



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 22 August 2018

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## WEDNESDAY, 22 AUGUST 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.

### PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper petitions, lodged by the honourable members indicated—

#### Baringa State High School, Proposed

**Mr McArdle**, from 1,200 petitioners, requesting the House to fast-track the construction and opening of Baringa State High School (Caloundra South High School) for the 2020 school year [\[1164\]](#).

#### Warrego Highway, Speed Limit

**Ms Leahy**, from 383 petitioners, requesting the House to urgently reduce the speed limit on the Warrego Highway in the built-up area of Yuleba to 60km/h [\[1165\]](#).

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

#### Independent Commission Against Corruption, Proposed

**Mr Sorensen**, from 1,206 petitioners, requesting the House to appoint a select committee to inquire into local government with the power to call for persons, papers and things; and replace the watchdog that is currently the CCC with a proper Independent Commission Against Corruption to commence 1 January 2019 or 1 July 2019 [\[1166\]](#).

Petitions received.

### MINISTERIAL PAPER

#### Revocation of Protected Areas



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.33 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

*Tabled paper:* Proposal under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and explanation of the proposal [\[1167\]](#).

### NOTICE OF MOTION

#### Revocation of Protected Areas



**Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerst—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.34 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

- (1) That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under sections 32 and 70E of the Nature Conservation Act 1992, the dedication of national park, resource reserve and forest reserves as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz


#### Description of the areas to be revoked

Family Islands National Park	An area of about 5.26 hectares described as lot 9 on CWL3549, as illustrated on the attached "Family Islands National Park sketch A".
Tewantin National Park	An area of: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 1.9184 hectares described as lots 100 to 103 on SP172000, as illustrated on the attached "Tewantin National Park sketch B"; and</li> </ol>

- b. 5.3858 hectares described as lots 10 to 12 on SP230058, as illustrated on the attached "Tewantin National Park sketch C".
- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| Heathlands Resources Reserve   | An area of about 11.5606 hectares described as lot 1 on SP288875, lot 2 on SP288876, lot 3 on SP296927 and lots 35 to 37 on SP296936, as illustrated on the attached "Heathlands Resources Reserve sketch D". |
| Gadgarra Forest Reserve        | An area of about 43.6837 hectares described as lots 10 to 15 and 19 to 24 on SP224679, as illustrated on the attached "Gadgarra Forest Reserve sketch E".   |
| Gillies Highway Forest Reserve | An area of 16.717 hectares described as lots 16 to 18 on SP224683, as illustrated on the attached "Gillies Highway Forest Reserve sketch F".  |
| Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve | An area of about 28.5683 hectares described as lots 1 to 9 on SP224678, as illustrated on the attached "Little Mulgrave Forest Reserve sketch G".   |
- (2) That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts for submission to the Governor in Council.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Ipswich City Council, Administrator


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Today marks the beginning of the road back for Ipswich. Too many times too many people have let Ipswich down. That all ends now. In this past hour the Acting Governor has given assent to a bill passed yesterday that removes the current council. As of midnight tonight, Ipswich will have no mayor or councillors. Instead, until the local government elections in March 2020, the city will be run by an administrator. Greg Chemello will be that administrator. Greg has more than 30 years experience in both private and government sectors.

We have fulfilled our promise to the people of Ipswich to bring back integrity and good governance to the Ipswich City Council. It is Mr Chemello's job to start the rebuilding process, to restore faith in the elected representatives and to get Ipswich running the way it should be run—in the best interests of the people of Ipswich.

The administrator will be ably assisted by a five-person expert advisory panel with the skills and expertise to put policies and processes in place to re-establish good governance for Ipswich. The local government minister will have more to say about Mr Chemello shortly. I make no apology for steering a deliberate course to this day. We have always said this action would take time and careful consideration. Sacking a democratically elected council is not a trivial matter. It is not something that we as a government would undertake lightly. I know some people will be troubled by it. However, the fact that the legislation passed last night was passed unanimously shows the overwhelming support of this House for the action we took.


It has taken nearly two years of investigation by the Crime and Corruption Commission to bring us to this point. This is the proper process: first the complaint, then the investigation and then the appropriate action. The damning CCC report released last week laid bare for all to see the circumstances that have been allowed to develop in Ipswich. It was high time that the people of Ipswich were put first. That, above all, is what we have done.

### Jobs

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): My government backs Queensland jobs—jobs in new industries and jobs in traditional industries. Later today I will open a new national headquarters here in Brisbane for Australia's largest automotive manufacturer, Volvo. When Holden closed its doors in Adelaide and Toyota did the same in Melbourne some people said it was the end of advanced manufacturing in this country. Volvo's confidence in Queensland, building a new \$30 million headquarters close to its existing assembly plant, shows that advanced manufacturing is alive and well and that Queensland is its home. More than 300 jobs were created during construction of this new headquarters and 190 people will work there now that it is up and running. Volvo employs around 530 people at six other locations around Wacol. Since Volvo first opened its doors at Wacol in 1972, it has made 60,000 trucks. Volvo is the only truck maker to be awarded 'Australian Made' certification and holds a 27.4 per cent share of the heavy-duty truck market.


Wacol sits at the heart of the corridor of advanced manufacturing that stretches from Ipswich to Brisbane. It will also be home to Rheinmetall when it starts to build the Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles for the Australian Army and possibly export customers down the track. The great thing about automotive manufacturing is that big companies like Volvo and Rheinmetall create an ongoing stream of work for a host of small and medium suppliers, supporting thousands more highly skilled jobs.

### Housing Strategy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): Every Queenslanders deserves somewhere safe, secure and sustainable to live. My government takes full responsibility to assist those Queenslanders who find it difficult to access and sustain housing in the private market. Your postcode, your race or your income should not determine your access to secure housing.

I am pleased to update the House on the delivery of Queensland's first 10-Year Housing Strategy. I congratulate the Minister for Housing, Minister de Brenni. I can update the House that this year we have exceeded the targets we set. In year 1 of the Housing Construction Jobs Program we funded the construction of 599 new social homes in Queensland. What we have achieved is a total of 786 commencements across our state. That is an extra 187 homes for Queenslanders. It does not stop there. In 2018-19 we will commence construction of another 599 new social homes and I look forward to my government exceeding that target too. In 2017-18, we assisted 6,910 new households into social housing and another 20,454 households into private rental accommodation. We will keep doing this because access to safe, secure and sustainable housing—a place to call home—is a basic right of all Queenslanders.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Expenses


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Yesterday I was asked about an expense claim to do with train travel to the Commonwealth Games. I can confirm I paid for this trip personally using my own go card. The expense claimed was that for a staff member in the office of the Premier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I call the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I am sorry, Minister. Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders. I have called the House to order and you continue to debate across the chamber.

### Ipswich City Council, Administrator


 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.39 am): Tomorrow an interim administrator will start work in Ipswich following the dismissal of the Ipswich City Council. Appointed by the Governor in Council this morning, Greg Chemello will assume the full roles and responsibilities of council, and be backed by an interim management committee. The overriding focus of the interim administrator and his team will be on the wellbeing of council staff and on maintaining council services, while restoring the good governance that has been absent in Ipswich for too long.

As the Premier has said, Greg Chemello brings a wealth of experience to the role from both the private and public sectors. Currently, Mr Chemello is the General Manager of Economic Development Queensland. He is vastly experienced in governance, change management and commercial negotiations, which are all vital attributes needed to lead Ipswich in this challenging period. He also has extensive experience in planning and government property transactions, which are strong qualities to manage a range of council projects underway in Ipswich.

Mr Chemello will be very well supported by an expert interim management committee. Those experts have the right blend of skills in governance, business, finance and community engagement to help turn the Ipswich City Council around and make it more transparent and accountable to the people of Ipswich. KPMG partner and forensic investigator Stan Gallo and former KPMG chair Robert Jones, who is an expert in corporate governance and risk management, will serve on the interim management committee. The other members of the committee are Simone Webbe, a barrister with extensive public sector experience; Jan Taylor, a community engagement specialist who served two terms on the Queensland Competition Authority; and local government policy expert and founding CEO of the Queensland Futures Institute, Steve Greenwood.

The government has not taken lightly the decision to dismiss the council. However, we were left with no alternative given the serious failures of governance, which have been well documented by the CCC. Importantly for ratepayers, the cost of the interim administrator, budgeted at \$3.4 million until the next local government elections are held in 2020, will be less than the cost of having a mayor and 10 councillors in place. I thank the people of Ipswich for their patience in this matter, and I assure them of the government's commitment to maintaining all council services and restoring good governance to the proud city of Ipswich.

### **Cross River Rail, Woolloongabba Precinct Redevelopment**

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.42 am): I am pleased to update the House on the significant progress being made on Queensland's highest priority infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. This transformational \$5.4 billion project, fully funded by the Palaszczuk government, will unlock the bottleneck at the core of the public transport network, allowing more trains to run more often. Cross River Rail will enable the extra network capacity required to operate a turn-up-and-go rail service that connects with other public transport services. That will help to ease the pressure of road congestion, making our capital city and the whole of South-East Queensland even more livable. However, Cross River Rail is much more than just a transport project; it is a city- and region-shaping investment that will trigger a wave of urban renewal opportunities.

On Sunday, alongside my colleague the Minister for Sport, the Hon. Mick de Brenni, I unveiled new precinct concept plans for Woolloongabba. Cross River Rail will be a catalyst for revitalising the precinct around the new underground station and the much loved Gabba will benefit enormously in the process. Better transport connectivity is crucial to developing a world-class stadium precinct that incorporates residential and commercial opportunities.


When Cross River Rail is operational, Woolloongabba will be just a few minutes from the CBD, making it the perfect location for new mixed-use residential and commercial developments. The design concepts unveiled on the weekend include a stadium-to-station land bridge spanning Main Street, creating an impressive new front door for the Gabba. The concept includes a new stadium plaza forecourt with bars, cafes and restaurants.

Over the next decade the 6.5-hectare Woolloongabba site will be transformed, with the potential for up to \$1.5 billion worth of private investment to be attracted to the area. With a new urban village at its heart, Woolloongabba will feature at least 300 new affordable residences. Those would be ideal for key workers such as nurses, teachers and emergency services workers. Woolloongabba has undergone some urban renewal over the past decade, but it is important that over the next decade potential redevelopment takes into account key community interests. More importantly, those views must be considered in the planning process to ensure any development is done in a balanced way.

For the Gabba, one of the highest priority issues is access to public space and green open spaces. Under the concept plan I unveiled on Sunday, the precinct will have a significant net increase in open space, including a public plaza and green spaces. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity, so getting it right is vitally important. That is why I have asked the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority to work very closely with all stakeholders to ensure their views are taken into account. In November, a full public consultation process will be undertaken to gauge the views of the local community and the broader community. I am pleased to see some initial feedback has been positive, including from the RACQ and Bicycle Queensland.

We are getting on with the job of delivering Cross River Rail. It is a much needed infrastructure project that will not only unlock the rail bottleneck but also unlock substantial investment opportunities that strengthen the economy and provide future employment opportunities. It is only by investing in transformational infrastructure such as Cross River Rail that these types of urban redevelopments are possible.

### **Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program**


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.46 am): This month the Palaszczuk government approved grant funding for 70 projects to assist local councils to turn infrastructure projects from promising ideas into solid proposals under round 2 of the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program. Sixty-seven councils will each get a share of the available \$22 million. For local communities, that means supporting local governments with vital investment in early-stage project planning. The \$30 million program is delivered across two rounds and the interest from councils in both rounds of the program has been significant.

Under the first round of the program, the Palaszczuk Labor government is already working with 22 local governments and industry to assess 40 new infrastructure proposals. Projects range from a strategic assessment of the Flinders Shire Council's tourism proposal for Porcupine Gorge National Park to investigating the best options to deliver economic benefit to the communities within the Central Highlands Regional Council area through revitalising the Emerald Saleyards.

Projects approved under round 2 of the program include the Aurukun Shire Council undertaking strategic planning for the Aurukun Airport; the Lockyer Valley Regional Council partnering with the Somerset Regional Council to develop a Lockyer Valley and Somerset water security business case; the Goondiwindi Regional Council's feasibility study to develop a centre for agricultural excellence; and the Scenic Rim Regional Council's proposal to develop a business case for the Beaudesert Public Library. Scenic Rim Regional Council Mayor Greg Christensen welcomed the announcement, saying that it is good news for the region and that developing a business case for the Beaudesert library is about looking at what the community wants to happen, how they might make it happen and how it stacks up.

As Local Government Association of Queensland Chief Executive Greg Hallam said, the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program helps get these vital local projects moving. Importantly, the Maturing the Infrastructure Pipeline Program complements existing grant programs and will assist councils in determining their infrastructure priorities to deliver regional projects across our state.

### Wangetti Trail


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.48 am): Today I can announce that designers have now completed a full on-the-ground survey of the track alignment for the Wangetti Trail. This is a major milestone in the delivery of Queensland's first world-class ecotourism project. After decades of talking the talk, we are literally walking the walk to deliver the Wangetti Trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas. We are the first government in Queensland's history to invest real dollars in world-class ecotourism projects in our state.

Mr Speaker, you will be very pleased to know that World Trail, which completed the full walk through of the track, is a Cairns based design company. They have identified an amazing array of vistas and sites of interest to attract new tourists to the tropical North Queensland region.

The Yirrganydji people and other traditional owner groups are being engaged and are providing ongoing advice regarding the design to ensure that cultural heritage values are not only protected but also celebrated. We want to ensure that the traditional owners secure an ongoing economic benefit from the trail's operations.

This is a project that we expect to inject more than \$300 million over 30 years and create 150 jobs once operational. We are scoping out sites right across the state from the Gold Coast to the Sunshine Coast, Cairns, Townsville and the Whitsundays. We know that the next generation of international travellers are looking for unique experiences and Queensland has this in spades. The natural beauty of our state puts us in the best possible position to take advantage of ecotourism opportunities to grow our \$25 billion tourism industry.

### Women's Health Fact Checker

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Today the Attorney-General will introduce legislation to remove abortion from the Criminal Code and instead enshrine current clinical practice in a new health framework. It will make abortion a health matter in Queensland—a decision for a woman to make in consultation with her doctor. A woman should not fear she is breaking the law by seeking a termination. A doctor should not fear they are breaking the law simply by doing their job.

The proposed changes will ensure Queensland women have safe access to medical services. Just like any other health procedure, we want Queenslanders to have all the right facts. There have been some extreme claims made, especially by opponents of these laws. This is why Queensland Health will today launch a new online fact checker to debunk misconceptions surrounding termination. Members of the public and even MPs will be able to submit things they have heard or seen and Queensland Health will provide a response from a qualified medical expert. The site will help members decide their position on the bill according to their conscience, informed by facts.

I know there are varied points of view on this issue. I know that some people feel very strongly about it, but there is no excuse for using lies to justify their position. There is no excuse—


**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, your language is unparliamentary. I ask you to withdraw.



**Dr MILES:** I withdraw. There is no excuse for Senator Barry O'Sullivan's disgraceful comments in federal parliament on Monday. There is no excuse for claiming women use abortions primarily to choose the sex of their babies. There is no excuse for Cory Bernardi describing women's concerns for their bodily autonomy as 'the trite response that a woman should be able to do with her own body what she wants'. If you ask me, that one should not need fact checking. Woman absolutely should make decisions about their bodies and their health care.

I know we have a robust debate ahead of us, but I hope that it can be carried out with dignity and respect, informed by clinical evidence. We should not tolerate claims designed to scare people, threaten women and shame doctors and nurses. Amid this debate we will not let the facts of clinical practice be obscured. It is important that Queenslanders know the truth from a medical perspective. The online fact checker can be used as a central location for them to find the answers. Each issue or claim will be presented with real facts, backed by experts. I encourage all Queenslanders and members to go online and see the facts for themselves.

### STEM in Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.52 am): Last week was National Science Week—a great time to celebrate all things STEM in our schools. There is a lot to celebrate when it comes to STEM in our Queensland schools. Science, technology, engineering and mathematics are becoming increasingly popular subjects for Queensland students, and rightly so. We want more Queensland students to pursue the subjects that will set them up for the jobs of the future.

Just as we have been encouraging students to embrace STEM studies, we are doubling our efforts to attract more teachers into the STEM fields. The Palaszczuk government is proactively ensuring we have the teachers we need for the future. We have provided more than 3,000 teachers with professional development to increase their STEM teaching capability. We have employed STEM champions in every education region to support STEM capability in schools. These champions play a vital role connecting groups of schools to industry partners. Our Step into STEM scholarship program helped professionals working in the field of STEM to transition into teacher. This year we introduced the rural and remote STEM graduate scholarships which identify dedicated graduate teachers to teach STEM in rural or remote communities.

This year's budget announced \$81.3 million to develop STEM skills in primary school teachers and to improve students' achievement and engagement in their STEM learning. During the 2017 election campaign our government committed to hiring 3,700 new teachers for Queensland classrooms over four years. We have already employed more than 1,000 of those new teachers.

The growing demand in STEM is a result of all the great work schools are doing to promote these subject areas, with national-leading initiatives for students to embrace STEM. Baringa State Primary School is our first STEM school of excellence. The Premier and I officially opened the school near Caloundra recently.


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Then I will definitely make sure that it happens in 2021. We were welcomed by Pepper, a robot programmed by the students. We established STEM academies and the STEM Girl Power Camp and the Robotics Lending Library. We are also expanding the Queensland Academy of Mathematics, Science and Technology, located at Toowong, to accept year 7 students from 2019. Through the Premier's Creating Queensland's Future coding competition students are showcasing their programming skills by creating innovative digital solutions to real world challenges, like bullying.

The 2018 Peter Doherty Awards for Excellence in STEM Education honoured 16 senior students for their academic achievements in STEM subjects. I congratulate each and every one of them. Through the Palaszczuk government's commitment to STEM the future is bright for Queensland state school students. It is full STEM ahead.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Education, dad jokes are my domain.

### Queensland Fire and Emergency Services, International Deployments

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.56 am): I would like to put on record my admiration for the efforts of all our QFES staff and volunteers who have been kept busy with what is shaping up to be an extremely active and prolonged bushfire

season. Hundreds of our personnel have already been involved fighting more than 1,000 vegetation fires across the state in the past week—maintaining the upper hand in the battle to safeguard lives and property.

Apart from the tremendous work of all involved, the fires unfortunately are a clear sign the 2018 season, which officially began on 1 August, is about four to six weeks ahead of schedule. We are talking about conditions very different to what we would normally experience at this time of year. The combination of prolonged dry conditions and high fuel loads means the state is at risk of a long, active bushfire season.

I would also like to recognise the terrific work being done by our 13 QFES personnel involved in the international emergency response to devastating wildfires in the United States and Canada. Eleven QFES representatives were among fire specialists from across Australia and New Zealand who left for the US west coast earlier this month to assist with the firefighting effort. Another two highly trained QFES personnel have deployed to Canada, joining an international contingent of fire specialists fighting wildfires in British Columbia. It is a huge credit to our QFES personnel and demonstrates the strong and respectful relationship we have within the international firefighting community.

The situation is constantly evolving so we want to help as much as we can. QFES personnel will facilitate many roles, including managing tactical implementation and resources at the fire front as well as being responsible for fire ground personnel. As we would expect, our people have certainly been hard at it—with those deployed in the US due to finish 10-day shifts in hot spots including the Mendocino Complex fires. Tragically, an American firefighter lost his life battling this massive blaze, which has burned through more than 360,000 acres.


QFES personnel understand the dangerous impact natural disasters have on a community, and I know they will provide a first-class emergency response. As for their loved ones back home, QFES is maintaining close contact with overseas agencies to ensure families of the deployed crews are kept well informed on their activities. These deployments are something QFES carefully plans for in an operational sense, ensuring our specialist resources are maintained when these firefighters are sent overseas.

The Palaszczuk government—and QFES—is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. Queensland is often at the mercy of extreme weather events, and time after time our highly skilled Fire and Emergency Services staff and volunteers have responded swiftly and effectively when disaster strikes.

Unlike other government organisations, QFES is an emergency response organisation and cannot provide its service to Queenslanders only based on rostered shifts. QFES predeploy staff prior to significant weather events and staff remain on site until the emergency has passed. When QFES crews attend emergencies such as a fires or accidents, they remain on site until it is safe to leave. They do not simply withdraw at the end of their shift. Instead, they stay until the job is finished or they are relieved.

I am very proud of all our crews not only for what they do here in Queensland but also for the assistance they have given to New South Wales, as well as what they are doing overseas. We are a world-class service. My thoughts remain with those personnel who are currently on the fireground overseas and those back home here continuing to battle bushfires.

## Roads

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to busting congestion for Queensland motorists. I note the RACQ congestion report released today, and I want to assure the people of Queensland that we are investing in the infrastructure needed to make travelling around Queensland, including around the south-east, as easy as possible. I also note that the RACQ report supported our recently announced 'managed motorways' approach to the state's busiest road—the M1. Managed motorways, which has been proven to reduce congestion on other roads around South-East Queensland, uses ramp metering and variable speed limits to reduce the number—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, if you wish to ask the minister a question, there is a period called question time coming up very shortly. Until then, please cease your interjections.

**Mr BAILEY:** Managed motorways uses ramp metering and variable speed limits to reduce the number and severity of crashes and thereby reduce travel time. There is major construction underway right now on many major roads across Queensland. Our QTRIP this year delivers a record \$21.7 billion

investment in road and transport infrastructure, with the funding total higher by more than \$700 million in this year's budget—thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's increased investment—while the federal government investment fell by more than six per cent.

We apologise for the delays that road construction projects cause motorists and we thank them for their patience as we build the infrastructure Queenslanders need. After not one new dollar was spent on M1 upgrades under the LNP, the Palaszczuk Labor government is spending more than \$2.3 billion on the M1. That is \$2.3 billion more than the LNP. We are delivering four massive M1 upgrade projects on Queensland's busiest road—two of which are underway at the moment at the Gateway merge and between Mudgeeraba and Varsity Lakes. They are huge construction sites.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Speaker, if I were the opposition, I would be embarrassed about the M1 as well. Among our many transport projects, we are building new roads or delivering major upgrades in South-East Queensland. We are spending \$162 million on the Bruce Highway upgrade between Caloundra Road and Sunshine Motorway, including Australia's first diverging diamond interchange design. We are spending \$200 million on the Ipswich Motorway upgrade from Rocklea to Darra, including a recently announced additional extension to Boundary Road funded out of savings from that project which will see new road connections there. We are spending \$228 million on the Gateway Arterial upgrade on the north side between Nudgee and Bracken Ridge—which is near completion—widening the motorway from four to six lanes.

At Jamboree Heights, we have committed \$65 million to upgrade the Sumners Road interchange to duplicate the overpass. We are reducing bus connection times to the Darra train station. We have also committed \$20 million to progress a new bridge across the Brisbane River on the Centenary Motorway. If only the Brisbane City Council would start to do something about design work or allocating funds at the Walter Taylor Bridge bottleneck. We are nearing completion of the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Second Range project that will take trucks off Toowoomba roads and support Queensland's freight industry. Construction on that project started under this government. There is also the privately funded half a billion dollar upgrade of the Logan Motorway-Gateway extension, which is now well advanced.

We are also making massive investments in public transport, as outlined by the Deputy Premier earlier. We are building the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project and the Beerburrum to Nambour rail duplication. We have also delivered the Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 in 18 months flat, delivered the duplication of the heavy rail line between Coomera and Helensvale, invested \$330 million in Gold Coast road upgrades. With our Fairer Fares policy, we have seen 5.4 million extra public transport trips this year compared to last year, with all modes showing an increase under this government. This is in the context of a \$600 million cut in road and rail infrastructure under the previous government.


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** They do interject a lot because they are confused when they hear about investment in road and rail infrastructure. They do not understand it. They have an appalling record on it. I take the interjections as an absolute compliment. This government is investing in road and rail infrastructure in a way the previous government did not.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, the interjections are creeping up. It would also be helpful if ministerial statements were not provocative.

## Housing Strategy


 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.05 am): As the Premier said this morning, every Queenslanders deserves somewhere safe, secure and sustainable to live. That principle was backed in last year when the Premier announced our \$1.8 billion Housing Strategy. Not only does this Labor government's approach provide homes for people who need them; it provides a secure and steady pipeline of construction work for Queenslanders right across the state.

I took the opportunity to check in on the progress of one of our housing projects in Mitchelton just recently. Under construction is a 16-apartment complex suitable for seniors or people living with a disability. They include two units which meet platinum level of Livable Housing Design Guidelines, which means they are fully accessible for Queenslanders living with a disability. Importantly, not only is it designed to blend in with the community but it will be the best looking building in the street.

This government is busy building homes—we do not try to offload them. We measure our success by helping Queenslanders into housing. We do this through the Housing Strategy, which provides a multilayered approach to supporting Queenslanders into housing. In the last month, we have announced the successful contractors who will construct two of our newest youth foyers in Southport and Townsville. Each foyer will support 40 young people each year and put them on a pathway to secure housing. I would like to thank the members for Gaven, Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa for their representations on behalf of their communities to secure these important youth foyers in their communities.

Youth foyers are an internationally recognised model to support young people who cannot live at home to finish education, to get a job and to maintain a tenancy in the private rental market. Through these projects we are providing a pathway for young people to become independent and sustain tenancies in the private rental market. This is no handout. The foyer journey starts with a young person making a deal to receive professional support to achieve their personal goals, including employment and education. This \$17.4 million investment to build these foyers will support up to 240 local construction jobs. I can advise the House that projects such as these will use the new project bank account provisions to make sure that everyone working on those projects gets paid.

### National Skills Week

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.08 am): National Skills Week is fast approaching and will kick off next Monday. The theme for the 2018 National Skills Week is 'Real skills for real careers'. In Queensland, the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$770 million to support Queenslanders undertake training to pursue their career goals. This is real investment leading to real careers and stands in stark contrast to the real cuts inflicted on training by the Turnbull government and the very real cuts the member for Nanango wanted to make at the last election.


As part of our increased investment, we are delivering an additional \$180 million over three years to boost our successful job readiness program, Skilling Queenslanders for Work. The Skilling Queenslanders for Work program provides support to Queenslanders in need so they can get job-ready skills to find a job. We know that Skilling Queenslanders for Work is delivering real outcomes. A recent survey of participants who completed the program in 2016 has highlighted the real and lasting benefits of training. The results of that survey show that more than 73 per cent of participants who completed Skilling Queenslanders for Work are now employed or engaged in further study. These are real skills leading to real careers.

Last week I had the privilege to attend a local graduation event for eight Logan women who, through a Skilling Queenslanders for Work project run by YFS, earned a Certificate I in Business. All of these young women now have skills and job-ready confidence in administration, social media and marketing that will be invaluable to them for the rest of their working lives. YFS and its social enterprise Substation33 were joined by other local groups who support the project including yourtown, Logan Together, Kingston East Neighbourhood Centre, ADRA and Karakan to host these young women throughout the training program.

Britney was just one participant I had the pleasure of meeting at the graduation with her young son. Britney had already impressed the staff at YFS with her enthusiasm, but it was Britney who said that Skilling Queenslanders for Work had helped build her confidence to attend job interviews and take on a traineeship. The staff at YFS told the manager not to get too comfortable in her seat because in a few years time Britney would be coming for her job, such was her enthusiasm.

Here in Queensland we are showcasing the very best of what National Skills Week promotes. The Palaszczuk government is a proud supporter of National Skills Week and of vocational education and training here in Queensland.

### Seniors Week

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (10.11 am): As I said in the House yesterday, I am absolutely delighted that this week we are celebrating Queensland Seniors Week. This is a fantastic week with a total of 800 events and activities being held across the state. This means there are plenty of opportunities for Queenslanders of all ages to be involved. It is about honouring older Queenslanders who have contributed to our thriving communities for the entirety of their lives.


Seniors Week is also a key part of building an age-friendly state where Queenslanders regardless of their age are valued, respected and actively engaged in their communities. Seniors Week is delivered through our partnership with the Council on the Ageing Queensland which receives Queensland government funding to collaboratively plan, run and subsidise Seniors Week events and activities.

This year 100 of the events and activities happening across the state have received a share of more than \$100,000 in funding. These events and activities range from a Seniors Week concert and lunch in Carina to seniors games in Miles and the Barcaldine Elder Olympics. What I love about the diverse range of events that occur each and every year is that they allow different communities to celebrate seniors in their own unique way. I also believe that the variety and number of events on offer give seniors the opportunity to discover new things.

I am particularly excited about the seniors ballet class with world famous ballet dancer and Queensland Ballet's artistic director, Li Cunxin. The seniors ballet class will be held this Sunday on 26 August and I cannot wait to hear about the experiences of the participants and what their collaborations, with the talent of Li, create.

In addition to these events, landmarks across Queensland will be lit up in various colours including purple, pink, gold and maroon to celebrate Seniors Week. Lighting up landmarks is a way to remind all Queenslanders of the vibrancy that seniors bring to our community. Places that will be lit up throughout the week include Brisbane City Hall, Sandgate Town Hall, the Story and Victoria bridges, Townsville bridge and sign, and Cairns reef casino. I encourage all members to embrace the Queensland Seniors Week theme of celebrating a Queensland for all ages and get out and enjoy everything that is on offer.

### Task Force Argos


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.13 am): The world's eyes turn to Queensland when it comes to the best of the best. Here in Queensland we have an elite team of internet warriors who fight the good fight on a dark, depraved and truly disturbing battlefield. It is a war focused on protecting our most vulnerable—our children—and those children have the very best of allies. I speak of Queensland's own Task Force Argos.

Over the past two decades this dedicated team has become instrumental in the undoing of some of the world's worst paedophiles, waging war against those who abuse children. The motto of Task Force Argos is 'leave no stone unturned'. Task Force Argos is making a difference not only here in Queensland or in Australia; it is also making a difference right across the world. In the last year, Task Force Argos detectives contributed to the removal of 83 children from sexual harm nationally and internationally. They have arrested 200 child sex offenders on over 1,200 criminal charges. They have finalised one major international operation targeting child sexual exploitation. They have generated 309 case referrals to law enforcement agencies nationally and internationally, and they have identified 83 child victims globally.

The members of Task Force Argos are among the world's elite, and we are very fortunate to have them here in Queensland. I am very pleased as the police minister to be part of a government which financially supports Task Force Argos. It is hard to think of money better spent. Task Force Argos with its unrivalled experience is making a difference not only here in Queensland but right across the world. They are shining a light onto a very dark place. To the Task Force Argos team, I say on behalf of all Queenslanders: thank you for your tireless efforts on behalf of the most innocent people in the world, our children.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (10.16 am): I give notice that I will move—

This House:

1. notes:


- (a) the benefits of Independent Public Schools in Queensland, including:
  - (i) giving state schools greater autonomy in decision-making, cutting red tape and removing layers of management to improve outcomes for students;
  - (ii) forging strong community and industry partnerships and using staffing flexibility to meet student needs and improve student outcomes; and
  - (iii) providing parents greater choice when it comes to the education of their children;

- (b) the minister met with the Queensland Teachers' Union on 24 January 2018;
  - (c) the Queensland Teachers' Union wrote to the Minister for Education on 29 January 2018 calling for the termination of Independent Public Schools;
  - (d) a secret review into Independent Public Schools commenced shortly after the minister received the letter from the Queensland Teachers' Union;
  - (e) the minister publicly committed on 8 August 2018 to release the secret report after she was briefed that day;
  - (f) the minister has failed to release the report after she was briefed some two weeks ago; and
2. pursuant to standing order 27, orders the minister to immediately produce and table the secret review into Independent Public Schools.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

### Traffic Congestion

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. On Monday a senior Palaszczuk government transport official told the toll road inquiry that traffic congestion was a good thing because it made commuters avoid their cars and choose 'sustainable trip types with lower carbon emissions'. How is the Palaszczuk government so out of touch that it blames motorists for causing congestion?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. We know that there is an inquiry on at the moment and I am not going to pre-empt that inquiry. People are allowed to go before that inquiry and put their views, and the committee will listen to everyone's views and make recommendations.

This morning in the House the Minister for Main Roads and Transport talked about the RACQ report. That report shows that there are some increased congestion times in the evening peak, but my understanding is that it has lessened in the morning peak. The minister also outlined that my government is investing in infrastructure that is needed across the south-east. The No. 1 project is Cross River Rail. Cross River Rail is going to be great in terms of reducing people's travel times—something that we know those opposite do not support.

We would like to write to the Prime Minister further on that. We are not quite sure who the Prime Minister is going to be. I just heard a report that it could be Morrison or it could be Dutton. Do the Queensland LNP support Peter Dutton? We know that Queensland has missed out on infrastructure lately because Malcolm Turnbull does not really know where Queensland is. Peter Dutton lives in Queensland, but we think he is about to get rolled by Morrison, although we are not quite sure if Morrison is going to get there. It could be Julie Bishop. We do not know who to write to. Who is left on the front bench? Who do we write to? Who are you going to write to?

Let me put clearly on the public record that we are committed to upgrading the M1. We have announced that. We are putting in \$162 million towards the \$812 million Bruce Highway upgrade between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway.

**An opposition member:** What about the western suburbs?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to talk about the western suburbs because we are doing the Sumners Road upgrade, which the RACQ talks about. We actually announced that prior to the campaign. On that same day, the member for Clayfield turned up and announced the same thing. I remember that very clearly. I think that is called copycat material. Then of course—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, please resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you will refer to members of the House by their correct title.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Then there is the Centenary Motorway, and we want to do the business case there about the bridge. Some of these issues were identified in the RACQ report. My government is investing in infrastructure, building the Queensland that we need for tomorrow, when they invested barely anything.

*(Time expired)*

### Traffic Congestion, Speed Limits

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is also to the Premier. I refer the Premier to media reports today that more and more South-East Queensland roads are so congested that they barely reach a third of the speed limit. What is the Premier's response to motorists who say that the Palaszczuk government's plan to reduce speed limits on the M1 is an admission of failure?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What we have seen with the local council in Queensland is that we are happy to work with the Brisbane City Council when it comes to issues around Brisbane Metro and Cross River Rail. In fact, it is easier to work with the Brisbane City Council than it is to work with the federal LNP because we do not know who we are dealing with. I apologise to motorists that there is construction happening across the state and the city, because there are council roadworks that are happening and there are state roadworks that are happening. We are getting on with the job of building the Queensland that we need for tomorrow.

Our investment in road and transport infrastructure this year delivers a record \$21.7 billion, creating thousands of jobs across Queensland. The Ipswich Motorway is undertaking an upgrade through a market-led proposal. There are roadworks happening there and that is causing congestion because the roadworks are happening. That is actually what happens across the state when you are building the infrastructure. Our investment is up—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is very noisy today. It is very noisy in Canberra too.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Back to the M1.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Back to who is going to be leading the nation perhaps.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! There is only one member of the House who has the call at the moment. I will accept a certain degree of robustness in question time but members need to cease their interjections. They are becoming disorderly.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. They did not spend any money on the M1 when they were in government. They had all the MPs on the Gold Coast, but where was the money? Where was the planning? There was absolutely nothing done. It is under my government that we are making sure that the infrastructure is happening—not just for the M1 but also for the Ipswich Motorway, Sumners Road and the Bruce Highway. The minister will continue to invest. Our investment is up 10 per cent on last year, but the federal government's investment has been cut by six per cent.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order with respect to relevance. The question specifically asked about the lowering of the speed limits on the M1. There has been no mention of lowering speed limits in the Premier's answer.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I listened very carefully to the question. The question talked about speed limits on the M1 as well as South-East Queensland road congestion, and that broadens the question somewhat. I believe the Premier is being relevant, but I will continue to listen to her response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will quote from the RACQ. The RACQ talked about the variable speed limits on the M1 as well to help reduce congestion. They said—

The State's peak motoring body has welcomed news the Queensland Government would introduce smarter speed limit management on the M1 to reduce congestion and improve safety.

I repeat: safety. We actually believe in safety, we believe in reducing congestion, and we are getting on with the job of building the infrastructure needed for motorists right across our state. Perhaps the federal government should get on with working out who is going to lead our nation.

*(Time expired)*

### Torres Strait Islands, Water Supply

**Ms LUI:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on her recent visit to the Torres Strait and on action being taken to resolve issues associated with drinking water supplies on a number of Torres Strait Islands?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Cook. At the outset I thank the member for Cook for joining me on my recent three-day visit to the Torres Strait. It was a deep honour to visit Yam Island with the member for Cook and to also meet with her family and friends who live on Yam Island. I know

it was a deep honour for them to have the member for Cook return to her home island where she is now the proud first representative of the Torres Strait Islanders here in our parliament. I think that says a lot for this parliament that we have come of age. She is a great representative for a great community.

Water is an issue that has been raised on a number of occasions. In fact, it was raised the previous year as well. That is why I want to thank the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for making sure we had the \$12 million allocated in this year's budget. We know how important it is to have good drinking water to service the Torres Strait, and that \$12 million will go a long way. During my visit there, I had the opportunity to meet with both of the local mayors. The \$12 million will be used to undergo the refit over the next two years so the people of Thursday, Horn and Hammond islands will have access to that water.

Whilst we were on Thursday Island, we had the opportunity to visit the water treatment area and we got a good understanding of the issues. The Torres Shire Council has engaged contract managers for the project and the overall project plan is being finalised. In good news, I can announce to the House today that the tender for the installation of a temporary filtration system, eliminating the need for residents to boil their water, is now open. We want to move this along as quickly as possible. We want to make sure that we get this fixed. It is very important. A number of people raised that with us and I am very pleased that that tender is now open. We want to finish it as quickly as possible. We want that to be completed.

I know that the member for Cook will continue to be a strong advocate for that community. It was wonderful to visit schools on both Yam Island and Thursday Island. It was wonderful to see the students undertaking the Premier's Reading Challenge and also learning coding and robotics. It does not matter where you live in this state. Coding and robotics is being taught from as far north as the Torres Strait to all the way down as far south as Coolangatta. That is what we want. We want our children to be prepared for the future.

I also found out some issues around children's hearing. I want to have further discussions with the Minister for Health, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the member for Cook. I think the next big issue we need to tackle in the Torres Strait is hearing. I am happy to work with all ministers to ensure we can pursue that.

*(Time expired)*

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Accommodation Expenses**

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I table the Premier's personal bill of \$10,054 for a two-week luxury stay at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort during the Commonwealth Games.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, detailing hotel costs for the Premier of Queensland from 2 to 15 April 2018 [\[1168\]](#).

Of the 14 nights for which the Premier charged the taxpayers, how many nights did the Premier actually stay in her \$718-per-night room?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member very much for the question. From the outset can I say that we took the advice of security. I made that fact very clear yesterday. I want to say to the opposition that I understand a similar RTI application has been lodged in relation to their travel expenses over a certain period, which has been refused. In the interests of public transparency and openness, our documents are open for RTI. I understand that access to the documents of those opposite is currently being refused and they are not being released by those opposite.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is what I have been advised is on the disclosure log, so perhaps the member opposite might want to check that. That is what I have been advised.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I am having a difficult time hearing the Premier. I would like to hear her contribution.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker, but I am sick and tired of those opposite running down the Commonwealth Games. This was Queensland's biggest event, creating jobs for Queenslanders, and there will be long-term benefits for many years to come. From the outset I want to say that I worked night and day as part of those Commonwealth Games. I barely spent any time at the hotel—

**Opposition members** interjected.



**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, because I was undertaking my job. Let me also make the point that the Governor-General stayed there—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Manager of Opposition Business.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I understand the Prime Minister stayed there. My understanding is that I was there for the duration of the games.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Sorry?

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order? Please resume your seat, Premier. What is your point of order?

**Mr MANDER:** It is on relevance, Mr Speaker. The question was very specific: of that 14-night payment that was made to that hotel, how many nights did the Premier spend there?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am happy to take that, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Premier, please let me rule on the point of order first. I have listened to the question asked. I have heard the response. The Premier has touched on those issues. However, Premier, I do bring you back to the question. I ask you to respond to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you. I am happy to check that out, Mr Speaker. I understand there was one night when I was travelling with Prince Charles up to Bundaberg and there was one night when I had events in Brisbane hosting Women of the World. Let me also make the point that the tender for the accommodation was let under those opposite.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was doing my job for Queenslanders.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Tourism, it would be helpful for you to not point across the chamber. You are warned under standing orders. Members, the interjections are making the House disorderly. I ask you to come back to order or I will start naming members.

### **Kershaw Gardens**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier please inform the House of her recent visit to Rockhampton for the reopening of Kershaw Gardens, which was destroyed by severe Tropical Cyclone Marcia in 2015?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. Last Saturday we had the great honour of opening the Kershaw Gardens together with the member for Keppel, who was also present. What a wonderful day it was celebrating the 30th anniversary of Kershaw Gardens and meeting with members of the Kershaw family. We know that that area was substantially damaged during Tropical Cyclone Marcia. It has taken years to rebuild, but I know that the people of Rockhampton are going to get many, many years of absolute pleasure out of the Kershaw Gardens.

We need only to ask the children—and I asked one boy when he was leaving what he would give the new gardens out of 10. He said definitely a 10; there was no hesitation. It was wonderful to see the water features that were opened. I think at one stage the media were stranded as the water came up all around them and they had to quickly abandon the press conference so they could escape the rising waters.

In essence, this \$16 million project is a great example of all governments working together: local, state and federal. I made the point that this is what happens when governments work together: they are able to bring about a great result for the local community. That includes these beautiful gardens with fantastic picnic shelters and wonderful areas for people to come and buy things from the markets but also for families to celebrate birthdays.

That \$16 million redevelopment included \$5 million from our Building our Regions program, \$4.6 million in joint state-federal NDRRA exceptional circumstances funding and \$6 million from the Rockhampton Regional Council. I want to thank Mayor Margaret Strelow, who also attended. It was an absolutely wonderful day. It is great news for the local community. We want to see more of these gardens and outdoor spaces right across Queensland. We look forward to more openings in the future.

### Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Accommodation Expenses

**Mr WATTS:** My question is to the Minister for the Commonwealth Games. I table this letter from the Office of the Commonwealth Games to the minister.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Accommodation—Minister for the Commonwealth Games and workforce' [1169].

The letter says that the minister is entitled to stay at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort in order to 'facilitate attendance at multiple events on any given day and to limit travel to and from the Gold Coast'. It says nothing about a security directive. Will the minister table the advice from the Queensland Police Service directing the minister and the Premier to specifically stay at the Sheraton Grand Mirage Resort?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I thank him for asking me the question so I can get this on the record. Under the Commonwealth Games host city contract, Goldoc was required to provide a secure location for visiting dignitaries and VIPs during the games. The procurement process for this hotel began under the LNP government, and the conditions for the tender were established under the former Commonwealth Games minister, the now member for Currumbin. It went to tender on 5 February 2015 and, as you know, Mr Speaker, I was sworn in as the minister on 16 February 2015.

I can advise all honourable members that the police were involved in the decision-making process for the hotel selection for the international and national dignitaries who attended the games, including the federal sports minister and the Governor-General. I am advised that there were only two hotels on the Gold Coast that complied with the strict conditions of the Commonwealth Games Federation and the tender requirements that were signed off by the former government on 5 February 2015. Hotels were assessed to ensure they met all requirements for security and safety.

As honourable members would recall, the national threat level set by the Federal Police at the time of the games was probable. In line with this threat level, security for our international dignitaries and guests staying here in Queensland at our invitation was paramount. The Police Commissioner has advised—and he said this on Sunday—that 'in the interests of security the Queensland Police Service was keen to have people placed in primary accommodation venues to provide cost-effective, 24-hour security overlays'. This decision, as outlined in the former government's tender documents, enabled police to set up a perimeter, screen all people who entered the facility and conduct bomb sweeps of the hotel and vehicles used by these dignitaries. This level of security—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my left!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! The minister is not taking interjections. She is, I believe, being very factual in answering the question. I would like to hear the response.

**Ms JONES:** This enabled the police to set up a perimeter, screen all people who entered the facility and conduct bomb sweeps of the hotel and vehicles in line with the security threat at the time, which was 'probable'. This level of security was in line with similar arrangements that were put in place for the last major event of this scale held in Queensland—the G20. Every single member opposite will recall what happened during the G20.

The committee that selected the hotel included Goldoc head of security Danny Bade. It ensured that Australia provided the same level of security provided at every single Commonwealth Games that preceded it. The cost to provide 24-hour policing at the hotel, as the Police Commissioner said, was dramatically reduced by having one location, and it was around \$200,000 during the games. Those are the facts. It was your tender, and you know it!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I remind the minister and all ministers to put your comments through the chair. Do not refer directly to those opposite or other members by the term 'you'. Member for Capalaba and member for Theodore, you are both warned under the standing orders. I continued to watch you have a debate across the chamber. Members, I will begin naming members and people will be leaving the chamber.

On a happier note, I would like to acknowledge that the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, is in the gallery here today. Welcome back to the Queensland parliament!

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

## Energy

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the benefits of holding our energy assets in public hands? What are the potential impacts on Queensland of the current national energy policy?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Gaven for the question. I thank her for coming into this chamber with a question about a critical policy decision. Those opposite have been flogging a horse that has been dead for three days. They have no policy ideas and no commitment to the people of Queensland—just political grandstanding.

I am very happy to report to the House that, because we made the decision to oppose the ‘strong choices’ that those opposite put to the people of Queensland in 2015, we have kept our electricity assets in public hands. That means we can deliver the type of policies that drive downward pressure on electricity prices: the 50 per cent dividend rebate; \$770 million to remove the Solar Bonus Scheme from the cost of electricity consumers; directing our companies not to appeal the Australian Energy Regulator’s revenue determination; directing Stanwell to alter their bidding practices to drive down pressure on electricity prices; and ensuring that we find administrative efficiencies by merging our electricity companies and coming up with energy for Queensland. This stands in stark contrast to what is happening at the federal level.

We have consistency and leadership around our energy policy, and that is delivering dividends for the people of Queensland. In contrast, what we have at the federal level is dysfunction and chaos in energy as well as leadership. I am absolutely astounded, as I am sure 25 million Australians are, by what is happening in Canberra today. We not only have one leadership contender—we have a Prime Minister who is a dead duck—but we have a leadership contender in Peter ‘Potato’ Dutton. We have news reports that Treasurer Scott Morrison might be doing the numbers.

This is like an episode of *The Bachelor*. The only way that Australians can have any clarity about what is happening in the Liberal party room is if Osher Gunsberg takes over the commentary and starts doling out the roses so that we know exactly who has favour amongst the Liberal Party. This is the most ridiculous situation. While the LNP and the Liberal Party are focused on themselves, it is only Bill Shorten and Labor that are focused on the needs of Australians and making sure that we drive down electricity prices.

*(Time expired)*

## Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Accommodation Expenses

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. In light of the minister’s admission yesterday that he did not pay for his accommodation for two weeks during the Commonwealth Games, will the minister tell the House why he has not updated his interests register to report the apparent benefit of free accommodation he received?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for the question. You would think that not incurring any costs to the taxpayer would be something of a positive the opposition might benefit from. Let us be very clear: I covered this matter thoroughly yesterday. My task during the Commonwealth Games was focused on transport and traffic—something that we succeeded in very well despite the doomsaying of those opposite, who said that we would be an international embarrassment. They said there would be gridlock during the Commonwealth Games, but we saw a very sophisticated and successful transport network.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera!

**Mr BAILEY:** The M1 flowed, heavy rail delivered and the light rail that we built in only 18 months carried more than 1.1 million people. Across the Commonwealth Games we saw 5.3 million public transport trips right across—

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I rise on a point of relevance. The question was very specific.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am listening to the member’s response. His answer is relevant and he still has significant time to answer the question, but I direct the minister to come back to the core of the question.

**Mr BAILEY:** My understanding is that only sponsored accommodation is required to be declared, so this is once again a frivolous point by a policy-free opposition who are not raising any substantial issues here other than flogging a dead horse over something that occurred long ago. The transport plan throughout the Commonwealth Games—

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Premier, I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary language.

**Ms TRAD:** I withdraw.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, it is becoming increasingly difficult to hear the minister. You know my position. Do so at your own peril if you wish to continue being disorderly.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Tourism, you are very, very lucky that you will not be leaving the chamber at this point. I call the minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** I draw the attention of the House to the simple fact that the transport plan I was focused on at the temporary DMR office at Nerang was very successful, despite the doomsaying of those opposite. We all remember the record of the member for Chatsworth as the assistant minister for public transport under Campbell Newman: half-price trains from overseas that were not disability compliant; cancelled training—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North, member for Chatsworth and member for Caloundra, you are all warned under the standing orders. There are numerous other members who will be joining you. I caution members that I will put someone outside the chamber if this continues today. I call the minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** It was a very successful transport and traffic plan for the Commonwealth Games. Despite the doomsaying of those opposite, the M1 flowed, heavy rail delivered and the light rail that we built in only 18 months flat delivered more than 1.1 million trips. I did my job—

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again rise on a point of relevance with 31 seconds left on the clock.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, please resume your seat. You have risen on a point of order regarding relevance. I have ruled on that. I have listened to the minister's response. He is being relevant. I call the minister.

**Mr BAILEY:** I have thoroughly answered the question and I am giving context. We had months and months of doomsaying by those opposite leading up to the Commonwealth Games, and what we saw was a very well executed transport and traffic plan. There were no substantial issues of note. It was well managed; I made sure of that and this government made sure of that. When it comes to public transport and traffic, it is this government that delivers.

*(Time expired)*

### Infrastructure

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is for the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on how the minister's portfolio is ensuring timely delivery of major projects that will benefit my community and the state? Is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question and her support for the Palaszczuk government's approach to creating jobs, particularly in regional Queensland. Members will recall that on 28 March our government announced that the Coordinator-General had approved the environmental impact statement for the redevelopment of Lindeman Island. The completed resort is expected to generate \$100 million annually for the Mackay-Whitsunday region and will create up to 300 direct full-time-equivalent jobs on Lindeman Island and up to 460 full-time-equivalent direct and indirect ongoing jobs in the Mackay-Whitsunday region.

Unfortunately, the project is now in limbo. That is because the EIS report and the state approval have been sitting on the desk of the relevant LNP federal minister, Josh Frydenberg, for 21 weeks. The proponent is ready and working on the implementation steps, but without federal government approval it cannot proceed, creating a real risk to obtaining finance and moving into construction. We do know what Josh Frydenberg has been working on, though. He has been working on designing the NEG, the National Energy Guarantee—or should that be called the WMD, the weapon of mass destruction which has blown up his own Prime Minister and his own government? He has forgotten about Queensland.

Where has the state LNP been in this? Where is the member for Broadwater, the shadow tourism minister? We know that he cannot write letters to our tourism minister, so he probably could not write a letter to the federal government. Where is the member for Burdekin, standing up for Bowen? Where is

the member for Whitsunday, trying to be the deputy leader maybe, like Barnaby Joyce? The state and federal LNP are failing Queensland. They are delivering only 50 per cent funding for the Pacific Highway while New South Wales gets 80 per cent. They are failing on rail upgrades. Victoria gets an airport rail line funded without a business case. The shambles happening in Canberra is like some demented reality TV show—more plotting than *Survivor*, more evictions than *MasterChef*, more heartbreak than *The Bachelor* and more dead wood and loose screws than *The Block*.

Everyone in Australia knows that Malcolm Turnbull is the lamest of lame duck leaders and Peter Dutton, the Elmer Fudd of Australian politics, has declared duck season open. No wonder the member for Nanango is worried, because the faceless men are running riot in the LNP. It is about time the LNP stopped backstabbing and started backing Queensland.

### **Katter's Australian Party, Staffing**

**Ms LEAHY:** My question is to the Premier. I table the Speaker's advice to estimates that, by approval of the Premier, the Katter's Australian Party receives five extra taxpayer funded staff beyond its entitlement.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Economics and Governance Committee estimates hearing transcript on 24 July 2018 [1170].

In light of the hateful and disgraceful comments by the Katter party's Fraser Anning which the Queensland Katter party members have sought to legitimise and defend, will the Premier stand up against this hate speech and tear up Labor's special deal with the Katter party?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me say at the outset that I completely disapprove of Senator Anning's comments. I said that very publicly. I condemn it. I would like to see those opposite condemn it as well.

**Mrs Frecklington:** I did.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In fact, they have a great opportunity, when we debate the government motion—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Good. Good on you: you finally said something. That is great to see.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** What I have said very clearly is that I would like to see members of the Katter party here in this parliament get up and say exactly the same thing. Yes, I can say that I will be reviewing that arrangement as well.

### **Major Events**

**Ms PUGH:** My question is for the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's commitment to growing major events in Queensland?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. As she knows and we all know, one of the great ways we can boost tourism numbers to Queensland is to invest in major events. That is exactly why we are so proud that in our time in government we have grown the events calendar in Queensland from around \$330 million under the Newman government to more than \$750 million this financial year. We are being strategic with our investment and making sure we are backing those major events that are a drawcard for not only interstate visitors but also international visitors.

We have had a huge major event here in Brisbane, one that I know the Premier is very fond of and one that I have attended every single year of my life—that is, the Ekka. I am very pleased to advise that House that we have been partnering with the Ekka to make sure we are getting more international visitors. Figures just in show that we have now had more than 20,000 Chinese visitors come to the Ekka and experience this quintessential Queensland experience.

**A government member:** A great electorate, too.

**Ms JONES:** It is in a great electorate, too. It goes back to the decisions we made when we were last in government, under the Bligh government, to partner to enable them to make a significant investment in their site to give the Ekka a long-term future and be attractive to new people who have not been brought up with the same traditions we have to go to the Ekka every year.

Another major event that has just happened is the Mount Isa Rodeo. Very excitingly, we can report that it was the largest Mount Isa Rodeo ever—its 60th event. They held an extra one for the Queen in the seventies. This saw more than 15,000 people head to Queensland's outback to experience the rodeo firsthand.

These are just a couple of examples of the major events that have just happened that are drawing major crowds. We know that there is only one major event that people have eyes on this week. Everyone is now clamouring for a front-row ticket to see the 'Dutton Destroyers' demolish the 'Turnbull Top Hats'. In news just in, apparently the 'Sco-mo Sharks' are circling for the carcasses. We know that the LNP at a state level and at the national level are deeply divided. You only have to have a look at the *Gold Coast Bulletin*—

**Mrs Frecklington:** You wish!

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection. I do not have to wish; it is all over the paper. It is happening right now. Wake up. Keep up, Australia! You only have to look at the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. The *Gold Coast Bulletin* is reporting today that the LNP in Queensland are split. Half of them are saying that they are backing Peter Dutton; the other half are backing Malcolm Turnbull. There is even a guy I have never seen in the local paper, and I read the *Gold Coast Bulletin* every day—Scott someone. I have never heard of him because they do nothing. They ripped off the Gold Coast when it comes to the M1. They were happy to take—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, your time has expired.

**Ms JONES:**—20 per cent when New South Wales—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms JONES:**—got 50 per cent.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister!

**Ms JONES:** Who are they?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister! Minister, I asked you to resume your seat on numerous occasions. Time had expired. A warning to all ministers: please listen to the chair or you will be warned further under standing orders.

Before calling the next questioner, I want to acknowledge that in the gallery today we have had students from Sacred Heart school in the electorate of Ipswich.

### **Katter's Australian Party, Preferences**

**Mr POWELL:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to Labor's preference deal with Katter's Australian Party in the 2017 state election that saw the Katter party win the seat of Hinchinbrook. In light of Katter Senator Anning's comments, will the Premier rule out doing a preference deal with a party that sees no problem with disgraceful holocaust references?

### **Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order**

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I am going to rule that question out of order because it does not relate to the business of executive government. You are referring to what would be a party matter in terms of a preference deal. On that basis, I rule that question out of order.

### **Labour Hire**

**Mr SAUNDERS:** My question is directed to the Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister update the House on the government's new labour hire licensing scheme and advise how the scheme is being received?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Maryborough for the question because I know what a strong advocate he was in terms of finally licensing an area that had gone on for far too long being unlicensed. The Palaszczuk government is proud to be the first jurisdiction in Australia to have introduced mandatory labour hire licensing laws. These new laws were left, as I said, unregulated for far too long, and the new laws are definitely working.

Firstly, there have been nearly 3,000 applications—which far exceeded the expectation—from labour hire providers to our new Labour Hire Licensing Compliance Unit. Already we have fully vetted and approved around 2,500 of these labour hire providers, which, as I said, far exceeded our expectations. Earlier this month I confirmed the first cancellation of a licence with a provider in the Lockyer Valley area. RJP Contracting Services had its licence cancelled for providing false information in its application and for serious breaches of the Fair Work Act. As a result, the company will no longer be allowed to provide labour hire services in Queensland and farmers in the Lockyer Valley region can no longer engage RJP to provide workers for their farms.

This action demonstrates that we will take a tough stance on those doing the wrong thing. It also demonstrates the other benefits that have come out of this licensing regime—that is, the strong links that the compliance unit is forging with other agencies, as the licence cancellation was the result of a combined investigation led by our compliance unit in consultation with the Fair Work Ombudsman, Australia Border Force and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. It just goes to show the benefits that have come out of this licensing regulation in that there are strong linkages with federal services as well in terms of tackling areas that they were very concerned about. There are 354 applications that are under current targeted review. How have the laws been received? The member for Lockyer would be very happy, because they are coming to Lockyer to work. What we are finding is workers—

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Manager of Opposition Business has been standing in the way of the minister speaking and the cameras.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, this is not an appropriate time to debate the issue. I will respond to the point of order. I did notice that the Manager of Opposition Business was standing there. I do not know whether that was in any way intentional.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am making a ruling, members. I do not believe that was an intentional act. However, it is a general warning to all members that there are provisions to ensure that members do not obstruct camera views within the chamber. It is important to ensure that those things are adhered to.

**Ms GRACE:** The caravan parks are full. They are coming into the Lockyer Valley. People are saying that the kids who are coming to work in the area know that they are secure and safe and know that they are going to be paid well. These laws have brought in great benefits as opposed to those opposite. There has never been such a policy vacuum than those opposing these laws at the time in spite of overwhelming evidence of exploitation in this sector. What do those opposite do? Vote against laws that are working 100 per cent. There is a policy vacuum in this state and there is a policy vacuum federally.

### Traffic Congestion

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Premier. It has been revealed today that Queenslanders are stuck on congested South-East Queensland roads, with traffic at a crawl every single day on the M1. Will the Premier say whether this is as a result of the continued lack of confidence by commuters in Queensland Rail after nearly two years of Labor's rail fail with no end in sight?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said very clearly, my government is investing in the Gold Coast and fixing up the M1. As I said very clearly, those opposite—and the honourable member who asked the question was a member, and a minister for a considerable short period of time—in the previous government failed to deliver any funding whatsoever to the M1. In stark contrast, we are fixing the M1. We have built the light rail. We have hosted the most successful Commonwealth Games Queensland has ever seen and we will continue to invest in the infrastructure that is needed. We built the Gold Coast Light Rail.

In fact, it was those opposite who did not even plan for that as part of the Commonwealth Games. It is my government that is investing in the upgrades along the M1, not those opposite. I find it highly ironic that the member for Mudgeeraba would come in here and ask a question about the M1 when they failed to invest one single dollar when they were in government.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I think the Premier is misleading the House. There were numerous budgets under the LNP government which funded the M1.

**Mr SPEAKER:** There is no point of order. If you have concerns about a member's contribution, you are able to raise those matters with me through the appropriate forums.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is one thing that those opposite are not prepared to talk about today, and that is the chaos that is happening in Canberra. Today I was asked to confirm whether or not I would be attending the COAG dinner with the Prime Minister. The problem is I do not know who the Prime Minister is going to be. I cannot accept or reject; I do not know who it is going to be.

In fact, what is happening in Canberra is like *Married at First Sight*: here is the Australian public standing at the altar blindfolded, not knowing who is going to be the Prime Minister tomorrow or the next day. It does not get any worse than this and it is a complete embarrassment. As the Minister for Trade has said, what message does this send to our overseas investors? What message does it send

internationally that those opposite cannot even sort out who the Prime Minister of the day is? It is grossly embarrassing and it is about time they revealed who they are backing for the Prime Minister of our country.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. My question was about Labor's continued rail fail with no end in sight and the Premier has not even addressed that matter.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Mudgeeraba. Premier, are you finished your contribution? The Premier has finished her contribution.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are warned. Members, if I am giving a ruling, I expect you to listen to that ruling. Some members are coming very close to being sent out of the chamber today.

### Dental Services

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Ambulance Services. Dental services are a concern for residents in my electorate. Will the minister please inform the House about the effect Commonwealth dental funding cuts are having on Central Queenslanders?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, there were multiple members speaking during that question. I have asked for silence when questions are being asked.

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Gladstone for what is a very important question. I know that he knows how important oral health services are to his community. Anyone who has suffered with a toothache knows how important getting a dentist appointment is. Anyone who has had to wait to see a dentist with a toothache knows how important timely access to oral health care is. Thanks to the efforts of our fantastic oral health workforce, almost all patients seeking routine dental appointments are getting them within clinically recommended times. However, their efforts are getting much harder. They are getting harder in part because of population increases and the ageing population, but the biggest driver making their job even harder is the cuts to oral health funding from the Turnbull government.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** Those opposite do not like to acknowledge this but, when funding goes down, waiting lists go up. That means that, because of the decisions of the LNP's bosses in Canberra, more Queensland adults and children are suffering from toothaches waiting for oral health care. We know that oral health is a key driver of other health concerns. The LNP has cut \$8.7 million from the Queensland oral health budget. That is a 30 per cent cut in funding from the Commonwealth, while they put all their political eggs in the basket of giving tax cuts to the big banks and big corporations.

The result of their cuts is 14,500 more Queenslanders waiting for oral health care now because of their decisions. The 30 per cent cut has resulted in a 20 per cent increase in Queenslanders waiting for care. That is 138,000 Queenslanders waiting for oral health care who will be asked to vote for whomever they want to be Prime Minister at the next federal election. For the benefit of the member for Gladstone, that is 6,700 community members in the Central Queensland HHS.

What is worse, there is now no guarantee of any Commonwealth funding for oral health post June 2019. I have written to every member of the House to outline these concerns. Not one of those opposite has been willing to stand up for their community. They are too loyal to Malcolm Turnbull, or Greg Hunt, or Peter Dutton, or whoever their boss is now. They are unwilling to stand up for the Queensland community. The result is more Queenslanders waiting with a toothache.

### Planning

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. With regard to the proposed regional planning scheme, which will see changes to the lands of my constituents who live in coastal areas under the coastal hazard assessment in line with the QCoast2100 initiative as high-risk low-development zones, will the minister advise what, if any, social impact studies will be done to properties to properly measure the effects on these residents and their properties on the coast in my electorate and throughout Queensland by implementing these proposed changes?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before answering the question, that is very close to a lengthy preamble. I will allow the question, but I have warned members previously about those long preambles.

**Mr ANDREW:** Mr Speaker, I went through the Clerk with that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You may well have.



**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Theodore, you are on your feet and you are interjecting. I ask you to leave the chamber for 10 minutes.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Theodore withdrew from the chamber at 11.12 am.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I will not tolerate a disorderly House. I am giving the member guidance. As a new member, I think it is appropriate to do so.

**Mr DICK:** It was unclear from the honourable member's question what planning instrument he was talking about—whether it was a local government planning instrument or a state planning instrument. If it is the North Queensland Regional Plan, that is currently under consideration by the government. We will make decisions following an initial round of very detailed public consultation and engagement. That is now the subject of consideration by the government. Following the consideration by the government, the plan will then go out for further targeted consultation with our regional planning groups. All of those matters will be considered as part of that planning process.

### Electricity Prices

**Mrs LAUGA:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House what the Palaszczuk government has done and is continuing to do with regional electricity prices and is the minister aware of any alternative policies?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question. She knows that, if you want action on energy, you look to the Palaszczuk Labor government. I note that the member has called out the member for Capricornia on the energy policy chaos in Canberra—and quite appropriately as well.

Under Labor, electricity prices in regional Queensland are coming down. That is a fact. In contrast, the LNP went to the 2012 election promising to drive down the cost of living. Instead, what did the opposition leader and her colleagues do? They drove up energy prices by—

**Government members:** Forty-three per cent.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I take that interjection.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, you have a very loud voice. I will wait for silence.

**Dr LYNHAM:** I take that interjection from the member for Maryborough—43 per cent. The LNP members opposite have the gall to ask Queenslanders to trust them on energy policy. What energy policy? We have a scant energy policy based on the Queensland Productivity Commission report. That same report states—

We have not identified any options which can achieve regional competition without increasing the cost of the CSO ... or increasing regional electricity prices ...

That means that, under the LNP's plan, the community service obligation would go up by \$700 million over the first four years. What does that mean directly? It means that, under their plan, everyone in regional Queensland can look forward for \$400 extra on their power bill every single year.

In contrast, Labor is providing almost \$500 million to ensure that families in regional Queensland pay an equivalent amount to those in South-East Queensland. The LNP energy policy in Queensland and nationally is an absolute basket case. Whoever is in charge at the end of this week—Malcolm, Peter, or Sco-mo—I ask them to pick up the phone and call the energy powerhouse of the nation. We will give them all the advice they need on how to make constructive energy policy. Falling power prices, a smooth transition to a renewable future, reliability and certainty for investors, the Queensland Labor Palaszczuk government has it all.

### Domestic and Family Violence

**Mr O'CONNOR:** My question without notice is to the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I table a media report that the Queensland Police Service is opposing an action for compensation by a domestic violence victim whose personal details were leaked to her abusive ex-partner by a police officer. Will the minister explain why this Labor government refused paying compensation for the costs she incurred in having to move on four occasions to stay safe?

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Guardian*, dated 21 August 2018, titled 'Queensland in court fight with domestic violence victim whose details leaked by policeman' [1171].

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute to answer the question.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe the question was asking the minister why the police has made a decision.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** As I understand it, it was still a question in relation to a police decision. I ask the Speaker to consider whether the question is being asked of the relevant minister.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the House, having listened to the question, I understand that it touched on police matters but I believe, more broadly, it is still relevant to the minister's portfolio. The minister is able to answer the question as she sees fit.

**Ms FARMER:** It is a matter before QCAT at the moment. As such, it is inappropriate for me to comment on it. However, I am interested that the member—in fact, any member—of the LNP should be asking about actions on domestic and family violence, because—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms FARMER:** Domestic violence is a terrible scourge in our society. One to two women a week in Australia are killed as a result of domestic violence. One in four women over the age of 15 have been subjected to domestic violence.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, I am trying to hear the minister's response. She has only a minute. I would like to hear something in that minute of response.

**Ms FARMER:** This government is absolutely dedicated to fighting domestic violence. We have committed over \$328 million towards implementing the *Not now, not ever* task force recommendations. We have completed 92 of the—

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


## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Further Answer to Question, Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Accommodation Expenses

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.18 am): As I informed the House earlier, I believe there was one night that I did not stay at the Commonwealth Games family hotel because I was in Bundaberg for the royal visit, attending a Brisbane based WOW women's event and a Governor's reception that night and the next morning again going to a women's event before returning to the Gold Coast. I can inform the House that my office was not required to pay for that night, because I did not stay that night.

## PRIVILEGE

### Right to Information Application

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.20 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Earlier today the Premier spoke about a right to information document that had been lodged in the opposition office and that certain objections had been made. I can advise the House that the objections from the opposition office related to personal details of individuals and also credit card details of individuals. I can also advise the House that, most concerning, this RTI application the Premier refers to was actually put in by the Electrical Trades Union of Queensland.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am quite concerned, hence rising on a matter of privilege suddenly arising, that the Premier knew about this RTI document put in by an independent body, the ETU.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, this is becoming a statement so I ask you, if you have a matter of privilege that you will be writing to me on, to write to me on the matter and to please finish your contribution.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will be writing to you in respect to two matters: did the Premier interfere with the RTI document from the ETU and/or was she briefed by the ETU?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The matter will not be debated.

## REVENUE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.21 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003, the Acquisition of Land Act 1967, the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016, the Duties Act 2001, the Duties Regulation 2013, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, the State Penalties Enforcement Amendment Act 2017, the Taxation Administration Act 2001, the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Victims of Crime Assistance Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[1158](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1159](#)].

I present the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, which amends Queensland's revenue legislation and other acts administered through Queensland Treasury and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for particular purposes. This bill includes amendments to support the expansion of electronic conveyancing. The bill achieves these objectives by amending the Duties Act 2001, the Duties Regulation 2013, the Land Tax Act 2010, the Payroll Tax Act 1971 and the Taxation Administration Act 2001. These amendments will allow most land based dutiable transactions, which can be considered by self-assessors like solicitors, to be lodged and settled through e-conveyancing. This will support the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's phased expansion of e-conveyancing and support an expanded range of e-conveyancing transactions more generally.

Under Queensland's revenue legislation, tax exemptions may be available to entities that satisfy the requirements for registration as a charitable institution. These requirements include certain restrictions in relation to the use of its income and property. This bill amends the Taxation Administration Act to ensure that these restrictions are expressly included in the constitution or in another governing instrument of any entity seeking registration. These amendments ensure the requirements operate as intended and provide administrative certainty for both taxpayers and the Office of State Revenue.

The bill also gives retrospective legislative effect to a number of administrative arrangements that are beneficial to taxpayers. The bill amends the Duties Act to extend the transfer duty concession for family businesses of primary production so it applies to all types of dutiable property used to conduct the primary production business and not just land and personal property. This is an important change for our primary producers which acknowledges the vital work they do.

Additionally, the bill amends the Duties Act to ensure that some deregistered managed investment schemes may be treated as exempt managed investment schemes. The effect of this is that dealings in these deregistered schemes may qualify for an exemption from duty. The bill also amends the Duties Act to correct a cross-reference, ensuring that landholder duty is properly calculated.

To ensure that deceased estate land is assessed for land tax as intended, the bill amends the Land Tax Act to ensure the higher tax-free threshold and lower land tax rates for individuals can continue to apply to deceased estate land until administration is complete. Amendments also ensure the benefit of exemptions can continue to apply to deceased estate land for the financial year immediately following death.

The bill also amends the Payroll Tax Act to update the reference to the rate used to calculate a motor vehicle allowance, ensuring that payroll tax can be properly calculated. Additionally, the bill amends the State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999 to address minor technical issues which affect the planned implementation of the new service delivery model for SPER.

The bill also amends the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Act 1984, the JLOM Act, the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Act 2003 and the Torres Strait Islander Cultural Heritage Act 2003, which I will refer to as the cultural heritage acts. As a measure to address serious health issues from homemade alcohol in discrete Indigenous communities, the JLOM Act prohibits possessing or supplying things that can be used to make homemade alcohol. This includes home-brew concentrate, kit and equipment. The government is aware there has been an increase in the use of cheap and easy-to-access ingredients to make homemade alcohol in Indigenous communities, such as turbo yeast. To ensure this issue is addressed, the amendments will make it an

offence to possess a substance or a combination of substances with the intention of using the substance or substances to make homemade alcohol. This will address the gap in the current offences to enhance community safety and wellbeing.

The cultural heritage acts establish a framework that provides recognition, protection and conservation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage. The 'last claim standing' provision was inserted into these acts in 2010, which provides that a native title party for an area is a registered native title claimant whose claim has failed, and (a) their claim was the last claim registered under the Register of Native Title Claims for the area; (b) there is no other registered native title claimant for the area; and (c) there is not, and never has been, a native title holder for the area.

To address the uncertainty arising for land users as a result of the Nuga Nuga Supreme Court decision, amendments to the cultural heritage acts will reaffirm the 'last claim standing' provision—that is, a native title holder is a person who has been determined to hold native title under the Commonwealth Native Title Act only. It is the government's intention that stakeholders who have commenced or undergone a process under the cultural heritage acts prior to the commencement of the amendments should not be disadvantaged. I note that there are other policy issues that arise from the cultural heritage acts. These issues require comprehensive consultation and further policy development. There is an opportunity for the government to explore the possibility of a broader review of the cultural heritage acts in the future.

Finally, the bill includes amendments to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act 2016 to make minor administrative amendments. Amendments to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act and Acquisition of Land Act 1967 are also included to confirm compulsory land acquisition applications may be endorsed by the minister administering the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Act. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.28 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Economics and Governance Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

## TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.29 am): I present a bill for an act about the termination of pregnancies, and to amend this act, the Criminal Code, the Evidence Act 1977, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper.* Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 [[1160](#)].

*Tabled paper.* Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1161](#)].

Today I am proud to introduce the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018. The bill implements the Palaszczuk government's commitment to modernise and clarify the law governing the termination of pregnancy based on the recommendations of the Queensland Law Reform Commission. This is a significant and historic reform for Queensland. Decriminalising safe termination practices and enabling reasonable and safe access by women to terminations will bring Queensland's laws into the 21st century. At its core, this bill makes significant reform to Queensland's Criminal Code, establishes a new framework for lawful terminations with strict requirements and, in doing so, importantly transfers this issue from being one based on criminality to one based on health provision.

For over a century Queensland's current laws in this area have remained virtually unchanged. They have remained stagnant, despite the development of newer and safer medical procedures for terminations and despite moves around the world, including around Australia, to recognise women's autonomy. As a result, our laws do not align with international human rights obligations, which recognise and support women's rights to reproductive health. Queensland is also now out of step with all other Australian jurisdictions, except New South Wales, that have recognised that termination of pregnancy is not a criminal matter. It is an important health choice to be made privately, in consultation with a health practitioner.

Queensland's current laws create uncertainty among doctors about their obligations and liabilities. The possibility of criminal prosecution of both health professionals and women impedes the provision of a full range of safe, accessible and timely reproductive services for Queensland women. This in turn leads to fear and stigma at a time when an incredibly difficult choice is being made. It also disproportionately impacts women who are already disadvantaged, including women in low socioeconomic groups; victims of domestic violence; victims of sexual assault; women in rural, regional and remote areas; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women.

These issues need to be resolved in a careful, considered and consultative manner. The bill introduced today, which provides certainty for women, health professionals and the community about the circumstances in which a termination is lawfully permitted, is the product of such endeavours. In June 2017, terms of reference were issued to the Queensland Law Reform Commission for a review into modernising Queensland's termination of pregnancy laws. The QLRC is an independent body that makes recommendations on areas of law in need of reform and submits its report to me in my role as Attorney-General, which must then be tabled in parliament. The QLRC plays an important role in making sure that Queensland's laws are up to date and meet the changing needs of our community.

The QLRC's review specifically focused on how the Criminal Code should be reformed to remove terminations performed by duly registered medical practitioners and to provide clarity relating to terminations of pregnancy in Queensland. The QLRC was asked to provide its report by 30 June 2018 and to prepare draft legislation based on its recommendations. On 16 July 2018 I tabled the QLRC report No. 76, *Review of termination of pregnancy laws*, in the Legislative Assembly. I take this opportunity to thank the QLRC members and secretariat for undertaking this significant review and delivering such a comprehensive and objective report.

The QLRC report is the culmination of a year-long extensive inquiry in which it consulted widely, receiving almost 1,200 submissions from a diverse range of stakeholders on its consultation paper. The QLRC also considered the former parliamentary committee's inquiry, reports and public hearings into the two private members' bills introduced in 2016, which initially sought to reform the law in this area, including over 2,700 submissions made at that time. The QLRC report contains 28 recommendations for legislative change to decriminalise safe termination practices and provide a new legislative framework that clearly sets out the circumstances in which a termination is lawfully permitted.

The QLRC was guided by a set of general principles, which it acknowledged involve significantly different legal and policy approaches from the current law. These principles included that, generally, terminations should be treated as a health matter and not a criminal matter. In addition, women's autonomy and health, including access to safe medical procedures, should be promoted, recognising that, at the earlier stages of pregnancy, a woman's autonomy has greatest weight and termination is lower risk and safer for the woman; while, at later stages of pregnancy, the interests of the foetus have increasing weight and termination involves higher risk for the woman and complex issues. The QLRC's guiding principles also included that the law should align with international human rights obligations; that the law should be consistent with contemporary clinical practice and health regulation; and the law should achieve reasonable consistency with the other Australian jurisdictions that have modernised their laws relating to termination.

This bill fulfils our government's pledge to bring forward legislation based on recommendations of the QLRC review into this matter. I acknowledge the Premier's leadership on this issue. She is the first premier to bring a government bill to decriminalise the termination of pregnancy to the Labor caucus and into the Queensland parliament. I thank her for her commitment to this significant reform.

In line with our election commitment, the bill introduced today implements the draft legislation prepared by the QLRC, giving full effect to its considered review, underlying policy principles and subsequent recommendations. To align with modern views about women's health care, the bill creates a new legislative scheme regulating the conduct of terminations by registered health practitioners. The bill properly distinguishes between when a termination is performed by a medical practitioner acting in

accordance with requirements for a lawful termination for the woman and criminal conduct performed by an unqualified person. The bill also includes measures to enable reasonable and safe access by women to terminations, such as provisions establishing safe access zones around termination services.

I will now outline the key features of the new framework for lawful terminations. The QLRC recommended the adoption of a combined approach for the lawful performance of terminations similar to the Victorian model, but with some variations. The QLRC framework provides an on-request approach up to a gestational limit of 22 weeks. This means that up to 22 weeks a woman is entitled to access a termination without needing to provide an explanation of her private and personal reasons for making such a choice. After 22 weeks a single broad criteria applies requiring the medical practitioner, in consultation with a second concurring practitioner, to consider whether in all the circumstances a termination should be performed.

The QLRC settled on 22 weeks as the gestational limit for on-request terminations for a number of reasons. First, 22 weeks gestation represents the stage immediately before the threshold of viability under current clinical practice. Second, a limit of 22 weeks aligns with the clinical services capability framework for public and licensed private health facilities. Third, a limit of 22 weeks aligns with the local facility level approval process adopted at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, which imposes additional requirements for terminations after 22 weeks gestation. It also recognises that terminations after 22 weeks involve greater complexity and higher risk to the woman, requiring additional oversight.

In considering all of the circumstances, regard must be had to certain matters that are intended to capture the full range of individual circumstances, namely, all relevant medical circumstances; the woman's current and future physical, psychological and social circumstances; and relevant professional standards and guidelines. A requirement for consultation with another medical practitioner who concurs with the decision is also included. This provision is intended to reflect the minimum consultation that is required, leaving flexibility for service providers to adopt further measures if deemed appropriate. An exception to compliance with these additional requirements for a termination after 22 weeks applies in an emergency if the medical practitioner considers it is necessary to save the woman's life or the life of another unborn child.

The bill does not affect the operation of other general requirements under health regulation and clinical practice which require medical practitioners to be suitably qualified and credentialed and to act within their scope of practice in relation to any health care, including a surgical or medical termination which they may provide. Similarly, the bill does not affect the laws that govern consent to medical treatment and the usual requirements under the general law about consent for surgical or medical treatment continues to operate. The bill also clarifies the role of registered health practitioners who may assist in the lawful performance of a surgical or medical termination. It provides that a registered medical practitioner may assist another medical practitioner to perform a termination.

The bill also provides that a nurse, midwife, pharmacist or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioner may, in the practice of their health profession, assist a medical practitioner to perform a lawful termination. These terms are each defined to mean a person registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law to practise in their respective profession other than as a student. However, health practitioners are not authorised to assist a medical practitioner with a termination they know, or ought reasonably to know, is not being performed in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.

The inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners as a category of professionals who can assist in a termination is a variation from the QLRC recommendations. However, this has been done to ensure culturally safe and appropriate advice and support to women in rural and remote areas and to contribute to better health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This addition is consistent with the Northern Territory legislation.

The type and extent of assistance that may be provided by an assisting health practitioner will depend on the type of termination involved, the practitioner's qualifications and scope of practice. For example, a pharmacist may be authorised to assist in the performance of a medical termination by dispensing or, in some circumstances, supplying a termination drug to a woman, but will not be authorised to assist in a surgical termination as it is not within a pharmacist's practice.

Another variation from the QLRC recommendations is that the bill allows for expansion by regulation of the list of health practitioners who may assist in the performance of terminations. This is a practical measure which ensures flexibility to keep pace with future changes in clinical practice so assistance in terminations can be provided by appropriate health professionals.

The bill protects the right of a health practitioner to hold a conscientious objection in relation to terminations. The bill's conscientious objection provisions recognise that health practitioners have and may exercise the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion, but balances this against the rights of women, particularly the right to health, including reproductive health and autonomy. Where a person asks a registered health practitioner to perform, assist, make a decision or advise about a termination, the bill requires a registered health practitioner to disclose their conscientious objection to the person. For example, a medical practitioner may ask for assistance from a nurse. If the nurse holds a conscientious objection, he or she would be required to disclose this to the medical practitioner seeking the assistance.

If a woman requests a termination, there are additional obligations on the health practitioner. The registered health practitioner must inform the woman of their conscientious objection and must refer or transfer her care to either another registered health practitioner who can provide the requested service and does not have a conscientious objection or another health service provider at which the requested service can be provided by a registered health practitioner who does not have a conscientious objection.

The conscientious objection provision does not extend to hospitals, institutions or services as the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion is a personal and individual right. However, the provision does apply to registered health practitioners working in these settings. The conscientious objection also does not extend to administrative, managerial or other tasks ancillary to the provision of termination services. Also, while the bill recognises the conscientious objection of a registered health practitioner, it does not exempt a practitioner from taking the necessary steps that might be required in an emergency.

The bill does not create any specific criminal offence or penalty for a health practitioner who contravenes the conscientious objection provisions or who fails to comply with the requirements for a lawful termination. This is consistent with the overarching principle that termination of pregnancy should, in general, be treated as a health issue.

Health practitioners in Australia must be registered under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The national law sets out a framework for the registration and discipline of registered health practitioners and establishes national boards that set standards, codes and guidelines that registered health practitioners must meet. Registered health practitioners must comply with relevant registration and accreditation standards, professional standards, including codes of ethics, codes of conduct and competency standards, policies and guidelines.

However the bill does provide that in considering a matter under another act about a registered health practitioner's professional conduct or performance, regard may be had to whether the practitioner performs a termination or assists another practitioner to perform a termination other than as authorised or contravenes the conscientious objection provisions. Noncompliance with the bill may result in a finding that a practitioner's conduct is in some way unsatisfactory or unprofessional and possible disciplinary action.

The bill does not alter the existing laws under which a medical or other health practitioner who administers surgical or medical treatment to a person has a duty to exercise reasonable skill and care and may be civilly or criminally responsible for harm that results from a failure to do so. For example, a medical or other health practitioner who does not obtain the required consent of the patient for a termination may be criminally responsible for assault.

The bill establishes safe access zones around termination premises to protect the safety and wellbeing and respect the privacy and dignity of persons accessing termination services, including its employees. The QLRC considered that such measures are necessary given the bill's effect in broadening the lawful authority for performing terminations in Queensland. The bill makes it clear, consistent with the QLRC's intent, that safe access zone provisions override the Peaceful Assembly Act 1992. It would undermine the purpose of the provisions if, for example, an organiser of a protest in relation to terminations could hold an authorised public assembly in a safe access zone.

The bill provides that a place is in the safe access zone if it is in the termination service's premises or not more than 150 metres from the entrance to the premises. The 150 metres may be varied under a regulation by the relevant minister if necessary to ensure the objectives of the safe access zone provisions are maintained. The bill makes it an offence to engage in prohibited conduct at any time in the safe access zone and to make, publish or distribute a restricted recording of persons in or near termination services. The maximum penalty for these new offences is a fine of 20 penalty units or one year imprisonment.



Prohibited conduct is conduct that relates to terminations, or could reasonably be perceived as relating to terminations, that would be visible or audible to another person in, entering or leaving termination services' premises and would be reasonably likely to deter that person from accessing the premises. For the purposes of the offence, it is immaterial whether any other person saw or heard or was actually deterred by the conduct. The bill clearly provides that the prohibited conduct offence does not apply to a person employed to provide a service at the termination service's premises.

A restricted recording means an audio or visual recording of a person while the person is in, entering or leaving a termination service's premises and that contains information that identifies or is likely to lead to the identification of the person. It does not prohibit recordings of a person made, published or distributed with their consent. The offences do not apply to a police officer doing something in the course of performing their official duty.

The bill also makes significant complementary amendments to the Criminal Code. The bill repeals sections 224, 225 and 226 of the Criminal Code which currently criminalises the terminations. The effect of the repeal of these sections in combination with other provisions in the bill is to decriminalise terminations by registered health practitioners in particular circumstances. The current offences reflect concerns of a different century and are at odds with a woman's right to medical autonomy and reproductive health. In 2018 there are now safer termination procedures available.

The bill introduces two new offences in section 319A of the Criminal Code relating to an unqualified person performing or assisting in a termination. The new offences both carry a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment. The purpose of the new Criminal Code provision is to protect the health, safety and wellbeing of women by criminalising the practice of unregulated or backyard terminations. An unqualified person is defined in relation to performing a termination to mean a person who is not a registered medical practitioner and in relation to assisting in a termination to mean a person who is not a registered medical practitioner or a nurse, midwife, pharmacist, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander health practitioner or other health profession practitioner so prescribed in the practice of their respective professions and registered under the national law.

It is relevant here to mention that the bill expressly removes any criminal responsibility for a woman who consents to, assists in or performs a termination on herself. This provides certainty for the woman and removes the implicit stigma associated with the criminalisation of terminations. An early medical termination may involve the self-administration of a termination drug by the woman. The new provision will ensure that the woman is not criminally responsible for this self-administration. This protection from criminal liability, together with other provisions in the bill as to the circumstances in which a woman's pregnancy may be terminated, are consistent with the bill's overall objectives to ensure women's access to safe and lawful termination is treated as a health issue.

Consistent with the QLRC recommendations, the bill also makes necessary consequential amendments to section 282 of the Criminal Code, which provides a general excuse for performing or providing in good faith and with reasonable care and skill surgical operations and medical treatment, if it is reasonable in the circumstances; and to section 313(1) of the Criminal Code, which provides the offence of killing an unborn child.

Before I conclude, I would like to make a brief comment about where we, as a parliament and as a community, go from here. I have no doubt that in the coming weeks, as the bill progresses through the parliamentary committee process and through debate in this parliament, there will be strongly held views and robust discussion. I acknowledge that, for many, personal values and principles are at the very heart of the issue—in fact, it should be for all of us—but we must, as elected representatives of the Queensland community, do all we can to ensure the rhetoric and the debate of this bill remains calm, civilised and considerate of all views.

The Minister for Health and I were pleased to meet with and brief the Leader of the Opposition on the afternoon of the release of the QLRC report. It was reassuring to hear the member for Nanango agree that this important issue deserves nothing less than a respectful and courteous discussion. The Minister for Health and I have also briefed many stakeholders on both sides of the debate to ensure that everyone has the details and, importantly, the facts and findings of the QLRC that led to the drafting of the bill. We must engage in a dialogue that is reasonable, balanced and informed and that, above all else, is respectful. I am confident that all members of this House are committed to this and I, more broadly, urge all Queenslanders to keep this in mind.



The Palaszczuk government is committed to informed, effective, evidence based policy along with a consultative approach to inform policy development. This bill, based on the QLRC's recommendations, is a prime example of this process. This government has made a promise to Queenslanders to provide a strong, stable, majority government to drive a policy agenda which prioritises jobs, health and education, and we are delivering on this.

I am proud as the Attorney-General of this state, and, importantly, as a woman and as a mother, to introduce this significant reform which provides long needed clarity on the law governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland. I do this for our mothers, our sisters, our daughters, our friends. I do this for women who have fought long and hard for the right to autonomy over their own bodies including the Deputy Premier, who sits next to me today, who has fought for, I think, her entire political life since joining the Labor Party and I am sure before then and was part of the reason she joined the Labor Party. I thank her for her strong advocacy over the years on this.

I do this in the full knowledge that this is never an easy option for any woman—that no-one ever makes this decision lightly—but that all women across Queensland have the right to make the decision for themselves and without fear of criminal prosecution. I do this in the full knowledge that Queensland is long overdue for this change—that the laws pertaining to such an important health issue will finally be brought into the 21st century.

In addition to the members and secretariat of the QLRC, I want to thank the officials of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and Queensland Health who have got us to this position today. I particularly want to thank my colleague the Minister for Health, who is sitting here today, for the cooperative and constructive way that we and our departments have worked together on this important issue and historic reform.

Indeed, the management of this legislative reform reflects the central tenet of the QLRC's approach—that termination of pregnancy is a health issue and not a criminal matter. Moving forward, termination of pregnancy will not sit as a matter of criminality within the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. It will be managed as an issue primarily of health care within the Health portfolio. That is why, upon what I truly hope is the passing of this bill, the statute, through administrative orders, will be the responsibility of health ministers into the future. It is also why the Minister for Health will manage the future stages of this bill through the House.

This bill contributes to the government's record of significant social reforms to build a modern state and delivers on yet another election commitment made to Queenslanders. Again, I thank the Premier for her courage and all of those members now and those who have come before us in the Labor Party for their perseverance and commitment to make this day a reality. I am very proud to commend the bill to the House.

### **First Reading**

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.54 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### **Referral to Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

## CRIMINAL CODE (NON-CONSENSUAL SHARING OF INTIMATE IMAGES) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.54 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018 [1162].

*Tabled paper:* Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1163].

I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill 2018. The amendments in the bill fulfil the government's election commitment to create a new offence related to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images that would apply to sending, or threatening to send, intimate material without consent. This is about sending a very clear message to those people who think sharing, or threatening to share, an intimate image of another person without their consent is acceptable. This behaviour will now have serious consequences.

Often colloquially referred to as 'revenge porn', the non-consensual sharing of intimate images covers a broad range of horrendous behaviour that causes humiliation and distress to its victims. It is a form of cyberbullying and technology facilitated abuse. In some instances it is domestic violence. It often represents a heartbreaking abuse of trust, as these intimate images are in many instances taken and shared as part of the most intimate of personal relationships. However, the distribution of intimate images without consent as a form of abuse goes beyond the breakdown of relationships. It is a weapon that can be used to hurt, humiliate, coerce and intimidate a victim in countless contexts. Perpetrators of this type of abuse are not always malicious. Intimate images can be shared non-consensually for the amusement and titillation of the distributor and their audience, but this comes with callous disregard for the impact on the person depicted.

Regardless of the intention of the distributor, it is important to remember that the impact of the non-consensual distribution of an intimate image on the victim can be devastating. Some of the most damaging consequences can be caused before an image is even shared. Threats to distribute intimate images without consent can cause untold fear and anxiety. In some of the cruellest instances these threats can be used to control or coerce the threatened person. This type of abuse can affect anyone but, unsurprisingly, it disproportionately affects younger members of the community.

The continuing evolution of modern technology and ease of access to instant and wide-reaching modes of communication makes dealing with this increasingly prevalent conduct an important priority for government. Responding effectively to this issue requires a multifaceted approach including education and awareness-raising schemes and the assistance of the community sector.

The passing of comprehensive criminal laws in this area is an essential component of the response to this issue. These laws will form part of a clear message to the community that this behaviour is abusive and unacceptable and those who are found responsible for it will be held to account. This bill will ensure that this behaviour will no longer simply be regarded as immoral. This behaviour will be illegal and treated accordingly.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our stakeholders for the time and resources they generously continue to provide during consultation on legislative reforms. The comments I received from our legal, youth and women's advocacy stakeholders during consultation have contributed to the development of the bill.

During this consultation a number of stakeholders commented on the existing child exploitation material offences under the Criminal Code and the way in which they apply to children engaging in consensual sexting behaviour. This feedback noted the importance of the police continuing to prioritise prevention and education when dealing with youth sexting but raised concerns that this may not provide sufficient protection for children engaged in this conduct. While some comments and suggestions dealt with broader issues of child exploitation material and were outside the scope of this bill, they are important concerns and I would like to assure stakeholders that the government will consider those issues during consultation over the coming months.

Let me now briefly outline the bill's significant reforms. The bill creates a new offence that prohibits distribution of an intimate image of another person without that person's consent. This offence will have a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. Distribution must happen in a way that would cause the person in the image distress reasonably arising in all the circumstances. The term 'distress' is not defined and will take on its everyday meaning.

It is intended that distress will require a lower threshold of harm than that required by the offence of unlawful stalking. It will not be necessary in the prosecution of this offence to prove that the person depicted in the image actually suffered distress. Rather, it will have to be proved beyond reasonable doubt that the distribution objectively would reasonably cause distress in all the circumstances.

In deciding if the distribution would reasonably cause distress, the court may consider any relevant circumstance. The bill includes examples of circumstances that may be relevant in order to assist in interpretation. These non-exhaustive examples make it clear that any relationship between the parties and the extent of any interference with a person's privacy are relevant circumstances when considering if distribution would cause distress.

The bill defines consent for the purpose of the new offence to confirm that consent must be free and voluntary and given by a person with cognitive capacity to consent. In recognition of the greater vulnerability of young children, the bill provides that a child under 16 years of age cannot consent to the distribution of an intimate image.

Defences that allow for the distribution of images for law enforcement purposes or for a genuine artistic, educational, legal, medical, scientific or public benefit purpose which are currently provided for the offences of distributing child exploitation material or distributing prohibited visual recordings are similarly extended to this new offence.

The new offence is centred on a definition of 'intimate image'. This term, used throughout the bill, captures moving or still images of an intimate sexual activity not ordinarily done in public; of a person's genital or anal region when bare or covered only by underwear; and of bare female breasts. We know that existing technology readily allows for images to be created or edited whether by combining innocent images with pornography to create something indecent or intimate or by editing already intimate images.

The bill makes it clear that images that have been altered to appear to show any of the things mentioned in the definition of intimate images, or images of these things that have been digitally obscured but still depict the person in a sexual way, are also included. This means that the definition will capture an image of a person's head superimposed onto an image of another person's naked body or an image of a naked person that is digitally altered, for example, by placing emoji stickers over the person's genitals or bare breasts before distribution when that person is still depicted in a sexual way.

There is no requirement in the definition or elsewhere in the new offences for an intimate image to be made in a private place or in circumstances in which a person had a reasonable expectation of privacy. This is because the culpable behaviour the new offences in this bill seek to address is the non-consensual distribution of the intimate image, not the time, place or manner in which the image was created. Further, to support the inclusive operation of the offence, the definition of intimate images explicitly provides for images depicting the bare breasts of a person who is female or a transgender or an intersex person who identifies as female.

The bill also creates two new offences that prohibit threats to distribute intimate images or prohibited visual recordings without the consent of the person depicted in the image or recording. Prohibited visual recordings of a person cannot be made or distributed without consent under the current offences at sections 227A and 227B of the Criminal Code. Unlike intimate images, prohibited visual recordings are limited to recordings of persons in private places or engaged in private acts where a person would reasonably be expected to be afforded privacy.

Threats to distribute both intimate images and prohibited visual recordings can similarly cause a person depicted distress or fear and can be used to control or coerce. For either of these offences, it is immaterial whether the image that is the subject of the threat actually exists or not. One new threat offence will apply when a threat is made to the person depicted in the intimate image or prohibited visual recording. The other will apply to threats made to distribute an intimate image or prohibited visual recording of another person. For example, this might include an ex-partner threatening a person's new partner or family members to distribute an intimate image of them that they possess.

Each of the new offences will carry a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment. Each offence requires that the threatened distribution be without the consent of the person depicted and done in a way that would cause distress, either to the person depicted or the person who was subject of the threat, reasonably arising in the circumstances. Each offence requires the threat to be made in a way that would cause the person threatened fear, reasonably arising in the circumstances, that the threat would be carried out. Like the new distribution offence, a child under 16 years of age cannot consent to distribution of an intimate image subject of the threat offence.

Amendments in the bill provide new powers to a sentencing court to make a rectification order. Rectification orders will empower sentencing courts to direct a person to take reasonable action to remove, retract, recover, delete or destroy an intimate image or prohibited visual recording upon conviction for the new offences in the bill or the existing offences under sections 227A 'Observations or recordings in breach of privacy' and 227B 'Distributing prohibited visual recordings' of the Criminal Code. Noncompliance with a rectification order will be an offence punishable by a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. The availability of these orders will give the court an opportunity to assist victims in regaining control of this material to minimise ongoing distress.

Like the new offences implementing the election commitment, both section 227A, 'Observations or recordings in breach of privacy', and 227B, 'Distributing prohibited visual recordings', of the Criminal Code criminalise interferences with a person's privacy and involve a lack consent. It is appropriate that these offences are able to be punished consistently. The bill will increase the maximum penalty of each offence from two years imprisonment to three years imprisonment. The introduction of the new offences in this bill will ensure that people who engage in this harmful conduct can be held properly accountable and reflects the community's condemnation of such hurtful and blatant interferences with personal privacy. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.06 pm):  
I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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


## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL APPROPRIATION BILL

### Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

#### Appropriation Bill

#### Economics and Governance Committee, Report

Resumed from 21 August (see p. 1930).

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.07 pm), continuing: In continuing my contribution on the Economics and Governance Committee estimates report, what was also clear from the estimates process was that the Labor government had not in a timely manner progressed recommendations and strategies with respect to youth sexual violence and abuse. However, I will give credit where it is due: a refreshed 'closing the gap' agenda with an annual report card and statement to parliament is an important mechanism for improving the educational, employment and health outcomes of Indigenous Queenslanders.

Whilst also involving a number of different portfolios and departments, I do believe there is an important leadership responsibility and opportunity for the current Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships to drive integrated demand reduction, supply reduction and harm minimisation strategies involving alcohol, tobacco, illicit drug and other substances, particularly given the Deputy Premier, the Hon. Jackie Trad MP, the member for South Brisbane, is also the Treasurer.

Finally, my electorate of Moggill desperately needs an investment of state government infrastructure funding to resolve traffic congestion on Moggill Road, improve classrooms, increase hall capacity and provide better library facilities at Kenmore State High School, and provide real strategies to grow jobs and ease cost-of-living pressures. Unfortunately, Labor has failed to deliver for Moggill not only in this year's budget but also in every one of its budgets since the initial election of the Palaszczuk Labor government in 2015.


In conclusion, I acknowledge all members of the committee, the secretariat and all the parliamentary staff for their work in preparation for the estimates hearings process.

Report adopted.

### **State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, Report**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): The question is—

That the report of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee be adopted.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.09 pm): I rise to speak to the report from the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. I want to start by thanking all the members of the committee, including the member for Ipswich West and the member for Mount Ommaney, for their thoughtful work. I also thank the secretariat. I want to thank the LNP members of the committee—the members for Condamine, Bundaberg and Buderim. I wish they had the chance to ask more questions during the committee hearings as well. I am sure they would have been able to ask questions that did align with standing orders, as compared to some of their shadow ministers.

I want to discuss three areas that I think are well worthy of note in this report. One of those is the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy which was outlined by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. The committee heard that great progress has been made on that strategy, with one-third of the strategy's actions completed in the first 12 months. That includes the employment of 12 more compliance officers in this particular unit and the reopening of the Gladstone Boating and Fisheries Patrol office. This is a great outcome from this strategy. There is also new biological monitoring.

We also heard about the proposed reforms to modernise Queensland's fisheries laws, which includes stronger compliance powers and stronger penalties for seafood black marketing. It is clear from what we heard in this committee that we are getting some strong leadership in this area from the minister, and we thank him for that. It is clear from the report that we are seeing those better outcomes for our fisheries and those companies involved in our fisheries.


One of the other issues I want to chat about is the great work that this government is doing under the Minister for State Development. We heard about those signature programs that are helping drive Queensland manufacturing and Queensland jobs and how well they are working. For example, we heard about Made in Queensland. This is a program that was massively oversubscribed by Queensland companies, with 662 applications for the matched funding pool of \$20 million. We heard that 53 companies received grants, with an anticipated 532 jobs to be created.

It was also good to hear that we are investing \$14.3 million in four Building our Regions projects in the electorate of Condamine. I know the member for Condamine would have been glad to hear about the 94 jobs which are anticipated to be created from these programs. We heard about the internet broadband submarine cable and the Rheinmetall Land 400 contract to build those new generation Boxer combat reconnaissance vehicles at Ipswich.

One thing that got our attention was when the Minister for State Development talked about craft brewing, and I want to thank the minister for his leadership in this area. Craft beer production has an estimated worth of about \$62 million per year. An extra 17 craft brewers have opened their doors in the past year alone in Queensland. More than 13 per cent of our independent brewers are based here in Queensland. This has a great potential for tourism in Queensland, like our wine tourism. We are going to back the entrepreneurs in this space and help them by looking at the regulatory arrangements so they can pave the way to grow their businesses. We learnt from the estimates how the Palaszczuk government is actively building Queensland industry and Queensland jobs.

The third issue I want to mention briefly is in relation to the Minister for Natural Resources, and I thank him for his appearance before the committee. It would be of no surprise to know that we talked about vegetation management, and I have to say that it was a very average performance by the LNP with their questioning on this matter. They really did not like what they were being told. We heard that, under our laws, the agricultural sector has thrived and grown by about \$2 billion, and that more than one million hectares of Queensland's best agricultural land could be developed for cropping under the laws we passed. That land is category X on property maps. That means no clearing of regulated vegetation is required to significantly expand the cropping in Queensland. The minister informed us that, once landholders hear about our balanced vegetation management laws, people out there will realise how they are being misled by the LNP. We are about clearing the air on their misinformation.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.14 pm): I rise to speak to the committee report on the estimates hearing into the portfolios under the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. I cannot speak to this report without expressing my disappointment with the manner in which the whole estimates process was conducted. As deputy chair, I expressed some of my concerns in the statement of reservation that is attached to the committee report.

Estimates is an opportunity for the non-government members to ask questions of the relevant minister about the expenditure details concerned with their portfolio, or the lack of expenditure, or any implications that may be as a result of the allocated expenditure. Unfortunately, this was not allowed to happen during the 2018 estimates hearing. There was obviously an instruction delivered from higher up to all Labor committee members and chairs to run as much interference as possible during these hearings. The apparent aim was to protect the relevant ministers from being exposed to any questions that they may be uncomfortable with answering. The media coverage was scathing of the process. Chris O'Brien of the ABC reported on 31 July 2018 that—

The constant use of standing orders against questions containing arguments, imputations, opinions or hypothetical matters was the worst since the estimates process began in 1994, according to long time observers.

He also stated—

Former Labor speaker John Mickel said the “protection racket” by Queensland Government MPs at the hearings needed an overhaul to make the process more accountable to taxpayers.

The current Speaker, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, stated—


Members are put on notice that the use of props, framing irrelevant questions and frivolous or tedious points of order which only seek to disrupt the flow of proceedings or unsustainable claims and counter-claims, will be dimly viewed by the Queensland community.

The lasting legacy of estimates 2018 will be the total lack of any openness or transparency from this Palaszczuk government. There was no greater example of this than the protection provided to the minister for agriculture when the shadow minister, Tony Perrett, asked a question regarding the financial impact on agriculture from the changes to the vegetation management laws. The question was declared to be out of order as it did not impact the minister's portfolio. This was despite the fact, which was pointed out to the chair, that on page 4 of the SDS under the ‘Service area description’ it lists the ‘sustainability of Queensland's food and fibre sector’, ‘create long term jobs’, ‘improve the competitiveness of rural business’ and ‘deliver agricultural industry development outcomes’. If that does not cover a serious economic impact to the industry, then what does? This level of protection was not exclusive to Minister Furner. Minister Dick and Minister Lynham were also the beneficiaries of questions that were ruled out of order or where the wording was only accepted if it allowed the minister to deliver long, rambling replies that did not go to the intent of the question.

During this estimates, we saw a number of documents released that had been concealed from public view, locked up under cabinet confidentiality or so-called commercial-in-confidence. This Palaszczuk government is making an art form of being a government of secrecy and arrogance. The behaviour of the government members in the red chamber, just down the hallway here, during the estimates process was a disgrace. It was a low point in the democratic process of this state.

The Premier can fix this problem quite easily. If the Premier has such little faith in the ability of her ministers to face public scrutiny, then sack them and replace them with someone who can do the job. The estimates hearings of 2018 will be remembered only for the lack of openness and transparency and the protectionist behaviour that was afforded to all government ministers.

I will conclude by thanking the secretariat for all of the hard work they put in in preparing for estimates. I thank my LNP committee colleagues, the member for Buderim and the member for Bundaberg. Members opposite should take a lesson and improve their standard next year.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (12.19 pm): I am delighted to speak today in response to the committee report on my portfolio areas of State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. I encourage him to just wait.

Due to the investments made by this government, we have seen a new era of optimism and opportunity emerge in Queensland. Significant jobs growth has been supported by nation-leading business confidence, with Deloitte Access Economics predicting that Queensland will lead Australia's economic growth for the next decade. None of this occurs by accident, as demonstrated by what has occurred in relation to confidence and employment growth in Queensland. If we look at the comparator,

which is of course the Newman government, what happened to confidence and employment under them? Catastrophic results! We all remember those dark days when those opposite rode the wrecking ball, smashing the economy on the way up and catching anyone they missed on the way back down. I am pleased to make the point that our government has delivered a better economy for Queenslanders.

Unfortunately, the members opposite had another focus. I will start where the member for Condamine ended. The member for Condamine seems to be a very fine gentleman, but a heavy hitter he is not. This allegation—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I think I am being quite fair to the member for Condamine.

**Dr Miles:** Very generous.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the Minister for Health: very generous.

I say to the members opposite that the estimates process was designed primarily to allow the opposition to question ministers on matters pertaining to the state budget and portfolio areas. It is an important component of the way our democracy operates by subjecting the government to the scrutiny of the parliament to account for the expenditure of public money. If there were a gold medal for whingeing and moaning, those members opposite would be at the top of the dais in every possible competition. Unfortunately, only half of the committee fulfilled its compact with the people of Queensland. The member for Glass House, as the shadow minister and the most senior representative of the opposition present, should reflect not only on the lost opportunity to appropriately participate in this important process but also on the opposition's lazy and incoherent strategy. The only disgrace, taking the words of the member for Condamine, was the approach the opposition took to the estimates committee process.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** There was no effort at all made by those members opposite on the committee to discover the effectiveness of government programs, which I am pleased to inform the House have yielded outstanding results. There was just an immature and meandering attempt at gotcha politics which quickly transformed into an exploding cigar. Frankly, the LNP members of the committee demonstrated they have learnt nothing from their defeat in 2015 and the period of opposition that has followed. The bulk of the questioning that emanated from the member for Glass House, the member for Buderim and the member for Condamine was principally focused on the timing of projects under the Building our Regions program—projects that involved co-funding from the state government and local government, many of them in small regional council areas that are supposed to be LNP heartland. These are the communities the LNP claim to represent, yet there they were at estimates bullying those councils and those communities.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): One moment, member for Woodridge. Member for Buderim, you have been constantly interjecting. Your interjections are not being taken. You have done so not only with this speaker but with several others today. If you continue down that road, you will be warned under standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** There were the LNP members bullying those councils and communities in rural Queensland because they were too slow to complete programs, despite them having to deal with things like natural disasters including Cyclone Debbie. When they were not being insensitive they were simply getting it wrong. One such example was when the member for Glass House asked me why the upgrade to the Mackay showgrounds, a project delivered on budget and ahead of schedule, was delivered over budget and late. That was the best question we got from the member for Glass House. It was another example of either laziness or incompetence, although having seen the honourable member for Glass House perform in this House, I think it was probably both.

There was even a question about pork-barrelling in favour of Mackay over Toowoomba regarding the Qantas regional pilot training facility—immediately denounced by community leaders in both cities and utterly without foundation. The member for Glass House and the member for Condamine then thought it would be a good idea to repeat the same baseless claim in a media conference, putting the whole Queensland bid at risk by trying to foment conflict and disunity. One can only imagine what Qantas thinks about Queensland when they see those members opposite decrying the process. The accident-prone member for Glass House thinks the way to make a name in politics is through reckless bravado. I have a word of advice for him: there is no substitute for hard work, something we have not seen from the member for Glass House.

It is a sad indictment on the LNP that they have nothing positive to say about regional Queensland, they have no plans and no ideas. I thank the government members including the member for Bancroft, the committee chair, for their work on the committee. They at least sought answers—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before I call the member for Glass House, I acknowledge some student leaders in the gallery today. We have student leaders from Robina State High School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba. We also have student leaders from Concordia Lutheran College in the electorate of Toowoomba South. Welcome.

**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.24 pm): It is not often that, in common with the member for Condamine, I would like to quote a former Labor parliamentarian. However, the observations of John Mickel are a very apt summary of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. When the former Speaker described it as a protection racket, he said—

The impression I got in reading the transcripts is some ministers were keen to answer the question but a point of order had been taken.

That is a perfect insight into the deliberate politicking of cover-ups and secrecies that the Palaszczuk Labor government resorted to during this last estimates process. The question is actually whether it applied to Minister Dick because I have a suspicion that it may not have. It may not have been us they were trying to silence; perhaps it was actually Minister Dick.

Since taking over Deputy Premier Jackie Trad's portfolio responsibilities, he has scrapped her flagship South Bank aquarium, which the Palaszczuk government had spruiked in no fewer than eight media releases; he has announced he will be sharpening the focus of the Deputy Premier's closely associated market-led proposal program or, in other words, the program has failed and it is in desperate need of fixing; and he has also announced he will be refocusing the Palaszczuk government's Building our Regions program or, in other words, saving a program that is not delivering on time or on budget as promised—and the questions from the member for Condamine and the member for Bundaberg also demonstrated that. I am certain that if the minister was actually allowed to talk, he would have just kept going on and on and on. I think in the case of Minister Dick, he may have been purposely silenced to protect not himself but, rather, his predecessors, in particular the Deputy Premier, as he continues to undo every single thing that she previously touched.

In those rare moments when we did manage to ask questions following irrelevant filibustering by the chair of the committee, the committee was forced to endure the complete disregard that Minister Dick has for accountability and honesty. In downplaying the seriousness of the state of Queensland effectively receiving a cease and desist letter from an international aircraft manufacturer, he blatantly misled the committee, stating that the company in question actually produced simulators and not aircraft. A quick Google search—something that the minister seems unable to grasp—would reveal to him that he could not have been further from the truth. The French aircraft manufacturer in question, ATR, was established by Airbus and Leonardo in 1981 and turns over US\$1.8 billion per annum. The fact that every eight seconds an ATR turboprop takes off or lands somewhere in the world seemed an irrelevant fact to the minister, particularly when this multinational company is threatening the Queensland government with the Competition and Consumer Act 2010.

Turning to manufacturing, Labor's do-nothing approach to government was on full display when questioned about their 2017 election commitment to implement a comprehensive strategy for the Queensland meatworks industry. With over eight months having passed since the election, the committee heard that a strategy had not even been started, let alone implemented. Over the same period the committee heard that Queensland's meat manufacturing industry had lost 900 jobs in South-East Queensland alone. The committee was left wondering how many more jobs from Queensland's largest manufacturing industry needed to be lost before this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government delivered on its promises. Queensland Labor has driven power and water prices to record highs. They have pushed through damaging vegetation management laws that will hurt Queensland livestock producers who are suffering in the midst of devastating droughts. However, for the sake of Queensland jobs I hope that Minister Dick soon finds the courage to stand up to his factional opponent in the Treasurer and stop her rampage against Queensland's meat industry to gain green votes in her electorate.


If I look at infrastructure—we cannot really; the minister is not responsible for any. The Treasurer took Cross River Rail off him. The Minister for Transport and Main Roads will not let him near a single road project, let alone a rail project. Even ports has been taken off him. He is the most emasculated infrastructure minister this state has ever seen. There is zero responsibility for any infrastructure. The only thing he can announce are business cases and funding to do with business cases. It is ridiculous.



I return to former ex-Labor Speaker Mr Mickel: I can only imagine the commentary he would provide with respect to the questions put to the government on planning. In an outrageous ruling, the committee chair deemed that a real increase in insurance premiums for Gold Coast residents was hypothetical. Only in the fact-free world of this Palaszczuk Labor government would this unbelievable ruling be considered okay. I can assure the committee chair that when residents start paying the real increase in their insurance premiums they certainly will not share his view.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Logan, your interjections were not being taken. I advise that if you persist down that road you will be warned under the standing orders.

Members, we have students from Mount Alvernia College and Padua College in the electorate of Stafford, who are just about to hear their elected member.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.30 pm): I rise in response to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report. While there are a number of issues canvassed in the dissenting report, with the limited time available I have chosen to respond to the areas raised by opposition members in which there appear to be significant factual shortcomings.


Since the introduction of vegetation management reforms in March 2018, my department has delivered a comprehensive campaign of stakeholder engagement, education and high-quality customer services. The vegetation management hub in Charleville has a team of five highly trained officers who are dedicated to supporting vegetation management outcomes. In addition, the department has a network of regional vegetation staff around the state who provide support for customer inquiries. Since March the department has sent emails and letters to more than 24,000 people advising them of proposed vegetation management changes or advising them of the bill's passage through parliament. As a result, more than 40,000 vegetation maps and property reports have been downloaded from the department's website since March 2018. Anyone who is concerned about vegetation management on their properties can contact departmental officers to understand how the new laws support sustainable farming practices.

The department ensures that rural irrigation water prices are based on the prudent and efficient cost of supply. We do this by directing the independent economic regulator, the Queensland Competition Authority, to review SunWater and Seqwater's proposed costs and recommended prices. The current pricing arrangements limit the fixed price increases to no more than inflation plus \$2 per megalitre in real terms if lower bound pricing has not been achieved. Importantly, our lower bound pricing policy means that irrigators do not pay for the cost of building any original assets which were constructed prior to the year 2000. The Queensland Competition Authority is expected to commence a review of rural irrigation pricing later this year.

The opposition notes in its statement of reservation that financial information about CleanCo was not provided at the session. We understand the importance of a third government owned generator, and that is why we announced the establishment of CleanCo in 2017. CleanCo will help us deliver on our commitment to a clean energy future, affordable energy prices and growing investment in jobs. Importantly, the introduction of a third government owned generator in Queensland will improve competition in the wholesale electricity market and again put downward pressure on electricity prices. We are well on our way to delivering on our commitment to establish CleanCo. We will not apologise for taking the time to work this through.

The Queensland government subsidises the high cost of electricity supply for regional customers via a community service obligation payment of about \$500 million per year to Ergon Energy's retail business. On 15 June 2018 the Leader of the Opposition stated that an LNP government would instead pay the CSO to Ergon Energy's network business, enabling private electricity retailers to freely compete in the regions based on the Queensland Productivity Commission's advice from 2016. As I said earlier in the House, we all know this will cost taxpayers about \$768 million in the initial five-year period or, as I stressed as a matter of some note, an additional \$400 on every regional household bill.

I would like to correct my earlier reference to a statistic during question time when I referenced \$768 million over four years. It is instead over the initial five-year period. I close by thanking all members of the committee, in particular the chair, Chris Whiting, for running a focused debate.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (12.34 pm): I rise to speak on the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee budget estimates report. I went into my first budget estimates with a positive outlook and an open mind, but it only took a few minutes to change my view. The whole day could only be described as disappointing. The budget estimates hearings lacked openness and transparency, with government members using standing orders and their

numbers on the committee to limit the number of questions to the minister, which in turn limited the ability of LNP members to scrutinise the programs and spending of the government. Media coverage was scathing of this abuse of process. Chris O'Brien of the ABC reported—

The constant use of standing orders against questions containing arguments, imputations, opinions or hypothetical matters was the worst since the estimates process began in 1994 ...

The lasting legacy of estimates 2018 will be the total lack of openness and transparency from this Palaszczuk government.

In relation to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, there are grave concerns that staff are being cut from Queensland's biosecurity defences. This has happened while the minister fails to properly understand his own budget papers, which clearly show a cut in biosecurity staff for 2018-19 as well as an overall decrease in long-term funding to combat white spot disease, Panama TR4 and other pests and weeds. The decrease in state funding for research and development is disappointing and inexcusable. This is especially concerning when you consider that the issue of pasture dieback is impacting agricultural production throughout Queensland.

Perhaps the most outrageous moment in the committee review process was when the minister and government members of the committee refused to allow any questions around the agriculture department's complicity and lack of due diligence in relation to recent vegetation management laws that directly impact Queensland farmers and agricultural production and development in this state. The limitation of any scrutiny of the minister's involvement and engagement on this issue is of significant concern. It undermines the entire estimates process and fails the very sector the minister is tasked with serving.

With regard to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, the prevalence of evasive answers from both the minister and director-general and the raising of frequent tenuous points of order and irrelevant filibustering during the hearing made a mockery of the estimates process for a senior economic ministerial portfolio.

**Mr DICK:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at those words and I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

**Mr BATT:** I withdraw. In the state development portfolio we learned that the completion dates for the Building our Regions program are determined at the whim of the department. Further, no clarification could be provided as to whether over 40 Building our Regions website project pages were changed on 11 July to reflect more favourable time lines ahead of the estimates hearing.


In relation to manufacturing, Labor's do-nothing approach to government was on full display when they were questioned about their 2017 election commitment to implement a comprehensive strategy for the Queensland meatworks industry. Over eight months have passed since the election and the committee heard that the strategy has not even been started, let alone implemented. Over the same time period the committee heard that Queensland's meat manufacturing industry has lost 900 jobs in South-East Queensland alone. It was frustrating to have the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy inaccurately convey and trivialise the impact that Labor's unfair vegetation management laws are having on Queensland farmers. His responses demonstrated a lack of understanding around the issue.

Unresolved issues around the viability of regional energy tariffs for small businesses through the transition of obsolete tariffs after 1 July 2020 were brought to the minister's attention by highlighting the fact that the government is still operating 761 taxpayer funded energy accounts, including more than 40 per cent of SunWater's water scheme operations. This information is at odds with the minister's comments regarding Queensland farmers not transitioning from obsolete tariffs in order to access cheaper power.

In summary, the relatively short time frame allocated to this portfolio as part of the estimates process, combined with constant interference from government committee members and lengthy prepared responses by the minister, did not allow a thorough and comprehensive investigation to be conducted of this portfolio, which raises questions around transparency and accountability.

For energy, from the outset it should be placed on the record that the Labor government providing just one hour to debate an issue that is at the forefront of consumers' minds is disappointing in the extreme. The committee learned that government generators earn in the order of \$1.24 billion, which was well beyond forecast budget figures, but specific financial information on how this money was being applied to funding other essential services was not provided.

The estimates hearing confirmed that, instead of having a plan for the future, Labor continues with the politics of the past. Finally, I thank the committee staff, who put a whole lot of time and effort into the first estimates hearing I have been a part of.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.40 pm): I commence by commending the chair, the member for Bancroft, and government members for their ability to chair and conduct a reasonable estimates hearing. I also thank the other members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for the opportunity to appear before the estimates hearing to discuss the 2018-19 state budget.

When I took over this portfolio last year following the re-election of the Palaszczuk Labor government I made it my priority to immediately hit the road and get out into regional and rural Queensland to meet as many farmers, stakeholders and industry leaders as possible. Since then I have travelled more than 31,000 kilometres and visited 42 towns and cities. The people I met want to hear the good news from the estimates but the LNP did not want to talk up the sector. Those men and women on Queensland properties are the heart and soul of the industry. Every encounter I have had across the state informs and educates decisions that are made around the cabinet table, whether that be in the regions or in Brisbane—important decisions such as the allocation of \$10 million over three years for rural economic development grants or the allocation of \$3 million over three years for the Queensland Agriculture Workforce Network, an initiative backed by industry to provide jobs and skills for farm workers across the state but which the LNP has never backed in.

One thing I quickly learned is that the title of agricultural industry development and fisheries minister does not come close to outlining how diverse this portfolio is. From biosecurity to animal welfare and from exhibited animals to the state's vast forestry network, there is a lot of ground to cover, yet the LNP did not want to talk about the portfolio at estimates for one moment.

I am committed to working with our regional cities, towns and industries to drive economic development across the state, whether it is on the water, in a control room or on a plantation. I want to promote the industry's leadership and success stories, whether it is delivering jobs, new products or new markets. This is in stark contrast to the LNP, who want to do nothing more than talk down Queensland's \$19.5 billion agriculture industry. While the Palaszczuk government gets on with the job of working for the agricultural sector in Queensland, all we hear from those opposite is whinge, whinge, whinge—no policy, unfunded promises, negativity and no vision for Queensland's future.

While those opposite do not believe in renewable energy, they certainly believe in recycled questions. Again we heard the same old lines from the member for Gympie that have been used over and over in previous estimates hearings. I can assure him that there have been no cuts to Biosecurity staffing levels. He just does not know how to read his Service Delivery Statements. There is a difference in the number of actual full-time staff and the threshold number in case we have to deal with an emergency biosecurity incident such as Panama or white spot disease. If we do not leave this buffer, we will not be able to respond in a meaningful way.

Another point ignored by the opposition was our cattle tick roadshow, which begins today in Mitchell. If the member for Gympie were really in touch with cattle producers in this state he would realise that this review, in partnership with AgForce, has been in the works for some time. Also, there have been no cuts to research and development and no cuts to Biosecurity Queensland, as stated by the opposition members in the committee's report. They have ownership of cuts when it comes to public servants in this particular portfolio and many others of the 14,000. That is their legacy.


The estimates procedure highlights the incompetence, the lies and the downright laziness of this ineffectual opposition. Their questions lacked any research, and their wilful ignorance of the legacy of their heinous cuts to agriculture and biosecurity in Queensland will not be forgotten. I look forward to being back here next year, following a shadow cabinet reshuffle, facing some tougher questions from the real shadow agriculture spokesperson, the member for Gregory.

One thing I have heard consistently from opposition members in their contributions to this debate of the estimates hearing report is complaints about time wastage. In the portion of the hearing at which I was present—2½ hours—some 18 minutes were wasted with a dissent from the chair's ruling. Some 18 minutes out of our hearing were lost for the LNP to further investigate issues and prosecute their positions.

Before entering this place I spent 120 days in Senate estimates hearings. I have never before seen such a group of incompetent, incoherent opposition members. It is no wonder they are in opposition. It is no wonder they will remain in that position, because that is where they belong. I

encourage opposition members to pick up the standing orders and to read and understand them. They should follow up on correspondence that my office has sent to them—an invitation to understand the standing orders and to understand what they perceive as staff cuts in my portfolio.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.45 pm): I rise to speak on the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's estimates report. That hearing proved what many in the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries know—that is, the government and this minister are missing in action when it comes to supporting the agricultural, forestry and fisheries industries' workers, families and businesses up and down the Queensland coast and in regional and rural towns.

We watched the minister duck for cover from scrutiny because he knows that he is a mute voice in cabinet. Whether it was about staffing levels, the funding reduction for biosecurity and research development, the listing of drought-declared areas, the impact of vegetation management laws on the sector and whether the department or minister advocated on the sector's behalf, the overdue review of the tick line or overseeing the forestry plantation licence, the government members of the committee tried to protect the minister from examination. The minister even accidentally confessed that he had not been answering the questions when I asked—

... did you seek a briefing from your department on the impact vegetation management laws would have on the agricultural industry in this state?

Minister Furner replied—

I will answer that question ...

Unfortunately, that was the end of any relevance to the question. We then heard about white spot disease and the tabling of documents before the minister deferred to the director-general.

The hearing demonstrated that the government has no confidence in this minister's competence and ability. Why else would you run protection, interrupt questions with frivolous and tedious points of order and make pretence claims of not hearing even though you sit a metre away from the questioner, at the same table? Despite being given copies of relevant documents and clear references, government members fumbled and dithered to obstruct the much needed scrutiny of government programs and spending. It was blatant time wasting to protect the government's diminishing reputation. The minister deflected, filibustered, prevaricated and rambled.

Government committee members even disregarded the Clerk's advice regarding the process and procedure for questions. Former Labor Speaker John Mickel said that the 'protection racket' by Queensland government MPs at the hearings needed an overhaul to make the process more accountable to taxpayers. Chris O'Brien of the ABC reported—

The constant use of standing orders against questions containing arguments, imputations, opinions or hypothetical matters was the worst since the estimates process began in 1994 ...

The estimates hearing showed that the minister does not understand that the budget papers show a staff cut for 2018-19 as well as an overall decrease in long-term funding for combating white spot disease, Panama TR4 as well as other pests and weeds. The minister's and director-general's inability to explain the staff cut of more than 100 full-time-equivalent positions is concerning. It opens up broader questions around the competency and level of service that is being provided to the agricultural sector.

No details or clarity were given regarding the tick line review other than that we will see a roadshow, whatever that means. Cattle ticks cost Queensland graziers more than \$160 million a year, and there are serious concerns about the government's commitment to proper policing and maintenance of the program. The decrease in research and development funding is inexcusable. Just as inexcusable is not addressing the concerns about the inappropriate removal of the Western Downs region from the drought declaration list. Support should not be denied through government maladministration.

Despite the minister being clearly tasked with the responsibility for agricultural development, government committee members refused to allow any questions regarding the department's complicity and due diligence in relation to the draconian vegetation management laws. These laws directly impact the viability and productivity of our farmers, graziers and the agricultural sector.


The committee chairman was unable to hear or did not seem to understand the sector or any questions relevant to it. When I asked a question about forestry, the chairman seemed surprised, saying—

Obviously we have moved on to the forestry section and that is what we are doing ...

I replied—

Yes, Mr Chair. You picked that up very well ... I am pleased that you understood my question, Mr Chair.

Perhaps the government should consider nominating the member for Ipswich West to chair the committee because at least he has a basic understanding of the relevant issues, and you do, member for Ipswich West. Limiting scrutiny directly undermines and mocks the estimates process. It lacked openness and transparency. It treated the spending of Queensland taxpayers' hard-earned dollars with contempt.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.50 pm): I begin by thanking the Minister for State Development, the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and the Minister for Natural Resources, their staff, the committee secretariat and my fellow committee members for their hard work at the estimates hearing held on 25 August. I was very pleased to hear the very important issue of drought in Queensland being raised at that estimates hearing. As anyone with any connection with our Queensland farming community knows, drought is the scourge of our farmers and graziers. As a graduate of the University of Queensland Gatton and a former agronomist, in 2016 I was honoured to serve as the government's representative on the Rural Debt and Drought Taskforce chaired by the now member for Traeger but then member for Mount Isa. The report prepared by the task force made 14 recommendations that led to significant reforms as to how the Palaszczuk government provides support to farmers and graziers in times of drought.

Drought is a particular problem in Queensland as we have one of the most variable climates in the world, and this is partly as a result of our location on the globe and our wet and dry seasons. Extended droughts can have significant long-term impacts not only on our agricultural businesses but on the mental health of our farmers and graziers and also on the health of our rural communities as a whole. Part of the government's framework to support farmers and graziers affected by drought are subsidies for fodder and water provided by the Queensland Drought Assistance Package, which unfortunately is not aligned with the Intergovernmental Agreement on National Drought Program Reform, the IGA. This misalignment of state and federal drought support has existed with the IGA since the former Newman-Nicholls government signed an agreement with the federal government in May 2013. Notwithstanding this misalignment, in 2015 the Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to maintain current drought assistance measures through to this year.


Around \$160 million in assistance has been delivered through the Queensland Drought Assistance Package since the current drought began in 2013. The Drought and Climate Adaptation Program, the DCAP, was introduced in 2015-16 to assist producers to improve their preparedness and risk management strategies for drought and other climate risks. In 2017 the Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to work with industry to develop permanent assistance arrangements for our graziers and our farmers. The Queensland government has initiated a review of its programs to improve consistency with the renewed IGA. Currently there are 23 shires and four part shires that are drought declared in Queensland. That accounts for about 57 per cent of our state. The Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries makes area drought declarations and revocations based on local drought committees. Drought declarations are the key to the relief provided by state and federal agencies.

The Drought Relief Assistance Scheme, otherwise known as DRAS, is one of the largest components within the drought package, with approximately \$80 million in expenditure since the drought began and provision for a further \$20 million in 2017-18. DRAS provides subsidies to drought declared primary producers on transport of fodder and water for livestock during the drought, and after the drought declaration is revoked freight subsidies are provided for returning stock from agistment and restocking during the recovery period. DRAS has also included the emergency water infrastructure rebate which assists in providing urgently needed water for animal welfare needs.

The Drought and Climate Adaptation Program, DCAP, was introduced by the Queensland government in 2015-16 and is funded at \$3.5 million per year for a total current commitment of \$17.5 million until 2022. It delivers research and development extension programs. The aim is to improve drought resilience and preparedness for primary producers. I am pleased to support the

Palaszczuk government and its commitment to graziers and farmers in Queensland to make our state drought resilient. As a member of state parliament, I will always support our graziers and farmers. They are the key to a sustainable future.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.55 pm): I rise to speak to the report on the estimates hearing for the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. Those opposite can sugar-coat this all they like, but what we saw during the hearings into this particular portfolio was nothing short of farcical. The minister's lengthy and rambling responses throughout the estimates hearing, combined with constant interjections by government members on the committee, severely restricted the ability of LNP members to ask relevant and probing questions regarding this portfolio.

The fact that I only got to ask 10 questions in two hours says it all and it makes an absolute mockery of the whole budget estimates process. Budget estimates is a process that aids parliament in its scrutiny of the government's proposed expenditure. It is an opportunity to examine proposed expenditures contained in the Appropriation Bill. Unfortunately, what we saw during the budget estimates for the portfolio of Natural Resources and Mines was nothing short of disgraceful. Do not just take my word for it: the media coverage was also scathing of the abuse of the process as outlined by my colleague the member for Condamine.

The portfolio of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is a massive portfolio deserving of more than two hours scrutiny and examination. It is a portfolio that included topical topics such as: the black lung report and recommendations; the Gas Action Plan; the Aurizon dispute; Linc Energy; the Carmichael mine; vegetation management and the drought; irrigation costs and obsolete tariffs; water prices in South-East Queensland and regional areas; how we use our water assets; dam safety costs; the stock route network; water for mine development and operations; the Coal Seam Gas Compliance Unit; and business development opportunities. Wouldn't it have been nice to be able to delve into some of those issues and get a response from the minister?

What we saw was the minister's attempts to trivialise the impact that Labor's unfair antifarmer vegetation management laws are having on Queensland farmers, and that is nothing but a slap in the face for all of those hardworking farmers out there, particularly in our drought-affected areas who are doing it so tough at the moment. The minister's responses demonstrated a lack of understanding around this issue, and it was especially disappointing to have legitimate questions around the extra allocation of extension officers to support landholders continually rejected under the guise that the issue was not relevant and contrary to advice received by the minister's department.

It is clear that our farmers are struggling to understand and apply the new legislation to their farming practices. What is unclear is whether the minister has any intention of providing additional extension officers, particularly in rural areas, to assist farmers in understanding and applying these new vegetation management laws. Threats of enforcement action and widespread confusion across the industry around the new laws have not been alleviated by a government propaganda campaign. The minister's insistence that farmers have nothing to worry about is causing widespread concern throughout Queensland.


On the topic of water, it was disappointing that the minister refused to rule out price hikes above the consumer price index for regional bulk water prices after the Labor government committed to increasing the price of water in the south-east three to five times higher than inflation over the next three years. This was a major blow for regional Queenslanders and particularly for our irrigators. Water is the lifeblood of our rural and regional communities, especially for agricultural industries, and it was disappointing that questions aimed at eliciting information around water price increases were deflected or went unanswered.

The unresolved issues around the viability of regional energy tariffs for small business through the transition of obsolete tariffs—T20, 21, 22, 37, 62, 65 and 66—after 1 July 2020 were brought to the minister's attention by highlighting that the government was still operating 761 taxpayer funded energy accounts, including more than 40 per cent of SunWater's water scheme operations. This revelation was particularly concerning. There is no question that significant issues exist with the business tariff offering post 1 July 2020 regarding this government's inability to deliver affordable and reliable sources of energy which will have a major impact on irrigation costs.

Queenslanders were promised a Gas Action Plan in 2015, yet here we are in 2018 and we still do not have it. Despite the minister saying that the plan was imminent, the minister in his response laid the blame at the foot of the federal government, and that was simply not good enough. To say that I was disappointed would be an understatement.

*(Time expired)*

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.00 pm): I rise to speak with regard to my first estimates hearing as part of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. As the member for Mount Ommaney, it was a wonderful opportunity to me to ask ministers for updates on issues that I have been lobbying the government on since I was elected. I will touch on those today.

For the residents of Oxley, the use of the Oxley secondary school site has been a matter of keen interest since the former tenants were evicted in 2014 by the Newman government. At the time, I remember meeting with the Premier—then the Leader of the Opposition—on site as she took her nieces to the ballet school that was located on the grounds. They were searching for a new home as the Newman government had asked them to leave.

Since that time the site has remained largely unused, except for police training and the wonderful childhood learning centre, Yuingi, which was located precariously on a flood plain. That is a crying shame, because it is a beautiful site, rich with natural wildlife and vegetation. I have been working closely with my community panel and local residents to ensure that the minister and Economic Development Queensland clearly understood the priorities of the local community. The Oxley locals were clear that they wanted to maximise the retention of natural vegetation and minimise the impact on our local amenity.

That is why during the estimates hearing I was thrilled to hear that the almost 20-hectare site will be declared a priority development area. That means that the full revitalisation of the site will be fast-tracked by the state government with a large number of uses for the site. That will include the creation of 74 leafy home sites, aged care for our seniors, a community centre, and the relocation of our beloved local childcare centre, Yuingi, out of the flood zone, which will become a community sports field.


Most importantly, there will be significant protected vegetation bands on the site. On the known slippage site adjoining Blackheath Road, there will be a large band of retained vegetation and remediation works. Over at Fort Road near Canossa, there will be a second significant area of vegetation retained in public hands. It was at the overwhelming request of the community that we retained the vegetation that makes this site so special. I pay tribute to the hard work of the Oxley community for ensuring that the minister and the department had a clear idea of their vision for the site. I am thrilled to see that the site will be revitalised for the community to use now and into the future.

Electricity prices affect each and every household in my electorate—and, indeed, in Queensland. Earlier this year, I was thrilled to notice that my existing retailer offered me—unprompted—a 26 per cent discount on my power bill if I just signed up to make direct debit payments. I had many constituents making the same observations about their power bills and I was pleased to have the opportunity to ask why. The Palaszczuk government has kept power assets in public hands. That is why we have been able to invite a new energy retailer into the market. Alinta had been offering sizeable discounts well in excess of 20 per cent and other retailers were keen to compete. As a result, many Queenslanders are now requesting discounts from their retailers and they are getting them. I am incredibly proud to be part of a government that is delivering a boost to the budgets of families throughout Queensland. I never miss an opportunity to encourage Queenslanders to hit up their retailers for a discount and I will do it again today.

Finally, I was pleased to ask the minister for agriculture about funding for Country Women's Association halls. I am proud to have a very active Oxley Queensland Country Women's Association in my electorate. Indeed, last Easter, their lovely hall hosted our inaugural hot cross bun competition, which I judged. The CWA will be catering for my seniors morning tea next week, where we will be raising some much needed funds for drought relief. Trivial Mill will be hosting a trivia night at the Oxley Bowls Club in October to raise more funds for drought relief in conjunction with the CWA. These incredibly hardworking women just do not stop. I am incredibly proud to support the women who support our rural communities. We know that the CWA have been longstanding advocates for drought relief. It is simply fantastic to see their efforts being rewarded.

These are just a few of the highlights for the community of Mount Ommaney. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to sit as part of the committee to ask questions. I commend the report to the House. I table a letter from the minister in response to a question asked by the member for Bundaberg.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 August 2018, from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries, Hon. Mark Furner, to the member for Bancroft, Mr Chris Whiting MP, regarding clarification of the Department's Service Delivery Statement and FTE numbers [1172].

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.05 pm): That was a prime example of a member who just wanted to talk about her own electorate and missed the opportunity to talk about the estimates process. However, I congratulate the member for Mount Ommaney for at least talking for one minute about electricity prices. As the shadow minister for energy, that is what I would like to focus on.

During the estimates process, as an indication of the low esteem in which the members opposite hold electricity in this state, one hour—at six o'clock at night—was allowed for debate on electricity. Of that hour, the non-government members had 30 minutes in which to ask questions. Out of those 30 minutes, there was about 20 minutes for the LNP to discuss the biggest issue facing people in Queensland at the moment and that is increased electricity prices. So far, we have heard from six members opposite about this estimates process. Only one of them spoke about electricity. The minister responsible, in his four-minute contribution, had a few words to say about electricity. That is how much they hold the people of Queensland in contempt.

Anybody who bothered to read *Hansard* from the estimates process or, in fact, watched the estimates process on TV would be aware of the protection racket that was run. The estimates process ran for an hour. After the first six minutes, the estimates process had not even started. In fact, in the time allotted, eight questions was all I was able to ask about the biggest issue in Queensland. It took 20 minutes to get through the first two questions because the minister waffled on about nothing in particular.

The big question that I wanted to ask at estimates was why it was that, in the 2016-17 budget, \$482 million was allocated to earnings from the generators yet, as we found out in this year's budget, that figure grew to \$1.24 billion. That is how much the members opposite taxed the people of Queensland with a hidden tax on electricity. It is a huge amount of money—\$758 million more than what they budgeted for. It is a coincidence, because that \$758 million is very close to the \$770 million the members opposite spent that year to take the SBS out of people's electricity bills for only three years.

During the estimates hearing, in the very short period that I was given to ask about electricity I managed to raise a few important issues. One was that Energy Queensland has a consultant who appears to be a business coach for the CEO. His company is being paid \$14,000 a day.

**An opposition member:** Nice if you can get it.

**Mr HART:** I take that interjection—very nice. Fourteen thousand dollars a day. We heard from the CEO of Energy Queensland that, in fact, over the past three years they spent \$15 million on consultants. One would think they would hire the right people to start with rather than getting consultants. No, they cannot do that.

Part of the government's Powering Queensland Plan was to put Swanbank E back on line. We learned that Swanbank E has not been generating any electricity for a few months now. Before that it did not generate much electricity either. We also learned that even though the minister thinks Wivenhoe-pumped hydro is being used, it is not. I am glad that the minister raised in his contribution CleanCo, because here we have a thousand megawatts of renewable energy that the DG of this department told us we did not really need unless we closed something down or we increased demand. I do not see too much demand being increased, but I suspect they may be thinking about closing something down.

**Mr Minnikin:** Mangocube to Simmo.

**Mr HART:** Maybe we can see some emails about that. CleanCo is a thousand megawatts of renewable energy at a cost of \$2 million to \$3 million a megawatt. It is a \$2 billion or \$3 billion project that is completely underfunded that will not happen until 2025. That is the big plan of those opposite to get down electricity prices. The estimates process was a joke. This government has made an absolute farce of the estimates system. The people of Queensland have been watching it. They have seen it and they know what they are like.


Report adopted.



## Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, Report

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): The question is—

That the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee be adopted.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.11 pm): I am delighted to speak on behalf of the committee, in particular the chairperson of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the member for Toohey. I thank all members who attended the committee hearing, although we know some found it difficult to ask relevant questions pertaining to the budget.


Estimates is a necessary process, allowing all members of parliament, in particular the non-government members, to question members of the executive and senior public servants on the array of positive programs and initiatives being delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Transparency and accountability are the hallmark of a good government and I am proud to be a member of this Palaszczuk government.

Estimates provides members opportunities to explore areas of government spending and the facts speak for themselves. On review of *Hansard* and on a rough calculation of questions during the hearing of the Attorney-General, I am advised the opposition asked 64 per cent of the questions, the government asked 26 per cent, the member for Maiwar asked seven per cent and the member for Noosa and member for Mirani asked one per cent.

During the hearing of Minister Ryan I am advised the opposition asked 63 per cent of the questions, the government asked 28 per cent, the member for Maiwar asked five per cent and the member for Mirani asked three per cent. During the hearing of Minister Crawford I am advised the opposition asked 67 per cent of the questions compared to 25 per cent asked by the government, six per cent came from the member for Noosa and three per cent came from the member for Maiwar. Overall the non-government members of the committee asked 73 per cent of the questions compared to 27 per cent asked by the government. Of course, as an educator I understand the importance of asking good questions in order to receive the answer that one is seeking.

Whilst it is difficult to divorce politics from the process, attempts at a 'gotcha' moment detracted from the serious work of government. It would be remiss of me not to note the appalling and unparliamentary manner in which the member for Kawana conducted himself during the committee's questioning of the highly regarded chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission. I understand the member for Kawana indicated that the cufflinks were a present from his family in reference to Frank Underwood from *House of Cards*. I do not know what is worse, choosing to wear the 'F' and 'U' cufflinks, choosing to be associated with a character who portrays a corrupt and murderous politician or choosing to be associated with an actor in the headlines for the worst reasons. None of these options reflect well on the member for Kawana or a member of parliament. Can I say very proudly that even my students possessed integrity and understood the dress or attire appropriate for school and the workplace.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the large number of public servants who prepared the comprehensive brief for ministers and senior officials on all matters relating to the Palaszczuk government's budget. As a long-term employee within the Public Service I am well aware of the degree of rigour that exists regarding the expenditure of public money, as there should be. As elected officials we should strive every day to ensure that public money is expended for the benefit of all Queenslanders. The estimates process is a vital process to allow all members, in particular the non-government members, to hold this government to account. Finally, I thank the Attorney-General, Minister Ryan and Minister Crawford and their officials for actively participating in the estimates hearing. I commend the Palaszczuk government's budget and the report to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.15 pm): I rise to speak on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's estimates report. I would like to begin by thanking the staff of the committee: Renee Easten, Mary Westcott, Kelli Longworth and Hannah Wilson. They all worked very hard indeed and, with their usual good humour and professionalism, kept us all moving. I also acknowledge the appearance on the committee of the members for Kawana, Toowoomba South, Toowoomba North, Gregory, Maiwar and Noosa.

Unfortunately, that is where the positive story ends for this year's estimates. What is supposed to be an opportunity for the parliament to scrutinise the government on behalf of the people of Queensland was turned into a farce of cover-ups and obfuscation. The handling of estimates was one long virtuoso demonstration of the arrogance of this government. We saw the government abuse its numbers in an orchestrated effort to stop it from being subjected to genuine scrutiny. The government abused the standing orders to protect ministers, to provide long and uninformative answers and to frustrate the committee's role in exposing the truth. I have heard the carping interjections of the

members opposite: 'You should have crafted your questions properly.' I think that is utter nonsense. The estimates hearing was being run like an absurdly regimented question time with farcical interpretations of the standing orders being used to rule out questioning and excessive delays in accepting documents for tabling in order to waste the precious time of the committee and prevent us from getting to the truth.


One example that I came across myself was when we were asking questions of the Commissioner of Police and he attempted to hand the question up to the minister, which I objected to under standing order 181, but I was overruled and told by the minister himself and by the committee that I did not understand the standing orders. That is the type of behaviour that went on. It is no secret. Everybody knows that this is what went on.

Seasoned watchers of the parliament, including journalists and former Labor ministers, remarked that Labor's handling of things made this the worst estimates in a very long time. Today we have heard my colleagues the members for Condamine, Bundaberg and Gympie talk about the contributions from journalists like Chris O'Brien, from former Speaker John Mickel and from our current Speaker Curtis Pitt about the poor standards.

The five minutes I have could not possibly allow me to even scratch the surface of estimates this year. I am sure my honourable friends, the shadow minister, the members for Toowoomba North, Toowoomba South and Gregory, will have more to say about the government's use of taxpayers' funds with respect to their portfolios areas.

Why were things so bad? The answer is clear. It was Labor. Labor has much to hide and a dreadful budget to screen from scrutiny. What else would we expect from this debt addicted, high taxing fat-cat regime, this rump with its growing army of senior bureaucrats, its extravagant perks and its glove puppet ministers who are all beholden and indebted to their union boss puppetmasters. No wonder they cannot possibly resource law and order and community safety in this state. They cannot resource anything properly, it seems. Their priorities are all wrong. Let me give some examples. We know that between the last budget delivered by the LNP and the one we saw from the Labor government that the Queensland Police Service is \$134 million worse off. Let us look at some of the ways that that money might be spent elsewhere. Let us have a look at some of the priorities that the Labor Party has.

The budget contains a total of \$45 million for a project to build bikeways in inner-city Labor electorates. That is an absurd amount of money. That could fix the Gore Highway between Goondiwindi and Millmerran in my electorate. It could provide better funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health Service, which is so important. It could provide 4,000 kilometres of dog fencing to protect our drought-stricken farmers from attacks on their stock. It could also fund much needed water infrastructure to protect our farmers, workers, small businesses and townfolk from future droughts. This estimates hearing was a disappointing farce. The people of Queensland expect better from their government.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.20 pm): I start by acknowledging and thanking the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for their report on the budget estimates for my portfolio areas of Police and Corrective Services. I note that the committee acknowledged the progress and benefits of the Palaszczuk government's delivery of body worn cameras to police. In the 2018-19 budget, we are definitely getting more bang for our buck. We are getting more police, more police stations, more technology for our police, more specialist officers, 535 extra police personnel over the next four years, almost \$16 million to boost counter-tourism capabilities, over \$2 million to build a new policing hub at Arundel on the Gold Coast, over \$5 million for new water police boats and we are also rolling out an extra 1,400 QLITE devices. We have funded and supported 85 new counter-terrorism specialists to be embedded across the state. We have supported the employment of 24 new domestic and family violence police coordinators. This budget means that our police will be better qualified, better trained and better equipped than ever before. Importantly, it means that our police will have the best resources to do what they do best: keep Queenslanders safe.

The committee acknowledged the process for identifying the Mongrel Mob as a criminal organisation. Those opposite do not understand and they do not accept that under the Palaszczuk government Queensland has the strongest, toughest and most comprehensive serious and organised crime legislation in the nation. Those laws are at the very core of our government's commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe; it is as simple as that. In recent months—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** They are always criticising the police. They are always attacking them. It is disgraceful conduct. They should be thanking our police and not attacking them. In recent months, multiple police operations have disrupted—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr RYAN:** They are interjecting on me when I am trying to celebrate and thank the police.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Member for Morayfield, you have the call. Any provocative comments will bring a response. Members on my left, please let the member have his say.

**Mr RYAN:** Let us celebrate some of the activities of the police. In recent months, multiple police operations have disrupted attempts by outlaw motorcycle gangs to gain a foothold in Queensland. Police are striking early, they are striking hard and they are striking often. An outlaw motorcycle gang attempted to disguise the fact that it was trying to set up a clubhouse in the northern suburbs of Brisbane. How did that go for them? Police raided the joint. They shut it down, confiscated equipment and gave gang members an unambiguous warning. They were told, 'It does not matter what you do or where you go, the police will be knocking on your door.' Under our legislation, there is nowhere to hide for those people engaged in serious organised crime in our state.

We often see reports from right across the nation about other governments wanting to adopt our strong tough laws. Recently, the Tasmanian government acknowledged our tough laws in relation to the banning of colours. It is clear to see that our laws support our police to do their job. Our dedicated police, supported by the resourcing in this budget, are doing what they are supposed to do and are supported to do, which of course is to keep our communities safe.

It is also important to acknowledge the work being done by Queensland Corrective Services. The committee acknowledged the impacts of a growing prisoner population and the steps that the Palaszczuk government has taken to ease capacity pressures. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges the importance of Queensland Corrective Services, which is why today it stands as a vital front-line top-tier public safety agency and a department in its own right. This decision recognises the significant risk managed by Queensland Corrective Services on behalf of our community by incarcerating and managing the most dangerous, challenging and complex members of our society to keep our communities safe every day.

In the last financial year, a crucial milestone was achieved with the appointment of a new commissioner of Queensland Corrective Services, Dr Peter Martin. Under Dr Martin's leadership, Queensland Corrective Services is preparing a 10-year plan to guide its future and the future of corrective services in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is strongly committed to the reform of our parole system and we continue to support the Sofronoff recommendations with the further rollout of \$265 million. As members would be aware, Queensland Corrective Services is doing some outstanding work in challenging environments. I commend them and all officers of the Queensland Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service for the great work that they do.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.25 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to make a contribution to the debate of the committee report. Before I begin, I acknowledge the presence in the gallery of Mr Smith and the student leaders of Concordia Lutheran College, which is my former high school. It is great to have you with us this afternoon.

This estimates committee process was particularly revealing. During the process, a number of issues were revealed that I want to talk about. The first is that, nearly 12 months ago, we had a review by the QFCC into blue cards in Queensland. The report made 81 recommendations and raised a raft of issues. Twelve months later, we have got nowhere fast. In this year's budget, QFCC funding has been cut by \$1 million at a time when its recommendations need to be implemented with due haste.

During the estimates process, we also discovered that the no-card no-start blue card policy, announced as a matter of priority by the Labor government during the last election campaign, is in the never-never. We heard from the Attorney-General that it will be approximately 18 months—keyword 'approximately', meaning the never-never—at a time when the child safety crisis is ever growing. I simply refer to the complaints that have been made over the past couple of months in relation to the blue card system. Media outlets have raised issues about particular categories of worker that do not require a blue card, such as a shopping centre Santa Claus and a driving instructor. There are whole categories of people involved. I asked the Attorney-General to take the next approximately 18 months to ascertain whether there should be an additional reinforcement of the law.

The true reveal of the estimates process in relation to the blue card system came when the Attorney-General was asked, 'As we speak, how many people working with children have a blue card application pending?' The figure was staggering and should send a shiver down the spine of anybody

concerned about child safety. The figure was 6,471. At that point in time, 6,471 people working with children had a blue card application pending. All we heard from the government and the Attorney-General was that in 18 months time we may have a blue card system that is ready.

**Mr Minnikin:** 'May'.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. That was an approximation. I give a commitment to watch with an eagle eye the rollout of the blue card system. In this year's budget, an extraordinary amount—millions of dollars—has been committed to the blue card system. We will be watching very closely the implementation of the system, because our child safety system depends on it.

Another key reveal, which I often talk about in the House, related to the regulation of the funeral industry in Queensland. There has been an over 250 per cent increase in complaints to the Office of Fair Trading in relation to the funeral industry. During the estimates process, we asked what the government will be doing in regard to regulating or overseeing the funeral industry and all we heard was 'absolutely nothing'. The funeral industry is asking for some reinforcement across-the-board.

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stevens): Pause the clock. Minister, you have been constantly interjecting. I note you are on the speaking list. Please refrain from speaking again until your turn comes.


**Mr JANETZKI:** We have a system where the government is just wiping its hands of any responsibility whatsoever. All it had to offer up is an audit process in the next 12 months. All the Office of Fair Trading said in response to the Valigura family—the family who were the subject of significant media concern at the start of the year; Mrs Valigura's coffin had been swapped—was that no criminal law had been breached. There was not even a mention of the fair trading laws in this state. That is a complete dereliction of duty of the Office of Fair Trading.

In the 30 seconds remaining I want to talk about the ridiculous complaints and allegations made against the member for Southern Downs by the chair of the committee, the member for Toohey.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Disgraceful.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take that interjection from the member for Buderim. It was a disgrace to suggest it. The Speaker paid it short shrift by not even requiring the member for Southern Downs to make a formal response. The Labor Party confect outrage like no other. It is completely unacceptable that the member for Toohey should abuse his position in that way.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (2.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's 2018-19 budget estimates report. I thank the committee for not just their consideration of this report and the estimates process but more generally the work they do each and every day.

The estimates hearings were an important opportunity to report on the Palaszczuk government's significant investment in justice and reinforce our ongoing commitment to safer communities and providing the services and support Queenslanders need and deserve. We are investing in justice with important initiatives including: investments in the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Director of Child Protection Litigation; strong judicial appointments; and more specialist domestic and family violence courts, with tenders now open for the new facilities to be built in Townsville. Our commitment to the *Not now, not ever* recommendations has led to more victims coming forward, knowing that they will be heard, supported and protected by a range of new services, shelters and laws.

The Palaszczuk government has also restored the Drug and Alcohol Court to tackle the underlying causes of criminal behaviour and to break the cycle of reoffending. This year's budget also included funding to make the Murri courts permanent. Again, this is another important initiative which has the power to change lives, reduce offending and create safer communities.

Australia's toughest and most effective laws to tackle serious and organised crime are having an impact. Our serious and organised crime regime tackles crimes ranging from child exploitation to boiler room fraud, outlaw motorcycle gangs and organised drug rings. To enable this further, we have boosted funding to the Crime and Corruption Commission to enhance its information security platform and deliver digital investigative services. There are now 28 bikie groups declared as identified organisations as we stamp out organised crime—most recently the Mongrel Mob and Satudarah. We are also working to keep our communities safe by tackling alcohol fuelled violence. We will continue to work with industry to ensure we have the most effective measures to keep Queenslanders safe.

I am proud of our record in government and welcomed the opportunity to answer questions about this portfolio. Estimates is an important part of our parliamentary processes. It is a time when non-government members have the opportunity to put questions to the government—questions relevant to the budget.

In saying this, I would like to put to rest the notion that somehow this estimates process gagged those opposite. I am advised that a quick tabulation of the sessions shows that the LNP received more than 64 per cent of the time allocated and asked 39 questions approximately. Over the seven days more than 1,000 questions were asked of ministers. The opposition were able to ask 669 questions over the seven days. That is almost 100 questions a day. More than 61 per cent of the time was allocated to the opposition. That is not the percentage for non-government members. The figure is greater when the time of non-government members is added. It used to be fifty-fifty, but a larger proportion of the time—two-thirds of the time—was allocated to the opposition. I do not think they really have any credibility when they argue about the time allotted to them.


**Ms Jones:** Particularly when we look at what they did when they were in government.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection from the minister. We only need to look at what the Newman government did with the estimates process.

In the time I have left I want to briefly touch on the member for Kawana. To my surprise, he asked most of the questions to the Crime and Corruption Commission—as opposed to the shadow Attorney-General, who got tapped on the shoulder to ask one or two questions at the end. I have seen some of the commentary around the member for Kawana's cufflinks, saying that this a trivial matter and that we should concentrate on important issues. Members in this House have heard me say time and time again that we have to be respectful. We have to be professional in the way we act in this place. We have to act like parliamentarians and not feed the cynicism of the public about what we are like as politicians. Whatever the 'F' and 'U' on the cufflinks actually stand for, when someone gets up in the morning, deliberately puts them on and positions their hands so that they are seen by the chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission while they are asking questions of him I think is completely disrespectful.

The member for Toowoomba South briefly said that I took a million dollars off the QFCC but then said that I have allocated millions of dollars for no-card no-start. Again, there is inconsistency in what we have just heard. We have allocated millions to it. We have allocated time to do this properly. Those opposite want to throw stones but they happily did nothing in relation to changing blue cards when they were in government.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to state my reservations when it comes to the report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee on the Appropriation Bill 2018. Before I continue, I would like to thank the other members of the committee—the members for Toohey, Southern Downs, Mirani, Macalister and Mansfield. I particularly thank the committee staff for their work during estimates and for preparing the report. Despite my serious reservations about the startling revelations found in this report, it would be remiss of me not to commend my colleagues for the hard work they put in.

As has been seen time and time again throughout the past months, this budget is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. That is usually something associated with years of poor financial management and overexpenditure. That is why, when helping to compile this report, I was amazed to see that those opposite had managed to blow the state's debt out to \$83 billion whilst still managing to cut funding to essential services, particularly public safety.

This report reveals some startling figures. They include: a \$575,000 cut to the Queensland Family and Child Commission; a \$45 million cut to the Queensland Police Service; delays in the implementation of the no-card no-start blue card policy; fewer police officers per capita; and the list goes on. I ask the question: is the safety of Queenslanders no longer an area of importance?

It is worrying that this report details delays to cuts to funding of programs designed to protect the most vulnerable Queenslanders of all—children. It was revealed, as just mentioned by the member for Toowoomba South, that at the time of the hearing approximately 6,470 people working with children in Queensland did not hold an approved working with children blue card. With the government's no-card no-start policy now delayed until 2020, this number is only set to rise. When questioned on the matter, the Attorney-General admitted—

If you cannot start work until you have that blue card, you have businesses that cannot employ people and you have individuals not being able to take up a job.

We need to improve this situation. I am encouraged by the Attorney-General's comment that the current blue card system could be improved. Why then has funding to the Queensland Family and Child Commission been slashed and why have only a small proportion of the 81 recommendations it made when tasked with reforming Queensland's blue card system been implemented?


Children, however, are not the only ones more at risk after the handing down of this budget. The report also outlines figures that place all Queenslanders at risk. As a proportion of total expenditure, the 2018-19 budget sees spending on policing drop to a low of 4.87 per cent of the total budget. This drop in funding along with a boom in Queensland's population has seen a drop in police numbers from 245 officers for every 100,000 people in 2016 to 242 officers per 100,000 people in 2018.

Queensland police do an exceptional job protecting our community, but the sad truth is that their efforts are curtailed by a lack of resources and a lack of support. An officer can only do so much with what they are given. Without more resources and more police on the beat to meet the growing demands, the thin blue line which serves to protect our community will only get thinner.

Property offences are up by four per cent, offences against the person have risen by four per cent, car thefts are at an all-time high and an average of 40 rapes or attempted rapes are reported to officers every week. Our police are stretched to the limit. Even when our hardworking police bring criminals to justice, their efforts are often in vain as an overcrowded prison system places unreformed criminals back on the streets within weeks. The honourable police minister has stated that tackling overcrowding in our prison systems is one of his main priorities. For this he is to be commended. However, it seems that his colleagues do not share this perspective. Their only plan to improve overcrowding in our prisons is to build more beds.

Ultimately, this report leaves one questioning how on earth a government can manage to increase debt by cutting spending. Even after implementing five new taxes and ripping \$2.2 billion out of the pockets of Queenslanders, more money would have been better contributed to ensuring the safety of Queenslanders.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.40 pm): I welcome the opportunity to endorse and comment on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report to parliament. I would like to thank the chair, the members of the committee and the secretariat for their work.

The Palaszczuk government has been, and will continue to be, committed to doing everything we can to ensure the safety of Queenslanders. One way we are achieving this is through our record \$702 million QFES budget for 2018-19. Nowhere in Australia is the public more at the mercy of natural disasters than in Queensland. That is why we have the best emergency services teams in the world and why the Palaszczuk government is focused on maintaining their high standards.

Queensland is growing and the operational response of our emergency services needs to grow with it. With that, I want to mention INSARAG and our USAR team, who are at Whyte Island this week reclassifying. This is our international search and rescue response team, named AUS-1. They have to reclassify every five years to international standards. I wish them the best this week. This is the team that responds to international earthquakes, floods, tsunamis, cyclones—you name it and they are out there.

Our government budget is delivering on our promise to provide new jobs and upgraded front-line services, facilities and equipment. That includes investing \$82.3 million into fire and emergency services facilities, vehicles, information and communication systems and equipment. Just over \$32 million has been allocated for capital works projects in 2018-19. I am delighted to say that 21 projects are in the design phase, under construction or set to be built.

Those projects include: a \$2.2 million facility at Richmond in the northern region, a \$2.8 million station on Horn Island in the Far North region, a \$3.7 million facility at Childers in the north coast region, a \$1.5 million upgrade of Mount Ommaney's station in the Brisbane region, a \$1.2 million Charleville office in the south-western region and Rockhampton station's \$3.4 million Firecoms centre in the central region. It also includes \$3 million for a brand-new fire and rescue station at Pimpama on the Gold Coast. I had the opportunity to brief the member for Coomera on that project only about half an hour ago.

Replacing or upgrading ageing facilities will improve our response times, guarantee enhanced services and support community growth. These facilities will help equip staff and volunteers, in both an urban and a rural setting, with everything required for a modern fire and rescue response.


During estimates the opposition wanted to focus on my travel, but what they did not want to focus on was the almost 60 electorates that I have visited so far in my short eight months as Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. I have seen firsthand what a difference the additions of these stations and fleet make towards day-to-day operations of our hardworking crews.

Our government is investing \$44.3 million this financial year into the replacement and delivery of 180 new urban and rural fire appliances. Last week I was with the member for Scenic Rim at the fire and rescue stations at Tamborine Mountain and Beaudesert, where we handed over the first and the second of those new appliances coming off the line.

I note the interest from the opposition with respect to female numbers in our ranks. I want to put on record that, during the first term of the Palaszczuk government, QFES ran 11 recruit courses. During the LNP term in office, they ran seven. During the first term of the Palaszczuk government, we graduated 215 firefighters. During the LNP's time, they graduated 150. During the first term of the Palaszczuk government, 24 female firefighters graduated. During the LNP's term, it was 15. Those statistics reveal that under our watch there has been an increase of more than 60 per cent in the number of female graduates.

Finally, there were some questions about smoke detectors and insects in smoke detectors. I did a little bit of homework, the member for Gregory will be pleased to know. The Australian Standard was changed in 2014. Photoelectric smoke detectors prior to 2014 had no requirement for insect protection. As of 2014, there is now a standard about specific mesh size for smoke detectors. I hope that has clarified that.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.45 pm): I rise to respond to the estimates report as a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. Firstly, I would like to commend my committee colleagues for the time and effort they put into the estimates report and the many departments and guests who delivered crucial information to help our committee make informed decisions.

Being a first-term member in this House, I sought leave to attend the estimates committee hearings for the first week. I was taken aback by the whole estimates hearings process. After witnessing the hearings, I am concerned that the process for these vital hearings is not exactly what I expected in terms of scrutinising the funding and expenditure of the government. I found limited opportunities to advocate for the best possible outcomes for my electorate and I found the democratic process to be very weak, if I am to be completely honest.

To add to this, being a crossbench member and despite being the member for Mirani, I do believe that I am excluded from any project announcements in my electorate. Rather, they are announced by other members outside of my electorate. This shows a clear lack of openness and transparency. With reference to the regional action plan documents as part of the 2018-19 budget publications, announcements have recently been made delivering for Mackay, Whitsunday and Central Queensland. They are actually within the Mirani electorate and I am not so much as mentioned. These are things that I could look into further in my time as the member for Mirani.

I think the estimates process needs to be looked at. However flawed, I do commend many of the outcomes and the distribution of funding in the Queensland government 2018-19 budget that have been announced for the electorate of Mirani and throughout Queensland. The estimates report—and I thank the committee members and the secretariat for their work—did find many positive initiatives that will benefit regional Queensland, in particular the funding for Queensland rural fire brigade volunteers, who do vital work for their communities. There is also exceptional room for improvement when it comes to delivering better outcomes for regional Queensland—in particular, for growers, for agricultural industries and for small businesses. I would also like to say that the QPS, the rural fire brigade and the urban fire brigade did an outstanding job with the number of fires that were lit in the Mount Morgan region recently. It was great—well, it was not good that they had to go through that, but they did attend those fires, sorted it out and caught the perpetrator, which was great.


Recently I visited the Capricornia Correctional Centre, which is currently running at 136 per cent occupancy. When I had a look through all the different cells, I found that the prison is extremely crowded and really needs attention. I am glad that the government is looking into that.

It is clear that more can be done to deliver better outcomes for the regions when it comes to infrastructure, investment planning and jobs for these areas, boosting local businesses and agriculture. Building our Regions changed ahead of the estimates hearing. I am on the ground in my electorate and these issues arise continually. We heard about Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Works for

Queensland initiatives for these areas. Although these employment prospects are short-term projects, we should be looking deeper into long-term projects and investments, and skilling and training more apprentices and trainees. Again, more can be done.

In regard to energy, there is \$1.24 billion in profits and we still do not have a clear determination on how we are going to lower electricity prices for consumers.

In the 2018-19 service area highlights, the DNRME states that it will create new public owned clean energy generation companies with a portfolio of low-emissions power generation assets. I will be looking forward to hearing more of how this will advance to lower power prices for consumers. I commend the estimates report to the House.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise to speak about the deliberations of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee during the estimates hearings of 26 July 2018 and the subsequent report. I would like to thank the secretariat and acknowledge the work of the support staff in making logistics on the day run smoothly. It was much appreciated. I would also like to thank the ministers, their staff and the representatives of the various statutory bodies and government departments. I know firsthand the amount of work that goes into preparing for estimates and the behind-the-scenes efforts on the day to make sure that answers are given to questions in a timely manner.

There were a number of great initiatives contained in the Appropriation Bill. In the policing budget there is funding for body worn cameras and QLITe devices. In the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services budget, a number of new appliances and stations are rolling out. Of personal interest to me are the reforms made through the domestic and family violence courts and the rollouts in Beenleigh and Townsville.

Estimates hearings, as far as I was led to believe, are meant to be an examination of the appropriation bills. I was surprised—although in hindsight I probably should not have been—that the Manager of Opposition Business spent at least 30 minutes engaging in his one-man crusade against the CCC. By the first break the Manager of Opposition Business had made it quite clear what he thinks of Queensland's independent corruption watchdog. We then had the shadow Attorney-General, who has not yet quite established what the remit of the CCC is, continually asking questions about investigations outside the CCC's jurisdiction. Can I suggest [www.ccc.qld.gov.au](http://www.ccc.qld.gov.au) to save us a bit more time next year? We probably could have got to a few more questions.


There has been quite a bit of discussion here today about the manner in which questions were asked or not asked, answered or not answered. To tell the truth, it was quite embarrassing to sit in one room in front of almost the entire Queensland Police Service executive, with several hundreds of years worth of policing and investigative experience, and see members of parliament unable to assemble cohesive questions. Police recruits have 10 days worth of interviewing experience and in that time they are able to put together better questions off the cuff than some of the visiting members of the committee, particularly when you consider they apparently have legal training. I have trained hundreds of police in the art of asking questions. Luckily, few of them are as bad as what I saw on show last month.

As for government members running interference and obfuscating proceedings on the day, during the 8½ hours that our committee sat there were over 150 questions asked—82 by shadow ministers as guests of the committee. I would take comments by the member for Southern Downs more seriously if he had managed to ask more than seven questions on the day over the entire period. I note that, whilst he was critical of the chair, when the member for Southern Downs did have questions he was given more than the allocated amount of time to ask his questions. I believe he said, 'I have 30 seconds more,' and then proceeded to ask three more questions. I believe the chair has given the member for Southern Downs sufficient time, and the accusations ring hollow.

Members opposite are quick to quote media when they have been critical of the process but have not done so when there have been positive comments made by the media. I recall that some attending media noted that the conduct during estimates for Corrective Services and Fire and Emergency Services was informative and interesting, but I guess that has something to do with the number of questions that can be put through when properly posed.

As I said, as a review of the Appropriation Bill, there was really good information there and I was really pleased with some of the information that our ministers provided us with about fantastic initiatives happening throughout Queensland. I am proud of many of the positive initiatives happening, particularly in the policing portfolio, and the responses given by senior members of the Queensland Police Service executive. I believe the report is an adequate and competent outline of the day. I commend the report to the House.



 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.55 pm): Whilst there was a bit of a protection racket running on the day, we did find out some things in the estimates process. We found out that crime is up in Queensland and, lo and behold, the Police budget is down. Who would have thought those two things would correlate? We also found out that the number of police is dropping as a percentage of population. That is a concern because one would expect that, with the growth in the Public Service of some 20,000-plus, they might have been able to employ a few more police so that at the very least we keep pace with the population growth in Queensland.

When the LNP were in government we showed our priority and our respect for the police force and law enforcement by the percentage of our overall budget that we allocated. Compare that to what the Labor Party is doing currently with the percentage of the overall budget it is allocating. The difference in the two numbers is \$137 million a year. The police are down \$137 million a year as a proportion of the overall budget. The minister can come in here and say, 'We are doing this, we have bought this and we have done that.' The simple facts are that if police and the safety of the citizens of Queensland were a priority for this government they would make it a priority and allocate an appropriate budget. We are in a situation where \$137 million has gone missing. The numbers do not lie. They were confirmed on the day. It is easy to come in here and suggest that 'we have bought this for the police' and 'we have done that for the police'. The simple facts are that there is less money as a proportion of the overall budget for police than there was when the LNP were in government and there are fewer police as an overall percentage of the population. Those are the two simple facts.


Much more disturbingly than that, we find that the Annual Statistical Review from 2016-17 shows that armed robbery is up 24 per cent. This is the consequence of not prioritising law and order in Queensland and not giving it the budget that it needs and deserves. Assaults are up 11 per cent. Unlawful entry—these are people sneaking into your house or sneaking into your business and taking things—is up 12 per cent. People are not safe in their own homes in Queensland because it is not a priority for this government to allocate money to law and order. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 19 per cent. These are outrageous figures.

Not only is their budget down \$137 million in comparison to the LNP; in comparison to their own budget last year, which was a cut, it is down \$44.6 million. How on earth can this be a priority? Time is short. These are the facts that were discovered with regard to the QPS. I respect both the service and the hardworking men and women on the thin blue line, and I do not want to see it get any thinner, which is exactly what is happening under Labor.

When we go to prisons, we find that prisons are currently operating on 131 per cent of capacity. The problem with that is that prisoners cannot be rehabilitated. We have double-bunking all over the system but we have not increased the opportunities for industry, employment and education. What it means is that prisoners are less likely to be rehabilitated effectively. The problem with not being rehabilitated effectively and being put into a more violent situation is that there is more of a chance of committing a crime when they get out than there was previously.

What we also know from the minister's own admission is that we will have all the extra spending and all the solutions, but the best-case scenario is that our prisons will be 123 per cent over capacity. This is not good enough. Our community deserves to be safe and we deserve to have our criminals rehabilitated. It is called corrective services, and we need to correct people's behaviour. This means we need to get rehabilitation into prisons to make sure people have opportunities to find a job and become a taxpayer when they get out. What we find is that our prisons are overcrowded and violent, which is causing problems with safety in the community, and that our police have had a budget cut and crime is up across Queensland. It is a really simple equation—allocate more money in next year's budget.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.00 pm): I am pleased to talk on the estimates process and the estimates in this financial year's budget. The estimates process overall was disappointing over the two weeks. We only have to look at the analysis done by the ABC, which said that 20 out of the 32 non-government questions to the Premier were blocked or weakened. We also had John Mickel, a well-known Labor Party identity, saying that it was a protection racket by Queensland government MPs and that the hearings need an overhaul. He said that the ministers do not need protecting. Evidence of that is the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. He did not need protecting. He answered the questions. He answered them straight, and he answered them without any problems, even though the member for Mansfield did try to pull me up a couple of times in the estimates process. The minister was quite across his brief. He knew what he was going to do, he knew what he had to say and he conducted himself in a manner where he let the information out. He was not scared of anything.

I do agree with John Mickel. I think we need to overhaul the estimates process so that ministers are scrutinised by government MPs and also non-government MPs. That is an important part of our democracy here in Queensland. It was a recommendation out of the Fitzgerald inquiry that we have transparency when it comes to the estimates process.

We raised with the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services some concerns about the longevity of compulsory photoelectric smoke alarms. I know the minister has done some research on this. This could potentially be another 'pink batts' situation, as stated by Keith Golinski on ABC Radio. Keith Golinski is the father of Matt Golinski, who lost his beautiful wife and children to a devastating fire. Keith has done some investigation into smoke alarms on the market and he is worried about the quality of the smoke alarms available to consumers. I called on the minister to investigate issues around insect infestation, and he has done that. I also asked that he provide some assurances that the photoelectric smoke alarm products on the market are fit for purpose and will last long enough to meet community expectations.

One of the concerns with these smoke alarms is that, if you take them down and try to clean out the insects or you open them, the warranty is gone. There is no warranty on some of these photoelectric alarms. The concern is that, as these photoelectric alarms are expensive, people will not put them back up or replace them. If there is a fire in the middle of the night, all of those fire alarms go off to try to get people out of the house. This is a safety issue that we have to look at.

We all supported the legislation in relation to the photoelectric alarms, and I agree with that legislation. The problem is whether we are doing enough to ensure that the providers of these alarms are making sure they are fit for purpose and they do have a warranty. If people do have to clean those photoelectric alarms, they should not be penalised if they have to replace them. People with tight budgets might say, 'I can't afford to do it this month,' and then they might forget about it and we may have an issue where houses do not have the photoelectric alarms.

Turning to recruiting, we need to attract more women into our Queensland fire service. We saw a 55 per cent reduction in the number of new female firefighters in Queensland in 2017. I am also concerned that the culture associated with sexual harassment and bullying that was so publicly highlighted in the 2014 Allison report has yet to be properly dealt with and may be acting as a barrier to new female firefighters applying to join the Queensland fire service.

I congratulate the commissioner, Katarina Carroll, for providing guarantees that there would be no operation issues between existing analogue and new digital radio network SES crews, even when travelling to areas with varying radio technologies. That is important, because during the wet season and cyclones in North Queensland we send our front-line men and women up there and we need to make sure they have the equipment and resources to communicate between all emergency services personnel. The commissioner did make it clear that the department would have to take it on notice.


We do not have the information back yet about fire crews being called out on code 1s. I know the minister has come back to our office and said that code 1 is an ambulance issue, but we want to find out how many times the Queensland fire service have responded to a code 1 medical emergency and have gone out before the ambulance. That is what we need to find out.

Report adopted.

### **Transport and Public Works Committee, Report**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The question is—

That the report of the Transport and Public Works Committee be adopted.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.05 pm): I rise today to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Transport and Public Works Committee for the Appropriation Bill 2018. For the record, our whole committee agreed to the times, the order and the overall conditions for the examination of each portfolio area. We started the day with transport, road safety and ports and finished off with public works, housing, digital technology and sport. I would like to thank all committee members: deputy chair, Ted Sorensen, and committee members Bart Mellish, Jo-Ann Miller, Colin Boyce and Robbie Katter for their participation on the day—and I will say a bit more about that later.

I would like to again thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general, their departments and the GOC executives for their participation on the day. We had a number of non-committee members who attended on the day to question the ministers, directors-general and CEOs, and I would also like to thank them for their participation. My thanks go to Hansard and attendant staff and also to the Transport and Public Works Committee secretariat for their hard work in preparing for the day and their work on the day. To Deb, Margaret, Mishelle and Lyn: thank you all very much.

As I said before, we started with the examination of main roads, road safety and ports, and I will talk about some of the highlights. We secured Australian government investment to progress the delivery of priorities on the Bruce Highway, as per our futureproofing the Bruce election commitments. As the minister stated, our government would like to see this joint funding increase from the current \$850 million a year to \$1 billion a year. The Bruce Highway Trust is designed to take the politics out of some of the Bruce Highway funding, and it was disappointing to learn that the LNP federal government has removed some funding from the Bruce Highway contingency fund and spent it elsewhere. This is not a good precedent to set, but who knows what is going to happen with the current state of the LNP government in Canberra from day to day?


We heard about the continued construction of the \$1.14 billion Queensland and Australian government funded Gateway Upgrade North project. Residents in my area are keenly watching this as it stands to make their daily commute much quicker when complete. We had an update on the completion of the Boundary Road interchange project, which clarified once again that it was the Palaszczuk government which funded the state component of this vital piece of infrastructure and oversaw its construction and early completion, much to the delight of locals as well as businesses like Costco. It was good to refresh our memories on this project, as a recent LNP candidate for Longman was claiming this project as his own and Queenslanders do deserve to know the truth.

We also heard that Dakabin station, which I now share with my neighbour, Steven Miles, the member for Murrumba, will receive extra funding for additional car parking during the long-awaited disability upgrade to the station. I was particularly pleased to hear the answer from the minister about the Petrie roundabout in my area which desperately needs upgrading and has been funded during this budget. With the university project coming along, this upgrade has never been more important.

The inevitable questions about train driver recruitment were asked. Once again, we heard the former LNP government suspended driver recruitment, with more than 1,700 jobs cut from Queensland Rail, including driver trainers, during the dark days in office of the LNP. We heard recruitment of new drivers is going well and we are running more services now than the LNP government ever did. I would like to thank the member for Chatsworth for his considered questions and professionalism on the day, unlike some of his colleagues.

The next line of questioning was particularly disappointing to me, with the member for Surfers Paradise appearing to reanimate the attack on our government regarding the signage at Suncorp Stadium, which was proposed to honour a former member of this House and former deputy premier of Queensland, an attack which caused considerable pain to the family of the former member. Despite the member's assertions that this was not the case, I believe otherwise, as the prepared stunt pulled during this session by the member for Callide highlighted that this attack was staged. I think the member for Callide is better than this and would want to be remembered for more than just using a prop to help dishonour a former member of this House as his only contribution for the day. Members of our committee do deserve better and should have been allowed to participate fully on the day rather than being shoved aside or used as stooges by the shadow ministers.

The final session on Housing and Public Works consisted of the member for Burleigh casting more aspersions than asking questions. I have to say the highlight was when he tabled a photograph from social media of the minister on a bench rugged up in warm clothes and attempted to say he was shaming the poor. The minister then explained about the CEO sleep-out and how that photo was taken when he played his part in supporting it. He invited the member for Burleigh to participate with him at a future time. It was a rather large own goal from the shadow minister that stood out amongst other attempted attacks that were answered well by Minister de Brenni. In relation to timing, non-government members got a considerably larger share of the time allotted—actually 51 minutes longer than government members. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution. I would like to thank the Transport and Public Works Committee and the chair, Shane King, as well as fellow members Colin Boyce, Robbie Katter, Bart Mellish and Jo-Ann Miller. I found that the estimates this year was one of the biggest farces I have seen since I have been in parliament. It really was.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I did congratulate, but the whole estimates process was negative. At the end of the day this government—and the whole budget—is really about five new taxes, debt and unemployment. The government has been in office for 3½ years and already it is banging up the taxes

and all the rest of it. There was one highlight for me during this process, and I will read from the *Hansard*. Steve Minnikin asked—

Can you explain the impact that three successive years of 15 per cent increases in public transport fares, approved by then transport minister Annastacia Palaszczuk, have had on public transport patronage since that time?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It goes on—

**CHAIR:** You are going back a fair way there.

**Mr BAILEY:** Can I seek clarification? This is about the budget allocations for 2018-19.

**CHAIR:** That is right.

**Mr BAILEY:** That is going back about three governments, I believe. It seems to be an odd question that is not relevant.

**Mr SORENSEN:** You have been going back all morning.

The minister gave us a history lesson about the Campbell Newman government nearly every time he answered. That was all right, but he could not go back one month earlier and talk about the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government seems to be a banned word in the Labor Party. I do not know why, because who sold off our assets? Who sold off Queensland Rail—the coal transport business—back in the day?

**Mr Hinchliffe:** You got the name wrong. Go back and check; you got the name wrong.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members. The member for Hervey Bay has the call.

**Mr SORENSEN:** QR coal transport business—that is right. The Abbot Point coal terminal north of Bowen was sold by the Bligh government.

**Mr Minnikin:** Queensland Motorways.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, Queensland Motorways Ltd as well as tolling rights on the Gateway and Logan motorways. It was the government that flogged off assets. There were many things sold off, including the forestry plantation in Queensland. Why can we not talk about those sorts of things and their effect on the budget now considering the billions of dollars of debt that they created back in the Bligh days? Nobody on that side wants to talk about it, but it does impact the budget. The debt from it is still there.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SORENSEN:** I know.

**Mr Hinchliffe** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Stop the clock. Order, Minister. We will not have interjections across the chamber. The member for Hervey Bay has the call.

**Mr SORENSEN:** It is true; we cannot mention the word 'Bligh' in this government.

**Mr Minnikin:** Just don't mention Bligh.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Do not mention Bligh. Who sold off all the assets? Who put out the train tender? It goes on and on. Why can we not mention the Bligh government in this House? I believe we should mention it a little bit more often.

**Mr Minnikin:** In Ted we trust.


**Mr SORENSEN:** Yeah. Why can we not mention it? It is a really dark word on that side of the House.

**Mr Boothman:** It's a swear word.

**Mr SORENSEN:** Yes, it is nearly a swear word on that side of the House. Nobody wants to own poor old Anna. It is a bit of a shame really.

**Ms Grace:** Do you own Campbell Newman?

**Mr SORENSEN:** I can still talk about Campbell Newman, no worries.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (3.15 pm): Queenslanders are fortunate to live in a democracy, and that good fortune is not a matter of luck. We in this place have a responsibility to

support those democratic institutions which uphold transparent government—governments of integrity, governments which submit themselves to scrutiny from and for the people we represent. The estimates process that we are here today to discuss is a significant democratic process within this parliament, particularly given that our parliament is a unicameral parliament. It was quite disappointing—extremely disappointing—to find when I arrived that those members of the opposition who took part in that estimates hearing made a mockery of those proceedings—about as much of a mockery as they are making of this particular debate today.


As the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport, I came prepared to answer detailed questions about our government's expenditure for 2018-19. My department came prepared; my director-general came prepared; the deputy directors-general came prepared; there were CEOs and commissioners—in fact, the breadth of the department meant that the red chamber was full. There were numerous departmental staff and statutory authorities as well. Those staff work diligently and consistently to ensure that our government and their entities right across the Public Service deliver for the people of Queensland; they deliver with a sense of integrity, with transparency and with Queenslanders at the centre of everything that they do. All of them, including me, came prepared to answer rigorous questions about how we are investing Queenslanders' money.

Instead of genuine questions, members of the opposition came armed with what can only be described as irrelevant and off topic imputations not to mention theatrical props. I think most Queenslanders were shocked and appalled when the member for Callide pulled out a tape measure to use as a prop. I do not know what the member intended to measure with his prop, but I can advise all members of the House that he and his colleagues certainly did not measure up to the expectations of Queenslanders whom they have the privilege to represent in this House. I suspect the former member for Callide, Jeff Seeney, would have been deeply disappointed at his successor's complete and utter failure to ask any questions on behalf of the electorate of Callide. The former member for Callide also would have been smarter than to trust the instructions of the member for Surfers Paradise about bringing props into an estimates hearing.

I also note the statement of reservation that was provided by the member for Hervey Bay. It surprises me that the member for Hervey Bay had any reservations given that he did not ask any questions at all during the proceedings. Again, what we saw was baseless, repetitive whingeing, whereas the truth of the matter is that Queensland currently enjoys the highest jobs growth in the nation. Our 2018-19 budget was shown to build on our achievements of 164,500 jobs created in Queensland since coming to office in January 2015. A total of 4,400 jobs were created across Queensland in July alone. To call this a budget of unemployment, as members opposite have done, is ludicrous.

We are investing \$447 million to deliver 599 new homes this year and complete 410 more across the state—homes for Queenslanders from the cape to the coast. Through our Buy Queensland policy we heard we are supporting Queensland businesses to grow and employ more staff. We are investing \$8.8 million into our responsive government transformation project, streamlining the way we do business and reducing red tape for Queensland businesses. We are doing so because time spent transacting with government is time that Queenslanders could spend on growing their businesses or with their families. We heard about the \$47.5 million investment in government employee housing, supporting our very important front-line workers right across regional and remote Queensland.

I want to acknowledge the continued dedication and commitment of our government committee members to the important committee process, and I want to thank them for the recommendation in their report. I want to thank the chair as well, the member for Kurwongbah, for giving the opposition adequate time and space to ask questions—as nonsensical as they were. In fact, non-government committee members were given twice the opportunity to ask questions as were government members. That gives rise to the question why the member for Hervey Bay, who I again note asked no questions, then went on to complain in the statement of reservation that the government limited the number of questions. Either the opposition seeks to mislead this parliament or they cannot count.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.20 pm): There was something nice said about me from the other side of the chamber, which is pretty rare. I want to say on the record that I am genuine in my praise of the member for Kurwongbah. From what I saw during the estimates process—obviously I attended my session and watched plenty of them on the CCTV monitoring system—the member for Kurwongbah provided a great example of the way chairing should be conducted during the estimates process. I thought he was actually quite measured. We have not exchanged any ale; I am being very genuine when I say that I thought he handled it quite well. His chairing of the committee was in marked contrast to the way the minister performed. I note that the gentleman who occupies the role is certainly

very tall. I do not know whether he had a bit of altitude sickness due to a lack of oxygen, but when we go through *Hansard* the answers that he gave were typically rehearsed and formulaic. It was almost Benjamin Disraeli-like: 'Lies, damned lies and statistics.'

**Mr BAILEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the language of the member was extremely unparliamentary and I request that it be withdrawn.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): I ask that you withdraw.


**Mr MINNIKIN:** Yes, I withdraw. During this process the one thing that I love is the work that is done by *Hansard* in particular, because it makes for really interesting reading when you have the time to pour a java and go through it. I am going to pick the minister up on something that I intend to pursue after I have made my contribution here today. The simple fact is that when you come into politics, particularly state politics, you ask yourself, 'What is it all about?' When you strip it down, essentially it is all fundamentally about competent service delivery. In the eyes of some it may not be as riveting as what happens in other spheres of government, but you have to make sure that you are on top of your brief.

We have had a series of ministers in the last three years and roughly 10 months who have taken on the portfolio of public transport in particular. We saw the efforts of the member for Southport. We know exactly what happened with the good old member for Sandgate. Then it went back to the member for South Brisbane. Now under Minister Bailey's watch we have seen 472 reduced services. I could count to 472; it would take me around 7½ minutes. It is mind-boggling that to this day someone would try and justify on any measured scorecard the 472 fewer services compared to when we were in government. I put it to the minister that, rather than carp on with meaningless interjections which I am not taking, what he would be well versed to do is spend some time listening to the good burghers on the Manly line that travels through the electorate of Lytton. It is an absolute and complete joke, but there is more to it than that.

When the question was put to one of the senior bureaucrats during the estimates process—which is the question from a public transport perspective that people want answered—'When is rail fail going to end?' there was absolute silence. The minister had the chance to get up, grab the microphone and answer the question, but he chose not to because he cannot. Why is that? We also discovered during estimates that—queue the scary music—come February with EB 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0 we are going to see drivers'—with their two 30-minute lunch breaks—'plate time' behind the caboose potentially drop from around 33 per cent to about 19 per cent.

I put it to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that if you are paid for an eight-hour day and you are not even working 20 per cent of the time during your core job, what are you doing? We have a situation where #railfail is going to become #railfail 2.0. You have to be pretty special in public office when you have your own hashtag after your portfolio. This minister needs to stop pontificating, as he will shortly get up and do, and get on with the job of delivering an effective and efficient public transport service. This minister's job has absolutely been a complete joke.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (3.25 pm): I do not know what a caboose is, but I am sure the member for Chatsworth will fill me in.

I thank members of the committee—government, opposition and crossbench—and all other members who attended the hearing. I thank the committee secretariat and staff. I join the member for Chatsworth in congratulating the chair of our committee, the member for Kurwongbah, who did a great job of running the show on the day. I sense that I might mean that a little bit more than the member for Chatsworth, but I appreciate the member's congratulations anyway.

I also thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads; the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport; their staff and departmental staff; and of course the committee secretariat for all the work they do on the day and in the lead-up to estimates. A lot of work goes into estimates preparation, and a lot of that work is not even seen on the day. It is an arduous process. For all the pain that goes into it, it is a very useful process. It is useful to explore issues on the day, but it is also useful for the relevant department to do a stocktake of the vast swathe of processes and projects they have underway.

Speaking specifically about the Transport and Public Works Committee's examination of the 2018-19 portfolio budget estimates report, we heard about projects like the Northern TransitWay, which will provide a high-quality public transport corridor along Gympie Road from Kedron to Chermside. This project will deliver targeted bus priority from Kedron to Chermside, improving the safety and capacity

of this important link in the transport network. Commuters coming from the north side of Brisbane, including Aspley, will benefit from high-frequency on-road bus services and more reliable travel times. This will encourage more people to use public transport and assist in managing congestion along the corridor and broader transport network. It is a great project and I am very keen that the government is getting on with the job.


In terms of local commitments relevant to transport and public works in Aspley, \$2 million is allocated for a detailed design into a completely new interchange at the intersection of Gympie Arterial Road and Strathpine Road in Bald Hills; \$2.3 million is set aside for design works for an on-ramp extension at the intersection of Linkfield Connection Road and Gympie Arterial Road in Bald Hills; there are 70 extra car parks at the Geebung station, which is a great boost to public transport and a great benefit to locals there, getting cars away from people's driveways and off the streets at the station; and funding for a feasibility study into a potential overpass at Beams Road in Carseldine over the train line.

On the sporting side of things, basketball has been growing fast on the north side of Brisbane for quite some time, and the Northside Wizards have done a fantastic job of creating a welcoming and inclusive community. I am extremely happy to say that this budget provides \$5.5 million to convert a disused shed in Zillmere into a new home for basketball. The proposed plans include five indoor courts with the potential to expand in the future. I congratulate the minister for his great work on that project to date. I am very excited about this project and the local benefits it will bring to the whole community, not just in a sporting sense.

There were a range of questions from opposition members during the hearing, but not once did I hear anything from those opposite in a transport sense about standing up to the federal government and demanding our state's fair share of infrastructure funding. There were no questions about honouring 80-20 funding splits on either the M1, the Bruce Highway or the north coast railway line. The only references to Cross River Rail—a crucial project that is a precursor to any future additional capacity on the entire South-East Queensland network—were about questioning the need for the project, belittling it and trying to make out that it is not as needed as it sorely and evidently is.

Our delivery of the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project is still sadly opposed by those opposite. It was great to hear that during the five-year construction period Cross River Rail will support an average of 1,500 jobs each year and up to 3,000 jobs in the most intensive years of construction. It has a cost-benefit ratio of 1.4 to one and it will reduce commuting times for the people of my electorate by up to 15 minutes a day, unlocking half of the CBD currently locked away from any station. Express services will increase. It is a great project. I am pleased that we are getting on with it, despite the opposition from those opposite.

As the chair of the committee mentioned, we saw a few bizarre attempted stunts fall flat on their face. We saw the tape measure and the CEO Sleepout. I am not going to comment on Minister de Brenni's sartorial choices, but I certainly would not jump the gun and criticise in the way we saw at the estimates hearing when just a quick Google check would prove me wrong. We also saw questions about decisions of the Bligh government of eight years ago, which was utterly bizarre. Again I thank the committee secretariat staff, the committee members and all involved in the process.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.30 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the report on the estimates hearing of the Transport and Public Works Committee and give my thoughts about the budget. First I take the opportunity to thank my fellow committee members. I particularly thank the committee secretary, Deb Jeffrey, and her secretariat staff for their continued support and for the effort they put into preparing our reports and papers. Without Deb's perseverance and support I know that I, as a new parliamentarian, would be somewhat lost so I express my gratitude and extend my thanks.

For 2018-19 the Palaszczuk Labor government has brought in five new taxes worth in the vicinity of \$2.2 billion across the forward estimates: waste levy, \$1.32 billion; wagering point-of-consumption tax, \$367 million; foreign buyer property tax, \$311 million; property investors tax, \$132 million; and car stamp duty, \$100 million. In terms of economic and business conditions, unemployment was 6.1 per cent in July, in both seasonally adjusted and trend terms. Only Tasmania currently has a higher rate of unemployment. The Australian unemployment rate is 5.4 per cent in trend terms.

Queensland's annual wage growth is two per cent in the private section and 2.7 per cent in the public sector. Queensland's public sector wage growth has outstripped private sector wage growth for the past three years. CommSec's State of the States report ranks Queensland fifth, settling in well behind Tasmania and just edging out South Australia. Queensland ranks sixth on retail spending, sixth on unemployment and seventh on construction work. The Sensis Business Index rates the Palaszczuk government as the least popular amongst small and medium sized business.


Queensland's public non-financial debt in 2018-19 will be \$70.9 billion, rising in 2021-22 to \$83.1 billion. The debt per person in Queensland will equate to \$15,730 in the year 2021-22. There has been no plan put forward by the Treasurer in relation to how the government plans to pay down this growing debt. The government is quite obviously happy to have a 'have it now, pay for it later' mentality. We are spending more money than we are making. That is a recipe for economic ruin.

I turn to Queensland Rail. In terms of the 472 weekly services cut from the QR timetable at the height of Queensland's 'rail fail', questioning of the CEO of Queensland Rail over the expenditure relating to the government's attempts to restore full timetable services across the rail network revealed that \$15.37 million was spent last financial year on consultants to provide additional expertise and support to work through these issues. The committee was advised that, after almost two years and millions of dollars, the services had only been 'stabilised'. Disappointingly, no date was given for when commuters could expect to see a restored timetable and the end of Labor's 'rail fail'. At the time of the estimates hearing Queensland taxpayers had been slugged almost \$160 million as a result of Labor's 'rail fail'.

I refer to page 121 of Budget Paper No. 3, which shows \$17.3 million to extend the three-metre-wide V1 cycleway from Holland Park to Tarragindi at a total cost of \$45 million. The people of my electorate are aghast at how a government can prioritise a bike path over critical road infrastructure. For example, there is a bridge over the Boyne River at Mundubbera which desperately needs replacing. It was built some 70 years ago and was designed to take the traffic of the 1940s, not the heavy transport that it is expected to cater for now. There are many such road infrastructure problems, single-lane bitumen roads and unsealed sections of roads. None of these issues have been addressed in the budget. The electorate will be further amazed when they learn that the minister has indicated that upwards of \$250 million may be spent on future bikeways in Brisbane. This is a government of Brisbane, not a government of Queensland.

I thought the budget estimates were somewhat farcical. In relation to Minister de Brenni's comments, isn't it amazing that I have been reduced to farcical attempts to highlight the fact that the government is quite happy to waste money?

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (3.35 pm): I begin by acknowledging and thanking the committee for their work in this year's estimates hearing. I welcome the opportunity to discuss and debate the work of my department with committee members. Their advocacy and interest in terms of their own electorates and matters across Queensland is very much commended and appreciated.

What should also be commended is the Palaszczuk Labor government's record investment in QTRIP—\$21.7 billion over four years, supporting transport and road infrastructure and supporting 19,200 jobs. Funding exceeds the previous QTRIP by \$700 million this year—a 10 per cent increase in funding by this Palaszczuk Labor government compared to a reduction of more than six per cent from the Turnbull LNP government, probably the soon-to-be Dutton government—or is it the Morrison government? It is hard to tell. I think there are a lot of books being run on the matter. This investment reverses the job-destroying policies of the previous LNP Newman government, which slashed more than \$600 million from Queensland's road funding over three years in government.

Major projects in construction under this government include the Ipswich Motorway, the Mackay Ring Road, the Gateway Upgrade North, the Hann Highway, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, the Peninsula Developmental Road in Cape York, Riverway Drive, Warrego Highway and of course two M1 upgrades—at the Gateway merge and from Varsity Lakes to Mudgeeraba, plus two straight after. This financial year will see construction start on the Smithfield Bypass and the Cairns Southern Access Corridor Bruce Highway upgrade. We will also fast-track the upgrade of the Cairns Western Arterial Road and Harley Street intersection in Far North Queensland using savings of \$16 million achieved from the duplication of the Bill Fulton Bridge, completed last December. We are building things, not cutting things.

I note the statement of reservation from the member for Hervey Bay, who, I might add, did not ask a single question in four hours. It was an extraordinary performance. I think he is taking his money under false pretences. He sought an assurance that the M1 speed limits would not be reduced and requested that M1 upgrades be fast-tracked. I guess he was disappointed not to see a single new dollar go into the M1 under the previous LNP government. I have good news for the member for Hervey Bay, who I know is grateful about Labor building the Urraween Road intersection upgrade because of the hard work of the member for Maryborough. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government's plan to manage



the M1, maximum speed limits will remain in place. Variable speed limit signs will be introduced at peak congestion times to reduce the frequency and severity of crashes and improve travel times. This proven technology, which is actually co-funded by the federal government and the state government—


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** Those opposite laugh at good policy, but in fact it is backed by the RACQ and the Queensland Trucking Association. Once again, the opposition is absolutely behind when it comes to policy outcomes that have real impacts that people benefit from. There is \$889 million to accelerate M1 works including the Eight Mile Plains to Daisy Hill upgrade including the busway extension; six-laning from Varsity Lakes to Tugun, after the M1 upgrade is complete from Varsity Lakes to Mudgeeraba; and of course the Oxenford exit 57 interchange upgrade. Only Labor delivers upgrades on the M1.

With regard to commitments to the Bruce Highway in terms of the Nambour to Beerburum rail duplication, after nothing under the previous government more than half a billion dollars is committed due to effective MPs on the Sunshine Coast. In the member for Hervey Bay's statement of reservation he questioned Queensland Rail's recruitment of train drivers and restoring the timetable. It is extraordinary that he forgot to mention that the previous government, of which the member for Chatsworth was the assistant minister for public transport, stopped the training of train drivers for a whole year—2014—and we are still recovering from that.

Those opposite need to do more than to rhyme two words together. Rather, they actually need a policy. That is what they need. At the moment we have an inquiry into the muck-ups under the previous government and I look forward to that inquiry. I am looking forward to that no end, as I know others on this side are. It was great to see in the press that the member for Callide gave the member for Chatsworth his first ever heavy truck trip. Congratulations! That is awesome news, and it was a week after one of my truck trips. I guess imitation is the sincerest form of flattery, but those opposite need a policy. The fact is that we are recovering and stabilising the system after the pathetic attempts by the Newman LNP government.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.40 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the estimates hearing of the Transport and Public Works Committee, firstly addressing those issues raised with the transport minister. The major issue I raised which is still a burning issue in Mount Isa and the north-west is the cost of passenger service flights. A review has been done by the government that has not been released. There are some answers out there for the government to address this issue to help people in this regard, but it was disappointing to have no response on that. That was a dissatisfactory part of the process for the people in my electorate. There does need to be intervention on those routes and knowing that we are leaving it to market forces is not the desirable outcome.

There was a favourable response on the port of Karumba dredging. We achieved that dredging money in the previous parliament and there was good news with New Century kicking along this term in that New Century Mine is continuing the dredging which creates another arterial route out of the north-west and the Traeger electorate by port. That is a positive result for the area that was addressed in that process. It was reported by the minister that there have been six boats now out of that port and some 5,000 head of cattle have gone through that port since, so that is the transport network at work.

One other really disappointing issue that we still seem to be addressing is the rail line from Mount Isa to Townsville. There has been a lot of attention on the maintenance, but there needs to be attention in terms of the QCA regulations and pricing on that network. That needs to be completely unpacked. There is still a strong degree of frustration for industry users in that respect, and that asset is a very big industry tool for this government and for the taxpayers of Queensland. It is just sitting there being inefficiently used at the moment, so something needs to be addressed.

I made that a big point in that estimates hearing and, again, we still need satisfaction on that. There has been money spent on maintenance, but unfortunately the money for maintenance goes straight back on the price and price is one of the biggest issues on the line at the moment that is forcing trucks on the road and creating all sorts of issues in terms of wear and tear on the roads and safety. There have been a number of deaths in the last 12 months because of trucks colliding with trailers and light vehicles. That is very unfortunate to report, but you would have to draw some correlation with the increased truck volume on the roads and the level of safety for passengers. That was something that was left unsatisfied as well through that line of questioning in estimates.

With regard to roads and tourism, I put questions to the minister about those tourism roads which continue to be an enormous burden for some of the great tourist attractions in our part of the world such as Boodjamulla National Park, Adels Grove and Cobbold Gorge. These are tiny shires that are

managing roads. Adels Grove had 4,000 visitors a year 18 years ago and now has 40,000 visitors. The national parks have been increased which has decreased the number of ratepayers for the council but increased the burden on it to try to maintain these roads. There is a real role for government to play in that. I was made aware of the \$10 million for tourism roads. That is good to know, but there needs to be some big investment in that area. If we are told that tourism is one of the answers for industry in those areas, we need to have roads to those tourist attractions that we work hard on trying to promote. That was another issue that came out of that process.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.45 pm): We have just heard that apparently the ministers came prepared for estimates. It is rather surprising that if the ministers came prepared for estimates they were not able to in fact answer the questions that were put to them by the opposition. While I agree with the member for Chatsworth that the chair of this particular committee seemed to be quite reasonable about the amount of time that was allocated to opposition members, the same cannot be said for the responses that came from the ministers. I want to correct something that the Minister for Main Roads said in his contribution, because he has a habit of stretching the truth and he stretches it almost to breaking point. The fact is that during the LNP's term of government we built Worongary to Mudgeeraba, and he keeps forgetting that. That is on the M1. I know the minister cannot pronounce 'Worongary', but that road was widened during the LNP's term of government.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Before I take your point of order, member for Kawana, if you want to interject, you will need to be in your own seat. What is your point of order, Minister?

**Mr BAILEY:** I can cop the member for Burleigh trying to criticise me on a range of fronts, but he is misleading the House by suggesting that the M1 upgrade to Worongary—

**Ms SIMPSON:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. That is not a point of order.

**Mr BAILEY:**—was funded by the Newman government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Resume your seat.

**Mr BAILEY:** It was Bligh government money.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will just take some advice on that. Minister, it is not appropriate to debate. If you believe that the House has been misled, there is a process to follow in relation to that. Is there a point of order, acting leader of opposition business? If not, thank you. The member for Burleigh has the call.

**Mr HART:** Just in case the minister missed it, I will repeat it: during the LNP's term of government we built Worongary to Mudgeeraba. In fact, we got such a great result that we managed to widen another part of the road that was not even being built as part of that contract. If the minister ever bothers to look out the window of his limousine as he goes to the Gold Coast, he might happen to notice that one section from Mudgeeraba to Robina is three lanes and the other one is two because we were so efficient with the money that we built that. I also remind the minister that the LNP—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, your interjections are not being taken. I am having trouble hearing the member for Burleigh.

**Mr HART:** It is exit 54. The minister might like to take credit for that, as he likes to take credit for a lot of other things, but the LNP moved those ahead.

With regard to the Housing portfolio, I tried to elicit a few things from the minister responsible for that area. One of those was about the appointment of CFMEU thug Jade Ingham to the QBCC. I asked the minister if he could explain why that person does not have a federal entry permit. He failed the fit and proper test in the federal Industrial Relations Commission. The minister told us that it was his decision and his decision alone to appoint Jade Ingham to the QBCC and that he refers that decision to cabinet and cabinet ticks it off.

I tried to elicit from the director-general whether a criminal history check was ever done on that person. Again, the answer was very unclear. I would have to say that around that time I went to the QBCC's website to look at who was on the board and Jade Ingham was not listed. His name appears


to be listed today. I suggest that that has changed in the past couple of days. There does not appear to be any notice in the *Government Gazette* of his appointment to that position. In that regard, I am not sure the minister is that proud of what he has done.

I would also like to table question on notice No. 654 that I asked the minister in May this year.

*Tabled paper:* Question on notice No. 654, asked on Thursday 17 May 2018 [1173].

That question sought the number of people on the waiting list for public housing when we left government in 2015. The answer I received from the minister's office—this is his answer, not mine—was that, as at 31 December 2012, there were 23,550 people on the waiting list. By the time the LNP left government in January 2015, that figure had fallen to 16,546. That figure went down by 7,000. After four years of a Labor government, where are we now? That figure has gone up to 16,761. The number of people on the waiting list has gone up by 215. The minister was not able to explain that at all. In fact, he ignored his own response in his answer to my question on notice. It is quite clear that this Labor government's policies on public housing have been an utter and abysmal failure. The minister was unable to explain that increase. The facts are there.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.52 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to speak to report No. 9 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. I thank the committee for allowing me to attend. Queenslanders are proud supporters of their sporting teams. Whether it is their big teams, or their small teams—the Gold Coast Suns; the Brisbane Roar; in my electorate, the Surfers Paradise Apollo soccer team; the Firebirds; the Heat; the Cowboys; or the Gold Coast Breakers—Queenslanders have proven that they will stick by their sporting teams through the good times and the bad. As the father of two daughters who are into their sport, I know how important it is to support local grassroots teams as well as the professional teams that inspire them.

We have heard from the chair, the member for Kurwongbah. I did not have a problem with his chairing of the estimates committee at all, but he was concerned about opposition members asking questions about financial matters to do with the signage at Suncorp Stadium. I reiterate that there is certainly no disrespect intended to the Mackenroth family and I made that point at the hearing. Taxpayers in Queensland have a right to ask questions about the signage. It was not the opposition's idea to make the sign. It was not our idea to change the panels at Suncorp Stadium. It was not our idea to stop doing it.

It is fair for the opposition, during estimates committee hearings, to ask whether the change in signage costs a big amount or a small amount. I reject absolutely the comments of the member for Kurwongbah about the reasons we asked about the signage. Queenslanders were absolutely furious about the eye-watering amount of money spent on a 12-metre sign that continues to sit in storage. The member for Kurwongbah can complain all he likes about it, but I served in the parliament with the member about whom this sign is about. As I said, there is no disrespect intended to his family at all. It was not the opposition's decision to withdraw the signage.

It is interesting to note that the Premier's claim that the signage involved only one panel at Suncorp Stadium was proven to be not true—unless it is a 12-metre-long panel. That sign cost Queenslanders \$13,600 that is supposedly re-usable. In that regard, the minister said—

I am reliably informed by Stadiums Queensland that the sign is such that the letters appearing on it can be changed or varied.

I look forward to seeing where that sign is going to be re-used. We did not get any more detail about the sign. The money spent on that sign could have been used for much needed upgrades and equipment at local sporting clubs. That money could have gone towards a boutique stadium for the Brisbane Roar women's team or it could have been used to support local events such as the Sunshine Coast marathon, which I will return to in a moment. The lack of consultation and the fact that the minister did not want to share these figures with the committee highlights the arrogance of the Labor government.

During the estimates committee hearing we also learned that Labor has cut \$25,000 of funding from the Sunshine Coast marathon—a not-for-profit event that brings together the Sunshine Coast community to raise money for charities whilst keeping locals fit and healthy. I know that that event has been held since the estimates hearing. To add insult to injury, the organisers had a very hard time getting a proper response from the minister and the Premier about the funding cut. The Sunshine Coast marathon had been funded by the Queensland government, including the LNP government, for seven years. That funding cut was very disappointing. Supposedly, it is because it is a not-for-profit

organisation that has been running that marathon. I am concerned that Labor is not supporting a community fun run. It seems as though, since the election result, the support that had been forthcoming for that event in the year before the election was cut. I am very concerned about that.

I asked questions about the Brisbane Lions AFL Women's boutique stadium. We know that time and again the Labor government blames the federal government for its shortfalls, but Queenslanders know that Labor's mismanagement has meant that some of our sporting teams and their projects have missed out. Women's AFL is not a priority for this Labor government. This team deserves certainty. Today, we hosted the Lions, the Suns and AFL Queensland at parliament. I note that many members were at that event. The LNP thinks that it is very important to fund the stadium. We committed \$15 million towards the project at the last state election.

**Mr de Brenni** interjected.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I take that interjection from the minister. I am concerned about the specific time frames for the State Netball Centre. The netball centre was supposed to be completed. The government is hoping that it will be completed by the start of next year's netball season in February. During the estimates committee hearing the minister announced plans for an upgrade of the Gabba. Since then we have heard more about it, but there is very little detail. It is important, because we have lost the test match that traditionally has been held there at the start of the summer.


*(Time expired)*

Report adopted.

### **Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, Report**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! The question is—

That the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee be adopted.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the budget estimates report, which presents a summary of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2018-19 financial year. As we know, the consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within the committee's portfolio areas. As chair, I am proud to announce that the committee has recommended that the proposed expenditure, as detailed in the Appropriation Bill 2018 for the committee's areas of responsibility, be agreed to by the Legislative Assembly without amendment.

On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services; the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors; and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. I would also like to thank my fellow members of the committee, particularly the government members, for their hard work and valuable contribution. I will touch on the contributions of the non-government members shortly. The participation of the government members in the estimates committee hearing provided additional scrutiny of the estimates.

Finally, I thank the committee secretariat, our other Parliamentary Service staff and Auslan Connections for their assistance throughout the estimates process. In particular, I would like to thank Ms Leanne Linard, the member for Nudgee, who was a substitute member of the committee at the public hearing for Ms Joan Pease, who was recovering from a health related issue. I know she was watching us. A number of opposition members attended the estimates committee hearing, including the Independent member for Noosa, Sandy Bolton.

It is pleasing to hear that in health related areas \$53.3 million was given to deliver projects as part of the Rural and Regional Infrastructure Package, including redevelopment of Townsville Hospital clinical services, the construction of a new Cairns mental health facility and, of course, the member for Maryborough would be happy with the new emergency department and specialist outpatient department under the Queensland Health Infrastructure Program.

Something near and dear to my heart, of course, is the Queensland Ambulance Service, which had a record budget of \$800 million this year, which is an increase of 11.2 per cent, to recruit 100 additional ambulance operatives to provide enhanced roster coverage, \$15.1 million for vehicles and stretchers and \$2.5 million for ambulance facilities, including a plan to progress new stations and


replace stations in my electorate at Kirwan and Mareeba. That is fantastic to hear from the Minister for Health. A number of issues were raised at the public hearing around enhanced renal services in North Queensland and patients receiving treatment within clinically recommended time frames.

With regard to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women I want to touch on the capital works program for the department of child safety which is \$49 million for 2018-19. These funds provide the infrastructure and assistance to support children, young people and families to be safe and help prevent and respond to crime, violence, abuse and neglect. I will give a shout-out to Ms Holly Crockford, parliamentary intern, who is in the public gallery today. She is assisting me with examining the efficacy of our youth justice initiatives in Queensland.

With regard to the statement of reservations, it was disturbing that the member for Caloundra, a well-respected member who has been here a long time, did not get to ask a question during the estimates hearing. The member for Nicklin, a standing member of this committee, got to ask one question late in the day.

**An honourable member:** It was a good question, though.

**Mr HARPER:** It was a good question. Those opposite did touch on the unfairness of time. The total hearing time allocated to government was 188 minutes and 242 minutes to non-government. To put that in perspective, the member for Maiwar, who is a standing member of that committee, had every right, as did the member for Noosa, to ask questions in the non-government block of questions. On balance non-government questions exceeded government questions significantly. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.02 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the report before the House. The Health budget is \$17.318 billion. It struck me as odd that the biggest issue on the day for Queensland Health was the renaming of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. That was the biggest issue that the health minister could pull out of his bag of tricks. Given the debacle of regional maternity issues and maternity hospitals one would have thought that that would have been a top priority but, no, renaming a hospital here in Brisbane was of the most importance.

**Mr Stevens:** The Terry Mackenroth Hospital!

**Mr McARDLE:** The Terry Mackenroth Hospital it may well be called. It was only when the media got involved that the minister suddenly realised that maternity care in regional Queensland might be an important issue. What I cannot understand, when one considers Lady Cilento and her pedigree, is why those opposite would even contemplate changing the name of the hospital. This woman had six children. For the best part of 63 years she was a GP and obstetrician. She lectured in mothercraft at UQ. She was inaugural president of the Queensland Medical Women's Society, a founding member of the Mothercraft Association of Queensland and an inaugural council member of the Family Planning Association of Queensland. She was the first Queensland Mother of the Year, a Queenslander of the Year in 1987 and a life member of the AMA. What a pedigree for a woman to have.

Then the minister turned his tack to whether or not the name would be confusing because it did not say 'public'. Princess Alexandra Hospital, Prince Charles Hospital, Queen Elizabeth II Hospital—there is no 'public' in those and there is no confusion in the public's mind about exactly what they are. They are all public hospitals. It was a nonsense argument.


**Mr Bleijie:** Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

**Mr McARDLE:** I will take that interjection from the member for Kawana. What a gentleman he is! I pose this question: where are the Labor women standing up for a woman who has an incredible history in regard to women and children in this state? This is the same party that claims to be advancing the cause of women. Not one of them has stood up and said anything about Lady Cilento being the correct name for the hospital. There are nine women in a cabinet of 18 and not one word, not one peep, out of any woman in relation to Lady Cilento being an appropriate name. The Premier is a woman, the Deputy Premier is a woman, we have a Minister for Women and they cannot struggle the words to say it is the right name. The real reason comes down to this statement by the minister—

The responsibility for that captain's pick with regard to the naming of it rests of course with Campbell Newman.

That is the real reason: because the LNP government named the hospital, not them. Put the word 'public' in Lady Cilento Children's Hospital so it is the Lady Cilento Public Children's Hospital. That would be the issue over and done with. This consumed the minister on the day ad infinitum. On a \$17.318 billion budget this became a cornerstone of his contribution to the debate in relation to the estimates.

Domestic violence has always been considered by this parliament as a bipartisan topic. It was an LNP government that set in place a task force appointing Dame Quentin Bryce as the chairperson and from that task force came the *Not now, not ever* report. In both this parliament and the prior parliament, both sides of this House have acted in a very bipartisan way condemning domestic violence. No bill in relation to the prevention of domestic violence brought by this government into this House has ever been opposed by the LNP. Yet today in question time the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence stood in this House and said words in a tone and with an inflection that went contrary to that. That was a gross disservice to this House, a gross disservice to bipartisanship and the minister should be utterly ashamed of what she did. Domestic violence should never exist in any form and we on all sides of the House condemn it.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.07 pm): I welcome the tabling of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report into the proposed budget appropriations for 2018-19. I acknowledge the committee's recommendation that the proposed expenditure as detailed in the budget bills be agreed to without amendment. I appreciate the committee understands there are challenges facing our health system: a population that is ageing, that has lower levels of healthy weight and higher levels of chronic disease and increasing levels of disability, not to mention the difficulty of the Turnbull government cutting and withholding funds from Queensland's hospitals.

We are a big state. More than 50 per cent of our population lives outside of our capital metropolitan area. The Palaszczuk government believes that all Queenslanders, no matter who they are, what they do or where they are from, deserve the best possible health care. We know the importance of public health care and we are resourcing it accordingly. The total budget for Queensland Health this year is \$18.3 billion, up more than \$798 million on the year before. That includes \$985.5 million for new and improved health infrastructure. We are a government that builds infrastructure that employs people and that puts the needs of Queenslanders first.


There were more than 1.93 million emergency department presentations in 2017-18, up from 1.87 million the previous year. Category 1 to 3 presentations, the most serious, increased over seven per cent. Despite that demand, a record number of people received treatment within clinically recommended times. Ninety-nine per cent of category 1 patients were seen by a clinician within two minutes of their arrival at an emergency department. In total, more than 76 per cent of all presentations were completed within four hours.

The statement of reservations from the opposition members is not really worth addressing in significant detail, but there is one matter on which the statement is irresponsibly misleading. The statement of reservations concerns itself substantially with procedural matters, including who got to answer which questions when and which non-government members of the committee spent more time on camera asking questions.

I note the analysis from the committee chair demonstrating that opposition members got proportionally much more time and asked many more questions. However, in their statement, members opposite made a claim that they know to be untrue. They claimed that cancerous tissue was used for cardiac surgery in four patients. That is incorrect. There is no evidence that cancerous tissue was transplanted into any patient. That suggestion simply should not be made, especially not by people briefed in great detail on the matter. I implore honourable members to correct the record.

At the hearing, from her very first question the member for Mudgeeraba tried to claim that Queensland's health system is in crisis, talking down the efforts of our hardworking doctors, nurses, midwives, health professionals and their support staff, trying to scar Queenslanders into believing they and their families cannot trust their local public hospital. No family deserves that unwarranted angst just so that the member for Mudgeeraba can score cheap political points.

The Palaszczuk government has made health a priority from the moment we came to government in 2015. We have rebuilt the health system and its workforce after it was decimated by the LNP. We will continue to support Queensland Health workers by making sure that they have what they need to take care of Queenslanders when they need it most.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.11 pm): I rise to speak on the committee estimates report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. What a lamentable process we went through. The government had a clear strategy of smoke and mirrors. It was a deplorable process that lacked openness and transparency but that abused the standing orders and ran a protection racket for ministers, as reported in the media coverage of this farce.

If I could give the Nambour General Hospital a dollar for every time ministers said the name 'Newman', we would be close to having the hospital fixed. A Labor government has been in power for 25 of the past 30 years, yet still they want to deflect blame to previous governments or the federal government. Day after day in this parliament and in the estimates process, we witnessed this government deflecting its own accountability and responsibility for its failures.

What did we see for the Nambour hospital? Let me paint a picture of neglect. Three long years ago, in 2015, the then minister for health and current member for Woodridge published a media release trumpeting the headline, 'Future of Nambour General Hospital secure'. In that release, the minister promised—

... 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.

I table that media release.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, undated, by the former minister for health and minister for ambulance services, Hon. Cameron Dick, titled 'Future of Nambour General Hospital Secure' [1174].

It is now 2018 and all we have is a business case that took all of those three years to complete. We have a virtual ghost town of a hospital, with 1,800 staff removed earlier this year and businesses across the road going broke. Maybe if we had named our local hospital after a Queensland pioneering woman we might have got some attention and not been forgotten. Local businesses made investment decisions based on the promises of Labor and closed due to its failures. That is a lamentable record. Finally, the current minister has announced funding in this budget, calling it great news for Nambour. Unfortunately, it is far too late for many.

What else do we have on this health minister's watch? Ambulance ramping increasing, elective surgery wait times blowing out, overcrowded emergency departments and around the state closures of maternity services in rural areas, including Nambour. As for the promised renaming of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, the cost of that unnecessary exercise was not able to be provided during the estimates process.


Then came the debacle that is child safety and youth justice in Queensland. One of the things that struck me as a former police officer of 30 years, of which around 25 years were spent under Labor governments, was the minister's comments around the profile of a young person in detention. She said, and I quote from *Hansard*—

The classic profile of a young person in the youth justice system is that they have been exposed to poverty, homelessness, domestic violence, abuse, neglect, disengagement from education and that they are unlikely to have ever had or ever had for very long a single person who can advocate for them, who can be by their side.

Unfortunately, what the minister described there is a complete generational failure of Labor governments that are supposed to ensure that young people are not homeless, are not exposed to domestic violence, are not exposed to abuse and neglect, and are not disengaged from education.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr HUNT:** We are back to Newman. It is Newman's fault. At what point do they take responsibility? This is what happens with a generation of Labor failure, which has let down our children who are most at risk. This extraordinary admission from the minister during estimates said it all for me. With cover-ups, blame, massive debt and incompetence all around, it is time for the government to stop blaming and start taking responsibility for their generation of failures over the past 30 years.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (4.16 pm): I welcome the opportunity to endorse and comment on the committee's report to parliament on the estimates hearing I attended on 31 July. I thank the chair, the members of the committee and the secretariat for their work this year. I also thank the department, my ministerial office staff and the Auslan interpreters who were present on the day. I was pleased to have the opportunity to answer questions on this budget, because it is a budget that delivers real tangible outcomes for the people of Queensland, it is a budget that means Queensland is well and truly ready for the biggest year of transition to the NDIS, it is a budget that continues to provide for our seniors and it is a budget that will deliver thriving communities for us all.


Our vision is to create a Queensland where communities are vibrant, empowered and resilient and a place where vulnerable Queenslanders of all ages and abilities can participate and contribute in every way. That is why, during the estimates hearing, I was pleased to talk about our commitment to the expansion of our neighbourhood centres across the state, including new centres in Moranbah, Inala,

East Murgon, Bowen, Wilsonton, Kallangur, Yarrabilba and Thursday Island. It was great to be able to talk about the benefits of the Financial Inclusion Plan and what we are doing to strengthen the financial future of Queenslanders through our commitment of \$6.5 million per annum over three years.

Queenslanders are a resilient bunch of people. However, there are times when we receive more than our fair share of natural disasters. I was pleased that the committee took an interest in this and I was able to acknowledge and explain the commitment, dedication and work that our ready reservists do during times of disaster to support Queenslanders through times of distress.

Importantly, I was also pleased to be able to talk about the commitment to the Disability Services budget of \$2.177 billion for 2018-19, which is an increase of 11.9 per cent on the 2017-18 adjusted budget and to answer questions about the progress of the NDIS, because we know the positive impact that it is having for people with disability and their families.

I was also pleased to be able to answer questions in relation to the Queensland Audit Office report. What the LNP fail to understand is that it was not an out-of-the-blue, unexpected report. We requested that that report come forward early to ensure that we had all the procedures and governance arrangements in place. They also failed to acknowledge that that report highlighted that 90 per cent of participants reported a satisfactory level of transition and that Queensland was placed at a significant disadvantage due to the decision not to have a trial. I was pleased to answer questions in relation to our Seniors budget of \$12.3 million and the commitment to our concessions and rebates. I am very proud that the government is delivering for our state and I am proud of what we have achieved together.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (4.19 pm): Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health system that is not being delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. Queensland Health represents the largest budget allocation of any portfolio and yet it was clear that government members were more interested in running interference to protect the embattled health minister.

Disappointingly, though unsurprisingly, the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee hearings lacked any openness and transparency. Government members abused standing orders and prevented a free-flowing examination of the minister's performance. Former Labor Speaker John Mickel was right when he labelled the whole process a 'protection racket'.

In the entire first 90-minute session, the LNP were granted only 20 minutes of questions. This completely undermines the entire budget estimates hearing process. When I did manage to get a question past the Labor committee members guarding the minister it became blatantly obvious that, under this government's watch, we now have a public health system in crisis. On the minister's watch, ambulance ramping is increasing, elective surgery wait times are blowing out, our emergency departments are overcrowded, promised hospital upgrades are years away from completion and we have a number of high-profile corruption investigations involving Queensland Health, including the Heart Valve Bank tissue debacle.

The Heart Valve Bank, which had already been shut down due to internal corruption and bullying allegations, provided cancerous tissue for cardiac surgery to three babies and a teenager. When asked about this situation, the minister still refused to take responsibility. It was made clear during the hearing that the minister has not even bothered to personally contact the families of the children involved. When the Heart Valve Bank tissue debacle was raised again in the second session, the minister refused to allow questions on the topic to the Chief Health Officer. It turns out the protection racket also involves ministers protecting senior bureaucrats. Nevertheless, we were eventually able to put questions to Dr Young, who revealed that the tissue bungle only came to the attention of Queensland Health as a result of the investigation that Metro South HHS had undertaken following complaints raised by staff at the Heart Valve Bank.

We then questioned the director-general on Labor's proposal to change the name of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital. He was unable to offer the committee an approximate cost of the name change, despite stating that Queensland Health had looked at the potential costs. The LNP maintains this would be a decision which disrespects Lady Cilento and her family after all that she contributed to health in Queensland as a leading female medical pioneer.

It also shows that Labor have their priorities completely wrong. Instead of improving front-line health services for our sickest kids, they are wasting their time and taxpayers' money with a name change. In the wake of the announced plan to change the name there was mass public outcry and disbelief, along with shocking stories from patients of Lady Cilento Children's Hospital.




How could we forget Ryan's story? His mother, Louise, shared his story on Facebook which then went viral. He was forced to receive his chemotherapy treatment in a kitchenette because there were no beds available at the hospital. His chemo pump was plugged in next to a microwave for goodness sake. Changing the hospital's name is not a priority; better hospital services are.

We next addressed our concerns with the rollout of the integrated electronic Medical Record system in Queensland. Doctors and other health staff have raised major concerns about the technology. It was confirmed at estimates that there have been 21 incidents in the last year. We are increasingly concerned that these outages and incidents of this type put patient safety at risk—even more so after it was confirmed by the minister at estimates that there is a Crime and Corruption Commission investigation underway into the rollout of the ieMR.

In relation to corruption investigations, it was confirmed that Queensland Health is dealing with 44 matters involving alleged corrupt conduct of departmental employees. While the minister tries to downplay the severity of these investigations, it is important to remember the Tahitian prince. He was only one person, but he owed Queensland Health \$18 million. What damage have 44 allegedly corrupt individuals managed to do?

The LNP has grave concerns for the future of maternity services in rural and regional Queensland. At estimates the minister finally confirmed that Chinchilla Hospital is still on maternity bypass and has been since December 2017. It was clear in the minister's answers that Labor has no interest in or intention of reopening closed birthing services, including at Theodore Hospital. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health service, no matter where they live.

Despite Labor's attempts to obstruct and influence the estimates hearing process, I believe we were successful in drawing attention to Labor and the Minister for Health's ineptitude. Our hardworking nurses, doctors and paramedics need more support on the front line to improve patient care. Queenslanders deserve better than a Premier and a minister more interested in playing politics than patient care.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.24 pm): It was an absolute pleasure to appear before my first estimates committee hearing as the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Estimates is such an important process for accountability and transparency and, of course, it was introduced by a Labor government. It is an opportunity for government and non-government members to get up close to the processes of government and scrutinise its operations.

We all remember what happened with regard to the estimates hearings during the LNP government years. Accountability and transparency were absolutely trashed. Campbell Newman and many of the members opposite who were here at the time did their utmost to freeze out opposition members so that their government could not be asked any awkward questions during the estimates process. Thank goodness the process has been appropriately restored by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I know there has been a lot of comment over the last couple of days about how badly done by the LNP were at the estimates hearings. For my particular committee hearing government members asked seven questions and the LNP asked 33 and the crossbench two. Non-government members took up 55 per cent of the time and government members took up 45 per cent of the time.

It was very pleasing to be able to answer questions on some critical issues that have been at the forefront of my portfolio in recent months and to talk in greater detail about some of the key elements of this year's state budget. Lucky I brought up a lot of those issues and the government members asked some of the important questions because the LNP certainly did not.

There seem to be some fundamental areas of my portfolio that the LNP just do not care about. For instance, there was not one question about domestic violence and there was only very scant reference to child safety. There was barely a reference. In terms of child safety, it is not surprising given their track record. They have made it pretty clear that they are not interested in child safety. They sacked 225 child safety workers when they were in government. They took \$200 million out of the child and family reform process. They did not even go to the last election with a child safety policy. They have pretty much made it clear that that is not a big deal for them.


I understand that the member for Caloundra made some references to having a bipartisan approach around domestic violence. I say to the member for Caloundra that when he can apologise for the cuts that the LNP members made to DV services when they were in government and when they stop criticising Labor for all of our significant achievements in the domestic violence area then I am really keen to talk to them about a bipartisan approach. In fact, the sector would welcome it.

Estimates was an important chance to guarantee maximum levels of scrutiny and to bring greater attention to the issue of sexual violence in our communities. By releasing the final report of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee we were able to kickstart the statewide conversation about sexual violence that is a key to finding lasting and effective solutions.

I also announced that the state government would commit \$12 million over four years to implement solutions that work in our communities. I was pleased to announce our government's \$17 million commitment for bail support. I gave important updates on the latest child safety performance data—seven consecutive quarters of improvement. I gave information on our involvement with the national redress scheme, historical reforms to the youth justice system and domestic violence services.

Given all of that, the opposition's statement of reservation makes it really hard to believe that they attended the same estimates hearing I was at. This is the party that received the Smallbone report, sat on it and did absolutely nothing. Members sitting opposite were there at the time. They did absolutely nothing about that.

The LNP is the party that cannot make up its mind about what it thinks about youth justice. Sometimes one of the LNP members says that we have to be hard on these young thugs. Another member will say that we have to save those people from a life of crime and give them different choices. I would really like to know what the story is in the LNP. What do they think about youth justice? They disagree with their leader. The future leader says something different. It is quite hard to know what they think. It would be great to be working together with them on that. I thank the committee and the chair and acknowledge the wonderful process estimates is.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.29 pm): I rise today to speak to the estimates report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I will start, as so many others have, by reflecting on the process of estimates. It is supposed to be a way for elected representatives to scrutinise what the executive is doing—what it is doing on our behalf and what it is doing with public money. In a state without an upper house, no proportional representation and the ruthless two-party cartel system that we have going on here, it is a modest but incredibly important mechanism for accountability. I address the voters of Queensland for a second: you are being sold a raw deal. Every time a public official dodges scrutiny, it is at your expense.

Plenty of LNP members already have criticised the estimates process, but I have not heard any solid proposals about how to improve things. That is not terribly surprising since, for them, it is essentially a waiting game. When it is their turn in government we know that they will be just as ruthlessly secretive. Unless we see some actual proposals, we can assume that they are only interested in complaining.

On 6 August I wrote to the Premier urging her to launch a review of estimates and to bring in some immediate reforms. I table a copy of that letter for the House.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 6 August 2018, from the member for Maiwar, Mr Michael Berkman MP, to the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding strengthening accountability and budget estimates [\[1175\]](#).

I drew her attention to the comments, as we have heard from so many, of former Labor Speaker Mr Mickel, who criticised the 'protection racket' by government MPs and called for an all-party review. The process is fundamentally broken and needs urgent reform. I attended every day of the hearings over the two weeks and was the only MP to do so. What I saw was incredibly disappointing: constant interruptions from government MPs and time-wasting monologues from ministers who often went to extraordinary lengths to dodge difficult or embarrassing questions. It is not just government MPs; opposition members regularly wasted the committees' time with pointless questions. Nevertheless, responsibility ultimately rests with the chair of each committee, who is always from the government.

Good governments welcome scrutiny, and estimates has the potential to be a key part of a healthy democracy. Sadly, politicians have short memories. If we look back to the Newman years, I am sure Labor would have been grateful for a tougher estimates system. All Queenslanders need a bulwark against the excesses of autocratic governments, and now Labor has the chance to achieve this.

Even while a review is underway we could adopt some very quick fixes. We could easily double the amount of time for questions by having two committees sit simultaneously. This is standard practice in other jurisdictions and would not involve significant extra cost. There are plenty of committee rooms—

here and in the Annexe. Let's use those rooms. We could make sure that all hearings are chaired by non-government MPs. We could get rid of Dorothy Dixers from government backbenchers. We could publicise the hearings widely and encourage ordinary people to attend. Maybe we would lift the tone of estimates a little if we were to do that—maybe even put on some free lunch. We could expand the questions on notice process to give all MPs a chance to ask written questions ahead of the estimates hearings. Right now that privilege is the exclusive domain of committee members of each committee. This could all happen immediately by a simple resolution of the Legislative Assembly.

Obviously the Greens support more far-reaching democratic reforms like proportional representation, an upper house for Queensland, banning corporate donations, plus caps on donations and expenditure. Fixing the budget estimates process is one small step towards a more robust democracy and it would be a fine legacy for this government to leave.

To the content of the hearing, I was glad for the opportunity to cover some issues in detail—for example, on access to abortion services. This is a matter of public healthcare funding and service delivery. Once abortion law reform is passed in Queensland, we will still be in a situation where about 95 per cent of all terminations performed in a health facility are outside the public system where costs can be very high—anywhere from a couple of hundred dollars to \$5,000 out of pocket. If you live in regional Queensland, odds are that you have to travel into the big cities, sometimes staying overnight to get access.


I asked the health minister how the government plans to roll out free access via the public health system and, unfortunately, the plan appears to be to wait and hope. Undoubtedly decriminalisation will remove stigma and make access easier, but it will not, by itself, change the sometimes very substantial costs. 'Wait and hope' is not a plan for service delivery. Abortion is not a form of elective surgery; it is a serious and time-sensitive matter.

**Ms LEAHY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I seek your guidance in relation to whether this is anticipation of debate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir):** That is a very good point. Be careful with your language with 13 seconds to go.

**Mr BERKMAN:** With my 13 seconds to go, the Greens believe that we should be expanding our advanced universal public health system, not leaving things up to the free market. We have a network of public hospitals and public health clinics across Queensland where important termination services could be delivered as part of mainstream public health care.


*(Time expired)*

 **Ms PEASE (Lytton—ALP) (4.34 pm):** I rise to speak in support of report No. 9 of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2018-19 financial year. This year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of Queensland Parliament House, and what many changes there have been in those 150 years! I can only imagine what the parliamentarians of 150 years ago would have thought when, because I was unable to attend estimates in person, I was able to watch the hearings via live streaming. This would have been unimaginable 150 years ago—something completely unthinkable and so unbelievable that they would not have been able to imagine such a thing. May I suggest, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the parliamentarians of that bygone era would be equally astounded by the appalling display by the opposition during the entire estimates process. Their lack of understanding of the standing rules and orders was obvious, as was their total lack of preparation—yet another example of why they will continue to be in opposition.

As I stated earlier, I was unable to attend the hearings. I would like to thank the member for Nudgee, my friend Leanne Linard, for generously giving her time to represent me during the estimates process. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the committee that I am currently on—the chair, the member for Thuringowa and my fellow committee members. I would like to thank the secretariat for their ongoing work and particularly the ministers and also the Auslan interpreters.

I would like to thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, the Hon. Steven Miles; the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke; and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Hon. Di Farmer, not only for their responses on the day but also for their ongoing collective contribution to the people of Queensland, improving the lives of so many. They provide important and valuable services not just in my electorate of Lytton but across the whole of Queensland. I would also like to thank the ministers' departmental officers for their cooperation in providing information during the process.

The consideration of the budget estimates allows for the public examination of the responsible ministers and the chief executive officers of agencies within our committee's portfolio areas. It is an important process. As I said earlier, I was incredibly disappointed that I was unable to attend estimates in person. However, I was equally disappointed by the questioning and the ongoing complaints about the limited time offered to members of the opposition. If they want a good answer to a question, they should ask a good question. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (4.37 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings for the Appropriation Bill 2018 and specifically that area of responsibility in consideration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proposed expenditure by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. I will also make some specific comments as they relate to my shadow ministerial responsibilities.

As I have indicated in previous years, the first issue I want to draw to the attention of the House is that of transparency and accountability with respect to the Palaszczuk Labor government. This year's estimates process could only be described as a farce, with Labor government committee chairs and Labor members of the various committees running a protection racket for Labor ministers. As the former Queensland Speaker and former Labor member for Logan, John Mickel, indicated, this year's process was really a 'protection racket' for Labor government ministers overseen by a generation of Labor parliamentarians unfamiliar with how the Queensland parliamentary estimates process is supposed to work.

There is no doubt that an all-party parliamentary review could recommend better public accountability processes, improve scrutiny and deliver enhanced governance mechanisms in the absence of an upper house here in Queensland. Many of the issues of dubious governance, failed public administration and unchecked Queensland government power over many years has resulted not only from the absence of an upper house but also from the use of a highly politically motivated and diminished lower house parliamentary committee process, although historically this is really a legacy of Queensland's first ALP government and our state's 28th Labor Premier, the Hon. Thomas Joseph Ryan.

During estimates this year, the Palaszczuk state Labor government continued to try to blame everyone else but themselves for their own failed public administration, such as letters being sent to dead people about transitioning to the NDIS but with information being based on inaccurate Queensland government data; the scathing findings of the Queensland Audit Office National Disability Insurance Scheme report; the debacle of FSG and the minister seemingly unaware until 3 May 2018 that FSG was in deep financial trouble despite substantial losses over many years being published in annual reports via the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission and with over 50 per cent of FSG's funding coming from the Labor state government; the politically motivated attempts to rename the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital; and various investigations in relation to health fraud in part due to a failed industrial relations system being managed under Labor.

The issue of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital was raised by the health minister and canvassed widely in the media on the day. At the time of the official naming of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital, the Australian Medical Association of Queensland gave its full support, and I table a copy of the photo for the benefit of the House.


*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting doctors in front of Lady Cilento portrait [\[1176\]](#).

In that photo is Dr John O'Donnell, who is the former CEO of the Mater Health Services; paediatrician Dr Peter Steer, the then CEO of the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital; myself in my then capacity as AMA Queensland president and as a former president of RDAQ; Dr David Cilento, attending on behalf of the Cilento family; former federal AMA president and ophthalmologist Dr Bill Glasson; and Emeritus Professor John Pearn, a senior Queensland paediatrician and former surgeon-general of the ADF. Lady Cilento was awarded life membership of the Australian Medical Association in 1980, and I note the comments of the member for Caloundra in relation to outlining her distinguished professional career.

We all know that this Labor government's only economic plan is more taxes. In relation to health under Labor, emergency department access block is worsening and there are longer surgical waiting lists that are developing. The Palaszczuk Labor government's 2018 budget will damage Queensland via forecasted record debt. By 2021-22, as we have heard previously, debt in Queensland is projected to be over \$83 billion. It will be unsustainable to continue to fund record Health budgets without strong fiscal management. We have a health system that is struggling under Labor.

In recent times we have seen what is happening in relation to rural maternity services and those issues that have emerged at Chinchilla. Under the LNP we opened rural maternity services in both Beaudesert and Cooktown with further services to be reopened.

In my remaining time, I acknowledge the government's commitment to concessions for seniors. At the estimates process it was highlighted that many seniors in Queensland, many people who are pensioners and concession cardholders, do not know about these concessions for water, electricity, power and other things. It is very important that the government over the next 12 months ensures that those people right across Queensland—not only in my electorate of Moggill but also in many other electorates—know of those concessions and get access to them. I thank all members of the committee and acknowledge the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors for her attendance on the day as well as the committee secretariat.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (4.42 pm): I rise today to speak to the estimates report tabled by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee on the Appropriation Bill 2018. This year our committee agreed on a process for the overall conditions for the examination of each portfolio area. We started the day with Health and Ambulance Services, then Communities, Disability Services and Seniors, and finished with Child Safety, Youth and Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence.

I would like to thank our committee chair, the member for Thuringowa; the deputy chair, the member for Caloundra; and other committee members including the member for Nicklin, the member for Lytton and the member for Maiwar. I would also like to thank the ministers, their staff, the directors-general, the departmental staff and all the parliamentary committee staff involved in preparing for the day.

As the member for Rockhampton, it was a great opportunity to ask ministers questions about issues that impact on the residents of the Rockhampton electorate. I was particularly pleased with the response when I asked the health minister what programs had been funded to help patients in Central Queensland to be treated closer to home.


The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service has a service footprint that is almost twice the size of Tasmania. This makes reducing patient travel a key focus for this government. Given the impact that travel has on the patient, their family and their overall healthcare experience, we are working hard to ensure that patients can access health care as close to their homes as possible because we know this is important to regional and rural Queenslanders.

We have seen a record investment of \$610 million this financial year for the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service. The Central Queensland HHS is aiming to reduce the incidence of patient travel by 10,000 trips. To do this, the HHS has introduced a range of new services and innovative delivery models and expanded its very successful telehealth program. These initiatives are delivering outstanding results. Central Queensland HHS is one of the biggest users of telehealth in Queensland. Telehealth has saved the people of Central Queensland an estimated 2.4 million kilometres of travel through over 11,000 telehealth sessions. I congratulate the hardworking and innovative healthcare staff.

I asked the Minister for Communities about the role of public servants in community recovery after a natural disaster. She advised that to deliver this service the department of communities manages the community recovery ready reserve, a pool of Queensland public servants who come from all Queensland government departments to help their fellow Queenslanders get back on their feet after a disaster. Following a disaster, ready reservists are deployed into the seriously impacted areas when it is safe to do so, providing affected residents with information, connecting them with support services, assisting people to apply for financial assistance and generally being a support and a listening ear. I acknowledge all those ready reservists for the amazing work that they do each and every time they are called upon.

I must also acknowledge the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for the very thorough and detailed responses that she provided.

I would also like to put on the record my disappointment at the questions asked by the opposition during my first estimates hearings. The questions were about scaremongering and pointscoreing and were not in the interests of the residents of Queensland. The very first question asked by the member for Mudgeeraba was lengthy, had multiple questions contained in the question and did not comply with the standing orders, but in good faith the Minister for Health answered her question. I thought some of the questions were of such a very low level that the opposition really needs to do some homework before the next estimates.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.47 pm): What a disappointing example of irrelevance from the Labor backbench chairs and an absolute disgraceful arrogance and attitude during estimates. Everyone who has risen to speak today from the other side has tried to defend their actions with regard to the questions that we asked. I will give the House an example. During the estimates process the minister tabled a report in her opening remarks. My first question about that report was interjected on by the chair of the committee who asked about relevance, and that went on and on during this hearing. Those chairs took on a protection role for ministers who should have been capable of answering those questions, and this shows just how out of touch and divided the Labor Party is.

When we consider that Labor has had 40-odd reports tabled over the last 10 years into child safety that they have not actioned, it was a disappointing process. The estimates process for the portfolio of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Prevention of Domestic and Family violence highlighted significant ongoing failures by this government. Members could appreciate the opposition members' disappointment that the minister used estimates to release the report I mentioned earlier of the Youth Sexual Violence and Abuse Steering Committee. Not only had nothing been done with this important report for 16 months; the timing of its release prevented any reasonable analysis or questioning of the report's validity and contents.

This report, which sat in the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships before the buck was passed, was there for 16 months and with the current minister for eight months and yet no action was taken on the report's recommendations. Given that some of the report's recommendations would have had an immediate impact on child safety, the delay in releasing this report was questionable at best—and when you asked questions in estimates you got shut down anyway.

Knowing that some of this report's recommendations would have an immediate impact on child safety, the delay in releasing this report, the continued delay in taking action and the chair's response during estimates were deeply shameful. Further, it was shown that, under Minister Di Farmer, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women is a department in crisis. We had a Labor committee chair trying to disrupt questioning. This is insulting to the children who are calling out for action from this government. The government continues to delay real action on the reforms that were established years ago. The Carmody reforms set a clear pathway for better outcomes. Let us hope this political posturing stops and the children in need receive the support they need.

It was also confirmed during opposition questioning that the government's commitment to establishing a youth reference group has been completely abandoned without any notice or announcement of this occurring. This was confirmed to have consequential impacts on the government's promised Youth Charter, which has had little progress made on it despite having been scheduled for completion in December 2017.

Practices within the child safety system were shown to be in need of further improvement, with opposition questioning highlighting notable cases of children being returned to parents despite concerns being raised by the department. It was unfortunate to hear that, in the year leading up to 31 March 2018, there had been nine cases of child sexual abuse in foster care. Further reform and oversight is clearly needed to ensure that the safety of Queensland's children is put first.

With child safety statistics getting worse under this government, it is clear that the upcoming report into the progress of the Carmody inquiry's recommendations will highlight significant failures from this government. Sadly, this means that more children are suffering as a result. Further reforms and oversight are clearly needed to ensure that the safety of Queensland's most vulnerable is fast-tracked. This is a department that is overloaded with work due to a government that ignores expert reports and advice. This is clearly a department in crisis.

As the Carmody review approaches October 2018, we need to make sure that we put Queensland's children first. Those reports that we anticipate will be made available during the Carmody report will paint what has happened over the last four years under the Queensland Labor government. Those opposite have rambled on about sacked staff. In 2015 when the department was returned to Labor, there were more staff employed in Queensland child safety than when we took government in 2012.

In conclusion, I want to say that those who stood up here trying to defend their actions during estimates need to hang their heads in shame. They tried to deflect and say that it was all the LNP's questioning and posturing, but this is clearly a reflection on how poorly and arrogantly they took the


estimates process. I saw plenty of examples of this in the short time I had in front of the committee. There were irrelevant chairs from the backbench trying to make themselves relevant, and it made the estimates process very disappointing.

Report adopted.

### **Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report**

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): The question is—

That the report of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee be adopted.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (4.52 pm): I rise to speak in relation to the estimates hearing and also the report of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. At the outset, I want to thank the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games and also the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for Sport. I acknowledge the departmental officers who contributed to the work of the committee during the estimates process. It is also important to acknowledge the work of my fellow committee members: the member for Jordan; the member for Cook, and I note that the member for Capalaba stepped into the very big shoes of the member for Cook on one occasion during our consideration; the member for Scenic Rim; the member for Noosa; and the member for Whitsunday.

As so often happens during debates such as this, honourable members get up and talk about the importance of the estimates process, accountability and transparency. I think we can all agree that the estimates process is very important. It is very important to have a public examination of responsible ministers and CEOs of government agencies. What we have seen so far today in relation to these debates is members opposite getting up in here time and time again saying, 'We need an overhaul. We need change. We need improvement.' The member for Burnett said that we should be hanging our heads in shame, but how quickly they forget. When the LNP was in government in 2014—

**An opposition member:** You weren't here.

**Mr PEGG:** Many members opposite were here. The reality is that our government held estimates hearings over two weeks, but when the LNP members were in government they held simultaneous estimates committee hearings over three days. That is two weeks versus three days. The member for Burnett would do well to know about this.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** There is too much cross-chamber chatter.

**Mr PEGG:** How quickly they forget what happened just four short years ago. How often they want to forget. They were not talking about overhauls then and they were not talking about reforming the process then, but now the cheer squad over there is desperate for reform and desperate for change. It was three days versus two weeks.

I commend the committee's report on the estimates process, but I particularly want to respond to some of the issues raised in the statement of reservation. I note that the statement of reservation is signed by only two members of the committee—namely, the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Whitsunday. I commend those members for having better spelling and better grammar than usual, although they forgot to number the pages of their statement of reservation. I would give some advice to those honourable members that as a general rule they should number the pages on their statement of reservation. I commend members opposite from other committees who bothered to insert the page numbers. That is very, very important. On page 1—and I had to number it myself—at paragraph 4—


**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I have to give the House a reference point. I am doing my best. I have to say that not even page numbers would help the member for Burleigh. I think he is beyond help in following what is going on in the statement of reservation. There was a really interesting point in the statement of reservation where they made the allegation that government members obstructed non-government members. This is ironic, given the interjections going on at the moment from the member for Southport. The reality is that our committee sat from 9 am to 5 pm, and during that time government members raised only one point of order in that whole period. I hardly call that obstruction at all. In fact, many more points of order and obstruction were raised by those opposite, and the record will show that.

On page 1 of the statement of reservation at paragraph 6, those members spoke about 'the hysterics and ramblings of a Minister'. The reality is that what we saw during the estimates process was repeated commentary and repeated hysterics from the member for Broadwater and the member for

Burleigh. I have to admit that the member for Moggill was a bit better behaved. He seemed to be running out of questions pretty quickly. The record will clearly show in relation to our particular committee that non-government members were afforded much more time than government members.

Despite the allegations made in this statement of reservation that it was unfair, that the process needs an overhaul and that they were obstructed by government members, I have to report that that is complete rubbish. There is complete rubbish in that statement of reservation, and an analysis of the record will show that clearly. The estimates process is very, very important and I thank our committee, our committee secretariat and everybody for putting together a fantastic report and participating in the estimates process.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.58 pm): As a new member of parliament, I attended many of the estimates hearings over the two weeks, including my own ITDE Committee, in order to get a better understanding of our systems and learn more of each department, ministers' portfolios, their roles and current endeavours. It was an insightful journey. In listening to questions, responses and behaviours, both good and at times disgraceful, it is understandable as to why Queenslanders have become cynical.

As leaders in our communities we should be setting a much better example in both behaviour and effective process. Inconsistent rulings and rules of engagement, disrespect to the chairs and between MPs as well as questions unrelated to purpose and answers that did not answer appropriate questions demonstrated a need to reassess this process.


As a member of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, I asked questions on behalf of my community that concentrated on the resources available and processes, as did the majority of questions handled by this committee. These included concerns over the waste levy, environmental protection services application processing times, koala injuries and fatalities, land restoration funds, flying fox roost management, the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study and the legacy of polyfluoroalkyl substances contaminations.

There is no doubt all committees, ministers and departments have the solid commitment to deliver good outcomes within their portfolios, and I thank and congratulate them and department staff on their efforts. However, as exemplified in questions I asked through my own committee, we need appropriate resources to manage, to monitor and maintain, to resolve and to prevent costly issues whether that be in relation to our national parks, our waterways and catchments or our ability to balance tourism growth and economic need with environmental impact.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bolton, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

This House:

1. notes:
  - (a) the benefits of Independent Public Schools in Queensland, including:
    - (i) giving state schools greater autonomy in decision-making, cutting red tape and removing layers of management to improve outcomes for students;
    - (ii) forging strong community and industry partnerships and using staffing flexibility to meet student needs and improve student outcomes; and
    - (iii) providing parents greater choice when it comes to the education of their children;
  - (b) the minister met with the Queensland Teachers' Union on 24 January 2018;
  - (c) the Queensland Teachers' Union wrote to the Minister for Education on 29 January 2018 calling for the termination of Independent Public Schools;
  - (d) a secret review into Independent Public Schools commenced shortly after the minister received the letter from the Queensland Teachers' Union;
  - (e) the minister publicly committed on 8 August 2018 to release the secret report after she was briefed that day;
  - (f) the minister has failed to release the report after she was briefed some two weeks ago; and
2. pursuant to standing order 27, orders the minister to immediately produce and table the secret review into Independent Public Schools.

No-one cares more for the education of our students in Queensland than the Liberal National Party. The Liberal National Party funded a record investment in our education system between 2012 and 2015. We put more money into maintaining our schools than the Labor Party ever did. We put more



resources into our schools than the Labor Party ever did. We gave autonomy to our schools. We said to the principals, the teachers, the students and the parents, 'You run the school for the benefit of the students and the community.' We looked the union in the eye and said, 'We will not implement policies that will be detrimental to students and education.'

Of course, after a short period of a few years under the Labor government, we have seen education being taken over by the Queensland Teachers' Union. I was worried when the member for McConnell was appointed the Minister for Industrial Relations. Putting the former QCU state secretary in charge of Industrial Relations is like putting the fox in charge of the henhouse. What is more concerning is we have the former state secretary of the QCU as the education minister of the state of Queensland.

When we started receiving a few concerning phone calls from proud principals of schools saying they had heard rumours that the independent public school model was on the chopping board, we knew that something was up. We knew the deal had been done, because nothing had been announced about the review into independent public schools. This is how the Labor Party operates in Queensland. The union meets the minister, the union writes to the minister and then the minister does—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE**:—or they email—I take the interjection—to private email accounts and then the ministers do the union's bidding. That is exactly what happened here. I table documents relating to an RTI application with respect to the Queensland Teachers' Union.


*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents from a right to information application regarding the Queensland Teachers' Union [\[1177\]](#).

Interestingly, I had a Twitter debate with the Queensland Teachers' Union before this secret review was public knowledge. They said, 'No, no, we're not wanting to get rid of independent public schools; we're wanting to take the good parts of it and ditch the rest.' That is what they tweeted. What they did not disclose is that they had written to the education minister on 24 January 2018 calling for the complete abolition of the independent public schools model—not taking the good parts or getting rid of the bad parts; it was a complete termination of independent public schools. The minister met with them on the 24th and then they wrote three days later—I correct the record. Now we have found out that taxpayers are paying \$60,000 for a secret review into independent public schools. On 8 August when the journalist asked, 'When will you release the report?', the minister said—

**Mr Minnikin**: Not this interview?

**Mr BLEIJIE**: No, not the interview that she walked off from. That was in relation to the Queensland Council of Unions and teaching kids about activism and recruitment for unions. That was another interview. That was another bungle. It was not the 200 amendments that she had to make to the racing bill—more pages of amendments than pages in the actual bill; it was not that one, either. This was another bungle. It was on 8 August when the minister said, 'I have a briefing today ... As soon as I get briefed and we know exactly what is in the report we will release it to the public. We will not make it secret. There is nothing to hide here. I am more than happy to release it following the briefing today.' That was two weeks ago. Where is the report? Where is the secret report into the independent public schools? The motion calls on her to table it.

I want to thank the independent public schools in my electorate: Buddina State School, Currimundi State School, Kawana Waters State College, Meridan State College and Talara Primary College. When a few of the schools were made independent public schools we had the other schools knocking on our door wanting to become independent schools. That is how much the schools appreciate it. We know why the unions do not like it: it takes away the union's power. We on this side of the House believe that the best form of education a student can get is when the teachers, the parents and the community are in charge of the education in the schools, not the Queensland Teachers' Union or the Labor Party.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.05 pm): I move—

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

'notes:

1. the benefits of Independent Public Schools in Queensland;
2. the Independent Public Schools policy framework always required an evaluation of Independent Public Schools at the end of 2017; and
3. the government will table the report post consideration by cabinet.'

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, member for Kawana.

**Ms GRACE:** The LNP did so well in Education when they were in government and spent so much money during their term that three years later they are sitting on the other side of this House. That is how well they did in Education: the people of Queensland voted them out and booted them to the other side after just three years. When it comes to walking away from independent public schools, the only government that has walked away from independent public schools is the Malcolm Turnbull federal government. They ceased funding in 2017 and it was up to the Queensland government to pick up the funding and pay for IPS.

The member for Kawana has these conspiracy theories in his head. He thinks them up all the time. The first is that it is a secret review. It was announced, there were terms of reference and everyone knew the review was happening. Not only was it not secret, but in the course of the review many, many different people were consulted. Any suggestion by the member for Kawana that this review is secret is laughable and complete and utter nonsense. The only reports that are secret are those of the LNP, because in 2013 there was an evaluation report and in 2014 there was an evaluation report, and not one of those reports have been made public—not one of them.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you have made your contribution.


**Ms GRACE:** The only report that has been made public is the 2015 report that I tabled in the House. Their two reports were kept secret and this one will be tabled in the House following consideration by cabinet. There has been a delay in that and I apologise. Unfortunately, I was not able to receive my briefing because I had an accident. I was incapacitated for two days when I was due to receive that briefing. My eye was swollen and I could hardly see out of it, so it has delayed that process.

We have made it very clear that this report will be tabled, but because of cabinet confidentiality I am not allowed to say exactly when that will occur. The member opposite knows that. As soon as it is considered it will be made public. There is no secret report. Any suggestion that the evaluation will lead to the end of the IPS program is simply incorrect. It is all in his head. He makes it up; he says whatever he wants. In fact, how could that be the case when the majority of IPS schools occurred under a Labor government? We are the ones who nearly doubled the number of IPS schools, so any indication by the member opposite that we have stymied this process is laughable. He does not let the truth stand in the way of a yarn, does he?

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** Exactly right. Since 2016 it has been on our website to have an evaluation. They did two and they have kept them secret. All of ours will be made public. To suggest that the QTU has forced us to do that is complete and utter nonsense. It is in their head; they are making it up. They are a joke, because when it comes to good policy about educating students in this state they have none. They have no idea. Prep, year 7 and 2020 Ready were all Labor initiatives. Everything about student—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the motion moved by the LNP. When the unions flex their political muscle, the Palaszczuk Labor government comes running. Now the Queensland Teachers' Union has its sights firmly set on shutting down the Independent Public School program in Queensland. There are currently 250 independent schools across Queensland. They are described by the education department as 'a catalyst for positive system-wide change that leads to improved services and learning outcomes for all state school students' in Queensland state schools, so why on earth would a government scrap something that is viewed as a catalyst for positive change?

Within my electorate there are three independent public schools and three of my boys attend one of these: the Bribie Island State High School. I have watched this school grow and develop their pedagogy, student engagement and positive outcomes since becoming an IPS school a little over 12 months ago. The QTU does not see it that way. RTI correspondence revealed that the minister received a letter from the QTU on 29 January calling on the termination of the—

**Honourable members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, we will refer to members in this House by their correct titles. Minister for Education, you have just made a contribution; I think it needs to rest at that. I will give the same warning to the member for Kawana. I call the member for Pumicestone.

**Mrs WILSON:** Why? Because the QTU does not like the structures that underpin IPS like autonomy, accountability and performance management. The QTU hates the selection process because it does not get a say. In fact, the QTU's very own website showed evidence of this when, in June this year, the president said—

The autonomy of a managerial nature, as embodied in the IPS, stands condemned around the world ...

I am a bit confused. On one hand the president of the QTU condemns the autonomy of IPS, yet on the other the QTU's secretary is quoted on their website as saying that some of the autonomy enjoyed by QPS schools should be extended to all. If the QTU cannot get their story right on independent public schools and they are telling the government what to do, we have trouble right here in the river city. Less than a month after the minister received her letter from the QTU she was quick to commission a secret report, revealing what she had done only in April, months after the review had commenced. We are still waiting to see the review report. The minister has had it since 8 August and we are still waiting. On the same day the minister received her secret review report, 8 August, she spoke to ABC Radio and said that she was being briefed later that same day and would be more than happy to release the report following that briefing. That was two weeks ago. Where is the secret report and why will the minister not release it? That is the question the minister must answer.

It should be crystal clear to all Queenslanders that the unions control this government. They want to run the state, and they are now in full command of how the education system operates.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (5.15 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate. As the former principal of an IPS school I can bring my experience to the debate. I will tell members right from the get-go that the evaluation report was never secret squirrel. There was no cone of silence over this. It was published on the Department of Education's website that we were going to evaluate the program, because every teacher knows that you have to evaluate a program to ensure things are working and to know what is not working. I have met with the minister, who has also told me that the evaluation has been completed—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for Education, you will direct your comments through the chair or you will stop interjecting. I call the member for Townsville.

**Mr STEWART:** I have met with the Minister for Education, who has assured me that the evaluation has been completed and is in fact going to cabinet. The Palaszczuk government has repeatedly said that the evaluation does not mean the end of the IPS program. There is nothing to hide with our IPS evaluation. We are a consultative government. We always have been and we always will be. The evaluation thoroughly engaged with education stakeholders including principals' associations, P&Cs, school councils, school leaders, the Department of Education and unions.

As the minister said, we want to know what is working with the IPS model and what is not working with the IPS model. We want to know what opportunities the IPS model presents and how we can spread the learnings across all state schools. I have a number of state schools in my electorate, three of which are independent public schools. I know that my schools are well supported as part of the Palaszczuk government's \$13 billion investment in education this year.

I love research and I love basing what I do on research. Dr Mike Schmoker's research basically says there are a number of factors that influence student learning outcomes, and the first is support from home. This accounts for 50 per cent of the impact on student learning outcomes. This is the attitude towards education in the home and the physical, social, emotional and psychological support they get at home.

The next thing he points out in his research is that the student's peer group contributes 10 per cent to student learning outcomes; that is, the kind of kids that the student hangs around with and their attitudes toward education. I can tell members firsthand that that has an impact on student learning.


The next factor is the type of school or the school that the student goes to, and this also has a 10 per cent influence on student learning outcomes. In other words, there are parents who shop around. They think that if they send their child to a particular school they will end up with a rocket scientist or a brain surgeon. That is not the case. In fact, that only has a 10 per cent impact on student learning outcomes. What has the biggest impact on student learning outcomes? It is the quality of the teacher.

It is that simple. That is what the evidence says. The Palaszczuk government understands that this is the single biggest factor to influence student learning outcomes. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing billions of dollars into this.

I will unpack that for members. In my electorate alone the I4S funding is \$2.7 million, and that is direct funding to schools. Through consultation, schools make decisions about the best way to spend that money to support the improvement of student learning outcomes at all levels. As to advancing STEM in primary schools, in my electorate alone nearly \$60,000 has been provided directly to schools to develop teacher expertise and implement high-impact strategies to improve student learning outcomes. I could go on for hours and hours about the impact of teaching.

The education policy that the LNP came up with in government was Saturday morning detentions. They came up with 'the breakfast club'. Who are *The Breakfast Club* equivalents in the LNP? Molly Ringwald, the goody-two-shoes, is the member for Nanango. Emilio Estevez, the sporty one, is the member for Everton. The quiet one, Ally Sheedy, is the member for Currumbin. Anthony Michael Hall, the quiet one who was a bit geeky, is the member for Surfers Paradise. We all know that Judd Nelson, the rebel without a cause, is the member for Kawana.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise today to call on this arrogant Labor government to release its secret report and to unveil its plans to abolish the LNP's highly successful Independent Public Schools program. Communities raise children, not autocratic bureaucrats and certainly not the Queensland Teachers' Union. Parents and teachers in my electorate tell me that the Independent Public Schools program allows them to shape their school to get the best outcomes for our young people and that the program is superior to alternative strategies that have been tried but have not delivered.

The Independent Public Schools program embodies the potential for system-wide change—change that is desperately needed and well overdue, change and improvement that the Minister for Education is tasked with yet seemingly intends to ignore. The LNP's Independent Public Schools program opens the door for breakthrough initiatives such as the International Baccalaureate program, which is offered at Mountain Creek State High School, one of the independent public schools in my electorate of Buderim. The IPS program provides for extracurricular and gateway programs along with the development of centres of excellence where emerging technologies such as robotics can be embraced.

We must give our schools the freedom to innovate. Schools need the power to be decisive and responsive to local issues. Schools need the flexibility to navigate their own dynamic socio-economic environment and the curriculum space to keep students up to date with the rapid changes occurring in the world. The way we learn has changed. The way we teach and support our students must change. The same old approach simply is not working. Our independent public schools, though, are.

**Ms McMillan:** How do you know?

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I know because I have spoken to the students, parents, teachers and principals in my electorate. They tell me that they are disgraced by your actions as well.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, will you please direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms McMILLAN:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask the member to withdraw that comment. I take offence.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I withdraw. For all of the great things independent public schools bring, there are two very important things they leave out: union influence and political indoctrination. It is for this reason that those opposite are scheming to throw perfectly good education policy out the window. Rigidity does not work. The minister must stand up to union bullies, not back them. If it is not because of union influence, why is this government hell-bent on bringing a wrecking ball to 250 highly successful schools and their communities? These are schools that embody everything I am looking for when I am choosing a school for my children.

In June the P&C of one of the first accredited IPS schools in Queensland, Brightwater State School, wrote to me expressing their grave concern that the future of their funding and the continuation of their program were threatened. The minister will stand up and say that I have been scaremongering and that they have nothing to fear, but, frankly, with the track record of this government, my constituents do not believe it.


Surely the Independent Public Schools model is a beacon of hope for the education minister while she lies awake at night scrambling for ideas to fix Queensland's failing NAPLAN results. The minister has said that she will release her secret report into the future of Independent Public Schools, yet after receiving the report two weeks ago she still has not—another broken promise, another review to go on top of the more than 140 reviews the government has already commissioned. If, as the minister has said, independent public schools have nothing to fear then now is the time to stump up and table her secret report. Failure to do so will only add to the community concern of an orchestrated assault on schools that are finally able to deliver for our young people.

I will finish today with the words of the Brightwater P&C Association and the school council—

We the Brightwater P&C Association and the School Council are both in unison to supporting the Independent Public School concept and also in our objections to any decrease in funding or cessation of the IPS program.

There you have it. Teachers, principals, parents and the broader community—and, most importantly, students—are all lavish in their praise of the Independent Public Schools program—everyone, that is, apart from Labor and the faceless QTU union bosses who tell this government what it can and cannot do. I call on all members of this House to support this sensible motion and reject the amendment moved by the member for McConnell.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the Minister for Education. I know that there are few things more important to Queenslanders than a good education. I said it in my maiden speech and I say it again. I have almost 1,000 teachers in my electorate, so looking after teachers will always be a top priority for me. Most of their children attend local state schools, so members could imagine that the calibre of teaching in Mount Ommaney is topnotch.

Since becoming a new member of parliament and visiting the schools in my electorate—IPS or not—I can say that it is clear that education is an issue that unites us all. I have five independent state schools in my electorate: Centenary State High School, which became an independent state school in 2015; Jindalee State School, in 2015; Oxley State School, in 2015; Corinda State High School and Middle Park State School, both in 2014. I am the mum of two state school kids. Middle Park State School became an independent state school. When I drop them off at school I can see that the Palaszczuk government's commitment to education is clearly paying dividends.

The Palaszczuk government is investing \$235 million over four years in the Renewing Our Schools program. I am more than happy that Corinda High will be one of these schools. While it is important that we always prioritise infrastructure to accommodate growth in our schools, it is also important that our older Queensland state schools are given some love and some TLC, and that is the case with Corinda. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring all state schools are equipped with modern infrastructure. The program will deliver school infrastructure upgrades and refurbishments of at least \$10 million to 17 schools, including the wonderful Corinda in my electorate. I thank the minister for visiting that school with me. I think it was her very first visit as education minister earlier this year. They were thrilled to have her visit.


This program targets schools that were established 30 or more years ago. They might be a little bit tired. Their facilities might need updating. They need to support modern teaching and they need to ensure their enrolments stay on par. Planning work for this program commenced in term 2 of 2018, including school visits, discussions with the principals regarding potential scopes of work and the commencement of initial concept planning work. I am looking forward to seeing what is in store for Corinda High with this massive injection of funds from the Palaszczuk government. I make a special mention of their wonderful principal, Helen Jamieson, who is widely recognised in the Corinda community for being a wonderful school principal.

Along with Corinda High, there is so much happening for other schools across Mount Ommaney. Centenary State High School will benefit in this budget from \$1½ million for additional classrooms. Mount Ommaney Special School, known as MOSS, will receive almost \$3 million for additional classrooms. Oxley State School, one of our smaller independent schools, will receive \$200,000 to refurbish their resource centre. Oxley State School will also be receiving money for electrical upgrades. The list goes on.

Most importantly, these wonderful schools are doing a lot of great work with their school communities and as a government we want to know what opportunities the IPS model presents and what we can learn from the IPS schools for the benefit of all state schools. It is my experience as a

Middle Park mum that this independent state school is doing wonderfully well. Last week when I visited my local high school, Centenary State High School, for its science fair the whole school was abuzz. The kids were thrilled to have the opportunity to show off their STEM skills to the whole community.

We need to share these learnings with the whole state and give everyone an opportunity to hear about the great work our local schools are doing. Why would we keep this information to ourselves? I have spoken before about the Centenary learning alliance of state schools formed of five independent and non-independent state schools in my electorate. They know the value of information sharing, and so does the Palaszczuk government. With those few words and as a proud state school mum, I commend the amendment to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.30 pm): In giving my strong support to the motion moved by the member for Kawana, I want to start by telling the government to keep its hands off the IPS initiative. There are three IPSs in my electorate out of around about 40 state and independent schools—Kalbar State School, Tamborine Mountain State High School and Tamborine Mountain State School—and I know that each of these IPSs contribute in their communities in different ways and that the structure of the initiative has provided opportunities for those schools to provide learning experiences that they would otherwise not have had. That is why it is alarming that Labor has conducted this secret review into IPS and is refusing to release it, but, of course, we know this government consistently puts the wishes of its union friends ahead of local school communities. An initiative that empowers local school communities and principals just goes against the influence of the union. IPS was previously reviewed by Minister Kate Jones when she was the minister and the program was retained, so the minister should release that review so that the 250 IPSs know their future. I urge the government to keep its hands off IPS.

The LNP has a proud record when it comes to education. We introduced IPS. We gave school communities autonomy when it came to allocating funding under the Great Results Guarantee, an initiative that saw school communities decide which literacy and numeracy needs could be addressed with that funding. We got on with fixing maintenance backlogs by giving schools the power to use local contractors and not be tied to expensive QBuild processes so that they could get more done for the same amount of money, and we kickstarted 11 new schools in partnerships with the private sector—schools that, by and large, the Labor government cut the ribbons on even though the hard yards were done by our government.

There can be no better proof of the value of independent public schools than the fact that one of the IPSs in my electorate, Tamborine Mountain State School, has just been awarded a hugely prestigious honour. This IPS on Tamborine Mountain was recognised last Friday night at the National Education Awards as the primary school of the year not just for Scenic Rim, not just for Queensland but for the whole of Australia, and I table some documents in relation to this.


*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 22 August 2018, titled “‘It’s ok to fail’ message earns school greatest success’ [\[1178\]](#).”

Tamborine Mountain State School is kicking goals for its community. Why would Labor and the unions even consider abolishing a program that has managed to bring a school up to such a high standard through the hard work, innovation and independence of the school community? The government should be encouraging schools to continue high achievement—achievements that have been recognised, as I said, across the whole of Australia. A constituent of mine, a lady by the name of Jess Powers, is a teacher at Tamborine Mountain State School and she just happens to be the daughter of the member for Mermaid Beach. The member for Mermaid Beach should be very proud of Tamborine Mountain State School. Tamborine Mountain State School is doing its best and using its independence to educate in the best way for its children. As principal Jason Smith says—

Our school is unique, the culture is shaped around expectations rather than rules.

He has used this independence to set up a specialised science stream at the school, achieving great results. Its unique offerings were brought about by the autonomy and the freedom and the independence that IPS gives it. It has partnerships with community groups and other educational institutions like Swinburne University and Griffith University. It is all about enhancing the educational experience at that school, but this is all at risk if Labor abolishes the IPS initiative. Tamborine Mountain State School challenged the norm and it is attracting families from all over the region—it cannot take them all—as is the other IPS on the mountain, Tamborine Mountain State High School. It gets people from all over the place. It is full. There are strong partnerships between the two schools and they cannot keep up with demand.

We need to treasure these innovative schools working in sync with their communities where teachers, principals and the community all work together to achieve excellence and innovation as the community likes it. I know that the principal and all of the staff at those schools, along with Kalbar State School and all of the other schools in my electorate that did not choose to go down that path, work extremely hard for our children. Well done to Tamborine Mountain State School on being accorded such a high honour. Well done to the high school and well done to Kalbar State School for everything they are doing as IPSs. I thank them for their hard work in their community. Minister, let us see the report but, more than anything, let us back IPS as an initiative to promote excellence in our schools, autonomy in our schools and encourage achievements in all of our communities where IPS exists.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.35 pm): The member for Scenic Rim says that the LNP has a great record in education! I can tell members that without a doubt the LNP does not have a great record when it comes to education.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. I cannot hear the member for Keppel. If you wish to make a contribution, rise to your feet at the appropriate time. Apart from that, the member does not appear to be taking interjections.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Some 500 teachers were cut under the former LNP government—500 teaching positions from Queensland schools. This decision put greater pressure on class sizes, robbed teachers of collaboration and preparation time and also meant that there were fewer teachers in our schools to support students with learning difficulties and disabilities. The LNP does not, member for Scenic Rim, have a great record when it comes to education. The Palaszczuk government has invested in state schools because we know that a quality education changes lives for the better and supports a knowledge based economy that creates jobs for all Queenslanders. I rise this evening to support the amendment moved by the minister.

Here we are again. The opposition is fixated on rehashing old ground to score cheap political points and grab media headlines. The education minister in this House and in the media has repeatedly stated the Palaszczuk government's position on independent public schools. There has been no secrecy. There is nothing to hide. The independent public schools policy framework, published in 2016, specified that there would be an evaluation of the IPS program at the end of 2017. The framework was published on the Department of Education's website. It is up there in black and white.


An external consultant, Potential Plus Solutions, was appointed to evaluate the IPS initiative. The evaluation commenced on 1 May 2018. The evaluation was thorough and involved a broad range of stakeholders including principals from both independent public schools and state schools, principals associations, P&Cs Qld and various unions. Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government consults with Queenslanders. This evaluation has been about talking to all stakeholders to see what is working and what is not. It is about seeing how the learnings from IPS schools can be shared across all Queensland state schools. At no point has the education minister stated that the external evaluation would spell the end of the IPS program. I understand the consultant's report will be going to cabinet and will be released as soon as possible after that. I look forward to seeing the report and its recommendations. I am particularly keen to see what learnings from IPS can be shared across more schools.

There is one independent public school in my electorate of Keppel, Taranganba State School. Taranganba State School is an outstanding public primary school that is kicking goals in the classroom, in music and performance, and on the sporting field. In fact, Taranganba State School was a state finalist in the prestigious Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools for its reading program, the Taranganba way of reading.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (5.38 pm): As per previous rulings from the Speaker, comments that the member for Keppel has made in relation to the cutting of 500 teachers has been referred to the Ethics Committee and the—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, that is not an appropriate way to raise the issue.

**Mr STEVENS:** I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, to raise the very same matter again.

**Mr SPEAKER:** So are you rising on a matter of privilege suddenly arising?

**Mr STEVENS:** Yes.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you. You need to identify that and—


**Mr STEVENS:** I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, on the same issue which has been referred to the Speaker by a previous speaker in relation to this matter.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you.

## MOTION

### Independent Public Schools, Order for Production of Documents

Resumed from p. 2020.


 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.30 pm), continuing: To clarify, 500 teaching positions—500 jobs—were cut under the previous government. Taranganba State School was one of the state finalists—

**Mr Mander:** You've just made it worse.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Mermaid Beach has risen on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. He has indicated that he will write to me. There is no outcome of that process just because the member has risen to his feet. I ask you to respect the processes of parliament before giving other members of parliament instructions.

**Mrs LAUGA:** Taranganba State School was one of two state finalists for the Network Ten Showcase Award for Excellence in the Early and Primary Years. The showcase awards are the pinnacle of achievement for Queensland state schools. It was amazing to see one of our great local schools, Taranganba State School, recognised. The recognition at this level is a serious acknowledgement of the great work being done in our local state schools as they continue to provide the best possible education to students. The award recognised that Taranganba State School has demonstrated positive outcomes and ongoing measurable improvement for young students from prep to year 6.

We on this side of the House are focused on the big issues. We are focused on giving all Queensland students a great start. In 2018-19, we are investing a record \$14.1 billion in education and training. In education alone, this year, we are investing \$13 billion. I was particularly pleased to see a number of great local schools in my electorate benefit from the Palaszczuk government's record \$923 million infrastructure budget for 2018-19. For example, Yeppoon State High School received \$1.245 million out of a total of \$4.25 million to construct a new building and refurbish an old administration block into five learning areas. In addition, Yeppoon State High School has received \$124,000 for an upgrade to its e-learning hub. Throughout the 2018-19 financial year, \$623,000 will be allocated across 15 schools in the Keppel electorate for maintenance in schools. The Palaszczuk government's investment in our state schools will help to give all young Queenslanders a great start.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.41 pm): I am pleased to speak in support of the motion moved by the honourable member for Kawana, which acknowledges the significant benefits of independent public schools in Queensland—benefits that those opposite on the government benches have been caught out trying to eradicate. If that were not the case, why the minister's refusal to release the secret review into IPS—a review that she admits she has been hanging on to since 8 August? Why does the minister not release it? What is she trying to hide? Queensland schools, principals, teachers, students and parents deserve to know what the future holds.

A copy of the letter of demand to the Minister for Education from QTU general secretary Graham Moloney dated 29 January 2018 calls for an immediate end to the IPS program, accusing it of creating a two-tiered system of state schooling. That is typical divisive union language that is designed to promote class warfare where it does not exist. We know that the minister met with the QTU five days earlier. The minister was a former Queensland Council of Unions general secretary. She panders to the union's every whim, which is becoming more apparent every day: unions first, students second, third or fourth. Perhaps the minister drafted the letter for the union. On page 4 of the document, secured by the LNP under RTI, it states—

That the IPS program in schools cease in 2018 and that IPS practices with a particular focus on HR, be wound back immediately to ensure that education in Queensland remain systems focused and is able to meet the challenges of the pending teacher shortage.



Where is the mention of student education, high standards, results? Nowhere. That is because the Palaszczuk government and the QTU put themselves first. They would have us believe that they care about quality student education, but they want to punish schools that are doing well. The department's website under the heading 'Independent Public Schools' states—

The Queensland Government is committed to providing state schools with greater autonomy in decision-making and increased capacity to work in new ways to maximise learning outcomes.

The ... IPS initiative delivers on this commitment.

...

Schools also have greater flexibility to tailor the curriculum to directly suit the needs of their students.

That sounds pretty good to me. As a parent, I would like my child to attend a school with that philosophy.

I am immensely proud of the two high schools in my area—Palm Beach Currumbin State High School and Elanora State High School. Under the electoral redistribution, PBC now falls within the Burleigh electorate, but the majority of the students of that school live in the Currumbin electorate. I am involved with both schools and support them wherever I can. Both are IPS. When the policy was introduced by the LNP in 2013, PBC became one of the first schools and Elanora State High School secured the status about two years ago. I have witnessed the success of the IPS program and what it means to these two fine educational facilities. There is a noticeable sense of pride and belonging in the school community. I applaud more parent involvement and engagement with local businesses and more school autonomy.

It is the union's infiltration and associated, often untrue, propaganda that is of major concern to me and to many of the parents to whom I speak. What has been going on between the QTU's 29 January letter of demand and now? Plenty, it seems. In my 14½ years in this place, I have witnessed some outrageous abuses and behaviours, but the blatant and defiant comments on news screens across Queensland by the QCU state secretary, Ros McLennan, about infiltrating schools and getting to students via the Young Workers Hub program to recruit them into joining a union, becoming protesters and activists shocked me for a number of reasons, but mostly for the brazen, militant manner in which Ros McLennan spoke and behaved. Members of the Young Workers Hub told a recent inquiry that they are still developing the program. They have not met with the minister, or the department, yet the minister is quoted in the *Courier-Mail* on 19 July—well before the estimates committee hearing—as saying, 'I think this is a great initiative of the QCU.' Over the following few hours the minister flip-flopped her way through TV interviews before, in full view, storming off in a huff.

Getting rid of the IPS model is more about unions flexing their muscle to take control and removing any initiative that the LNP government introduced than anything else. Queensland parents should be very afraid of this move. The culture behind the business model of the unions is to go to any length to access and indoctrinate whomever they can, even school students. This minister has shown that she, too, uses this model. During the estimates committee hearing, the minister was talking about addressing year 6 students and offered up the following—

I am sure I would like to think that I had indoctrinated them to vote for the Labor Party.

If that does not show members her true colours, nothing will. We will fight to defend the IPS program—a program that the LNP was very pleased to introduce.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Once again, the minister is using threatening language—

*(Time expired)*

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to the member for Currumbin saying that I used threatening language towards her. I ask that that be withdrawn.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You took personal offence?

**Ms GRACE:** I take personal offence to that. I ask that it be withdrawn immediately.

**CHAIR:** The minister will not debate the point. Member for Currumbin, the minister has found those comments offensive.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** I withdraw.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I rise to a point of order. I have just been called a bully by the member for Currumbin.

**Mr Bleijie:** You are.

**Ms GRACE:** I take personal offence. I take personal offence that the member for Kawana is saying, 'You are'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Let us deal with these one at a time.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I do not need any guidance.

**Mrs Stuckey** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I heard the member.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, resume your seat. Member for Currumbin, the minister has found comments personally offensive. Will you withdraw?


**Mrs STUCKEY:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you have been identified by the minister and the minister takes personal offence. Do you withdraw?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, does that resolve your point of order?

**Ms GRACE:** That resolves my point of order.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (5.48 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amendment moved by the minister. Once again, the member for Kawana is hyperventilating about an issue. He is attempting to score cheap political points without any regard to the facts. He is not attempting to engage in anything of real substance. The facts are that, under the Palaszczuk Labor government, the number of schools under the IPS initiative have grown from 130 to 250.

In my electorate I have a fantastic IPS school, the Mackay District Special School, which came on board as an independent public school in 2015. It is important to note that the federal government's funding for IPS dried up in 2017—a great commitment from the LNP for students! In order to give schools funding certainty, the Palaszczuk government has continued funding the initiative in 2018 to the tune of \$12.5 million.

As any responsible government does after a program has been in place for some time, it evaluates the program. We want to see what is working, what is not working and look towards the future. I note that the speakers from the other side of the House are from South-East Queensland. There are no speakers from the country. We need to hear from people from the country: Warrego, Gregory, Burdekin and Mirani. They have chosen to ignore what is going on out in the regions.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Leader of the Opposition, please refer your comments through the chair.

**Mrs GILBERT:** The government wants all teachers to have great expectations and goals for their students. We know that that is what we have in our state schools. I hope that the way those opposite talk about independent public schools and compare them to non-independent public schools is not saying that our community schools are inferior. If they are saying that, it is an insult to the rural and regional communities of Queensland. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that is looking after the regions, not these South-East Queensland members who have jumped up.

Following a competitive merit process, an independent consultant was appointed to evaluate the existing IPS model and consult with all stakeholders. It is the most public secret evaluation that I know of. It was built into the IPS framework that we would have a review. It has been available online for everyone to see. Now that the report has been finalised, it will go to cabinet for consideration and will be released, not like some of the reports that were never released from the other side. Responsible, professional governments take time to consider issues in a serious and methodical manner. Those opposite made a mess of their time in office, just as their federal colleagues are doing as we speak.

This motion is all about the member for Kawana's fixation and strange fascination with unions. He simply does not get that workers come together collectively to advance their interests. The Queensland Teachers' Union works collectively to advance their interests and those of their students. We do not need smears from the member for Kawana and those opposite. The QTU has had a public position against independent public schools for years and yet this is somehow a major revelation to the member for Kawana. The facts are that the government will consult with all stakeholders. That is exactly what the minister and the government have been doing in relation to this issue. The member for Kawana can continue to obsess over his pet issues, whether it be IPS or anything to do with unions, but we will continue to get on with delivering for all Queenslanders. I am particularly proud of our record in education.



**Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.53 pm): As a former education minister I want to speak about some of the issues and thank the members on this side of the House for their contributions and the pride that they have expressed in all of their schools—private, public, Catholic and independent public schools—and to particularly express my concerns about some of the contributions from those opposite.

As a government, our mantra in education was quality teaching, autonomy and discipline. When we were on that side of the House I spoke about those three things incessantly. It is disappointing to hear those opposite, some of whom I will refer to specifically in a moment, demeaning what we did. I am particularly disappointed to hear from the member for Townsville, who was the principal at Kirwan State High School when I was minister, that all we did in government was set up a Saturday morning detention. That is not all we did. That was one of the elements of giving schools the right to decide to put the principal back in charge instead of having the ridiculous appeal mechanisms that we had under the former government that meant that parents thought they were in charge. We want the principals to be in charge. The member for Townsville was pretty happy with the powers we gave him when we were in government. He did not express otherwise to me when I met with him a number of times when he wanted more infrastructure at Kirwan State High School.

The other person who made a particularly poor contribution today for which there may be some consequences is the member for Keppel. I refer to Ethics Committee report No. 154. When the member for Keppel was aspiring to get into this place, the Leader of the Opposition made references to cuts in teachers under our regime. The bottom line is there were always more teachers and teacher aides in education in the time we were in government. There were record Education budgets. Report No. 154 of the Ethics Committee says of the last parliament—

The committee strongly reminds all members of the privilege afforded to members in making statements in the House. This privilege needs to be balanced with the responsibility of members to refrain from acting recklessly by making unqualified statements.

I look forward to the referral from the member for Mermaid Beach of the member for Keppel for making what I consider to be reckless statements that are unqualified and for thinking she can come in here and say anything she likes when it is obviously not true.

Let us look at what I inherited when we came to government. The culture comes from the top. When I came in in March 2012 the minister before me had not been into Education House in Mary Street for six months before the election. He came in a week before the election to shred documents. He had kept public servants waiting for hours. Who does that sound like? Kevin Rudd.

**Ms Pease** interjected.


**Mr LANGBROEK:** I will let you know who it is, member for Lytton.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Surfers Paradise, you will direct your comments through the chair. Pause the clock. Sorry to interrupt you, but you are being interrupted by some members to my left and also I am having difficulty with members to my right. The member for Surfers Paradise has the call. I want to hear his contribution.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** This delightful example of hectoring and penalising public servants, keeping them waiting for hours, refusing to be briefed by anyone but the director-general, throwing back photocopies unless they were done in landscape, turning up one week before the election to shred documents when they knew they were going to lose, came from the member for Woodridge. He was the member for Greenslopes at that time and lost his seat at that election. That is the quality and the thought about education that came from those opposite. That is where the culture comes from. That is what they think about education. That was the member for Greenslopes, the former minister for education, when I became the minister for education.

Our focus on independent public schools was to listen to all of our stakeholders. It was about parents, teachers and principals—obviously not the member for Townsville when he was a principal. Now he is in here he is talking some other sort of language in a juvenile pantomime that comes from his factional colleague, the member for Woodridge. It is all acting and stirring up the opposition.

The best test of the success of independent public schools is that state school enrolments rose for the first time compared to non-state schools since records had been kept. For the first time ever state school enrolments rose more than non-state school enrolments. The rate of state school enrolment was increasing under us because we focused on quality teaching, autonomy and discipline. We put in more money, we had master teachers and a Great Results Guarantee and people came back to the state school system, a system that I am proud to have been a part of and will continue to advocate for.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (5.59 pm): I rise to support the common-sense amendment moved by the Minister for Education. Seriously, what is the member for Kawana on? Secret review? Secret report? Just because you say it and say it again and say it over and over does not make it true.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Nudgee, I am sorry. Pause the clock. Minister for Education, you are warned under standing orders. Member for Theodore, you have been ejected from the House today. I caution you about further interjections and crossfire with the minister.

**Ms LINARD:** As I said, just because you say it and say it again and say it over and over does not make it true. An evaluation report was always built into the IPS framework. It has been on the very public website for all to see. The evaluation has now been completed and, lo and behold, it needs to go to cabinet. That is not a new process. Even those opposite would remember that sometimes issues need to be referred to cabinet and the IPS evaluation report will be, as is appropriate.

The member for Kawana's fixation with this issue is nothing other than political opportunism. He is trying to create concern for his own gain and, while not surprising, that is shameful. This government has been at pains to point out that the evaluation does not mean the end for the IPS program. The Premier has said it in this House. The minister has said it. The Premier then said it again and then the minister again, in answer to questions on notice, questions without notice, at estimates—members get the idea.

I am proud that my electorate of Nudgee has three fantastic independent public schools. Far from cutting IPS schools, as alleged by the member for Currumbin, we have given effect to IPS schools such as Boondall State School in 2015, under us; Earnshaw State College in 2017, under this government; and Northgate State School in 2017, under this government. Those two fabulous primary schools, Boondall and Northgate, proudly serve their respective communities in the north and south of my electorate with great heart and vision. Earnshaw State College, which is my old high school and now a P-12 school, does likewise in Banyo. Each of those schools deserves better than a concerted and misleading campaign by those opposite.

While those opposite are fixated on issues like this, we on this side of the House continue to get on with delivering the high-quality educational facilities needed for Queensland students. In 2018-19, the Palaszczuk government will invest a record \$923 million in state school infrastructure, including capital projects, maintenance and renewal works. During 2018-19, our capital works programs will see over \$705 million invested in new and additional classrooms, enhancement and replacement of facilities, installation of solar and energy efficiency measures, the refurbishment and upgrade of 17 schools across the state and new schools to deliver world-class learning environments for students and to address employment growth pressures.

I am incredibly happy that the 2018-19 budget for my electorate of Nudgee has seen Nundah State School receive its much-longed-for hall fans, as well as \$136,000 to upgrade the STEAM classroom. Last Friday I visited the school to read to the 100 prep students and I bring back to the minister the school community's great appreciation for those fans. The Virginia State School will receive over \$110,000 to upgrade their pool amenities following a concerted community campaign. That is well deserved funding for a swim club that has a long and distinguished history in our community.

Our total maintenance investment for schools of \$218 million will ensure priority and ongoing maintenance works are carried out across our 35,000 classrooms, halls, science labs, sheds, covered walkways and shade structures in 1,240 Queensland state schools. This will include over \$291,000 for the six state schools in the Nudgee electorate. The Palaszczuk government has prioritised maintenance works in Queensland state schools, unlike those opposite under whom the maintenance program blew out to \$214 million in 2014-15.

**An opposition member:** Fixing up your mistakes.

**Ms LINARD:** We will get to that. Since 2015, we have consistently and systematically prioritised works in schools to fix the LNP's maintenance mess. Thanks to our regular ongoing prioritisation of works, the maintenance program was sitting at \$146 million as at 30 June 2018. Well done, Minister Grace Grace! These are the issues we are focused on as a government, delivering the high-quality educational facilities needed for Queensland students. There is nothing to hide with our IPS evaluation. We are a consultative government and we are keen to know what is working with the IPS model and what is not. More importantly, we want to know what opportunities the IPS model presents and how we may be able to spread any learnings across all state schools. I commend the amendment moved by the minister, Grace Grace.

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

**AYES, 46:**

**ALP, 45**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**NOES, 39:**

**LNP, 37**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pairs: Miller, Sorensen; Russo, Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

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

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

This House notes:

1. the benefits of Independent Public Schools in Queensland;
2. the Independent Public Schools policy framework always required an evaluation of Independent Public Schools at the end of 2017; and
3. the government will table the report post consideration by cabinet.'

## APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL

### APPROPRIATION BILL

#### Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

#### Appropriation Bill

#### Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 2013.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. Before calling the member for Noosa, I inform any members not required in the chamber that there is a photographic book launch taking place in the Members' Reading Room to celebrate Parliament House's 150th anniversary. All members are welcome, regardless of whether or not they have sent an RSVP.

**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.09 pm), continuing: Resources are limited. The reality is that within the demand-supply equation, there is an ongoing disconnect and we need to work out how to reconnect. Like 'sustainable', 'innovation' is a word that is becoming overused. However, both are key in all realms if we are to look at outside-the-box solutions for how we can deliver more with less, whether that be within the ITDEC portfolio of increased monitoring, improved management and the balancing of economic need with impact or any other deliverable. This requires creativity in thought within policy development, in leveraging of resources, in government processes and in the behaviour of users and consumers, which is every single one of us.

Greater individual and community responsibility, accountability and activism is essential in order for government departments and agencies to be able to deliver on the expectations of Queenslanders within the available taxpayer dollars. We are spending hard-earned money on cleaning up and propping up instead of where we need it—that is, on prevention and long-term solutions.

In returning home, I had to ask why we actually have estimates hearings and what value was given to Queenslanders through this process. The majority of questions, including my own, could have been handled through questions on or without notice, briefings with ministers, letters to departments or a phone call. In listening to those who asked appropriate, relevant questions I learnt much and am appreciative that I can use this knowledge next time.

As part of good governance and in building trust in politicians, parliamentary systems and government within our communities and to move beyond the defensive to the offensive, I ask fellow MPs: what could be introduced into the estimates intent, process and hearings for efficiency and effectiveness? I am sure there are a number of suggestions moving forward that may not be innovative but may make us more sustainable until we develop an alternative to the current estimates process for keeping government accountable.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.13 pm): The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting our environment and the Great Barrier Reef, maintaining our international reputation for science and research and investing in the arts. Ensuring we leave Queensland in a better position for our children and grandchildren is at the heart of our agenda. Our record investment in the Great Barrier Reef, climate change action and tackling plastic pollution are some of the key environmental priorities described in this year's budget.

The Great Barrier Reef contributes more than \$6 billion to the Australian economy and supports more than 60,000 jobs. Protecting the reef is one of our government's Advancing Queensland priorities and we have committed a record \$330 million over five years to preserve this natural icon. This funding will allow us to undertake restoration and conservation activities to preserve the reef for future generations. We all know that climate change remains the biggest threat to the reef. Our government recognises that we need to address this as a priority. That is why we are investing \$5.6 million to help Queensland transition to a low-carbon, clean-growth economy.

The Palaszczuk government is taking action, but sadly the federal government is not. Earlier this week the Prime Minister walked away from a commitment to serious emissions reductions—the biggest lever to tackle climate change. We need national action to tackle climate change, and I hate to think what this decision will mean for our future generations. I hope those opposite, including the shadow minister for environment, will be calling on their federal colleagues to step up and take action. The future of our reef and the tens of thousands of jobs that rely on it are at stake.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that the environment is our future. In Queensland it is fundamental to our way of life and needs to be cared for and protected for our future generations. That is why we are tackling pollution and we are moving to find more solutions to how we manage waste in our state. We are implementing a comprehensive waste management strategy that will help drive a new wave of economic growth for Queensland and give industry the confidence to invest in alternative and innovative recycling technologies to grow the sector and create jobs.


During the estimates hearing I received just four questions from those opposite regarding waste and the report from Justice Lyons. It was interesting to see not one mention of the waste strategy from those opposite in the statement of reservation. Perhaps this means they have no reservations.

We want to get Queensland's waste management sector back on track and increase investment in resource recovery industries after the LNP caused us to fall behind the rest of Australia when they repealed the waste levy. What the LNP needs to answer now is: would they repeal the waste levy like they did in 2012 and open the floodgates to interstate waste being dumped here again and rob Queensland industry of investment opportunities again?

The statement of reservation also proves that those opposite have no plans for Queensland in the environment, science and arts space. In the statement for the environment, science and arts portfolio, the LNP listed five goals for Queensland. None of those five goals mentioned anything about the environment or the arts or science. All we are hearing is a whole lot of whinging and nothing about their plans for Queensland.

Unlike the LNP, the Palaszczuk government has a plan to protect our precious environment and the Great Barrier Reef, support science in Queensland and further invest in the arts. We are building a future state that is more resilient, more sustainable and more prosperous so we can create better outcomes for Queenslanders.

I take this opportunity to thank the committee, the chair of the committee, the member for Stretton, the public servants from my department as well as the parliamentary staff who all contributed to the estimates hearing.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.17 pm): In making a few comments on the estimates report of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, I would like to start by thanking the members of the committee—especially the non-government members—for the way in which the estimates hearing was conducted. There was some obstruction by the chair, the member for Stretton, Mr Pegg, in relation to the questioning that was allowed by non-government members. He certainly was

not as bad as some chairs we saw throughout the estimates process who were clearly determined not to allow non-government members to ask the questions they wanted to or develop a line of questioning so that they could actually delve into an issue more deeply.

This is a bit of a backhanded compliment. The member for Stretton probably does not like me giving him compliments, but it was not a bad performance all round. The member for Stretton is to be commended when compared to the disgraceful performance of some of the other committee chairs during estimates.

One of the issues that we raised in the pre-estimates process was the short time allocated to a couple of the portfolio areas. It can be seen from the bundle of additional documents that were tabled with the estimates report that non-government members tried to have more time allocated to the examination of the tourism portfolio and the environment portfolio. We only had one hour in total for the tourism industry development portfolio. If that is not the shortest time ever, it must be very close to the shortest time ever for consideration of the tourism portfolio. It is a significant part of the Queensland economy. I cannot understand why the government would not allow more time for examination of this important area.


In addition to that, we only had an hour and a half for the environment portfolio. We tried to extend that because it is such a large and important portfolio area for the state. Again, government members, in running their protection racket, decided that they would cut down on the time allocated for our members to be able to ask questions.

Another interesting fact that came out during the estimates process was the \$600,000 in bonuses to be paid to Commonwealth Games executives. It was a hard figure to get out of the government. It was given in the last moment of questioning on the Commonwealth Games. We still do not have any detail about what the KPIs were and whether they have been met. I look forward to hearing more about that in the future from the minister.

One of the other things that was touched on was the crocodile management program run by the Department of Environment and Science—in particular, the three-month time frame that is in place in the Service Delivery Statements as the service standard for managing problem crocodiles. Three months is an awful long time for that sort of standard to be in place where there are problem crocodiles in communities across northern and far northern Queensland. We heard that quite often they are dealt with in less time than that, but the fact that the expected standard is set at so low a standard speaks volumes about the attitude of that department when it comes to proactively managing risks from crocodiles. The government should look at strengthening that service delivery standard to send a signal to that department that they need to act with urgency at all times when it comes to crocodile management and not in any circumstances think that they have three months to deal with those issues.

Finally, in relation to the SLATS data, which was examined under the Minister for Environment's portfolio, we discovered that, whilst graziers are fighting drought conditions and the government is investing more money in the SLATS, the Statewide Landcover and Trees Study—it is investing \$4 million in it—the government is going to continue to charge landholders to fix mistakes in its own mapping when it comes to vegetation management. It is bad enough at the best of times that the farmers, graziers and landholders have to pay to fix the government's mistakes, but especially in this time of drought it is utterly disgraceful that the government is going to keep charging those fees. I call on the government to have some heart and to waive them.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (6.22 pm): I rise to speak on the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's report on the 2018-19 budget estimates process. Our committee considered the expenditure of the portfolios of Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and the Commonwealth Games, as well as the portfolios of the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Science and the Arts. It is disappointing to hear those opposite disparage the importance of estimates and belittle the incredible amount of work that goes into the process, not only by the committees themselves but also by individual ministers, their hardworking staff and the dedicated departmental officers.

I note the member for Scenic Rim said that they were not given enough time. Frankly, that is more a reflection on what they did with the time allocated than the time itself. I certainly welcomed the opportunity to seek further information from the ministers in relation to funding programs and important policy work being undertaken by the Queensland government and the respective departments and statutory bodies, and found there was plenty of time.

The estimates report has clearly highlighted the importance that the Palaszczuk government places in the tourism industry in Queensland—an industry now worth more than \$25 billion and supporting more than 230,000 jobs. With a total of 21.8 million domestic visitors spending more than \$16 billion in the year to March 2018 and a record 2.7 million international visitors spending \$5.5 billion in Queensland, it is clear that the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to funding Queensland tourism is paying off.


In fact, the largest ever boost to tourism funding in Queensland's history is providing the industry with the certainty it needs, with an additional \$180 million designed to leverage greater investment across the tourism industry, particularly in the private sector. This has included \$48 million for the Attracting Tourism Fund and \$46 million for the Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Experience Development Program, which also includes \$10 million for the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund, assisting communities to grow tourism by developing new and improved experiences or products—great news for regional Queensland.

Of course, we understand that one of the greatest attractions for tourism to Queensland is our natural environment—and its protection and enhancement continues to be a priority for our government. The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef is leading the government's delivery of the Queensland Reef Water Quality Program with increased funding of \$13.8 million over four years including funding for our cane, grazing and banana industries in Great Barrier Reef catchments to improve water quality.

Our government is also investing \$35 million in capital works projects to enhance critical infrastructure including nature based tourism opportunities in national parks and other protected areas. I am particularly pleased to see how tourism and the environment can be brought together. It is the Palaszczuk government that is delivering Queensland's very first ecotourism project in a national park in Queensland. As the tourism minister said in the House earlier today, the Wangetti Trail will be one of Australia's leading adventure based ecotourism experiences, providing walkers and mountain bike riders with a wilderness, bushland and ocean experience, showcasing the beauty of the Wet Tropics, national parks and the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage areas.

Having lived in Far North Queensland and knowing how beautiful this region is, I am so pleased that we are opening it up to the world through this ecotourism project. It is also wonderful to see that the traditional owners of the land on which the Wangetti Trail passes will have an active role in the project. This is a project being handled sensitively, cognisant of the important environmental considerations whilst also appreciative of the growing international interest in our beautiful national parks. I would like to acknowledge the work of both our tourism and environment ministers for this spectacular project.

In closing, I would like to thank the chair of our committee, the member for Stretton, my fellow committee members, and the committee secretariat staff, Kate McGuckin and Greg Thomson, for their continued support through the estimates process. Thank you also to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, who certainly kept the committee and invited members on their toes, and the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts for her considered replies. I commend the report.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.26 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I wish to correct the record on the private member's motion—in your former role, prior to becoming the member for Townsville, you were the principal of Pimlico State High School.

It is my pleasure to rise to speak to report No. 5 on the 2018-19 budget estimates. I want to thank the committee, the secretariat and other members for allowing me to attend in my role as shadow Commonwealth Games minister. I also want to thank the member for Stretton and the minister, with whom we were able to have good engagement and get answers to questions. We would like to have had more questions answered, but it was conducted in a way, unlike many of the other committees, where I was able to ask my questions with minimal disruption and we were able to get answers to the questions that we asked.

The LNP members, particularly on the Gold Coast, have always been enthusiastic about the games. We have made the point that we backed the bid in 2009. We funded the games when we came into government because they were not funded—there was no money in the budget for the games. From Coolangatta to Coomera, many MPs on this side of the House are Gold Coast locals. That is why we funded road upgrades in areas that we knew were going to reach capacity in the lead-up to the games, for which Gold Coasters are very thankful.



We did support the games. We also listened to Gold Coasters and local small business owners who had concerns in the lead-up to and after the games. We have been there through the good times and the bad. We were not there in chauffer driven cars. We were not there only for the good news stories. We were not accusing anyone who voiced their concerns of being 'whingers'. That is why I came equipped to ask the minister a range of questions that constituents and Gold Coast locals were interested to hear the answers to.


I was concerned to hear about issues like the \$600,000 in executive bonuses—not the bonuses themselves but the retention payments—that will be paid to Goldoc senior management or rather the dearth of explanation as to what the KPIs were for those bonuses to be paid following the completion of the Commonwealth Games. They were not, as was explained to me by the chair of Goldoc at one stage, to stop people from leaving before the games were on because otherwise they would have just gone and got another job. There should have been KPIs to be fulfilled in order for them to receive those bonuses. It is a considerable amount of money. It would be reasonable to expect executives to fulfil KPIs and, as I said, not automatically be paid these retention bonuses.

While the games were great, there is no secret that there were a few issues with the management of some aspects of the games. Anyone who was on the Gold Coast during the games will be well aware of some of those shortfalls. That is why we are concerned that there were no specific KPIs to be adhered to when there were issues with the M1, with people being scared to use it, and when locals were discouraged from visiting Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach, ensuring that many local business would struggle to meet the expectations created.

In fact, today in the paper there is a report about 300 businesses going broke because of concerns that extended from just before the Easter period when cash flows never returned to what they were. There were concerns about athletes hardly featuring in the closing ceremony. For all that I have praised the opening ceremony in my own photographs on Instagram, what I would like to say about the company that was awarded it is that it tried to show the Gold Coast as it thought the rest of the world would like to see it as opposed to what we actually are.

The spontaneity that was evident at many other events during the games was not evident in the opening and closing ceremonies—an issue that we raised about the awarding of the contract because we tried to present the Gold Coast in a way that we would like the world to see us. That is not how Gold Coasters, Queenslanders and Australians see themselves. I asked the director-general who was a board member of Goldoc about that KPI, it was referred to the CEO of Goldoc and I was told that the director-general had had nothing to do with the opening or closing ceremonies.

There were wrong days printed on tickets. There were long delays for buses and there were major public transport issues. There were 5,000 vacant seats for the closing ceremony. I understand the explanation of 'who would you give the tickets to' but surely it could have been done different strategically. Other issues that we were concerned about included Kelly Services. Did they manage the transport team? How much were they paid? Wasn't this going to be done in-house by Goldoc? How many other jobs were outsourced and at what cost? Why were there delayed payments for security guards? There were a number of issues that we could not prosecute, but the Commonwealth Games is something that will always be a great record on the Gold Coast.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (6.31 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the 2018-19 budget estimates report No. 5 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I want to first acknowledge and thank my parliamentary colleagues including committee chair Duncan Pegg MP, member for Stretton, and deputy chair Jon Krause MP, member for Scenic Rim. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Noosa, the member for Whitsunday, the member for Jordan and the member for Capalaba, who was my proxy on the day.

I would like to particularly acknowledge involved ministers, the Hon. Kate Jones MP, Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games, and the Hon. Leeanne Enoch MP, Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Special thanks go to the committee and the departmental staff for their hard work and dedication during the estimates process. Unfortunately, I was not present for the hearing as it coincided with a very important visit by the Premier whom I had the pleasure to welcome to various communities in my electorate, as I reported to the House yesterday. I take this opportunity to thank Don Brown MP, member for Capalaba, for filling in for me. I have been advised that he did an excellent job.


I would like to discuss the budget highlights particularly in relation to the wonderful things that are happening in my electorate of Cook. The Palaszczuk government continues to support economic growth and development in Far North Queensland by investing in vital infrastructure for the region. This demonstrates the government's engagement to remain consistent with communities' needs, creating

opportunities for jobs—jobs for now and jobs for the future. While I acknowledge that opportunities in electorates such as Cook can be limited, this estimates hearing shows that we can finally hope for a brighter future thanks to great initiatives supporting tourism, environment, science and the arts.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to mobilising government in partnership with industry to drive the visitor economy especially through the growth of tourism, major events and international education throughout Queensland. Let me give the House some examples. The Wangetti Trail, a 76-kilometre nation-leading bike and walkway project, is expected to generate around \$300 million over the next 30 years, creating 150 jobs once it is operational. Another great example is the increased funding of \$13.8 million over four years including \$10.1 million to support the cane, grazing and banana industries in Great Barrier Reef catchments to improve water quality.

This government is also leading in supporting great environmental initiatives that focus on addressing potential future environmental impacts including the \$500 million flagship Land Restoration Fund to support and grow Queensland's carbon farming sector to supply premium carbon offsets and drive economic, social and other environmental co-benefits.

If we truly want to build a stronger future we need to focus on our vital assets—our children. The \$5 million to continue to deliver First 5 Forever in partnership with public libraries as an ongoing family literacy initiative to give families the information and tools they need to help children develop language and literacy skills will help to achieve our goal. To be able to support our growing economy we need to invest in vital infrastructure and natural assets to support Queenslanders now and into the future. I commend the report to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.35 pm): I rise to address the recent budget estimates hearings and Appropriation Bill 2018, specifically that area of responsibility in consideration of the Palaszczuk Labor government's proposed expenditure by the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I also make some specific comments on the committee's consideration as they relate to my shadow ministerial portfolio of the arts.

Labor appears to have a lack of interest in market-led proposals for the arts and their associated cost benefit for Queensland. It is clear that the minister and the Labor government have abandoned fostering the market-led proposal by Foundation Theatres for a new \$100 million commercial theatre at a cost of only \$25 million to the taxpayer. This is certainly disappointing to say the least. However, I will acknowledge the commitment of the government to the Backing Indigenous Arts initiative as well as the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander performing arts sector more generally and specifically via the first round of the Next Stage and Producer Placements funding.

Now more than ever accountability and transparency in Queensland's democracy and democratic processes are paramount. With no upper house, our committee system and budget estimates processes are vital to holding the Labor government to account. Sadly, what we saw throughout this year's budget estimates was a government more focused on avoiding accountability, of hiding behind technicalities and points of order—basically doing all that it could to avoid scrutiny. The minister's time before the committee was ashamedly littered with the Labor chair time and time again dictating opposition questions as either being out of order or threatening to rule questions as being out of order and ultimately protecting the minister when questions became a little too tough. The people of Queensland deserve better.


When it came to the scrutiny of the minister's responsibility for environment, science and the Great Barrier Reef, the minister was found wanting. As my LNP colleagues the member for Scenic Rim and the member for Whitsunday rightly highlighted in their statement of reservation, the opposition's questioning of an environmental protection order for Baal Gammon Copper became too much for this minister and she had to rely on the protection of her Labor chair.

Let us take another example from this year's estimates. After the LNP uncovered details of more than 100 koalas being killed as a result of the Queensland Labor government policy, the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef could not rule out similar government translocation mass mortality events occurring again. True to form, however, while running short on answers and accountability, this Labor government is more than happy to defer to yet more government reports and consultative committees rather than making any real decisions.

Perhaps the most poignant example of this minister and her Labor government's disdain for the hardworking people of Queensland is the effort it has gone to to implement its big new waste tax—a tax that this minister has mishandled right from the start as she forces it on to every single Queenslanders. Let us not forget that this waste tax is nothing short of a cash grab—a \$1.3 billion cash grab that Labor did not take to the people of Queensland at the last election.

In language that would make George Orwell proud, report No. 5 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, issued following the committee's examination of the budget estimates for the 2018-19 financial year, listed as the first highlight the first priority of the Department of Environment and Science as being 'to lead the development of a comprehensive new waste strategy for Queensland underpinned by a waste disposal levy that will have no direct impact on households'.

The Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef should tell that to the small businesses of Queensland and their loyal customers who have just been saddled with a new \$1.3 billion tax. In my remaining time, I want to thank the minister for her attendance and all members of the committee who were there on the day. I acknowledge the committee secretariat and all the staff for their hard work.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (6.39 pm): I thank all of the members of the estimates committee for our portfolio. It has been said repeatedly here today that the estimates process is about accountability for governments, and it was wonderful to see that everybody on our committee took this responsibility seriously. I want to acknowledge everybody's contribution up-front.

I stand here today very proud to be the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games here in Queensland. We know that the Commonwealth Games was the largest event that Queensland has ever staged. The feedback that we continue to receive from international delegates, from athletes around the world and from international sporting organisations is that it was world class. It is wonderful that we will continue to have that reputation as a state that can host major events. It is also wonderful that for the very first time the Gold Coast will be able to compete internationally on a global scale for major events because of the significant investment by our government in new infrastructure. We will certainly continue to see more announcements into the future about new events coming to the Gold Coast that, quite frankly, could never have been hosted on the Gold Coast without the investment of the Commonwealth Games.

In my contribution this evening, I would like to start by talking about the Tourism portfolio. I am very proud to be part of a government that recognises how important our \$25 billion tourism industry is to Queensland and to creating jobs right across our state, including of course in the glorious city of Townsville. We have recognised from day one that this is an industry that deserves to be taken seriously. It is one thing to call an industry a pillar, but then if you take the opportunity around the cabinet table to cut the funding for tourism by \$188 million we know there are no foundations in that pillar. This is probably the biggest contrast between the investment we have made as a government since we came into office and those sitting opposite. In fact, it is under the Labor government that we have seen the largest ever budget for tourism—to work with our tourism industry partners right across the state, to grow brand-new tourism experiences and to create jobs.

This has delivered major results. Last year, tourists spent more than \$3.5 billion more in the Queensland economy than they did in the last year of the Newman government in 2014. In addition to this, we have doubled the value of our major events portfolio, and it is tipped to generate more than \$780 million this year. We have also secured additional flights into Queensland, with new inbound seats worth more than \$1.8 billion. We have seen record numbers of Australians from right across our country choosing to spend time here in our wonderful state, as well as record numbers of international tourists who have come to our state. It does not matter what you measure. On every measurement in the tourism portfolio, we are delivering record investment, record numbers of tourists and record jobs in this portfolio.


I am very proud to be coined the 'Minister for the Gold Coast' in many avenues. The Gold Coast is one of the communities that has benefited most from our leadership. For example, when Campbell Newman left government and when the Newman government was kicked out of office, unemployment on the Gold Coast was six per cent. Now unemployment on the Gold Coast is 4.4 per cent. Under our government, more than 37,400 jobs have been created on the Gold Coast. Of course when it comes to tourism—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I have a property. I do not cut and run in my electorate. Tourists are spending more than half a billion dollars more on the Gold Coast today than they did under the former government. Every single person in this chamber should be very proud of the significant investment that is happening in this wonderful city because of our investment.

This leads me to the Commonwealth Games. I thank the honourable shadow minister for his contribution in this regard. As he knows, we sold more than 1.2 million tickets. We also saw a worldwide television audience estimated at 1.5 billion. As I have said previously in this parliament, we have seen the stadiums and the infrastructure that we have built there attracting new major events that otherwise could not have been staged on the Gold Coast.

In conclusion, I want to finish by talking about innovation. I could stand here all day talking about my portfolio but time is running out. Our government knows that we need to invest in the skills to create the jobs of the future. That is why we have invested \$650 million in the Advance Queensland fund which has now supported more than 12,500 jobs. About 60 per cent of the Advance Queensland recipients have been businesses and communities across regional Queensland. This is a great thing for jobs. I will continue to work hard for the people of Queensland in this portfolio because we know that each one of these portfolios are jobs-generating portfolios, and our No. 1 priority will always be jobs.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (6.44 pm): I will make a contribution to the budget estimates hearing as it relates to my shadow portfolios. I too want to place on record my thanks to those staff who were involved, to both ministers who attended and also to the committee chair. I think the member for Scenic Rim made a good contribution when he spoke about how the member did chair that session. There were times that I might have disagreed with a little bit of the protection, but he was very fair on time limits given and I want to thank him for that.

I want to start in the tourism area. I agree with the minister when the minister says that estimates are a great time to hold the government to account. I specifically went out of my way to ask questions that related to the Service Delivery Statements. That is my view about the role of an opposition shadow minister during those budget estimates hearings. Whether it was by choice or whether it was by lack of knowledge, I do not believe the minister answered many of the questions that I put, particularly when they related to numbers. There were a lot of references to a government that handed down its last budget about four years ago; in fact I think there were about 18 of them. I am not quite sure that is really the place during estimates.

For the benefit of the House, I am going to list those things that I would like to see the minister return to this place on and give answers to. The first is the return on investment the Queensland taxpayers receive from any of the three funds the government has for attracting additional airline seat capacity. There are three funds and they all have varying degrees of what they need to achieve—that is, the Attracting Aviation Investment Fund, Connecting with Asia and the Attracting Tourism Fund. That is the first thing I want to see—the return on investment.

I want to see exactly how much will be spent to achieve an increase in the minister's own KPI of new additional airline seat capacity. Again, this is a specific thing to the SDS. I want to know the aggregate amount of taxpayer grants provided directly or indirectly to Tigerair, Hong Kong Airlines and Air China for services that they have subsequently scrapped. I want a clear explanation of the performance indicators relating to the government's three different event attraction funds.

I would also like to see a single ecotourism key performance indicator. It is all fine to announce the great intent, but nowhere in the SDS—either in the environment minister's area or in the tourism minister's area—is there a KPI of what we want to deliver for ecotourism. If we are serious about it, let us measure it. If we want to achieve more bed nights in national parks, let us set a goal. What does it look like? What does it look like in 12 months? What does it look like in five years? What does it look like in 10 years? That would be good governing.

I turn to my shadow portfolio responsibility of environment, science and the Great Barrier Reef. I will start with the waste tax. What the budget estimates hearings did reveal is that, despite raising \$1.3 billion, only \$100 million of that, or around seven per cent, will be spent on environmental initiatives for industry. The government can dress it up any way they like. They can say that \$400 million is going to councils and \$50 million is going to run the scheme, but in the end if less than 10 per cent is being used on an environmental initiative surely it is a tax via stealth. The government, via its own means, acknowledges that a third goes back to consolidated revenue, but there is not the intent to deliver a good environmental outcome. Whether you support a waste tax or not, if there is going to be one, surely you want to get an environmental outcome out of it.

I raise the issue of Baal Gammon Copper. It was in this area that I think the chairman did run a little bit of protection. I want answers to this, and I will not stop until I get answers. This is one mine that in my mind we should use as an example of how responsibility can be transferred and then no-one is held accountable. The government must set itself targets to ensure good rehabilitation is there for the people who rely on the drinking water and for those of us who are passionate about the environment.

On the subject of problem crocodiles, we revealed that the KPI for removing problem crocodiles is three months. I would suggest that in three months you could just about teach them how to speak; that is a long, long time and it is completely exorbitant. We also spoke about the HMAS *Tobruk* and additional departmental fees for pet owners—


*(Time expired)*

Report adopted.

## Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): The question is—

That the report of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee be adopted.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (6.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's report on the 2018-19 budget estimates process. The committee made one recommendation: that the proposed expenditure be agreed to. It was a pleasure to have the opportunity to chair the estimates hearing for the portfolio areas of Education, Employment and Small Business this year—service areas that are so core to this government's jobs and skills agenda and to the prosperity of all Queenslanders.

We were elected in 2015 and again in 2017 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. Included within these numbers are more than 4,700 extra teachers and teacher aides employed since March 2015 who are making a real and lasting difference to student outcomes across Queensland.

This budget commits to employing an additional 3,700 teachers over the next four years. It commits to additional instrumental teachers and musical instruments for schools as part of the world-class education election commitments. It commits to refurbishing and upgrading existing primary and high schools and to building new schools to meet growth.

In addition to a focus on these key commitments, during our committee estimates hearing early childhood education and care was a focus of questioning with regard to the extension of the remote kindergarten pilot in schools and e-kindy options, access to quality early childhood education and care in remote communities, the Queensland Kindergarten Funding Scheme Plus Kindy Support Subsidy and the impacts arising from the loss of federal funding under the Child Care Subsidy scheme.

With respect to Industrial Relations, the delivery of training for health and safety representatives at Queensland workplaces, the new regulations to improve safety in the amusement ride and theme park industries, the introduction and progress of the new labour hire licensing scheme and the government's response to issues of wage theft were the subject of questioning.

From Education and Industrial Relations to Employment, Skills and Small Business, questioning of the minister included the services provided by the Back to Work scheme including the Women Behind the Wheel program and Back to Work Youth Boost Payment, support for social enterprises such as the Community Living Association in my electorate and the Hope Street Cafe in West End, and funding for small businesses under the Small Business Entrepreneur Grants Program and Business Growth Fund.

Improvements to TAFE campuses through the Advancing Our Training Infrastructure investment; the provision of TAFE Queensland scholarships through the Advance Queensland—TAFE Queensland pathway scholarships; and supporting employers to take on apprentices and trainees through incentive schemes, traineeship programs and payroll tax rebates for apprentices and trainees were just some of the many topics canvassed in the Skills and Training hearing, which concluded the day.

I would like to acknowledge and thank ministers Grace Grace and Shannon Fentiman, their directors-general and chief executive officers for the genuine willingness they displayed to answer questions related to their portfolios. I would like to acknowledge and thank our secretariat, particularly Lucy Manderson, for their professionalism along with my fellow committee members and Hansard for their valuable assistance on the day.

In regard to the hearing itself, estimates serves an important role in the operation of this House and accountable government. However, it only works when all parties come to the table with a genuine desire to see the process operate as it should. I have no doubt that as chair of this committee I will be criticised by those opposite during this debate, but I want to say this: as a committee chair I have one

job each year during estimates and that is to ensure proper respect for and adherence with the standing orders and rules of this House. I take that role seriously and I respect that process. However, every year many—not all—of the shadow ministers see estimates not as a genuine opportunity to ensure accountability of responsible government but, rather, as a desperate attempt to pull off the elusive gotcha moment.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Ms LINARD:** They will use whatever means to achieve it and that includes aggressive questioning, constant interruption—like they are displaying now—personal reflections, gimmicks or yelling at and above others.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members.

**Ms LINARD:** I will not give them any attention. In no other workplace, private or public, is it acceptable to treat others in the workplace with such contempt, and I do not think it should be acceptable here either. Both ministers Grace Grace and Shannon Fentiman came to that hearing prepared and with a genuine desire to answer questions about their portfolios. Their public servants did likewise. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (6.55 pm): The opposition statement of reservation states that the 2018-19 budget is a budget of taxes, debt and unemployment. After 3½ years, Labor's legacy for Queensland is no less than five new taxes, an \$83 billion debt bomb and the worst unemployment in Australia at the time the budget was handed down. Labor's only plan is for more taxes and more debt. These five new taxes will rip \$2.2 billion out of our economy and hit households and businesses in every corner of this state. Despite serving 3½ years in office, Labor have no record to defend, merely a promise of more debt. What should be of major concern to taxpayers is that they seem to be proud of it.

Disappointingly, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee hearing lacked openness and transparency, with Labor resorting to their tried and true protection racket to shield ministers—ministers beholden to their union chiefs. It was determined that questions would be asked in approximately 20-minute blocks with non-government members having the first block for each portfolio. This sounds fair in principle but is far from it in reality, and the time to review the estimates process is well overdue.

I have always believed that MPs should be able to attend estimates committees and ask questions. However, this must somehow be better monitored and managed. With an increase in the number of minor parties and Independents, the official opposition had their time for the direct questioning of ministers cut significantly. Crossbench MPs just wandered in and out of the hearings when it suited them with no courtesy given to me as deputy chair, who is obliged to accommodate them from our time blocks. During one session they took up 29 minutes in what should have been a 20-minute block. It also seems unfair that the honourable member for Maiwar, who regularly votes with the Labor government, is able to consume time from the LNP when he should be taking time from Labor.

It has been mentioned many times over the years that government questions could be stopped altogether as they are merely window dressing—prepared sugary statements praising the government that the ministers read out. I am not for a moment discrediting the extensive and valiant efforts of parliamentary and departmental staff plus our hardworking secretariat who are all caught up in this circus. I would like to place on record my respect and appreciation for all that they do. I would also like to acknowledge my fellow committee members.


Apart from the obvious Dorothy Dixers asked by government members, the topics included funding for air conditioning, review of the classification structure of promotional positions and increases to principals' wages, QCU's Young Workers Hub proposal to run programs in schools, statewide evaluation of NAPLAN tests and funding initiatives for numerous school programs. The Industrial Relations section looked at staffing complaints of bullying and intimidation by union officials, training for health and safety representatives at Queensland workplaces and issues with WorkCover. The Employment, Small Business and Training section discussed the impact of the five new government taxes on small business. There were numerous questions to TAFE Queensland about hospitality and travel expenses, ticket allocation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, cost of student placements, operating loss for the 2018-19 budget, vocational training and provision of certificate III.

The Minister for Education displayed her usual pretentious behaviour and played politics. I had legitimate questions to ask regarding issues that have been brought to my attention—issues that are associated with the state budget—but, true to form, she chose to mock my efforts. When students cannot get into their school of choice because hundreds of places are being taken by students from interstate, their parents complain to me. However, the Minister for Education does not care about Queensland kids. She referred to the Australian Constitution, saying schools cannot deny requests, even if they live over the border. This is the first time I have heard that reason. Queensland parents are being told that, if students live outside catchments or boundaries—even if they live closer to one school—the only way they could attend is if they had once been enrolled in the area or were part of the sports excellence program. I believe every child deserves a sound education, but 217 interstate students attending our local high schools at a cost of \$3,139,339 to Queensland—that is over \$3 million—somehow does not seem fair when local kids cannot attend.

Parents are not happy when I show them Minister Grace's reply to my question which I asked on their behalf, especially as they were told something entirely different by both local high school principals. Both ministers were intent on avoiding taking questions on notice, which is a further example of attempting to thwart the exchange of information. This deliberate obfuscation and avoiding direct answers is not the hallmark of a good government; rather, it resembles one that is not transparent and has plenty to hide. Unlike Labor, the LNP has an economic plan to get our state moving again.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Glass House Electorate, Roadworks


 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (7.00 pm): Several weeks ago I was informed by the Department of Transport and Main Roads that the roadworks on the D'Aguilar Highway at Woodford were to be suspended indefinitely until the weather is warm enough to lay the final seal on the works. This is truly bizarre for a number of reasons. Firstly, whilst it might be winter we are at the end of winter, and it is a Queensland winter at that. A T-shirt and shorts are appropriate attire for Queensland's winter, even for one such as we are experiencing now. I appreciate that some road surface technologies have failed this winter, but that is a hard sell to constituents who are watching resurfacing occur each and every night on the Bruce Highway and elsewhere in the electorate. The second reason this announcement is completely unacceptable is because, had the project been done properly in the first place, they should have been finished long before winter arrived.

Whilst I am grateful for the regular updates that Transport and Main Roads have provided and understand that sometimes unavoidable issues arise, I must stand with my residents in Woodford, D'Aguilar and Delaneys Creek on this matter. They are absolutely fed up and they deserve better. If it was not so serious it would almost be comical. I have been told that a technician is going to drive that stretch of roadworks every day with a thermometer to test whether or not the temperature is acceptable for work to recommence. What an enormous waste of time and taxpayers' dollars.

Sadly, since day one on this project Woodford commuters have experienced delays and inconvenience, and that has continued for over a year now. We are talking about a short overtaking lane and some ancillary turning lanes, for goodness sake! My constituents should not have to tolerate a substandard road for that long, let alone for who knows exactly how much longer. There is still so much to do: sealing the road; widening the intersection opposite Chambers Road; and installing additional road lighting, signage, landscaping and line markings. I have been given absolutely no indication as to when all of this is expected to be completed, and that is simply not good enough. When the roadworks are finally completed I will be calling for a full investigation into why this project has been a disaster from day one.

In the time remaining please allow me to also acknowledge that yesterday I tabled a petition in this House with 295 signatures to finally resurface the D'Aguilar Highway between Woodford and Kilcoy. The patchwork efforts over the last several years of this Labor government are simply not acceptable. It needs to be done properly, and it needs to be done now.

### Mount Gravatt Men's Shed


 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (7.03 pm): It is lovely to finish the evening on a positive note. Tonight I rise to speak about a truly great institution, an iconic organisation in my electorate: the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed began with small group of dedicated volunteers in 2009 with the support of the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Trust, of which I was a member. With the

support of the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds Trust the group was fortunate to establish its operation within the grounds of the Mount Gravatt Showgrounds. It now boasts a state-of-the-art facility that incorporates workshops, meeting rooms, library and office space. There are facilities that cater for many interests.

There are around 300 members who make up the Mount Gravatt Men's Shed, and they travel from over 40 different postcodes to participate in a range of activities. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed makes a valuable contribution to the community through projects which have included restoration work on the Girl Guides' hut located near the shed. A popular output from the woodworking workshop is the number of wooden items that have been donated to local kindergartens and preschools. The Men's Shed movement has grown into an important institution. It promotes physical and emotional wellbeing amongst a group of men who have spent a lifetime in work and who now find themselves retired. A recent survey of Mount Gravatt Men's Shed members asked what was the thing they enjoyed least about the shed, and of course the answer, unsurprisingly, was 'Finishing the day's work and going home.'

The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed offers the traditional programs of wood and metal light fabrication as well as programs in art and photography, computer literacy and guitar lessons. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed has also recently been successful in obtaining a grant from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund—and I thank our Attorney-General and her staff—to purchase a digital projector which will be used extensively across a number of their programs. I know that many members of this House have vibrant Men's Shed organisations in their electorates. The Mount Gravatt Men's Shed is an outstanding example of the contribution the movement has made to my local community and to other communities right across Queensland.

### Coolum State High School

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.06 pm): I rise tonight to place on the record how proud I am to represent a number of outstanding schools in the electorate of Ninderry that are punching well above their weight in achieving amazing outcomes for our kids on the coast; schools that are setting an unbelievably high benchmark in providing our kids with an environment in which they can thrive not just in the classroom and on the sporting field but an environment where they can learn, grow and develop into outstanding young adults.

A prime example of this is Coolum State High School. Under the direction of new school principal Troy Ascott, with the assistance of his senior leadership team and a passionate team of educators and supported by an energetic and active P&C, this school is punching well above its weight. I know that awards are not the only way we assess the success of our kids, but some of the recent results and accolades that students from Coolum State High School have received are second to none.

On the weekend just gone the school's wind symphony orchestra travelled to Victoria to compete in the Victorian School Music Festival, where they brought home the gold medal. This result is off the back of their silver medal at the recent Sunshine Coast school eisteddfod. Music coordinator, Miss Sharelle Guest, has had these talented students at school at 7 am practising in preparation for these competitions, and it is great to see that their hard work and dedication is paying off.

It is not just the school musicians who are representing this school in our community with distinction. The school athletics team is also setting the pace out on the field, with a number of athletes smashing records last week at the District Athletics Carnival. The 13-year-old girls' 4 x 100 metre relay team smashed the current record by six seconds, and Cian Mallon and Reef O'Dwyer both set new district records in the high jump. In basketball, Jaxson Membrey, Lucas Membrey, Bailey Jobson, Izaak Sklenars and Jack Woodward have all made the Sunshine Coast Phoenix rep side.


The Coolum State High School Surfing Academy continues to produce world-class surfers, with Ellia Smith winning the state surfing titles and Ashton Pignat and Brae Edgerton finishing a tidy second place at the recent MR Shield surf comp. It is not just in the beach, the court, the field and the stage where students from Coolum State High School are excelling: the school debating team has scooped the pool in their recent round of competitions. The senior debating team recently won their last three competitions and they are also excelling in the STEM programs.

What makes me most proud is the way the students from Coolum school are representing themselves and their school out in the local community, taking part in recent Anzac Day parades and other important community events.

*(Time expired)*



### Logan, Adventist Development and Relief Agency

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (7.09 pm): I rise to pay tribute to some great Queenslanders. Every Queenslander deserves somewhere safe, secure and sustainable to live, but sometimes things do not turn out quite the way you expect. When that happens in our community of Logan, the community circles around those Queenslanders who need a bit of support. The Adventist Development and Relief Agency has been supporting those who need a bit of a hand up in Logan for the past 20 years. I know that the member for Woodridge considers ADRA to be a highly valuable institution in his community.


Homelessness is something that anyone might find themselves falling into. There are many reasons Queenslanders find themselves homeless. It could be financial distress, domestic and family violence, illness, injury or family breakdown. When life takes that unexpected turn, organisations like ADRA are there to help people get back on track.

I am proud that last year, through our Dignity First Fund, the Palaszczuk government provided a grant of \$74,000 to ADRA to redevelop and upgrade its community kitchen, which supports feeding homeless people in our community and also provides that vital connection and comfort. It is easy to see the value of a meal to a person who is hungry, but the ADRA kitchen is much more than that in fact. It is a place where Queenslanders who are experiencing homelessness can learn skills that can help them to transition into independent living. It is where they find that sense of community with volunteers and with each other. It is a place where they can give back to the community through cooking and sharing food with those who need it. The defining feature of this project, and what lies at the heart of our Dignity First program is that it is about the community circling around Queenslanders who need help to get back on track.

It took a full year for the kitchen renovation to reach completion because sometimes things do not go the way you expect or to plan. ADRA ran into a few issues while doing the renovation which could have resulted in the kitchen not being delivered in the way they had hoped or not being delivered at all. That is where Logan's amazing plumbing community stepped in to lend a hand. They circled around ADRA and the people of ADRA to support them to make sure the job was done and done well. I mention Kent Vickers, a local plumber and President of the Master Plumbers' Association of Queensland. He put out the call for help to the industry. We saw Dennis Yarrow of Yarrow Plumbing step up. He did most of the work on the project. Dennis went well above and beyond to support the ADRA project. Reece donated a hot-water system, handbasin and fittings, Australian Valve Group donated valves, and Ben Scalzo from Halgan donated a 1,000-litre grease trap. We had local licensed trade qualified plumbers treating the job as if it was the most esteemed, prestige job they could get, installing fancy fittings in a five-star hotel.

Today the kitchen is a place that a lot of people call home. We have conversations happening there. I think some families are really benefiting from this. It is much more than benches, dishwashers, sinks and ovens; it is about helping people feel like they are home.

### Jabiru Island, Bridge; M1, Exit 57; Biggera Waters State School

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (7.12 pm): I have risen in this House many times and spoken about the M1—not only what a crucial road it is but also how important it is to the economic and social wellbeing of the city I represent. I will continue to advocate for that, as will the member for Albert and others on the Gold Coast. Today I want to talk about a domestic road in my electorate, the Jabiru Island bridge. This is something that time and time again is raised with me. It might seem like only a little issue to those who do not live with it, but it is a genuine congestion choke point. For too long it has been in no-man's land in terms of whether it is part of the forward works or not. I call on the department to look at the cost, do a detailed design, drive down the price and get this built. It continues to be raised as a very important issue.


We are seeing development in Hope Island, particularly around Sickie Avenue. We are seeing more development at Paradise Point. We are seeing a wonderful commercial shopping precinct being built in Hope Island. Increasingly, people from both of those suburbs cross that single-lane bridge. Provision has been made for duplication. The bridge should be duplicated. It is absolutely essential. It needs to be delivered.

Also of great importance is getting on and off the M1. It is great that the member for Coomera is in the chamber tonight as there has been no more fierce champion than he when it comes to those exits on the northern part of the Gold Coast that he represents. I want to talk about something that the

member for Theodore has exposed—that is, the stupidity of the solar panels going in at exit 57. People who look at it just do not understand it. They do not understand it for good reason. If that intersection is going to be upgraded, barring a radical change in design those panels will have to be removed and that money will have been wasted. No matter how pure was the intent of the minister, why would you put solar panels at the very location that people are crying out for a slip lane to be able to get on to the motorway, to stop the circus that I and other people have to go through when we pick up our children from schools in the region? It does not make sense.

In the 30 seconds remaining to me may I talk about power of a different kind—that is, the power of a mighty school community of mine, Biggera Waters State School. The other day they ran their school fete. What an incredibly professional display that was. They had businesses and local community representatives supporting them. I acknowledge Anthea Donovan and her team, who put so much effort into it, and Principal Val Faulks, who was great to catch up with on the day. What a wonderful school community you are. Long may I have the privilege of representing you.

### **Cairns Tropical Writers Festival**

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (7.15 pm): What a pleasant time of day in the chamber this is. Aside from the fracas and the barrage of interesting business, these are the nice little bits I enjoy.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr HEALY:** I am sorry about that. I could not hear you, my learned friend. I was talking.

I bring to the attention of the chamber a wonderful event we had in Cairns recently, the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival. Initiated in 2008, the Tropical Writers Festival is an initiative of Tropical Writers Inc., which is a community based, not-for-profit membership group formed to support writers and publishers in our region.


As I acknowledged in my parliamentary maiden speech in March of this year, Cairns is a global city, with over 25 per cent of our population being born overseas and 18 per cent not even speaking English in their own homes. This is reflected in culturally rich events such as the Cairns Tropical Writers Festival, to name one, which gives a platform for people to express and share their stories and, more importantly, their impressive and diverse identities.

For those who are not aware, writing and publishing are one of those cornerstones of the creative industries and are also important to the regional economy. For example, employment in creative industries is growing 40 per cent faster than the Australian economy as a whole, representing over 122,000 registered businesses nationally or a total of 6.2 per cent of the workforce. That equates to around 600,000 people.

I am proud to say that the government I am a part of, the Palaszczuk government, is committed to boosting the local arts, cultural and creative industries sector in the region with initiatives such as the Regional Arts Services Network—a new, innovative approach by the government to deliver regional and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts and cultural initiatives not just in Cairns but also across the state. This new approach to regional arts service delivery was established following a commitment of \$6.5 million over four years in the 2017-18 state budget and in response to comprehensive consultation with more than 330 stakeholders. The consultation established that there is strong preference for regional self-determination through regional groups. The Regional Arts Services Network model therefore focuses on capacity building to support local regional artists' priorities and projects, networking and, just as importantly, collaboration in the regions. There is also the Queensland Writers Centre, which is funded through the Queensland Arts Showcase Program.

There is absolutely no doubt whatsoever that the arts is an important part of our community, particularly in our regional areas, and Cairns is an area that emanates very strongly in that respect. It is important and it is career building. I want to finish by commending the Tropical Writers Festival on the quality of its local and national presenters and the depth and breadth of this year's program. I am confident that the government will continue to support it. It is greatly supported also by the people of Cairns.

### **Hervey Bay Electorate; Fraser Coast Regional Council**

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (7.18 pm): I have here a letter from the Fraser Coast council, which said that there would be no rate rise in the council area. However, the council is writing to all these people in Hervey Bay—I have had quite a number of these letters sent to the office—to the

effect that their general rates have increased by more than 10 per cent because of valuations. I table that letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 7 August 2018, from Fraser Coast Regional Council to (name and address redacted), titled 'Impact of Valuation Changes and Re-categorisation on General Rate' [1179].

On a lighter note, Hervey Bay really lights up at this time of year with many events and celebrations. The 2018 Hervey Bay Ocean Festival highlights the start of the Hervey Bay whale-watching season and comprises a calendar of events.

One of the most popular events is the Hervey Bay Seafood Festival which this year saw a record number of attendees, and just over 50 per cent of people attending came from outside the electorate. That is great news. Thanks to Elaine Lewthwaite and Michelle Fuchs who have always worked to make sure the festival is bigger and brighter every year. Some 400 kilos of prawns were sold at one site by 11 o'clock, so that gives members an idea of the huge support for the festival. Of course, the seafood is always popular.

The Hervey Bay Kite Karnival had over 2,000 attendees. Years ago Ian Dinte said that it would be a great success, and it certainly was a great success. The blessing of the fleet at the marina was a huge success as well. The Illumination Parade saw schools and business houses all get involved in fitting out their amazing floats, lights and colours. Many people lined the Esplanade to see the spectacular sights. Thanks to all of the sponsors as well—Triple M Radio, the *Fraser Coast Chronicle*, Zip Print, Queensland Tourism and of course the Fraser Coast Regional Council. I was very lucky to have a historical car in the parade—a pretty nice MG sports car—and thanks to Peter Dawes.

Swim out to the whales events in perfect weather make Hervey Bay a great place this time of the year. Special mention must go to Brendan Bowers of Fraser Coast Tourism and Events who did a great job with the list of events. Well done, Brendan! Hervey Bay really shone brightly over the whole festival. There are plenty of whales in Hervey Bay and I would recommend that those who want to should come to see them. Swimming with the whales is a pretty good thing to do because you get up close and personal with them. There are plenty of them around. Come to Hervey Bay to see the whales because it is really great.

### **Waterford Electorate, Showcase Awards for Excellence in Schools**



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (7.21 pm): Tonight I rise to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements of two schools in my local Waterford community—Mabel Park State High School and Marsden State High School. Both schools were among the 23 finalists for the 2018 Showcase Awards for Excellence. Logan has more cultural representation than New York City, so to see schools like Marsden and Mabel Park truly celebrate this diversity means that it really is a privilege to represent them. Last week I had the honour of joining Marsden State High School along with my colleague the member for Woodridge, Cameron Dick, to open its new centre of excellence and I witnessed a celebration of the students' cultural diversity and athletic success.


Marsden High is a top sporting school with excellence programs in Rugby League, football and basketball, producing sporting legends such as Cameron Smith, Israel Folau and Angie Beard. Marsden High students are also encouraged and supported to pursue their careers. The school has a construction and engineering trade training centre. Students travel annually to NASA's Johnson Space Center to pursue their STEM ambitions and they have a world-class hospitality excellence program which recently catered for athletes during the Commonwealth Games. Principal Andrew Peach and his team embody the ethos of success and it is impossible to leave the school without feeling inspired by their passion.

Mabel Park State High School is another incredible school delivering for our community and creating Logan's leaders of tomorrow. Principal Mick Hornby and his staff do a tremendous job equipping students for life beyond the school gates. Stacey King was the winner of last year's Australian Teacher of the Year in STEM. She created GEMS—Girls in Engineering, Maths and Science—to encourage girls to engage in STEM courses. Mabel Park is the only school in Australia delivering a Certificate III in Aviation to teach students to use drones—skills which are rapidly increasing in demand. To encourage students to take advantage of job opportunities in the aged-care sector, Mabel Park has also established the innovative health training hub where students complete a Certificate II in Individual Support (Health) and it has great partnerships with the Logan Hospital.

Finally tonight while I am on my feet I want to give a special shout-out to Beenleigh Tennis which today finally won a vote of elected Logan city councillors to allow it to retain its lease over the tennis courts at Beenleigh. This is a win for the good guys. It is a fantastic grassroots community club that has

been in Beenleigh for over 40 years, providing world-class training and coaching and always going above and beyond to give back to our community. I want to thank the club, its members and the member for Macalister, Melissa McMahon, who have all been advocating and fighting to save this wonderful club. We fought so hard to keep this club alive over the last few months. Congratulations to Beenleigh Tennis.

### **Coomera Electorate, Public Transport**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House a very concerning issue in the state seat of Coomera, and that is public transport but a particular area of public transport—that is, a bus route and bus stops on Yawalpah Road. This is the fastest growing region in Queensland and the second fastest in Australia. I have run two petitions on this. The last one of those was in February of this year. The answer from the minister stated—

... no additional services are planned at this time, TMR will continue to work with CoGC—

City of Gold Coast—

to monitor the development and delivery of the necessary infrastructure required to facilitate any future extension or realignment of public transport services in this area.

This is the fastest growing region in Queensland and the government is continuing to monitor the growth. I cannot say it any better than this constituent who wrote to me just the other day, Monday. They said—

I am writing to you about the bus stops on Yawalpah Road, Pimpama and the lack of access to a bus stop in this fast-growing community. I have recently received a text from a good friend of mine that works within TransLink advising me that if anybody stops along that road—

that is, bus drivers—

where there is no bus stop, the driver will face dismissal.

...

The current bus stop situation is appalling and needs to be rectified. The current situation means that you are asking me to drive 20 minutes in my wheelchair to the Swan Road bus stop (the closest one) where often the pathway to the bus stop is blocked by work vehicles of those working on the nature strip which leads to having to manoeuvre around it, at times almost causing my wheelchair to flip ...

...

This community has people with disabilities who need to catch the bus as it is the most feasible option, families where children need to catch the bus to get to school, young people to get to work, and even some of the elderly who use buses to remain as independent as possible.

...

... I hope you take this matter seriously as it is a serious issue for your community and if you truly support and listen to your community, you will remedy this ...

I can assure my constituent—and I will be writing to him to confirm it—that I do take it very seriously. I looked into it. I received, in certain forms, material from TMR stating—


Continuing from previous advice provided toward this issue, no temporary bus stop facilities are to be constructed prior to the route adjustment planned for ... next year.

...

Due to no safe stopping locations being available along Yawalpah Rd, as confirmed through the risk assessment, Surfside should only be stopping at designated bus stops.

There is one bus stop on Yawalpah Road, which is four kilometres long. The nearest bus stop to the shopping centre is 1.3 kilometres away. That is the one on Swan Road. This gentleman and everybody else gets off at one bus stop on Yawalpah Road—nowhere else. The next bus stops are four kilometres in either direction. Minister, we have to do something now. It cannot wait until next year.

### **Ipswich Electorate, Walk4BrainCancer**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.27 pm): I am honoured to talk about an extraordinary young man from my electorate of Ipswich who is here tonight with his family. Keiran McLeod is no ordinary teenager. He is vice-captain of Bremer State High and, at the age of 16, he has pulled off a fantastic achievement in organising the first ever Walk4BrainCancer event held in Ipswich on 5 August. This event was attended by approximately 150 people and raised \$15,397 towards the Cure Brain Cancer Foundation which does brain cancer research, advocacy and awareness in Australia.

Kieran's own experience with brain cancer started in 2014 when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour at 12 years of age. For four years the tumour remained stable, but in the last six months of 2017 it started to grow significantly, leading Kieran to be diagnosed with high-level brain cancer. Deciding against an extremely risky surgical procedure, Kieran commenced multiple chemotherapy and radiotherapy treatments only two days after Christmas last year. The day I met with him last week he had just finished his sixth and final treatment of chemotherapy. Kieran is not only an extremely brave young man, but he has an amazingly positive attitude towards life and I commend his determination to help others who are affected by brain cancer. With the support of his family, Kieran put in an immense amount of hard work organising and promoting his Walk4BrainCancer event in Ipswich. The fact that he raised over \$15,000 is testament to his determination and his wonderfully supportive family.

Kieran has an impressive clinical understanding of his illness and he possesses a wealth of knowledge on brain cancer statistics and medical research happening in this area, including research being done at Queensland's own Brain Institute at the University of Queensland. Currently, the five-year survival rates for persons diagnosed with brain cancer sit stubbornly low at 22 per cent. While survival rates for other types of cancers have increased over the last 30 years, brain cancer survival rates over the same period have barely grown. The Cure Brain Cancer Foundation wants to push that five-year survival rate up to 50 per cent by 2023.

Brain cancer costs more per patient over their lifetime than any other cancer, putting financial strain on people on low incomes. When I mentioned to Kieran that one of the founders of Medicare, the Hon. Neal Blewett, spoke at my annual Hayden Oration event the previous night, Kieran was impressed and said, 'I don't know what we would have done without Medicare.' Kieran said that the experience of being diagnosed with brain cancer has made him feel a lot less nervous about public speaking and we can be grateful that he can use this skill along with his intellect and his positive mental attitude to persuade people to support brain cancer research and help find a cure. Kieran's life-changing diagnosis and his involvement in Walk4BrainCancer has connected him to a strong and supportive community of people similarly diagnosed with brain cancer, reassuring him that he is not alone in his experience. I am very proud of Kieran's advocacy work and his drive to raise awareness of brain cancer, and I wish him and his family well.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson