budget delivered by Treasurer Trad delivers thousands of secure jobs for Queenslanders through a secure pipeline of construction work right across Queensland and by ensuring that government investment puts Queensland workers and Queensland businesses first, demonstrating that the Palaszczuk government is one that delivers on fundamental Labor values. It delivers on our commitment to becoming a responsive government as well, continuing our development of agile, innovative and digitally enabled government services.

Every Queenslander should have somewhere safe, secure and sustainable to call home. This budget builds on the early success of our record 10-year \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program, with funds allocated for the commencement in its second year of another 599 social housing commencements in 2018-19. In my own community construction has already commenced on a project in Thornhill Street. This will see 35 new homes built for Springwood seniors, and this is just the start. These are comfortable, modern, accessible, livable homes where our parents and grandparents can live in the community that they have called home all their lives with the security of knowing that these homes will be suitable for them as they age.

A further \$61.7 million has been set aside in 2018-19 to deliver 75 social homes and upgrade existing housing in Queensland's remote Indigenous communities. This budget provides an additional \$62½ million in grants for further infrastructure development in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities across the state. The budget is supporting our regions with \$47½ million for secure housing to support our front-line workers in rural and remote communities across Queensland.

My wife, Kristie, is a front-line worker—she is a teacher—so every day I see how hard she works and how committed she is to the community that she calls home. She and all of Queensland's front-line workers—whether they are a teacher, whether they are a nurse, a police officer, an ambo, whether they are one of our Building and Asset Services staff working in North Queensland—keep our communities safe, they ensure great starts for all of our children and they keep our elderly healthy. The way that we connect as a community is changing as digital technologies develop, and so too is the way our community expects to do business with government. In this year's budget we are investing \$8.8 million for our responsive government service transformation initiative because time spent transacting with government is time that small business could otherwise spend on growing their business and creating jobs for Queenslanders because the Palaszczuk government backs Queensland jobs.

Earlier I spoke about our Buy Queensland procurement policy, and I want to return to that for just a moment. Across the whole of government we invest almost \$18 billion of Queensland taxpayers' funds in goods, in services and in infrastructure. As a Labor government we believe in the power of directing that investment towards Queensland businesses. That is why in this budget we have allocated \$1.34 million for the first time for each of two years to ensure a level playing field and that everybody plays by the rules, especially on local secure job requirements for tenders for government contracts.

We are establishing a special team that will work collaboratively with industries and collaboratively with unions to assist industry meet its commitments under the Building and Construction Training Policy, including employing apprentices, as the Treasurer outlined, as 15 per cent of the workforce on significant projects. This initiative delivers on an important commitment to keep public and industry confidence that government procurement delivers benefits in the regions where goods and services are to be supplied and delivers secure jobs that come with fair pay and jobs that come with safe working conditions. It means more apprentices on our construction sites which means more job opportunities for local kids and, importantly, a shot at getting that important trade.

As the Treasurer has made clear, this budget is not just about 2018-19. This is a budget which is about planning for the future of our state, for the next generation of Queenslanders: for healthy kids and sports facilities where they can have a go; safe, connected, capable communities and responsive government; growing businesses and decent jobs for Queenslanders. I commend the appropriation bills to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (10.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the 2018-19 Queensland state budget handed down by the member for South Brisbane. As a father of three wonderful children, my wife and I instil in our family the importance of living within your means. We teach them the importance of participating in work and earning money for effort. One of my children has become a really good saver and prefers to spend mum and dad's money instead of her own, so she has certainly caught on to something there. I am sure that members in this chamber would agree with me the importance of living within your budget and instilling the importance of this on your children. All we want to see is the very best for the next generation and ensure that the high living standards that we have become accustomed to continue into the distant future.

We all realise that every time we use a credit card we are required to pay it back one day. People, like governments, are sometimes placed in spiralling debt cycles and are forced to find other means to boost their income to service their loans and other expenses. However, unlike people, governments have the ability to create new taxes and increase existing taxes which are disseminated throughout the community with residents paying directly and indirectly, increasing the cost of living to service government debt. Therefore, it is critically important for governments, like people, to live within their means.

Unfortunately for the people of Queensland, over the last 20 years the Labor government has placed our state finances into dire circumstances. What angers residents most is that with all of this debt what do we have to show for it? Labor sold Queensland Rail. Labor sold Queensland Motorways. Labor sold the Abbot Point Coal Terminal. Labor sold the port of Brisbane. Labor sold Forestry Plantations Queensland, the Cairns Airport, the Mackay Airport, the state's share in Brisbane Airport, privatised wind energy assets and privatised gas pipeline assets. Golden Casket was sold, as was Powerdirect Australia, Sungas and Sun Retail. Allgas distribution businesses were sold. With all of these fire sales debt continued to mount to historic levels with an interest bill that amounts to \$7,000 a minute, \$220,000 an hour, \$10 million a day, \$71 million a week or \$3.7 billion a year. Queensland is headed to a \$83 billion debt bomb and residents have the right to ask: what do we have to show for it?

Our road networks are bursting at the seams. They are reaching capacity or are at capacity and beyond. Every time there is an accident on the M1 motorway, the whole northern Gold Coast road network goes into meltdown, yet within the northern Gold Coast corridor vast tracts of land are being opened up for development without the necessary infrastructure to cater for that massive growth. We tell people to park their cars at local train stations and take the trains to work—if they run on time—yet this government does not provide ample parking for commuters.

The \$3.7 billion interest bill on the debt would build the roads we need and the car parks we need to attract more people on to public transport. That money would build the roads of tomorrow today. It would build the highway networks and the ring-roads around Brisbane and the Gold Coast. It would build congestion-busting infrastructure. It would fund state-of-the-art learning facilities to give our students the best possible start in life. That money would fund lights at ovals in my electorate for the Coomera Cubs Baseball Club, the Helensvale Hawks cricket club, the Coomera Crocs cricket club and many other sporting facilities.

At the last election the Albert electorate was renamed Theodore and its boundaries were changed significantly.

**Ms Pease:** 'Red Ted'?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** Unfortunately, it is named after 'Red Ted'. My electorate lost all of the northern areas around Beenleigh, Yatala, Ormeau, Kingsholme, Cedar Creek, Willow Vale and the northern parts of Upper Coomera to other electorates. A large percentage of the Albert population was redistributed out of the new electorate of Theodore. The new boundaries of my electorate of Theodore include Guanaba in the west, Helensvale in the east, parts of Upper Coomera and Coomera in the north and Park Lake and Pacific Pines in the south. Sitting right smack bang in the middle of my electorate is motorway exit 57, the Oxenford interchange. At the last election, both major parties promised to upgrade exit 57.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** There is a lot of sunshine. I will get to that. The vast majority of the residents of my electorate believe that the upgrade of exit 57 is congestion-busting infrastructure. Earlier this year, the residents of my electorate witnessed tree clearing next to the Oxenford Tavern, which is located next to exit 57. Many residents asked me with much excitement, 'Are they finally going to build the slip road to give us direct access to the M1 northbound?' In a bid to find out, I emailed the Department of Transport and Main Roads. I must say that the email that I received back was rather deflating. It destroyed the hopes of the residents of my electorate. The email states—

Dear Mark

I am writing to advise you that the Department of Transport and Main Roads will be installing solar panels on the western side of the Pacific Motorway (M1), Oxenford interchange (Exit 57).

The email said that the solar panels were going to be installed above ground, which I suppose would help. The email stated further—

The solar panels will help offset the power used to light the M1 underpass at Exit 57.

Works associated with the installation of the solar panels has started today and are expected to take approximately eight weeks to complete. This schedule may be impacted by weather and is dependant on approval of a network agreement with Energex. All work will be undertaken during the day with no impact to traffic, including during Games time.

**Mr Minnikin:** Solar panels.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** We got the solar panels. The email states further—

The area will also be fenced to deter vandalism of the solar panels once installed.

I trust this information is of assistance to you and your constituents.

When I put this email on Facebook, my Facebook account went viral. There was a frenzy. This email went out to thousands and thousands of people and virtually every single one of them expressed their dismay and shock that the government could be that obtuse. Cars and trucks trying to turn on to the northbound lane of the M1 motorway from Tamborine-Oxenford Road—the old Pacific Highway—and Heathwood Drive are forced to wait in a queue behind vehicles trying to drive across the motorway. If there were a dedicated slip lane there, those vehicles could easily slip up around the side and go straight on to the motorway. The problem is that the Department of Transport and Main Roads put the solar panels where the slip road needs to go.

I have nothing against solar panels, but why can they not go on the roof of a local school or even on top of the bridge? There are plenty of dead pot plants at the top of the bridge. The member for Broadwater would see those dead pot plants on a daily basis. The solar panels should have been put up there.

**An opposition member:** They can't. They're muppets.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I take that interjection. They are muppets.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Order! Member for Theodore, that language is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I withdraw. If the department could extend an additional lane along the M1 motorway between Helensvale Road and Brisbane Road, that would alleviate an enormous amount of congestion at that point of the M1 motorway.

It is good to see the Minister for Police in the chamber. As I have said, my electorate is a growth corridor of the northern Gold Coast. Police resources on the northern Gold Coast are stretched. They received 22,000 calls for service and 58 officers were looking after those calls. That is an enormous amount of work for 58 officers. I plead with the minister: we need more police for the northern Gold Coast. The residents of my electorate are desperate for more police. They feel that the safety of their children, their houses, their cars and their properties should be treated equally with those of everyone else throughout Queensland. I plead with the minister to please give my electorate more police.

Recently, sound barriers were installed in Helensvale along the rail line. Many residents have come to me to complain and express their frustration over these new sound barriers. In an answer to a recent question on notice the department admitted that, in certain sections, these sound barriers are lower than the previous ones. The minister promised to get his department to check the decibel levels after the Commonwealth Games. Today, I asked a question on notice to see whether that has occurred. The residents of my electorate want to know the answer, because they believe that the noise level is in breach of the legislation.

Although this was not part of the budget, recently Coomera State School received some fencing which was desperately needed because a major Commonwealth Games facility was located down the road from this school. It would have looked terrible for Queensland education to have that rundown fence at that school.

The budget allocates funding to Helensvale State High School for additional classroom spaces, which they have already started work on. When it comes down to it, this is a typical Labor budget, with five new taxes that are simply cash grabs. The thing with new taxes is that the costs will be passed on to small, medium and large businesses, but it is the small business operator and the consumer that will be most impacted. Labor's inability to manage finances will mean the next generation will be forced to pay off its debt bomb.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (11.00 pm): Tonight I rise to support the budget bills introduced into this House by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer on 12 June 2018. This budget is emblematic of good Labor policy. As outlined by the Deputy Premier, this year's budget is all about delivering for all of Queensland, including regional Queensland. It is a road map for Queensland's future. The Palaszczuk Labor government's 2018-19 budget delivers on the infrastructure, skills and services that Queensland needs. As has been outlined by many speakers, recently we welcomed the birth of the five millionth Queenslander. Queensland's population continues to grow at one of the fastest rates in the country. The 2018-19 budget will deliver the infrastructure needed to keep pace with that population growth.

The 2018-19 budget includes a capital program of \$45.8 billion over the next four years. Some of those projects, such as Cross River Rail and the upgrades to the M1 at Eight Miles Plains, will benefit my electorate of Toohey. A strong economy requires community members who feel equipped and inspired to participate and succeed. We are investing an additional \$50 million in Advance Queensland initiatives to continue to support our entrepreneurs, increasing funding under the Back to Work initiative to \$369 million and delivering on our election commitment of a further \$180 million in the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program to fund more apprenticeships and increase workforce participation. The 2018-19 budget also supports small businesses with a \$26 million commitment to a further extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for Queensland businesses to employ apprentices and trainees until June 2019.

Within my electorate of Toohey is the QEII Jubilee Hospital. The 2018-19 budget will continue to provide the world-class services that Queenslanders rely on, with a record \$17.3 billion health budget and a \$14.1 billion education and training budget. To ensure that our services meet the needs of our growing population, over the next four years Labor will deliver more than 3,700 additional teachers, 3,500 new nurses, midwives and nurse navigators, 400 extra police and 100 extra firefighters.

In my electorate of Toohey our state schools are great schools that show initiative and deliver a first-class education to their students. I would like to tell a story about the Sunnybank State School. The school has a library that showcases the commitment and support the teachers give to their students by allowing them to explore their imaginations through how the library is set out. More encouraging is the giant xylophone in the courtyard of the school, where students are encouraged to belt out a tune. Those great teachers are encouraging young minds to grow and explore. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to supporting our state school teachers into the future. The 2018-19 state budget includes an investment of \$107 million over three years for our Teaching Queensland's Future program to help prepare and nurture beginning teachers.

In my first speech in this House I spoke about improving the lives of my constituents. I went on to speak about the issues that I felt were important to my electorate. I spoke about education and infrastructure in my electorate. I also spoke about how the constituents of my electorate were keen to see that our student-teacher ratio is replaced after the Newman government cuts to teacher numbers in my electorate.

At that time I was concerned about the fact that seventeen-year-olds were being dealt with as adult offenders. In September 2016, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016 was introduced into the House and ultimately passed. The Youth Justice and Other Legislation (Inclusion of 17-year-old Persons) Amendment Act 2016 commenced on 12 February 2018, bringing Queensland into line with other Australian states and United Nations conventions. Government agencies, together with community, youth and legal stakeholders have worked tirelessly to implement several initiatives in preparation for the transition of 17-year-olds. The Palaszczuk government has made a commitment to the people of Queensland to move to an evidence-based approach that acknowledges the risks and needs of the different age cohorts in the

youth justice system. The research is clear: programs, practices and policies that hold young people accountable for their offending, while also targeting the causes of crime, are effective in reducing offending and improving community safety.

Young people who end up in the criminal justice system are characterised by a multitude of complex needs. Often they present with significant child protection histories, drug use and mental illness. Many have disengaged from education and have limited job prospects. Everyone has a role to play and the Labor government will continue to work with local communities as well as legal, youth and welfare organisations, academic partners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partners and government agencies to build new pathways for at-risk children and their families and create safe, nurturing and responsible communities. It was encouraging to see that the 2018-19 state budget has injected funds to continue the good work that has been started by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I will now outline the commitments that the Palaszczuk Labor has made in the 2018-19 budget. There is \$17.1 million over three years from 2018-19 for bail support and advocacy services to help reduce remand of children and young people in custody. There is \$10.2 million for 84 additional positions to enhance operations at Queensland's two youth detention centres. There is \$6.5 million to continue to implement the government's response to the recommendations of the independent review of youth detention in Queensland. There is \$2.9 million to continue the Community Youth Response initiative in Townsville. There is \$2.5 million to continue the Transition to Success initiative.

In my maiden speech I also said that protecting the rights of ordinary Queenslanders would be a guiding principle for me in my time in this parliament. I said that it had been a fundamental driver of my professional career to the point of my election to the state parliament and it has continued since my election. I referred to the other states that have introduced a charter of rights or bill of rights. Once introduced, a charter will provide protections for the rights of ordinary people and give government officials clear and unambiguous guidelines under which to operate. Therefore, I was hearted to see that in the Palaszczuk 2018-19 budget there is an allocation of \$2.3 million, honouring an election commitment to the introduction of a charter. That will be a spend of \$616,000 over four years to support the operation and administration of a human rights act for Queensland. In addition, the Palaszczuk government's 2018-19 budget provides \$200,000 over two years for the office and system enhancement required to support the operation and administration of a human rights act.

The statutory body that will oversee the charter of rights is the Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland. During 2018-19, the service summary for the Anti-Discrimination Commission will focus on protecting human rights. It will also promote human rights; organise, promote and facilitate Human Rights Month; conduct and participate in public forums; analyse proposed legislation; make submissions to draw attention to human rights issues; and provide information about human rights using a variety of platforms. The Anti-Discrimination Commission will also focus on understanding human rights by maintaining high-quality training and information services and preparing the implementation of human rights legislation.

I will now turn to the funding that has been provided in the 2018-19 state budget more directly to my electorate of Toohey. I would like to thank the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations for the support that has been provided in the 2018-19 budget. I would like to highlight some of that funding. It includes: \$570,000 of the \$650,000 spend to construct the stop, drop and go facility at MacGregor State School; \$300,000 to refurbish block A classrooms at Salisbury State School; \$200,000 to refurbish block A classrooms at Coopers Plains State School; \$150,000 for an outdoor learning area at E block at Moorooka State School; \$120,000 for an outdoor learning area for the early years at Eight Miles Plains State School; \$100,000 to refurbish block A classrooms at Eight Mile Plains State School; \$679,000 allocated across 14 schools for maintenance in schools throughout the 2018-19 financial year; and \$304,000 allocated across 14 schools throughout the 2018-19 financial year for minor works in schools.

Additionally, I would like to thank the Minister for Transport and Mains Roads for his commitment to my electorate of Toohey. I will now deal with some of the funding provided to ease congestion and enable people in my electorate to use public transport and thus help ease congestion. The funding includes: funding to undertake planning for upgrades on the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to the Logan Motorway, at a total cost of \$10.7 million; \$1 million to complete construction of a new multilevel carpark at Mains Road park-and-ride; and \$4.05 million to commence the upgrade of Salisbury station park-and-ride at a total cost of \$14.5 million. Last but not least, there is funding for the Coopers Plains level crossing. When I was first elected I said I would lobby to get this crossing fixed. There is \$500,000 to continue the development of a business case for the Coopers Plains level crossing.

In closing, I would like to congratulate the Premier and Deputy Premier and Treasurer for delivering a great Labor budget. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.11 pm): I rise to speak to the budget. I want to acknowledge the funding of \$4.7 million for the Palmerston Highway. I believe that will help. It probably needs about \$20 million. I thank the minister for responding to this need. He committed \$3 million last year for the particularly bad areas around Henrietta Creek. There were a number of accidents and near deaths in that area. Funding of \$4.7 million will help but we need a lot more for that major highway. It is being pounded day in and day out. I want to highlight to the government the importance of having extra funds allocated to this highway. I do acknowledge the \$4.7 million provided in this budget.

There is funding of \$9.5 million out of the \$70 million total spend for the Atherton Hospital. We fought for this for years. We had a petition with 6,000 signatures expressing the need for this redevelopment. There was an acknowledgement at the time of the Ravenshoe blast, in which a number of people were killed, that the Atherton Hospital did not have the capacity to take the patients. I acknowledge the former minister for health's work in securing that \$70 million. We are very appreciative of it. It will create jobs in the region. We look forward to that development starting. I know that it will kick off before the end of this year.

I acknowledge the funding of \$900,000 out of the total cost of \$1.8 million for the replacement of the El Arish auxiliary fire and rescue station. That will cover the areas surrounding Kurrimine Beach and Mission Beach. This is very important to the region, particularly given that the population has increased.

There is \$6.3 million to upgrade the Atherton Police Station. That is going to start this year. I have been pushing for this for at least five years. I believe the work is going to start before the end of the year. We are appreciative of that upgrade. It was a very cluttered station. People were not transferring to the Atherton Police Station because of the station itself. I think a new police station for the Atherton area will help greatly.

There is only \$68,000 for navua sedge. This is a big issue. It is noxious weed. It is taking over the north to the point that it is a catastrophe. The Cassowary Coast Regional Council, the Tablelands Regional Council, the Hinchinbrook Shire Council and the Cook Shire Council are coming on board to try to do something to resolve this problem. We need more than \$68,000. We need more than \$250,000 to help combat this noxious weed. To try to kill it we need chemical control. We have to remove the dairy cattle for three months every time we apply the chemical control. We need R&D funding. We need more funding and support. I am hoping the minister for agriculture will respond to this request. We have been lobbying for this for quite some time.

There is \$21.3 million in total spend for the banana industry with regard to Panama TR4. There is only \$40,000 over three years for aerial shooting. Pig owners cannot go onto banana farms because of the biosecurity risks. Banana farmers cannot move in and out and remove the pigs because of the concerns around spreading TR4. The only way to do this is by aerial shooting. There is only \$40,000 over three years for this. We thank the minister for giving us a million dollars for the Cassowary Coast area, but we need at least half a million dollars over the next three years for aerial shooting. It is vitally important for that industry.

With regard to school funding, I acknowledge the support of the education minister. There is \$250,000 to paint the Herberton State School. I contacted them the other day. They are wrapped about this funding. They have been trying to secure that funding for quite some years. There is \$75,000 for the Walkamin State School to refurbish block A. This is in addition to the air-conditioning of that school last year. They are only small schools. It is very important for those small schools to receive that funding.

There is \$50,000 for Mundoo State School for the refurbishment of block A. There is \$50,000 to remodel the science, prep and computer space at the Dimbulah State School. There is \$230,000 for the learning and community centre at Innisfail State College. They have applied for this for the last three years. They now have the funding. They are wrapped at the present time.

There is \$70,000 for the playground roof structure at Butchers Creek State School. I will be attending their sports day next Friday. They were excited to hear about the funding for their school. It might be a little playground, but to those schools a sandpit and a playground roof are everything.

There has been a commitment to widen the Bruce Highway between Cairns and Innisfail. There is \$2.4 million to complete the resurfacing work from Innisfail to Ingham. There is \$6.7 million for the Ash and Pine streets intersection. It has been a bad intersection. People have been killed there. That has been a problem intersection for quite some time. We are very appreciative of that funding.

I heard a number of members mention privatisation. I think the member for Theodore spent 10 minutes talking about Labor and privatisation. The privatisation of Queensland Rail was a bad move. I know that they sold the coal component in the Bowen Basin. There was \$1.7 million in profit each year coming from the coal component of Queensland Rail in the Bowen Basin. That is \$1.7 million that we do not have. Some \$500 million was coming from the above-rail component from Townsville to Mount Isa. That is \$500 million each year that we do not have. That is \$2.2 million that we do not have in the present budget.

Had we not sold that asset we would have had it at this time. That is why it is very important that we construct and own the railway line in the Galilee Basin and not give the money to an Indian company. We need to build and own it. That would mean there would be transport haulage for life. That would mean royalties for life. We would get the income. We would also take control and have ownership of that railway and the Galilee Basin.

It was a disappointment when the Labor government privatised the retail arm of the energy sector. We were told that energy prices were going to decrease as a matter of competition. Since that day they have tripled. Mr Deputy Speaker, you have to remember that the LNP supported them. They cheered them on and backed the Beattie government in privatising the retail arm of our energy sector. The member for Clayfield pleaded with them and said they were not going far enough. He said, 'Please sell the wires. Please sell the poles. Please sell the energy generators.' It is in the *Hansard*. The LNP begged them to sell our energy assets.

As a result of the asset sales, the ETU and the CFMEU campaigned against the Bligh government because it cost this state millions of dollars in lost revenue. That money could have been in the budget. They campaigned against the Labor government and the Labor Party was reduced to seven seats. The LNP government came in. I hear many of the LNP members speaking here tonight about how terrible Labor are.

The first thing the Newman government did was cut the pensioners' lawn mower vouchers. Then they cut the number of health workers. Then they declared war on the doctors and sacked 14,000 public servants. This relates to the budget because there is a cost factor in doing this. The budget would have been much more significant if those 14,000 workers had not been sacked. RoadTek workers were not staying in motels anymore, so those businesses lost. Those workers were not spending in the towns. The health workers were not spending money in rural and regional Queensland. Our towns were dying as a result.

After that Campbell Newman asked for a \$70,000 pay rise. The ministers in the Newman government asked for a \$50,000 pay rise. Then he declared war on the unions. Then he announced that he was going to privatise our energy assets.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr McArdle): Members!

**Mr KNUTH:** Do not give us this rubbish about how wonderful the great LNP are—cut, sack and sell. I was in there amongst it all.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members!

**Mr KNUTH:** They will go down as the worst government in 150 years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, resume your seat! When I am on my feet, you sit down immediately.

**Mr KNUTH:** I am obeying, sir.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the member for Hill.

**Mr KNUTH:** The disappointing thing about this budget is the infrastructure spending. We have not seen a major infrastructure project in the last 30 years. I do remember that at the time of the construction of the Burdekin Dam we also had the October stock market crash. They were saying that Australia was doing it tough, but we were prospering because we had just finished the construction of the Burdekin Dam. Infrastructure is very important in our region. We need the ministers to go up there and start to invest in rural infrastructure projects like the North Johnstone transfer.

**An opposition member:** Good luck.

**Mr KNUTH:** I remember when Newman was in power and handed down three budgets in a row. I asked the Parliamentary Library to search what my electorate received in funding. They took about two weeks. They might have found a handover of an ambulance but that was about it. That was after three years of the Newman government. Do not give us this wonderful, great Newman government—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr KNUTH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, the LNP went from 78 seats to 42. Who are they blaming? The KAP and the Labor Party. They need to have a good look at themselves. As I said, they were the worst government in 150 years. They are still blaming everyone else. It is the Labor Party's fault. It is One Nation's fault. Have a look at yourselves—an absolute disgrace.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Labor in the north. You don't stand for the north; you stand for unions and Labor.

**Mr KNUTH:** Did they back the budget last year? They put their hand on their heart and said how terrible the budget was but they still voted for it.

**Mr Millar:** What are you achieving?

**Mr KNUTH:** What are you achieving? I am after the North Johnstone transfer. That is very important. It was designed at the time of the construction of the Tinaroo Dam.

**Mr Mickelberg:** What the hell are you talking about? What have we got here?

**Mr KNUTH:** Can you shut this squawking parrot up, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, that language is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw it.

**Mr KNUTH:** I withdraw. The North Johnstone transfer is about infrastructure development. It is important for our region. At the time of the construction of the Tinaroo Dam, there was an acknowledgement that that area could not take in—

**Mr Mickelberg:** Come on, mate. We're spellbound.

**Mr Purdie:** Have a Bex and a lie down.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock.

**Mr KNUTH:** Stop sulking, you poor buggers. The truth must hurt, you poor beggars.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill, resume your seat, please. Members, it is a late night. It is going to get later. I ask members to listen to each other in silence. Member for Hill, you have the call.

**Mr KNUTH:** I am supportive of Nullinga Dam. There have been feasibility studies for the last 30 years. Even the Borbidge government promised the construction of Nullinga Dam. We are looking at about a \$600 million or \$700 million project. I do not have faith in the LNP and I do not have faith in this government to construct that dam. I do not have faith in either.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr KNUTH:** I do not have faith in you either. You had three years. You lost government. The North Johnstone transfer—

**Mr Mickelberg:** Why don't you just go over there with the unions, mate? You might as well. You are representing them anyway.

**Mr KNUTH:** Remember something—

**Mr Mickelberg:** KAP—Labor in the north.

**Mr KNUTH:** Can you shut this parrot up, Mr Deputy Speaker?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hill—

**Mr KNUTH:** Yes. Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No. That language is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw it.

**Mr KNUTH:** I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. We are looking at a \$30 million project to transfer water from the North Johnstone River into the Barron River into the Tinaroo Dam. The Cape River Bridge was a \$34 million project. You are looking at about a \$30 million to \$40 million project. It would provide about 10,000 or 20,000 megalitres into the Tinaroo Dam which would help alleviate the problems for irrigators and for all of the water users. It would also help the flood inundation issues on the coast. The Tully hydro is also a very important project for our region.

*(Time expired)*

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will wait. We have all night and all morning if need be.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.27 pm): I rise to support the 2018 Queensland state budget—and what a fabulous budget it is. It is a budget that delivers for all of Queensland. It is proudly and unapologetically a Labor budget which makes sure no-one is left behind or forgotten.

Ipswich has the distinction of being the fastest growing city in Queensland. We are faced with the enormous challenge of ensuring we have the infrastructure and services we need to cope with our rapidly growing population. Health and education are foremost concerns for people in Ipswich. People want a quality education for their children, not overcrowded classrooms. They want to make sure that they get adequate and timely care in hospital, not long wait times or substandard care.

With this budget, Ipswich is getting critical infrastructure and services in health and education that are needed to accommodate our growing population. We are getting additional classrooms for our schools, front-line health services, expanded hospital facilities, more child safety and family support services, and more domestic violence support services. Education is crucially important for our children in Ipswich. I am proud to be a part of a government that is delivering the teachers and infrastructure that Ipswich students deserve.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered an education budget that makes sure no state school student in Ipswich is left behind. Ipswich has the highest proportion of young people in South-East Queensland and our schools need to meet the growing needs of our young people so that they can have the best start in life. Since March 2015 the Palaszczuk government has delivered an extra 436 teachers to the Ipswich region. Our teachers in Ipswich do a wonderful job teaching our kids, and I commend their dedication wholeheartedly.

In my regular meetings with principals from Ipswich schools, I am delighted to hear updates on the outstanding achievements of their students and staff. These principals are often not acknowledged for the hard work and numerous hours they put in to achieve great outcomes for their schools and students, and I would like to take this opportunity now to thank them for what they do every day to help our students achieve the best.

I am proud to stand with a government that makes sure every state school student in Ipswich has the educational opportunities they need to succeed in whatever field of employment they dream of getting into. As part of the \$250 million '2020 Ready' investment in Queensland high schools, Bremer State High in Ipswich will receive over \$8 million to build 12 additional classrooms to cope with the full complement of students expected in two years time as a result of the introduction of the prep year level 11 years ago.

It is also great to see in this budget Ipswich Central State School receiving \$350,000 to refurbish their B and C blocks, another \$100,000 to demolish two of their modular buildings and an election promise to deliver \$50,000 for large fans in the school hall. Blair State School will receive \$150,000 to refurbish its block C, and Ipswich West State School will receive \$75,000 to refurbish block A. I am also delighted to announce \$56,000 for Ipswich West State School to upgrade their junior playground through the Smart School Subsidy Scheme.

I am pleased that this budget provides Bundamba State School with \$60,000 to upgrade their multipurpose courts. Across 13 schools in the Ipswich electorate, a total of \$626,000 will be provided for maintenance projects and a further \$231,000 will be provided for minor works projects.

This budget will also allow our libraries to foster a love of reading in our under-fives with \$13,000 going to Ipswich libraries to implement the First 5 Forever family literacy initiative. This education funding puts Ipswich students first. It will allow our schools to provide education infrastructure like classrooms and learning facilities that will help Ipswich students flourish and get the most out of their education.

I am also delighted to announce that this budget will provide \$607.1 million to the West Moreton Hospital and Health Service this year, which is a 10 per cent increase of almost \$53 million on the previous financial year. This investment is part of a record \$18.3 billion for health in Queensland which guarantees that no matter where you live in Queensland or whatever your financial circumstances you will be able to access high-quality health care.

In this budget the Palaszczuk government is investing in the expansion of Ipswich Hospital so that it can meet the needs of our rapidly growing population. The first stage of Ipswich Hospital's \$124½ million expansion is an exciting development for our city. In this budget \$3 million has been allocated for the planning and business case for the hospital's expansion.

Ipswich people also want guarantees that their public hospital system will be able to help care for them if they unexpectedly fall sick or need emergency medical attention. I want to acknowledge our hardworking doctors and nurses who want to make sure that enough resources are provided for them so they can treat people effectively and ensure no person who needs medical care is left behind. That is why our government is allocating \$17.3 billion in growth funding to meet the growing demands which have been placed on our hospital's emergency department, our elective surgery wait times and our outpatient services. I commend this budget for providing this growth funding which will go far to improve the healthcare services for regions in Queensland like Ipswich that are currently experiencing population pressures.

Since March 2015 the Palaszczuk government has succeeded in providing an additional 284 nurses and 124 doctors to the Ipswich region. This year an extra \$1.5 million will be provided for community mental health treatment services in the Ipswich region, and \$1.15 million will be provided to help our nurse workforce in Ipswich improve patient safety and health care.

Gastrointestinal endoscopy services in Ipswich will also be improved by an additional \$300,000 in funding. I am pleased that this budget makes Queenslanders' health a top priority. By delivering front-line services and critical health infrastructure, the Palaszczuk government will help our public health system meet growing demand. I am also pleased to welcome other measures in this budget that will provide critical services that will prevent domestic and family violence and help protect and support domestic violence victims.

The Palaszczuk government is getting tough on the perpetrators of domestic violence. It is making sure that victims can get help when they need it and get access to shelters and support services which will help them escape violent abuse. Unfortunately, no town in Queensland is free from domestic violence, and in Ipswich we have seen a 10.8 per cent rise in domestic violence orders and a 19 per cent rise in DVO breaches over two years from 2015 to 2017. The increase in domestic violence in Ipswich is simply unacceptable and has to stop.

I am proud that our government has launched this year a high risk team in Ipswich to stop this uptick in domestic violence. This team will be made up of officers from the Police Service, Health, Corrections, Housing, Child Safety and NGOs. Further, this budget will deliver \$1.3 million to provide DV services in Ipswich to improve the safety and wellbeing of victims and their children, and \$61,000 to provide support services to vulnerable women in Ipswich to keep them safe and connected to their communities. This is backed by the government's investment of \$133 million over five years to help victims of domestic violence.

This budget allocates two domestic violence specialist police officers for Ipswich who will provide education and training to police officers, and will help government and non-government agencies better address domestic violence issues. At the same time, I welcome more funding to improve child safety in Ipswich. It is important that our children grow up in nurturing family environments which allow them to develop and thrive to their full potential. This is not always the case, and so it is great to see that this budget funds supportive measures which go far to protect our vulnerable children. This budget will allocate just over \$9 million to provide out-of-home-care placement services to children and young people in Ipswich who are in need of protection. It will further provide \$983,000 to child protection support services in Ipswich to support children and families meet their case plan goals, and \$8.7 million will go towards support services that work with vulnerable families to help improve parenting skills.

For vulnerable children in Ipswich, this funding ensures that they have a real chance of a future that is free from neglect, abuse or violence. I also welcome further investment in our court system in Ipswich. Ipswich will be sharing in \$476,000 to upgrade the Queensland Integrated Court Referrals to the more effective Court Link service. This is part of a \$1.7 million investment to fund the delivery of Court Link across Queensland. Court Link in Ipswich will deliver funding for two case managers and will provide brokerage funding to assist eligible defendants to engage in court processes or to access treatment and support services.

As part of Queensland's transport budget, I am very pleased to see the fulfilment of an election promise to fund the East Ipswich Station upgrade, with \$50,000 allocated this financial year out of a total of \$17.5 million to deliver improved access and facilities at the station. This upgrade is keenly anticipated by East Ipswich residents who rely on public transport, especially those with mobility impairments. We look forward to more funding in future budgets to see this upgrade completed.

Ipswich commuters will also be pleased to see that the Palaszczuk government is continuing its \$400 million investment in the Ipswich Motorway Darra to Rocklea upgrade as well as its investment of \$65 million for the Centenary Motorway Sumners Road interchange upgrade. As large numbers of people settle into the new Ipswich boom suburbs of Ripley, Deebing Heights and Springfield, it is imperative that we assure residents that funding will be delivered to upgrade our roads to alleviate choking congestion due to the rising number of motorists travelling from these new suburbs.

I am proud to represent Ipswich, and I will continue to fight for Ipswich people to get the jobs they need, the educational opportunities they deserve, the health and social services which they have every right to, and the transport infrastructure that helps improve our city's productivity and quality of life. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (11.38 pm): I rise tonight in response to the Palaszczuk government's fourth budget, the budget for the 2018-19 financial year. I will begin my budget reply speech where I left off last year when I stated that a real politician of conviction and substance, Abraham Lincoln, once said, 'You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today.' Like last year at the end of the Treasurer's 24-minute budget speech, I unwrapped the plastic wrap around the budget pack and yet again I was not holding out much hope for many budget items in my wonderful electorate of Chatsworth. Instead, given my love of finance and economics, I eagerly turned to page 7 of Budget Paper No. 2 and scanned the overview of table 2, 'General Government Sector—key fiscal aggregates', and there it was: the real state of play.

Over the forward estimates, the total debt for the 2021-22 financial year is projected to be in excess of \$83 billion. This is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment—\$2.25 billion of new taxes and fees over the next four years. There are five new taxes, but election costings were for \$491 million of new taxes. This is a key broken promise and an obscene breach of trust.

The Treasurer has introduced a waste tax of \$1.32 billion, a wagering tax of \$367 million, a land tax of \$311 million, a property investors' tax of \$132 million and car stamp duty of \$100 million. We see yet again, in the finest of democratic socialist traditions, that this is another budget of higher debt and in fact more debt. What would we expect from the Queen of Fabian socialists and all things EMILY's List, a student of the Anna Bligh school of fiscal stewardship, the supreme queen of watermelon politicians, the member for South Brisbane? She would struggle to answer a very simple question—what is the basic accounting equation? Would the Treasurer know which form of accounting methodology is used to prepare the state budget? Is it cash, accrual or a combination of the two, or would she like to phone a friend?

When is the fourth estate, aside from Steven Wardill and Judith Sloan, going to seriously question her actual ability as a competent deliverer of ministerial services? She was a complete dud as a transport minister, and she has an uncanny knack of moving on from a portfolio when things are getting a little sticky and tricky. Maybe the former transport minister, the member for Sandgate, would agree. I will speak on the Transport and Main Roads budget shortly.

As I continually state, every budget needs a contextual framework. Since being elected 3½ years ago, this inept, do-nothing Labor government keeps repeating the same mantra over and over—that it is all about jobs, jobs and jobs. It is pure spin with no tangible substance, and on what basis do I make that assertion? It is the budget papers themselves. The Premier, who did not know the GST rate and was another failed transport minister—what is it in the water cooler at the ALP—raised public transport fares by 15 per cent for three consecutive years and then scratched her head wondering why people were opting out of public transport and using their cars. This, combined with a massive underspend on infrastructure by the current Treasurer—remember, she underspent approximately half a billion dollars in last year's capex budget—has led to 'congestion busting' being the new buzzwords.

According to the continuous economic tyros opposite, in their own Budget Paper No. 2, table 1, page 5, the unemployment rate is expected to remain at or above six per cent until the year 2021-22, wherein it is expected to be 5.75 per cent. How convenient that one outlying year has a figure with a five in front of it, but this is assuming nominal gross state product hits 4.75 per cent across the forward estimates. Let us again try out the old pub test here for the fourth budget in a row. If I offer you a financial

plan based on creating a jobs bonanza and a few years down the track the unemployment rate has hardly moved using your own projections and input assumptions, would you buy this budget as a true jobs bonanza blueprint?

Yet again, with remedial undergraduate precepts, has the Treasurer ever heard of funding contingent liabilities? Does this government truly understand how to rework capital on a balance sheet? Moreover, does the notion of the elasticity of demand coefficient ring a bell? Or how about risk spread using the 10-year bond rate as a starting measure?

Yet again, this budget is so lightweight and lacking in long-term vision and true reform that it merely delays the inevitable intergenerational fiscal pain. This is a case of *deja vu*, and I want to emphasise a basic precept that those opposite have failed to fundamentally grasp for the fourth year in a row. Throwing ever-increasingly large amounts of money into key government areas such as health and education is not in itself a measure of success. As the opposition leader said in her speech, each government of either persuasion trumpets each year that this is a record budget for X, Y, Z department. It is about the effectiveness of outputs, not just input efficiencies. Simply put, it is what you do with the resources rather than just throwing money at an issue or spinning your way out of trouble.

Those of us who come from the real corporate sector understand this notion very well, as funding streams need to be maintained—

**Mr McDonald** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! I remind those members on my left that many of you are not sitting in your correct seats and therefore you cannot interject.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Those of us who come from the real corporate sector understand this notion well. As I have previously stated in this chamber, at some stage you have to pay back the piper. It is another one-off sugar fix from this do-nothing Labor government that lacks vision and a true sense of economic reform in their zeal to chase short-term political populism with long-term financial consequences.

We see yet again that this budget fails future generations by avoiding the tough decisions required to be made by this generation. Unfair intergenerational debt will continue yet again under Labor with this incompetent Treasurer. The biggest job creator, however, appears to be the government itself. Employee expenses continue to grow out of control, with the Palaszczuk government once again missing its previous forecast for employee expenses growth as the number of public servants surges yet again. Total employee costs have blown out but, despite paying more, Queenslanders are getting less with the continuing rail fail, child safety crises, crime rates on the rise and the return of ambulance ramping.

As members on this side of the chamber know, real growth comes from the private sector. Domestic private sector economic activity will only grow by two per cent in 2018-19, down from 2.75 per cent in 2017-18. It is easy to see why the domestic economy is struggling when business confidence has taken a plunge to well below the national average.

Labor's prodigious appetite to spend and spend simply knows no bounds, which is best exemplified by this tyro Treasurer. As I have always said, past behaviour is indeed the best way to predict future actions. It does not seem to matter which Labor Party members come or go; they all share in their DNA—and the Treasurer is a mighty perfect example—an absolute inability to understand what expenditure containment and debt control are really all about. Labor members always talk big on infrastructure, but how many times does the all-talk, no-action—

**Mr BAILEY:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Can I just inform the honourable member that the microphones are working.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I thank you for your point of order. Those members who are not sitting in their seats cannot interject. That is the second issue that I have had.

**Mr POWELL:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. Firstly, the minister's point of order was clearly frivolous and I think you should be calling him on that. Secondly, I do not believe any of the members who are interjecting are not sitting in their seat. The member for Gregory is in his seat.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I am sorry but the member for Callide is not sitting in his seat—

**Mr POWELL:** The member for Callide is not sitting in that congregation.

**Ms FARMER:** I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. I think the member is showing disrespect to the chair by questioning your judgement.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is no point of order.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** In 2016-17, Labor failed to spend \$1.7 billion of its capital program. Capital purchases in 2016-17 were approximately half a billion dollars underspent. Labor cannot even guarantee and get the money they have identified for projects out the door. Queenslanders are paying the price for Labor's lack of investment in infrastructure.

I continue to give the government credit for at least one section of the budget, and that may be found in Budget Paper No. 2 on page 95 under section 7.1, 'Federal financial arrangements'. The Productivity Commission inquiry into horizontal fiscal equalisation, HFE, presented an opportunity for Queensland to provide a submission to the federal inquiry in support of the principle that all states should have fiscal capacity to provide similar levels of services and infrastructure, which was done on 5 February this year at the public inquiry. I have already spoken several times in this chamber on Commonwealth-state financial relations and the notion of competitive federalism, and I intend to do so again in the future as this issue is critical to the state given the fiscal profligacy shown by this Labor government.

Whilst I am truly honoured to be the shadow minister for transport and main roads, as we all know all politics is local. In my wonderful electorate of Chatsworth, yet again the traffic congestion along Old Cleveland Road will continue, and residents can ruminate on this fact as they pay extra for their car registration, with reference to Budget Paper No. 4, page 89, with only \$1.8 million allocated in the 2018-19 financial year. Anyone who knows traffic infrastructure will realise that this is mere window dressing yet again, to have a plan for a plan to upgrade intersections at Boundary, Gallipoli and Creek roads.

I note in Budget Paper No. 3, the Capital Statement, that funding of \$1 million is provided out of a \$4 million total spend to replace the Chandler permanent fire and rescue station. An amount of \$260,000 is provided for the Belmont Shooting Centre to finalise Commonwealth Games venues to enable ongoing community use. I sincerely wish there was more I could say about my local electorate in this budget speech, but sadly there is nothing further contained in the budget. How surprising!

As part of my budget speech, I would now like to comment on the budget as the shadow minister for transport and main roads, a role I am privileged to serve. Rail passengers have never before experienced such chaos, confusion and incompetence. Labor were gifted the most reliable rail network in Australia and in three years they made it the nation's worst. What a shambles! The transport minister, just like his predecessors, has tried to dodge any responsibility for this epic rail fail. Instead, we have 470 fewer services a week, trains skipping stations to meet punctuality targets and a \$41 million overtime bill. There is no funding in the budget for real-time fuel price monitoring. In relation to Cross River Rail Labor have committed \$3.7 billion for this project. The project is \$14.5 billion. Labor have committed \$3.7 billion for this project at the expense of regional infrastructure. Where is the other \$11.3 billion coming from?

Labor has failed to back Brisbane Metro, a vitally important public transport project. The Palaszczuk government could have supported this project for as little as \$20 million of land—a site at South Brisbane and a site at Rochedale. The Palaszczuk government is blocking Metro for purely political purposes. The 2018-19 budget was a wasted opportunity for Labor to support Metro.

Labor has been dragged kicking and screaming by the LNP to fund any improvements to the M1. The measly \$55 million Labor promised in the election campaign for the M1 Action Plan has been reprioritised from the State Infrastructure Fund. Labor simply said the Gold Coast was not worth a fifty-fifty split even though they had agreed to a fifty-fifty funding split on other M1 road upgrades such as the Gateway to Logan Motorway M1 upgrade in 2007.

Labor has short-changed the Sunshine Coast and created uncertainty by not fully funding the Nambour to Beerburrum rail duplication. The Labor government's allocation of \$160.8 million over four years for this much needed project is well short of the state government's share of \$390 million which is required. This simply adds to the growing frustration being expressed by Sunshine Coast residents about the need for certainty for this project—something Labor promised, as has been said by other members from that great part of the state—over a decade ago. Rather than securing the funding package, it leaves a \$230 million shortfall, putting a question mark over the whole project. The Sunshine Coast line has the worst rail frequency in South-East Queensland, yet is one of the fastest-growing areas. The single track line shared between passengers and freight has only 325 passenger services scheduled each week.

There is no funding in the budget for real-time fuel price monitoring. Motorists are paying too much because Labor refuses to act. The NRMA estimate that real-time fuel price monitoring will save a family approximately \$500 a year. It is better off in their pocket than anywhere else. Fines from speed cameras have already rocketed under Labor and the budget contains an additional \$40 million in traffic fines, which tends to suggest the Palaszczuk Labor government is using the speed cameras as cash cows and not for road safety purposes.

In closing, I want to say that this budget is disappointing yet again on multiple fronts. It continues to lack vision. That is a word I did not hear in the Treasurer's budget speech. I did not hear the word 'vision' once. The budget continues to lack vision and an appetite for true economic reform. It does not adequately fund imperative infrastructure and it continues the theme of intergenerational debt. Sadly, as I have said before in this chamber during the three previous Labor budgets—and I need to state it again—it will be future generations that will also be made to pay a price for this short-term economic sugar fix without fiscal substance.

Those across the chamber always proclaim there is dignity in work. We wholeheartedly agree. Maybe, though, they should have thought about that when framing a budget that will keep unemployment at around six per cent. Maybe they should not speak with forked tongues in relation to that dreaded word 'coal', which is demonised by the Treasurer when she desperately chases green preferences in her own electorate but needs the royalty bounty to assist with her budget—didn't she ever! If not for that it would have been all over the shop. Maybe they should not have given up on the people of Queensland by throwing in the towel when it comes to prudent fiscal responsibility, But then again under this Treasurer, to quote the popular line: socialism is always a truly wondrous thing until you run out, inevitably, of other people's money.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Before I call the member for Lytton, I pass on my apologies to the member for Callide. It was the members for Buderim and Ninderry who were not sitting in their seats and who were interjecting.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.55 pm): I am really proud to rise here today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the Hon. Jackie Trad MP. I congratulate the Treasurer on her first budget. I also congratulate the Premier and all of the ministers on this impressive budget, and what a really great budget it is for each and every Queenslanders.

This great Labor budget is responding to the needs of Queensland and is setting out a clear economic plan to: create jobs in a strong economy, build an economy for the future, attract investment and build infrastructure, support our regions, protect our magnificent Great Barrier Reef, keep Queenslanders healthy and deliver a great start for our children—our future. We are delivering the things we said we would and, as the Treasurer said, there are no excuses and no surprises. We are meeting our election pledges and these will pump up our local economies.

Under the LNP Newman government we baysiders suffered. We were punished. I have spoken often in this place of the services that were ripped out of our community: our child safety office was closed, department of housing office was closed, bayside tenancy advice was closed, caravan and mobile home residents association was closed and there were reduced hours for doctors in primary health care and of course the scandalous closing of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit.

**Government members:** Shame!

**Ms PEASE:** Yes and I am sure that happened across all of Queensland. What a difference baysiders are experiencing under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Locally, we have seen a huge injection in health funding and I am really proud that the \$13 million Gundu Pa, Wynnum Manly's community health centre, opened last year and we have a new ambulance station which is due to open in coming weeks. This budget will see a record investment in health, which means that we will see extra doctors, nurses and midwives who will have access to the best facilities to ensure that we deliver world-class health care in our public hospitals, ambulance services and facilities as well as mental health, drug and alcohol services, community health services, and research and scientific services.

We know that education is fundamental to every public good and ensuring that our students have access to quality education and facilities is paramount. This budget delivers a record \$14.1 billion in education and training, which will mean not only more teachers but improvements in our schools and training facilities. Wynnum State High School students are set to benefit from the Palaszczuk government's \$250 million budget commitment to build additional classrooms to support a new era in Queensland education from 2020. In 2020 Queensland secondary schools will have their first full

complement of secondary students from years 7 to 12. This '2020 Ready' funding boost will support Wynnum State High School to accommodate their first full complement of secondary students in years 7 to 12.

I am so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, which is delivering this important infrastructure needed to ensure that our Wynnum State High School students will have access to a world-class education. This \$3.4 million investment will see a new two-storey secondary learning centre with additional classrooms, and there will be a further \$400,000 to refurbish block I general learning areas at the school. I know that teachers and students are really looking forward to this infrastructure project, and I hope that construction does not cause too many disruptions to their lessons.

Wondall Heights State School will receive funding to build shade structures for their outdoor classrooms, and Manly West State School—which is this year celebrating their 60th anniversary—will receive \$120,000 for their outdoor learning area at block B. What a nice anniversary present! Here is to another 60 years, Manly West State School. Eleven of our local schools will benefit from the \$562,000 allocated across the electorate for maintenance. The Hemmant Flexible Learning Centre, which is a fabulous school that provides opportunities for students who fall through the cracks, will receive funding to rectify overland flow and drainage issues.

I am delighted that since 2015 the Palaszczuk government has employed an additional 3,634 teachers and 1,135 teacher aides. May I acknowledge the great work of all of our local teachers and thank them for their dedication, commitment and professionalism. Our bayside students are so fortunate to have such a cohort of professionals guiding them into the future, ensuring that each and every student reaches their full potential. This government values teachers, and I acknowledge their contribution to Queensland.

Commuters will be delighted with the upgrade to the Lindum train station park-and-ride, with \$1.2 million out of the \$5 million total spend to upgrade that facility. This upgrade will see increased car spaces and secure bicycle facilities for commuters, which will mean more cars off the road.

The game-changing infrastructure project Cross River Rail is being driven by the Palaszczuk government. Cross River Rail will drive job creation and economic prosperity with an average of 1,500 jobs each year and 3,000 jobs in the most intensive year of construction. It will also result in removing the bottleneck of trains on the South-East Queensland rail network, allowing more trains to run more often and reducing travel times for baysiders.

I am also delighted that my calls on behalf of the Wynnum Manly community to clean up Wynnum Creek have been heard. We will see an increase in funding to assist with the removal of abandoned vessels. There is still more work to be done to stop these rogues who dump their boats in our bayside creeks, and I look forward to working with the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to stop this shocking behaviour. Agriculture and Fisheries will continue to protect our biosecurity with continuing efforts to eradicate fire ants to stop the further spread of threats.

Skilling Queenslanders for Work is another incredibly successful initiative that the Palaszczuk government reintroduced in 2015. Not only does Skilling Queenslanders for Work support jobs for Queenslanders; it also assists those who need extra support through tailored community based opportunities. Since 2015 more than 28,000 Queenslanders have been assisted through Skilling Queenslanders for Work, including 340 in the bayside, to either return to school, study or to find employment. The Palaszczuk government recognises the value of this important program and has boosted funding to increase workforce participation through a range of skills and training.

The survivors of institutional child sexual abuse have access to the national redress scheme, with \$500 million allocated to enable access to funding, counselling and support for those who experienced this terrible abuse. Whilst no amount of money can ever return a lost childhood, this commitment will support healing and recovery.

We also understand that Queenslanders in need are feeling cost-of-living pressures, and we have a responsibility to listen and help. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to reducing cost-of-living impacts on households and small businesses and has increased concessions to a total of \$5.6 billion, which is an increase of \$200 million over last year.

This is a great Labor budget. We are creating jobs and a strong economy and we are building for our future. We are attracting investment and building infrastructure. We are supporting our regions, protecting our magnificent Great Barrier Reef for the future, and we are keeping Queenslanders healthy and delivering a great start for our future through our children. I commend the bills to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.05 am): I rise to speak to the appropriation bills. Gympie was clearly not invited to the party. The only event we were invited to is to cough up more in extra taxes and future debt repayments while choking on the few crumbs thrown at us. We did not even get a slice of the cake. We have been served up rebadging, reannouncements and recycling of previous commitments. Funding for projects has disappeared. Life-saving road projects have been deferred for years. The government has even cynically claimed federal government funds as its own.

This budget is about imposing five new taxes on struggling families and businesses. It is about borrowing more. Debt will soar. No-one should be proud of a new waste tax which will raise \$1.32 billion; a wagering tax of \$367 million; a land tax of \$311 million; a property investors' tax of \$132 million; and car stamp duty of \$100 million, for a grand total of \$2.23 billion. Six months ago Queenslanders were told this would only cost \$491 million. It is not delivering on your promises when you deliberately mislead the electorate. There are two choices: this is either calculated deceit or another example of how bad the government is with numbers. The Premier said—

We have a very clear plan ... about building the Queensland of the future that we need.

Obviously the plan is to max out the state's credit card and dump the bill onto future generations. It is grossly irresponsible. It steals from our children and their children. The interest bill alone for this credit binge will cost \$3.7 billion. For each and every year that equates to more than \$7,000 a minute, \$420,000 an hour, \$10 million a day and \$71 million a week. Imagine what could be built and the jobs that could be created with that money.

The road funding claims for Gympie are deliberately misleading. The government is obsessed with Canberra. It either claims Canberra's funding as its own or it blames Canberra for not doing the state's job. Its glossy brochure claims a \$9 million investment out of a \$12 million total spend for a number of Bruce Highway intersection upgrades.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr PERRETT:** It is misleading and completely untrue, Minister. It deceives the locals of Gympie. The federal government is paying for 80 per cent of the cost and the state is paying 20 per cent. Canberra has provided \$9.6 million and the state is only contributing \$2.4 million to the upgrades. It requires a pretty clever sleight of hand for the state to turn its \$2.4 million into \$9 million. Some \$750,000 has already been spent on the project. In a normal 80-20 split, \$600,000 comes from Canberra and only \$150,000 from Queensland. Simple primary school subtraction would tell you that leaves \$9 million to come from Canberra funds. The \$9 million clearly comes from Canberra, not Brisbane, yet the government says the \$9 million comes from them. That claim is a deliberate, cynical and blatant attempt to mislead. That is disgraceful.

North of Gympie the notorious intersection of the Bruce and Wide Bay highways at Bells Bridge is well known for fatalities and accidents. In May last year Canberra put up its \$11.2 million share of the \$14 million cost to upgrade that intersection. I immediately wrote to the minister urging the government to contribute its \$2.8 million share. The same day as last year's state budget the minister responded saying, 'Subject to approvals, the department anticipates construction will commence by the end of 2018.'

Documents now show that absolutely nothing will happen until 2021-22. The state's \$2.8 million contribution appears on the books, but into the never-never. What calendar turns 'the end of 2018' into the years 2021 and 2022? What deceit. To fix this would take not even a day's payment of Queensland's interest bill. A fix would help save lives.

Then we have the Coondoo Creek Bridge, which needs upgrading. It is so unsafe that the speed limit has been dropped to 60 kilometres per hour—on an open highway. The upgrade is critical to improving motorist safety and boosting flood immunity for the region. It is on a state controlled road and it is up to the state to deliver. Last year I secured a \$10 million commitment from the LNP to upgrade the bridge and approaches on Tin Can Bay Road to a 50-year flood immunity level. The local ALP branch spokesman, Dan Stewart, agreed with the importance of the project, saying that 'the Coondoo Creek Bridge will be built' and that the 'minister had advised the branch that the bridge is being designed'. Design is just a normal internal departmental process. Despite implying that it is underway, there is nothing for this bridge.

In fact, earlier this year the minister tried to shift responsibility to Canberra. He wrote to me saying that Queensland was unsuccessful in securing funds from the federal government's Bridges Renewal Program. It is not wrong to apply for funds—it would be a welcome windfall if someone else picked up

the tab—but ultimately funding responsibility stops at the minister's desk, not Canberra. Let us be clear: this type of local project is not usually funded by Canberra. This is not a game of monopoly. The unsuccessful application is not a get-out-of-jail-free card. It is a lazy cop-out to pretend that, because the federal government is not paying, you do not have to do anything. This is on a state government controlled road. The state does not score a free pass to sidestep its responsibility.

In Gympie this budget has been more about what is not there than what is there. The \$826,000 to construct a new building at James Nash State High School is nothing extraordinary in a growing region. The school has been maxed out for a while, with students on a waitlist. When a school is bursting at the seams, funding a building to increase capacity is in line with normal government expenditure. The \$500,000 for the Abandoned Mine Lands Program at Rainbow Beach to manage sandmining legacy issues is the same commitment made last year and the year before. On Wednesday the Deputy Premier boasted—

Job creation remains our key focus in government. It is at the heart of everything we do.

What hypocrisy from a government that admits it has no intention to reduce unemployment rates! Gympie's local unemployment rate of 8.4 per cent is 2.3 per cent above the state average. In Wide Bay unemployment is the worst in Australia, at 9.5 per cent. Our 29 per cent youth unemployment rate is second only to that in the outback.

Taxpayers work very hard for their money and excessive government spending just trickles down to struggling households and businesses. Gympie residents take home the second lowest pay packet in Queensland. They cringe when told that private sector wage growth of 1.9 per cent is being outstripped by the unsustainable wage increase for public servants at 2.7 per cent. The government will spend almost \$1 billion more on public servant wages next year after this year's \$1.7 billion increase, most of it for senior executives. This is not for front-line workers.

The challenges for Gympie are addressing our high levels of unemployment, making our road network safer, raising the education levels of our locals so that they have better chances of securing meaningful work, differentiating ourselves from other regions in attracting tourists and providing quality health and education facilities.

What Gympie did not get was a long list of infrastructure needs that would help address our systemic problems of above-average unemployment and low socio-economic conditions. Two years ago \$300,000 was committed, out of a \$1.3 million spend, to replace the Rainbow Beach auxiliary fire and rescue station. Last year funds were redirected from the project to prop up the discredited previous Labor member for Bundaberg. Since the 2016 commitment there has been nothing. There is nothing about overtaking lanes on Tin Can Bay Road, advancing our hospital master plan, leasing the Gympie TAFE building to the University of the Sunshine Coast, local traffic plan, upgrades of specific local roads and bridges or support for groups which are propping up gaps in local health and disability services. There is no recognition of Gympie's central role in the forestry sector which helped it secure a \$4 million commitment from the LNP to establish a Queensland farm forestry centre.

The Local Government Association has called out the government for cuts to funds for weed and feral animal control and for not allocating anything to assist councils to develop their required biosecurity plans. There is no support for local government to continue feral pest and weed management. Councils are having to front the \$40 million bill to tackle this menace. We are losing the battle against declared pests and weeds. I am extremely disappointed that the Labor Party has walked back from previous investments and successes in delivering pest management, such as wild dog fencing. It has halved future funding. No money has been allocated towards maintaining the rabbit fence. The impact of rabbits costs Australian horticultural industries more than \$1 billion a year. For all the talk of biosecurity investment, this budget will cut three front-line departmental officers in 2018-19. These projects are critical to the sector's viability and productivity. They must be properly funded.

Queensland's iconic \$19 billion agricultural industry is vitally important for not only rural and regional communities but also the entire state. A healthy and growing agricultural sector is integral to our state's fortunes and identity. Whether it is beef, tropical fruit, cotton or sugar cane, these industries employ more than 315,000 Queenslanders throughout the food and fibre supply chain. It is no surprise that there is nothing new for agriculture. Farmers are already reeling from the disastrous and unfair vegetation management laws. Labor's underwhelming and pathetic agricultural election policy shows it does not know or care about farmers and the communities they support. The budget now confirms it. Labor does not get it and does not care. The sector needs support and vision on how to grow.

While Minister Furner is happy to spruik an overall departmental funding increase, the real numbers show that the increase in actual spend from last year is only a pitiful \$11 million. Any increase is welcome, but this is pathetic. It is crumbs compared to funds provided for Labor's pet political projects or areas. The science and environmental departments will get an increase of more than \$265 million, which includes funds for greenie mates. Environmental activists the Queensland Conservation Council gets \$1.8 million of taxpayers' dollars. The same group lobbied and campaigned for the devastating vegetation management laws.

During the LNP government, DAF staff levels were higher than they are today. This is despite Labor's swelling bureaucratic numbers in Brisbane, with an extra 25,000 public servants. One thing is for sure: there is no influx of DAF staff in our regions.

Agriculture survives because of the resilience of those in the industry. It has nothing to do with the government. The only extra funding farmers see is for suffocating higher regulation and red and green tape—their go-slow regulations. There is nothing to compensate farmers for the unjust vegetation management laws. There is no genuine relief for spiralling electricity and water costs. There is nothing to redress the highest vehicle registration charges in the nation.

The government is only interested in Brisbane and not agriculture. Key agricultural advocacy groups were scathing about Labor's commitment to agriculture. The minister has failed. Despite clocking up frequent flyer points and boasting he has travelled 15,000 kilometres, the minister has failed. He is deaf to the industry and mute in cabinet. Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO Travis Tobin said the budget just does not stack up—

**Mr Furner** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! I ask that comments be directed through the chair.

**Mr PERRETT:** Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO Travis Tobin said that the budget just 'does not stack up' and he is 'underwhelmed by a lacklustre state budget that lacks vision and overlooks the important role agriculture plays in Queensland's economy'. He said that the industry must start seeing a higher priority and more strategic intent for agriculture. AgForce CEO Mike Guerin described it as lacking vision and forgetting that agriculture is an economic pillar of the state. He said—

Overall, while the State Budget meets the minimal commitments the Palaszczuk Government made to agriculture, they have missed an opportunity to deliver a convincing vision for the industry to grow and prosper into the future.

The only money allocated to dealing with the fallout from the unfair vegetation laws is a menial \$4 million allocated towards a SLATS report. Farming groups like AgForce and QFF consistently called for this data to be funded and collected before the kneejerk vegetation management laws were brought in. This budget and the lack of support for farmers fits very neatly into the Labor green agenda to suffocate rural and regional Queenslanders under the banner of environmentalism. Government spending should be prudent and sensible. No matter where you live or what job you do, no-one needs more tax hikes, increasing debt and higher unemployment.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.19 am): Today I rise to speak to my first budget as the member for Mount Ommaney. This budget is the result of working for what Mount Ommaney residents have been telling me for the last five years. At the outset I want to thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the ministers who have worked with me and listened to me as I have shamelessly asked for more for Mount Ommaney.

Over the last two elections as my team and I doorknocked over 10,000 homes one issue came up constantly in every part of the electorate—fix the congestion. It is a message I have heard over and over again. Indeed, it is something that I experience firsthand every day as I traverse from my home in Oxley along the Ipswich Motorway through to the Centenary Motorway before I get off at the Sumners Road overpass and drop my children at Middle Park State School. I know just how bad the congestion is because, like everyone else in my community, I sit in it each and every day alongside them.

When I continue my commute into the city it is over an hour in traffic, much of it spent trying to get out of the Centenary suburbs or, as it is not so fondly known by locals, the Centenary car park. Sometimes I feel like I am in the twilight zone sitting in bumper-to-bumper traffic until I hit the Jindalee bridge, where the traffic suddenly starts moving freely. This budget recognises the frustration and the lost productivity created by this gridlock and commits to getting something done. This budget locks in key projects for the south-west corridor right in the heart of Mount Ommaney.

Firstly, the long-awaited Sumners Road overpass starts construction this year, with the \$14.9 million in the budget committed to getting this critical piece of infrastructure underway. With 35,000 cars a day using this piece of infrastructure, this bridge is a conduit to the thriving business hubs of Sumner Park and Darra. It is due in part to the great success of businesses like White Lies microbrewery in Sumner Park, Oz Wagtails doggy day care on the eastern side of the bridge and Centenary Landscaping in Darra that traffic across the bridge has grown by more than 10 per cent since the overpass was first mooted almost 10 years ago. That is how long Centenary residents have been waiting to get this project started and, finally, the finish line is in sight.

The Sumners Road overpass design features a doubling of capacity, with an additional two-lane bridge across the motorway and new traffic lights to stop the traffic coming off the Centenary Motorway heading to the industrial park of Darra, which cuts off the traffic coming from the Centenary area. These small businesses and the many locals that they employ deserve our support, and that is why we are getting moving on this project as soon as possible. I cannot wait to see this project get underway later this year. With 80,000 cars a day, the Centenary Motorway in the Centenary suburbs is also growing more congested by the day. Locals know that the Jindalee on-ramp is the key to unlocking this logjam, so we, the Palaszczuk government, are getting on with progressing a business case to upgrade this choke point. As a former Jindalee resident I have watched as year after year this road gets worse, so I am thrilled to be announcing that the business case is underway so that Mount Ommaney locals can get to work on time and make it back to their kids by the 6 pm pick-up.

**Mr Pegg:** Good work, Jess.

**Ms PUGH:** I thank the member for Stretton. In this budget the \$4 million business case has received an additional \$16 million boost, bringing the total budget so far to \$20 million to fix the Centenary Motorway. As I said, for the many residents who sit on this congested road every day like I did this morning, it cannot come soon enough.

Locals will be aware that the Ipswich Motorway upgrade is well and truly underway between Rocklea and Oxley. With 85,000 cars a day slowly crawling along this stretch of road during peak hour that starts before seven and finishes well after nine, the finish of these works cannot come soon enough for my electorate. However, we cannot just rely on roads to build our way out of congestion. We need to encourage commuters to use public transport too. That is why Darra train station has been identified as a key regional transport hub for the south-west region.

We have been given \$3 million of a total of \$8.7 million for design and planning, adding an extra 180 car parks to have a total of 441 car parks for commuters at Darra. This, combined with the Sumners Road overpass upgrade, will create much easier access to the Darra train station for Centenary residents who want to use public transport to get into the city. As it is only a 22-minute express service into the city, that is a very attractive option. However, many female commuters have told me that a current lack of car parks with adequate lighting deter them from catching the train at Darra as they do not want to walk down dark streets to their cars. This upgrade is going to go a long way to address this.

Likewise, it can also take 20 minutes or more just to drive the few short kilometres from Centenary suburbs like Middle Park to Darra and to find a park. The Palaszczuk government understands that we cannot fix congestion without a multipronged approach, and I am proud to have lobbied hard for these vital upgrades to our area and I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Minister Bailey, for his assistance in this area. This local commitment will be supported by the Palaszczuk government's \$5.4 billion commitment to build the Cross River Rail, providing more express services like the one we enjoy from Darra in order to get cars off our roads. As a former small business manager in the southern end of the CBD, I am also thrilled that it will unlock the Alice and Albert Street stretch of the CBD, which is almost one kilometre from the nearest train station. It is hard to fathom that some parts of the CBD are a kilometre's walk from the nearest public transport hub. The Cross River Rail is desperately needed by the southern end of the CBD and I encourage everyone to support this vital infrastructure.

I am also very proud that our firefighters will be getting a major upgrade to the Mount Ommaney station. We have committed \$1.45 million to a major upgrade of our fire station to ensure our fireys can get to emergencies in our local communities sooner. Our emergency services personnel do an outstanding job and they deserve to have the best infrastructure to help them service our state, so as the member for Mount Ommaney I am thrilled to be part of a team that is getting Mount Ommaney moving to work, to school and to home. However, we need to make sure that the next generation of Queenslanders has access to the best quality education to get those jobs as you would well appreciate, Madam Deputy Speaker McMillan, and that is why both high schools in my electorate are receiving substantial cash injections to expand and update their facilities. Centenary State High School is a

fantastic multicultural school that prides itself on offering pathways to excellence for every student. Principal John Brew and his amazing team of teaching staff understand that every child is different and every child deserves a chance to shine.

Centenary State High School is such a popular school that it is bursting at the seams. We have budgeted \$8.5 million to build a new multistorey learning centre. This centre will nurture the talents of students such as the youth member for Mount Ommaney, Francesca Hellmuth. I also want to give a shout-out to the parent body of Centenary State High School who worked tirelessly to air-condition the remaining classrooms for their students. Their children and we as a community thank them for their dedication.

Under the leadership of principal Helen Jamieson, Corinda State High School has gone from strength to strength. Earlier this year, it was a pleasure to take Minister Grace to visit the teachers as they made their preparations to get back to school. Minister Grace could see that this bustling school, with its agriculture program, complete with its own on-site farm—

**Mr Costigan:** What school is that?

**Ms PUGH:** I take that interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It is Corinda State High School. The member for Whitsunday should listen more carefully. The school's agriculture program and its science program continue to make it a great example of why state schools are great schools. That is why Corinda State High School will benefit from a \$10 million cash injection to upgrade and expand its facilities.

The state high schools in my electorate are a source of enormous personal pride to me. I think they are two exemplary examples of giving every Queensland child access to a quality education that ensures that they have every opportunity in life, whether that is in agriculture, the arts, or by studying for a science degree, as is Dhruv Singh, who is one of Corinda State High School's school captains. He is currently undertaking tertiary education at the University of Queensland while pursuing his year 12 studies.

I came to parliament with a clear set of priorities for my electorate informed by thousands of conversations with locals, the support of my wonderful volunteers and my own priorities as a parent, a local and a small business employee. I am immensely proud of what this budget has delivered for Mount Ommaney. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.31 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Appropriation Bill 2018. As in previous years, I opened the budget pack with eager anticipation of the investments and infrastructure projects for the electorate of Condamine that would be contained within it. Yet again, despite a much heralded budget surplus, the residents of the electorate of Condamine and I were greeted with disappointment. The announcements made in the budget for the seat of Condamine have been made in the last budget, the one before that and, for some of them, the one before that. They are current projects that are mostly well on their way. There is nothing new. There is nothing for a part of Queensland that is growing rapidly. In fact, some areas of my electorate are outgrowing the current infrastructure that is available and this government has no plans for that growth.

The educational requirements for the growing population of my electorate is just one issue that needs urgent attention. After listening to the Deputy Premier, our Treasurer, one would think that she delivered an economic miracle. In her budget speech the Treasurer stated—

Today I can announce that we expect a surplus of \$1.512 billion in 2017-18—more than three times the size of the Mid-Year Fiscal and Economic Review forecast.

The Treasurer stated further—

Our responsible budget management is part of this success story.

The Treasurer is well aware of the real reason the budget is in surplus and it is definitely not down to the few months that the Deputy Premier has been in the role of Treasurer. The real reason for this success story is that the state is swimming in royalties from the coalmining industry. It is interesting to note that nowhere in the Treasurer's speech is coalmining even mentioned—not even briefly. One would have thought that an industry that has played such a large part in delivering the surplus to Queensland would have been front and centre in the budget speech. Indeed, one would have expected the Treasurer to begin her speech with a cry of, 'God bless coal.' Instead, it did not receive a mention.

Perhaps the Treasurer is a little embarrassed by her predicament, particularly given her well-published green credentials. We are all fully aware of the Deputy Premier's zeal in pursuing green votes during the election campaign. That zeal was further evidenced during the recent debate on the vegetation management legislation with her fervent enthusiasm for the renewable energy target.

It must be hard to reconcile the need for cash for pet projects such as Cross River Rail with the discomfort of knowing that such projects would not be achievable without the royalties stream that is flowing in from the coalmining industry. Perhaps in her rush to splash cash around the electorates held by the Labor Party, the Treasurer has forgotten where the money is coming from.

Unfortunately for Queenslanders, under a Labor government, economic growth is weak, employment growth is falling and unemployment has been revised to stay higher for longer. In regional Queensland, youth unemployment is at a crisis point and regional jobs are difficult to find with this government investing little in infrastructure to create employment outside the south-east corner or on the coastal fringes.

For her first budget the Treasurer has provided one full of taxes, debt and unemployment. In fact, there is \$2.25 billion in new taxes and fees for Queenslanders over the next four years. Even with those new taxes and the massive boom in resource royalties, somehow the Labor government has managed to have a debt bill of \$83 billion, meaning an interest bill of \$3.7 billion each and every year—\$7,000 a minute, or over \$420,000 an hour, \$10 million a day, \$71 million a week—that our children and grandchildren will need to pay back.

Infrastructure creates employment, which stimulates our economy. That is a simple message that Labor just does not seem to get. It talks up infrastructure spending, but fails to deliver it. In the 2017-18 budget, Labor failed to invest \$532 million into promised infrastructure projects. Under Labor's Made in Queensland program, no new funding has been allocated in the 2018-19 fiscal year for the Queensland manufacturing industry. During the election campaign the Premier talked up supporting Queensland businesses, but it is a different story now. What about putting Queensland jobs first? That is yet another broken promise.

Queensland has the highest car registration charges in Australia. What a great claim to fame for motorists who are already suffering from cost-of-living pressures. The cost of owning the family car is now becoming beyond the means of some families. When in government, the LNP froze registration charges and that was one of its election promises in November 2017. This budget contains an additional \$40 million in traffic fines and confirms that the Labor government is using speed cameras as cash cows and not for road safety purposes.

In some areas of the Condamine electorate there is massive population growth, particularly those areas south-west of Toowoomba. Currently, for children in those areas, once they reach year 7 there are no secondary school options. They are required to travel to Toowoomba to attend either state schools, which are already struggling with large numbers of students, or private schools. The increasing number of developments in these areas means more families and, with families, comes secondary school-age children.

None of these population increases have been addressed by the current Labor government to plan for the future of these communities. There is not even funding for a business plan in the budget to assist in assessing the future educational requirements of these areas. Investing in our children's education is the best way we can ensure that they have the reading, writing and numeracy skills so that they have the opportunity to study further or get a job and be successful in life. Under this Labor government's watch, achieving successful educational outcomes for Queensland children has not been realised. There are 35 schools in the seat of Condamine and there is not one dollar in this budget for any of them.

Health is important to all of us, whether we are young, old, or have a family. The Labor government talks about a record investment in health, but it has failed to deliver \$115.5 million of the Queensland Health capital projects that it promised in 2017-18. Under the Labor government, categories 1, 2 and 3 emergency patients all missed important targets about being seen within recommended clinical time frames. Those are patients with immediate, imminent or potentially life-threatening injuries. Heaven help those waiting in the public system for hip replacements or cataract operations. The Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service has a forecast operating deficit for 2018-19 of \$7.68 million, despite being in surplus previously.

When the LNP was in government, we ended centralised control of Queensland Health by creating 16 local hospital and health boards across Queensland to enable local communities to manage their health needs. The LNP reopened maternity services so that mothers could have their babies close to their communities and families, rather than having to travel long distances to bigger centres where

they did not have the support of family and friends. Under the LNP, ambulance ramping was reduced by over 20 per cent and we cleared Labor's long dental waitlists, under which some patients had to wait over two years to see a dentist.

The men and women who provide our front-line emergency services are always there when we need them—but perhaps they will not be any more if Labor's budget cuts are any indication. The total cut to the Queensland Police Service is \$44.6 million, which means less money to the front-line services that protect us and serve our communities. That is being done at a time when crime rates continue to rise across Queensland. In response to a question on notice to the police minister that I submitted on 3 March 2018, figures indicate that police recruit numbers have declined over the past three years. Labor made an election commitment to Queenslanders to provide an additional 535 police officers. We intend holding them to that promise.

In this Labor budget, small business owners have been slugged with a new waste tax that will cost them and their customers \$1.3 billion over the next four years. Small business is the engine room of our economy, creating the majority of jobs. The best that the Labor government can do is stifle their businesses by introducing more taxes and continuing to generate even more red tape.

Over the past decade electricity prices have risen by over 60 per cent above inflation. Average householders are struggling to pay that exorbitant rise in electricity costs and, to save money, pensioners are not turning on their heaters or air conditioners. When in government the LNP supported Queensland farmers and businesses by capping price increases on obsolete and transitional tariffs at 10 per cent. The Labor government has continued to slug all electricity users and has no plan to reduce electricity prices.

Agriculture underpins our economy and the electorate of Condamine is a prime example of that. We have everything from broadacre farming and intensively farmed irrigation areas growing grains, pulses and cotton to one of the largest intensive livestock industries in Australia and a diverse horticultural sector. However, there is nothing in the budget for agriculture from this government. I should not be surprised, as Labor has never understood the value of our primary producers or the rural and regional communities that they support. Labor has showered money on their green mates, providing the Australian Conservation Council with \$1.8 million of public funding, whilst ignoring the farmers who have been left to fend for themselves after the unfair and devastating vegetation management laws. Labor has never been a friend of agriculture or primary producers and that trend continues with this Treasurer's budget. The CEO of AgForce, Mike Guerin, said of the budget—

Agriculture is one of the pillars of the Queensland's economy and the fastest growing industry in Australia, but has been largely forgotten in a State Budget focused more on big spending infrastructure initiatives in the south-east corner.

In conclusion, this budget is another nothing budget: it does nothing for rural and regional Queensland, nothing for struggling families and nothing to improve our economy. The Condamine electorate has roads that are in total disrepair and require major reconstruction. In our schools student numbers are rising rapidly, but no new infrastructure is planned. In fact, there is no plan for the future at all. Tourism venues are in need of funding to continue the good work of volunteers and bring visitors to our region to spend money while they are there. Youth unemployment is at a critical stage. There are rises in violent crime and increases in drug and alcohol abuse, to name a few worthy causes in need of funding.

Despite all that, this Labor government will spend \$17.3 million to extend a three-metre wide cycleway from Birdwood Road in Holland Park to Gaza Road in Tarragindi, which is a distance of under three kilometres, with a total of spend of \$45 million. I hope the honourable Joe Kelly, the member for Greenslopes, and the Hon. Mark Bailey, the member for Miller and Minister for Main Roads and Transport, will enjoy riding their bikes along that cycleway. That money would go a long way towards repairing the notorious Bowenville Norwin Road, where the speed limit has been reduced to 60 kilometres an hour due to the hazardous conditions of the road. The road is not fit to ride a bike along, yet a school bus goes along that road twice a day.

I cannot finish without expressing my horror at the tax grab that is the betting tax. A 15 per cent betting tax would make it the highest betting tax in not only Australia but also the world. Condamine is home to one of the largest racehorse and thoroughbred breeding regions in the country. Under this government, confidence in the industry is already at rock bottom. This is a high-taxing, high-debt, high-risk budget, which is what we have come to expect from this government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Before I call the next speaker, I remind members that your conversations are audible to me. If you are having a conversation and you are standing up, please take it outside.

**Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (12.46 am): The member for Condamine says that he is a horseracing fan. It is time to crack the whip and pick up the pace, because the reality is that this is a fantastic budget. I have been listening to the contributions of those opposite and, for the first time in my life, I feel sorry for the member for Everton. I never thought I would have this feeling, but it started with the member for Nanango, who made a whole heap of spending commitments for the LNP, and then opposition member after opposition member made commitment after commitment.

I can just picture the member for Everton up on level 9. He has an abacus and a slide rule, and he is trying to make all those commitments work. He is trying to make them all fit in. If the member for Everton is listening, I say to him: throw away the slide rule and throw away the abacus. He needs to pull out his rusty whistle and blow it to put a stop to these reckless spending commitments from those opposite, because all we have heard is commitment after commitment. Surely there will come a time when the member for Everton walks in here and finally blows the whistle on these reckless spending commitments.

Of course, the irony is that, following the member for Nanango, member after member—with the slight exception of the member for Condamine, who seems to have woken up—has talked about debt when the reality is that the debt is almost \$10 billion less under our government than it was under theirs. All of a sudden, debt has become—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I remind members that comments are directed through the chair under standing order 247.

**Mr PEGG:** I am really struggling to follow the logic of those opposite, but I will continue to listen intently and to work it out. I feel sorry for the member for Everton.

This budget has been very carefully crafted to advance Queensland by building the infrastructure of the future and supporting jobs and economic growth. Amongst other things, the budget provides the following: a total infrastructure program of \$45.8 billion, which will support 38,000 jobs; \$4.9 billion for better roads and transport outcomes; a record spend of \$17.3 billion in health; a record spend of \$14.1 billion in education and training; and \$330 million to support the Great Barrier Reef over five years. Those are fantastic initiatives.

We have delivered our fourth surplus budget. There are surpluses across the forward estimates as far as the eye can see.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I am glad they have woken up over there. The most important asset we have, of course, is our young people and our children. They deserve the best education possible. We are determined to deliver it. I am very proud to be part of a government that is delivering \$250 million to build additional classrooms and facilities in Queensland schools.

I commend the Minister for Education because schools in Stretton are set to benefit from this program, with \$23.5 million committed for a two-storey performing arts centre at Stretton State College, including two drama studios, two music studios and an additional 18 classrooms. The Minister for Education knows this, but maybe not everyone in the House knows that Stretton State College is well known for excellence in many areas, and particularly the performing arts. Last year I attended the *Wizard of Oz* musical, which showcased the talents of Stretton State College students from all levels.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** Those opposite might try to click the ruby shoes together, but it is not going to get them out of the fiscal and economic hole they have dug for themselves so far in this debate. I will move on.

I was very lucky to also attend the Symphony of Stars, which is the annual awards night at Stretton State College for students in the performing arts. There were some fantastic performances. I commend executive principal, Jan Maresca, head of the department for music, Adam Hornagold, and all the staff, parents and students involved. I know that these new facilities will help to foster and develop

the abundant talent at Stretton State College. I hope to join the Minister for Education and the whole Stretton State College community for the sod turning and opening of these new facilities. There is also \$235,000 for an electrical safety upgrade at Stretton State College and \$7,000 for an electrical safety upgrade at Stretton kindergarten.

Wait, there is more. There is also an additional \$10.5 million for 19 new classrooms at Sunnybank Hills State School and there has been lots of positive feedback from the school community already. There is also funding allocated for J block roof replacement at Kuraby Special School. When I called the principal of Kuraby Special School, Fleur Watson, to give her the good news, it was actually her birthday.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I take all those interjections. Happy birthday, Ms Watson. It was a significant birthday, but I will not tell the House which one it was. She had a great surprise from her staff. She said it was a wonderful birthday present to receive that fantastic news.

The other thing I am very pleased to see in this budget is \$2.5 million to resurface Beaudesert Road from Illaweena Street to Muirhead Street and Ormskirk Street to Bradman Street. This resurfacing is vital to help clean up the absolute mess the LNP council caused in my local community when it closed Illaweena Street for no absolutely no reason. It caused traffic chaos in our community. I was very interested to have a look at the Brisbane City Council budget, which was delivered yesterday. If you blinked you probably would have missed it. I would have hoped and thought that there would have been some kind of compensation—maybe a rate reduction—or some kind of commitment to the people in my local area to try to fix some of the damage they caused. They did not do it. I think the LNP council should be paying the \$2.5 million, but I have absolutely no confidence they will do it. We are going to commit that funding. That is a fantastic thing.

I spoke at the outset about the budget reply speech, which was much anticipated—at least by some. By any fair analysis it definitely was a lacklustre effort. I do not think there will be too many column inches devoted to that laborious effort from the member for Nanango tomorrow. I have always tried to be fair and I am always willing to give credit where it is due. I have to say that I always thought the worst budget reply speech I would ever hear was the member for Clayfield's effort back in 2016. I really did not think anyone would be able to top that. The Member for Nanango has managed to plumb new depths earlier today. It is truly the worst budget reply speech I have ever heard.

I hope the member for Nanango never takes the title from the member for Clayfield of the worst budget ever. That will truly be a dark day for Queenslanders. It will be a terrible day. She has taken the title for the worst ever budget reply speech. I hope the member for Nanango never takes the title for the worst budget because it would be a complete nightmare for our great state.

The member for Nanango really gave the game away when she said, 'I am proud, very proud, of the LNP's record in government.' I note that I have not heard any other member of the opposition use that kind of language and make that kind of outlandish statement.

**Mr Molhoek:** You will hear it from me later on.

**Mr PEGG:** We will hear it from the member for Southport soon. I look forward to that. That is quite a foolish thing to do, member for Southport. Some people just repeat mistakes.

As the member for Southport would know, the LNP did hold government from 2012 to 2015. The member for Nanango says she is proud of that record. I was trying to find out what she was proud about. I was trying to work it out. The member for Nanango was the assistant finance minister in the previous government. I am trying to take members through how I was trying to work out what the member for Nanango was proud of. We had the 2012-13 state budget—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** You would remember it, member for Southport.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr PEGG:** Some 14,000 public servants were sacked. There was \$1.4 billion taken from the capital program. There was an increase in taxes of \$600 million. She cannot possibly be proud of that.

Let us look at the 2013-14 state budget. It was completely uninspiring and did nothing to stimulate growth or reduce gross state debt. The member for Nanango cannot be proud of that one either. The only one left is the 2014-15 state budget. Let us have a look at that one. The centrepiece of the 2014-15 state budget was a desperate attempt to reduce debt through a fire sale of the state's prime silverware,

by liquidating \$37 billion in highly profitable state assets. There is nothing to be proud about there. Someone opposite has to tell us what the member for Nanango is proud of because none of us here can work that out.

In conclusion, this is a budget that invests and creates jobs. This is a budget that builds the economy of the future. This budget delivers on our promise to put Queenslanders first. I commend the budget to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.57 am): The member for Stretton's contribution was like being hit with a piece of wet lettuce. I am really looking forward to hearing his future contributions in this House.

This is a budget that will hurt Queenslanders. This is a budget of taxes and debt. This is a budget that by the time of the next election will see the burden of \$16,600 debt hung around the neck of each and every Queenslanders. Our five millionth Queenslanders, little Elizabeth, and my one-year-old son will both grow up with a millstone of debt that will take generations to pay off.

We have heard this described time and time again by those opposite as a good Labor budget. If a good Labor budget is more debt and more taxes then I can see how one would reach that conclusion. This budget has no plan beyond debt and taxes. This is a Labor budget that fails to address the youth job crisis or even unemployment more generally. This is a Labor budget that fails to take responsibility and leaves the problem of growing debt for our children and for their children. It is not good enough and our children deserve better.

This budget fails to deliver any relief for the people of the Sunshine Coast. It fails to deliver any relief for the thousands of Sunshine Coast locals who commute to Brisbane for work or for the thousands of tourists who sit in the car park that is the Bruce Highway every Sunday afternoon. Just last week I was stopped in the main street of Buderim by a man who works as a foreman in Brisbane. He explained to me that every day he leaves home at 5 am to get to his work site and to do battle with the Bruce Highway. Every night he gets home after his kids have gone to bed because on the way home he also has to battle congestion just to make a dollar. His story is not unique. The Bruce Highway between Caloundra and Caboolture needs to be upgraded now. It needs to be upgraded so that parents can get home and spend time with their children and so that tourists can enjoy their time at the beach rather than sit in traffic.

People are sick and tired of their political representatives passing the buck and avoiding their responsibilities. Since entering this House all I have heard from the Labor government is pathetic excuses blaming the federal government or past LNP state governments. Frankly, those opposite should be ashamed. Labor has been in government in Queensland for 25 of the past 30 years. It is time to step up and take the good with the bad. You cannot claim credit for all of the good while abrogating responsibility for anything that is remotely challenging.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! I cannot hear the member for Buderim, and that is saying something. Can we keep it down? Member for Buderim, direct your comments through the chair please.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker. Never before has this approach been more evident than in relation to the duplication of the north coast rail line. Despite the fact that in 2009 the then Labor government promised to fund 100 per cent to duplicate the north coast line, this pathetic shell of a government has now decided to play politics at a time when the federal government has gifted it \$390 million to help solve this problem. If the Minister for Transport and Main Roads is genuinely committed to getting Queenslanders off the Bruce Highway and on to public transport then he will take the money that is on the table and stump up the matching state government contribution.

Sadly, rather than fixing it, we are still talking about the outdated, dangerous and convoluted Mooloolah River interchange. It is a critical link to the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and the new Maroochydore city centre. In its current form, the interchange is an accident waiting to happen and, as long as the project remains in abeyance, our regional economy will be stuck in traffic along with the emergency vehicles that go to the hospital.

Residents in Mountain Creek have to deal with the dangerous merge onto the Sunshine Motorway, and residents of Buderim and Sippy Downs know that traffic grinds to a halt as soon as they approach that single-lane stretch of the Sunshine Motorway. Congestion and road safety affect all Queenslanders. On the Sunshine Coast we rely on the road network more than most because we have

inadequate public transport. While the provisioning of \$7.5 million for the preparation of a business case to upgrade the Mooloolah River interchange is welcome, I urge the minister to make upgrading this dangerous and outdated stretch of road a priority.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Don't hold your breath, mate. I am extremely frustrated with the government's reluctance to accept responsibility for the gridlock that exists in my electorate on Scholars Drive. This is the result of construction of a public school at the end of a cul-de-sac. Scholars Drive is choked morning and afternoon and this is severely impacting the Sippy Downs community. When I questioned the Premier about what the government plans to do about this issue, she simply passed the buck to the Sunshine Coast council. The LNP committed \$1 million to work with the council to find a solution, so why can't Labor? I am sure if Scholars Drive sat in South Brisbane or Inala it would have been funded in this budget.

It should not take the death or injury of a child to get this government to act. I call on the government to work collaboratively with the Sunshine Coast council to help solve this problem. The longstanding issue of traffic congestion in Buderim's CBD must be addressed and could be alleviated with the provision of a drop-off and pick-up zone for school families. I have appealed to both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to work together to address traffic congestion around the Buderim Mountain State School, and I will continue to lobby them until common sense prevails and the buck-passing stops.

The Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection is a daily nightmare for locals and, while the government continues to skirt around what might be a solution in upgrading the Buderim-Mooloolaba interchange, there is still no money in this budget to fund this much needed fix. The central location of this clumsy and congested interchange in the densely populated area of one of the Sunshine Coast's busiest business districts is negatively affecting small business owners and driving down our local economy.

On other matters close to my heart, the government has not seen fit to match the LNP's commitment of \$1 million to support the groundbreaking work of the Thompson Institute, nor \$600,000 to support the Buderim Men's Shed. Investment in mental health should be above political games and must be a priority. I call on the government to meet the needs of the Thompson Institute which, under the leadership of Professor Jim Lagopoulos, is conducting world-leading research to benefit our youth, seniors, veterans and first responders.

Although they utilise a different model, the Buderim Men's Shed also deliver first-class mental and preventative health outcomes, which is much needed. Indeed, the Buderim Men's Shed under the leadership of president Barry Cheales has one of the largest memberships of any men's shed in Australia. Just this week the Buderim Men's Shed conducted an event to celebrate Men's Health Week where it conducted a wellbeing 'pit stop crew' along with students from the University of the Sunshine Coast nursing program. Budgets are about balancing priorities. However, given the community benefit that both of these organisations provide, I would welcome the opportunity to work with the responsible minister to deliver the much needed funding so that both the Thompson Institute and the Buderim Men's Shed can continue its great work.

For the most part, this is a budget of new taxes, new fees and recycled commitments—recycled commitments like the \$7 million previously announced to upgrade the University of the Sunshine Coast stadium. However, I welcome the government's investment in this critical piece of infrastructure, which serves as the home of the university's high-performance sports program and as the home of the Sunshine Coast Lightning netball team.

I was pleased to see that the community's voice has been heard and that long overdue funding has been allocated to three overcrowded schools within my electorate, being Chancellor State College, Mountain Creek State High School and Brightwater State School. Each will receive funding to construct new classrooms, which are sorely needed just to keep up with current demand. Continued investment in each of these schools is required because of the significant growth that has been experienced in student numbers.

Disappointingly, there is no funding within this budget for a new primary or secondary school within the Palmview area—an area that is expected to become home to 16,000 residents in the near future. It is abundantly clear that, without new schools to cater for the anticipated student numbers in this area, students will be crammed into existing schools that are already bursting at the seams. I call on the government to recognise the needs of this priority development area and prioritise the construction of new schools to support the growth in population.

**Mr McDonald:** The minister will work with you.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am sure she will work with me. I take that interjection. I recognise that every government has to balance competing priorities. However, this budget does not get the balance right. Throwing money at a problem is not always the answer. Pork-barrelling in marginal Brisbane seats is most certainly not the answer. The Treasurer has squandered an opportunity to build a better future for our children and she has instead left them with the legacy of a lifetime of debt.

The people of Buderim can see, however, a light on the horizon. In the Leader of the Opposition's contribution, I was heartened to hear a fresh, constructive and considered plan for the future of Queensland—a plan that will bust congestion, provide cheaper electricity, ensure better health and education services and deliver water security and, importantly, guarantee that a Deb Frecklington LNP government will not impose any new taxes.

In particular, I welcome the Leader of the Opposition's plan to invest in the Bruce Highway and to stop the political back and forth in relation to the duplication of the north coast rail line. The LNP commitment to match the federal government's contribution for this critical piece of public transport infrastructure is what is needed so we can just get on with the job of upgrading the rail line and delivering more train services for the Sunshine Coast.

I welcome the Leader of the Opposition's announcement today that a future LNP government will air-condition every public school in Queensland. This is something that parents, teachers and P&Cs have been crying out for for years.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Member for Chatsworth and member for McConnel, there will be no banter across the table. Comments are to be directed through the chair.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** As I said, this is something that parents, teachers and P&Cs have been crying out for for years. I was speaking to Mr Conor Walsh, the President of the Brightwater P&C, about this issue just last week. Our students should be afforded every opportunity to learn in a comfortable environment. If it is good enough for Parliament House to be air-conditioned, why should our classrooms not be air-conditioned as well?

The focus on tackling the ice epidemic by building four new rehabilitation centres and targeting the criminal drug gangs is what is needed to address this crippling problem that reaches into every community within Queensland. During the ice forums that the LNP conducted across the state earlier this year, we heard harrowing accounts from family members. You might want to listen so you can get some ideas about addressing ice.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Direct your comments through the chair, member for Buderim.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** Clearly, those opposite are not interested in hearing about how to address the insidious problem of ice. During the ice forums that the LNP conducted earlier in the year, we heard harrowing accounts from family members, reformed addicts and first responders about the damage that ice brings to all who come within its path. It is an issue that affects us all and it is an issue that we need to tackle across the state. All Labor has offered in this budget is five new taxes, ripping \$2.2 billion out of Queenslanders' pockets. It cannot tax its way to growth. By contrast, the LNP wants a secure economic future for all Queenslanders where we live within our means. Only the LNP has a plan for Queensland and only the LNP will deliver for the Sunshine Coast.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (1.11 am): I am very proud to rise today to speak in support of the Appropriation Bill delivered by the honourable Treasurer and member for South Brisbane. What a great budget it is for Queensland and for the Mansfield electorate. This great Labor budget responds to the needs of all Queenslanders, creating jobs, setting out a clear economic plan, attracting investment and building infrastructure—building the economy for our future. It is a budget that delivers the health and education infrastructure that Labor knows is an essential investment for the future success of young Queenslanders and for the prosperity of our great state.

When I was elected to this parliament I vowed that I would strive to ensure that the Mansfield electorate became a hub of educational excellence. I am proud of the 19 schools in my electorate and the quality education that they provide. The reason young families flock to my electorate is that good-quality education. I know that a hub of educational excellence requires the infrastructure for learning; the resources and funding to support learning as well as the collegial and collaborative support of

educators working together across schools and between classrooms; effective teachers and strong educational leaders who apply explicit and precise strategies to improve student learning. A quality education transforms the lives of individuals, families and whole communities. We are delivering a great start for our children.

That is why I am so delighted that this budget provides more than \$20 million for the construction, upgrade and maintenance in government schools located within my electorate of Mansfield. At Mansfield State High School a new two-storey science building is already under construction at a cost of \$8 million. A new three-storey learning centre with additional classrooms will be delivered next year at a cost of \$9.7 million, not to mention \$6.1 million for a new hall.

At Rochedale State High School \$4 million will be spent under the '2020 Ready' program on a new two-storey, 10-classroom learning centre. The Palaszczuk government is proud to be delivering the infrastructure needed to provide Mansfield and Rochedale State High School students with a world-class education.

Mansfield State School will benefit from \$880,000 over the next two years to extend their hall. This will ensure that the school can cater for increased student enrolments. Eight new learning areas will be built at Mackenzie State Special School, two teaching blocks at Upper Mount Gravatt State School will be refurbished at a cost of \$250,000, and there will be a further \$772,000 allocated for minor works and maintenance across nine different schools.

Today we heard the plans of those opposite: air-conditioned schools to improve NAPLAN results. Having spent time at the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, the OECD, in France, amongst many other leadership experiences, I had never read of a correlation between air conditioning and improved NAPLAN results or increased student performance. Not even well-respected educational theorist John Hattie, who has synthesised more than 500,000-plus studies related to student achievement, identifies air conditioning as a lever to improve student learning.

Our Queensland education community should be very concerned if this is all the opposition can offer our children in the critical area of education. Yet again Queensland witnesses those opposite respond to complex matters with punitive measures. Who could forget what happened during the Newman government years? I experienced firsthand their key education platform. Nyanda State High School was closed and leased to the private education sector. The Brisbane School of Distance Education was sold to developers. The Fortitude Valley State School was for sale. They wanted to sell the oval at Whites Hill State College for housing development. Who can forget the abhorrent closure of the Barrett Adolescent Centre for Mental Health?

The Newman government platform and vision for education in Queensland was sacking teachers, teacher aides and selling assets. There was a litany of uninformed business decisions with no knowledge of the education system and school administration made by those opposite that inevitably affected the lives and futures of our young Queenslanders and their families.

We can see from this how those on the other side of the House see education. They see it as a business. Is their model of the welfare state independent public hospitals, independent public highways and perhaps to rate these using tempting targets, performance criteria and then to de-privatise this data to name and shame vulnerable communities while celebrating some heroic resultant fiscal balance?

The Palaszczuk government has a clear vision for education in Queensland. Education is not debt. It is the best investment that we can make for the future of Queenslanders and for the future prosperity of our great state. A quality education is a right. It is a right of all Queenslanders regardless of their location, socio-economic status, gender or race. Our children deserve the very best.

In addition to investing in school infrastructure, under the leadership of Minister Grace, not surprisingly, our plans include a commitment to the early years; the teaching of STEM, digital technologies, robotics, coding and artificial intelligence; developing students' global mindset and communication across languages; preparing for a new senior assessment and tertiary entrance system; and investing in teacher effectiveness and building the capability of school leaders. Nowhere do we mention air conditioning to improve student learning in our state.

What do the Leader of the Opposition and shadow minister for education have for us now? Only seven teaching days occur in January. That is hardly a justification for a \$2 billion spend on air conditioning. Appallingly, Queenslanders read about back to basics in the *Courier-Mail* on Friday, 8 June and we heard about it again today. Many theorists would see the back to basics policy position as an attempt to deny public school students opportunities to learn how to think critically and creatively— an attempt to return our education system to an industrialised bygone era.

We have the rollout of Independent Public Schools, with school councils made up of dentists, solicitors and business worthies who would all be experts in education because they went to school. This is from an opposition that every day continues to confuse independence with autonomy. One does not have to look far to determine that education already operates within a decentralised environment in Queensland and teachers and school leaders are granted extensive autonomy. However, we must remember that opting for decentralised decision-making often means greater responsibility, and centralisation of accountability regimes, such as standardised testing, is no guarantee of student improvement. The Independent Public Schools experiment has been largely a divisive exercise for our great public education system.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member has the right to be heard in silence. She is not taking the interjections and those on the other side are continually interjecting.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Member for Southport, your interjections are not being taken.

**Ms McMILLAN:** As I said, the Independent Public Schools experiment has been largely a divisive exercise for our great public education system. I can give an example from the Mansfield electorate. When IPS was introduced, the then education minister made a commitment that no school would be included in the program against the wishes of the staff, but the take-up rate for IPS was initially very poor. Lo and behold, the minister and the former member for Mansfield turned up at a large state high school in my electorate and pressured the principal to nominate, even though the staff were vehemently against it. The school was nominated and accepted into the program.

Soon after, the then principal moved to the private sector chasing greater collegiality, more pay and better packaged conditions. The principal departed but the school where the staff had opposed the program were left to negotiate this IPS journey without a strong commitment to it and with a new principal. Principals are important to schools and education, but a principal without the support of the staff will not succeed. There is a difference between autonomy and autocracy, but those opposite do not seem to understand this, let alone understand the complexity of school leadership.

One of the areas where IPS has had a devastating impact is the teacher transfer system and in the relocation of teachers and administrators. The introduction of IPS has seen the breakdown of the transfer and relocation processes across Queensland, and those opposite cannot even see that this is affecting students in the regional, rural and remote electorates they claim to represent. They are willing to sell out the students and parents in their own electorates for their ideological pursuit of independent public schools—whatever that means.

Supporting our regions is a key priority for our Palaszczuk government. On this side, we support the autonomy of teachers, school leadership and the autonomy for school communities, but not at the expense of leaving some schools and some students behind. The four years of the IPS program have finished. The government will analyse current international research, what worked and what did not work across the diverse schools in Queensland, as any sound, responsible organisation should. The Palaszczuk government is committed to a public education system where every child gets the best opportunity.

It is particularly pleasing to see a strong commitment by the Palaszczuk government to the TAFE sector. This vitally important part of our national training industry has had the heart ripped out of it by successive conservative governments over many years. How gratifying it is to see a real commitment by this state government to the TAFE sector, with \$80 million being injected across our state. Under the Newman government, student numbers dropped by thousands at my local Mount Gravatt TAFE. Under the Palaszczuk government, the Mount Gravatt TAFE school of fashion is set to become the only school of fashion excellence in Queensland, with an injection of \$1.5 million to upgrade teaching spaces and provide state-of-the-art equipment. In addition, the TAFE corporate office will relocate to the Mount Gravatt campus, ensuring there is a long-term vision for this very important educational institution located in my electorate.

Commuters will benefit from an additional 200 parking spaces at the Eight Mile Plains park-and-ride, and motorists can expect smoother travel with a \$10.7 million upgrade of the Pacific Motorway from Eight Mile Plains to the Logan Motorway, not to mention the Cross River Rail important infrastructure, which will reduce south side congestion. Since the 2015 election, the Palaszczuk government has improved front-line health and education services in Brisbane by employing an additional 1,374 nurses, 395 doctors, 981 teachers and 248 teacher aides.

Finally, allow me to provide the Leader of the Opposition with a free lesson in leadership. It is one aspect of leadership to oppose the government, but a leader must also have a vision for the future, a vision for Queensland. After all the schools in Queensland have air conditioners, all the schools are independent public schools and all the children and teachers return to the basics, then what? What will our students learn? How will the Leader of the Opposition prepare our children for their futures? What will the infrastructure essential for learning look like? The member for Pumicestone is the only member of those opposite who can cast some intelligence and speak with some experience on these issues. The education community of Queensland is watching closely, because they know, you know.

I am proud to be part of a Queensland Labor government led by our Premier and Deputy Premier who have a vision for this great state of Queensland. The 2018-19 state budget ensures a progressive Queensland that will be one that is more educated, more critical, healthier, more mobile and better prepared for the challenges that lie ahead. This will be the work of one government, a Labor government, and the result of only one party—that is, the Australian Labor Party. I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Premier for their work and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (1.27 am): I rise to speak to the Appropriation Bill 2018. The Callide electorate is the economic engine room of Queensland. It generates in the vicinity of \$3 billion of income to the Queensland economy, and what have we got from the Trad budget? Absolutely nothing. What we do have is a reannouncement of some capital works programs that have already been announced, programs that have already been started. This is a shameful budget that ignores the money-making people of my electorate. As the mayor of the North Burnett council has said, this is a double-dipping budget that has no new money for Callide.

The Callide electorate is the energy hub of Queensland. We have two baseload coal-fired power stations and large renewable energy power generation that has helped lift power generation revenue to the dizzy heights of \$1.24 billion to the Queensland economy—\$759 million more than has been estimated. Callide has several large coalmines that have also helped to raise the royalties from coal exports to \$3.7 billion. Despite this, the Callide electorate has been ignored in the budget that was prepared and delivered by the Treasurer this week.

Agriculture is trying to flourish in the Callide electorate, despite the Labor government's efforts to stifle it. At Mundubbera, there is a \$100 million fruit industry. The Smart Berries farm alone is estimating a 1,000-tonne crop, with earnings projected at being between \$35 million to \$50 million. It employs up to 500 people at its peak, yet there is no mention of water security for agriculture or the construction of the Cooranga Weir on the Boyne River that these irrigators and farmers so desperately need.

Water supplies to this vibrant industry are expected to cease in August or September this year, with water levels in the Boondooma Dam reaching the 30 per cent level at which irrigation water allocations will cease. Citrus on the Boyne is also expecting a \$20 million production and employs 300 people. That is another 300 jobs at a time when the unemployment figures need assistance, especially the youth market where unemployment levels are approaching 50 per cent in rural Queensland. Imagine the benefits of investing in water security for this reason. It is very simple: if you have water, you have jobs. Other industries that would benefit include pecan nuts, melons, grapes, mangoes, lucerne and piggeries, all of which contribute to the revenue stream of Queensland. Yet all we get is a kick in the guts from a government that is more interested in vote grabbing than supporting vital infrastructure.

When the people of Callide realise that the Labor government would rather spend \$45 million to build a bike track in inner-city Brisbane they will know of the contempt the Labor government holds for farmers. The people who supply them with their food, the ones who give the basic necessities of life, will once more be 'Trad-den' on. A \$45 million investment in water security would build the Cooranga Weir. If the Labor government would only access some of the federal government's \$2.5 billion water infrastructure fund, the cost would be far less.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation today highlighted 'that the state government spending on agriculture has decreased at an average annual rate of 1.7 per cent over the past 15 years'. Agriculture is the fastest growing industry in Australia, but the Labor government is determined to destroy its potential. In a world where food production may have to double by the year 2050, it is imperative that agriculture gets the water infrastructure investment that it needs.

Also hindering agriculture are the roads and the state they are in. These roads and highways are the essential networks to link our hardworking agricultural environmentalists to the hungry mouths in the south-east electorates. Many of these roads require major upgrades. There are at least 2,800 kilometres of state controlled roads in Callide. Some of these roads have sections that remain unsealed and they are dangerous. We have had recent road fatalities as a result.

I have recently invited the shadow minister for transport and main roads, Steve Minnikin—and he has accepted—to join me on a tour of some of the roads in the Callide electorate in a semitrailer so he can see for himself and have a firsthand experience of just what it is like to travel these roads in a big truck and understand the ramifications of this failing infrastructure. I have also extended the same invitation to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Mark Bailey, but alas I have had no reply. Callide roads do not even rate a mention in the Queensland government's plan for road infrastructure. The Warrego Highway got a mention but just another reannouncement of a project that is already well underway. The Callide local roads are the five regional councils' responsibility and they will be worse off with Labor cutting funding to local government departments to the tune of \$50 million. Maybe this was money that was used to fund the \$45 million bikeway in Brisbane.

Queensland has among the highest registration charges in the nation. There are approximately 41,000 registered vehicles in the Callide electorate. The LNP election promise was to freeze car registration fees to assist our fellow Queenslanders with cost-of-living pressures. The increase of 3.5 per cent to register a vehicle will equate to over a \$1.2 million expense to the people of Callide.

Make no mistake: the vegetation management laws will impact on all electorates in the coming years as farmers and graziers are forced to pay additional costs to continue to produce the world-class food and fibre products they are known for. These costs will be passed on to consumers at the checkout, where they might start to feel the impact of overregulation of an industry that finds itself with minimal assistance from the ALP budget after six years of drought. Yet Labor has been able to kick back money to their greenie mates such as \$1.8 million of public funds for political advocacy group the Australian Conservation Foundation. It is a pity that some of that money was not spent on getting the science correct in the vegetation management laws that were forced through parliament last month.

Even tourism is feeling the detrimental effect of the Labor government, with its insistence that the Great Barrier Reef is being destroyed by farmers. An amount of \$181 million will be cut from Queensland tourism industry development next year, accounting for an overwhelming 58 per cent of the total budget. Perhaps Labor feels that it will save money by driving the tourism industry into the ground, deterring tourists from visiting our state. Queensland is now lagging behind most of the other states, with the third least number of nights spent here by international visitors. Surely tourism should be supported, particularly in the regions where our travellers should be encouraged to visit and spend their tourist dollars.

Digital communications are another area where my electorate struggles to meet worldwide market expectations, again hampering our progression in all industries, tourism and employment opportunities. Constituents are missing out on jobs because of their lack of internet connectivity and speed. School students are also disadvantaged as schools struggle to cope with the increasing need and demand for faster and better technology. The new secondary school at Calliope has finally appeared in the budget and, again, is another reannouncement of much needed education infrastructure.

Callide has all the major gas lines to Curtis Island passing through the electorate as well as a large proportion of the CSG industry, which also makes a substantial contribution to the economy of Queensland. The forecast from the budget papers is for approximately \$1.78 billion in royalties. Mr Turner, the APPEA Queensland director, stated, 'To put it in context, the royalties forecast to be paid by the natural gas industry are enough to support the jobs of over 4,000 teachers, nurses or emergency workers each year.'

Speaking of nurses, surely some of these funds could have gone to support the health services in my electorate. Only Gayndah and Eidsvold rated a mention and again were reannouncements of projects already begun. The hospital at Chinchilla, the largest district in the Callide electorate, has received no funding, and maternity services have been on bypass. The Queensland hospital health supplies and services are having their budgets slashed by almost \$395 million. This comes at a time when the federal government has assisted with almost \$4.8 billion coming this year, putting to rest the mistruth about exactly what funding has come from the federal government. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system no matter where they live, but the Labor government does not support the health needs of Callide.

The LNP created the 16 hospital and health boards across Queensland as part of a plan to empower local communities, increase local accountability and value our health workers. The LNP doubled the subsidy to help patients travel to hospitals, helping rural and regional Queenslanders get access to the services they need. We reopened regional maternity services that previous Labor governments shut down. At the last state election, Labor did not even promise a single additional hospital bed outside South-East Queensland.

This budget has delivered very little for the Callide electorate, a major economic generator for the Queensland economy. Queensland debt is to rise to \$83 billion. Spending growth is projected at 2.1 per cent and revenue growth at 1.7 per cent over four years. I am a businessman and can say that when spending outstrips income that is a recipe for ruin.

What we have here is the government of Brisbane delivering a budget for Brisbane with no attempt at addressing our growing debt level or the needs of the rest of the state. It is a disgrace. On a scale of one to 10, since there are no zeros they get a one.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (1.39 am): I rise to speak on the Appropriation Bill with a clear sense of pride that the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for the people of Queensland. Like all good Labor governments, this year's budget ensures that we are tackling the big issues: jobs, education, health, cost-of-living pressures and, importantly, infrastructure for our growing state. For my electorate of Jordan these are also the issues that constituents speak to me about. These are the issues that are front and centre in their minds.

I am pleased to see the Palaszczuk Labor government honouring our election commitment to boost the successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative with \$80 million in 2018-19 and extending the initiative for two years with a further \$160 million. This is such an important initiative by our government which helps disadvantaged jobseekers participate in community driven projects and gain nationally recognised training, skills development and jobs. This is about creating jobs. I have seen this program up close, having met some of the participants in a recent community construction project in Springfield. I particularly recall speaking to the mother of one of the participants who told me, 'This is the best thing that could have happened for my son.'

I am also pleased to see the importance of small business as a job generator recognised in the state budget, with additional funding for small business consultation panels and funding to deliver business advice and mentoring. I recently hosted a networking event for Small Business Week, and small businesses in my electorate were very interested in accessing additional support through the Queensland government.

I am particularly proud of the fantastic schools we have in the Jordan electorate, and this year's budget provides a fantastic boost for our growing area, delivering a great start for our children. The almost \$9 million multipurpose hall for the Springfield Central State High School will get underway shortly, and I know this is a much needed facility for the school community. Construction will also begin on a new building for the Flagstone State Community College, incorporating five special learning classrooms and five general learning classrooms at a total cost of \$4.9 million. I have had the opportunity to meet some of the special education teachers at the high school who shared with me how important it is to get the spaces just right for students with special needs. I am so pleased that we will be delivering these new classrooms for the school.

Only last month I had the opportunity to also spend some time at Augusta State School in Augustine Heights. This is a wonderful and very popular school, so I am pleased that the 2018-19 budget confirms a \$4.7 million investment in a brand-new building that will include eight new classrooms. On top of this, the Jordan electorate has also received \$1.27 million for maintenance and minor works across all our state schools, which I know will be most welcomed.

We all know that nothing is more important than your family's health, and when that health is compromised you need to feel confidence in our public healthcare system. I am proud to be part of a government that understands the importance of resourcing our health system properly, and the record investment of \$18.3 billion in health services and infrastructure is a testament to this. These are challenging times in moving our growing population from illness to wellness. We know that building more hospitals will not improve the health of the population unless it is supported with local and coordinated regional and statewide programs to improve the wellness of the population.

Our government is about keeping Queenslanders healthy, but I am particularly grateful for the increased infrastructure spend on both of the regional hospitals servicing my electorate: \$124.5 million for stage 1A of the Ipswich Hospital expansion and \$281 million for the expansion of the Logan Hospital. I will continue to advocate for more health services for my region, and I will continue to press for the development of a new public hospital in the future to cater for the increased population in the south-west growth corridor of South-East Queensland.

We know that growth in our population brings challenges and opportunities. I am pleased to see the funding confirmation of the election commitment that I made relating to the Springfield Central park-and-ride upgrade. I know how important this issue is for my community, and the petition that I undertook calling for action attracted hundreds of signatures. The petition was an eye-opener in understanding where commuters were travelling from to access the Springfield train not only from within greater Springfield but also Greenbank, New Beith and Jimboomba, as well as Yamanto and Deebing Heights.

I was pleased that the Palaszczuk government listened at the time and confirmed \$44.5 million for a significant upgrade that will see construction of a new multistorey carpark that will more than double the number of carparks currently available. This is a significant project that I am pleased to champion. A potential site for the new carpark has been identified and work has commenced on surveys and concept planning. I do have some concerns in relation to the estimated date of completion, which has been set down for 2022. I will be meeting with the minister to advise him that our community simply cannot wait that long and urge him to progress this very necessary infrastructure as soon as practicable.

Speaking of necessary infrastructure, the Mount Lindesay Highway is important for my constituents who live in the southern part of the Jordan electorate. The state budget for 2018-19 as well as QTRIP—the Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program—shows the significant amount of funding that the Palaszczuk government is investing in the Mount Lindesay Highway. QTRIP identifies eight sections of the Mount Lindesay Highway that are being addressed in 2018-19 alone, including the North Maclean safety improvements, planning for the Camp Cable Road to Jimboomba upgrade and design of safety treatments on Stockleigh Road, South Maclean. I wish to pay particular tribute to the member for Logan, who has been such a strong advocate and who put funding for the Mount Lindesay Highway firmly back on the agenda when the previous LNP government completely dropped the ball. I am pleased to be working together with the member for Logan on advocating for even more funding for this important regional highway.

Another highway that is important for my constituents is the Centenary Highway. I was pleased to recently announce the completion of the Centenary Highway-Logan Motorway interchange planning study, which has identified options to relieve congestion and improve safety at this major interchange. I will now press for further funding to undertake more detailed planning for this interchange which will allow for proper costings to be done for further consideration by the Queensland government for funding. I know that this interchange is the cause of much frustration for commuters and, whilst the planning was too late for funding consideration in this year's budget, it is an issue that I will continue to prosecute with the minister and Treasurer.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about how our government is helping to support those in the Jordan electorate with cost-of-living pressures. I am particularly mindful that mortgage pressures and cost-of-living pressures are significant issues for those in my electorate. The Palaszczuk government, through this year's state budget, has announced more than \$5.5 billion in rebates and concessions—an increase of \$200 million over previous years. There are a range of subsidies and schemes available, and I regularly provide support to constituents to assist them to access some of these concessions—for example, the School Transport Assistance Scheme, which helps eligible families with school travel costs and the Pensioner Rate Subsidy Scheme, which offers a subsidy for pensioners to lessen the impact of local government rates and charges, thereby assisting them to continue to live in their own homes. The Smart Savings website brings together all of the concessions available, and with the incredible boost in the state budget this year I look forward to assisting even more Jordan electorate constituents access these opportunities to assist them with those cost-of-living pressures.

As I said at the start of my speech, this is a budget that addresses the issues that matter the most to Queenslanders: infrastructure, education, health, cost-of-living pressures, and of course job creation. I commend the Treasurer and all ministers involved in the preparation of this year's budget, and I look forward to seeing the result of this workflow through my electorate of Jordan.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Mullen, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (1.47 am): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Gold Coast, Short-Term Accommodation

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (1.48 am): There is no doubt that the Gold Coast is the best place to live, work and raise a family in Australia. When Stacey and I bought our first home in Poinciana Boulevard in Broadbeach Waters, we loved the community feel of the area. Whilst we sold that home some time ago and moved to Clear Island Waters, I know that many residents in Broadbeach Waters have lived there for many years. They bought their homes with no intention of moving. Why would you? You are minutes away from Broadbeach and 10 minutes away from Surfers Paradise, you are located on or close to the water and the area is home to a tight-knit community of people. However, there is one issue that has eroded the peace and serenity in the area. That issue is party houses and short-term accommodation.

I have had so many Broadbeach Waters residents approaching me about how their dream home has turned into a nightmare over the past couple of years. They cannot sleep, they are worried about the safety of their kids and they are fed up with having a new bus load of people arrive to party at their neighbouring homes week after week. One resident said, 'If you have a neighbour, you can expect a couple of parties a year. They'll usually let you know that they're hosting a 21st or drinks with friends.' Unfortunately, there is no reprieve for local residents, who usually come home on a Friday afternoon to find buses or multiple cars parked outside their driveways. What they have come to expect are weekend long raves—bucks parties, hens parties, birthdays and the list goes on.

Residents have reported that these homes have been a hotbed for drugs, alcohol fuelled violence, crude behaviour, crime, litter and loud noise. To add insult to injury, whilst residents have complained about these houses, there has been no real solution offered from Labor or the Gold Coast City Council. I was shocked to see a response from council to a constituent which read—

Officers from Development Compliance branch have investigated and confirm the property at 28 Rio Vista Boulevard has been operating as a short term accommodation holiday rental prior to the commencement of the City Plan in February 2016 when the use of short term accommodation became regulated.

It continues—

In fact, it appears the property has been a holiday let for the past 12 years. In light of the above, Development Compliance advise its investigation has concluded as no breach was found.

I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 1 June 2018, regarding party houses in the Broadbeach area [\[892\]](#).

I have been advised by Gold Coast City Council that since the city plan commenced there have been no applications for party houses—not one application—yet we know that many short-term accommodation homes are operating as party houses by definition and the operators do not seem to care. There is a real discrepancy between what the laws and regulations state and what is really playing out on our streets. I will never forget the time my wife was stopped on our quiet residential street in Clear Island Waters recently to be asked where the hotel was. A house in our street had been promoted online as a Surfers Paradise hotel. One only has to use Google Maps in Broadbeach Waters to see things like Elite Holiday Homes, with names such as Sunset on Sheridan and Allure on Vista, which promotes 45 houses and up to 90 houses in Broadbeach Waters that have these short stays which are making life untenable and unbearable for local residents.

### Employment Market

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (1.51 am): I rise to speak briefly regarding recent employment market developments and the response of the federal government. A Senate inquiry last year into the corporate avoidance of the Fair Work Act pointed out—

To its proponents, the gig economy is a brave new world allowing people to be masters of their own fate: to choose the work they do and for how much they do it.

To its critics, the gig economy is dangerously unregulated and creates fertile ground for exploitation: the promise of choice rings hollow.

The truth of course is somewhere in the middle. One danger with this new economy, which all governments are facing, is that people with less specialised skills can increasingly only secure a short-term job by selling their labour for less than their competitors, and there is no limit to how low fees can go and no minimum amount a person can be paid to do a job as long as they agree. Therefore, we are looking increasingly at a workforce that is becoming more and more of a rigged playing field in favour of those already with the skills, financial means and safety nets to allow them to charge a reasonable amount to get by on.

While we should be encouraging new ideas from new firms, we cannot just have new firms using old ideas, which is having people who are working for you not getting a fair slice of the action and not being remunerated at a fair rate. People are going to want to be treated fairly and consistently across their chosen field of employment, because if it is a race to the bottom then workers surely will not win. A report released just yesterday by the Foundation for Young Australians found that, based on a survey of 14,000 young people, the proportion of 25-year-olds in full-time work has dropped from 57 per cent to 50 per cent over the last decade. The report also found that the average time it takes young people to transition from education to full-time work has gone from one year in 1986 to 4.7 years in 2016.

In October last year the federal Senate established the Select Committee on the Future of Work and Workers to inquire into and report on the impact of technology and other changes. The committee is due to report by 21 June—next week—and it will be important to see what action the Turnbull government takes on the report. Sadly at the moment the federal government has its eyes off the ball. It is struggling to fund the corporate regulator properly and it seems that the ATO is having a scandal every six months or so into its own practices, so I would not hold my breath for anything meaningful to come out of Canberra relating to the future of work. Given that the current federal Minister for Jobs and Innovation is Michaelia Cash, I would not expect anything good to come out of this federal government in this area. This is the very same minister who is using taxpayer funds to actively fight against a Federal Court subpoena and certainly has her eyes off the ball. When the federal government's jobs minister is only interested in hanging on to her own job, the future is looking bleak for young workers.

### Sunshine Coast, Health Infrastructure

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (1.54 am): On 30 May this year an article appeared in the *Sunshine Coast Daily* indicating that an upgrade to Nambour Hospital will occur at a cost of \$86-odd million. The upgrade includes a refurbishment and an expansion of the ED to 31 bays. It just seemed to me that it was unusual, given the Sunshine Coast University Hospital had opened in April 2017, that we were looking at an increase in the Nambour ED so soon thereafter. I would have thought that there would have been scope at Kawana at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital to expand its capacity to take into account any overflow. Of course Nambour Hospital normally does not deal with category 1 and category 2 patients—they will normally go to Kawana for treatment—but, again, the question exists: with the hospital at Kawana at \$1.8 billion, why are we expanding the ED at a secondary hospital that is located 30 kilometres away?

There was an announcement of an upgrade to the helipad at the Nambour Hospital. As those in this parliament would know, helipads are used mainly for the transport of urgent category 1 and category 2 patients. This means that we now have two active helipads very close together on the Sunshine Coast. As I said, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital is the primary hospital for the Sunshine Coast, and Nambour Hospital is the secondary hospital.

As part of its guidelines for helicopter landing sites, Queensland Health undertakes a needs assessment—that is, how often and how many occasions of service a helipad will be used for. The announcement of this upgrade to the helipad means that it is going to be used more frequently. It raises the question: why are two helipads located so close together on the Sunshine Coast being used? Is there a need to upgrade the Nambour Hospital ED and helipad services and other services because the Kawana hospital is simply not coping?

If we have two services on the Sunshine Coast providing close to the same health services, the workforce and resources are split. I hope that is not the case here. I hope the upgrade of the ED and the helipad at Nambour Hospital is simply to deal with an overflow that may come from the growth in population and is not a twin towers approach to health services on the coast.

### Springwood Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (1.57 am): Queensland Day is held on 6 June. This year I had the pleasure of visiting several schools in the Springwood electorate with the Minister for Education. Our first visit was to Mount Cotton State School, which is one of the oldest schools in the electorate of Springwood. It is more than 140 years old, having opened back in 1876. Although the school community is vibrant and growing, the school itself is ageing and due for significant refurbishment. I brought the education minister to the school to see what needs to be done.

Over a breakfast barbecue, to the delight of the P&C president, Jess Zutt; the principal, Meagan Steward; and teachers, parents, teacher aides and school cleaners, the minister shared some very good news on Queensland Day. She let them know that this year's budget was to include funding to develop a master plan to completely overhaul the school facilities and get a new playground area happening straightaway. We were entertained on the day by the Mount Cotton Hoppers. Their skipping demonstration was pretty inspiring, but I think after the education minister's news that morning a few more people were skipping around as well.

Our next stop was to Shailer Park State School, which is doing a fantastic job equipping its students for the future. I thank the principal, Julie Canham, and all the schoolteachers and teacher aides. They showed us how the students at that school were not just becoming digitally literate but, in fact, digital champions. The minister and I spent some time with the year 6 class learning how to use laptops to engage in meaningful learning right across the curriculum. We saw the school band and the dance students. The musical director, Glen Court, led the students in a fantastic performance for the minister.

We then moved on to Shailer Park State High School, where we were greeted by the principal, Dorothea Jensen. Shailer Park State High School has been part of my community since 1980, but over the past five years in particular we have seen some really strong gains and some amazing things from that school. Shailer Park State High School has become one of the leading schools in STEM education in the state, offering an academic honours program for junior secondary students in English, maths and science. The minister and I met with students from the Sting academy programs in volleyball and futsal and we were treated with a great performance from the Ignite dance group as well.

The minister and I then visited Kimberley Park State School, where, along with the principal, James Forrest, we cut the ribbon on a new prep playground. The year 2 junior adventure students presented the minister and me with the best book that I have ever read—a book called *Wanted Hero* that they wrote about Queensland heroes who have made this great state even greater, complete with illustrations by the students. It is a cracking read. I suggest that members read it. I have a copy in my office. Maybe it is the maroon uniforms at Kimberley Park State School that the kids wear that fills them with so much Queensland pride—I do not know. I thank the teacher aides, the school cleaners, the teachers, the principals and everybody involved in the P&Cs at those schools.

### **Roma, Memorial and Heroes Avenue**

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.00 am): I rise to inform the House of a significant milestone that has been reached by the Roma memorial and Heroes Avenue, which will celebrate their centenary in September this year. It is 100 years since the dedication of the first bottle trees in Heroes Avenue. Heroes Avenue started on 20 September 1918, with the first 27 bottle trees, and later the avenue was extended by about another 93 bottle trees. Each tree bears a brass plaque stating the name of one of the 93 local men who fell during the First World War. Only one of these original plaques survives. It is now in a cairn that was dedicated by the Roma RSL sub-branch on Remembrance Day 1983. By then, a total of 102 trees comprised the avenue. The cairn is located outside the post office near the corner of McDowell and Wyndham streets.

The impetus for Heroes Avenue began with the mayor of Roma, Alderman Miscamble, who had been impressed by the avenues of memorial trees in the southern states. The bottle tree was selected as it was a species commonly associated with Roma. It is thought that the first tree was planted in 1918 to commemorate the death of a local soldier, Lieutenant Corporal Norman Saunders, who was killed in France in 1916. Trees were planted to commemorate the subsequent deaths and, although the plaques have disappeared, each tree retains its association with each soldier.

The cenotaph is located in Queen's Park and was commissioned by the local repatriation committee. It was unveiled on Anzac Day, 25 April 1938 by Colonel Sir Donald Cameron and honours the 93 local men who fell in the First World War and the 39 who fell in the Second World War. The traditional Anzac Day march moves from the Roma Railway Station to the cenotaph in Queen's Park along Heroes Avenue.

Australia, and Queensland in particular, had very few civic monuments before the First World War and Heroes Avenue was one of the first of its kind at the time. In 2003 the avenue was extended by another 37 trees. The avenue now has 140 trees in total. The RSL branch members have updated 88 plaques, including one new one and two that have never been installed, giving the avenue a permanent reminder to the ultimate sacrifice of all the young men who gave their freedom and for the free speech that we enjoy today.

I am very pleased to invite all members of the House to join the 100th year commemoration of the Roma Heroes Avenue on Saturday, 22 September 2018 at 10.45 am on the corner of McDowell and Wyndham streets in Roma. Lest we forget.

### Clontarf Foundation

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.03 am): I would like to tell the House about a special group of people who are making a huge difference to nearly 500 students in four secondary schools in Townsville. They are the awesome people I have met from the Clontarf Foundation who, as you would know, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, are located at Townsville State High School in your electorate and at three secondary schools in Thuringowa, those being Heatley, Kirwan and Thuringowa state high schools, of whom nearly 400 students are part of this terrific program.

The Clontarf Foundation, which has its origins in Western Australia, exists to improve the education, discipline, life skills, self-esteem and employment aspects of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men. By doing so, the Clontarf Foundation equips them to participate more meaningfully in society. Students from years 7 to 12 voluntarily sign up to the Clontarf program, which sets key areas of growth and development in young people's lives with its key vehicle being football. I say well done to the Thuringowa team for winning the Clontarf Cup just last week.

I have spent several hours visiting all three schools in Thuringowa where Clontarf is now established. I spent some time with these young people and the outstanding staff who have only been in Townsville for about eight months. My last visit was to Thuringowa High just last week. I spoke with the students, staff and a pretty special mum of two of the students—she is, from my observation, an inspirational and amazing mum of nine kids—Ms Tullia Grego.

Tullia spoke so well about the importance of having this program embedded within the Thuringowa school community. Tullia has two of her children enrolled in the program. She spoke passionately about the positive effect the Clontarf program is having on their lives. I thank Tullia and principals Grant Dale, Steven Miskin and Meredith Wenta from Thuringowa High, Heatley High and Kirwan High respectively for supporting programs like the Clontarf Foundation and for making people so accessible to me on my visits. The leader of Clontarf Foundation in Townsville, Nathan Perrin, and all Clontarf support workers, such as former Cowboys players Anthony Mitchell, who is with the Kirwan High team; and Ricky Thorby, who is at Heatley; and the Blackhawks player at Thuringowa, are great mentors and are having a positive impact on these boys.

Clontarf has established 10 academies in Queensland and our state government has contributed \$2.3 million in funding for this outstanding foundation. To all involved in Clontarf, I say thank you. Thank you for doing what you are doing so humbly and quietly by mentoring, supporting and inspiring these young people. Fellow members, look up the Clontarf Foundation. They truly are the quiet achievers doing amazing things in our communities.

### Buderim Foundation

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.06 am): I rise tonight to speak about the great work of the Buderim Foundation and about their boldest move yet—the 2018 Community Challenge. The Buderim Foundation is a philanthropic organisation established in 2004 which operates on the premise that what goes around comes around. The foundation receives donations and bequests which it carefully invests to generate more income and then distributes this money in the form of grants to the volunteer organisations that serve our community.

Since 2008 the foundation has awarded grants of more than \$380,000 to community organisations and has helped young families cover the cost of education with \$144,000 worth of back-to-school vouchers. Incredibly, the foundation believes it can do even more to help the community prosper and has set what seems to be an insurmountable target of building the fund from \$1.4 million to \$2 million in just one year. How will it do it? It will do it through a variety of interesting events such as art auctions and cocktail functions but mostly through the generosity and creativity of community and business groups, families and individuals who donate to or get involved in promoting the work of the foundation.

The act of fundraising unites neighbourhoods, and the foundation encourages neighbours to come together and hold joint garage sales or a street party as a means to donate. No donation is too big or too small and every donation will translate into a grant that is given back to the Buderim community. Most of those who donate are not motivated by recognition. However, the foundation has

partnered with the *Buderim Chronicle* to keep the community up to date and to profile the stories of willing participants. For families who have lost a loved one who had a connection to Buderim, the Gifts in Memory program can be a beautiful way to keep their memory alive and for others to share in their legacy.

It would be remiss of me not to recognise the significant contribution made by sponsorship received from the Buderim Pharmacy, Edenlea on Buderim and Sunshine Toyota that together cover the foundation's administration costs. This means that 100 per cent of all donations received by the foundation are invested into perpetuity and never spent.

I commend the Buderim Foundation chair, Dr Russell Stitz, his fellow board members and all of the Buderim locals who give so freely of their time to serve our community. My wife, Anna, and I, like many Buderim residents, are ambassadors for the Buderim Foundation, the fundamental principle of which is to give where you live. I will be contributing to the Buderim Foundation community challenge and I encourage those residents who want to give back to their local community to also do so.

### Project Booyah

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.09 am): I rise to speak about supporting our youth to achieve their dreams. Just recently I was fortunate to visit with youth who are participating in Project Booyah's hospitality and training course at Wilby's Restaurant in Rockhampton which is part of the Central Queensland University campus.

I also had the opportunity to meet Lachlan Savage, who was preparing for the 10-day trek through the Kokoda Trail. He will trek with fellow graduates of Project Booyah Liam King and Shai Hayden. Upon graduating from Project Booyah they were selected for the trek out of the last three rounds of graduates. It was my pleasure to hand over a personal cheque for \$500 to Lachlan and Senior Constable Joe Ramsay from Project Booyah towards fundraising for them to experience this adventure of a lifetime.

Project Booyah, which translates to an expression for joy, excitement or triumph, is a police run leadership and mentoring program that utilises adventure based learning, decision-making and problem-solving exercises, resilience training, policing strategies and family inclusive principles to help young people aged 15 to 16 years make better life choices. It was an honour to meet these young people who are working to turn their lives around and be fully involved with the program and what it has to offer.

Senior Constable Joe Ramsay, Project Booyah's coordinator, was on hand to talk to me about what the program was offering to our youth. Senior Constable Ramsay informed me that the program is the culmination of 17 weeks of hard work for the boys to complete Project Booyah's respect program and a Certificate II in Hospitality with Central Queensland University that supports Booyah participants in a variety of ways. The youth also volunteer at a number of different events. Senior Constable Ramsay said—

These boys are bonding together as a team and this is particularly pleasing as they work towards goals for each of them individually and for the group as a whole.

It is unfortunate that the federal government will no longer fund the \$720,000 over two years for the Commonwealth Safer Streets Program, which is linked to PCYC and Project Booyah. The federal LNP funding ends on 30 June 2018. As a result, youth workers engaged by PCYCs at Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, the Gold Coast and Logan will lose their jobs. Another great program that is making a difference in young people's lives is being cut by the federal LNP government.

### Regional Queensland

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.12 am): I have been waiting since yesterday morning to make this speech about something very important that affects not only the people of Hinchinbrook but also the whole of Queensland. The Australian dream has always been to own one's own home—a home with a double garage, a big yard where the kids can run around, maybe a shed and a dog.

A man's home should be his kingdom, but for many Australians that dream is slipping away with the cost of living and the housing prices demanded in the big metro Queensland cities. As the cost of living soars and the price for a nice home in a good neighbourhood edges closer to the million dollar mark, I have the solution. Move to the country—pack your bag, grab the family and load up the station wagon and head for regional Queensland. It is exactly what people are looking for—room to breathe,

cheap land and space to put up that shed. Tired of making those one-hour commutes along the M1 and cannot stand those subway rides? Relax, you are out in the bush now. There is barely any public transport but I can assure people there is no traffic.

On a more serious note, how good would it be to have some real incentives to move to regional Queensland? It can be achieved by adopting three simple KAP policies: reinstating the First Home Owners' Grant to established homes for regional Queensland; cutting payroll tax for businesses in regional Queensland; and moving government department head offices into regional centres.

The First Home Owners' Grant, which currently is only available to persons building a new home, has recently dropped to \$15,000. I think this is a great time to reinstate the First Home Owners' Grant to existing properties in regional Queensland to promote growth and attract people to country Queensland but also help these towns combat a crippling problem—youth retention. With mean house prices coming in at \$300,000, moving to the regions proves to be bang for the buck for most punters.

Secondly, a boost for regional Queensland could come not from spending money but from tax cuts. We are proposing that the payroll tax rate be reduced from 4.75 per cent to 2.4 per cent for regional Queensland businesses and that there be a five-year payroll tax free period for any permanent residents that businesses employ in regional Queensland. This is a similar policy to that adopted in Victoria. It is helping to fix their unemployment problem.

Thirdly—and this is a little harder—to get people to move to regional centres we would like the state government to move government offices to the regions. That would help share around the high-paying bureaucratic roles.

### **Ovarian Cancer; Zupp, Ms K**

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.15 am): Ovarian cancer is a devastating disease. In 2017 there were 1,613 women diagnosed with this disease in Australia. As with all cancers, early detection is the key. When found early, 94 per cent of women will live longer than five years. While there are several methods available to attempt early diagnosis, there are no reliable early detection methods available. Research is being conducted into early detection methods. I hope this yields results soon.

I would encourage all people to give generously to ovarian cancer research as it really is the key to eliminating this dreadful disease. At this stage the best thing for women to do is to know the symptoms and speak to a doctor. The mortality rate from ovarian cancer is very high and it is a significant cause of death in younger women.

I have been known to give many speeches on health related issues in this House. I do this because of my passion for ensuring this parliament plays its role in ensuring good health for the people in our community, but tonight I am sadly motivated by the loss of a good friend to ovarian cancer at far too early an age. Many in this parliament will share my very deep sadness at the news of the passing of Kylie Zupp, a member of our Parliamentary Library staff for over 22 years. She was passionate about the role she played in this place. I know that all members of parliament absolutely rely on our librarians to perform our role.

I have been friends with Kylie and her partner, Mark, for somewhere in the vicinity of 25 years. At social occasions Kylie and I always seemed to end up engaging in lengthy discussions about politics. Her passion was fierce and her understanding was second to none. I always walked away from our discussions wiser—somewhat bruised but always wiser.

Members make many sacrifices when they enter this place. One of the hardest sacrifices for me to make was losing those semiregular discussions with Kylie. She took her obligation to provide nonpartisan advice and research very seriously. I perhaps only had the opportunity to have a few conversations with Kylie after being elected and she always let me know that shop talk was definitely off limits.

I have lost a good friend. Our parliament, in fact our community, has lost a dedicated and hardworking parliamentary servant. Mark has lost a wonderful partner. On behalf of myself and the many members of the parliamentary staff who do not get the opportunity to speak in this chamber, I would like to offer sincere condolences to Mark and the Zupp and Kondos families. Rest in peace, Kylie Zupp.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 2.18 am (Friday).

**ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, 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