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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 23 August 2018

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THURSDAY, 23 AUGUST 2018

The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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



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

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



Mr STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Last night, during the debate on the motion, the member for Surfers Paradise indicated in his speech that, during his time as the minister for education, while I was the principal of a school—and he corrected the record as to which school that was—we met a number of times and we spoke about infrastructure. Mr Speaker, I can assure you that I never met with the member and I will be writing to you about a misleading of the parliament.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister for State Development and member for Surfers Paradise, the member for Townsville has indicated that he will write to me. That is the end of the matter. There will be no cross-chamber debate.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Question on Notice, Anticipation Rule



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, standing order 114 allows members to lodge one question on notice each sitting day. Yesterday the member for Mirani lodged a question on notice, in accordance with standing order 114, relating to the then proposed Termination of Pregnancy Bill. Subsequent to the lodging of the question on notice the Termination of Pregnancy Bill was introduced, which enlivened the anticipation rule in standing order 231. Accordingly, I ruled the member for Mirani's question on notice out of order for anticipating debate.

The member's question on notice was not included in the *Notice Paper* for today pending my ruling. It is clear that the anticipation rule did not apply at the time the member lodged the question on notice. To ensure that the member is not disadvantaged, I have also ruled that the member for Mirani may lodge a replacement question on notice for yesterday in addition to any question on notice he may wish to lodge today.

MINISTERIAL PAPER

Ministerial Expenses




Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of ministerial office expenses for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. I table this report in accordance with the Financial Accountability Act 2009.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Ministerial Expenses for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 [[1180](#)].

The report shows the government's office expenses for the periods before and after the 2017 general election. The report shows higher charter costs and domestic travel due to increased travel for official purposes during the period of the election, as is the case every election year. I commend the report to the House.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


Drought Assistance; Royal Flying Doctor Service

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): The Queensland Drought Appeal total is now more than \$1.112 million. It has received generous support from companies including Santos, Shell, Tabcorp and Rio Tinto, but the overwhelming majority of donations have come from families. There is even more good news. It is two weeks to the day since I launched the Queensland Drought Appeal. In those two weeks, \$257,000 worth of donations have been distributed already. They have gone to 98 families. In the days and weeks ahead, many more will be added to the list. I congratulate the Country Women's Association and the corporate partners, including the Commonwealth Bank, which have made this appeal work.

It is not over. Other natural disasters, like cyclones, come and go quickly. Droughts are not like that. They go on for years. I hope that donors realise that their money is reaching the right people fast. I hope that those families struggling through this prolonged drought draw strength from knowing that people whom they have never met want to help.

The Royal Flying Doctor Service is celebrating 90 years. There will be a reception held in Parliament House this evening. I invite all honourable members to attend and show their support for this very worthy service.

Townsville, Lithium-Ion Battery Facility

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): Queensland is Australia's energy powerhouse. We have Australia's youngest and most efficient fleet of coal-fired generators. Unlike other states, we are opening up new gas reserves for domestic consumption. We have a \$20 billion pipeline of renewable energy investment that by the end of 2019 will be supplying 19 per cent of our generation requirements. We back Queensland further strengthening our position as Australia's energy powerhouse.


Later today here at Parliament House I will be joined by the Minister for State Development and the members for Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra to attend a significant signing ceremony with Townsville mayor Jenny Hill and representatives of Imperium 3 to affirm our assistance for a feasibility study into the battery manufacturing facility. I want to place on record my support of those three Townsville MPs who are working incredibly hard to get this project off the ground.

This follows our commitment during last year's election campaign to provide up to \$3.1 million to be funded through the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund. This funding is for Imperium 3 Townsville Pty Ltd to undertake a feasibility study into a proposed \$2 billion lithium-ion battery facility in Townsville. Imperium 3's proposed battery manufacturing facility has the potential to become the job-generating energy and manufacturing project that we are working hard to attract to Queensland.

The continued development of battery storage solutions is fundamental to the growing reliability and use of renewable energy. Imperium 3's project would supply a rapidly expanding market. My government is committed to developing Queensland's advanced manufacturing capabilities in the renewable energy market, and this lithium-ion battery manufacturing facility would truly be a game-changer in this space. I thank the local Townsville members, the Minister for State Development and Townsville City Council for working with Imperium 3 to bring this project to Queensland.

In June this year at the BIO International Convention in Boston, I was on hand for the signing of Townsville City Council's commitment to provide land to Imperium 3 should an investment decision be made. This is another major step in the charge towards making this project a reality not just for Townsville but also for Queensland.

Women on Boards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): No other government has done more for women than this government. Half of this cabinet are women. Happily, the most senior roles in government and in the opposition are also held by women, but there is more that we can do. Next Wednesday I will be hosting a lunch encouraging women to get involved in government bodies and boards. I am delighted to say that I have been overwhelmed by the amount of interest. This morning I have been advised that there have been 610 RSVPs. I encourage all women who are frustrated and cannot get advancement where they are to seek out more enlightened


opportunities. By 2020 I want the proportion of women on government boards to be 50 per cent. As of June, that proportion is 46 per cent. Next Wednesday's event will go a long way to helping us achieve that goal.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many supporters who are supporting this event. Like my government, they understand the valuable contribution that women bring to the boardroom table. Those supporters are Deloitte, Davidson Recruitment, Minter Ellison, QSuper, the University of Queensland, the Queensland University of Technology and Griffith University.

This event will bring together high-level decision-makers, current chairs and members responsible for ensuring gender parity on the boards of Queensland government bodies and beyond into the private sector. The event also positions those decision-makers alongside some of Queensland's board-ready women—potential new candidates ready to help lead Queensland towards its gender equity target.

In attending this event, these female leaders of the future will be inspired by the stories and experience of panellists. They include lawyer Margot de Groot; businesswoman and Gold Coast Titans owner Rebecca Frizelle; the chair of the Port of Townsville, Renita Gerard; QUT's Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret Sheil; Screen Queensland CEO Tracey Viera; and Micah Projects CEO Karyn Walsh. Importantly for all Queenslanders, this event is also designed to encourage non-government boards to set their own targets for increasing the representation of women on their boards. I urge all women to get on board.


Governing from the Regions, Toowoomba

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Governing from all parts of the state has been a hallmark of this government. This year we have governed from Ipswich, Mackay and the Whitsundays. Next month I am proud to announce that we will govern from Toowoomba. I have just got off the phone to the mayor and he is absolutely delighted that we will be governing from Toowoomba.

When we went to Ipswich they told us about their concerns and we acted. They told us about living next to noxious dumps. We acted on that too. In Mackay and the Whitsundays people told us of their ongoing battle to recover from natural disaster. We acted with money towards rebuilding beaches to better than before, funding towards delivering a new airport runway in Proserpine and \$5 million for a new council and community centre.

From 24 September this government will see Queensland as the people of Toowoomba see it. We will meet with the Toowoomba community and, knowing Toowoomba, I am sure they will have things to say. We have governed from other places, including Wide Bay, Gold Coast, Cairns and Rockhampton. My government listens and the best way to do that is face to face. I look forward to going to Toowoomba in September.

Queensland Economy

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.41 am): While the federal LNP government focuses on itself we are focused on Queenslanders and the Queensland economy. The latest Queensland State Accounts produced by Queensland Treasury show Queensland's economy continues to grow strongly, further highlighting the success of the government's economic plan to drive growth and create jobs.


The March quarter 2018 state accounts show gross state product rose 1.1 per cent in the quarter, well above trend growth across the rest of Australia, which was only 0.6 per cent. This quarter has seen the strongest quarter of economic growth in Queensland for six years. The March quarter growth is stronger than any quarter during the Newman government term. In trend terms, this is the 14th consecutive quarter of growth, the longest period of uninterrupted growth since 2008. In terms of annual growth, Queensland's economy grew 2.8 per cent compared with the same quarter a year ago.

Importantly, domestic economic conditions have continued to improve, helping drive Queensland's stronger overall economic growth. State final demand, a key indicator of domestic conditions, recorded its ninth consecutive quarter of growth, rising 0.8 per cent in the March quarter to be three per cent higher over the year. A continued strengthening in business investment was a key driver of this growth, with business investment growing two per cent in the quarter to be 10.8 per cent higher over the year. This compares with business investment growth of just 0.1 per cent in the quarter and five per cent over the year across the rest of Australia.

Queensland's strong business investment growth was driven by investment across a range of key sectors. This included investment growth in renewable energy projects, such as wind and solar farms, as well as ongoing investment in new education and accommodation facilities to support the state's ongoing growth in education and tourism exports. The strong growth in business investment, combined with increased public final demand and ongoing growth in household consumption spending, more than offset an expected decline in dwelling investment.

Consistent with the 2018-19 state budget outlook, the March quarter QSA clearly shows the Queensland economy is strengthening and the confidence of our businesses to invest, grow and employ is improving. The government's ongoing commitment to its economic plan will continue to help underpin economic growth across the state, including in our traditional, new and emerging industries. Most importantly, a strong economy creates jobs, as highlighted by the 164,500 new jobs created in Queensland since the Palaszczuk government was elected in January 2015. The release of the latest Queensland State Accounts clearly demonstrates that the government's economic plan is working and delivering growth, jobs and prosperity for Queenslanders.

Manufacturing, Made in Queensland

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.44 am): I had the pleasure this month of visiting Gold Coast manufacturing businesses reaping the rewards of the Palaszczuk Labor government's support through the Made in Queensland program. The Gold Coast's manufacturing industry is booming, with five companies in the area receiving Made in Queensland grants totalling more than \$1.5 million to grow their businesses and support jobs. There is nothing more rewarding than meeting with business owners, particularly family business owners, and their staff to discuss the positive impact these boosts are having on their businesses.

I visited Nerang glass and aluminium manufacturer, Patterson Glass, with the member for Gaven, which is using its Made in Queensland grant of more than \$250,000 to purchase equipment and become more competitive in the market. This family owned business will have greater capacity to take on bigger projects and aims to create 10 new jobs over the next two years. Patterson Glass director, Wendy Wheway, said growing their business will honour the legacy left by her parents who set up the business in 1974.


I also paid a visit to Yatala's Urban Turf Solutions, the sole producer of synthetic grass in Queensland, specialising in manufacturing, fitting and maintaining quality sporting surfaces. The company is set to upgrade its technology thanks to a \$256,000 Made in Queensland grant, and grow its workforce to 30, up from 25, by the end of this year.

Currumbin company, Freedom Retractable Screens, will use its \$105,000 grant on equipment to widen its market share and hone its competitive edge. It is anticipated this grant will allow Freedom Retractable Screens to employ another six workers. Two other Gold Coast businesses, Geofabrics Australasia and aluminium manufacturer Knotwood, have also received grants from the program which is expected to create 15 new jobs.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has a 10-year plan to transform the state's manufacturing sector to more advanced manufacturing, delivering high-paid, knowledge based jobs, and this agenda is working wonders for businesses across the state. Queensland's manufacturing sector already employs around 170,000 people, with around 36 more jobs on the way for these five companies in the Gold Coast region. The second round of the government's \$40 million Made in Queensland program opened in April and has since received 115 expressions of interest. I look forward to updating the House on more local success stories and more local jobs as round 2 of the Made in Queensland program progresses.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I ask that you keep your conversations down. The level of murmuring in the chamber is on the rise. I appreciate it is prior to question time and there may be things you are doing, but ministerial statements need to be given a little bit more opportunity to be heard.

Tradies National Health Month


 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.46 am): August is Tradies National Health Month, a time when we ask the trades and construction industry to look out for their health and wellbeing. We know that construction can be a challenging and difficult industry to work in and, tragically, even when health and safety is in focus, a worker in his 40s fell to his death on a worksite in Cairns this week. I send my condolences to his family and friends.

One of the biggest health issues facing young workers in the industry is depression and other mental illness. Our young tradies have an unacceptably high rate of suicide, up to three times higher than the general community. That is why the Palaszczuk government is continuing its support of Mates in Construction, an organisation working to reduce the rate of suicide in the construction industry. In March 2017 we announced funding of \$1 million over 12 months to expand Mates' suicide prevention services into rural and remote areas of Queensland with a focus on young construction workers and small business. The funding has enabled Mates in Construction to deliver training and help to construction workers from a wide range of regional and rural communities across Queensland, including Biloela, St George, Emerald, Charleville and Goondiwindi. They have also established an ongoing presence in many rural communities through important relationships with local community organisations, including local councils, Lions and Rotary clubs, primary health networks and Indigenous communities.

While the focus of Mates in Construction services is on construction workers, there are obvious flow-on benefits as learnings are shared across the wider rural community. Mates in Construction has expanded beyond large construction sites into smaller construction projects and housing and since March 2018 has delivered training to 736 participants across 63 work sites. This year marks the 10th year anniversary of Mates in Construction supporting the Queensland construction industry. They do a tremendous job but we know there is still more work to be done.

I am very pleased today to announce that the Palaszczuk government is continuing its support for Mates in Construction by providing further funding of \$1 million over the next 12 months. This funding will allow Mates in Construction to continue delivering services in rural and remote areas, to small businesses and helping apprentices. In the meantime, the Palaszczuk government is exploring options to provide long-term funding certainty for this incredibly important initiative.

Road Safety Week

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.49 am): Since our first day in office, the Palaszczuk government has been devoted to improving road safety in Queensland. We initiated a statewide Road Safety Week and today I am proud to confirm to the House that we will hold it for the fourth time next week. I look forward to launching Road Safety Week later today with my colleagues Minister Ryan and Minister Crawford. As the nation's only state based road safety week, Queensland Road Safety Week has become an integral part of our efforts to reduce the road toll to zero. We cannot aim for anything less.

Last year, tragically 247 people lost their lives on Queensland roads and, this year, sadly we have lost another 166 people. However, that is only part of the impact on the community with thousands more seriously injured. Last year, 6,450 Queenslanders were hospitalised, many with life-altering injuries. Road trauma is one of the biggest public health issues facing our community and during Road Safety Week I am asking all Queenslanders to play their part in changing their driving behaviour. Research shows that by not following the road rules you are putting your life and others at risk. Queensland Road Safety Week will focus on different road safety issues over the course of the week. It will start with pedestrians on Monday, followed by motorists, heavy vehicle drivers, bicycle riders and conclude on Friday with motorcyclists.


Last year, the Palaszczuk government launched the Queensland road safety action plan for 2017-19 to help reduce the road toll. In the past 12 months, we have taken considerable steps to implement these actions and I am proud to report the following achievements: as of 30 June this year, we have delivered \$148 million in targeted road safety program projects, including fixing high-risk intersections, engineering treatments such as wider centre lines and the removal of roadside hazards; we are on track to deliver safer school journeys for students with 1,000 school zones to have flashing school zone signs by 2020; we have released the SafeCars app to give car buyers better access to safety rating information when purchasing a vehicle; we will continue to make changes to pedestrian crossing light timings to better protect pedestrians; and we will invest over \$241 million in safer cycling infrastructure between 2018-19 and 2021-22.

Looking to the future needs of Queenslanders, we continue to plan for emerging technologies such as autonomous vehicles through our Cooperative and Automated Vehicle Initiative. Of course, that initiative holds great potential for road safety benefits into the future. Targeted road safety education will also continue via our advertising and social media campaigns.

I have written to all members of parliament seeking their support to help spread the potentially lifesaving Road Safety Week message in all of our communities right across the state. During this year's Queensland Road Safety Week, I ask our community to get involved in making our roads safer. Sadly,

most fatal crashes are preventable. I challenge Queensland not only to pledge to change one negative road behaviour themselves but also to refresh their knowledge of the road rules, because they are designed to reduce the toll and to ensure that we respect everybody else on the road as we move about Queensland.

Drought Declarations

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.52 am): As the Premier mentioned earlier, currently more than half of Queensland is in drought, with many primary producers experiencing their sixth year without rain. The Queensland Drought Appeal, which the Premier and I launched at this year's Ekka, continues to go from strength to strength and will again be brought to the fore with a TV special to be aired on Channel 7 on Saturday, 1 September. I encourage everyone to dig deep for our farmers who might be doing it tough during this dry period.

Producers who are not in a drought-declared council can still apply for an individually droughted property declaration, which gives the same access as if their farm was in a shire that was drought declared. It is a very simple process that is as easy as filling in this simple four-page form, which I table for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, from the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, titled 'Application for an Individually Droughted Property (IDP) declaration' [1181].


While we work to assist farmers through the drought, scurrilous misinformation has been spread about this issue. It is disappointing that, for such a serious issue, there is a lack of understanding on how the drought declaration process works from those opposite. The process for making or revoking declarations dates back to 1982. As minister, I take advice from the local drought committees. The LDCs meet at least once a year, generally at the end of the summer rainfall period, to assess seasonal conditions and make their recommendations about the drought status of their areas. The LDCs can also decide to meet at other times of the year, if necessary. I do not declare or revoke areas without first receiving the recommendation of the responsible LDC.

For people to try to play politics with drought declarations and revocations is disingenuous and not helpful to local farmers. There is an established process that is free of political interference and it should be kept that way.

Landholders can also legally harvest regulated native vegetation for stock fodder under the accepted development code for managing fodder harvesting. Landholders simply complete the notification online or in hard copy form, wait to receive acknowledgment from the department and undertake harvesting as per the provisions of the code.

As minister, it is my job to ensure that producers in Queensland get a fair go. It is also important to ensure that long-term plans are made for dry conditions. That is the most effective way that producers can prepare for drought and other downturns into the future.

Fuel Prices, Reporting Trial


 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.55 am): Queensland drivers are a step closer to finding a better price for petrol. This week, the search started for a key technology system at the centre of our fuel price reporting trial. I am pleased to advise the House that tenders are now open for IT suppliers to provide a system to capture fuel prices from service stations. The prices will then be available to smartphone apps and websites such as Motormouth, GasBuddy, PetrolSpy, RACQ and Compare the Market, as well as newcomers. There will not be a government app competing against the commercial sector.

We want the best suppliers on board, so that our trial is using the best technical and innovation capabilities available. The service at the centre of our two-year trial will have to include data matching and checks to safeguard against any retailers that report inaccurate prices. The aggregator system will collect all of Queensland's fuel prices. All fuel retailers will have to supply those prices to the aggregator within 30 minutes of those prices changing at the bowser. With the full support of valuable stakeholders, including the RACQ and independent operators, the two-year trial is scheduled to kick off in December. It means that motorists will have the knowledge and the power to make informed purchasing decisions.

The two-phase tender program is seeking expressions of interest and then the short listed suppliers will be asked to make a formal offer. I want this two-year fuel price reporting trial to be thorough and rigorous. To do that, we need the best suppliers on board. The trial comes on top of the Palaszczuk government's 'what you see is what you pay' laws, which came into effect on 31 January. Those laws

require retailers to display full prices, rather than conditionally discounted offers, on their fuel boards. The government will evaluate the trial's performance in 2020. We will then be able to make an evidence based policy decision, rather than the preferred method of those opposite, which is to just borrow someone else's failed scheme.

Police Service, Controlled Operations

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.57 am): The Palaszczuk government is committed to keeping Queenslanders safe. One significant but largely unnoticed area of the Queensland Police Service's work is what are called controlled operations. In layman's terms, controlled operations are undercover or covert operations undertaken by carefully selected members of the Queensland Police Service. In accordance with section 269(2) of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act, I table the 18th annual report of the Controlled Operations Committee. I take this opportunity to thank the committee for its efforts during the past financial year.

Tabled paper: Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2017-18 [[1182](#)].


The report details the remarkable success of the undercover operations. However, it does not reveal the challenging nature of the work that this select band of police officers undertakes. Those officers willingly inject themselves into potentially hazardous situations for the benefit of the wider community. As the Minister for Police and on behalf of all Queenslanders, I wish to thank those officers for their unrelenting commitment to the safety of our community.

The report reveals that over the last financial year 13 approved controlled operations were finalised. As a result, over 300 people were arrested and a total of 1,200 charges laid. These operations also resulted in the seizure of many items, including vehicles, vessels, mobile phones, computers and cash, with a total value of almost \$750,000.

In particular, I note that the controlled operations work has a focus on the illicit drug trade. As we all know, the illicit drug trade is a blight on our community. The suppliers and dealers peddle misery and death. Through covert police operations we are disrupting those illegal activities. According to the report I have just tabled, covert officers have seized nearly \$2 million worth of illicit drugs in the past year.

To the officers who conduct these controlled operations I say: your secret identities mean you truly are some of our community's unsung heroes. The work you do is making Queensland a safer place. I salute you and thank you for your work.

Great Barrier Reef, Transshipping Bulk Materials

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.00 am): Protecting the Great Barrier Reef is one of the Palaszczuk government's six key Advancing Queensland priorities. I am delighted today to release the government's policy on the transshipping of bulk materials which will protect the Great Barrier Reef and the environmental values of the state's marine environment. The policy delivers on our 2015 election commitment and restricts transshipping operations within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area to areas wholly inside the boundaries of declared ports that sit outside of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park.


This policy forms one part of an extensive package of measures being implemented by the government to protect the Great Barrier Reef. It complements the government's commitments under the Reef 2050 Plan and the Sustainable Ports Development Act 2015 which aim to protect the reef by concentrating port development within pre-existing areas. The policy is careful to avoid unnecessary impacts on communities and does not limit transshipping that includes the supply of essential services to remote communities, marine emergency response practices, the movement of cargo between vessels while docked in a port and refuelling activities. In addition, the policy does not apply to packaged or containerised goods at any volume or to bulk materials where the quantity handled is under 100 tonnes per day.

In developing this policy, extensive consultation was undertaken, with consideration of 2,246 submissions outlining a range of diverse views. More than 2,200 of these submissions called for limits to transshipping within the Great Barrier Reef World Heritage Area and a ban on transshipping within the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. This transshipping policy recognises the multiple pressures the reef already faces and is a vital part of the government's package of measures to protect the reef's resilience. It delivers another of our Reef 2050 Plan actions.

The Premier and I attended the Great Barrier Reef Ministerial Forum meeting with the Australian government on 19 July 2018. The forum approved a revised Reef 2050 Plan following its midterm review. Importantly, in response to concerns raised by the Queensland government and conservation groups, the plan now references climate change—an important amendment which recognises this significant threat to the reef.

The forum also approved the new Reef 2050 Water Quality Improvement Plan and the Reef 2050 Cumulative Impact Management Policy and Net Benefit Policy. The outcomes of the ministerial forum demonstrate the importance that is placed on protecting the Great Barrier Reef and the significant amount of resources being invested in this space.

Ice, Alcohol and Drug Information Service

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.03 am): Ice has a devastating impact on Queenslanders, their families and the community. Its effects can trap users in a downward spiral and negatively affect every aspect of their lives, including their physical and mental health. Escaping the grip of a drug like ice takes significant resources and a great deal of time, but it is possible.


Earlier this year I launched the Palaszczuk government's \$105 million Action on Ice plan to help Queenslanders do just that. The plan aims to reduce demand and supply and put in place key initiatives to prevent and treat addiction. During consultation, Queenslanders made it clear there was a need for a central point of truth for information and support. That is why we made a commitment to develop the new Alcohol and Drug Information Service website to complement the existing 24/7 confidential phone service.

I am pleased to announce this new site is now live. The website has been designed as a one-stop shop for all Queenslanders—users, their families and friends, health professionals and the public. It provides a suite of information and resources. There is a self-assessment quiz so people can gauge if their alcohol intake or drug use is becoming risky. There is information on different treatment options. Importantly, there is a search tool to help locate nearby services.

We understand it can be hard to know what to do if someone we love is using drugs. That is why the website also provides specific information for families and friends. This information includes how to identify if their loved one is using, how to better understand their pattern of use and how to learn skills to best support them to get clean.

The Alcohol and Drug Information Service is already helping thousands of people each month and this website will greatly increase their reach of support. It is yet another example of our government's unwavering commitment and drive to reduce the impact of ice on our communities.

Ice, Breakthrough for Families Program

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.05 am): As the Minister for Health just outlined, ice is having a devastating impact on communities and on Queensland families. About one in three children who came into the care of the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women in the year to March had one or both parents with a history of methamphetamine use, and in most of those cases the type of methamphetamine was ice.


This drug devastates families. It causes terrible harm to the drug user, and there is a knock-on effect to their children. The majority of children in this situation are aged under five years, and in the majority of cases the parent or parents had only started using the drug in the last 12 months. The Palaszczuk government has taken a strategic as well as practical approach to tackling the scourge of ice. Forums were held across the state to take on community views and when our Action on Ice strategy was released we backed it up with \$18 million in funding.

Last Tuesday I had the opportunity to visit Lives Lived Well in Mackay with the member for Mackay. I met with their staff who are working on the front line by delivering counselling for ice users through their Ice Help program. The counselling services are free, with no medical referral required, and the counsellors are trained to work with people who have an addiction to any kind of drug, including alcohol, and offer care and support for a range of needs, from mild to complex.

Last month I announced a new program to tackle the impact of ice on families in 10 locations around the state. The \$5.5 million Breakthrough for Families program will tackle the scourge of ice in the communities where it is hurting families. Breakthrough for Families will connect the families of drug users with the right services to improve their capacity to care for their family members, especially children.

The program will be delivered in the following hospital and health service districts: Cape York, Townsville, Cairns, Sunshine Coast, Metro North and Metro South—which includes Brisbane, Caboolture and Logan—Mackay, Darling Downs, West Moreton and Wide Bay. These programs will run until 30 June 2020. Families can access Breakthrough for Families voluntarily and confidentially with service providers building strong referral linkages with relevant services. The program will help participants understand the impact of drugs and help them establish strategies to keep themselves and their families safe. This will include individual support sessions with families as well as public workshops and forums. Breakthrough for Families is a direct investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government in intervention that works to reduce the harm being caused to young children by ice and other drugs.

Building Industry, Cladding

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.08 am): Queensland has consistently led the nation in building industry regulation to uphold the confidence of the public in the sector. We are continuing to set the pace. At the recent Building Ministers' Forum in Adelaide, Queensland led agreement between the states and the Commonwealth to propose the making of a new Australian Standard for all cladding products.

Building ministers will propose that a new Australian Standard require a permanent marking on aluminium composite cladding products. The etched or printed marking will provide information about what the product is, where it was made and the date of manufacture. One of the biggest challenges our Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce has come up against is the issue of product substitution. Once cladding is installed on a building, there is no way, under current provisions, of knowing if it is of the type specified in the building's design without taking a piece off and testing it. That can be costly and slow.

Our intent is that this Australian Standard will mean any tradie installing a piece of cladding will have the information right in front of them. They can be confident that the product they are using is the product they are supposed to be putting on the building. Queenslanders can then be confident in the buildings in which they work and live.

To ensure Queenslanders can be confident in our built environment, a regulation requiring the owners of privately owned multistorey buildings to assess the fire safety of their buildings will commence on 1 October. From that date the process by which building owners must assess their buildings will operate. If necessary, building owners will require a fire engineer to outline how they must rectify their buildings.


A notice is being sent this week to the first group of building owners of multistorey buildings constructed or substantially renovated since 1994, outlining the three-stage process. When it comes to notifying private building owners, we are casting a wide net. Because of this we expect that some building owners will receive a notice and the identified building will require no further action.

It is important to note that all owners of in-scope buildings are required to register and complete at least part 1 of the combustible cladding check list. Building owners who may have expected to receive a notice and did not by 1 October should contact the Queensland Building Construction Commission for advice on 139333.

Stage 1 is a self-assessment process using a secure online tool on the Queensland government's Safer Buildings website. We expect that the vast majority of buildings will be cleared through this first stage. This stage is a quick, no-cost process that merely requires the execution of a statutory declaration. For the small minority that need further investigation, stage 2 is to engage a building industry professional to determine if there are materials which are potentially combustible. This is also a low-cost process to give certainty to owners, residents and insurers. The final stage, stage 3, is only activated in cases of suspect cladding and involves the engagement of a fire engineer to assess potential risk and method to rectify.

I would like to thank the Non-Conforming Building Products Audit Taskforce for leading this process and the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services for continuing to keep Queenslanders safe. There is nothing more important than the safety and confidence of Queenslanders.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 4 September 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MOTIONS

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.11 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, debate of committee reports be postponed for this week's sitting.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs be permitted to move the motion for which he gave notice on Tuesday, 21 August 2018 at 3 pm today with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—


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

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICE OF MOTION


Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.12 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That the amendments to sessional orders circulated in my name be agreed to, effective from 3 September 2018.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the standing and sessional orders, I be permitted to move at 12 pm today the motion for which I gave notice earlier today for the amendments to sessional orders with time limits for speeches and debate as follows—

- 10 minutes for the mover;
- 10 minutes for the Leader of the Opposition (or nominee);
- 5 minutes for each member; and
- total debate time before question put—1 hour.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Ingham, Mr J

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.13 am): My first question is to the Premier. I refer the Premier to the appointment of CFMEU's Jade Ingham to the powerful board of the Queensland Building and Construction Commission—a person who has been subject to multiple civil penalties by the Federal Court and he is not a fit and proper person to hold a Fair Work Commission right-of-entry permit.

Government members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Why has the Premier given a convicted industrial law breaker a powerful position within government?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, that is the last time today we will have any talk or noise during a question being asked.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to that question. There were certainly imputations in the wording of that question and also misleading statements in relation to alleged charges and convictions.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Before dealing with the matter—I am seeking advice from the table—I remind all honourable members under standing order 246 that quarrels are not permitted in the chamber: 'A member shall not at any time quarrel with another member during proceedings of the House.' This is deliberately focused on those members who continue to have cross-chamber chatter and debate. All comments will come through the chair. I will not give any further warnings on that today. I am seeking advice from the table. Leader of the House, I have sought advice. I did not hear any imputations as I heard the question. If there is a suggestion that there are components of the question that may be misleading in your view, I think you need to outline what those components may be. Otherwise I will allow the question.

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to the imputation, if I understood the question, the Leader of the Opposition made reference to the person not being a fit and proper person. That is certainly an imputation in relation to that person.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I will hear the Leader of the House.

Mrs D'ATH: Again, I am happy to get clarification from the Leader of the Opposition, but I believe there was a reference to a conviction in relation to criminal charges. I understand that they are not criminal charges.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I will firstly rule on the point of order, Manager of Opposition Business. I believe that the question, as we have heard it, referred to civil matters and I believe that will make the question allowable.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. From the outset when she was talking about the appointment, I can confirm that there are no criminal convictions that preclude him from sitting. I understand that the board has met and is doing a fine job in fulfilling its functions. Since the Leader of the Opposition raises the issue of appointments, there is an interesting appointment about to happen in Canberra. I am very glad the Leader of the Opposition raised the issue of appointments.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: Oh, here we go! He doesn't like it.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, before the hubbub started, I was going to ask you to resume your seat. There is a point of order raised by the Manager of Opposition Business that I need to respond to.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, my point of order is with respect to previous rulings you have made with respect to relevance in answering the question. Knowing the respect you have for this chamber and its proceedings, I think where the Premier is about to go has absolutely no relevance to the question asked.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your point of order. What I will do is listen to the Premier's contribution. Members are entitled to stray, but of course I would expect the Premier will come back to the core of this question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. As I addressed the last part of the question, I will now address the fit and proper test when it comes to the Prime Minister of Australia. What I would like to hear today from those opposite is whether or not they think Peter Dutton is a fit and proper person to be appointed Prime Minister of this country or do they think Malcolm Turnbull is still fit and proper for his current appointment as Prime Minister of Australia.

We have not seen the Leader of the Opposition stand up this week. We have not seen the deputy leader—

An opposition member: You have no reason to worry then, have you?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am not worried at all.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! Premier, I have given you some latitude. The question was not about fit and proper persons other than those—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Leader of the Opposition! The fit and proper person reference related to a particular individual not as a broad concept. Do you have any further comments?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes. To conclude my answer, I would like to see the Leader of the Opposition stand up in this House and say who she backs as Prime Minister of this country.

CFMEU

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Let us see if she answers this one.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, I will ask you not to make commentary when asking a question, otherwise I will rule your question out of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. The full Federal Court last week said the CFMEU is 'the most recidivist corporate offender in Australian history', with a penal record that is disgraceful and shameful, with over 120 convicted breaches of Australian workplace law. How can Queenslanders have confidence in this government when it accepts support and tainted money from a group which boasts about breaking the law?

Mr SPEAKER: I did not want to interrupt the Leader of the Opposition during her question but, unfortunately, the member for Burnett did. You are warned under the standing orders. Questions will be heard in silence.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There was an imputation in that question.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Your quarrel was with which member to my right? It was the member for Cairns. The member for Cairns is warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. You ruled only five minutes ago for the Leader of the House to explain any imputation in the last question. She did not do it in that question. I suspect it was in relation to tainted money from the CFMEU, but I refer to the quote in the question that the Federal Court said they are the most recidivist corporate offender in Australian history. Anyone receiving money from that organisation—

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, you are now starting to debate the issue. It is no longer a point of order. I heard the question and I take the concerns on board. I believe the question could possibly be reframed with a singular word removed. Maybe the Leader of the Opposition knows what that word is. I ask her to repeat her question.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is to the Premier. The full Federal Court last week said the CFMEU is 'the most recidivist corporate offender in Australian history', with a penal record that is disgraceful and shameful, with over 120 convicted breaches of Australian workplace law. How can Queenslanders have confidence in this government when it accepts support and money from a group which boasts about breaking the law?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. This is the party that is currently seeking a High Court review on political donations.

Mr Mander: A High Court review?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, a High Court review, trying to avoid laws regarding political developer donations.

Ms Jones: What are you hiding?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take that interjection. Can Queenslanders have confidence in my government? Yes, they can. Can they have confidence in the federal LNP government? No, they cannot. I find it quite ironic that those opposite would ask about the CFMEU when they sat around the cabinet table and appointed Dave Hanna to the board of directors for Construction Skills Queensland, and the member for Everton, Tim Mander, thanked him for his involvement. Former premier Campbell Newman wined and dined Dave Hanna—

Ms Trad: Called him a good bloke.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and called him a good bloke. You appointed Dave Hanna; we never appointed Dave Hanna. They appointed Dave Hanna and they were more than happy to praise the CFMEU.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. The Leader of Opposition Business is warned under the standing orders. Members will be referred to by their correct title. This will cease. I am tired of hearing members being referred to other than by their correct titles in this House.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We only have to listen to what Michelle Landry said this morning. She said that the general public has had an absolute gutful about what is happening in Canberra. I agree with her for once because the general public do not like what is happening in Canberra. You can all sit here. What you are trying to avoid today is coming out and saying whether you back the current Prime Minister of Australia, Malcolm Turnbull, or whether you are backing Queensland Peter Dutton. What does the state LNP think? What is their position? The Leader of the Opposition needs to state fairly and clearly today whether or not she backs Peter Dutton or Malcolm Turnbull. What does the state LNP think about this?

Mr Mander interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You don't have an idea. You have no position.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you will refer your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are weak. This is a weak opposition. You have no position.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you will refer your comments through the chair. Have you finished your contribution?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes.

Port of Townsville

Mr STEWART: My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on progress towards increasing the capacity of the port of Townsville to further stimulate trade and export growth in North Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that question. The member for Townsville and member for Thuringowa caught up with me last week in Townsville, and we talked extensively about the \$75 million contribution my government is making to the port of Townsville that will increase the exports going out through there. We are still to hear from Malcolm Turnbull—or it could be Peter Dutton—about whether or not they will match my government's contribution. That is the first thing I would like to seek clarification on if there is a change of Prime Minister. We are not quite sure what is happening yet. I think Cormann, Fifield and Cash have now come out and said that they are not backing the Prime Minister, even though Cormann stood next to the current Prime Minister yesterday.

Ms Jones: That's loyalty!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right: that shows loyalty! Can I please talk about something really serious here and that is our exports from Queensland—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Always serious. Our record exports are now \$74 billion.

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have seen increases in beef by 8.8 per cent; cotton, 14 per cent; coal, 11.8 per cent; LNG, 23.4 per cent; copper, over 11 per cent; aluminium, 20 per cent; and zinc, 27.5 per cent. We have seen strong increases with all our major trading partners—China up 29 per cent, Japan up 13.5 per cent and India up 5.9 per cent. We have also seen strong growth in services such as international tourism and education. Tourism is 40 per cent higher than a decade ago, and international student enrolments have increased 11.3 per cent in 2017 and 27.2 per cent since 2015 with around 123,000 international students now studying in Queensland.

What is happening in Canberra is now an international embarrassment. As trade minister, I am constantly assuring our markets overseas that there is more for us to export and to grow our economy which means jobs in Queensland, but what we are seeing down there is creating instability and uncertainty. I went to the last election promising good, stable government but what we are seeing down in Canberra is chaos. It is a Liberal disease that is infecting Canberra.

(Time expired)

CFMEU

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Premier. Labor statesman Peter Beattie has said that Labor should cut its ties with the CFMEU and refuse to accept their donations because 'at the end of the day you pay too much of a price for it'. Does the Premier accept that the government has a perceived conflict of interest problem because of the near half a million dollars the Labor Party has received from the CFMEU since the Premier has been leader?

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I want to take some advice on this question. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me make it very clear. Every donation is disclosed from the Labor Party. Everything from those opposite is not.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you are also warned under standing orders.

Opposition members: Ooh!

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I will walk out of the chamber right now if your behaviour does not improve. This is not a schoolyard. It is a matter for serious debate with questions of relevance to be asked on behalf of the people of Queensland. Pick up your game.

Energy Policy, Federal Government

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the federal government's energy policy will impact on Queensland's government owned generators and our state economy? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative policies?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Aspley for the question. I would dearly love to answer his question, but the fact of the matter is I cannot because we actually do not know what the federal coalition's energy policy is. We know they have had more positions in terms of national energy policy than they have signatures on the petition to roll the Prime Minister—although that may have changed in the last five minutes considering how many people are lining up to distance themselves from the Prime Minister. If those opposite want to talk about disassociating themselves or disassociations, then it is quite clear that the Prime Minister does not want to disassociate himself from the position of Prime Minister, even though his party room quite clearly wants to. He has locked the door and he has barricaded the door.

The aspiring Prime Minister came out yesterday with a thought bubble—a thought bubble about removing the GST off electricity. I think the federal Treasurer said it best when he said yesterday that it would be 'an absolute budget blower'. It would blow a \$7.5 billion hole in the federal budget which would be passed on to states. I think it is very important that the federal member for Dickson, the aspiring Prime Minister, comes clean on whether he believes that this should be something that Queensland taxpayers carry through reduced services—because it will be the states, through less GST, that will have to pick up the slack and have to fill the gap from such a budget blower, in Scott Morrison's own terms. While I am on my feet, I think it is really important I remind the House of all of the things that Peter Dutton has done as a federal minister over a number of years. Let us be really clear.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: The man who wants to be Prime Minister boycotted the national apology to the stolen generation.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Ninderry, I called the House to order. You continued to interject. You are warned under standing orders. Member for Warrego, you were interjecting after I had called order. You are warned under standing orders.

Ms TRAD: The man who wants to be Prime Minister of this nation joked about Pacific Island nations being affected by climate change. The man who wants to be Prime Minister was voted overwhelmingly by doctors in this country as the worst health minister in living history. The man who wants to be Prime Minister said it was a national mistake for Australia to resettle refugees from Lebanon.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Ninderry, you are going to leave the chamber for the remainder of question time. You continued interjections after you had just been warned.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I apologise. Member for Nicklin, you are warned under 253A. You will leave the chamber for the remainder of question time. The warning prior should not have been against the member for Ninderry. I apologise, as you are new members. That warning was against you, member for Nicklin, and you are to leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Nicklin withdrew from the chamber at 10.35 am.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking clarification. Was the member for Nicklin notified by yourself of his warning prior to that, because if he was interjecting—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Manager of Opposition Business. I am not required to give any warning. Warnings are a courtesy to members. I am giving notice now to all members that the House needs to have greater decorum than we are seeing. Deputy Premier, do you have anything further in your contribution?

Ms TRAD: I do. The federal member for Dickson, through his words and through his deeds, has absolutely demonstrated that he is unfit for high office. It is up to those opposite to declare who they support. They are very silent on this issue and it is the No. 1 issue in our nation.

Schools, Union Recruitment

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Queensland arch unionist, Ros McLennan, said of the Young Workers Hub going into Queensland schools to recruit schoolkids, 'It'd be a bit odd if the Queensland Council of Unions wasn't about encouraging people to join ... teaching schoolkids snap rallies, protests'. The education minister said this is a great initiative. Recognising the Premier has already ruled out union recruitment in Queensland schools, will the Premier now rule out allowing unions to teach schoolkids union activism?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, there will be no recruitment of students on school grounds. I have made that abundantly clear. I have been asked that repetitively and I have said that very clearly.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I want to acknowledge that we have students visiting from St Mary's College Ipswich in the electorate of Ipswich and students from Calvary Christian College Springwood campus in the electorate of Springwood. Welcome to the Queensland parliament.

Defence, Manufacturing

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on Queensland's defence manufacturing capability? Is the minister aware of other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Jordan for her question and pay tribute to her commitment to manufacturing in her region and also in Queensland, including defence industries. As honourable members know, on 14 March this year we celebrated a great day in Queensland because that was the day that Rheinmetall secured the \$5 billion Land 400 contract to build 211 new generation combat reconnaissance vehicles for the Australian Army. In what will prove to be his final meaningful act as

Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull finally signed the formal contract with Rheinmetall last Friday. That will be his final act. We know that because he is on the way out. On Tuesday he was a walking duck, yesterday he was a sitting duck, and today he is a dead duck—for sure and certain.

There are some issues on which we would expect bipartisanship, including employment in defence industries. The Land Forces Conference is coming up in September. The leader of government business wrote to the leader of opposition business on 9 August requesting a pair so I could travel to the single largest military conference in Australia.

There will be hundreds of exhibitors from the Southern Hemisphere at that conference and delegates from 60 countries, and what have we heard? Nothing! There has been no decision. They cannot make a decision. I can assure members opposite it is not a junket; it is Adelaide. Of course we cannot get a decision out of the Manager of Opposition Business and we cannot get a decision from the Leader of the Opposition.

Government members: Ha, ha!

Mr DICK: I thank members of the government for their support. One decision they did make when Gary Spence came in on Monday was to dump Dutton. There he was crawling around telling the LNP to shift—and why is Turnbull gone? It is because the LNP branch of Queensland shifted support. Now we get the man who cut \$57 billion from hospitals when health minister, instituted a Medicare rebate freeze, cut healthcare funding and of course wanted to introduce a \$7.50 co-payment for Medicare services to attack the poor, the weak and the sick.

That is the man who those members opposite want as the Prime Minister of the country. To his eternal shame, he became the only opposition frontbencher who boycotted the apology to the stolen generation. That will live with him forever. That is the man who the Leader of the Opposition and all of those members opposite want as the Prime Minister of the country. It will come this week and it will be to the shame of those members opposite.

Speaker's Ruling, Order to Withdraw from Chamber Rescinded

Mr SPEAKER: Firstly, member for Ninderry, I want to apologise for confusing your seat with the seat of Nicklin. Secondly, upon reflection, I believe the member for Kawana's point of order raised earlier had relevance in that, whilst I believed I had warned the correct member, I had not warned the member. The member for Nicklin may return to the chamber. However, can I be very clear to members that my level of tolerance today for interjections and repeated disruptions of the House—I want to make myself clear. This has reached a very, very low depth and I will also be listening very closely to relevance today in answers to all questions. I am starting to hear some significant straying from the core of those questions.

Schools, Union Recruitment

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. I table a screenshot of the website for the Queensland Council of Unions' Young Workers Hub asking schools to request a visit from their operatives.

Tabled paper: Web page titled 'Education Outreach Program' [[1183](#)].

Will the Premier explain why, if it is very, very clear there will not be union recruitment, unions are already preparing to go into Queensland schools?

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is—and I will clarify with the Minister for Industrial Relations—that there is no formal proposal before the minister, so I think that is a bit misleading. Mr Speaker, can I just clarify for the House something I said earlier? Earlier I reported that the Leader of the Opposition needed to state whether or not she supported Malcolm Turnbull or Peter Dutton. I clarify that reports now are that Scott Morrison may also be running, so now the Leader of the Opposition will need to make clear whether she supports Malcolm Turnbull, Scott Morrison—

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Premier.

Jobs, Innovation

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the government's commitment to support innovators and create jobs in regional Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for her question. I know she supports innovation in Queensland. We know that by partnering with business and supporting business we are creating more jobs here in Queensland. So far through our Advance Queensland program we have supported more

than 12,500 jobs right across our state, most recently through our \$8.3 million Ignite Ideas Fund which is supporting innovation right across our state including in the electorate of the honourable member for Mansfield and right across Queensland. One that comes to mind for me is in Rockhampton where we know a company has just developed a property system that uses 3D imagery, and they expect to put on an additional six jobs through this grant. This is the kind of work that we are doing because we believe in innovation.

We know that we have to go through very rigorous processes in order to secure a government grant, but we want to back smart businesses. What we do not want to back is politicians who want to get more than \$5 million from the federal government to support their family trust businesses. I do note that the Solicitor-General of Australia has now referred that matter to the Attorney-General to see if it should be investigated. This is the kind of man that those opposite backed.

A government member interjected.

Ms JONES: Absolutely! As my colleague just mentioned, we were joking that he was a walking duck on Tuesday and now he is a dead duck. However, I think he is a plucked duck.

A government member interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right, Pluck a Duck from *The Footy Show*. We know that it was the LNP in Queensland that turned on the Prime Minister of this nation. They were the ones behind the backroom dealing to remove a democratically elected Prime Minister of our country. It was the Queensland branch that turned. It did take them a couple of days walking the coast and scurrying through the corridors to get the numbers, but we know that it was the LNP branch that turned.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms JONES: The Leader of the Opposition needs to answer to the people of Queensland: does she support a prime minister of our country who boycotted the apology to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people of our nation? Does she support a man who goes around calling journalists a 'mad witch'?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for tourism, I ask you to come back to the core of the question under 118. We have had enough discussion on some matters today. Have you got anything further to add?

Ms JONES: Mr Speaker, I do not think it is innovative to back a prime minister who refuses to apologise to the first nations people of our country. I do not think it is innovative to back a Prime Minister who goes around calling women mad witches. I do not think it is innovative to make jokes about climate change—

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you have made repeated interjections. You are warned under standing orders. Minister, saying the word 'innovative' does not make this more relevant.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Minister, I ask if you have any further contribution to make?

Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Emails

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Premier. The banking royal commission received evidence that the proposed merger of Energy Super fund and Equip Super was in members' best interests and would have generated \$20 million of value for members. The evidence also said that the merger was scuttled by unions because union bosses were not guaranteed their plum board jobs. Has the Premier investigated what role Minister Bailey played in stopping the merger after being lobbied by the ETU through his private email account asking him to block the merger? I table a media article on that particular subject.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, dated 3 August 2018, titled 'Hayne eyes union busting of Energy Super merger' [\[1184\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Before answering, Premier, I say to the member for Burleigh that there was quite a lengthy preamble in that question. Please take that on notice.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look at that merger issue. Can I say obviously the merger is on in Canberra. I understand that the Prime Minister is going to stand aside. I thank the member for Burleigh for asking that question because he did tweet today 'another perfect day at work'—and it is not so perfect down in Canberra can I say.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

National Skills Week

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please provide an update about the importance of National Skills Week and the importance of this week's message to our national leaders?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Cairns for his question. I know how committed he is to making sure that Queenslanders have access to quality training, particularly when they need to upskill and reskill when they are changing careers. As I mentioned yesterday, National Skills Week is fast approaching and I am really looking forward to being at TAFE's South Bank campus next week to launch National Skills Week in Brisbane. You could not think of a better venue than TAFE. TAFE Queensland marks 135 years of delivering quality education and training. Honourable members do not have to take my word for it; for the third consecutive year TAFE Queensland was awarded Large Training Provider of the Year in Queensland. They do a tremendous job. TAFE and members on this side of the House know how important it is for Queenslanders to have access to that training and those TAFE courses when they are facing a career change.

On the eve of National Skills Week, no less, Malcolm Turnbull and many of his colleagues appear to be facing their own career change. We have lost count of the number of ministers or assistant ministers who appear to be resigning. While they ponder their options for the future, I hope they reflect on the \$70 million in funding cuts they have inflicted on Queensland's training budget and the 7,000 apprentices and trainees who are suffering. One way or another, we know that Malcolm Turnbull and many other federal MPs are pondering their futures. I would like to say to them that there are many options for them at TAFE, whether they want to enrol in a trade or a business diploma. If they want to do basket weaving they will have to go elsewhere, because that is not what TAFE is about.

It is a shame that the LNP have cut funding to so many adult education courses at TAFE. It would appear that Peter Dutton could probably benefit from an adult education course in maths so he can finally work out when he has the numbers. After Malcolm Turnbull's appalling display on energy policy over the last week, maybe we will see him enrol in TAFE Queensland's Diploma of Leadership & Management, because the course notes reveal that TAFE can help 'make great happen' with reskilling in communication and encouraging innovation. These are clearly skill sets that our current Prime Minister is lacking. While TAFE Queensland is always happy to recognise prior experience and learning I am not sure that, given the Prime Minister's efforts over the last week, he will graduate any sooner. Either way, we know that our federal MPs will be considering their options for a career change and I, like many Queenslanders, want to do this for them at the ballot box.

Genner, Mr J

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. I table a letter from the Premier's department appointing Josh Genner, a former political director of GetUp! to a taxpayer funded temporary staffer role for the duration of the 2017 state election campaign. Will the Premier guarantee that Labor did not abuse taxpayer funded entitlements for a person to conduct party political campaigning, which is in clear breach of the Fitzgerald principles?

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 October 2017, from the Manager, Human Resources, Ministerial Services, Department of the Premier and Cabinet, Mrs Mikhal Mitchell, to Mr Josh Genner regarding conditions of employment [[1185](#)].

Ms PALASZCZUK: I understand that the matter is before the CCC. I can repeat what is already on the public record. He was employed as a media adviser in the office of the Deputy Premier. This role was within the existing staff budget for the Deputy Premier's office. I am advised that Mr Genner had no role with GetUp! in the period prior to his employment as a ministerial staffer.

Renewable Energy

Mr PEGG: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House of the impact of the Palaszczuk government's positive policies on the renewable energy sector in Queensland, and is the minister aware of any alternative policies?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question; he indeed is a strong advocate for renewable energy in this state. The impact of the Palaszczuk government's energy policies can be seen right across Queensland. From Kingston in the north to Chinchilla in the south-west, in the past 18 months nine large-scale solar farms have started operating including Genex at Kidston, Canadian Solar's project at Longreach and Sun Metals at Townsville, which the Premier opened just last week. We have a \$4.3 billion pipeline of committed projects that has given Queensland more large-scale renewable projects than any other state or territory in this nation. We also have 23 large-scale projects that are currently financially committed to or under construction. These will deliver more than 2,164 megawatts of generation capacity by the end of next year and, most importantly, 3,600 valuable jobs for regional Queensland. On top of these, another 70 large-scale renewable energy projects are in the pipeline.

Our position is clear and effective. Power prices are falling. We provide certainty and stability for industry, and we have a plan to transition to a renewable future for this state. Queensland is the powerhouse of the nation. But what of the LNP? This entire leadership crisis began when LNP energy policy descended from confusion to utter chaos. In just three days we have had three different energy policies from Canberra, and the last one was a thought bubble from Peter Dutton. Energy reliability and stability is a critical issue for this nation. There is nothing more important. It does not matter who emerges from the rabble—Turnbull, Dutton, Abbott, Bishop, Morrison or Crisafulli—none of them have any credible energy policy. I say to whoever is the last person standing, 'Just call an election immediately. Move aside.' We need a federal Labor government that will deliver a credible energy policy for our great nation.

Adani

Mr BERKMAN: My question is for the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. I refer to a social media post by Stop Adani yesterday which states that 7 September 2018 is the last day to commence prosecution in relation to the apparently wilful release of pollution by Adani at Abbot Point. Will the minister confirm what the deadline is for the prosecution of Adani in relation to this pollution event, and will the government commence prosecution to enforce the law before time runs out?

Ms ENOCH: It is public knowledge that the deadline for intention to prosecute is in fact 7 September. In terms of action from the Queensland government with regard to that, that is still under consideration and I am not at liberty to say.

Illegal Firearms

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister please inform the House of the action being taken to target illegal firearms and keep Queenslanders safe?

Mr RYAN: I am very pleased to inform the House that just a few days ago police raided 10 properties on the Darling Downs with the purpose of targeting the trafficking of stolen firearms and drugs. As a result of those efforts eight people were arrested on multiple offences. One of the alleged offenders was intercepted in his vehicle, where police found two loaded handguns, the drug ice and a large amount of cash. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work of our Police Service and their actions in bringing down this network and keeping our community safe.

When it comes to our government's resolve in relation to strong regulations for firearms here in Queensland, we have made the very strong commitment that we will never, ever weaken our gun laws. We will never water down our gun laws in Queensland. Since the historic agreement after the Port Arthur massacre there have been no fatal mass shootings in Australia. We owe it to all Queenslanders and the rest of the nation to keep it that way. We always have doubts about the LNP's position on firearm regulation in Queensland. We always have to question where they stand on weapons.

I have come across minutes from the federal government's firearms reference industry group in which the former federal minister for justice, Minister Keenan—who is a strong supporter of Peter Dutton, I might add—said, according to the minutes—

The government—

that is the federal government—

is keen to simplify the regulations and the bureaucracy to lessen the red tape for firearms users.

What is that code for? That is code for watering down gun laws. Why is that familiar? It is a similar tone to what we heard from those opposite prior to the last election. They went to the election with the proposal to water down handgun laws here in Queensland. The member for Everton is on the public record as saying that, as police minister, he would interfere in the decision-making processes of the Weapons Licensing Branch. He would water down regulation here in Queensland and make our state less safe because of their commitment to be wishy-washy on gun laws here in Queensland. It is an absolute disgrace.

When it comes to gun laws here in Queensland one thing is for sure: our government has a strong commitment to never, ever weakening gun laws. We will never water down gun laws in Queensland. Where do those opposite stand? They stand for cutting red tape for firearms users and watering down gun laws. I say that you can never be tough on crime if you are soft on guns, and those opposite are soft on guns.

Drought

Mr PERRETT: My question is to the minister for agriculture. Just a few months ago the minister cut the drought declarations of 11 regional areas in the midst of a worsening drought. In light of the worsening drought and the desperate animal feed shortage, has the minister directed the drought committees to reconvene and provide updated advice on the intensifying situation?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Gympie for his question. I do not know where he was when I was providing my ministerial statement—he may have been out of the chamber—but I think it is quite clear, from the information I provided to the chamber this morning, how local drought committees operate. Once again, for the benefit of the House and the member for Gympie, I will go through the process to address your lack of knowledge.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, direct your comments through the chair.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr FURNER: I withdraw that comment, Mr Speaker.

Mr Perrett interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gympie, it is not time to repropose your arguments.

Mr FURNER: Local drought committees are made up of representatives of a broad cross-section of their communities. They are professional. They are knowledgeable about the climate and about the situation on their land. They remain that way without politics involved in the process.

As I pointed out earlier, LDCs have been around since 1982. I think your friend Joh Bjelke-Petersen brought them in. They maintain the same practice they have used since 1982. That is a practice of providing information by collecting data from local community leaders, by collecting data from the BOM website and by having communications with their councillors and then making recommendations to me as minister as to whether there is a need for their region to be drought declared.

As members would know, there are 23 drought-declared regions in this state. Some 57 per cent of the state is drought declared. A further four regions are partially drought declared, based on information provided by those local drought committees. On the basis of that knowledge, I make a decision as to whether those regions should be declared. Occasionally, as I did this year, I question some of the advice. I went back to seek advice from my department. Notwithstanding that advice, I did not hesitate in accepting their knowledge and their recommendations to ensure those regions were declared.

I am not in a position to challenge their position in respect of those recommendations. If there are LDCs that consider there is a need for further examination then I am quite prepared to have a look at that, as I always do. I will always respect the members of those LDCs and the recommendations they make as they consider their environment.

For the benefit of those opposite, earlier I tabled the individually droughted property application—a simplified, four-page application for people to apply for drought assistance in those areas where they are in need. I encourage members opposite to inform people in their regions of that.

(Time expired)

Advancing Clean Energy Schools

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Minister for Education. Will the minister advise on the progress of the government's Advancing Clean Energy Schools program and how this program will cut energy bills for schools?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know that the member for Greenslopes believes in the science of climate change, understands its impact on drought-affected areas and is very keen to see solar panels installed on schools in his electorate. The Advancing Clean Energy Schools program is a great election commitment that we made to the people of Queensland, and we are getting on with the job of implementing it. It is amazing that, in a time of severe drought in this country and in light of the science on climate change, we have a battle for the prime ministership of this country based on national energy policy or the lack thereof. It is really quite astounding. I think it sounds alarm bells to those students who are in this chamber today listening to question time.

Unlike the federal government, which is tearing itself apart over a national electricity policy, we in Queensland have a policy and program that represents a clear plan for Queensland's clean energy future. We have set a goal to put solar panels on the roofs of houses and have set a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. That goes a long way to addressing climate change issues and the effects of climate change, which no doubt are severe with the drought in this country. We have a solution in the form of our clean energy policy. What is the solution of the Leader of the Opposition? She wants to cut down more trees. That is her solution.

Our \$97 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program will help us achieve these targets. Over three years the ACES program will deliver solar and energy-efficiency measures in more than 800 Queensland schools across all electorates throughout this state. ACES includes an investment of \$40 million for solar panels and \$57 million for energy-efficiency measures. We know that Queensland state schools are one of the government's largest energy users, collectively spending more than \$67 million a year on electricity costs. This program will help save around \$10 million a year. It will bring about a much cleaner type of electricity use in our schools. It will educate our students on how you can implement energy-saving initiatives in schools throughout Queensland. Every member in this House will benefit from those schools understanding renewable energy, its impact on climate change and how we as a country and as a state can do something about it.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I always like to welcome schools to the parliament. I wish to particularly welcome Glen Innes Public School from New South Wales. It is wonderful that you have seen the light and come to Queensland.

Interstate Students in Queensland Schools

Mrs STUCKEY: My question without notice is to the Premier. During estimates I asked the Minister for Education about New South Wales students attending Queensland state schools, crowding out Queensland kids—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I appreciate the irony, members—

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Health, you are warned under the standing orders. Member, I apologise. Can you please repeat your question because the question was interrupted by the irony of having students from a New South Wales school in the gallery. Please repeat your question. The question will be heard in silence.

Mrs STUCKEY: I also welcome my very close schools in New South Wales to the chamber today. My question without notice is to the Premier. During estimates I asked the Minister for Education about New South Wales students attending Queensland state schools, crowding out Queensland kids and forcing them to travel further away from home. The minister said that under the Australian Constitution we are prohibited from denying services just because of an imaginary line on a map.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs STUCKEY: May I continue?

Mr SPEAKER: Please continue.

Mrs STUCKEY: My question is: why is the Palaszczuk government denying services to Queensland students, who should be their priority?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Awkward—very awkward and embarrassing, when we have visiting students from New South Wales. Next those opposite will be saying, ‘Don’t let the tourists cross the border to come here from New South Wales.’

Our priority is making sure that services are delivered to Queenslanders, but I am not going to deny people from New South Wales an education—just like I am sure that some New South Wales northern schools offer some Queensland children an education. We do have an agreement with the New South Wales government—and the New South Wales Premier and I jointly signed on that—about a mutual exchange between the borders.

Mr Dick: It’s Thursday!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, it is Thursday. Who knows? Next they will be wanting to build a wall—the great wall of New South Wales and Queensland. Those opposite are happy to take New South Wales rubbish, not the children. Dear, oh, dear! I say bring back the member for Clayfield to help with strategy. They need all the help they can get on strategy.

Whilst I am on my feet I want to clarify an answer that I said I would get back to the House on, in relation to the member for Burleigh’s question about Energy Super. I am advised that Energy Super is an industry fund run by the industry and unions. The Queensland government has no role in the consideration of a proposed merger. Minister Bailey advised the House on 28 February 2017 that he was not a decision-maker, respected that process and made no representations. The minister has previously advised the opposition leader of this in response to the ethics complaint of 6 March 2018, which was dismissed by the Deputy Speaker on 3 May 2018. To quote the Minister for State Development, if you want better answers, ask better questions. The member for Currumbin gets the gold medal today—the gold medal of questions today!

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. No, she was there for some of the pre-events. She gets the gold medal of questions. Absolutely unbelievable!

South-East Queensland, Koala Population

Mrs McMAHON: My question—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry. Minister for Education, you are warned under standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. The minister has already been warned.

Mr SPEAKER: No, the Minister for Education was not warned. The Minister for Tourism was warned. Thank you. I realise there has been a case of mistaken identity earlier today, but I am—

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker, but in all seriousness, after the issue before, you did then issue a general warning to all members of the House and then I assume—

Mr SPEAKER: No, member. That does not change the rulings that I have given today and any mistaken identity was also rectified, so that general warning is for all members.

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Will the minister update the House on the progress of the Palaszczuk government’s commitment to address the decline in South-East Queensland’s koala population and advise the House of any alternative approaches?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute.

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. The Queensland government has accepted all of the recommendations from the koala expert panel’s final report which was released on 4 May. This government is committed to that. However, it appears as though those opposite are not so much. Every single member of the LNP opposed the Palaszczuk government’s sensible vegetation management laws to end broadscale tree clearing and not one member of the LNP opposite spoke out against Malcolm Turnbull’s budget announcement to sell off koala habitat in Birkdale. On top of that, it has come to my attention that correspondence has been received from the Southern Downs branch of the LNP to the Department of Environment and Science, and I am happy to table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 18 May 2018, from the Southern Downs LNP women to the Department of Environment and Science regarding the koala sanctuary at Springwood [[1186](#)].

The letter says with regard to koalas—

... they are a national—

icon—

but, how many is enough.

In reference to a parcel of koala habitat in Springwood, the Southern Downs LNP said—

... should be enough for your team to concentrate on and focus on keeping them there. Dont worry about the rest of Queensland.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

PETITIONS

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

Sarina Range, Repairs

Mr Andrew, from 569 petitioners, requesting the House to bring forward the completion of repairs to the Sarina Range following damage caused by Cyclone Debbie [[1187](#), [1188](#)].

Petitions received.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report

Resumed from 22 August (see p. 2036).

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (11.15 am): On 2 August the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee examined my portfolio areas of Education and Industrial Relations during the estimates parliamentary hearings. The questioning in estimates from the LNP and its statement of reservation in the final report again shows what an incompetent opposition it is. It is all about whinging. It is all about no substance. It is all about glib one-liners and political cheap pointscoreing. That is it.

I again remind those opposite of the facts, but I do want to start by giving the gold medal for the most useless question asked—and then again today in the House during question time—by the member for Currumbin. The gold medal—the gold star—is hers because, although there are claims about New South Wales students in Queensland—and we explained that it is unconstitutional not to deliver a service, that we have cross-border agreements, there are students from Queensland in New South Wales—she has yet to come up with one student's name who has been denied a place in a school in Queensland.

Just give me a name and I will give her a guarantee in this House right now—under the budget, under the Appropriation Bill—that I will fix any Queensland student denied an education in her electorate. However, I will not be holding my breath because I do not think there will be any names forthcoming. It is in her mind. She is just cheap political pointscoreing, making up unconstitutional questions about denying young kids an education. What irony that it was asked today when students from New South Wales are in the gallery here. That is a gold star, member for Currumbin. No-one will ever take it from her, and I would not be very proud of it either. I would be pretty well ashamed if I were her.

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Ms GRACE: I again remind those opposite of the facts. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a combined—

Mrs Stuckey interjected.

Ms GRACE: She will not stop interjecting! She is still going on about it. She wants the government to act unconstitutionally. Instead of interjecting, come up with names. I have given you a guarantee. Give me a name. Tell her to give me a name.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! One moment, Minister. Members—

Mrs STUCKEY: I rise to a point of order.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just one moment, please. Resume your seat. Members, it is hard enough hearing the minister without the discussions going on across the chamber. I remind you that if you are having conversations you need to take them outside. Member for Currumbin, you have a point of order?

Mrs STUCKEY: Yes. I take offence to what the minister is saying and I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Were the comments personal?

Mrs STUCKEY: Yes, they were personal. She has been referring to me. Her speech so far has only been about me. I ask her to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: One moment, Minister. Resume your seat.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Mr Speaker has made very clear his intentions this morning. Any Deputy Speaker who takes on this seat will continue in the same vein as Mr Speaker, who has set high standards this morning. They will continue. Minister, the member for Currumbin has found statements that you made personally offensive.

Ms GRACE: I withdraw. The Palaszczuk government is delivering a combined \$14.1 billion in funding for education and training in 2018-19 and not one student will be denied access to education in this state. As to the allegations of the member for Currumbin, she should be ashamed of herself. Our investment in education alone in 2018-19 is \$13 billion. The 2018-19 state budget also provides funding for an additional 1,000 teachers as part of our election commitment to employ 3,000 extra teachers. Our infrastructure project will see over \$923 million invested in our educational facilities in 2018-19. I just spoke of our near \$100 million solar and efficiency measures in state schools through our Advancing Clean Energy Schools program. In the non-state sector, we are providing close to \$670 million in general recurrent funding and nearly \$100 million in capital assistance funding to 508 accredited non-state schools with 268,000 students.


In the Industrial Relations portfolio, we are getting on with supporting a fair, safe and productive workplace in Queensland. We will be implementing the best practice review into workplace health and safety in Queensland. Of the 58 recommendations, 90 per cent are either fully implemented or well advanced.

The opposition is nothing if not predictable. During the estimates hearing, the shadow education minister asked me just seven questions. Several of the questions asked by the member for Kawana were focused on plaques for the opening of schools. It was plaque-gate. We had to delay an opening owing to unforeseen circumstances. A \$13 billion Education budget came down to having to possibly replace one plaque in one school. That is absolutely unbelievable. The members opposite are more concerned about grabbing headlines and glib lines. That is the intention of those opposite.

I thank the chair, the member for Nudgee, who did an absolutely excellent job, my fellow committee members and those opposite on the estimates committee. This is an important process about how we spend Queensland government money. I thank them for their efforts.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Maroochydore, I remind all members of the House who has been warned officially. They are the member for Burnett, the member for Buderim, the member for Cairns, the member for Kawana, the member for Glass House, the Premier, the member for Warrego, the member for Nicklin, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the Minister for Health, the Minister for Tourism, and the Minister for Education.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (11.22 am): After the debacle of being the minister for child safety during which Minister Fentiman presided over a system where vulnerable children tragically died due to a failure of a duty of care by this state, we find that this minister has learned nothing about good governance and accountability. That is evident by the fact that it took Minister Fentiman seven months to put in place right-to-information processes in her new portfolios of Employment and Small Business


and Training and Skills Development after changing portfolios. I will repeat that: seven months—from 12 December 2017 to 19 July 2018. There has been no apology from the minister for this extraordinary delay for which she as the minister is responsible. She cannot handball the blame to others. I ask the Premier whether that is in accordance with ministerial standards and the charter letter that the Premier wrote to the minister when she asked for accountability and transparency as part of the minister's job and performance criteria. It is shocking and shameful, but there has been no apology or acknowledgement that it is unacceptable.

The time the minister took to put in place right-to-information processes in her office and department was a failure of transparency and accountability. Another lack of transparency is the fact that this minister refused to release the weightage criteria that was used for certain grants that were provided in South-East Queensland to some areas that had lower unemployment figures than did other parts of South-East Queensland. There has been no proper explanation in detail with a transparent release of the information as to how the government came up with different weightages in different areas. That is completely opaque. There has not been a release of that criteria. I call on the minister to be transparent and release that information. It does not add up. There is a big smell around the backdoor whiteboard approach to the way the government handles grants in this state.

When we see a truly disastrous fall in the number of young Queenslanders completing their training in this state, we have to ask, 'What are the priorities of this government?' We see that TAFE Queensland wasted \$230,000 on 2,148 tickets to the Commonwealth Games. We also see that the organisation that is supposed to be focused on skilling Queenslanders—TAFE Queensland—has about \$700,000 tagged for travel to Asia, Europe, South America and Africa. There are many other examples of a spike in the hospitality expenses of TAFE executives and officials. This organisation is losing money. On the back of a \$4 million loss last financial year, it is set to lose \$11 million this year. What are the government's priorities when there has been such an increase in hospitality, when it is splurging money on tickets to the Commonwealth Games and the minister is refusing to release the weightage criteria in other areas of her portfolio? It does not smack of a government, or a minister, or a department and its agencies that is focused on what matters for Queensland.

Clearly, Minister Shannon Fentiman, Anastacia Palaszczuk and Labor have the wrong priorities. They have taken their eyes off what matters. We want to see this great state enter its next chapter with Queenslanders who have received the right training and who have the right focus, where governments do not waste money and instead are focused on ensuring that money is spent on the front line of service delivery. I draw the attention of members to the fact that a high proportion of TAFE Queensland staff are not teaching staff at the front line of service delivery. We want to see an organisation that is working hard to ensure that the dollars go to the front line of training and not into the pockets of hospitality, wining and dining and a government that is quick to cover it up.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.27 am): I was very pleased to participate in the examination of the estimates committee of my portfolio's budget area of Employment and Small Business and Training and Skills Development. I thank the committee, particularly the chair, the member for Nudgee, Leanne Linard, for their work. I thank them for their recommendation that the expenditure be agreed to without amendment.

The estimates committee hearing provided an opportunity to outline how budget allocations are supporting the Palaszczuk government's priorities of creating jobs and providing the training and skills that Queenslanders need to access meaningful work. This government is supporting Queenslanders into work through a range of important programs, such as the successful Back to Work program, established by Labor—a program that the LNP went to the election saying it was going to cut.

The North Stradbroke Island Workers Assistance Scheme and the ongoing delivery of the Sticking Together pilot support vulnerable young people to find employment. We also know that small businesses are the engine room of our economy and are responsible for the vast majority of job creation, which is why for the first time our budget included a small business budget paper dedicated to informing small businesses of all the funding and support available to them across government.

The estimates committee process provided the opportunity to review the planned expenditure of more than \$950 million in training and skills. The Palaszczuk government puts training and skills front and centre of its agenda, because we know that it is the pathway to jobs. We want to make sure that people who are leaving school and transitioning into the workforce get the training they need to get decent jobs. That is why we are investing \$80 million into our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program,

which will provide support for up to 13,000 disadvantaged Queenslanders. We know that this program works, which is why I was very surprised to see in the LNP's election costing documents that it was again going to scrap Skilling Queenslanders for Work.

As I mentioned in the estimates hearing, it seems that the shadow spokesperson for employment and training did not even know that her party was going to cut the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. We are also investing in regional skills development and training in priority areas such as the NDIS. I am proud to have responsibility for delivering these programs.

As was discussed at estimates, our ability to deliver these programs is greatly affected by the cuts and uncertainty inflicted by the Commonwealth government. As I have said many times in this House, there have been \$70 million in cuts to our training budget. We have heard nothing from the shadow spokesperson. In fact, the shadow spokesperson has not put out one media release about employment in Queensland in her role as the shadow employment spokesperson.

I want to raise a few issues in response to the dissenting report. The opposition selectively quoted *Hansard* to say that I refused to answer questions about the criteria for changes to the Back to Work program. Let me repeat what I actually said at estimates. I did say I would speak slowly and it would be published in *Hansard* for all to see, so let me do that again, slowly, for the shadow spokesperson's benefit. The identification of areas facing significant labour market challenges is not just the latest monthly unemployment rate; the assessment of the new Back to Work areas included considerations such as broader economic conditions in local communities.

Ms Simpson: Release the criteria weightage! Release the actual weightage!

Ms FENTIMAN: I take that interjection from the shadow spokesperson. I am outlining the criteria.

Ms Simpson: No, you have released the documentation that you have based it on.

Ms FENTIMAN: And I am speaking very slowly so that the member might understand.

Ms Simpson: Why don't you table the criteria and the actual formula you used?

Ms FENTIMAN: I am happy to table my speech. This is already in *Hansard*.

Ms Simpson interjected.


Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Maroochydore, you of all people should know better.

Ms FENTIMAN: As I was saying, it included consideration of matters such as broader economic conditions in those local communities and connections to employment opportunities, including the ability of unemployed people to access transport. I hope that is clear enough. The dissenting report also highlighted that the opposition either did not understand RTI or they do not care about the facts. Let us be very clear: the RTI delegations signed by ministers has no connection to the RTI processes that happen in the department. RTI is independently managed. Ministers have no authority around it when it comes to the department. This was a problem in the Newman government. There was a bit of trouble with the member for Surfers Paradise and the previous member for Moggill getting around to delegating their authority. It took them nine months after taking on their ministerial roles.

Ms Simpson: Seven months from your own office. You have no shame.

Ms FENTIMAN: I know you were not in cabinet, member for Maroochydore, but your colleagues were and they took longer than this. They should spend more time working on policies and less time being tricky.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (11.32 am): I rise to speak on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's report on the Appropriation Bill 2018. I am very pleased to serve as a member of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee because at the end of the day I truly believe that these three aspects, education, employment and small business, are what keeps our state vibrant and thriving. As a new member of the House I expected that being part of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee would provide me with an understanding of the Palaszczuk government's plan for Queensland. This has certainly been the case. I have gained a greater understanding of the complete lack of openness and transparency by the Labor government, in particular how standing orders are used to protect their ministers from answering questions.

As the shadow assistant minister for education I will be focusing my speech on the education aspect of the committee's deliberation of the Appropriation Bill. As a parent of five children I want my kids and all children in Queensland to receive the best education that the system can provide. We all

know that education is the key to the opportunity of lasting employment. The Labor government's sole focus is to please their union buddies, to compromise what they know to be right, just and fair in order to appease the unions who control them. This Labor government will not rule out allowing a union program designed to indoctrinate our children from being taught in Queensland state school classrooms. Subjects that are proposed in this program include political activism, which would include snap rallies, protests and other ways to draw the public's attention. In fact, it was my colleague, the shadow minister for education and the member for Kawana, who asked the minister about this. This exchange took place at the estimates hearing—

Mr BLEIJIE: Minister, within the space of one day, you have had three different positions on this program. Will you finally guarantee to the people and students of Queensland and this committee that this program will never ever be found in Queensland schools and that you do not support any form of bullying in the school environment?

Ms GRACE: No


Mr BLEIJIE: You will not guarantee it?

Ms GRACE: No.

It is important for every parent in Queensland to know that this minister will not guarantee children attending state schools will not be indoctrinated to union politicking. In fact, she has emphatically ruled out giving any guarantee. This is disgraceful. Instead of allowing the unions to force their ideals down students' throats, the Palaszczuk Labor government should be focused on ensuring our children have the education basics they need for their future.

I will close on a matter that is close to my home. A few weeks before the estimates hearings, I was approached by two sets of parents who have beautiful young daughters who were accepted as early enrolments for prep this year. These parents had just been called into their principal's office to be told that a mistake had occurred. Their daughters were too young for early entry to prep by five and six days and their enrolment in prep was being cancelled. The only option provided to them was to send their daughters back to kindy. After six months of prep—of engaging in prep work and excelling, of establishing friendships with peers, of turning up to prep every day to participate and learn—they were told to go back to kindy. When I asked about this debacle in estimates what did I hear? I heard that this had occurred not only to two children in my electorate but also to two others in Queensland who were also victims of this early enrolment bungle. We also discovered that last year there were five students who were affected. We have been told by the education minister that this will not happen again. We will wait and see.

In summing up, it is fair to say that what I have learnt and what I have come to understand as a result of my role on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee is that the Palaszczuk government has no plan for Queensland. All the government does is focus on itself and not what is in the best interests of Queenslanders.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (11.37 am): I rise to talk on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee estimates hearing. I would like to thank the chair for a wonderful day and the two ministers for their answers regarding their portfolios. We heard much from the other side about a protection racket. I did not see it. Questions from my little preppies at Sunbury State School would have been better than those asked by the opposition during the estimates hearing. The Palaszczuk government is doing a wonderful job in relation to education in the Maryborough electorate and across Queensland. As a result of this year's budget there will be 1,000 more teachers; 4,000 over the next four years. Every child will get an education. A Labor government educates. We do not look back, we look forward to the future. We are a progressive government that makes sure that every child who goes to school in this state gets an education so they can compete in the new economy moving forward.

I was very impressed with the performance of the minister during the education and IR sessions of the estimates hearing. The minister gave concise answers to questions that were sometimes a little bit off-putting. One would think that in this day and age we would be talking about the money spent on schools, but we wasted 30 minutes on a plaque. I am sure parents and teachers of Albert State School, Sunbury State School and other schools in my electorate are very worried about plaques in schools, but they are more worried about what this government spends on education in my electorate.

I will run through what is happening in the Maryborough electorate. This year's budget contains great spends for Maryborough schools. I am talking about schools such as Mungar State School, Tiaro State School and Albert State School, which is getting a STEM classroom. That is very important for the future of our children. Principal Phil is a fantastic bloke who looks after the students in one of the

oldest schools in my electorate. The budget contains \$10 million for an upgrade to Maryborough State High School. Those are just some of the things happening in the Maryborough electorate through the Education portfolio.


In terms of industrial relations, we talked about the labour hire laws that protect workers in this state. The minister should be very proud of having brought that great legislation to this House.

In terms of the Employment and Small Business portfolio, the minister talked about Skilling Queenslanders for Work. I love that program. It is great for my electorate. One of the things that I like about the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program is that when you go to the award ceremonies the room is only half full and they say, 'Joe Bloggs is not here because he has a job,' and 'Mary Smith is not here because she has a job.' I absolutely love that about Skilling Queenslanders for Work. When I talk to the young people who have come through that program, they tell me about the work that they have undertaken as a result of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program—a program that was absolutely cut by the previous LNP government. That government did not care about education and it did not care about young people getting back to work. Another great program that the minister talked about is the Back to Work program. The other day, I went to a local coffee shop where I met a young lady who was employed there through the Back to Work program. She had been looking for work for a long time and she was successful through the Back to Work program.

When we look at what the Palaszczuk government is delivering, it is tick, tick, tick. All the opposition could do was carp and waste time talking about plaques and this and that, instead of getting down to the nitty-gritty and finding out how good the government is at delivering for education, IR and small business across the state. In my life I have spent a lot of time in small business and it is good to see a government that is very interested in small business. Small Business Week is a wonderful thing that really gets people involved.

I thank all members of the committee for a good estimates hearing. As I did before, I thank both the ministers for their very informative sessions, which ensured that everyone in Queensland, particularly in the Maryborough electorate, knows how good this Palaszczuk Labor government is and what it is doing for education and training, IR and small business. I commend the report to the House.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Hinchinbrook, I acknowledge in the gallery today more students from the Glen Innes Public School in New South Wales.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (11.42 am): I rise to speak about my time representing the good people of Hinchinbrook at this year's Education, Employment and Small Business Committee estimates hearing in regards to the Appropriation Bill 2018. Firstly, I thank my fellow committee members: our chair, the member for Nudgee; the deputy chair, the member for Currumbin; and the members for Maryborough, Pumicestone and Cairns. I also acknowledge the members for Maiwar and Noosa who sought leave to attend the committee hearing.


I went to my first estimates committee hearing with an open mind and no preconceptions as to how things would unfold. I thought it would be an extremely rare opportunity for me to question the two ministers and talk about their portfolios. As a crossbench member, I was allocated a fair and reasonable amount of time, which allowed three questions to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations, and two questions to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Other members had told me that this would be a time to put the ministers on the spot. I was pretty excited about that opportunity. I learned that the member for Kawana and the member for Maroochydore would also be joining us as shadow ministers for the respective portfolios, to ask the big questions. I anticipated that the estimates hearing would shape up to be a perfect political storm and that no expense would be spared on the fireworks and theatrics. I was not wrong about that.

Being my first estimates hearing, I was a little unsure about the kinds of questions I should ask, so a couple of weeks before estimates I went into my electorate to talk to the people affected by this budget. I talked to schoolteachers, school principals, employers and employees. I came back with what I thought were some very good questions. At the estimates hearing, I noticed that a fair bit of time was going to be chewed up by the shadow ministers. That is quite right, as they are in opposition. However, I honestly thought that they would use the time a little more constructively. I really liked the questions of the member for Kawana. They were well formulated, well formed and, at times, quite funny. However, it would have been a little more constructive if we had spent a little less time on plaques. Nonetheless, they were his questions to ask and it was up to him how he used his time.

In the Hinchinbrook electorate we have some amazing schools, from Toobanna State School, which has less than 10 students, to the Northern Beaches State High School, which has close to 1,000 students. There is a diverse range of issues when it comes to funding. At the moment, we have a lot of problems across-the-board, but the problem of acting principal roles has been raised by local principals. I had the opportunity to ask the Minister for Education about this and what the government is doing within the budget to reduce the number of acting principals. Minister Grace was kind enough to answer that question promptly. She said that they are addressing the problem at the moment, but at the current time it is more of an operational issue. The director-general, Mr Cook, provided some of the answers to this question. He said that three years ago we were at 27 per cent and the figure is down to about 20 per cent in acting principal roles. That is a good improvement. There is room for a bit more work on that, but it is good to see the figure coming down.

Next I was able to ask questions of Minister Fentiman in relation to training. The minister's office knows about a lot of the problems in my area. My question was directed to the budget. I asked what money is being spent to clean up dodgy registered training organisations in my electorate. Some operators are actually providing training and issuing tickets without the correct assessments, in my opinion and that of some other RTOs. Students go through a program, but they do not get the required training outcomes. The minister was kind enough to say that they knew about the issue and they are doing a lot of work in that space to rectify the problems. I will be looking to work with the minister's office in the future on this problem.

I close by thanking the committee members and the ministers who came along to our committee hearing. I thank the other members who attended the hearing. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.47 am): What a pleasure it was to listen to my learned colleague and hear his analysis of the day we had. It was a very entertaining day. I do not want to waste too much time and I am aware that we have young children present and how we conduct ourselves is very important, so I simply say that I was impressed—immensely—with the pathetic line of questioning that dominated a percentage of our time. In this process of analysis, the people of Queensland would expect hard questioning. Unfortunately, there was very little. I note that the majority of time went to the opposition.

I first acknowledge the cooperation of both the Minister for Education and the Minister for Employment and Small Business and their respective departments in providing information to the hearings. Both ministers and their departments were more than cooperative. I also acknowledge and thank my fellow committee members: the chair, the member for Nudgee; the deputy chair, the member for Currumbin; and the members for Maryborough, Hinchinbrook and Pumicestone.

Certainly some very positive news came out of the hearings, which is what I would like to concentrate on. I turn first to the Education portfolio. The 2020 Ready program will deliver additional classrooms to secondary schools around the state to help us prepare for a new era in education in Queensland. In 2020, for the first time, our high schools will have the full complement of students across years 7 to 12. I am particularly pleased that both Cairns State High School and Trinity Bay State High School, both in my electorate, received funding to build new facilities that are absolutely essential to those growing institutions.

High-quality education and care is one of the best things we can do for our children's future. The national system that Queensland has signed up to—the National Partnership Agreement on the Quality Agenda for Early Childhood Education and Care—shows that Queensland has met all targets. Some 95 per cent of Queensland services have been assessed and rated and 81 per cent of those are meeting or exceeding the national quality standard compared to 78 per cent nationally. I am sure everybody in this chamber, regardless of their views, would find that to be an excellent result. The minister and the department need to be commended for this.


One of the ways we have ensured all children have access to quality kindergarten programs, regardless of the financial situation of the family, is through the government's Kindergarten Funding Scheme. This is a targeted state subsidy paid to services for eligible families to help reduce out-of-pocket expenses. I cannot register strongly enough how important this is for families that are doing it tough. This can be up to \$1,283 per eligible child annually and supports more than 13,500 families who have children in day care and community kindy. This is absolutely vital.

I was also pleased to see we are investing over \$29 million in funding for Closing the Gap initiatives to help support Indigenous students in the 2018-19 financial year. Queensland has the best results in the nation for year 12 QCE completions for students from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander backgrounds. There is less than a percentage difference between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other year 12s obtaining a QCE. Last year, 97.2 per cent of Indigenous state school students in

Queensland achieved either a Queensland Certificate of Education or a Queensland Certificate of Individual Achievement compared to 98.1 per cent of non-Indigenous students. In 2013 this figure was 75 per cent. These are extremely positive results.

I want to deal with some of the other areas that our estimates hearing focused on and some of the initiatives out in the marketplace. I speak of initiatives like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. TAFE is one of our premiere providers of vocational education and training. There is a \$15 million boost to TAFE Queensland. Our Back to Work program is producing fantastic results. We are investing \$900,000 in the Sticking Together pilot project. I commend the minister who is doing a fantastic job travelling around the state and selling this project. I thank her for her time in Cairns recently.

The Regional Skills Adjustment Strategy is a \$10 million two-year initiative by the Palaszczuk government which provides a regional response for workers who are retrenched following significant company closures. These are all very positive initiatives. They amongst other things were highlighted during the hearing. It was a pleasure to be part of a successful program.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.52 am): It is clear that the unions have taken over education in Queensland. Members would be surprised to hear that it is not just the Queensland Teachers' Union but also the Queensland Council of Unions. What else would we expect from the education minister who of course was the state secretary of the Queensland Council of Unions?

This estimates process was an absolute joke from start to finish. Ministers were protected by the chairs. We had elder statesman John Mickel coming out saying that eager backbenchers—I suspect he was talking about the member for Pine Rivers, particularly because he issued his statement straight after the hearing she was on—are trying to protect ministers, who, incidentally I might add, did not need protection from questioning because they should know their portfolio and should be able to answer questions. We had the member for Pine Rivers interfering in all the processes, as was the case on this committee as well.

It was clear from this committee that in terms of the Queensland Council of Unions and the Young Workers Hub program the unions want to come into our school classrooms, indoctrinate kids in Queensland, recruit kids in Queensland and teach kids about the process of activism and union rallies. That is dangerous for Queensland students.

Imagine allowing a union to come in and teach, like the bullies and thugs in the CFMEU do, this is how to protest, this is how to threaten and this is how to be a thug. It is wrong. Under the LNP watch it will never happen. That cannot be said under the Labor government. I asked the minister to rule out not only the recruitment of the kids but also teaching kids about union rallies and protests. She would not rule it out. She would not guarantee it would not happen. In fact, she said, 'No, I am not going to guarantee it.'

We then had the issue of the new school at Dutton Park. The minister walked in with her big announcement for the day: the government is going to build a new school. That was until we produced a press release from the Deputy Premier in February saying that they were going to build a new school at the preferred site in Dutton Park. This was months ago. It had already been released. It had already been put out by the Deputy Premier.

Look at the pork-barrelling happening in the Deputy Premier's electorate—Cross River Rail, the new Dutton Park school, the Gabba expansion and improvements that she talked about yesterday. All the backbenchers in the government and opposition are missing out and she is pork-barrelling her own electorate.

They cannot tell us how much this new school is going to cost. They cannot produce the business case. They cannot say that the police station is going to have to be closed down on that site. There is an autism hub there and they cannot say what is going to happen to the autism hub. Other than knowing there is going to be a new school there, we do not know how much it will cost, we do not know exactly where it is going to go and we do not know whether we can save the current school oval. We also do not know what impact it is going to have on the enrolments of the successful Brisbane State High School. The government still cannot fix and has not fixed the enrolment and fraud issues at that school.

I turn to Independent Public Schools. This happened under the LNP's watch and will continue to grow under the LNP's watch. We had the minister say two weeks ago that she is going to release the review report once she is briefed. Yesterday she came out saying, 'I have not been briefed yet.' That is absolute rubbish.


How could the minister not be briefed when she got up in front of the media and said, 'There are seven or nine recommendations. It is a great report. I have read it, but I have not been briefed on it. I know nothing about the report other than its contents, its recommendations, its deliberations. I do not

know anything about it. Do not ask me about it because I have no idea what is in the report other than that there are nine recommendations, it is a fantastic report and the government will now consider it.' Apparently, sometime this week she is going to tell the Premier about it. You cannot tell me that the Department of Education, in giving that report to the minister, did not attach a briefing to the report. It happened. The minister is misleading everybody about it. The journalists know the minister is misleading.

Then we had complaints from workplace health and safety officers about bullying and thuggery by unions, like the CFMEU, on construction sites. We would think that the minister would stand up for her departmental staff—the ones who are in charge of workplace health and safety and go out to protect workers. The minister refused to take on notice and refused to answer how many complaints departmental staff have put in about thugs and CFMEU behaviour on work sites. The Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations will protect the unions over her own public servants.

We know that workplace health and safety officers are going to get a good gig with the registered training organisations. The unions will now be training workplace health and safety officers. Under this dodgy deal union RTOs will now be training the workplace health and safety officers on site.

The only party in Queensland that has a plan to air-condition every state school classroom is the Liberal National Party. We will air-condition our classrooms. We will make our classrooms cool right around Queensland.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.57 am): It is my pleasure to rise and speak to report No. 5 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee on the estimates hearing. I take this opportunity—my first opportunity—to correct the record and apologise to the House for stating that I had met the member for Townsville in his previous capacity as the principal of Pimlico State High School. There are 1,730 schools in Queensland. Whilst I met with hundreds and hundreds of principals, as I say I want to apologise for stating that I had met him when he was the principal of that school.

Mr Dick: Zero credibility. You say or do anything.

Mr LANGBROEK: There goes the member for Woodridge. Throw in a quick line and then duck out the door. That is what he does.

Continuing on from last night's private member's motion debate which was about Independent Public Schools and the legacy of the LNP, I indicate that I am very proud of what we achieved in government in terms of education, including the Independent Public Schools initiative. This brings me to the issue of what governments claim is their legacy and what they brought in—whether they planned or whether they delivered. I note that the minister, the member for McConnel, has been stating that they delivered more than half of the Independent Public Schools.


There are 250 independent public schools now, but I make the point that during our three years in government we announced the tranche of 50 in November 2014 for the 2015 year. My concern is for parents, students and teachers. They do not really care who delivers these things; they just want to know that they are going to be delivered. Let's get the facts straight. We delivered year 7 into high school; the Labor Party planned it. That is what happened. We delivered year 7 into high school. We announced the third tranche of IPS schools in November 2014.

We planned the review of senior curriculum that the previous government and a number of ministers from the mid-1990s refused to review. It was thought that the OP system was being gamed. I had principals coming to me all the time complaining about the OP system being gamed: 'Why is this school getting this number of OP 1 to 5s?' Meanwhile, my own son was doing a TAFE course to get a certificate III in media saying, 'That's great, Dad. I'll end up with an OP of 16,' to which I said, 'Hopefully, we can do a little better than that, son.' People were getting around the OP system that the former government refused to review.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

MOTION

Amendments to Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.00 pm): I seek leave to alter the terms of the notice of motion regarding the amendments to the sessional orders circulated in my name earlier today by inserting a new sessional order 2B(5), which I have circulated.

Leave granted.

Mrs D'ATH: I seek to insert after proposed new sessional order 2B(4) a new paragraph (5), which will read, 'Any amendment agreed to in (4) above is to take effect one hour after the House agrees to such an amendment.' I move—

That the amendments to sessional orders circulated in my name be agreed to, effective from 3 September 2018.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE SESSIONAL ORDERS OF THE 56th PARLIAMENT

1. In Sessional Order 1(c), delete from "**Tuesday**" to the first occurring "accordingly.)" and insert:

'Tuesday

*9.30am—10.15am—Preliminary Business **

Prayers

Messages from the Governor

Matters concerning privilege

Speaker's Statements

Appointments

Petitions

Citizen's Right of Reply

Notification and tabling of papers by the Clerk

Ministerial Papers

Ministerial Notices of Motion

Ministerial Statements

Any other Government Business

Personal Explanations

Tabling of Reports

Notice of motion for disallowance of statutory instrument

10.15am—11.15 am—

Question Time

11.15am—11.35am—

Business Program Motion (in accordance with Sessional Order 2B)

11.35am—1.00pm—

Government Business

1.00pm—2.00pm—

Lunch break

2.00pm—3.00pm—

Matters of Public Interest

3.00pm—5.30pm—

Government Business

5.30pm—7.00pm—

Disallowance Motions, Private Members' Bills or Government Business (in accordance with Sessional Order 1(d))

7.00pm—7.30pm—

Automatic Adjournment

* (If completed before 10.15 am, Question Time will commence earlier and continue for 1 hour with starting times for all other items, except lunch breaks, in the Order of Business adjusting accordingly.)'

2. After Sessional Order 2, insert:

'Business committee

2A (1) A Business Committee comprising the following members is established:

(a) the Leader of the House (or alternate);

(b) Premier (or alternate);

(c) the Manager of Opposition Business (or alternate); and

(d) the cross-bench member nominated under s.81 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* (or alternate).

(2) The role of the Business Committee is to aim to agree how the House will deal with government business.

(3) Any decisions made by the Business Committee in accordance with (2) are not binding on the House and a Business program motion in accordance with 2B is required.

(4) In this Sessional Order "alternate", in relation to a member, has the same meaning as in section 81 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001*.

(5) At a meeting of the Business Committee a quorum is the Leader of the House (or alternate) and one other member.

(6) A meeting of the Business Committee is chaired by the Leader of the House (or alternate).

Business program motion

2B (1) At the time specified in the Sessional Orders, the Leader of the House may move a motion without notice that provides for the allocation of time for any proceedings on a government Bill or any other government business.

(2) The motion may include a requirement that at the expiration of time specified in (1) all remaining questions necessary to pass the Bill, a stage of the Bill or any other government business be put, without further debate, which is taken to include any of the following:

- (a) the second reading question;
- (b) clauses and schedules en bloc;
- (c) any amendments to be moved by the minister in charge of the Bill; and
- (d) the third reading and long title.

(3) Completion of all questions necessary to pass the Bill, a stage of the Bill or any other government business in accordance with (1) and (2) shall take precedence over all other business, including the automatic adjournment, with the Order of Business adjusting to recommence after necessary questions are completed.

(4) Any agreed Business Program may be amended by a motion without notice, moved by the Leader of the House.

(5) Any amendment agreed to in (4) above is to take effect one hour after the House agrees to such an amendment.

3. In Sessional Order 8, in the schedule after the section detailing the time for Motions insert:

Motions—Business Program Motion (11.15 am Tuesdays) and Amendments to Business Program Motion	Sessional Order 1 and 2B	
– Mover		5 minutes
– Other members		5 minutes
– Total debate		20 minutes or when four speakers have concluded

4. In Sessional Order 8, in the schedule after the section detailing the time for Private Members' Motions omit '(Wednesday 6.00–7.00 pm)' and insert '(Wednesday 5.00-6.00pm)'

In moving these amendments today, as foreshadowed during the last sitting week, the government is proposing that a cross-parliamentary committee be established to manage the flow of government business in this House called a Business Committee. This Business Committee will comprise the Leader of the House, a government member nominated by the Premier, the Manager of Opposition Business and a member of the crossbench, or alternate members in their place.

The government will continue to determine what government bills will be debated each sitting week, and on a Monday the Business Committee will meet to discuss how long the Legislative Assembly should set to deal with various pieces of legislation. This committee will be a non-binding, informative committee, where members would attend and put their view forward regarding how many speakers they require based on, for example, whether the bill is technical and non-contentious in nature and supported or whether the bill is complex and significant and needing longer for debate.

As Leader of the House, I would move a motion in this chamber on a Tuesday morning, post question time, putting a business program to the House for that week, with 20 minutes of debate being allowed. This means that the destiny of the House will be determined by the House. Similar to Victoria, once the time frames agreed to by the House have been met, if the bills which are specified in the motion have not been completed then the remaining questions will be put en bloc.

The sessional orders will allow for amendments to the business program. A special meeting of the Business Committee may be undertaken and the Leader of the House, at the end of the meeting, would circulate the amendments and then move the amendments in the House, with a 20-minute debate or until four speakers have spoken. Once passed, the amended program would take effect one hour after it was passed which would be built into the amended motion, but, as we have just moved, it is the intention to have that reflected in the sessional orders as well.

Each sitting week we come into this chamber and we debate bills to modernise our legislation to ensure that it is keeping pace with modern standards. This motion does exactly that. Just as the laws we debate should reflect community expectations, so should the laws and rules which govern how the people's house operates. Victoria changed their standing orders 25 years ago in 1993, under the Kennett Liberal government. It is now time that the Queensland parliament considers modernising the way in which we operate.

When we come together today to debate this motion, I think it is an opportunity to ask all of us to reflect on the public's perception of politicians and of what we actually do in this parliament. Have a look around us at what is happening in Canberra today. No matter how popular any individual or government of the day might be, the perception of politicians out there generally is very cynical. We can blame society. We can blame the media. We can blame a whole lot of things for that cynicism. The reality is that ultimately it starts with us and our behaviour and the way we conduct ourselves.

Members do have a right to speak in this chamber on behalf of their electorates, but we also have an obligation to have meaningful and considered contributions to debate. That does not mean that we cannot have a robust debate—have a bit of a fun, have a few jokes, have a bit of banter. In fact, it is probably needed for our sanity because it is not an easy job that we do. That does not mean that we cannot work together when we should on important issues to the people of Queensland and have more cooperation in the way that the parliament goes about its business. It is what the people of Queensland not just expect but want to see from their elected representatives.

We are ultimately here at the will of the people of Queensland. Just as we will debate the multicultural motion this afternoon—and I will not go to the content of that—there are times when we must come together in the best interests of the people of Queensland to have these important discussions. We must look at the expectations of the public and what they want versus what they perceive they are actually getting from this parliament and reflect on that. We want to see, and the general public want to see, in this parliament a contest of ideas, not a contest of personalities. We want to see genuine debate—meaningful, considered debate. This House, this system of parliament, deserves this but, more importantly, the people of Queensland deserve that we approach our roles in this way.

I have heard in previous debates about changes to hours of debate that every member has a right to speak on behalf of their electorate. That is right. We all are here representing our individual electorates, but when we make these statements we also need to be clear that that right is not absolute or unfettered. We operate within a structure in this House. We operate under sessional orders and standing orders of the parliament of Queensland.

To say that this takes away our absolute right as elected members to speak is not correct. The fact is that on every given day of this parliament we have structure put around our debates. It is not the case that every elected member of this parliament gets the right to come in here and put a question to the government in question time every single day. There is a set time for that debate. It is not the case that every member who would like to speak on the private member's motion at 5 pm on a Wednesday gets to speak on it, because it is a one-hour debate. We have time limitations set around how we debate our business and our motions. It is not an absolute right. It is not an unfettered right.

We operate within a structure, a system, to ensure that we are fulfilling our obligations to the people of Queensland and this parliament. That is what this motion does in changing the sessional orders and putting in place the Business Committee. It is about putting a structure around how we debate bills and ensure that those bills are being dealt with by the people of Queensland. We owe it to the people to do this.

Over my 11 years in parliament at different levels I have talked about the level of respect that parliamentarians should show each other in this chamber, how we conduct ourselves and what sort of image or perception we portray to those who come in and watch in person, those who listen and those who watch us from home on the parliament website. We must remember that we are not here for ourselves; we are here for the people of Queensland.


These new sessional orders and this Business Committee will not change overnight that perception of what people think of politicians nowadays, but I hope it goes some way to start to change the perception of what we do in this House every week and that we are doing it in the best interests of the people of Queensland and not in our self-interest. We owe the people of Queensland meaningful, considered debate and a contest of ideas. Sitting down collectively and sharing information is something that no government has ever done. Actually sharing the plan for the week openly and transparently—

Mrs Frecklington: You do not believe this.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will make your comments through the chair or, as per my earlier rulings today, you will be warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection. I could not believe in this more than I do. Every speech I have made over 11 years talks about this sort of respect. This is a good model.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.11 pm): The Leader of the House can lower her voice and talk softly wanting to be our friends all she wants. Do you think the Deputy Premier is sitting downstairs listening to the Leader of the House's new modus operandi for this parliament of respect, all working together and sitting down with the LNP on a Monday morning to work out what our agenda is for the parliamentary sitting week? Do you think the Deputy Premier is sitting in her office saying, 'I agree with the Leader of the House'? The Deputy Premier is a member of this House who least respects the rules of this House—and people for that matter, I might add. As if that is going to happen.

The Leader of the House can lower her voice all she wants. The reality is this: they have not been able to get their agenda through the parliament. They have not been able to ram their agenda through the parliament because they already cut the hours of parliament. I can look the Leader of the House in the eye and say that we told the government this was going to happen. I said months ago we will be standing in here debating curtailing the debate on bills because the Leader of the House and the government have not been able to get their act together and get their agenda through the parliament.

We will now have this nice bills committee that will meet on a Monday morning. Incidentally, the bills committee has no power. It has no binding nature when it meets on a Monday morning and we all sit down, hold hands, sing *Kum ba yah* and drink the Kool Aid. It has no power. If the Leader of the House on a Monday morning wants to sit down with me or wants to ring me to ask what the LNP's priorities are for the week, she can do that now. She can ring the crossbenches and ask what our priorities are for the week. She can do that now, but under this proposal we are going to have this meeting on a Monday, the Leader of the House will put her ideas forward and she will ask us what we think should be the agenda. The Leader of the House will then take that view and run off to the Premier's office and say what the committee came up with. Do you think the Premier's office will say, 'Okay, let's all work together. We will agree with that.' As if that is going to happen! The reality is that the Leader of the House is smokescreening this—in some new way modernising how parliament is going to work. It is not going to work like that.

The reality is that they have not been able to get their agenda through. They have had only a few bills pass this year. We have not even done a quarter of the address-in-reply to the Governor's speech. Under our system of democracy with Her Majesty Elizabeth II as our Queen and Head of State in Queensland we have not even finished the address-in-reply and we are nearly in September. This did not even happen under the former leader of the house's regime. He had his own problems, I might add, but this did not even happen under his regime.

If Labor members think this will create a new-found respect and the Deputy Premier will fall in line, one only has to read the *Courier-Mail* today to see what the Deputy Premier thinks about her own members of parliament. It is not going to happen like that. The Leader of the House can dress it up. As the saying goes, you can put lipstick on a pig but it is still a pig.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: It is the policy I am talking about. I am talking about the policy. The Leader of the House can dress it up how she wants. The reality is this: they moved amendments earlier in the year to cut debate times and have family friendly hours. We said at the time that it is not going to work. The government will not be able to get the agenda through that it wants because parliament needs to sit sometimes until the early hours of the morning so members are afforded the opportunity to have the debate. They arrogantly went ahead because they have a majority and said, 'No, we don't agree with that. We are going to have these family friendly hours.'

Look at this week with family friendly hours. We had the great Clubs Queensland in here. I could not go home to the Sunshine Coast because I attended the dinner supporting the club industry. I sat with clubs from the Sunshine Coast. Last night we supported the Japanese community who was here and the Taiwanese community who was here.

Mr Hinchliffe: That is part of the point.

Mr BLEIJIE: My point is that we are already here anyway. We could have been sitting here debating laws and attending the various functions, as has happened for 150 years in this place. For 150 years members of parliament have managed to go to multicultural events and do their business in the chamber, but Labor cannot do that. They cannot think about doing two things in one night. One looks to history on these things. I want to read a quote from a member of parliament back in the day—

Honourable members interjected.

An honourable member: Any day?

Mr BLEIJIE: In modern history. This member of parliament said this—wait for this; you will love it—

The opposition will be opposing the motion moved by the Leader of the House because, once again, we are seeing the LNP using its massive majority on the floor of this parliament to rush through bills and not allow the freedom of speech and the freedom of expression which goes to the heart of the legislation that will be before this chamber. We are prepared to stay to the early hours of the morning to debate this legislation. We are prepared to stay here and work through the night to make sure that the voices of workers are heard in relation to this bill.

This member continued—

Let the debate be without guillotine. Let the members of this House express themselves and not have a government put the gag order in relation to this very important piece of legislation. There are 22 names on the list to speak and if 22 members want to speak on this bill they should be able to speak on this bill.

I absolutely agree.

An opposition member: Who was that?

Mr BLEIJIE: That was the honourable member for Inala and current Premier who was the opposition leader at the time. ‘Let the members speak,’ she said numerous times.

That was my point earlier. The Leader of the House can dress it up however she wants. The position of the Premier only a few short years ago was, ‘Let the members speak. Let the members speak on behalf of their constituents.’ I could have said that. In fact I did say that—not the exact words, but similar words—in the last six months. I agree with the Premier: ‘Let the members speak.’ Do you know what the difference was back then, Mr Speaker? If all the members wanted to speak, they got a chance to speak because the Liberal National Party were happy to be here at four o’clock in the morning. We were happy to do that.

The Premier now thinks it is a virtue to have one meeting at 11 o’clock at night. The member for Inala, the Premier, is happy to have one meeting at 11 o’clock at night and speak, and so she should because she is on half a million dollars a year. She should be right to have a meeting at 11 o’clock. I am surprised it is only one, actually, for a lazy, arrogant Premier and government.

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You cannot take objection because the Premier has—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Mrs D’ATH: Mr Speaker—

Mr BLEIJIE: I know what you are going to do.


Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will resume your seat and you will put your comments through the chair. What is the point of order?

Mrs D’ATH: I believe the comments are unparliamentary.

Mr SPEAKER: I believe the language has been consistently used by other members of parliament and there is no point of order. Member for Kawana, I remind you about my previous ruling. Do not test me today.

Mr BLEIJIE: The reality is the Labor Party have a majority in the House. They are only doing this to ram through their agenda. This is not about sitting down with the Liberal National Party to work out what is in the best interests of the legislation in this House. The reality is they have been unable to get their agenda through. Remember, this is the Leader of the House who as the Attorney-General changed the electoral system in Queensland with 17 minutes notice. She wants to stand up here today and lecture people about working together for the benefit and future of all Queenslanders, when the Leader of the House changed the electoral system with 17 minutes notice. Queenslanders see through this. We have a lazy, arrogant government. This is a part-time parliament. We might as well just skype from home and not come here now, because the reality is that we spend limited time here debating important bills in this House.

(Time expired)

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.22 pm): I thank you, Mr Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this motion. The very fact that I managed to get the call is a bit of a bonus in the circumstances, because we are debating this motion that would limit the amount of time that is available for debate on effectively every bill. I think that is especially consequential for the crossbenchers.

Mr Power: The Greens voted for this in Victoria.

Mr BERKMAN: I will take that interjection from the chief protectionist of the Economics and Governance Committee. I have spoken to my colleagues in Victoria about their reflections on this process now, and they have some very real concerns about it and what it means not only for the capacity of the crossbench to contribute but also for the consideration in detail of bills.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I believe you may have not been using a member's correct title. I ask that you remember the standing orders, given you now have an opportunity to make a contribution.

Mr BERKMAN: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I appreciate your guidance. To be clear, right now we have a system where every member has the opportunity to speak on any piece of legislation. This is a vitally important part of our democratic representation of this state and each of our electorates. When the government need to keep things moving, they have ample capacity to do that. We all know what a gag motion is and we all know what a guillotine motion is. There is always the opportunity for the government to do that. They have a majority so they are always successful. Those motions are not that common because of the longstanding convention that every member of this House should have a right to speak on issues that are important to them and important to their electorates. There is a sensible convention against shutting down debate.

When the government move a motion to gag or guillotine debate, they have to wear the political consequences of that. It is important that the political cost be worn by the government and for each of their decisions to be subject to the same sort of scrutiny. What is being proposed here is a procedural trick to switch from a free vote with the possibility of a gag or guillotine to an automatic guillotine on 100 per cent of bills. Yes, there is a genuine argument for getting legislation through this place more quickly and, yes, there is no doubt that the opposition is to blame for the recent logjam—let us be clear about that. There is also an argument for making debate in this place more predictable. I entirely agree with the comments of the Leader of the House that we need to make sure that our contributions are actually meaningful and that we are not just grandstanding and wasting everyone's time, wasting parliament's time and wasting the resources of the people of Queensland.


The answer is though for government to simply be honest with Queenslanders about what they are doing by moving a gag motion when they need to do it. All of that is possible under the existing rules. Instead, they are trying to hide behind a procedural trick to move for an automatic guillotine on 100 per cent of bills. This proposed process goes too far. It risks fulsome debate on all bills, and it particularly puts at risk consideration in detail, which is a vitally important step in the process. After we have all had the opportunity to contribute in the second reading debate—or after some of us have had the opportunity, if this goes through, which it probably will—when we get to the details of each bill, the nitty-gritty of what we are doing here, legislating, we will lose the opportunity to have our contribution.

We all need to remember that Queensland is the only large state in Australia without an upper house to keep a check on the executive government of the day. Both Labor and the LNP have a record of ramming through major changes to our laws with almost no notice. These changes will make that much, much easier. They can toss in major amendments at the last moment. They can railroad any bill, ram it straight through parliament, and do so with the cover of an automatic guillotine.

For people outside parliament watching this, it might seem like a minor procedural detail, but it is a really key part of the system that is designed to lock you out of how our state parliament works. For those of us in here, I would ask you all to consider very carefully what this means for consideration in detail and what this means for the growing number of Queenslanders who cannot bring themselves to vote for the major parties anymore.

I see nothing in this proposal that protects the crossbench's opportunity to have a say on legislation. I would propose an amendment to this motion. If we are going to follow through with what Victoria has done, let us do it completely. Back in 2015, Victoria took the opportunity to get rid of Dorothy Dixers. Question time does not need to be an opportunity for government backbenchers to ask questions of ministers who then give answers that could be put out in a press release. It is completely unnecessary. So I would propose that we move an amendment to the motion after clause (4) to put in an additional sessional order 10 after sessional order 9 which simply says, 'Government members may not ask a question without notice.' I would ask all opposition members, all of the crossbench and all government members to think about this.

(Time expired)

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.27 pm): I am pleased to speak in favour of the Leader of the House's motion here today. The model that is proposed is consultative and collaborative, and that is the best kind of workplace model that we need to see. It is good to see that there will be consideration

and deliberation of what we will do during the week. That means we will manage business as far as possible in a collegiate manner which does incorporate some of our best parliamentary traditions. The crux of this motion is that this is the best way we can manage our workplace. We will come in here every sitting week and we will debate bills and update and modernise legislation to keep pace with community expectations and standards.

The motion is akin to modernising the laws and rules which govern this place to bring them in line with community expectations and standards. The model is also about being outcome focused in our workplace. These are things we see through our Queensland workplaces. This will make sure that we produce and pass bills. It will mean that we will pass the motions we need to pass and we will not waste time on that political, pointless posturing that we sometimes see in here. I do remember there was one member some weeks ago who rushed in here to debate a motion and they got up to speak not knowing quite what clause was being debated, and that member had to be passed a bit of paper telling him, or her, what the clause was about. This model will prevent that kind of thing. Most importantly, this model will help us get back to our electorates earlier so we can get in and do that all-important electoral work which we also need to be doing as members of parliament.

The proposed model in this motion is what is expected at other Queensland workplaces—that is, for people to use their time well on the job they are expected to do. It is not adopting work practices that are going to make people in their workplace tired or function less efficiently than they should be, putting other people in danger. It is about using some collaborative decision-making in the workplace, which we do see in workplaces. That is a very useful model that we do see in Queensland workplaces.

What are the other benefits of this model? We will stop wasting time, deliberately frustrating debate and filibustering. We will stop having those frivolous debates on the timing of the ringing of bells, for example. Not only that, in echoing what the Attorney-General said, it goes towards restoring that public faith in politicians by providing clear schedules for the parliamentary week ahead so members of the public can schedule their own attendance in the chamber if they need, or watch it online, so they can hear about the important matters that affect their life. It sets out the parameters within which we can organise our thoughts and our time to do the best for all Queenslanders.

I point out that we will still work within parliamentary rules and guidelines. They are called the standing orders and sessional orders and indeed the Speaker's rulings and practices, all of which govern how this place operates. This is not about limiting the opportunity for debate. There are different models operating in many jurisdictions—not just in Queensland, but across the globe—and all of those models are about managing the efficient running of their chambers. That is what we are doing here today and that is nothing unusual.

The member for Kawana talked about those great functions we have had here with our multicultural communities and Clubs Queensland. We can have those kinds of functions because of this kind of model. This model allows us to bring in those people with certainty, and it allows us to host all these wonderful visitors to our chamber as well. Members of the opposition say they are happy to be here at 4 am. However, the last time we did something at 3.30 in the morning they were not ready whatsoever. We were here and they all came into the chamber in their pyjamas.

Ms Pease: Don't remind me!

Mr WHITING: I do not want to put that image back into people's mind. This model will avoid that kind of image being broadcast to the rest of Queensland. I commend the motion moved by the Leader of the House.



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.31 pm): What a deluded member of parliament I have to follow.

Mr WHITING: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence to that and I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member finds those comments offensive. Do you withdraw?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. A member who could come into this place and be so deluded that that member—

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

Mr SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr WHITING: The same word was used once again and I ask the Leader of the Opposition to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Do you find it personally offensive?

Mr WHITING: I take personal offense.

Mr SPEAKER: The member finds those comments personally offensive.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. Glass jaw, precious, secrecy, cover-up, hiding, part-time parliament—

Mr Mander: Typical.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—typical Labor government member. Why does the Labor Party in Queensland hate democracy? We saw the display by the Attorney-General with the soft, quietly spoken voice that, I am sorry, we do not normally hear in this place trying to convince this parliament that this motion is being moved for the family-friendly hours and to make sure that work can be done. This motion is proposing to shut down the voices of the people of Queensland.

Dr Rowan: A gag order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is a gag order. I will take that interjection from the member for Moggill. It is a gag order. It is hypocritical of this Premier to now come into this place and decide that the members of the opposition and the people of Queensland do not get a voice. As the Manager of Opposition Business said, when the Premier was the opposition leader she came into this House and used the words 'let the members speak' and stated how much she opposed guillotining debates. However, now a couple of years later, here she is back in this chamber proposing to limit the time for debate but, worse than that, even saying we are going to have a committee. The parliament is going to be run by a committee who will decide for how long we are allowed to debate in this House. Worse than that, the committee is stacked with Labor members. How is that democracy?

This parliament is for the people of Queensland, to actually reflect the voices of their community. The member for Maiwar—and I never thought I would be on the same page as the member for Maiwar—is even suggesting that the members of his community are not going to be able to be heard. He called it a procedural trick, and that is exactly right. This government is using its arrogance, it is being hypocritical and it is showing how out of touch they are with the community.

The member for Bancroft has stood in this chamber and suggested that the Queensland parliament should be like other workplaces where we sit down every morning and have a little love-in and a meeting about what we are going to do today. Guess what? We are on the opposite side of the chamber to you guys for good reason. Democracy is about giving the opposition the right to hold the government of the day to account.

Mr Whiting: We know you like to give orders all the time.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is our job: to hold the government of the day to account, member for Bancroft. That is why you are delusional. That is why you are out of touch.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Mr WHITING: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence once again.

Mr SPEAKER: Were the comments directed at the member personally? The member has found those comments offensive. I ask you to withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw.

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (12.36 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the House. I am glad that there is at least one House still running in this country after the sad events we have seen in Canberra this morning. It is a very sad day when at 11 am the House of Representatives adjourns without even getting to question time. Who knows what will happen when they come back. One of four or five people could be Prime Minister. It is like a bad episode of *The Bachelor*. Who knows who will get the goods at the end of the day?

These proposed amendments to the sessional orders are sensible changes which will ensure that this House can do what it intends to do and what we were elected to do. Distilled down, that is debate policy, and debate and pass legislation. It is what the community expect and what they actually elected us to do. We are here to pass through this place good legislation that will benefit the community as it is enacted. At the last election the community elected a majority Labor government to do just that. Sometimes, sadly, this place can get sidetracked.

Recently I have witnessed members of this House trying to deliberately frustrate the operations of this House and of the elected government of the day in its legislative agenda. Ideally, we would not need to be moving these amendments to the sessional orders. Ideally, this parliament should be able to function effectively as it currently is, but clearly the current tactics—

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North.

Mr MELLISH:—of those opposite are to drag on and on certain debates to try to make some twisted point about the functioning of this place not for policy reasons and not even for useful political reasons. It is some sort of misguided quest to frustrate and stymie the effective functioning of this House. Filibustering and delaying to try to provoke the government for its own sake is not productive. I recall one debate when there were pointless points of order after pointless points of order with the sole intention of trying to run the clock down. These are sensible measures we are debating which will allow this House to get on and do the job.

Just like running a business, a community group or even a school, there are parameters and guidelines in place to ensure the effective running of any activity. We all know that this place already has guidelines and rules on how we operate. We have set times for question time, adjournments, private members statements—all examples of how this House governs itself by setting times and guidelines.


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left.

Mr MELLISH: The motion before this House today continues on this path and allows the parliament to set time frames for the consideration of specified government bills and government motions. I reiterate: it will allow the parliament to set time frames.

While the Business Committee will have bipartisan representation, it is a consultative committee. It is a committee which will come together to discuss how much time will be allocated for the bills of the week. The outcomes of that committee will then come to this chamber. The Leader of the House will move a motion and the parliament as a whole will be able to consider and debate the business program of the week. Then a vote will occur. The House as a collective sets the course of the actions in the House, and the motion before the House today further strengthens the ability of the House to set its own agenda. The motion before us today is about restoring the level of debate, encouraging a contest of ideas rather than abusive rabble, maintaining a level of courtesy around our policy differences and ensuring voices are heard on the issues of the day.

I commend the Leader of the House for bringing this sensible proposal to the House and for her ongoing sensible management of the House. This is in stark contrast to what we are seeing in Canberra today, which, as I mentioned earlier, is not even a functioning parliament at this point in time. I commend the motion to the House. I encourage all members to support the motion.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (12.40 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. I cannot agree more with my colleague the Manager of Opposition Business in his description of the delivery of the Attorney-General. The Attorney-General thinks that if you speak in hushed tones, if you speak in a steady way, if you try to be statesmanlike, that gives some credibility to the statements you are making. I do not think I have heard a more sanctimonious, more irrelevant, more hypocritical delivery to this House in my time as a member of parliament.

The Attorney-General talked about what the public thinks of parliamentarians. She thinks that bringing in something that will curtail the ability of members to speak up for their electorates will somehow increase our credibility in the community. Since this government has come to power it has done everything possible to curtail the democratic process. Those opposite talk about family-friendly hours. I do not see too many Labor members getting in their cars and going home to their families once parliament adjourns at 7.30. Members from all around the state travel to Brisbane. We should be spending the maximum amount of time in the House so that we can get legislation passed.


Dr Rowan: Not a part-time parliament.

Mr MANDER: Not a part-time parliament. I take that interjection from the member for Moggill. I wonder why those opposite are continuing to bring in these so-called reforms to curtail the scrutiny of government. You do not have to look too far to see what they would try to hide from—issue after issue demonstrating the failures of this government. We on this side of the parliament—the opposition—should have every opportunity that the House can give us to keep the government accountable.

In the last week we have seen reports about the excessive waste of taxpayers' money on the Gold Coast during the Commonwealth Games. We have heard about how older Queenslanders will be picked up by the grey nomad tax. This motion affects our ability to question the government about these policies. Changing the name of the Lady Cilento hospital would cost millions of dollars—millions of dollars that could be spent helping patients and young people who require attention rather than on this politicking that is taking place.

On the economic front, why are we fifth in the CommSec State of the States rankings? Why can we not ask questions about that? Every person in this House should have the same opportunity to do this. What about the 'rail fail', that goes on and on? Every member of the opposition wants to be able to question the government and not have their opportunities curtailed in any way whatsoever.

This is a government that is trying to hide from scrutiny. I can understand that, because there are so many things that need to be scrutinised. We should have every right available to us so that we can ask questions and represent our electorates in the way our constituents expect. What will win back the respect of politicians is those opposite letting us to do our jobs.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak in support of the reasoned and sensible motion moved by the Leader of the House regarding the establishment of a business committee for the Legislative Assembly. As outlined by the Leader of the House, the Business Committee will enable the efficient running of this chamber, to enable bills to be considered in not only a timely manner but also a considered manner.

The proposal before us today is based on the Victorian parliament's model, a model which has operated in their Legislative Assembly since 1993 and has been used successfully for over 25 years. I note that it was introduced by a Liberal government, the Kennett government. Twenty-five years later, despite some changes, the assembly still uses that same government business program. I believe that we could and should do likewise here in the Queensland parliament.

The Business Committee will guarantee what bills will be debated each week, giving certainty to not only all members of this House but also stakeholders, the media and interested Queenslanders, enabling them to visit the House or tune in online to listen to the debate of legislation which affects them.

I, like all members of parliament, have a duty to act responsibly when I discharge my duties in this chamber. We need to ensure that we as the collective work in the best interests of all Queenslanders to benefit our great state. I believe that the motion before us will assist in achieving that. The actions we have seen in recent times of filibustering on debate and stringing out debate on bills, in particular in consideration in detail—repeating the same points over and over—do not display the responsible and constructive manner in which this House should operate. It does not serve the interests of our respective communities and it does not serve the broader public interest. We all know how the public view politicians, and our collective actions in this House go a long way to determining how all politicians are viewed. The proposed changes strengthen the openness and transparency of this House by setting a framework and timings for the week ahead to improve the awareness of how parliament operates.

While I know that those opposite may view or at least purport to view this as stifling debate, limiting the opportunities of members to speak, the reality is that not all members get to speak on everything. Not everyone speaks during the adjournment debate each week. Not everyone speaks during question time. Not everyone speaks during debate of private members' motions. Not everyone speaks during matters of public interest. While I can go on, these examples show how this House regulates the operations of itself.

At the end of the day, the House is its own master. It controls its own destiny, and I believe that the motion put forward by the Leader of the House strengthens the mechanisms by which this parliament works, and it seeks to do so in a consultative and constructive way.

In the spring session of 1993, during debate on the proposed change to sessional orders, the then minister for industry and employment, who moved the motion, said—

It is generally acknowledged by members on both sides of the House that, irrespective of one's political persuasion, the time they are in the House should be used efficiently and effectively.


...

The government has proposed a new Sessional Order to establish a Government Business Programming Committee that will enable us to overcome some of those difficulties. The House is expected to provide effective debate and the scrutiny of Bills. The amount of time wasting and filibustering that takes place in the House from time to time—

There was then an interjection. The member continued—

I do not apportion blame. It has happened on both sides of the House. If the honourable member is suggesting that I have been guilty of it on occasions, he is probably correct, but that does not make it right. Such action does no-one any credit and does nothing to raise the standard of Parliament or its members in the eyes of the public.

I support the motion moved by the Leader of the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.47 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the House. At the start of this sitting week, Mr Speaker, you said—

Since August 1868, this very room, the Legislative Assembly chamber, has been where Queensland's elected representatives have met to debate and vote on the issues that have shaped our great state.

You went on—

The construction of Parliament House in the 1860s was a bold and difficult project. At the time we were a very small and isolated colony with little money or infrastructure. Those who decided that a building of this stature should be attempted believed that Queensland would be judged by its public buildings. They stated—

'Wise laws might be passed in a barn; but the outer world—the world beyond the colony—would think but lightly of the civilization of a people content to see their halls of Legislature reflect no efforts of mind greater than those required in buildings for the protection of inanimate matters.'

You concluded—

It was a very conscious decision to build an impressive and permanent home for our parliamentary democracy—a house that Queenslanders would be proud of.

We have a very impressive House, but now we are at risk of entering an era where the debate on our laws does not match the stature of this building. This democracy is being undermined by constant decisions of the lazy Palaszczuk Labor government so the point will come where those outside look at this House and wonder why exactly we bother coming here for. Earlier in the week the Deputy Premier crowed about full-time jobs growth. I must point out that the only reason we have had full-time jobs growth in this state is because of the work of the federal coalition government. However, the one area where we are seeing an increasing casualisation of the workforce is in the parliamentary attendance of Queensland members of parliament. They have cut our hours. We have shorter hours. Is it family friendly? I am sorry, but it is not helping my family. I cannot drive back up the Bruce Highway and see any of my kids before they go to bed each night.


An opposition member interjected.

Mr POWELL: It is insulting. We have had our speaking opportunities cut—we have had our legislative debate gagged—all because those opposite are lazy and cannot manage this House and cannot manage their legislation.

Ms Simpson: Glass jaws!

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection from the member for Maroochydore: those opposite have glass jaws and cannot accept criticism of the decisions they are making. It is increasingly arrogant and the people of Queensland are going to look at decisions like this and realise that is exactly what it was.

I was not elected to be a part-time parliamentarian. My voice—my ability to speak in this House on behalf of the people of Glass House—should not be curtailed because of the laziness of those opposite. What is being proposed here is a sham. It is reducing the democracy in this state. It is further limiting the ability of the opposition and the crossbenches and indeed the members of the government themselves to contribute to debate on laws that matter—laws that impact all of our constituents across the entire length and breadth of this great state. I implore all members—not just those in the opposition or those on the crossbench but the members of the government as well—to vote down this motion to ensure that we can continue to have robust debate in this House as long as is required to pass the legislation that is required.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.51 pm): As the member for Glass House has said, this parliament has sat in this chamber over the last 150 years to debate the laws of the state and to hold governments accountable, and there is a great fallacy in the tradition that we have seen applied by those opposite over the past six months as part of their continual filibustering where they have made some sort of grand suggestion—and I am sad to say that the member for Maiwar has been duped by this grand suggestion—that the tradition of a parliament is that every member has the right to speak on every matter. That is not the tradition of parliaments anywhere in the world and I defy anyone to give me examples and show me where that has been the case. That is ridiculous. That is not the case.

The sessional orders provide limited arrangements to what we do and how people have their voice heard now. That has always been the case. That was the case in 1868. It was the case in 1860. Those opportunities have been limited. There were opportunities for people to contribute and to have their say and it is ultimately, as I have said before in this chamber around these sorts of matters, always the parliament that is the ultimate manager of its own business, and that is what the provisions of the Business Committee amendment proposed by the Leader of the House provide. When I made that

point—when I said that the parliament managed these matters—the last time this matter was debated along the way in this parliament on 15 June, the member for Toowoomba North responded in his contribution on that debate at that time on the remarks I made. He said—

I take the minister's point that the House needs to be managed, but in most parliaments in the Westminster system there is a fair amount of negotiation and there is a reasonable amount of compromise.

I think he just invited us to introduce a Business Committee. The Leader of the House is providing your wish, member for Toowoomba North. He went on to say—


When that happens, there is better legislation because it is more representative of the people's will ... if everybody who represents the people ... has an opportunity to have an input.

That is indeed what a Business Committee provides for. For those matters where you have a genuine opportunity and a genuine desire to contribute, that provision is made.

On that point, I noted that the member for Kawana quoted the Premier in remarks that she made during the 54th Parliament, and wasn't that parliament a great advertisement for parliamentary democracy—the 54th Parliament under the Newman government? Did the leader of the House at that time offer the opposition the chance to have a say in terms of the timing that could happen around those debates? No, they did not. That is what is before the House—an opportunity to manage the parliament's business. I do note that there are some quarters on that side that do think this is the way forward—they obviously see the reforms that we have undertaken as the way forward—and I make mention of the leader of the house during the 54th Parliament. I quote the member for Mermaid Beach in his address-in-reply this year when he said—

... I am chuffed that the Queensland parliament has finally been dragged into the 21st century with meaningful sitting hours to hopefully produce meaningful outcomes in a respectful and driveless forum. The moral of this dialogue is that we must always look for change for the better in this parliament and relentlessly pursue the betterment of the parliament in the interests of better government for Queensland.

That is what we are doing. I am not here speaking as part of the 'bring back Ray' campaign, but what I am saying is that the Leader of the House has put a very sensible proposal forward that puts the parliament in charge of the parliament's business, as has always been the case, so do not believe the misty-eyed concepts of the parliamentary tradition. In a parliament like the Westminster parliaments that we enjoy and the Westminster itself with 650 members in the House of Commons, how can members believe that they all get a chance to speak on every single thing? They do not, and that is why we stand in the tradition of the parliament being the determiner of the business of this House and of it managing our business. That is 150 years strong in this chamber and I stand on the side of progress and modernising, and that is what we do with this motion today.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.56 pm): This is the house of the people. This is a house of debate. This is not a dictatorship, and those opposite are trying to make this parliament seem like a dictatorship. Apparently we are going to have a Business Committee. This Business Committee is going to decide what is complex and significant legislation that we debate in this place. We in this place make the laws of this state. I think all of that is going to be complex and I am damned sure it is significant. How is this all going to work? This is quite a puzzle at the end of the day. The Leader of the House said that it is not an absolute right for members in this place to speak. I can tell members that the people who elected me put me here and gave me the right to speak in this place and they expect me to speak on anything that they direct me to speak on, and this will completely curtail that.

There was an instance only on Tuesday where I wanted to speak on the Ipswich bill. It was curtailed. I could not speak on it. The vegetation management bill was curtailed. I did not get to say everything I wanted to say about that. I absolutely agree with the member for Maiwar: when it gets down to consideration in detail, we are going to see the whole debate guillotined. We are in the habit of seeing this government come in here and give us last-minute amendments. In the near future we are going to be in a situation where we will not see an amendment and not get the opportunity to debate that amendment because the debate will just automatically finish. That is unacceptable, and it should be unacceptable to every member of this parliament. It is completely unacceptable.

We have seen this government ramrod and it is treating the people of Queensland like complete idiots, and that is what they see us politicians as now. That is why we are getting bad names for ourselves. These family-friendly hours just do not work. They do not work. The people out there are laughing at us. The government is making us a laughing stock because of the things that it is doing.

This is not a dictatorship. This is a house of the people. It is a house of debate and, as a member of parliament, we should all be entitled to have our say on whatever bill or whatever motion we desire. I will not be supporting this motion at all. This is just another sign of a lazy and arrogant Labor Party

that thinks it can put this dictatorship in place and fool the people of Queensland by making this a part-time parliament. The member for Glass House raised a very good point in that most of us cannot travel home at the end of the night. We cannot get home. We cannot spend time with our families, so this whole concept of family-friendly hours just does not work. I will not be supporting this motion.

Division: Question put—That the motion 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.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.


Pairs: Russo, Lister; Miller, Stevens.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Sitting suspended from 1.06 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Royal Queensland Show; Seniors Week; Australian Medical Association; University of Queensland Liberal National Club

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.00 pm): Each and every year as we enter the month of August we can always be assured of three things: the Ekka, the strong westerly Ekka winds and Queensland Seniors Week. With the Ekka now behind us, I would like to briefly take this opportunity to congratulate the RNA on another outstanding show this year.

The attention of Queensland has now rightly turned to this week's 2018 Queensland Seniors Week celebrations. Queensland Seniors Week is a week for promoting positive community attitudes towards older people and ageing and to enhance community connections. At the heart of this week is really an opportunity for Queenslanders of all ages to celebrate the many contributions and everyday efforts of members of our Queensland seniors community.

This week, I truly encourage all Queenslanders to celebrate the senior members of their communities. As the shadow minister for communities and shadow minister for disability services and seniors, I was delighted to get a head start on this year's Seniors Week celebrations. Last week, I joined my friend and LNP colleague the member for Buderim for his local seniors forum. It was a terrific and engaging forum. I would like to thank the member for Buderim for his kind invitation.

In my own electorate of Moggill, many suburbs are home to undoubtedly some of this state's best seniors organisations and senior focused community groups. Last week, I had the great honour of being guest speaker at the Kenmore Village Probus Club's 26th birthday morning tea. The morning tea was a fitting celebration of the great work done in my community by so many Kenmore Village Probus Club members. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to President Denise Kearns and the whole Probus Club for everything they do for our local seniors community.


On another matter, I continue to receive quality information on the dubious, unethical and alleged corrupt conduct of certain AMA officials and, specifically, elected AMA representatives with respect to a range of matters in both Queensland and within the federal AMA. I will certainly be considering seeking the advice of external agencies on these matters and I have a lot of material. As the Labor member for Bundamba and all LNP members know, including the state member for Whitsunday, the federal member for Dawson and Queensland LNP senators, as we have seen with the Ipswich City Council, sometimes matters can take years to come to light with subsequent action then taken.

With the AMA in formal collaboration with the ASMOF union—an affiliate of the failed ACTU—the AMA is aligning itself directly with the disgraced CFMEU and other militant unions whereby corruption, harassment, bullying and intimidation have become the modus operandi. Given that the AMA in Queensland is supporting radical social and health policy change—and I table a letter for the benefit of the House—I suspect that the membership coverage of the AMA, with its current management structure and as a percentage of the entire medical profession currently sitting at around 30 per cent, could drop even further.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 6 March 2018, from the Chair, AMA Queensland Board and Council, Dr Shaun Rudd, to the Secretary, Queensland Law Reform Commission, regarding consultation on abortion law reform [1189].

Finally, last weekend it was great to catch up with the Hon. Peter Dutton, the federal member for Dickson, and the Hon. Tony Abbott, the federal member for Warringah. I congratulate the University of Queensland Liberal National Club, its president, Nerissa Aitken, and all members on a successful alumni gala dinner on Saturday night.

Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.03 pm): Recently, the Queensland Mining and Engineering Exhibition, commonly known as QME, was held in Mackay. Mr Deputy Speaker, thank you for your presence there as well. This is a biennial conference. On alternate years it is held in Sydney. The only other exhibition of this size held in the Southern Hemisphere is held in South Africa.

This year marked 25 years of the QME having on display the most current and cutting-edge mining and engineering products and services. This exhibition is a truly an international event. No fewer than six companies from Chile were there. There were also companies from China, India and Germany. It was great to see that some exhibitions of producers of mining equipment and devices related to how to reduce the exposure of fine coal dust which, as we all know, is the cause of the insidious black lung disease.


Across the state the METS sector employs approximately 20,000 workers. It generates \$7 billion in revenue and about \$2.45 billion in added revenue to the Queensland economy. By 2036, it is estimated that the METS sector may contribute up to \$4.28 billion in value-adding to the Queensland economy and support up to 28,400 jobs.

The innovative Bowen Basin Cluster Program has received \$500,000 through the METS Ignited plan, which is to be matched by contributions from the cluster's customers. This funding will assist in finding new ways to take innovative ideas to the market quickly and to ensure that the METS sector remains sustainable and competitive over the long term within Australia and also internationally. The Bowen Basin Cluster is comprised of four local METS companies that have combined their complementary areas of expertise to develop innovative and commercial solutions for mining companies.

The Palaszczuk government's election commitment to mining in my area of \$3.6 million to build the mining centre of excellence is on the way. The department of state development is working with the Resource Industry Network and also the Mackay Regional Council to get this centre off the ground. It will be a centre of expertise for training, education, biomedical research and product innovation.

(Time expired)

Drought Assistance

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.06 pm): Drought is nothing new. We have dealt with it before and we will deal with it again. Almost 60 per cent of the state is in drought, with parts enduring their seventh consecutive failed season. The situation is becoming increasingly desperate. Although farmers can always rely on rain coming, it is just when. One thing farmers cannot rely on is a state government and minister who is fair dinkum about supporting them and their community, which is struggling under this drought. This government engages in politically opportunistic window-dressing and insincerity as it masquerades as being supportive of drought-affected farmers and communities.


During a drought, the government has two roles. The first is to directly support farmers. The other role is to get out of the way and let farmers do what they do best. This government continually gets in the way of farmers. When the drought was worsening and we were heading into the dry season, the government introduced anti-farmer vegetation laws as well as revoked the drought declaration of 11 regions.

The government is deliberately dragging its feet in allowing the local drought committees to reconvene to reconsider the drought status. We know from those on the ground that requests for local drought committees to meet have been denied by the department. If the minister trusts the advice of these committees, it is in his best interests to have them meet.

The minister says that all anyone has to do is fill in the paperwork. This morning in question time, despite being prepared by bureaucrats, the minister could not even recall an independent drought property declaration. The process is onerous. As a primary producer who has experienced drought, I have firsthand experience of it. It is not simple. Farmers are handfeeding their livestock. When it is clear that they are in drought, the last thing they need is additional red tape. The minister could simplify the process by making a drought declaration. A cynic would say that this refusal is more about penny pinching. Members should remember that this minister has said that there is more money in the budget for drought because there are fewer people to apply for it. It is time to take the politics out of drought declarations.

The minister should reconvene the local drought committees and have an audit of where the state stands. Perhaps there might be some more transparency about which regions make the grade and which ones do not. Let us see whether the government will take on board its drought commissioners' highly critical advice in relation to the government's anti-farmer vegetation management laws, making this drought bite harder. I will not hold my breath. It is time for Labor to stop playing politics with people's lives, scrap its antifarming laws and provide genuine support to farmers as they continue to battle drought.


Theodore Electorate, Rural Fire Brigades

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.09 pm): I rise to talk about the truly amazing rural fire brigade volunteers in the Theodore electorate. These volunteers give so much of their free time to train on a regular basis, learning and honing new skills to become more professional in bushfire management. The Theodore electorate is truly blessed with two proactive brigades, the Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade and the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade. They are both amazing units. These two professional organisations with members with many decades of experience in dealing with bushfires have recently hosted two very successful open days which were greatly supported by our local community.

The Coomera Valley Rural Fire Brigade hosted its open day on 14 June at Siganto Park, Upper Coomera, with many local residents and community groups participating and showing their support. I thank First Officer Paul and his great team of dedicated volunteers. His commitment and dedication to our community is certainly unparalleled. Only last week the Guanaba Rural Fire Brigade hosted its open day. As with the Coomera Valley brigade's open day, it was greatly supported by our local community. These events take an enormous amount of time to organise. I give a big shout-out to Brendan, who we fondly call Red, for his hard work and dedication on the day in setting up this wonderful event. I also thank First Officer Chris. He has an absolutely great team behind him. I thank him for his dedication and efforts for our community.

Our local rural fire brigade volunteers are not just a group of volunteers; they are professional bush firefighters. They rely on each other. Strong bonds are formed between members. Members have approached me to express their concerns about the possible amalgamation of rural fire brigades on the Gold Coast. These suggested amalgamations are the result of urban units' boundary maps being redrawn because of population growth in the regions. I ask the minister to proceed with caution on this matter. The Gold Coast region has many active and very professional rural fire units with many years of experience. In times of natural disaster we call on these members and their many units to help. It is our fear that if we amalgamate multiple brigades we will lose the experience of volunteers and reduce the amount of brigades and resources that we can utilise in times of crisis.

War on Wrecks Task Force

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.13 pm): Queensland is renowned for its magnificent coastline, beaches and waterways. We love the opportunity to recreate on the water and have a great love of boating. There are significant economic opportunities in tourism endeavours and fishing of our waters. Currently there are approximately 260,000 registered recreational ships and approximately 15,000 commercial ships operating in Queensland waters. In addition, there are assumed to be 100,000 recreational ships in Queensland that are not required to be registered.


Ships reach the end of their useful life for a number of reasons, including requiring maintenance which costs more than the vessel's value, requiring repairs and upgrades which exceed the ship's value, becoming obsolete through shifts in the economic and trading environment and through natural disasters such as cyclones. Disposing of vessels, in particular larger ships which cannot be removed from the water on a trailer, is costly and potentially difficult given the environmental regulations surrounding disposal of materials present in boats, including oils, acids, garbage and hazardous material such as asbestos.

Given the expense and difficulty of disposal compared to the low value of a vessel which has reached the end of its useful life, disposing of a vessel through abandonment appears to have become an attractive option to many, as is evidenced by the many abandoned vessels in our waterways up and down our coast. Derelict boats cause danger to navigation and potential environmental risks and are a blight on our spectacular shores and pristine waterways. Taxpayers have been picking up the bill for irresponsible boat ownership. This has not happened overnight, it has been happening for a number of years and we need to put a stop to it. The cost of removing these ships can be considerable, with previous ship removals ranging from between \$10,000 and \$950,000. Maritime Safety Queensland has spent significant funds and time disposing of large derelict vessels. Over the last four years 86 derelict vessels have been removed costing taxpayers around \$4.1 million. Our money could be so much better spent.

The Palaszczuk government is upping the stakes and commencing a war on boat wrecks and their negligent owners. We have established a task force that I will chair to prioritise the worst derelict vessels and remove them from our great waterways. The small minority of irresponsible boat owners who pollute our waterways are on notice. The task force is comprised and supported by experts in the field of waterways management, and together we will be making certain that it is clearly understood that it is the owner's responsibility to remove their vessel if it becomes unserviceable or wrecked. If an irresponsible boat owner refuses to clean up for themselves, our task force will be coming after them.

We will be seeking feedback from communities across Queensland to help us identify the worst derelict vessels and we will use the announced \$20 million War on Wrecks fighting fund to remove these ships. We want to ensure vessel owners understand and meet their responsibilities from maiden voyage to final mooring and, more importantly, we want to ensure negligent owners are held to account. I am looking forward to working with the task force and our community who will have a say in the effective management of our waterways.

Voluntary Assisted Dying

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.16 pm): Being diagnosed with a terminal condition is incredibly traumatic. It takes your breath away, as well your dreams, aspirations and future in just one sentence. For many of us these last days are fraught with deep sadness; however, thankfully, pain free and dignified due to the excellent palliative care available. But what about those who are not so fortunate? As a parent, as a child, as a partner or as a friend there can be nothing worse than when you cannot alleviate intense prolonged and debilitating agony for your loved one. If you have not been in this position you are indeed fortunate.

During this intensely difficult time it is paramount that your loved one feel they have the ability to make decisions about their end-of-life care to have some last element of control. High-quality, impartial information is needed from their care team in order to make those decisions. It is equally important to have every viable option for individual circumstances made known and available from a credible, trustworthy and compassionate source. For many the illegality of voluntary assisted dying, or VAD, denies access to choice and, for many, peace of mind. Many may never make that choice or even want or need to. From many discussions over many years with so many different people, they tell me choice would give them and their loved ones the ability to get through one more day because they feel empowered and comforted that there is an option available if needed.

To my fellow MPs, I have no doubt we all share a commonality in that either personally or through family or friends we have experienced firsthand or through shared stories what it is like for those forced to endure unbearable pain and suffering even with the support of highly competent palliative care physicians and allied health professionals. Increasingly, Queenslanders are compelled to travel out of state, away from their homes, their loved ones and their security, at great expense and effort, to access this right to choice. VAD raises substantive, ethical and practical issues.

These issues are not new and have been successfully addressed and mitigated in other jurisdictions in highly developed countries overseas and more recently legislation interstate. Insights from these provide assurance and a secure basis on which to bring forward as a matter of priority a review on end-of-life choices and VAD in Queensland. Why as a matter of priority? Because every single day fellow Queenslanders are suffering incredibly and unnecessarily and they deserve our respect, our compassion and our assistance. As the only independent MP in Queensland, I ask this government to please commence this review on behalf of every single Queenslanders and their loved ones, as well the MPs who represent them, as soon as possible.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Stretton, I acknowledge in the gallery students from Ravenshoe State School in the electorate of Hill. Welcome, students, and thank you for coming to visit your parliament.

Multicultural Month

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.19 pm): August is one of my favourite months of the year, because it is Multicultural Month. In Queensland we used to have multicultural week and, due to a wonderful decision of the Palaszczuk government, it is fantastic that we now have Multicultural Month. I know that the Minister for Multicultural Affairs is very busy during this month, but he always has a big smile on his face because Multicultural Month is a fantastic month of celebrations. I acknowledge the immediate predecessor of the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the member for McConnel, for all the fantastic work that she did in my community and in that portfolio.

Last week, the fourth annual Stretton Multicultural Awards were held at the Calamvale Salvation Army hall to recognise all the fantastic multicultural groups and people who contribute to making the electorate of Stretton such a great place to live, work and bring up families. I know that the member for McConnel has been there many times in the past, as has the member for Sandgate.

Government members interjected.


Mr PEGG: I take all those interjections. I am very fortunate to represent the most multicultural electorate in the state of Queensland. It should come as no surprise that members of the Stretton electorate were big achievers at the Queensland Multicultural Awards held on Sunday. In particular, I recognise Faiza El-Higzi, the winner of the Outstanding Individual Achiever Award and a good friend of mine. I acknowledge other good friends of mine at Lesi Digital Music Education Centre, which was a finalist in the business section. It is a really hot field. A lot of great organisations and individuals are making huge contributions to multiculturalism in this state. To be a finalist and a winner is recognition of the great work those individuals and organisations have done. I commend them for that.

I also put on the record thanks to my friends Phil and Di Gluyas. Every time we ask, they let us use the Salvation Army hall at Calamvale to host the multicultural awards. They do not hesitate; they say 'yes' straightaway. They were always very accommodating. I put that on the record.

Time is against me, but I want to mention a few of the great local organisations recognised at the Stretton Multicultural Awards last week. The Australians of Chinese Heritage War Memorial Committee was recognised. My friends at the Islamic Women's Association of Australia, IWAA, were recognised. Michael's Oriental Restaurant was recognised for the great work that it does to support our multicultural communities in Stretton. The Damini Women's Association of Queensland, Islamic Relief, World Arts and Multiculture Inc. and the Stretton State College P&C were also recognised. I particularly thank officers of the Calamvale Police Station and the police liaison officers who came along. They provide tremendous support to our communities in Stretton. It was great to see them there, making a very valuable contribution. I am running out of time, but I want to acknowledge the Fiji Senior Citizens Association and Australians of Indian Heritage War Memorial Committee—

(Time expired)

Youth Justice

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.22 pm): If we ever needed a visual representation of the Labor government's loss of control over the youth justice system, we only needed to turn on the TV this week to see youth and young offenders on the roof of the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre, destroying Queensland taxpayers' property.

Mr Costigan: Not again?


Mr JANETZKI: Again; I take the interjection from the member for Whitsunday. It appears that over the two terms of the Palaszczuk Labor government this problem has gotten worse. It seems that the government has only two levers for the problem: reports and a bottomless pit of money. Over the past two years, over 750 pages of reports and over 150 recommendations have been delivered to this government, but what have we received? No substantive action to resolve the problems in youth justice around Queensland! Those problems started early. They started with the transition of 17-year-olds into youth detention centres. We warned that they had no plan, but that is exactly what occurred. Two years on and we are still months away from having 17-year-olds reintegrated into the youth justice system.

At the time that that was announced, in September 2016, we also warned that there would be overcrowding problems in youth detention facilities in Queensland and, yes, there have been. The Labor government's solution to that particular problem was bail houses. If we learnt anything during the estimates process it was that the minister is walking away from bail houses at a very quick pace. We know that since January this year in Queensland there have been 41 critical incidents in bail houses, 35 of those in Townsville. We know that millions of dollars have been spent. From the 2018-19 budget, we know that the Labor government is shutting down the establishment of any new bail houses. There will be no new bail houses in 2018-19. They have walked away from the bail house at Jacobs Well.

This issue is of grave concern, particularly to the people of Townsville. Townsville bail houses have been involved in 35 of the 41 critical incidents. Thirty-three offenders have served time in those bail houses, five of whom escaped and reoffended. The people of Townsville deserve better. The members representing the Townsville area stand silent in the face of that concern. Instead, they have outsourced their jobs to Major General Smith, who is now responsible for delivering law and order on the streets of Townsville. The people of Townsville have had Townsville Strikeforce, they have had the failed bail houses and now what are they left with? No solutions from a government, insecurity right throughout the community and, sadly, a youth justice system that is doing nothing to help at-risk youth and young offenders get their lives back on track.

(Time expired)

Book Week

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.25 pm): I suggest that there is another lever and this is a great opportunity to talk about it: it is Book Week. The theme of this year's Book Week is 'Find your Treasure'. Certainly I found plenty of that when I visited every childcare centre, kindy and primary school in my electorate to donate a book by local authors Katie and Giuseppe Poli called *Marvellous Mummy*. It is a truly marvellous book.

I support Book Week because I know what reading means for our community. I have spoken often of the work of Dr Michael Marmot, but he is just one of many researchers who have demonstrated that the earlier we start people in education and the longer they stay engaged in education, the better their health outcomes will be over their lifetimes. We know that applies to education, we know it applies to social outcomes and we know it applies to employment. If we really want to deal with these issues, let us get into the classrooms early, let us get in there hard and let us teach kids to read.


During my visits, I found the real treasure, which is kids who love to read. That has not happened by accident. It has happened because of the love, commitment and hard work of parents, teachers and librarians, supported by the Palaszczuk Labor government. The importance of reading is why the Palaszczuk government has provided more support in this year's budget for programs such as the First 5 Forever program, which supports local librarians to assist families and kids to develop not just the skills to read but also the love of reading. It builds on other Palaszczuk government initiatives, such as the Premier's Reading Challenge, making prep compulsory and establishing the Reading Centre to support families and teachers across this great state. I am a board member of SPELD, an organisation funded by the government to support people experiencing learning differences. We have put in place free playgroup membership to ensure that mums, dads and bubs are engaged as early as possible in socialising. All of those initiatives are designed to support parents, teachers and librarians to inspire kids to love to read.

I compare that to the LNP record. At the present time they cannot even provide certainty around who is in charge at the federal level, so they certainly cannot provide certainty around universal access to kindergarten. We know that there are continual threats to cut support for universal access to kindergarten. Let us look at the record of the Newman government. One of its first acts was to cut the Queensland Literary Awards. One of my local schools lost teaching staff due to changes to the rounding mechanism. It was not just the cuts; it was the fact that there were no new programs.

I am pleased to be part of a government that is committed to early childhood education. This Friday I will be visiting more schools to read with kids. I know they are supported by parents, teachers and librarians who are supported by the Palaszczuk Labor government, because we believe in reading.

(Time expired)

Whitsunday Electorate, Tourism

 **Mr COSTIGAN** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.28 pm): This afternoon I rise to talk up the tourism industry in the Whitsundays, which I am pleased to say has been buoyed by an effective marketing campaign that did not cost one red cent. I refer to my promotion of the Whitsundays via World Bikini Day, which put the Whitsundays, including Airlie Beach, the heart of the reef, well and truly back on the map thanks to a cowardly attack on me by a bikini-bashing Deputy Premier.

I am the first to admit that I love bikinis and I love bikini babes because in my part of the world they equal tourism dollars, they equal jobs and they equal a strong economy. That is something we are trying to get back in order 17 months on from the damage caused by Cyclone Debbie.

The publicity generated by world Bikini Day was enormous. Even the *Daily Mail* in the UK picked up on the story, albeit describing me as the deputy premier. When I saw the story I thought perhaps it was an omen. Who knows? What I do know for certain is that industry and individuals from around the Whitsundays and around the world have backed my unique promotion of the place I call paradise. Take Tourism Whitsundays CEO Tash Wheeler. What did she say to the *Whitsunday Times* on 11 July? She said—

All destinations are always looking for stunts in a global level and this has achieved that. Everybody in politics has their way of doing things and I don't think you can take it away from Jason. He does have the Whitsundays' best interests at heart.

That is what Ms Wheeler told the *Whitsunday Times*. Then we have Luke James, a former constituent of mine, who was previously the deputy general manager of Hayman Island. Currently Hayman Island is rebuilding following Cyclone Debbie. Out of the blue Mr James contacted me from the Middle East. This is what he had to say—


I didn't know this Bikini Gate story ... you will never believe it. Two English ladies staying at my hotel in Dubai said they were going to the Whitsundays because of the bikini day story! So I then investigated and saw it was you. Bloody well done. I love your passion for your electorate and your refreshing approach to politics.

That was Luke James who is now in the Middle East working in the tourism industry and was formerly No. 2 in terms of management at Hayman Island, which is in my electorate. There we have it. That is high praise from all corners for a local MP who is not constrained by political correctness and never will be, as I mentioned on the *Bolt Report* on Sky News some weeks ago.

As for the Deputy Premier, she is off her rocker. What she said publicly about me should have triggered an apology. She was way out of line. Even some of her own comrades have said that she was way out of line. In conclusion, I have done more to promote the Whitsundays in four weeks than the Palaszczuk Labor government has done in four years. The commissioner of the fun police will be remembered. I will continue to talk up the Whitsundays how I like.

(Time expired)

Seniors Week

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.31 pm): In contrast to world Bikini Day, happy Seniors Week. The Aspley electorate is home to nearly 9,000 seniors, making up nearly 20 per cent of the electorate. We have lots of fantastic retirement and aged-care communities in the electorate, including AVEO Aspley Court, Aveo Bridgeman Downs, Aspley Gardens, Gateway Lifestyle Village, John Wesley gardens, Holy Spirit Carseldine, Opal Raynbird Place, PM Village at Bald Hills and TriCare Compton Gardens.

I have had the pleasure of visiting many of these since being elected last November and meeting many of the residents and the wonderful staff working in these communities. Every time I visit I am impressed by the extent to which everyone continues to be engaged in and supportive of our local community, whether it be the monthly trivia nights at Bridgeman Downs encouraging everyone to come and have fun with their mates, Bingo at Aspley Gardens or the regular bowls games at Gateway Lifestyle Village bowls club keeping everyone active.

I am very proud to have so many seniors orientated groups in my community too. Membership of the Aspley View Club is mainly women in our community who dedicate large amounts of their time to the club which is focused on supporting and advocating for the education of young, disadvantaged

Australians through raising money to support the Smith Family's Learning for Life students. They do an incredible job and we are very lucky in Aspley to have so many incredible organisations and community groups that come together to support our seniors and support our broader community.

We also have Geebung Meals on Wheels which is run by an incredible and very welcoming group of volunteers serving mainly seniors in our community. This invaluable service goes a long way to helping our community's seniors stay independent and in their own homes. I have enjoyed the time I have spent there and look forward to continuing to volunteer there on a regular basis.


Aspley Care is a program conducted by Our Lady and St Dymphna's parish. This program produces lots of solutions in our community, supporting people from all walks of life, including seniors. Their support comes in many different and practical ways including emergency relief in the form of food parcels or assistance with bills, social events, assistance with transport and help around the home.

Our community's seniors have an incredible wealth of knowledge and have made, and continue to make, significant contributions to making our community what it is today. I am particularly looking forward to Friday, 14 September when I am hosting a seniors information session and morning tea at the Aspley Hornets club, with special guests the Attorney-General and member for Redcliffe and Queensland's Public Trustee.

The topic for discussion at this event is 'Protect what you love'. Attendees will be advised not to get caught out and be prepared for the unexpected with an enduring power of attorney. The other special guest planning to attend our information session on 14 September is eminent Aspley resident and member of the Order of Australia Everalld Compton. As the founding director of National Seniors Australia, Everalld will reiterate the importance of updating your will and making an enduring power of attorney.

I take this opportunity to thank the seniors of my electorate for all their ongoing contributions to help grow our community and their hard work on a regular basis.

Burdekin Electorate, Pacific Reef Fisheries

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.34 pm): The Burdekin electorate is the most diverse in Queensland and is a powerhouse of the Queensland economy. Whether it be the resource sector down through the Bowen Basin, sugarcane farming around the Burdekin or the horticultural industry around Bowen, the Burdekin electorate is providing jobs and economic prosperity throughout North Queensland. I am proud of what is achieved by my electorate and the people who live and work in it.

Today I rise to inform the House that, once again, a business operating in the Burdekin electorate is an Australian leader. Pacific Reef Fisheries recently gained certification from the Aquaculture Stewardship Council and just weeks ago won the Australian Prawn Farmers Association's Prawn Farming Sustainability Program Award.

Pacific Reef Fisheries was started by the Mitris family in 1998 with a vision to provide the best seafood to Australia and the world. They operate a state-of-the-art hatchery at Guthalungra, just north of Bowen, as well as a 98-hectare prawn farm near Ayr. By supplying their own seed stock, Pacific Reef Fisheries can maintain full biosecurity control and constantly improve their product. It is these products that have caught the eye of the Australian food industry.

Black tiger prawns farmed by Pacific Reef Fisheries in my electorate have taken home a gold medal and a champion's medal at the Sydney Royal Easter Show Fine Food Show and in 2015 they were a finalist in the Delicious Produce Awards. These award winning prawns are available from Christmas through to June in Coles supermarkets, making this delicacy from the Burdekin available to everyone.

It is not just prawns. Cobia from Pacific Reef Fisheries is sold to some of the best restaurants in the nation. Just like the black tiger prawns, cobia is award winning. A gold medal, a champion's medal and the esteemed president's medal at the Sydney Royal Fine Food Show are testament to the quality of this product.

Receiving awards for their produce is not enough for Pacific Reef Fisheries. Among their core values are innovation and sustainability. Like every food producer in this state, Pacific Reef Fisheries are committed to caring for the environment. They have recently hosted trials into remediation of nitrogen and phosphorous from waste prawn farm water. Some 23 hectares of mangrove wetland was established and is now home to an amazing variety of fish and bird life. They hold a position on GBRMPA's Burdekin/Bowen Marine Advisory Committee and even the World Wildlife Fund has praised their operations.


This is a business that symbolises that people in my electorate and throughout the state can and do produce the best quality food while caring for the environment. Despite the nay-sayers here we have a business that operates on the doorstep of the Great Barrier Reef that produces over 1,000 tonnes of black tiger prawns each year and is benefitting our environment.

Mr Costigan: Delicious.

Mr LAST: I take the interjection from my colleague the member for Whitsunday. They are superb. Like my colleagues on this side of the House, I am proud to stand in support of the food producers in Queensland. I commend the amazing achievements of Pacific Reef Fisheries to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I know those black tiger prawns well myself.

Koalas; Currumbin Wildlife Hospital

 **Mrs STUCKEY (Currumbin—LNP)** (2.37 pm): My support and advocacy for wildlife and in particular our koala population is well recognised. It really makes my blood boil to hear this Labor government bleating about how much it cares about our wildlife when they do nothing about it. Residents and Currumbin Wildlife Hospital are reporting an increase in koala injuries and deaths, but the Palaszczuk Labor government are turning a deaf ear.

Latest figures show the hospital is treating more than 10,000 animals per year, and an increasing number of those are koalas. During a recent visit to the hospital senior vet Dr Michael Pyne warned that we are coming into koala trauma season. Just that morning four koalas were brought in and as we were leaving it was mentioned another four injured koalas were on their way. I am calling on the Palaszczuk government to set up a koala register to keep up-to-date data as this much loved Australian native marsupial faces more challenges to its survival.

Urgent action is required if we are to save our koalas. That is why a register to document koala injuries and deaths in real time is desperately needed. If the Palaszczuk Labor government are to be believed that they are serious about koala protection, they would immediately set up a register but the environment minister does not care.

I was appalled at the reply I received to a question on notice I asked the minister in June about whether her department undertakes any coordinated documentation of wildlife injuries and deaths. Minister Leeanne Enoch used the excuse that it would be 'impractical' to collect this data, stating her department is able to seek data from wildlife rescue and recovery services when necessary.


Given the regular reports in the media about the future security of our koalas on the Gold Coast, one would expect the Palaszczuk government to be doing more. I know that the Currumbin Wildlife Hospital keeps records, but there should be a central register for each region. I understand a specific koala database program has been designed and has been ready to go for some time but has not been implemented. This program, Koala Base, shows where koalas are being hit by cars on the Gold Coast, but it seems the minister does not want people to know.

Not only did the Minister for Transport dismiss our petitions to slow vehicle speeds through Tallebudgera, where over a dozen koala fatalities occurred in a matter of months, but the Minister for Environment sat on the Koala expert panel's report for nearly 12 months. Labor just do not care. They are all talk and no action.

While I am on my feet, I would like to put a call out for old wetsuits. The animal hospital is cutting them up to make anaesthetic masks to use in operations on oddly shaped animals. Wetsuit material is great as it stretches but does not tear. Please take your old wetsuits into the hospital where they will help save lives. If you have not visited the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary for a while, head down and visit the amazing Lost Valley exhibit and meet many other wonderful creatures.

In the few seconds I have left, I would like to wish every senior in Queensland and Australia an extremely happy and life-lengthening Seniors Week.

Buy Queensland

 **Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP)** (2.40 pm): I believe that every single dollar of the \$18 billion spend by the Queensland government each year should support the economic resilience of Queensland. Every dollar spent should support secure, permanent jobs and every dollar spent should support the opportunity for our local kids to get ahead through training and apprenticeships. I am proud to be part of this government that backs local business and supports local jobs and the Central Queensland economy.


Our Buy Queensland policy, which commenced on 1 September 2017, puts local businesses and jobs first. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland has called it 'an absolute shot in the arm for small business'. We have now enhanced the policy to drive more local employment opportunities for all Queenslanders to ensure secure, quality, local jobs and to ensure safe workplaces and training opportunities for Queenslanders. Buy Queensland means that, if there is a firm in Keppel capable of undertaking the work in Keppel, they have the best possible shot at winning government work.

Since Buy Queensland came into effect in September last year, 84 per cent of Queensland government contracts awarded through the QTenders website have gone to Queensland businesses—like the appointment of Ian Weatherall Electrical to undertake T5 adapter lighting replacements in various Rockhampton schools in April 2018; like engaging Choice, Passion, Life under the landscape maintenance of multi-unit complexes contract as a social procurement entity in Toowoomba; like awarding a contract to the Maryborough Aboriginal Corporation for Housing and Cultural Development for the provision of cleaning and yard maintenance in the Maryborough area and some surrounding towns.

I have been unashamedly fighting for better buy local policies for years. I run my own buy local Christmas campaign every year in Keppel in a bid to encourage local people to buy their Christmas gifts locally as opposed to online, and support our local businesses and our economy. We know that the Buy Queensland strategy is already giving a real, competitive advantage to local businesses. Recently at the Buy Queensland Strategy briefing held by the department in Rockhampton I spoke with local builders, building designers, construction suppliers and engineers about the strategy. They all told me how excited they are to finally be given a competitive advantage when it comes to providing goods and services to government and on government projects. They are ready and willing to provide goods and services to government. Since this policy has come into effect, local businesses, like Keith Turner and Glenn Thomasson at Designtek, say they are now on an even playing field when it comes to procurement in Queensland.

Businesses in my electorate will benefit because the Buy Queensland strategy unashamedly gives preference to businesses in Berserker before Brisbane, businesses in Parkhurst before Parramatta and businesses in Yeppoon before Yokohama. The Palaszczuk government is determined to do everything we can to use local suppliers, support local jobs and grow Queensland's own economy. I am proud that the Buy Queensland policy is already starting to pay dividends.

Wilsonton State High School

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.43 pm): There is a great day coming up in Toowoomba. Shortly we will have the official opening of the Wilsonton State High School hall. This project was started by my colleague John-Paul Langbroek when he was the minister for education. He worked with me, Chris Zilm, who was the then principal, and David van Tricht and Melinda Dick from the P&C to get this project underway.

It is a school that desperately needed a hall, as many members would have heard me speak about on many occasions—youself included I am sure, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart. This will be a great event. This school deserves this hall. It is a great facility. It was a battle to get there. There was a period of time when the previous minister, the member for Cooper, did not want to build it, but she changed her mind and built it. The children and the community definitely deserve the hall.


I have to apologise to Marcus Jones, the current principal. I have the tie pin but I did not bring it with me to the chamber. He is a very proud principal of the school. This hall has enhanced the school's capacity not just for the children but also for the entire community. Their motto is 'Stand strong, stand proud, stand together'. They were unable to do that before this hall was built. They had nowhere they could stand together. They had nowhere they could meet. They had nowhere they could celebrate their achievements. It is a great outcome. The community, the P&C, the previous principal and the current principal have all worked incredibly hard to bring this to fruition.

There are a couple of other great things that have happened at the Wilsonton State High School that I want to highlight as well. I am sure that the minister when she visits will get an opportunity to see these particular programs. We have a Beyond the Broncos program, which is exclusively for the girls at Wilsonton. It is the biggest Beyond the Broncos program running in Queensland, I am told. They have 80 girls there at the moment. Currently, it is only a three-day program. I am hoping we can see that program expanded to a five-day program. It is really making a difference in achieving outcomes for students. They are staying to year 12, getting their leaving certificate and staying engaged in school.

For the boys, we have the Clontarf program, which has had tremendous success. It is a great program. I get around to see them often with their activities. It is making a real difference in the community in and around Wilsonton and in and around the school. It will be a great day to see the school hall opened. I am pleased that the minister will be able to come. I hope that there will be time to look at those two programs which are making a big difference to the educational outcomes for Wilsonton.

(Time expired)

Wynnum Ambulance Station

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.46 pm): One hundred years ago to the day in August 1918 Brisbane's bayside community established its first ambulance station. One hundred years later the Hon. Steven Miles opened Wynnum Ambulance Station's brand-new doors. The new Wynnum Ambulance Station will service an area from the Port of Brisbane to Chandler. The 16 paramedics, two patient transport officers and officer in charge—a big call out to Mike Day—operating out of the new station have access to the latest facilities, including a multipurpose training space, a day room, a kitchen, rest-study areas and a 10-bay plant room. The new station will allow officers to respond to emergencies in these areas in the most efficient manner.

There is also provision for future growth to meet the increasing demand for services to the community. Last financial year Wynnum paramedics undertook more than 11,200 responses. That was a 3.2 per cent increase on last year. Like much of Queensland, this area has a growing and ageing population, and residents here deserve these necessary emergency and health resources.


As well as constructing a new multimillion dollar state-of-the-art ambulance station, around nine full-time-equivalent construction sector jobs were supported during the build. At the opening of the station, Wynnum ambulance officers also displayed equipment from the Ambulance Museum, which is on Tingal Road and is worth dropping into. Their open day is on 15 September this year. It was a great day. It was wonderful to see how the technology and equipment of the Queensland Ambulance Service has progressed. It was a great contrast from the old to the brand-new equipment that was there.

This \$3.5 million injection into the bayside demonstrates the Palaszczuk government's commitment to providing efficient and high-quality emergency pre-hospital health care for bayside residents. The new station also complements the recently opened Gundu Pa, the Wynnum-Manly Community Health Centre, which I have spoken about many times in this House. Gundu Pa offers 24-hour primary care for minor injuries and illnesses. These two significant health investments are part of the Palaszczuk Labor government's unwavering commitment to meeting the growing health needs of Queenslanders.

Unlike those on the opposite side of the House, I made a commitment to baysiders to ensure that decent, local public health services would be retained in the bayside and that there would be no job losses to front-line health services—they would all be retained in the bayside. Once again, the Palaszczuk government has delivered on this commitment.

I would like to take a moment to pay my regards to the great paramedics who work out of the Wynnum Ambulance Station who do an outstanding job and the local LAC, Ray Rickwood and his team who provide a great service supporting our local paramedics and have provided a great breakout room for the paramedics.

Regional Queensland, Drought

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.50 pm): I rise to advise the House of the worsening drought situation in regional Queensland. Inland Queensland has had a very cold, severe dry winter and the severe frosts have contributed to further drying of the whole region. My electorate, which is larger than the state of Victoria, is dry and dusty and the surface water, if not already evaporated, is diminishing very quickly. These conditions take a toll on animals and those farmers who are doing the daily feed and water runs.


Farmers are finding it difficult to source feed for their stock. I know that some are transporting feed from as far away as Victoria. I am also aware of rural produce agents who are rationing feed so that they have enough to share around to all of their customers. I think that is a very concerning situation. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk Labor government with its vegetation management laws has increased the red tape and the costs for those farmers who want to manage their mulga for drought stockfeed. Mulga needs to be managed for it to be useful for stockfeed. Managing mulga is just like

people mowing their lawns. It regenerates and it regenerates well as a very good stockfeed. We also see towns in regional New South Wales running out of drinking water, and I have concerns that without some rain in the spring we will see a similar situation in regional Queensland communities.

I have been fighting to have the Western Downs Regional Council placed back on the drought list. The Palaszczuk Labor government took this shire off the drought list some four months ago. I wrote to the minister for agriculture earlier this month asking for the Western Downs drought committee to be permitted to reconvene. I am pleased to advise the House that due to my representations the committee has had the opportunity to reassess the situation, and I am advised that the Western Downs local drought committee is currently assessing and reassessing the need for a drought declaration in that area. I call on the minister to act immediately the local drought committee makes a recommendation and re-declare the area to the drought list.

This government needs to stop sitting on its hands and help these farmers who are dealing daily with the impacts of drought in the Western Downs and also many other areas of the state. This Labor government is procrastinating and penny pinching, and I will not give up the fight to have the Western Downs area drought declared because I understand the impact this drought is having on the region, unlike this government.

Book Week

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.53 pm): Like the member for Greenslopes, I rise to talk about Book Week. Each year across Australia the Children's Book Council of Australia celebrates Book Week. The week kicks off with the announcement of the Children's Book Council book of the year and continues with a celebration across schools with library displays, book character parades and guest readers. This week is always an absolute highlight for me, having established a tradition four years ago of selecting two schools in my electorate each year to visit to read to the preppies—sometimes in book character costume—and presenting every prep student with a book of their very own.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Ms LINARD: I take that interjection. I was a rabbit this year but I am not giving you any photos. As a mother of two young boys, one a preppie himself next year, I love books.

Ms Grace: And they are gorgeous.

Ms LINARD: Thank you, Minister. I also love inciting their love of reading. This, coupled with a conversation with one of my principals who shared with me early on in my time in office that some of her students were not lucky enough to own their own books, gave rise to the idea.


This year I visited 127 prep students at Nundah State School and St Joseph's Nundah and had a fantastic time reading *Hickory Dickory Dock* and *Rodney Loses It!*—Rodney is a rabbit—with the students. Watching the students' faces light up when they found out they get to keep their very own copy of *Rodney Loses It!*—this year's Book Week early reader winner—was an absolute highlight. I take this opportunity to again thank Principal Kerry Latimer, Deputy Principal Shona Arneil, their prep teachers and the lovely preppies for the warm welcome last Friday.

It is not just Book Week we celebrate at this time of year. It is also the Premier's Reading Challenge. Prep to year 9 students as well as children enrolled in an early childhood centre participating in this year's challenge have been busily reading across Queensland since mid-May with the challenge finishing tomorrow. Last year over 155,000 young Queenslanders participated in the challenge.

Research shows that children who struggle with reading in their early school years are unlikely to ever catch up. We know that, while most Australian children are meeting international benchmarks for reading at year 4, nearly one in five are not meeting these benchmarks. Four out of five children meeting benchmarks nationally will never be enough for our government because every child deserves the very best education and start in life. Whether it is the Premier's Reading Challenge or our annual commitment of \$5 million to continue the First 5 Forever program delivered by the State Library of Queensland or the Ready Reading program in schools across the state, our government is committed to ensuring that Queensland children establish the vital developmental and literacy competencies required to succeed from the critical early years of life and right throughout their schooling.

NAPLAN results from 2017 confirm that our government's long-term commitment to, and investment in, lifting literacy and numeracy outcomes across the state is reaping rewards. Well done to the Queensland Minister for Education, Grace Grace.

Sunshine Coast Lightning

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (2.56 pm): This Sunday the Sunshine Coast Lightning will tee off for the second time in the national Suncorp netball grand final. I could not be more proud than I am of these elite athletes. They are amazing women. Last year they asked me to be their patron. They knew that the Premier was the patron of the Firebirds—

Mr Powell: She is feeling pretty sad about it now.

Ms TRAD: No-one should feel sad about the amazing effort that both teams have put in this season. They have been incredible.

I want to take this opportunity to put on record my well wishes to the Lightning—to Geva and Caitlin, to coaches Noeline and Kylee and to CEO Danielle Smith—for this Sunday. I will be representing the government and will be watching them in the grand final. They are up against West Coast Fever. This is the first time that the grand final will be held in Western Australian, but I am very confident that we are going to come back the grand final winners.

Ms Grace: If you're cheering, they'll win.


Ms TRAD: I take that interjection from the Minister for Education.

A government member interjected.

Ms TRAD: I take that interjection: two in a row. It was only last year that the Sunshine Coast Lightning first entered the Suncorp competition and they were grand final winners on debut. This is a boost of confidence for the Sunshine Coast community. This is their first elite sports team of any sport. I have had the privilege of watching games on the Sunshine Coast as their patron. Every single home game was a sellout. The Sunshine Coast community is so proud of the Sunshine Coast Lightning, as we all are. Come this Sunday I know that all Queenslanders will be cheering them on.

I want to acknowledge the efforts and the continued support of the Sunshine Coast council. I know that Mayor Mark Jamieson has been their No. 1 ticket holder and No. 1 supporter. I look forward to seeing Mark this weekend when we cheer on the girls. It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that backs the Sunshine Coast Lightning and women in sport. We have made a significant contribution to netball generally. On the Sunshine Coast last year we were very proud to announce \$7 million to the Sunshine Coast Lightning to upgrade their home venue, because the Sunshine Coast community is 100 per cent behind them and we want more residents of the Sunshine Coast to come and watch the Sunshine Coast Lightning win their games on their home turf.

Cairns Electorate, Racing

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.59 pm): I want to bring to the House's attention some fantastic racing events in Cairns. Last weekend was the Cairns Cup and in the next couple of weeks we will have the Cairns Amateurs Racing Carnival. Racing is a large and significant contributor to the state economy. In 2015-16 it contributed \$1.2 billion to the Queensland economy. A significant percentage of that—47 per cent—comes from regional communities.

Nearly 42,000 individuals are involved in the Queensland racing industry. It is their passion and commitment that delivers on average four race meetings each day in Queensland across the three codes—thoroughbred, harness and greyhound racing. Queenslanders have a strong connection to the racing industry. The first official race was close to 175 years ago. Since then, it has built a rich, cultural heritage and social significance across our vast state. Queensland has also provided Australia with a number of recognised national racing icons, including Bruce McLachlan, Mick Dittman and George Moore to name a few. Champion horses like Bernborough, Gunsynd, Strawberry Road and Buffering are also entrenched in the hearts and minds of Australians.

The social value is absolutely vital, and this can be seen in the Cairns Amateurs. The social value in country and regional parts is very clear. Race clubs share facilities with other community organisations. They bring together families and friends for a special experience and support the local economy. Over 585,000 people attended a regional race meeting in 2015-16.

The racing industry is wider than just the race meetings. Nearly 90 per cent of Queensland racing animals are produced and trained in regional Queensland. This government recognises the important contribution that racing makes to the individuals and communities throughout this great state. In November 2017, the government set out in its election campaign to provide security and continuity to the racing industry by promising a four-year \$70 million funding program. This is to provide security and


certainty to participants and clubs that government funding for non-TAB will continue at its current levels for the next four years. The funding will maintain existing prize money levels and also cover jockey riding fees, superannuation and, more importantly, WorkCover expenses.

The fund also includes \$10 million available for racing club infrastructure across the state as assessed on a needs basis by Racing Queensland. The funding will enable Racing Queensland to continue its transformation so the industry can become more sustainable. The important thing is that this process is underway. It is accepted by the racing industry and it is having a very positive impact. I would like to finish by inviting everybody up to the Cairns Amateurs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): That brings to an end private members' statements.

MOTION

Immigration

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (3.02 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. acknowledge the historic action of the Holt government, with bipartisan support from the Australian Labor Party, in initiating the dismantling of the White Australia Policy;
2. recognise that, since 1973, successive Labor and Liberal/National party governments have, with bipartisan support, pursued a racially non-discriminatory immigration policy to the overwhelming national, and international, benefit of Australia; and
3. give its unambiguous and unqualified commitment to the principle that, whatever criteria are applied by Australian governments in exercising their sovereign right to determine the composition of the immigration intake, race, faith or ethnic origin shall never, explicitly or implicitly, be among them.

At the outset, I want to acknowledge the member for Nanango's repudiation of Senator Fraser Anning's maiden speech to the federal parliament. Along with all on this side of the House, I totally condemn and utterly reject Senator Anning's divisive and inflammatory remarks. Further, I acknowledge that the motion I move today is a near carbon copy of a motion moved by the then prime minister, Bob Hawke, in federal parliament almost exactly 30 years ago, on 25 August 1988. At that time, some 22 years after the dismantling of the White Australia policy, Australia's non-discriminatory immigration policy was coming under attack—on that occasion by John Howard. How very, very sad it is that this is happening over half a century after we as a nation—wise to the benefits of a diverse Australia—completely repudiated a racist immigration policy. How very, very myopic is the view of Fraser Anning. He has closed his mind to the rich tapestry of today's Australia—the rich cultural contribution—and in fact to the reality of today's Australia, today's Queensland.

Over one million Queenslanders were either born overseas or have a parent who was born overseas. It may come as news to Senator Anning but Australia is right now a diverse nation and Queensland is a diverse state. We cannot undo it—we cannot and we will not. We do not count our immigrants, we do not separate them, we simply accept them and we celebrate them and we celebrate our diversity.


Many members attended an important function at the parliament here last night to celebrate the Japan Community of Queensland's inauguration, where it was noted that the Japanese were here as early as the 1870s. It is unlikely we would have Queensland's sugar industry and the magnificent contribution it has made to our state's economy without Australian South Sea islanders, without the religiously diverse people of South Asian ancestry and without our migrants from Italy, Malta and Crete. All our lives, regardless of nationality or ethnicity, have been enriched by the 1970s arrival of the Vietnamese.

In the same way as it is said that you cannot unscramble an egg, it is too late to turn back that sorry chapter in the nation's history that was the White Australia policy. In evoking the phrase 'final solution', Senator Anning stooped to a new low. In the context that they were used, these words were repugnant to those who suffered at the hands of that global evil in the 20th century and repugnant to those who fought against that evil in the 20th century.

Outliers like Anning are going to further and further extremes to have their voices heard because, sadly, so-called conservatives—and I do not believe they are genuine conservatives, because genuine conservatives would support our multicultural Australia—are going further than at any other time in our recent history to sow fear and division. The result is ugly dog whistling and xenophobia and an escalation in racist rhetoric to pander to the far-right fringes of Australian politics.

I am sad to say that I cannot think of any better example of that than from would-be prime minister Peter Dutton claiming in January that Melbourne residents are frightened of dining out because of African gang crime. This is dog whistling, pure and simple. It was echoed by an under-siege Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, who said that Melbourne residents cannot pretend Sudanese gangs do not exist and need to be dealt with by authorities—more dog whistling. They clearly did not tell Christopher Pyne, who laughed out loud when he was asked if he was afraid of going out at night in Melbourne. He had apparently forgotten that he was supposed to be terrified of Africans. It was Tony Abbott who first crossed the line in advocating for a return to white Australia when he said entire groups of migrants should not even be allowed into the country. He said, ‘Why do we store up trouble for ourselves by letting in people’—

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.07 pm): I rise to address the motion moved by the member for Sandgate. At the outset, I too repudiate the comments made by Queensland Senator Fraser Anning representing Katter’s Australian Party. It might surprise many in this chamber that I have had a very intimate personal interaction with immigration and multiculturalism throughout my life. I have celebrated the richness and the benefits that come from a culturally diverse community, but I have also witnessed the outcomes of nations struggling with multiculturalism and trying to achieve the same successes that we have here in Australia.

Some of my first memories of my father’s working life were when he worked for World Vision in Melbourne resettling those Vietnamese boat people that the member for Sandgate spoke of. The fact that my memories are of me and my brother standing next to a pyramid of spring rolls at a Vietnamese wedding probably gives members an indication of my love of multicultural food ever since. That approach that my father took in that work, the beliefs and the ethics that he has instilled in me as a result, have lived with me from that time. Growing up in Melbourne, it is not surprising that my best mate at school was a kid by the name of Tom Kalogerakos. We had a very multicultural community at the school I went to with some of our earlier immigrants to Australia.

My family moved to Sydney where Dad continued his work with World Vision as the then regional manager for the South Pacific. This saw him go into all of the Pacific island nations that we here in Australia have a close affinity with and a longstanding history with. It was not uncommon for me to go to sleep at night to the sounds of a kava party happening down in our family’s living room, with representatives from all of the South Pacific nations joined in voice with a guitar and a kava bowl. Again, this was a wonderful experience which then reflected in some of my own experiences. Nearly all of my own travel has been in the South Pacific to nations like Tonga, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Fiji.


It was my time in Fiji—four months of what was meant to be a 12-month experience—that showed me that when multiculturalism is not adopted or is not done successfully it often leads to dysfunction within a nation and within a community. The reason our term in Fiji was cut short was the then 2000 coup when, because of the rise of Indian representation in the Fijian parliament, George Speight took matters into his own hands and overthrew the popularly elected government of the day.

We are very blessed in this nation to be able to welcome people from other countries as indeed many of us standing here have come from another country sometime in the distant past. We need to take that on board and continue to present that to the broader community. We have a responsibility as community leaders to do that.

I do caution the minister to be very careful about trying to politicise this motion this afternoon and the activities. It is fair to say that both major parties have some darker moments when it comes to multiculturalism and immigration. Even currently, as was raised through a number of questions put during question time yesterday, the Labor government sitting opposite have some questions to answer around their association with Katter’s Australian Party. Firstly, they continue to support an agreement with the Katter’s Australian Party that sees them receive, out of the Premier’s discretionary budget, five additional staff. If they are serious about standing up to the comments made by Katter’s Australian Party they can tear up that agreement right now.

Mr Dametto interjected.

Mr POWELL: Secondly—and I am glad the member for Hinchinbrook has raised that—the reason the member for Hinchinbrook is sitting in this chamber is that the Labor Party preferenced him. The minister should be very careful about throwing stones around multiculturalism and immigration in this state and this nation because there are very serious instances on all sides of politics about which we can hang our heads in shame and we should have known better, and we can learn from them. I hope the minister and the Labor Party are seriously looking at those two matters right now.

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.12 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the motion. When we debate these issues I think it is very important to put them in context. I want to speak about some of the things that have occurred in my electorate, which is the most multicultural in the state and also has far and away the biggest Muslim community of any electorate in the state. To be frank, I do find it difficult to speak about these kinds of matters in this place because I do find them upsetting. I find some of the things that have occurred in my local area very upsetting, but we need to confront these issues now more than ever in the context of not only this debate but also the racist and bigoted speech that was recently made by Fraser Anning.

Back in 2001 the Kuraby mosque, a place of worship in my electorate, was set on fire in a criminal act. It was uninsured and the damage was extensive. At this exact same place of worship just last month Logan Robertson and five of his bigoted cronies turned up unannounced and started harassing worshippers including children. Fortunately, these kinds of incidents do not usually happen at other places of worship in other parts of Queensland. It is this kind of harassment that the Muslim community in my local area have had to put up with. Unfortunately, it does not begin and end with the incidents I just mentioned. Last year before school a pig's head was thrown into the grounds of the Islamic College of Brisbane, which is in my electorate. We do have to seriously question what kind of people would target children in this way.

When reforms were introduced in the last parliament to debate petitions with more than 10,000 signatures, a proposed development in my electorate, which included a place of worship for the Muslim community, came up for debate. One would have thought some big issues of state significance might have come up under this provision, but no, the leader of One Nation got up in this place and spoke about a development miles away from his electorate simply because it involved a religion he did not like.


I certainly do not dispute the right of people to have their say in relation to proposed developments and to exercise their legal rights. However, during this period my community saw offensive signs placed on one of the main roads in my electorate near one of the biggest primary schools in Queensland. We also saw disgraceful and sickening anonymous flyers letterboxed to my community, and I actually received them in my own letterbox. I find all these things upsetting and difficult to talk about here. However, I am not even the target of these things. If they make me upset, I can only imagine what effect these things have on people who are the target of these actions.

I went down to the Kuraby mosque after the most recent incident and the vast majority of the community saw the incident for what it was: the foolish actions of a small minority of people. They put on a brave face and they carry on but, ultimately, these kinds of incidents do tremendous damage to community cohesion. Unfortunately, it seems there is always going to be a small minority of people in any community who do the wrong thing.

I often hear it argued that Muslim community leaders do not condemn the actions of people in their own community who do the wrong thing. The fact is—and the reality is—they actually do it all the time. I see them do it all the time, but it seems that, unfortunately, there are some people who simply do not want to listen. Of course, members of the Muslim community and community leaders do not just speak out; they open up their places of worship, they hold forums to engage with the community and they invite community members into their homes to share meals with their families. Yet it seems to me that no matter what members of the Muslim community do, it is never good enough for some people.

The concept of trying to enforce a White Australia policy or a ban on Muslims is patently ridiculous. I cannot see how we can ban a religion or the beliefs of thousands of people in my electorate and indeed hundreds of thousands of their fellow Australians. We cannot ban someone's faith and we cannot ban what is in someone's heart.

Members of the Muslim community in my local area are doctors, teachers, businesspeople, police officers and community volunteers. They make a huge contribution to my community and they are our fellow Australians. All of us in this place need to come together and stand up against this racism, this hatred, and work together to build a better Queensland. I call on all members to support this motion.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.16 pm): I am a proud Australian. I want to speak about my family, about citizenship and about my constituency, Surfers Paradise. I came on a boat from another country—from Holland—in 1962. My father is Dutch and my mother is American but she has Russian and Jewish heritage. When they came through Egypt, because her maiden name is Weissman she was not allowed to get off the boat in Egypt as that was the name of the first president of Israel.


Mum and Dad came to Boonah in the electorate of Scenic Rim. I imagine that would have been pretty challenging in 1962. My dad got a job at Boonah State School. My mum was from Church Avenue, Brooklyn, in New York. Eventually, we ended up at Burleigh Heads State School where my dad was a teacher. Mum was an Avon lady, so we would be up and down the coast in the afternoons doing deliveries of Avon products on the way home. The important thing was that my parents taught us—my sister, Kate, and me—about the importance of hard work and of putting back into the community, as we just heard from the member for Stretton.

We subsequently moved to the electorate of Stretton where we completed our high schooling and went to university. Kate went to Salisbury State High School and I went to Sunnybank State High School. Kate worked at Coles Woodridge and I worked at Coles Pinelands Plaza. Importantly, our parents taught us to put back into the community. Subsequently Kate went to QUT next door and became a journalist and has pursued a career in radio broadcasting, and I of course ended up as a dental surgeon after being at UQ and then came into this place.

I came from another country on a boat called 'the Orange', or *Oranje*, which was the Dutch name for orange. Like many, many thousands of other Australians who came in that era post the war, we stayed with friends at Fruitgrove; we did not stay in the camp out at Wacol at that time. We stayed at Fruitgrove until we got sent to Boonah. Dad had to go down to the Treasury building—now the casino—because they would not give him a job unless they checked that he actually could speak good enough English. People from Boonah have said to me, 'We remember him; his nickname was Dutchie.' I imagine that the English of some of the other people who did not get a job when my dad did must have been particularly bad.

Importantly, Dad, who is 86 now, and Mum, who is 82, taught us what citizenship is about: respect, harmony, tolerance and acceptance. With our diverse multicultural background that is all that we have ever felt. I look forward to the citizenship ceremonies I attend. I often say that people at those ceremonies sometimes have a greater appreciation of citizenship because it has been awarded to them. Sometimes they have left battles behind. All I ever say to them is, 'Please leave all of your battles behind, but bring all of the good aspects of your society, your country and your nation with you.' I remember my own citizenship ceremony very well. It was on Australia Day in 1996 at Mermaid Beach. The important thing about these citizenship ceremonies is that we welcome the vast diversity of diasporas we have from other countries. It is so important that we reject the hate speech that we may have heard or that we may be tempted to nod along with. That is why it is important to be at the sensible centre and not to the left or the right.

When it comes to my electorate, the point I want to make is that if 20 per cent of Queenslanders were born elsewhere that is a million, but in Surfers Paradise it is 34.5 per cent. As Rob Borbidge, one of my predecessors, said in 1998 when he rejected One Nation, obviously when we have such a great number of people in a constituency who speak another language, who have come from other places and contribute so much to our state and country, it is so important that we take the sensible centre. We must ensure that we appreciate all of the great aspects of life in Australia. We cannot accept what people say in other places or even in this place. As I look across the chamber I see, I hope, friends on the other side who are also from different multicultural backgrounds, but we can all work together. It is so important that we do. It is so important that we as community leaders do that to show that this is a multicultural society. We want people to bring the best of what they have, leave their battles behind and make a better Queensland and Australia.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (3.21 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. From the outset I acknowledge the words of the member for Surfers Paradise. I hope that every single person in this parliament today will support this motion, because it talks about what sort of society we are today and what sort of society we want for the future. Like the member for Surfers Paradise, I want to take a moment to reflect on my grandparents' journey to Australia. That journey was very harsh and steeped in a part of history that I never want to see repeated during my or anyone else's lifetime. During that time my grandfather was subjected to working in a work labour camp in Germany. Many years ago when he was still alive I remember seeing a picture of him. He was skin and bones, wearing a German work camp uniform.

I say to those Katters sitting here today that one of your senators talked about a final solution. That 'final solution' is about the extermination of a race of people. That comment also meant the extermination of my grandfather. My grandmother was forced to stand and strip bare in front of German Nazi soldiers. That is the most humiliating thing that could ever happen to a woman and it happened to

my grandmother. When Senator Anning talked about a final solution, he was talking about getting rid of my grandparents. I stand in this place today as the proud granddaughter of my grandparents, who fled World War II and the atrocities of Nazi Germany for a better life here in Queensland and Australia.


About five years before my grandfather passed away I asked him if he would ever like to return to Poland. He said to me that he did not want to go back. He said, 'Why would I want to go back? I have everything here that I could possibly ask for. I have a roof over my head, I have food on my table and I have my family.' This is the story of thousands and thousands of migrants who travelled here. They do not want much. They want a decent job where they can work hard and provide for their children. They want a roof over their head, they want a good education and they want good health services. That is what we want as a Labor Party and a Labor government. We want to provide those services.

When I look at the wonderful multicultural Queensland and Australia we have, we are made richer for that diversity. I know that my electorate of Inala and the electorate of Woodridge represent large multicultural communities filled with richness and diversity where we respect and honour one another. We treat everyone with dignity and respect. It was very hurtful to hear comments from an elected senator who is trying to take away from all of that and trying to bring about the politics of division. We, as a state and as a country, are so much better than that. I applaud the member for Surfers Paradise, and I hope that we see other members opposite support this motion. I urge every single person in this parliament to support this motion and say, 'End the politics of divide. End the politics of hatred. End the politics of hurt and racism.' This is an opportunity for us as the Queensland parliament to be so much better than that.

Today in this House we celebrate our rich multicultural diversity. We celebrate the words of our national anthem—

For those who've come across the seas
We've boundless plains to share
With courage let us all combine
To advance Australia fair.

That is the sort of Australia we want and the sort of Queensland that we will always seek to protect.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.27 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'pursued' be omitted and the following words inserted—

- 'broadly non-discriminatory immigration and visa policies which have had both costs and benefits for Australians;
- 3. give its unambiguous and unqualified commitment to the principle that the Australian people have the right to discriminate against those who want to enter our great nation to favour persecuted minorities and people who will make a positive contribution and not undermine our values, rights as workers and public safety; and
- 4. support the right of Australians to have the ultimate say on who enters our country through a plebiscite.'

I would like to thank the government for moving this motion, because it gives me and the KAP an opportunity to provide some clarity on this debate. We can try to have a mature debate about this instead of the name-calling and labelling we have experienced. It has really been sensationalised through the media. Much of it lends itself to interpretation, which has obviously not been to the benefit of our position. I appreciate that many of the contributions have been very heartfelt and I sincerely acknowledge that. I would agree with most of the things that have been said here, but I think there is a disconnect between what we are trying to communicate and what is being challenged.

I believe that most of the outcomes people are talking about would be achieved through the policy of the KAP. That is our primary position. This will give me a chance to explain what our position is. If you are offended by that I am sorry, but I think I am a pretty open-minded person. No-one here holds the mortgage on existing in a multicultural community, because I certainly do in Mount Isa.

Much of this debate has been stifled by cheap labelling. Presenting an alternative view immediately conjures up labelling and a binary response. In my view, many of the words used by politicians and the media were quite shallow and opportunistic. Sadly, that plays a big role in modern politics. Let's unpack some of these issues to provide some clarity.

No-one has said that we want a White Australia policy. I do not know how many times we have to say that. I still get it every time I walk around: 'That's what you guys want.' That has been a misinterpretation of our position. No-one is trying to impute values of Nazi Germany. I think they were words that were used. People can make their own interpretation on that. Of course I agree that the concept of that is abhorrent. We could debate for hours whether there was intent to use that or not.

Another criticism was made about the comments being anti-Semitic. Since that statement we have received a message of support to the effect: 'Thanks for supporting us because we're having problems with aggression and assault in Australia based on ethnicity.' I think it is a bit ambiguous in that we are being accused of something while that same community is saying, 'Thanks for your support on this.'

Seventy-five per cent of people out there have not necessarily said that they agree with our position—I grant you that—but have said that there needs to be a debate and people should be allowed to have their say on this issue without being chastised. There is strong support out there for people having the freedom to talk about this issue. I think that is what we as politicians should be doing.


Mr Power: We don't agree with you. We've got to say it.

Mr KATTER: I take the interjection of the member for Logan. It is fine if you do not agree, but the name-calling and labelling by people shows a loss of objectivity on the matter.

The most primary tangible outcome that was espoused in the speech was that we should have a plebiscite on immigration. That was also qualified by the comment that we should all be prepared to live with the consequences of the results of it. If that is what people want, that is great.

Our policy says that we would like to promote an immigration policy that has Judaeo-Christian values. Egalitarianism promotes the ability to prosper regardless of class. Judaeo-Christian values promote looking after the poor and helping your fellow man. Immigration should favour the persecuted, not the persecutors, and we should somehow reconcile intake with job growth.

(Time expired)

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.31 pm): I fully support this motion and I utterly reject the amendment and the sentiments put forward by Senator Fraser Anning. I am proud to represent a community that is multicultural. It includes our original Australians and people who have arrived more recently; people of every colour and creed; and people of all political beliefs. I am proud to represent a community that utterly rejects the notions that were put forward in that speech. We are a community that knows we can do better. The Australia that we believe in—the Australia that I believe in—rejects those notions. It is an Australia that opens its heart to people. It is an Australia that opens its hands and its wallet to help people. That is the Australia I believe in.

I do not take offence at some of the things that were said; I just want to talk about the absolutely positive benefits and state categorically that multiculturalism and immigration have been nothing but a success story for our community and this country. I want to give some examples.

My parents sponsored a Sri Lankan family to come to this country in the early 1970s and our families grew extremely close, referring to each other's parents as aunty and uncle. My uncle was a Rhodes Scholar. He became a distinguished public servant after starting his working life here driving a St Vinnies van as it was the only job he could get. He rose to become a very senior member of the Premier's department in the 1980s. My aunty was a radiographer. They had sons who now make contributions in veterinary science, education, small business, nursing, security and the arts. Both my aunty and uncle made huge contributions to the community of Kedron through their commitment to the Little Flower Church in Kedron and the community surrounding it.

I want to talk about my Somali friend. We met at a street stall in 2004. He came up and asked how he could put an end to the politics of division and hate. He had been an interpreter for the ADF and had been evacuated due to the danger to his life. He knew about the politics of division and hate and where that ends. He spent many years in a Kenyan refugee camp before coming here. He became a leader in his community, setting up community groups and small businesses. Nowadays he is back in Somalia—a very dangerous place still—using the skills he developed here to help rebuild that country. What a brave man.


Due to my limited Spanish-speaking skills I have become great friends with many Spanish-speaking immigrants from Latin American countries such as Colombia, El Salvador, Uruguay and Chile. Two of my best friends arrived with nothing but a child to care for. After learning the language they worked in a range of low-paid jobs before starting a business. The husband has now commenced his role as a member of the Queensland police.

I meet many recent immigrants in my work as a volunteer nurse at the multicultural health service in Stones Corner, the World Wellness Group. We care for people who often have never seen a doctor or a nurse in their life. They have significant health problems. They have suffered serious trauma and torture. The questions they always ask are: what can I bring to this community; what can I contribute to this community; and how can I be a part of this community? We are richer for these people becoming part of our community.

In my electorate I have churches, mosques, Buddhist temples and synagogues. I have people of various religious faiths and people of no faith at all. Unlike those people who showed up at the Kuraby mosque to harass people who were doing nothing more than practising their faith in a peaceful manner, in my community we respect each other, we try to understand each other and we view each other as people before we put any labels on each other.

I grew up in a community that was effectively an insular Irish Catholic community. That was even though one of my grandmothers was German and the other was of Northern Irish Protestant descent. In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, when people who share my cultural heritage were using terrorism and violence, I was spared what is happening to Muslims in this country now. I never had to apologise for the actions of the IRA. Nobody ever called for a ban on Irish immigration or condemned our religion. My parents condemned every action of the IRA and prayed for every victim and prayed for peace. I know that my friends in the Muslim community do the same. They are supported in this by Christians, Jews, Buddhists, Hindus, Baha'is, Sikhs, atheists and agnostics.

My community utterly rejects the politics of division and hate. Many in my community know where that leads. We reject that because we believe in an Australia that is better than that. We believe in an Australia that cares for people. We believe in an Australia that helps people. We believe in an Australia that respects people.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.36 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion. I certainly will not be supporting the amendment that has been moved by the Katter's Australian Party. We are a nation of immigrants. We heard a little of the heritage of the member for Surfers Paradise and the Premier, the member for Inala. I share some of the heritage of the Premier. Like her grandfather, my father spent four years in a German POW camp. He would have used the same language that the Premier's grandfather would have used: he was happy to be somewhere that was safe, to have a roof over his head, to have food, to have his family with him and to be in a country with such wonderful freedoms.

I googled a little bit of the history of the time in which that camp operated. I have had the displeasure of reading it. Some 88,000 Jewish people perished in that camp over a three- or four-year period. My father was not one of them. He was not a Jew; he was a member of the Dutch air force and he was there as a worker. When the Americans came and liberated the camp and built another camp beside it, my father spent six months in a hospital camp before he could make the trip back to Holland to his family after the war.


I cannot believe that we even have to debate these matters in the House today. I think it is embarrassing that in a country as great, rich and bounteous as Australia we are having this debate. Warren Buffett once said, 'How dare we be so exclusive about our country when some of us have just had the privilege of winning ovarian lotto?' Some of us are here by chance, some by good luck and some because our families came before us. To be here debating such a discriminatory matter I think is an incredibly sad day.

I want to put something on the record, because I think it is an important commentary to make. I share the local mosque with the member for Bonney. Hussin and Rashida Goss often joke about the fact that sometimes people turn up and say, 'Why won't you Muslims all go back to where you come from?'

Hussin will often say, 'Well, actually, I could, but I'd only be going a few blocks away to Labrador to Goss Avenue,' because he and his family have been on the Gold Coast for 110 years. His great-grandfather migrated here in the late 1800s. He is now a fourth generation Gold Coaster. He is the President of the Gold Coast Islamic Society and it is a credit to him and the other committee members that he works with and the community that they have that there are some 70 different nationalities represented in that one mosque. While we are talking about the diversity of the Gold Coast, I should also comment on the fact that we are without a doubt one of the most multicultural cities in Australia. Some 200 different nationalities are represented on the Gold Coast.

I can only condemn the commentary from Senator Anning and the Katter party. I also remind the House about the appalling commentary of One Nation. First we heard Pauline Hanson condemning Asians and then she changed tack when she got back into the Senate and started condemning Muslims. As we heard from the Premier this morning, there are some 135,000 international students studying in our state. In fact, I believe that the second biggest export earner for our country now is international education followed closely by tourism. Who makes up the fastest growing tourism categories that we see on the Gold Coast? It is Asians. It is people from Korea and from Japan and from China and Malaysia and other parts of the region.

It is just unacceptable that as a nation we would even dare to stand in such arrogance and send such a strong message to other nations and other races that they are not welcome in our country. I want to say on the public record here today in this chamber that people from all around the world, if they are prepared to embrace our good fortune and our lifestyle and come and befriend us and work with us, are more than welcome. In fact, I believe that we should be a nation that is known for being tolerant of everyone regardless of their religion, their race or their country of origin. I certainly will not be supporting the amendments that have been proposed by the Katter party in the House today. I will be supporting the motion that has been moved and I simply ask that others support that motion as well.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (3.42 pm): I rise in support of the motion moved by the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and I respectfully reject the amendments moved by the member for Traeger.

Just over 20 years ago Pauline Hanson's maiden speech thrust this nation into a crossroads—a crossroads about our relationship to the notion of multiculturalism, to our relationship with our first nations people in this country. Even though since then there has been a great deal of work to move ourselves away from that crossroads, just last week what we had from the Katter's Australian Party senator was a further thrusting into the crossroads. For those who have remained in those crossroads over the years, they have remained too long and now we have what are extreme right ideologies hurtling towards those crossroads attempting to divide Australia and drive us back to a time that we cannot return to, quite frankly, because it is impossible. It does not exist anymore.


In the member for Traeger's amendments he talks about Australians having a right to discriminate and he talks about the right of Australians to have the ultimate say on who enters our country. What Australians is he talking about? Every Australian, unless you are a first nation person, is of the multicultural persuasion. You are all multicultural unless you are first nation. Last week when we saw that disgraceful attempt to divide Australia with racism and hatred I was disgusted. The comments of Katter's Australian Party senator, Senator Fraser Anning, were vile and go against everything that generations of Australians from all cultural backgrounds have been working for. Senator Anning said—

We as a nation are entitled to insist that those who are allowed to come here predominantly reflect the historic European Christian composition of Australian society and embrace our language, culture and values as a people.

As a proud Aboriginal woman, I want to tell Senator Anning about my people's language, culture and values. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people lived in this country, cared for our environment and maintained cultural practices on these lands for thousands of generations before European settlement and certainly before Senator Anning formed his narrow-minded view about what it means to be an Australian. Both sides of politics have condemned Senator Anning's comments which demonstrates how far he has strayed from majority opinion.

On top of those comments from Senator Anning, the federal LNP is, on this very day, deciding on a new leader for its party and I have concerns about the values of our perhaps soon-to-be Prime Minister Peter Dutton and his views with regard to race. In 2008 Mr Dutton boycotted Kevin Rudd's apology to the stolen generations. He was one of only a handful of MPs and the only coalition frontbencher who refused to attend this most important moment in Australia's history. In 2010 he said he regarded it as something which was not going to deliver tangible outcomes. A man who holds these views should not be Prime Minister of Australia. It distresses me that racism is still prevalent in this country. We see it in the comments of some politicians in moments like this, we see it out on the street, we see it in the member for Stretton's electorate in the story that he retold today and we see it in the media. Just today there are reports that a radio broadcaster used the offensive 'n' word during his broadcast. It is this kind of racist response that seeps out like a disease when politicians promote hatred and division.

Australia is better than that. Queensland is better than that. We have come a long way, but there is still more work to be done and we need the right leaders in our communities and in federal parliament to unite our country and embrace our diversity, to support the notion to acknowledge the historic dismantling of the White Australia policy—a policy that is a blight on our history—to recognise that since 1973 Australia has pursued a racially non-discriminatory immigration policy to the overwhelming benefit of our country, and to give our unqualified commitment to the principle that the criteria of immigration intake in Australia will never be based on race, faith or ethnic origin. I call on all members to support the motion.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.47 pm): In response to the motion moved by the member for Sandgate, the world is vastly different to the one we grew up in as kids. It is no longer the case that people come to our country because they share our values and want to abide by our laws and our way

of life. The reality is there are radical groups out there that have publicly stated they want to destroy our way of life. These are not the people we should be accepting freely with open arms. We recently experienced the hysteria from a speech made by Senator Fraser Anning speaking on behalf of ordinary, everyday Australians from all walks of life, nationalities and race. We saw the manipulation of words in his speech to suit federal MPs and senators who pretended to be unified in their mock outrage while ignoring the real issue of protecting our borders, job security and our way of life.

Freedom of speech in this country is very valuable and precious to all of us and the freedom to debate immigration deserves more than political grandstanding and avoidance of discussing the issue that the public has witnessed over this past week. A 2017 report by the Australian Population Research Institute found most voters wanted a reduction in immigration and an end to the rapid population growth.

A majority also agreed with statements that Australia was in danger of losing its culture and identity. In fact, immigration was one of the major issues discussed by callers on ABC Radio yesterday. These are real concerns that ordinary, fair-minded Australians have. How are the major parties working to acknowledge and address these concerns? Ignoring a problem or insulting those who point it out will not make the problem go away. Any claims that the KAP is racist are not supported by the facts and are absolutely ridiculous. We have a proven track record representing different religions and cultures. We have been vigorous in supporting the Sikh and the multicultural communities in Far North Queensland.

Bob Katter has been a fierce advocate for our First Australians for more than 40 years. We have a strong record in supporting the Jewish community and have advocated very strongly in bringing immigrants from persecuted minorities.

The attempt to twist Senator Anning's words to link him to past atrocities is shameful. Nobody has said that they want to return to the White Australia policy. That is a ridiculous assumption borne from hysteria. Every Australian wants a government that represents the interests of the people they were elected to serve. We have witnessed the results of indiscriminate immigration throughout Europe. Lives have been destroyed and lost because of governments' unwillingness to protect their people from those they have allowed to immigrate and live in their communities who do not understand or agree with democracy or the rule of law.

Not only do we need to protect our way of life but also we need to protect our jobs and our workers. Australia's immigration policy is outstripping our infrastructure. Bob Katter has outlined the impact of high immigration and the large number of overseas student visas and temporary work visas granted while we do not have the infrastructure, the university placements or the jobs to meet the needs of our domestic population.


The ACTU states the following in its *Change the rules* pamphlet—

The government is shipping in exploitation and taking away job opportunities for locals.

It goes on to highlight that one in 10 workers, or 1.4 million people, are on temporary visas in our country with work rights. This creates a decline in working conditions as those who will put up with reduced workers' rights replace those who understand what is at stake when working conditions are eroded.

Over the past week the Australian public have spoken. The ABC Brisbane poll, which ran last week, had a response of over 38,000 people, with 75 per cent of people responding saying that Senator Anning should not apologise for his speech. Those responding realise that his speech was deliberately misquoted to undermine the legitimate point that he was making.

The KAP office has been flooded with calls from Australians who were born here and those who emigrated here supporting our call for tougher immigration laws. I support the call to give Australian people, including those from other cultures and other religions who are citizens of our country, the right to determine how many and who they do and do not want here to build our society. I encourage this House to support the amendment to the motion moved by the member for Traeger.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.52 pm): I believe it is the responsibility of leaders to speak to the hope and aspirations for our current Australians and Queenslanders and not to fuel the fear and the division that is so easily accessible and such an easy path for those people wanting to make a political point or grab a political headline.

I believe that what we heard from Senator Anning last week was a speech that was all about grabbing a headline. It was all about grabbing the political spotlight. Not for one second was Senator Anning concerned about the division, the hatred and the hurt that would ensue because of those awful

words and the terrible, terrifying sentiments behind those words. To invoke the final solution as a policy position in the federal parliament is something that should bring shame on all of us. For those of us who understand 20th century history, who understand why the Anzacs fought, why our troops went to war, we know that it was not about singling out races, to murder, to slaughter, to divide; it was about upholding democracy, it was about upholding fairness, egalitarianism and a fair go. I think what Senator Anning has contributed to the Senate last week was an utter disgrace.


Can I say that it is not in isolation. I think there has been a general trend in terms of intolerance and a lack of welcome that has been experienced by many Australians, migrants and refugees to Australia. I note the contribution made by the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. I think she said it quite well when she said that, unless you are a First Nation Australian, you are an immigrant to this nation and, in that respect, you should understand your role in history.

This country has a proud history of removing the White Australia policy, embracing multiculturalism and growing our economy and achieving economic success through a dedicated migration program. Australia has embraced economic fortune, because it has embraced migrants of every nationality to this country, whether it was the bipartisan approach to the removal of the White Australia policy, or the bipartisan approach to accepting refugees after World War II, or accepting Vietnamese refugees. We have seen a departure from that, including current federal leadership aspirant Peter Dutton saying that it was a mistake for Australia to settle Lebanese refugees. Many of the comments that he has made subsequently fuel this departure. The ideas and the suggestions put forward by Senator Anning have taken seed and flourished in a climate where it is okay to beat up on brown skinned people.

I do not think it is okay to pick out races and say that they are the cause of people's fear and concern. It is a leader's responsibility to call out this stuff and say that the economic insecurity that people are feeling, that the employment insecurity that people are feeling, is not because of migrants; it is because the current economic system has failed to meet their needs. We need to respond to that, not pick on migrants and make them the reason for people's economic insecurity.

While I am on my feet, I want to reflect upon the fact that there is a member in this chamber who has sought to engage in significant racism towards me and has labelled me a jihadist because I feel passionately about a particular position. That has not been called out, which says a lot about the Leader of the Opposition.

(Time expired)

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.57 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the motion. It was the forebears of the LNP who reversed Labor's White Australia policy. It was Sir Robert Menzies who relinquished Australia from the grip of the White Australia policy and it was finally delivered under the Prime Ministership of Harold Holt. It was a conservative government that believed in the right of the individual and implemented the immigration policies that built our great state.

It should be remembered that the Snowy Mountains scheme would not have been built without immigration. Around two-thirds of the workforce employed in the construction of the scheme were immigrant workers from over 30 countries. The Snowy Mountains scheme was a critical water development that provided a critical electricity supply all the way to states such as Queensland.

Businesses in my electorate depend on 457 visa holders to exist. In fact, at the height of the mining boom people could not get a cup of coffee at McDonald's unless that cup of coffee was served by somebody who held a 457 visa. The abattoirs rely on Vietnamese people. The sawmills rely on Chinese people. Cleaners rely on Chinese people. Aged care homes rely on people from the Philippines who hold 457 visas. There is a medical practice in my electorate that has doctors who come from Iran. I have met a number of those doctors and, in fact, some of them are my doctors and they are very good doctors. There are Africans who work as welders on 457 visas. They are paid above award wages. In fact, we have a shortage of those welders and we would love to have some more of those 457 visa holders. That is what businesses in my electorate say to me.

I also want to acknowledge the 77 local governments—sorry, the 76 local governments—in Queensland that conduct citizenship ceremonies across Queensland for those people from other countries who have chosen to make Australia their new home.

It brings me to the question, perhaps for the minister, of whether the administrator at the Ipswich City Council is able to conduct those citizenship and affirmation ceremonies following his appointment at Ipswich.

Mr Hinchliffe: All the laws are the same.

Ms LEAHY: As the minister is both minister for local government and multicultural affairs, I encourage the government to make sure that the people of Ipswich who are currently in the process of progressing their citizenship and those who are yet to apply are able to continue to do that. It would be good if they can continue to have their citizenship and their affirmation ceremony in their own community of Ipswich. I take the interjection of the minister.

The vast majority of citizenship ceremonies are organised and hosted by local councils in Queensland. Regardless of the new citizen's location, be it in Burke or Brisbane, local governments play a very important role in ensuring that citizenship ceremonies are meaningful and a good experience for those people who have chosen to make Australia their home. I thank local governments across Queensland for the responsibility that they undertake for those ceremonies and making people from different nationalities feel welcome.

Brisbane City Council goes a step further with its commitment to multicultural Brisbane through services and initiatives for people from culturally linguistic diverse backgrounds. Council provides linkages and information for people from these backgrounds who are starting a new life in Brisbane. Lord Mayor Graham Quirk hosts a multicultural roundtable that identifies and facilitates opportunities for businesses and economic development in Brisbane's multicultural community.

Last weekend I was lucky to visit the Western Downs Regional Council which conducted its citizenship ceremony at the Dalby Delicious and Delightful Festival which is a festival hosted by a number of food vendors who come from different nationalities. There was a wide array of vendors from Afghanis to Italians and Filipinos. The festival was a great display of multicultural traditional dances, fashion and food. The newest Australians at this ceremony came from 17 different nationalities. They were individuals and families who were all very excited about becoming Australians.

Prior to this ceremony I had people come to me expressing their disappointment with the comments from Senator Fraser Anning. It is repulsive that Annastacia Palaszczuk rewards the Katter party with five staff. It is time for the Premier to end this arrangement today—not to review it, to end this arrangement today.

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106(10).


Non-government amendment (Mr Katter) negatived.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Motion, Proposed Amendment by the Member for Maiwar


 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, during the debate on the motion moved by the Leader of the House earlier today the member for Maiwar spoke about an amendment he proposed. The member did not state that he moved an amendment, rather spoke in terms of proposing an amendment. The member's actual words were 'so I would propose that we move an amendment to the motion'. Any motion or amendment put to the House should be clear and unequivocal. The House must know what it is being asked to do.

The practice in this place is for members to state that they move a motion or an amendment, usually by reference to an amendment circulated or reading the full amendment. In this way it is clear when the House is asked to make a decision on a matter. I consider that the member did not move the amendment that he spoke of. Accordingly, I did not put the question on the amendment to the House.

The member did, however, deliver a written copy of the amendment to the Clerk at the Table. Upon review of the proposed amendment, I would have ruled it out of order under Standing Order 94, which requires that amendments must be relevant to the question which it is proposed to amend. The question before the House was an amendment to sessional orders. The amendment proposed was outside the scope of the original motion and also ineffective as it was contrary to a specific standing order, as standing order 113(2) gives all members a right to ask questions. Any proposal to take away this right would need to be either an amendment or suspension of standing orders.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Appropriation Bill, Incorporation of Material

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it has come to my attention that yesterday during the consideration of the report of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in relation to the Appropriation Bill there was an error at the table in that the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors was only given three minutes on the clock instead of five. Accordingly, I seek the leave of the House to allow the minister to incorporate the remaining two minutes of her speech into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

I was pleased to address the Committee on the topic of FSG. As I indicated on the day, I have worked closely with my Director-General to make sure that all of our reporting mechanisms and financial controls are as robust as possible.

At the end of the day, FSG was run by an independent Board and they are accountable for the decisions that led to its financial problems. I am advised that the money provided by the Queensland Government was used for disability services for clients.

It is also important to remember that these are some of the most vulnerable members of our community, people who have in some instances never had the opportunity to live life to the fullest, but now thanks to the work we have done in facilitating the transition across to the NDIS, they can.

I had the opportunity to advise the Committee that in the areas that have fully transitioned to the NDIS, the number of people on the register of need is zero.

Mr Speaker, As previously mentioned our seniors in Queensland play an integral role in the community.

They have stories to share, experience to give, and as a government we have a responsibility to ensure that our state is catering to our aging population.

Along with this, \$383.8 million will be invested into concessions and rebates which is an increase of \$17.5 million on estimated actuals for 2017-18.

Our government will continue to deliver on the age-friendly community action plan. Several highlights include our age-friendly community grants program which will see strong partnerships with local councils and community organisations flourish.

Along with this, we will be expanding our elder abuse prevention services and establishing five new seniors legal and support services across the state.


These are just some of the great initiatives being led by my department and I am very proud of what we have achieved in this budget.

In closing, I am proud of what this government is delivering for our state, and I am proud of what we have achieved together in my portfolio.

We have a plan and we are sticking to it because this is a government for all of Queensland.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.10 pm): I advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 136(3) that the Economics and Governance Committee report on the Revenue and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 5 October 2018; the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Termination of Pregnancy Bill by 5 October 2018; and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Criminal Code (Non-consensual Sharing of Intimate Images) Amendment Bill by 5 October 2018.

The committee has resolved pursuant to standing order 194B that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 16 of 2017-18 titled *Follow-up of Managing water quality in Great Barrier Reef catchments* be referred to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee; the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 17 of 2017-18 titled *Managing local government rates and charges* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee; and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 1 of 2018-19 titled *Monitoring and managing ICT projects* be referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee.

REPORT

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.11 pm): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period of 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, for the period 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018 [[1190](#)].

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL


APPROPRIATION BILL

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Appropriation Bill

Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, Report

Resumed from p. 2073.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.12 pm), continuing: Our achievements include moving year 7 into high school, which was the biggest change in education since the early 1960s when Jack Pizzey moved year 8 into high school. Before that, under long-term Labor governments, basically you went to grade 8 or grade 10 and then finished if you did not get a Catholic scholarship. It is our side of the House that is completely committed to public education and we showed that by planning for 11 new schools in our time in government.

When I became the education minister, there was no planning for new schools. In 2013 in Queensland, no new schools opened, which was unprecedented for a state with over 1,230 schools. In 2013, not one new school opened because there had been no planning for it. While in government, we lifted by 15 per cent year 12 completions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Under the national partnership agreement, we lifted the early childhood participation rate from 26 per cent to over 90 per cent. We put \$300 million into maintenance backlogs, because those opposite let schools run down.

I note that the committee discussed Gonski funding and the National Education Reform Agreement. In our time in government, under the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government, then federal education minister Bill Shorten went around the country doing special deals. Through the efforts of our government, we were able to secure the best deal for Queensland. It was not acknowledged by anyone, but we secured the best deal of any state, which enabled us to put \$760 million over four years directly into schools. We were the only jurisdiction that did not take anything off the top. We gave the money straight to the schools through programs such as Great Teachers = Great Results and the Great Results Guarantee.

Under the Gonski principles, Queensland has six areas of need: small schools, remote schools, Indigenous students, socio-economic status, disability and English as a second language. Queensland, a diverse state of 1,230 state schools and 500 non-state schools, has more of those areas of special need than any other state. I was very proud to be the minister who ensured that we secured more funding than any other state and we gave it straight to schools, for which school principals were particularly appreciative.


Now we have an education minister who is completely beholden to the unions. As the leader of opposition business and now shadow minister said, whatever the unions propose the first reaction of the member for McConnell is to say, 'Yes, we think that is a good thing.' It takes the Premier to override her and say, 'We will not allow those things to happen in our schools.' Our government cut red tape to ensure that schools can spend more time on what really counts—that is, improving student outcomes. We focused on quality teaching, autonomy and discipline to get the best results from state schooling and schools around Queensland.

Report adopted.

Clauses 1 to 4, as read, agreed to.

Schedules 1 and 2, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.16 pm): I move—


That the bills be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bills be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bills read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (4.16 pm): I move—


That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Question put—That the long titles of the bills be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 13 June (see p. 1519).

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.17 pm), continuing: Cross River Rail will not only ease congestion and remove choke points but also deliver South-East Queensland's first turn-up-and-go frequency rail service across the region, taking 18,000 cars off the road every single day. It is expected to reduce travel times on the Cleveland line by up to 15 minutes. We have also made good on our promise to keep electricity assets in public hands, protecting Queenslanders from massive price rises such as the crippling 43 per cent increase experienced under the Newman government. We continue to secure our clean energy future with approval granted for solar, wind farms and other alternative energy projects, and we are well on track to reaching our commitment to 50 per cent renewables by 2030 and our commitment to achieving zero net emissions by 2050. We are doing our part to combat climate change.

We have achieved a stronger budget and we are bolstering front-line services with an additional 2,390 nurses in Queensland hospitals. We have also introduced nurse-to-patient ratios to ensure that patients get the care they need and deserve. We have provided an extra 940 teachers and teacher aides in our schools to reduce class sizes for children. We are improving public safety with an extra 300 police officers and stronger anti-terrorism laws. We are also in the midst of a huge recruitment drive for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services.

We have provided additional support for victims of domestic and family violence by adopting all of the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report, we have strengthened our laws and we have provided more support services across the state to protect our communities. We have implemented landmark social reforms, particularly for the LGBTI community. There is still more work to be done and I look forward to delivering that in this term of government.

Importantly, we have kept our political system clean by passing the toughest political donation laws in the country. Political parties are now forced to declare who has donated \$1,000 or more. However, we are still waiting for those on the other side to disclose who their political donors are.

When I was first elected in 2015 the people in the bayside wanted to see a government that was prepared to listen to all people and to work together to build strong communities and a vibrant Queensland. I am really proud to be part of a government that has listened. We have delivered important investments which ensure a bright future for all Queenslanders.

The Newman government ripped many services out of our bayside community—24-hour primary care, child safety and the department of housing. Probably the cruellest was the closure of the Moreton Bay Nursing Care Unit. Our community protested this closure. However, those protests fell on deaf ears and 85 residents lost their homes and were relocated with no regard for their or their family's needs.

Since 2015 I have worked really hard to rebuild our fabulous community. Gundu Pa, which means 'medicine stones place' in Jandai language, opened its doors last year and has restored 24-hour primary care services to the bayside and delivered new and upgraded health services. This health centre will meet the growing needs of our community, providing a centralised, modern public health precinct that is free, easily accessible and available to all. The rehabilitation beds will remain and are

delivered at Jasmine Ward at Casuarina Lodge and palliative care services will also remain in the area. All these services that were going to be taken out of our area are being delivered by the hybrid model in home by St Vincent's and in a facility operated by Blue Care.

Many of our schools have benefited—Wynnum West State School, Darling Point Special School, Brisbane Bayside College and Wynnum State High School. We have all benefitted from the Palaszczuk government's upgrade to facilities. I was proud to see that Wynnum State High School achieved three OP 1s in 2017. Some 50 per cent of the year 12 cohort achieved an OP of 10 or under. This is a wonderful result. I know that with our state government's commitment to prioritising education we can build on those achievements.

Our local science teachers have also been recognised with the Peter Doherty Award for Excellence in Science—Dr Richard Walding from Moreton Bay College in 2015 and Mr Tim Roe from the Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre in 2017. The Moreton Bay Environmental Education Centre continues to be recognised with many accolades for the fabulous work they do. We are fortunate to have outstanding teaching and support staff in all of our local schools—state, private and Catholic. They all do an outstanding job educating our kids. I thank each and every one of them.

The opening of the Murri Court at Wynnum Magistrates Court has been welcomed by our local Murri elders, our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, Magistrate Zac Sarra and all court staff.

We have cleaned up the important ecosystem of Wynnum Creek by removing old derelict boats that have been an eyesore for many years. I will continue to work with the community group that meets regularly in my office to ensure the health of all of our local creeks and environment.

In the bayside, Skilling Queenslanders for Work has, since its reintroduction, supported 340 local young people. Some 154 are now employed and 66 are undertaking study or have returned to school. Allow me to put a name to those numbers. Leanne is just one of those 340 young people from my electorate who has been part of the Skilling Queenslanders for Work initiative.

Leanne is a 22-year-old woman who, from a very early age, was a victim of family and domestic violence. She experienced the suicide of her father, she had difficult family relationships and she began self-harming as a means to cope. Leanne worked hard to manage and she discovered a love of dance and drama and for a while that was her saviour. She attended uni and had a job.

However, sadly on a night just after her 18 birthday, in her own words, her world tumbled down like a house of cards. Leanne was out with her friends and her drink was spiked. She woke up the next morning in a motel room after being raped by three unknown males. Leanne has lost count of the number of times she attempted suicide since that experience and how many times she ran away from hospital. However, she has not forgotten the 15 ECT treatments that she received.

Leanne became homeless and was a vulnerable young woman, alone. She felt there was no-one who cared for her or nowhere to go. However, Leanne found refuge and support, kindness and respect at our wonderful local youth and family service organisation, BABI, and with the Get Set for Work program. She discovered a group of people she could feel safe with and, most importantly, Leanne discovered a future.

Leanne has now returned to university. She is working and she is the 2018 youth member for Lytton. She regularly volunteers in my electorate office. She is also an active member of the Youth Voice Committee and actively supports other young people in our community. I am so proud of this really impressive young woman. Leanne is one young baysider whom Skilling Queenslanders for Work and BABI and their staff have saved.

Thank goodness that the Palaszczuk government has reintroduced this successful program which improves the skills, employment opportunities and social inclusion for people just like Leanne. I am sure that all members have a Leanne in their electorate that they have met. This is a government that does not leave people behind. It recognises that sadly we are not always dealt a great hand in life. With targeted support people can not only lift themselves up but in turn, with those around them, go on to become valuable members of society and make a real contribution.

The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of employment. Secure, fairly paid jobs are central to the dignity, future and wellbeing of Queenslanders and the Queensland economy. In the Lytton electorate the Port of Brisbane is a vital part of this dynamic. The port is home to around 70 businesses supporting thousands of Queensland jobs. Not only is the Port of Brisbane providing family-friendly employment to local families, it is also an economic enabler for Queensland. The port is a major industrial precinct for everything from oil to cement, from gas to chickpeas and motor vehicles.

In late 2017 the port announced the construction of the \$158 million Brisbane Cruise Ship Terminal. Now the port will be a major player in the South-East Queensland tourism industry. The cruise ship terminal will serve as a catalyst to supercharge growth in our tourism sector and related industries and generate jobs now and into the future.

I was delighted recently to attend with Minister Bailey the opening of the duplication of Port Drive. The port spent \$110 million to upgrade Port Drive well ahead of capacity demand for safety and efficiency. This great investment and commitment to Queensland and the Queensland economy is making sure our capital city port can continue to grow and maintain its competitiveness and productivity.

The manufacturing industry employs 170,000 people across Queensland and in the Lytton electorate contributes to sustained economic growth and the generation of skilled job opportunities for baysiders. Big business is certainly doing its bit, but the heart and soul of the community is the small business owners and operators.

We are a government that is prepared to invest in Queensland, new technologies and new ideas. The bayside is full of just that. We are full of innovative women and men who are busily advancing Queensland, developing new ideas and technology from health equipment to drones, from governance to accounting or systems management, shared and social enterprises. These have all been supported through the Advancing Queensland initiatives.

I am proud of all of our local businesses and recognise their contribution with the bayside business of the month. I must shout out to our Buy Local to Grow Local campaign. We all benefit from supporting local businesses. Small local businesses are the backbone of our community and economy. They are often the first on the job, always ready to make a donation or support a local fete or school or community group. They work long hours to provide a service.

The Wynnum Wading Pool is an iconic part of our local community and locals have, in recent years, found new ways to use this historic space. During winter the wading pool is drained for maintenance. At this time the pool is used for beach volleyball tournaments. Winnam, our local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander co-op, turns the wading pool into a Kunjijel and a festival for NAIDOC Week and the Quandamooka Festival.

This event has been going from strength to strength and is supported by local businesses and the community. The 2018 event, which was held towards the end of July, did not disappoint. It was a great success with close to 10,000 people enjoying this wonderful cultural event. I know that Minister Enoch was there and enjoyed getting her toes in the sand of the wading pool. It has been wonderful to see our local groups revisiting an old landmark. This kind of innovation, thinking and seizing new opportunities is a way to a bright future for my electorate.

Fort Lytton, which is open to the public and presents special night-time tours, is worth a visit. I have been lucky enough to experience the unique and fascinating night-time promenade theatre performances that bring to life the historic fortification and share important stories about our Anzacs, many of whom were deployed from Fort Lytton. This is yet another great asset to our tourism sector. Perhaps this could be the year for everyone in the House to pop down and book a night-time tour run by the passionate and enthusiastic Daley, Rolly and Meitta, or drop down one Sunday for the Fort Lytton Historical Association's firing of the cannon, or visit History Alive during June.

So many people in the electorate of Lytton are involved in its communal life. I am justifiably proud of the mighty Wynnum Manly Seagulls, although not this year—sadly, they are not doing as well as they have done in the past; the mighty Bugs, who are doing fabulously—they had a good win last weekend; the Bayside United Football Club—their senior women's soccer team won the grand final in 2017; Wynnum Manly District Cricket Club; the Wynnum Wolves; the Vikings AFL Club; the Manly Dragon Boat Club, which recently competed and won gold, silver and bronze at the world championships in Hungary—it is doing really well; the Manly Halloween celebrations, which is a great festival in Manly—pop down for a great night out; our hardworking local environmental groups; and a vast array of activities across the electorate.


The Palaszczuk government recognises the importance of working in partnership with industry and business to create employment opportunities. It also recognises that a healthy, vibrant state is not created simply through an effective economic formula. Our state is made up of a diverse range of people from many backgrounds, age groups and skill sets all with the capacity to contribute to the wellbeing of our great state in a multitude of ways. Like many members who have spoken previously, I have also been fortunate to attend the new citizenship ceremonies that are held at Wynnum by our local councillor, Councillor Peter Cumming, and our local Lions group and have welcomed many people from many different nations to become new members of the great community of Lytton.

Wynnum Family Day Care, another great local organisation, are celebrating their 30th year this year. This community run service's excellence has been recognised many times through their professionalism and the standard of care that they and their educators provide to their clients. I would particularly like to congratulate the board of Wynnum Family Day Care. I would also like to acknowledge Denise Robinson, whom we lost last year. Denise gave many decades of service to our community and she will be remembered by those many lives that she has touched. Thanks to Cathy Bavage and her team from the Wynnum Family Day Care for their contribution to our community.

I have worked with local community groups to secure more than \$2 million to support our local sporting clubs and community groups in the bayside. Many of these—in fact all of them—are run by tireless volunteers whose working years are well behind them. I am talking about groups such as ARAD, whose volunteers have looked after people with a disability for years and continue to do so even though the average age of the volunteers is close to 75 years; WROCCS; the Bayside Woodturners and Woodcrafters Association; the Wynnum-Manly Men's Shed; the Wynnum Manly Historical Society; the Eastern District Orchid Society; and local sailing clubs—Wynnum Manly, Darling Point, Royal Queensland and Sailability—that all provide sailing opportunities for locals, people with a disability, encouraging women, men and kids to get out on the water. They all serve to connect people by tapping into their creativity, skills and interests to ensure a healthy, caring community and that no-one needs to live in isolation.

I began my speech by acknowledging and thanking all of those people. I would like to say thank you again to my family and to the great supporters in the Labor Party in Lytton. I thank them all for their great work. To my family: I love you and thank you for everything that you do to help me.

Finally, we do have a bit more to do. We have achieved so much over the past few years, but there is still a bit to do and our government is ready to do this work. I look forward to working with the bayside. I reaffirm my commitment to the Palaszczuk government and to the bayside and the people of my electorate. I pledge to my electorate that I will continue to listen to their concerns and work with them to achieve for our local community. I look forward to serving with them during this term in government.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.32 pm): It is a truly humbling experience to rise today to give my address-in-reply speech in the 56th Parliament as the re-elected state member for Thuringowa. On 20 May 2015, my birthday, I rose to give my maiden speech. Sadly, due to a death in the family, my wife, Amanda, and our children could not be here. However, Amanda, Mitch and Ash are here today in the gallery, so it makes today all the more special in delivering this speech. All members of the House would know just how important it is to have family supporting them in this role, and I will touch on that a little later.

To the people of Thuringowa, I say thank you for backing me in once again. To my constituents, I commit to take up the fight again for the good people of Thuringowa who re-elected me as their state member. They know that I do not back down on any issue and I love giving it to those in the south-east corner, because we are worth fighting for in Far North Queensland. It is an endearing quality that we have in North Queensland. You stand up for your mate, lend a hand and keep fighting for what is right. This was despite coming into government in 2015, having gone through some pretty tough and ordinary times. They were challenging times, with the mining downturn, post Campbell Newman cuts to services and Palmer's QNI nickel refinery collapse. I stood with every one of those sacked workers at every sad and depressing unemployment forum held in Thuringowa. Although those were tough times, in the following months and years those experiences helped define us as a city.

We are recovering slowly. As a city, with strong state government support, we rose to the challenge through a range of funding programs, such as the regional Back to Work program and Skilling Queenslanders for Work, and locally building infrastructure projects that have created 10,000 local jobs since we have been in government. Those jobs are backed in by our Buy Queensland procurement policy. I have worked my backside off in Thuringowa, all with the support of the people of Thuringowa and, of course, my family. We did it and I am pretty happy about that.

Why did Labor back us again in Thuringowa? I believe that my constituents did this after seeing our Labor government deliver the funding required for major infrastructure and job-generating projects such as the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium, the port expansion and the \$225 million water pipeline to deliver Townsville's long-term water security, not forgetting the \$386 million Powering North Queensland Plan. Together these projects are delivering and will deliver thousands of local jobs.

In 2015, we came into government with a 14 per cent unemployment rate. It is now around nine per cent. We still have more work to do. In my maiden speech I spoke about delivering a number of projects in Thuringowa such as stage 1 of the now infamous Riverway Drive duplication project,

which is well underway and due for completion in November, supporting over 120 local jobs. This year after the budget we delivered another \$36 million in state funding for the Townsville Ring Road stage 5 project, starting at Riverway Drive—so members will keep hearing about it. With a federal Labor government—we do not know what is going on in Canberra—I know that Bill Shorten is backing us in, so we will get those jobs.

Since coming into government, over \$20 million has gone into our local schools, such as Kirwan State High School for its hall and \$10 million to the Heatley Secondary College, not forgetting the millions spent on major improvements to the Kirwan, Heatley, Weir, Willows, Rasmussen and Kelso primary schools, and—something near and dear to my heart—the \$5 million in funding that we achieved for the Kirwan Ambulance Station redevelopment due to start construction next year.

Let me touch on my re-election in 2017 for a moment. It is especially poignant as some people, particularly some in the southern media, had written me off as One Nation had thrown in a candidate. They based this false belief on the fact that Hanson's One Nation was successful in Thuringowa 20 years ago, but that was 20 years ago. As I intimated to the former member Mr Ken McElligott, who served three terms in Thuringowa, I was up for the fight and was not about to let history repeat itself. I can tell members that Ken is pretty happy that we kept Thuringowa as a Labor seat. As I remarked to many a media outlet, that was then; this is now.

My constituents know that I have worked hard and delivered for Thuringowa since being elected and I will continue to deliver. That is why they chose to re-elect me and that is why Thuringowa Labor won on the primary vote in every booth. None of this would have been possible, of course, without a great team of people. My campaign team included many of the 2015 team, but we had built that up to over 100 people manning booths, doorknocking and helping me make calls. I am going to take this moment to thank them. I also thank my union, United Voice. To Gary Bullock, Jeanette Temperley, Sharron Caddie, Steven, Heath, Matt and Nicole, Cheryl and the many other local UV members who assisted me in my re-election: thank you.

Of particular note, I want to thank my campaign manager, Amy Smith, and her awesome team of CPSU volunteers such as Sebastian, Mick Macdonald, Cathy and many more. We worked hard as a team, led by Amy. She should be commended for putting up with me. We got there with a great team strategy. Thank you, Amy. To my other doorknockers and helpers from the Together union, Norm and Eva, and to my hardworking staff who are always watching—and they are watching today: hello to both Thelma and Roslyn and thank you for your help. We continue to work for Thuringowa together as a team.

To Councillor Kurt Rehbein, Meg Frisby, Cathy O'Toole and her staff: thank you. I want to give a big shout-out to former Speaker Mike Reynolds, who was a great mentor to me. To Dolan Hayes and Michael Baker: thank you for your help—not forgetting QNMU help from Daniel Seage, Katy Taggart, Deb and Kayleen and a special thanks to Dr Carl O'Kane. Thank you, Carl.

To my branchies from Thuringowa, how we have grown. There are simply way too many to mention, but they are a loyal and hardworking bunch. In particular, I want to thank former member for Burdekin Steve Rogers and his wife, Trish; my branch president, Les Moffit; Mick and Evol Keane; Peter and Michelle Dalton; Chris Smith; John Mellon; Dr Martin Doris; Ryan Alloway; Allan Regden; Neville Donnie; James McBain; Colin Deitz; Glynn Jones; Jan Hagerty; Glenn Ford; and many more.

My friends from UFU—the firies—the ambulance and the air wing of Rescue 521 are amazing. Thank you to Greg Huppertz; Deb and Lindsay Rapp from Ayr; Scott and Anita Fry who travelled from Charters Towers; Dave Cole; Brett Maguire; Micky Paulson and Matt Brooks. Special thanks to Jason Dutton for again flying up from Brisbane to help me get the job done. To one of my oldest mentors in the QAS, Eddie Blain, and his wife, Heather, thank you again. To my neighbours Darren and Kelly Habar and Troy and Tegan Tucker, thank you for your support.

Out in the heat and on the tough streets of Thuringowa we had a couple of dog bites, and for one I was Johnny-on-the-spot, whipping out the first-aid kit to Daniel, from QNMU, who would not stop doorknocking and soldiered on. I will table that article from the *Courier-Mail*. We had the *Courier-Mail* with us. As I treated him, I told the old ambo joke, 'It's okay, Daniel, all bleeding stops eventually,' and he kept doorknocking for me. He is a legend. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 10 November 2017, in relation to the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP [1191].

If I have missed anyone, I apologise as elections are pretty hectic times. As we know, we won in each booth and I am humbled in the knowledge that thousands of people put their faith in me to get the job done.

I came into this place as a critical CareFlight paramedic, having served 25 years with the Queensland Ambulance Service in the northern region. That association followed in the last term of government where I continue to serve as an advanced care paramedic at Kirwan station. They say that you have to hang up the stethoscope at some point, and I made that decision not lightly this year in February. Life as an MP and chair of the health committee became a lot busier.

Coming from a background of helping people has been a good foundation for serving as an MP. We have a number of MPs in this parliament who are also serving officers either from the QPS, the ADF or the QAS including my good friend and now Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Craig Crawford. I am sure they all get it. After 28 years, the memories never really go away. They do stay with you. I believe how you cope with them is the important part, starting by acknowledging that they are a part of your life. It is natural to recall events. We are all hardwired to do that. Therefore, every time I hit the highway I am reminded of many of the gruesome road traffic accidents or fatalities I have attended or, sadly, on local roads where a child has been hit by a car or, worse, died outside a school. Hence my push to get flashing school lights in front of all schools in Thuringowa. Ask any paramedic and they will undoubtedly say that responding to children and infants represent the most challenging cases. I remember the beautiful faces of babies lost to SIDS or, tragically, drowning, some in home baths and others in backyard pools.

Suicide is also an issue that continues to challenge us. I recall only too well the notes beside the bodies of those who suicided or who attempted suicide and losing some mates in the ambulance along the way. That is why I am glad to see an investment in places like The Oasis and more focus being given to mental health by our government. It is why I continue to support the Townsville Suicide Prevention Network.

I recall the scenes of bloody murders or mangled bodies at car accidents or multicasualty scenes like the Cardwell tilt train accident in 2008, or devastated communities after Cyclone Yasi, or Innisfail post Cyclone Larry in 2006. Such sadness, yet in contrast being a paramedic is a good and noble job helping others. It was not all bad. Some of the most memorable cases involve bringing life into the world or saving the life of many patients suffering heart attacks, asthma, diabetic episodes, seizures or performing amazing and often high-risk aeromedical retrievals. It was a career during which I was very proud to wear the uniform, and I thank all our staff in the Queensland Ambulance Service and emergency services who do this every day. They are ordinary people doing an extraordinary job—heroes all.

I table a letter I wrote to QAS Commissioner Russell Bowles thanking all in the QAS for allowing me to be part of what really is an amazing service. If I can indulge the House for a moment, I will quote one part of that letter—

Looking after people in times of need and crisis has indeed been a very rewarding and challenging career. Often Ambulance officers see people on their worst days and in the most stressful and challenging times of their lives. However I know that during an interaction, whether it's holding someone's hand to someone who has lost their lifetime partner or performing an advanced clinical procedure, paramedics make real change every day and do save people's lives.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 March 2018, from the member for Thuringowa, Mr Aaron Harper MP to the Queensland Ambulance Service, Commissioner Russell Bowles, in relation to cessation of association with Queensland Ambulance Service [\[1192\]](#).

Saying these things today helps me close that chapter in my life. I am still married to the job as my wife, Amanda, who was once a student paramedic of mine—and that was many years ago—and is now a manager of clinical education, remains working in the QAS. Amanda is currently Acting Assistant Commissioner of the Townsville local area service network and I am so proud of her achievements in the QAS. I say that as many years ago there were no women in the QAS—then the QATB. Now, women make up 52 per cent of staff in our area. Amanda, you are to be admired as a leader in the QAS of some 23 years. I really do not know how she does it, raising our kids when I am not there and performing her full-time role. She is indeed amazing and an inspiration to me. I love her very much.

I have to shout-out to the in-laws. They often get overlooked, but to Amanda's mum, Myrna, and dad, Colin Bamblett: thank you for your help and support on this journey. I am seriously considering writing a book and perhaps calling it 'Harper's journey: from paramedic to politician'. I can honestly define stress going from the most trusted profession to this one. I reckon it would be a heck of a read full of life's memories. The fact is that I now use my background and experience to help others in my community of Thuringowa, albeit on broader issues.

My experience in the Ambulance Service fuels my passion to deliver funding for Drive It, a unique driver education and motorsport precinct. I want to see a purpose-built facility to help educate people in North Queensland to reduce road trauma, which costs this nation \$25 billion a year. South-East Queensland has these, but North Queensland does not. Adding to that, over the last 15 years in

Thuringowa we have lost the dragway, the speedway and now there are restrictions on carting. With 27 motorsport clubs—and North Queenslanders like their cars—I know we deserve such a unique facility that provides both motorsport and driver education, so I will not give up on Drive It.

Along with delivering other important infrastructure in Thuringowa like the ambulance station, I intend to deliver a new fire station—I guess I am going to annoy Minister Crawford—and a new police facility in Thuringowa. I want to be the only MP in Thuringowa who has delivered stations for fire, ambulance and police.

Now for the hard bit. The most important people in my life, my family, are in the gallery today: Amanda; my son, Mitchell, who is 15; and Ashleigh, who is 11. Happy birthday to Ashleigh, who turned 10—11 yesterday. I would love her to be 10. I do not want her to grow up. She is growing up way too fast. I love you very much. I thank you for being there for me through the good times and the bad—for sticking with me through this crazy ride not once but twice.

Mitch, you are growing up to be such a respectful and good-looking young man. I do not know where he got that from—clearly not me. I have a head like a dropped pie. Thank God for his mother. Mitch, I love our time together. At the running festival I am like an anvil around his neck—I slow him down. He can do five kilometres in under 20 minutes; it took me 27 minutes on our last one. He nearly killed me but he gets me along there. Whether it is running or kicking a footy in the backyard, I love it. You are special to me and I thank you very much for letting me win every now and then. You have made us very proud.

To Ashleigh Kate, our daughter, our princess: you are growing up too fast. Slow down. We are very proud of you also. You will always be dad's girl. I know I spoil you too much. I love you, Ashleigh Kate. Thanks for being here today.


It has to be hard on my family as I really consider myself a self-diagnosed work in progress. I continue to try to find time in this crazy life that we lead for a work-life balance so I can spend precious time with my beautiful family—well, maybe not the cat, not Mocha.

With the loss of my older brother, Matt, a few months ago—he was 51—and coming from a broken family, with most now living in New Zealand, I want my family to know just how much I love them and how proud I am that we have our own family. You are all I really have—these are happy tears—you are my life, and saying thank you does not seem to be the best way to describe this moment in time, so I will end it with this. I love you all and I hope that you are up for another go because I am not going to stop because we have more to do in Thuringowa. I am going to keep delivering and keep working hard—now he is crying up there. You make me proud.

We are going to do it again. We are going to keep working because we have so much more to do. There is so much more to do in the youth justice space, in child safety and in everything else in those social aspects. Minister Di Farmer has been an inspiration. The work we are doing is enormous, tackling the causes of why some of our youth are in trouble. I know we have to still hold them accountable, but it takes a tough government to address the causes and stop that.

I want to take a moment to mention the people in this House and the leaders we have, including Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, who believed in me, and Deputy Premier Jackie Trad. To all the ministers who have been there supporting us in Townsville through the toughest of times, I say thank you. I want to make special mention of the regional members. We are a band of brothers and sisters. We know the tyranny of distance. I know I give it to the south-east, but when we are 1,300 kilometres or 1,600 kilometres away it becomes a bit challenging. The regional members are my friends and we have developed to become mates along the way. We share the good times and the bad times, the hard times and the challenging times. I have made friendships now in this job and I look forward to working with them so we can keep delivering for our state.

We should be a proud Labor government for what we have achieved. We have so much more to give and we are going to keep delivering for Queensland. Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, thank you so much for allowing me the time in the House today to share some of those experiences.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.52 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the address-in-reply. Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, I will start by asking you to pass on my congratulations to the Speaker. It has been a while since we had the Governor's presentation, but I want to say that the Speaker is doing a great job and I ask you to pass on my appreciation for his work upon his elevation to the role.

It is a real privilege to stand in this place for my third term. I thank the people of Burnett who have elected me as their member. There are a lot of terrific people in my electorate. I am humbled and acknowledge the real privilege I have to represent the Burnett electorate in this 56th Parliament. I pledge to represent them to the best of my ability, as I always have.

It is interesting that what those opposite say is not necessarily what they mean or really think. In the contribution in the first session of the 56th Parliament, we had a quote from the first governor of Queensland, Sir George Bowen. When he opened the parliament in Queensland 150 years ago, he said to the assembled members—

I now congratulate you on the full attainment of the object of your long-sustained efforts and aspirations in the establishment of this separate and independent Legislature, and on the perfect order, decorum, and good feeling, with which the people of Queensland universally exercised their privilege of self-government.

I am sure our forebears would be disappointed in the antics and tactics of the majority Labor government that we see on a daily basis in this 56th Parliament.

The Governor's address acknowledged our role as members of parliament in making laws and decisions that affect everyone. What an impact this government is having on destroying the lives and aspirations of everyday Queenslanders. The opening of parliament did not address the dark cloud that was about to embrace us all—Labor's secret plans of taxes and deceit, including \$2.2 billion of new taxes and fees that were not discussed during the election. We know that these new taxes will destroy jobs, particularly in the Bundaberg region, and will cost Queenslanders more. There were five new taxes—the \$1.3 billion waste levy, the \$400 million wagering tax, the \$300 million land tax, the \$132 million property investors tax and the \$100 million attack on our grey nomads with the stamp duty.

We are seeing higher unemployment rates in Queensland, and let us not forget the unemployment rate locally in my area, where youth unemployment is now the second highest in the nation, hitting nearly 30 per cent. The prediction of an \$83 billion debt liability for every Queensland is disturbing. We all know how damaging this is for our kids' future and our grandchildren's future. They will share this liability. Let us remember that this is \$3.7 billion worth of interest every year, which equates to \$71 million in interest every week, \$10 million every day, \$420,000 every hour and \$7,000 every minute.

The parliament now has 93 elected representatives, up from 89. This was its first expansion in 32 years, and I welcome all new members to the 56th Parliament. I like many was very surprised and confused that in the presentation of the Governor's speech at the opening of the 56th Parliament there was no mention of the prevention of domestic violence or of child safety. While the issues of the budget crisis are being realised, I need to reflect on the issues of child safety and domestic violence and what was not said in the Governor's contribution. These were items we wanted to see acknowledged and given a level of importance. None were more important than domestic violence and child safety.

The child safety crisis continues, with the government failing to keep standards in 2017-18. Labor has signed up to the national redress scheme for survivors of child sexual abuse, and we welcome that, but there is no money allocated to that announcement in the budget papers. We hope this is not a cruel hoax for the survivors. The government is also failing to deal with the revolving door of the youth justice system. We have seen that \$40 million is being spent over four years to deal with detention, but there is an ever-increasing deterioration. There is another \$40 million over two years to support children and young people with complex and challenging behaviours, but there are no real solutions other than throwing taxpayers' money at the issue.

Labor's business-as-usual approach will not sort out Queensland's youth justice system. This is on top of a completely bungled attempt to transfer 17-year-old prisoners from adult jails into youth detention centres with no proper plan, as well as the youth bail house initiative, which puts the community at risk and does not help rehabilitate the offenders. Urgent reforms to the blue card system have not been implemented and do not look like being done for a number of years, with no clear date outlined.

After 40-odd reports into child safety over the last decade, we see real concerns with the implementation of the 2012 LNP road map for reforms after the Carmody recommendations. Notably, with a review that is due shortly, not only are many results falling behind the targeted reductions, but many areas have become worse in comparison to the results in 2013-14 and 2015-16. The Carmody inquiry was completed and the recommendations accepted under the LNP. This is the LNP's legacy in child safety. The LNP immediately undertook to implement the recommendations of the inquiry and provided the initial funding needed to make the recommendations a reality. As a result of the LNP's commitment to take real action on child safety, by 2015-16 child safety had improved across all measures and the excessive bureaucratic burden had been drastically reduced, allowing the department's staff to act faster on more-concerning child safety cases and deal with them.

Now, under Labor, child safety has gone backwards and the improvements to the system that the Carmody inquiry envisioned are falling by the wayside. Labor has blown the budget out, yet Queensland's children are now more at risk than ever before. Despite the Carmody reforms, the child

safety officers are drowning under unreasonable workloads. That said, we look forward to the review of the reforms in October 2018, when all Queenslanders can make their own assessment about how the system is working.

On a lighter note, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the incoming member for Bundaberg, David Batt. Our community needs a credible local state member who will work constructively with decision-makers at every level and who will contribute to the future of the region by being at the table when the crucial decisions are made. I have every confidence in David Batt. He is the right person for the job and our community knows that he will get on with the job.

I take this opportunity to thank my office staff: Kath and Amity. I wish Melinda, who is now on maternity leave, and her husband, Tim, all the very best for dealing with the new world they are entering. I have great staff and, as we all know, we cannot do our job without our staff. I sincerely call them the brains trust. Without them I would not be able to continue in this job.

I thank the three branches of the LNP in Burnett: the Coral Coast, the Childers and the Bundaberg branches. These are the real volunteers, the real troopers, who continually put up with me and the ever-increasing problems we have at election time, particularly around bullying and harassment. I thank them for their sheer tenacity in standing up to these people on the booths.

I am often reminded that I do not thank my family. I thank my three adult children and my two grandchildren, who very much love the blue caps with 'LNP' on them. Although they do not understand now, I am sure they will in time. I thank my wife, who is now retired but continues to work with me when she elects to. It is great to have that support for things like attending markets and community ventures. It is great to show a united family unit. I sincerely thank her for all she does.

I would like to take this opportunity to again thank the Burnett electorate for putting their trust in me. Time and time again we have to remind ourselves what an incredible honour and privilege it is to be an MP. It is truly humbling. As I enter my third term as an MP I want to assure everyone that I will continue to work hard to deliver real results for our community. While I am proud of what we have achieved together, the job is far from done and there is a lot of work ahead of us. We are working hard. I give my constituents my sincere word that I will continue to be the accessible, approachable and committed representative that they expect and deserve.

Of course, I love my region and want nothing more than to build a better Burnett and a better wider Bundaberg region. The door is always open, as people know, and I always take on the challenges that lie ahead. I want to put a few things on record this afternoon. Electricity pricing continues to be one of the biggest single issues that confronts a rural electorate that relies on high-value irrigated agriculture. Successive governments of all persuasions need to do so much more to make sure that electricity reforms continue to be the No. 1 priority as we go forward.

I also appreciate the initiatives that were started in 2013 relating to rejuvenation, particularly of our national parks. I speak of the Mon Repos visitors centre as an example. Under successive governments we have seen the real progress of this wonderful, world-class, iconic area. Everyone here should take the time to visit it if they have not done so already. Whether or not they attended the Bundaberg promotions night at Parliament House on budget night, they should come and spend some time in the Bundaberg region. We have a lot to show in tourism and it is only going to get better as things like the Mon Repos visitors centre continue to reach their conclusion and fulfilment.


I hope that the HMAS *Tobruk* can reach its full potential and become a world-class dive site. I acknowledge the troubles that have occurred along the way. A lot of those issues have been talked about. We just hope that the safety audits can be made public and that there can be a real and tangible investigation into the righting of the *Tobruk* to where it should be in its correct orientation as per the contracts and considering the expenditure of taxpayers' funds. I say to the House there is a lot of investment in that project. Not only did we all put in our own money in the early days, each council put in \$1.25 million as well as the federal government gifting the state government the *Tobruk* for a tourism outcome. Clearly, we are all very disappointed and we hope that there is transparency in the conversation about what the righting of the *Tobruk* may or may not look like. The minister is in the House and I thank him for listening. I am a realist. If the *Tobruk* cannot be righted, I think the community would like us to do that. I know he is doing his due diligence with the stakeholders and we look forward to a successful outcome in that space.

I also want to acknowledge the vastness of my electorate, which sits in the Wide Bay, whether it is north to Turkey Beach through Agnes Water, Seventeen Seventy, Miriam Vale, Bororen, or whether it picks up Baffle Creek and, of course, south to Childers and Buxtonville. The great people of the Burnett electorate are like every other Queenslanders: looking for aspiration, looking for opportunity and

looking for the government to create an environment in which they can thrive and get on with life. In places like Bundy we have also seen the real mark of success and enterprise. I speak of things like builders' trailers. I am starting to observe—I have a building background—that there is a bit of a resurgence in the building sector. We just hope that these sorts of activities will continue to drive the economy. Both the federal and the state governments need to ensure we create an environment where small business and, particularly, those mums and dads have an outcome.

It has already been touched on, but I again want to stress the message about the drought. I appreciate the complexities of the committees that have to be formed. The last drought declaration for the Bundaberg region was made on 16 August. I can tell honourable members that it is not access to water but the sheer cost of irrigating that again has confronted us. Most of those farmers had a fairly successful time in making investment decisions about their rotational crops, particularly things like soybeans, mung beans and peanuts. This year we will again see those farmers letting that ground sit there. I think the economic drivers are there for looking seriously at some sort of intervention in terms of allowing Ergon to give us the tariff relief. I think it might be better to think about taking it out of the hands of the local committees because, clearly, bureaucratic decisions about rainfall and other decisions are not going to allow the outcome we want.

To Geoff Campbell, Robert Edgar, Christopher McLaughlan and all the guys and girls who helped during the election, I sincerely say thank you. In conclusion, I again want to reiterate how much of a privilege it is to represent the electorate of Burnett. I thank everyone in this House for continuing to do the best we can for Queensland. It is a great honour and a privilege to serve in this place.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (5.05 pm): Let me begin by acknowledging the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather. In doing so may I acknowledge the some 3,000 generations of Turrbal people and Jagera people who have performed ceremonies, conducted trade and maintained cultural practices on this land. I also acknowledge all of our elders, those who have passed and those who are still with us guiding us into the future.

I also pay special respect to my family, who have continued to be my greatest source of support and encouragement—to my mother, Lyn; my brothers, Wesley, Rodney and Andrew; and, of course, my two sons, Callum and Ethan, who sacrificed so much to support their mum being in this place. I am honoured to once again serve the people of Algester as part of the Palaszczuk Labor government. I am delighted to speak about some of the important priorities in my electorate.

Public transport is a vital service for my community. Buses in particular are important not only for the convenience of commuters but also as a means of reducing traffic congestion and pollution. During the state election I was proud to announce the \$21 million upgrade of the Greenbank RSL bus station's park-and-ride facility, which will deliver an extra 600 car parks for commuters. This investment in public transport services is part of the government's \$114 million commitment to upgrade park-and-ride facilities across South-East Queensland and will provide a substantial boost to local services.

The people of Algester also rely on our world-class public hospital system. Logan Hospital is a vital health service for our community and the Palaszczuk government recognises that a growing region needs a growing hospital. We have committed to a \$281 million redevelopment of the Logan Hospital over the next five years. Importantly, we are also supporting the growth of maternity services at the hospital and funding five extra delivery rooms and a further 10 to 14 cots in the maternity ward. This is a \$12.6 million commitment to maternity services at the Logan Hospital. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering that funding for my community.

Every MP knows that a local election commitment is a team effort, and I have a great team. I am incredibly grateful to the hardworking volunteers and staff who contributed to my campaign. Of course, this is just some of many in a long list of people who assisted, but in particular I thank Don Fraser, John Ferrie, Barry and Janess Petersen, Tony Bergman, John Tapp, Kane Singh, Davina Moore, Maria Halwood, Cassie Cusack, Peter Chalmers, Fatima Elmi, Neil Smith, Jorgen Gullestrup, Jennilyn Mann, Rose Matters, my aunt—Aunty Fay Reid—and supporters from the CPSU. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of my electorate staff, Louise Ryan, Shelley Flores, Taylor Seawright and Angus Kennedy.

Following the election I was honoured to accept the Premier's invitation to take up the portfolio of Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. This is an exciting portfolio through which we can protect our important biodiversity including the iconic Great Barrier Reef, grow our thriving science sector and promote the talent that exists within Queensland's arts community.

During the state election Labor was up-front with the people of Queensland about our commitment to environmental protection. We released a policy statement that clearly outlined our priorities around biodiversity conservation, including our intention to end broadscale tree clearing in this state—which we have now done—and introduced an innovative fund to support Queensland land sector carbon projects. As I have already informed the House, work has commenced on the Land Restoration Fund. The fund is Labor's visionary commitment to tackle climate change while creating new jobs in a growing industry. We are also committed to the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, and this forms one of our key Advancing Queensland priorities.

With science at the heart of everything in this portfolio, we know there is a great deal of research that shows the devastating impact that climate change and poor water quality are having on the reef. As the minister responsible for this important environmental asset, I am committed to ensuring that we do everything in our power to protect the health of the reef for generations to come. One of the most important practical steps the Palaszczuk government is taking to reduce pollution in our oceans and on our land is banning single-use plastic bags. As well, on 1 November this year we are introducing a container refund scheme. These two initiatives are an important step in addressing the accumulation of waste in the environment. Environmental scientists have been telling us for years about the damage that plastic does to native wildlife, and now it is time for action.

In all areas of my portfolio science is critical. Queensland boasts some of the most innovative researchers and academics in Australia, and it has been my privilege to be the minister for the sector for the past three years. STEM—science, technology, engineering and maths—has long been a priority for the Palaszczuk government, and I look forward to continuing our work in that area over this term of government.

In the portfolio of the Arts, the Palaszczuk government has announced that we will deliver a new \$150 million performing arts venue at QPAC. As Minister for the Arts, it is a privilege to oversee the biggest infrastructure spend since GOMA. This new theatre is an exciting investment and will support how we tell our stories through the arts.

As many here know, I am a proud Nughi woman of the Quandamooka nation, which takes in the waters and islands of Moreton Bay. I am originally from North Stradbroke Island. We call it Minjerribah. In 2015 I was proud to stand in this House and speak as the first Aboriginal woman ever elected to the Queensland parliament, and I am honoured to be elected to serve a second term. I am also honoured to be serving with the member for Cook—another amazing woman who made history as the first Torres Strait Islander person to be elected to any parliament in Australia. I would also like to acknowledge the member for Mirani, who is the first South Sea island descendant elected to the Queensland parliament.

Being the first at something brings with it particular pressures. There are many expectations from all quarters when you are in this kind of role. Importantly, there is a responsibility to play a role in changing things for the better, a role in recognising our shared history and a role in setting direction to mend our collective past and unite us for a brighter future. Our history as a nation did not start in the 1770s at the point of European contact: it began more than 60,000 years ago. It did not begin some 10 generations ago when ships arrived from across the seas: it began close to 3,000 generations ago. Regardless of your cultural background, if you call yourself a Queenslander, an Australian, then that is fundamentally your history.

As Queensland lives with its history and plans for its future, the rightful place of first nations peoples in our country and our willingness to reconcile history with our ambitions is continually pressed. It is a source of uneasiness and uncertainty, and it is time to do something about that. It is time to bring some certainty to the situation. Queensland has an opportunity to resolve a confounding element of Australia's social contract—a contract that has never been made with the first nations peoples of this country.


In the 19th century the Federation of Australia failed to achieve reconciliation. It failed to do what had been done in other Commonwealth countries: recognise the first peoples. Towards the end of the 20th century the High Court's dismissal of the legal fiction of terra nullius in response to ongoing native title interests was a step forward in agreement making. Since that time we have seen various forms of agreement making between governments, industry and first nations peoples around specific activities with varying degrees of success. We have invested in the reconciliation movement and seen a growing understanding of the richness that reconciliation can bring to relationships and to our collective social, environmental and economic outcomes. Although these actions have made significant contributions, they have avoided what is at the heart of the concerns regarding agreement making, but now the states and the Commonwealth have another opportunity to resolve the nature of agreements.

With a history of petitions, marches, letters and never-ending campaigns, the demands from first nations peoples has remained constant and clear. It is a demand for respect and recognition. It is my strong belief that agreements between us demonstrate a measure of that respect, and the avenue to carry that respect is the idea of treaties. As we know, Australia is the only Commonwealth country not to have entered into a treaty with Indigenous peoples at the time of contact. In May 2017 the Referendum Council, which was established in 2015 by Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and opposition leader Bill Shorten, held a First Nations National Constitutional Convention at Uluru to discuss and agree on an approach to constitutional reform to recognise first nations peoples. At the convention Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander delegates from across the country adopted the *Uluru Statement from the Heart*.

The Uluru statement, among other things, highlighted the need for a process for agreement making and truth telling between governments and the first peoples of Australia. For me, these are the fundamentals for moving the relationship with first nations peoples and government forward in Queensland. Any process for agreement making must, of course, be founded upon mutual respect for Australia's first peoples—that includes respect for the Commonwealth of Australia and the state of Queensland as expressed in the respective constitutional frameworks—and in equal measure respect for the ancient and ongoing rights of Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples on this ancient land.

Queensland has an opportunity to speak the truth of our shared history, to seek out the stories that have been ignored or papered over, and to place those truths at the heart of our relationships so that meaningful agreement making can occur and treaties can progress. It is through truth telling and treaties that we can finally set the rightful course of this state and nation—a course that respectfully includes the interests of first nations peoples for a brighter future. I support a course of action that creates a mutual path of respect for the ultimate purpose of agreement making, of treaties, between our peoples.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Coomera I will share with the House that the list of members with a warning is blank. That is fantastic! I would certainly encourage you all to keep up the good work. We have less than two hours to go.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.18 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the address-in-reply to the Governor's speech at the opening of the parliament. I would like to first of all congratulate Mr Speaker on his elevation to that office. Indeed, I would like to congratulate all members who have been returned and all new members to this House on your success in coming into this very important place for the people of Queensland.

The first point that I would like to raise—it is probably no surprise that it might have something to do with roads in the state seat of Coomera—is a particularly concerning aspect of something that the minister has been telling the people of Queensland about which is, quite frankly, an untruth. It is something he should have known about. If he did not know about it he should have known about it, and I will table the documentation to prove that.

In a letter to the *Gold Coast Bulletin* headed “‘Second M1’ would be closer had LNP not run interference’ the minister writes—

The Coomera Connector (or ‘second M1’) would be much more advanced by now if he—

he is referring to Mark Boothman—

and the LNP had not blocked it and stopped it being included in the SEQ Regional Plan and Gold Coast City Plan when the LNP were in government.

It is the Palaszczuk Labor Government that has re-commenced work on this critical infrastructure since our election.

The minister should know—he does know, I would put it to you—and if he does not know then he should know, that indeed that was a blatant lie. I table that document in the first instance.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 19 July 2018, titled ‘Your Gold Coast’ [[1193](#)].

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the comments by the member not only unparliamentary but also personally offensive. I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Member for Coomera, the minister finds your comments personally offensive. Do you withdraw?

Mr CRANDON: I withdraw the comment. I go on now to read out the documentation that would have been available to the minister and would have been available from 2015, when he and the previous minister came to office, regarding the IRTC, as it was then known—the Coomera connector or second M1 as it is now known. This document, dated 7 May 2014, is from the office of the Hon. Jeff Seeney, then deputy premier and minister for state development, infrastructure and planning. It states—

Regarding the Deputy Premier's letter to Cr Tate, conditions 5 and 6 were put in place as the Integrated Regional Transport Corridor (IRTC) has yet to be named/registered as a gazetted corridor.

...

For this reason, the IRTC could not be included in the draft Gold Coast City Plan and we therefore requested the amendments. Once the corridor is gazetted, we will have amendments made to the Gold Coast City Plan to adhere to the change. This is also the reason for the amendment to the Zoning Maps, to remove the Special purpose zoning relating to the IRTC—this will be only for the meantime and would change in the event of a State controlled corridor.

I table that document from the deputy premier of the day.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 7 May 2014, from the Assistant Policy Officer, Officer of the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning, Ms Carrie Hall, to the Coomera electorate office regarding query from the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP [\[1194\]](#).

Another letter, dated 5 September 2014, is from the Regional Director, South Coast Region of the Department of Transport and Main Roads. This letter is addressed to me and states—

Thank you for your enquiry requesting an update about the Intra-Regional Transport Corridor (IRTC).

This document is available in TMR's records and has been available to the minister since he came to office. It further states—

TMR is currently undertaking a joint planning process with the City of Gold Coast ... to determine the need and priority for development of the IRTC corridor in sections.

...

In April 2014, the Honourable Jeff Seeney MP, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure and Planning advised council that the IRTC cannot be referenced in council's Draft 2015 Gold Coast City Plan until it is a gazetted future state controlled road.

TMR is therefore still working towards proclamation of the IRTC as a future state-controlled road.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 5 September 2014, from the Regional Director (South Coast), Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Paul Noonan, to the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, regarding the Intra-Regional Transport Corridor [\[1195\]](#).

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr CRANDON: 2014, Minister. A further email was received from Paul Noonan on the same day, 5 September. It states—

Dear Michael,

Further to my most recent email—

referencing the one I have just read out—

and our subsequent telephone conversation I wish to confirm the following in regard to the Intra Regional Transport Corridor (IRTC).

- The IRTC has not been cancelled
- Transport and Main Roads and City of Gold Coast are currently conducting a traffic modelling study to support the future gazettal of the transport corridor
- It is expected this jointly funded modelling will be completed within the next couple of months
- TMR has now finalised its declaration plans for the IRTC and is intending to move to gazettal following the completion of the modelling study
- The corridor is required to support both the operation and future traffic demand on the M1 Motorway, and to support future development within the Nerang/Helensvale/Coomera/Yatala precincts

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 5 September 2014 from the Regional Director (South Coast), Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Paul Noonan, to the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, regarding email and telephone conversation about the Intra-Regional Transport Corridor [\[1196\]](#).

All of those documents were available to this minister. This minister knowingly told the people of Queensland in this document, on many other occasions and in this House that the LNP cancelled the IRTC—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I claim to have been misrepresented. I find the comments personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Under the standing orders you are required to withdraw comments if the minister has said that he finds them personally offensive. Do you withdraw?

Mr CRANDON: Was there something personal in what I was saying?

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: You referred directly to the minister.

Mr CRANDON: I withdraw. Let me restate what the minister said in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* of 19 July. He said—

The Coomera Connector (or 'second M1') would be much more advanced by now if he –
the local member—

and the LNP had not blocked it and stopped it being included in the SEQ Regional Plan and Gold Coast City Plan ...

That is patently untrue. This minister knew that it was and I ask the minister to come to the House and correct the record.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again I find the comments personally offensive, not to mention inaccurate, and I ask that they be withdrawn by the honourable member.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw the comments?

Mr CRANDON: I withdraw the comment. I call on the minister to come to this House and correct the record in relation to these matters. If he chooses not to come to this House to correct the record, I will be writing to Mr Speaker in relation to the matter.

The minister continues to tell this House and the people of Queensland that this government—the Labor government—planned and built exit 54. Once again, that is patently untrue.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again, the member is misrepresenting comments I have made. I find them personally offensive and I ask that they be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister has taken personal offence. Will you withdraw the comments?

Mr CRANDON: I withdraw the comments. In a Facebook interaction with the minister over a period of time regarding exits 41, 45 and 49, the minister says in part—

Btw Exit 54 started construction and was finished under Labor so you couldn't even get that going in 3 years.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Extracts, dated 7 July 2018, from the Facebook page of the member for Coomera, Mr Michael Crandon MP, in relation to building exits 41, 45 and 49 on the M1 motorway [\[1197\]](#).

The LNP built the M1 20 years ago and since then successive Labor governments have ignored it. In 2014 the LNP did the planning and secured all of the funding for exit 54. Time and time again in this House and in the marketplace the minister has said that we spent nothing on the M1—patently untrue.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Once again I claim to be misrepresented by the member and find his comments personally offensive and ask that they be withdrawn.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! The clock is paused. Hansard is not recording. I am just taking advice. Thank you very much for your point of order, Minister. In that particular instance I did not hear any personal reference made, so I would ask that you write to the Speaker if you believe that you are being misrepresented in the House. Until this speech started I was incredibly excited about the conduct of the House in general. I ask that we please return to keeping the House in the order which we were experiencing beforehand.

Mr CRANDON: As I was saying, the LNP built the M1 20 years ago and since then successive Labor governments have ignored it. In 2014 the LNP did the planning and secured all of the funding for exit 54. A change of government in January 2015 could not stop that proceeding because the commitment by Westfield and QIC for something in the order of \$16 million was locked in. That was

locked in, as was the state government owned land sale to QIC for \$18 million. The federal government's contribution, which again I have on record as being secured in 2014 for \$10 million, was also in place. The balance of around \$30 million from the state government was also identified.

The exit 54 project—something I committed to fighting for in 2009—was an absolute done deal in 2015 regardless of who was in government. Indeed, I had a conversation with the incoming treasurer of the time and deputy premier of the time and made those very points to them. They knew the funding was there and the commitment I got from the treasurer at that time was that if the money is committed exit 54 would be built. If members need any more confirmation of that, may I suggest they talk to Greg Chemello—and members know who Greg Chemello is because he is the newly appointed person to the role of administrator of Ipswich City Council—because it was Greg Chemello who pulled all of those funds together.

One has to wonder why a minister or a government would announce things like new railway stations during the last election. There is a lack of detail here. I have a leaflet that came from the Labor candidate for Coomera that stated that they would deliver a new train station at Pimpama, but let us look at some of the detail. It said that the new stations would only happen if the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project went ahead and would be delivered after Cross River Rail, meaning the stations would not be built until 2023. Would members have picked that from this leaflet I am holding in my hand? Would you have picked that from this, Madam Deputy Speaker? Those opposite are going to deliver a Pimpama Railway Station six years from now in 2023.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This is an address-in-reply to the budget. He is referring to the last election campaign.

Mr CRANDON: No, it is not. It has nothing to do with the budget!

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Resume your seats please. That was a bit ridiculous. I will finish hearing the point of order from the minister and we will have no debate while I am hearing it.

Mr BAILEY: It is simply a point of order on relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you very much, Minister. This is an address-in-reply and members do have some latitude. I will allow the member for Coomera to finish.

Mr CRANDON: Indeed, it is an address-in-reply to the Governor's speech at the beginning of the parliament. The budget was a while ago.

With regard to an Ormeau Railway Station park-and-ride, I became aware in early 2017 of the need for a railway station car park upgrade—a park-and-ride upgrade—and I ran a petition. In relation to that, I received from Jackie Trad, the then minister, an advice that any expansion of commuter parking at Ormeau station would be subject to detailed planning, funding availability, statewide prioritisation and infrastructure investment. In anticipation of the election I ran another petition from October and it was tabled on 15 February 2018 and I received a response from the current minister along the same lines—words to the same effect.

At no time has the minister indicated to me that there was any funding at all for a park-and-ride at either Coomera or Ormeau railway stations even though he knew there was some funding. It does not appear in the budget papers by the way, but there is budget money here for less than two kilometres of cycleway from Birdwood Road in Holland Park to Gaza Road in Tarragindi that skirts the minister's electorate. There is \$47 million, with \$17.3 million in the current year for a three-metre-wide, 1.8-kilometre cycleway. There is plenty in here from Queensland Rail about park-and-rides at Salisbury, Darra, Lawnton, Lindum, Geebung, Virginia, Springfield and Central stations. There is plenty of information in that regard but nothing about Ormeau.

Through some research I discovered that in fact there is some money. The minister could have told me that it was there. I have had correspondence with him enough times over time. He could have told me that the money was there, but he chose not to. I discovered it. It is there and, thankfully—and I appreciate this, Minister—I am getting a briefing about it at the next sitting of parliament. Unfortunately I had to cancel the briefing this week because of the Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce committee meeting that I was called to. Next sitting we will know all about that. However, exits 41, 45 and 49 remain unfunded. The minister keeps on talking about planning. He had a go at the LNP government for not doing something at exit 54 for three years—which we did do. What does the number 1,300 tell you? What is the significance of the number 1,300? It is the number of days approximately that this government has been in place.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. There is far too much cross-chamber chatter. The minister and his opposite, the member for Chatsworth, are particularly guilty. This speech has already gone for 15 minutes. There is five to go. Can we please just finish.

Mr CRANDON: Absolutely, we will. I will take the next five minutes to finish. It has taken 1,300 days of planning for exits 41, 45 and 49. As recently as the last weekend the minister was still talking about planning on my Facebook page, telling people that he is still planning, has been planning for 1,300 days. There is no money in the budget for anything other than the planning. When is he going to stop planning to plan and start planning to build the exits 41, 45 and 49 upgrades? This is a very relevant point. It is a danger issue. Cars and trucks are flying up both sides of the M1 at 110 kilometres an hour.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. The next time I will start naming members. I warn the member for Chatsworth under the standing orders. This is just getting ridiculous.

Mr CRANDON: Vehicles are flying up each side of the M1 at 110 kilometres an hour. Every single day exits 41, 45 and 49 are gridlocked. Cars are ramped back trying to get off the M1. Yet this minister is still planning to plan, not planning to build. What is it going to take? It took a 12-year-old boy's broken leg to get some funding for some lollipop people at one of the schools in my electorate. Does that mean that I have to wait for a terrible accident to happen? God forbid, I hope that is not the case. I hope it does not happen.

Mr Bailey: You're a lazy sod.

Mr CRANDON: I take offence at what the minister has just said. It was personal and I take offence.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, but I could not hear what the minister said. I was trying to listen.

Mr CRANDON: Would the minister like to repeat it and then withdraw it?

Mr BAILEY: I did interject and call the member a lazy sod. I withdraw.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Minister, there was no need to restate what you said. I warn you under the standing orders. You did not need to restate the words, because it was unparliamentary language.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I accept your ruling. I was responding to a request from the member. Now that I am aware of the rule, I will certainly comply with it. That is what I was doing.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.


Mr CRANDON: The deplorable state of the bus services on the northern Gold Coast was exemplified by an advice that I received last Friday that bus drivers can no longer stop for people waving them down on Yawalpah Road because of safety concerns. I agree with that, but there is another safety concern. The only bus stop on Yawalpah Road is 1.3 kilometres from the shopping centre. Only yesterday I alluded to the fact that disabled people have to go to that bus stop in order to catch the bus. It is a dangerous situation. This government is refusing to put in temporary bus stops on Yawalpah Road to alleviate that issue at the corner of Dixon Drive and Yawalpah Road and also further down the road. Google Maps shows that there is a bus stop, but there is no bus stop in existence.

That issue magnifies the bus service issue, but it is one of very many issues that my electorate is presented with. It is the fastest growing region in Queensland and the second fastest growing region in Australia. The minister alluded to that when he spoke to me about a school in my electorate going from 160 students to 860 students in less than a handful of years. There is incredible growth in my electorate. I offer the minister a standing invitation to come to my electorate and look for himself at the growth that my electorate is experiencing. We can drive around the electorate together and he can get a full understanding of that growth.

The budget contains some good news. There is additional funding for the schools in my electorate. Thank goodness this government is continuing the good work of the LNP government in continuing the planning for those schools. Thank goodness the funding for extensions to existing schools and new schools are locked in for the electorate of Coomera.

Yesterday, I was thankful for a briefing from the emergency services minister regarding the fire and rescue station on Cox Road in the electorate of Coomera, right in the heart of that fast-growing region, right in the heart of Pimpama. That will provide services to all of the people on the northern Gold Coast.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.44 pm): I stand here today again a very humbled man. I am honoured to again be elected as the member for Gregory. I therefore confirm my allegiance to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and her representative, His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, and my loyalty to this parliament and, most importantly, the electors of the Gregory electorate. I would also like to congratulate our opposition leader, Deb Frecklington, and our Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Tim Mander, who are doing a sterling job. I would like to thank the people of Gregory for placing their confidence in me again and I would like to thank the electorate of Gregory for being a great place to represent. I would also like to congratulate the new members to this parliament—on this side and the other side. On my side, I would like to congratulate Sam, Jim, Brent, David, Marty, Dan, Simone, who sits next to me, and Colin Boyce, who represents the neighbouring electorate of Callide.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Gregory, I take this opportunity to remind you that you should always refer to members by their correct titles rather than their first names.

Mr MILLAR: Madam Deputy Speaker, I was just trying to be friendly. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful efforts of the Gregory SEC chairman and a person who is very close to me, Mike Burns. He is a truly great man who has dedicated his life to our side of politics like he did for his great mate the former member for Gregory, Vaughan Johnson, who we saw here yesterday. Mike stood beside me every step of the way in the first campaign and in the last campaign. I could not have done it without his calming influence, his steady hand and, most of all, his loyalty and support.

I acknowledge my SEC treasurer, Ross Drayton, who is a wonderful and generous man with his time and his determination and belief in our cause for agriculture and small business and his love of rural and regional communities. He took time out from running his small business, Central Bikes. I would also like to pay tribute to Rosemary and Warwick Champion. Rosemary is truly an inspiring woman in the outback. Despite nearly seven years of drought, Rosemary has stood at my prepolling and in 40-plus degree heat on polling day. I would like to acknowledge the wonderful Lenore and Peter Johnston, who also helped me through this campaign. Bruce and Helen Collins and John and Katrina Payne from Winton are great people. I am truly blessed and so lucky to be able to represent them.

I would like to thank David and Nel Brooks from Birdsville, Don Burden, Brett Walsh, Sonia and Peter Doyle, Sue and John Engwitch and Jeanette Bunting. I give my condolences to Jeanette, who has recently lost her husband. He was a truly wonderful man. For quite a few decades he was involved in the rural fire brigade in the Central Highlands. He will be sorely missed in the Central Highlands. His beautiful wife, Jeanette, is such an inspiration to me, as is Helen Quinn, who helps me out. I also acknowledge Ian Burnett, Rob, Roberta and Peter Donnelly from Barcaldine and Paul and Ali Donnelly.

I would like to thank my brother Hamish Millar, Elyshia Ruttley, Cassie Turner and Georgie Kent—all known as #thedreamteam. I thank them for looking after the Blackwater North polling booth for me. I also make mention of a great bloke called Robert Bryce. He is a good mate of the member for Broadwater, but Rob and his partner saw the light and moved to Emerald and organised all of my booths in Emerald.

I would like to make special mention of Graeme and Lyn Johnston of Emerald. They are truly wonderful people. Graeme is the principal of Emerald Christian College. Graeme has continued to support me and I thank him for that. I would like to mention Sonia Burton, who ran my campaign office. She is a beautiful and kind woman who always puts her life on hold during election campaigns to help us retain the seat of Gregory. Sonia and Guy are going through a significant drought at the moment and are certainly finding it hard to find home for cattle. I truly thank Sonia and Guy.

I make special mention of a bloke who many in this House know: the former member for Gregory for all of 26 years, Vaughan Johnson, who stood side by side with me during the last election campaign, the last parliamentary term, and who continued to do that by travelling through the back country—through Winton, Boulia, Bedourie and Birdsville—and standing at my prepoll and also on polling day. Vaughan is a man of integrity and honesty and he has endeared himself to many. He has been a big part of my life. Vaughan has been a man of inspiration, guidance and a mentor. He is someone who has stood side by side with me. I sincerely thank him.

I would also like to thank Sean Dillon, Andrew Cowper, Bev Maunsell, Bev Morton, Neil and Margaret Dunbar, Lorrain Brimblecombe, Tim Eversham, Billie Edwards and Al Bonham, Tanya Forsythe, Hayden Jones, Eddie Vella and Mary Vella, and, of course, Don Williams, John Baker, Trudy Gorrington and Charlie Brimblecombe and so many others who helped. There are so many people to thank for helping me through this campaign.

I am blessed to have such fantastic electorate staff in Longreach and Emerald: Nicky Heslin, Elyshia Ruttley and, of course, Larissa Burnett who has taken up a position in Health. I am also lucky to welcome Alex Scott. I am truly lucky to have wonderful experienced staff to guide me through as the member for Gregory. They have allowed me to hit the ground running. I would also like to mention Laura Nolan who worked for me in the first term and has come back to me recently to help me in my office—a truly talented woman and always on hand and offering to help.

Like most members, my family has played a major role in my life and also in my election to the seat of Gregory. To my beautiful wife Peta, my three children, Lucy, Ellie and Poppy, you always stand beside me and I am so blessed to have you. I would also like to congratulate everyone who was successful at the recent election. It is good to see new members in this place. It is great to hear their maiden speeches.

One of the biggest issues we face in Gregory is drought. It has savaged us for the last seven years. It has been a national disaster. It is something we have had to deal with for seven years and we are desperately trying to overcome many obstacles. I congratulate everyone who donates and thinks of us in such a terrible time. We need the Mitchell grass to come back. We need people to come back. Hopefully we will have rain during the wet season.

The seat of Gregory is a special seat. There have been only four members in the seat of Gregory since 1950. That shows the longevity of the members. It is a privilege to be the member for Gregory. Sir Wally Rae was a member of this parliament and served in various state government ministries. Wally worked as a stock and station agent before serving as a bomber pilot in World War II. After the war he bought a property located west of Blackall. He entered Queensland parliament in 1956.

Bill Glasson Snr was a member for Gregory. He served in the Royal Air Force from 1943 to 1945. He was a member of the Country Party. He was elected to the Winton Shire Council in 1955, serving until 1957, and in 1974 was elected in the seat of Gregory. He joined the front bench in 1980 as the minister for lands and forestry. Many of us would know one of Bill Glasson's sons, Bill Glasson Jnr, who is very well known in this state as a specialist ophthalmologist and eye surgeon who continues to practise here in Brisbane and also comes out to Western Queensland.

As I have mentioned, the drought is terrible at the moment. I encourage people to donate to the Western Queensland Drought Appeal. There is also the Country Women's Association drought appeal and I ask people to please donate there. When donating to the drought appeals we must realise that cash is king. People right across this nation are kind hearted when it comes to drought and they donate hampers, shampoo and necessities and think that bringing that up to Western Queensland is going to help. It does help, but it also has a side effect that impacts on small business. There was a time when we had hampers and hams come up. It was well intentioned and people did take them, but then in Longreach, Blackall and Barcaldine there were shops that were not able to sell anything for a month. They are the businesses that are employing our local people and people who come off the land.

If someone wants to help in the drought cash is the best way. Donate to the Queensland Country Women's Association drought appeal or to the Western Queensland Drought Appeal. The Western Queensland Drought Appeal has been going for three years. It has been able to put cash on the table. That is what we need to do. We have a joint venture with Westpac, and I thank them so much, where we send debit cards anonymously to people we know who are struggling. There might be \$250 on that debit card. It can only be spent in the local town. It can buy books, clothes, mechanical work on the Toyota or a battery. It all helps to keep that town going.

We have been blessed with outback tourism. If people want to help in the drought I urge them to ask their friends to visit Ilfracombe, Isisford or Yaraka, where the member for Toowoomba South came with me the other day, and spend some time in Western Queensland. We have a unique outback product. It is very special. Western Queensland in the middle of the night with all the stars glowing and the friendly atmosphere is something that visitors will never forget. Bring your kids out. Make sure you stay in a motel. Make sure that you just come out. We would love to see you. We need to see you.

I thank the Minister for Health for committing to the Blackwater Hospital. I am a little bit disappointed that we have only put \$1 million towards it. We need another \$16 million. The Blackall Hospital needs to be constructed as soon as possible. The health of the community is very important and it will create jobs. I call on the minister to make sure that that commitment is there.

I have had a commitment from the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services in relation to the Longreach Fire Station. He has promised to fund that in the next financial year. We have land that has been set aside. It needs to happen. We have to put infrastructure in seats like Gregory which will provide an economy for the community.

Tonight here in parliament we are celebrating 90 years of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. The RFDS does so much for Western Queensland, whether it is flying someone out for emergency surgery or supplying clinics. The Royal Flying Doctor Service is a true saviour in Western Queensland. I ask members to support them. They are certainly what is needed out there and they do so much for us. I call on the Minister for Health to consider donating to the Heart of Australia truck. They are providing cardiovascular services in Western Queensland so we do not have to come down to Brisbane. To have a specialist cardiologist available is essential and is saving lives. I call on the Palaszczuk government to fund or help play a role with the Heart of Australia truck.

I keep banging on about roads. We still need the Blackall-Jericho Road completed. It was promised a long time ago that we would have bitumen all the way from Jericho to Yaraka because we took the rail line out. We only have another 30 kilometres to go. Let us get this done. It is important. We must look at the Torrens Creek Road. It is not in my electorate—it is in the electorate of the member for Traeger—and it is an important linkage for people in Gregory. The Bauhinia Downs-Woorabinda-Duaringa Road needs sealing as well.

There has been a lot of talk about the drought. The Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries is in the House. We need to ensure that the Central Highlands Regional Council area is drought declared again. We need to get the local drought committees back to assess it. It is tough at the moment. People in the Central Highlands are having to move cattle. It is important that they get access to state drought funding and also the federal government's drought funding which has been announced by David Littleproud. I call on the Palaszczuk government to have these shires drought declared. It is very important. All we can do is wish for rain. Rain is essential. At the moment the Bureau of Meteorology is not promising, but I am hoping that they are wrong and that we get a huge wet season. That is important.


Finally, I thank everybody who helped to re-elect me. It is an absolute honour and privilege. I will leave the House with something that I have said previously. A lady I have great admiration for is Rosemary Menkens. In her last speech, she said—

... respect is earned, honesty is appreciated, trust is gained and loyalty is always returned.

Debate, on motion of Mr Millar, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Buderim Electorate, Schools; Sunshine Coast Lightning

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.00 pm): Today I rise to pay tribute to two remarkable students from Mountain Creek State High School and one inspirational teacher from Chancellor State College in my electorate of Buderim, all of whom received a Peter Doherty Award for excellence in science, technology, engineering and mathematics education earlier this month. I was delighted to attend the ceremony at the Queensland University of Technology and congratulate Mountain Creek State High School students Connor Creevey and Angharad Gordon for receiving Outstanding Senior STEM Student Awards. As the minister mentioned earlier today, only 16 of those awards are given across the state. For two students from the same school to receive the awards is truly remarkable and it is a credit to Executive Principal Darrin Edwards.

At the ceremony, Darrin told me that he is incredibly proud of the pair, not only for their academic achievement but also for the valuable contribution they make to their community as leaders and role models, and for getting involved in as many extracurricular activities as they can. Both students are enrolled in Mountain Creek's highly regarded and sought after International Baccalaureate Programme and have participated in many local, state and national STEM competitions and camps, including the STEM Connect Programme at the University of the Sunshine Coast, which is another outstanding educational institution in my electorate.

Behind every great student there are many hardworking teachers and Chancellor State College teacher Simon Richardson was one of just four across the state to be named Outstanding Teachers of STEM. Mr Richardson works hard to capture the imaginations of his students with coding and robotics. A testament to his teaching talents is the fact that a number of his students represented Australia in Arkansas in May this year in the first Lego League Razorback Invitational. Incredibly, they came first in the Alliance Challenge, first for robot performance and second for design and innovation. Mr Richardson is also committed to training staff and students in coding and robotics at other public and private schools across the Sunshine Coast. He runs a range of robotics competitions, stimulating minds and generating interest in the rapidly developing technology.


In closing, I would like to quote the incredible Professor Peter Doherty, who said—

Learning to view the world through the prism of critical thinking and respect for evidenced-based reality is the beginning of wisdom. Those who do so successfully will be the leaders and heroes of our future.

I am sure that the House will agree that, with students and teachers like those I have mentioned, our future is in good hands.

Before I finish, I wish the Sunshine Coast Lightning all the best for their upcoming Super Netball Grand Final. The Sunshine Coast Lightning, under the leadership of Captain Geva Mentor, have performed magnificently to finish strong and make it into the grand final. The Sunshine Coast community will be united in their support of the Lightning as they look to make lightning strike twice and win back-to-back premierships this Sunday.


Kershaw Gardens

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.03 pm): In 2015, Tropical Cyclone Marcia inflicted significant damage to Kershaw Gardens in Rockhampton, upturning trees that brought buried rubbish to the surface. The redevelopment, 18 months in the making, is a fantastic addition to Rockhampton. It has transformed the old tired Kershaw Gardens into what I think is Queensland's best backyard. It has been an instant hit with people in Rockhampton and those travelling through town, as it is situated on the Bruce Highway in North Rockhampton.

Thanks to the Palaszczuk government's \$5 million contribution, combined with funding from Rockhampton Regional Council and National Disaster Relief Arrangements funding, this site is now home to a new and exciting park. This massive play park is overflowing with new stuff. I recommend Wyatt's Wonder Web, which was originally designed for New York's iconic Central Park. Wyatt's Wonder Webb is a giant circular structure with a colourful multilevel spider web containing climbing ropes, ladders, tunnels and slides. It keeps kids entertained for hours. There is a hamster wheel that sure packs a punch if you lose control or if you do not keep up. There is a 10- to 12-metre flying fox and climbing structures. There are covered areas where you can have a picnic or you can take advantage of the free barbecues that are available to use. It is a great spot to enjoy. The old Rotary monorail has been restored, with new rail and cars making it like new. I found the monorail too tempting and tried it out with Rockhampton councillors Drew Wickerson and Cherie Rutherford.

Separate from the large playground is a new water play area that has been modelled on the mighty Fitzroy River. It is less than 200 millimetres deep and will be a great play area in the warm summer months. The new Kershaw Gardens also includes an iconic entry statement, additional car parking and landscaping features that have improved livability and made this a regionally significant recreation space. I can declare that Kershaw Gardens has the wow factor. I congratulate all those involved in the redevelopment of this wonderful new asset for Rockhampton.

Nicklin Electorate, Seniors Week; Sunshine Coast Lightning

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (6.06 pm): As we are in Queensland Seniors Week, I pay tribute to our seniors. The contributions that older people make to communities throughout Queensland and Australia cannot be underestimated or undervalued. Seniors are involved in every level of community life. Many are community leaders, many more still make valuable contributions to the workforce and so many more contribute as carers, grandparents, advocates and volunteers.

I pay tribute to Jean Mary Sharp, the mother of a good friend. Today, we gathered to say goodbye to Mrs Sharp at her funeral. She was very good to me when I was a young fellow. She made sure I had a frequent good feed. More than that, she spent her life helping others and volunteered at organisations such as Meals on Wheels. Rest in peace, Mrs Sharp.


I pay tribute to the many seniors in the Nicklin electorate who volunteer their time to help the community. Another great example of that and another great loss to our community is Mr Noel Day. Noel passed away earlier this week. For many years he gave his time to our community, particularly through organisations such as Nambour Rotary, the Maroochy-Nambour and District Tennis Association and the Anglican Church. For many years, Noel and his wife, Audrey, also organised the passionfruit exhibits at the Nambour and RNA shows. Rest in peace, Noel Day.

Last weekend, the town of Yandina celebrated its 150th anniversary and launched the new edition of the book *Streets and roads of Yandina district* put together by local senior and historian Audienne Blyth. Audienne is part of a team made up of mostly seniors from the Yandina and District Historical Society who give their time to research and preserve our local history. Another volunteer

group that also does that is Genealogy Sunshine Coast, based in Nambour, which will celebrate 40 years this Saturday. They are a hardworking group, made up of mostly seniors, who document and preserve our local history. Those just a few examples of the invaluable support that our seniors give to our communities. To our seniors I say: thank you for your ongoing and important contribution not only to our community of Nicklin but also to communities right across Queensland. We in this parliament appreciate you all.

I have left time at the end of this speech to add my support to the Sunshine Coast Lightning as they take on the Western Australian team in Perth. Strike twice! Go lightning!

Woodridge Electorate

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.09 pm): Woodridge is one of the most culturally diverse communities in the country. A third of the community is born overseas and more than 200 languages and dialects are spoken in our area. The vibrancy of our community and our rich cultural traditions and diversity define who we are.

Sadly, our cohesion is under threat. Bigotry has been championed in the federal parliament as a human right, and racial vilification celebrated as the manifestation of free speech. Queensland Senator Anning's recent maiden speech is just the latest example. While there is now a leadership vacuum in Canberra—or it would be better called leadership chaos—the impact of this public expression of prejudice is still reverberating around the Woodridge community.

We must stand up and speak out—both in defence of what we have achieved and for the kind of society we hope to become. We should not argue that we are tolerant of difference; we are that difference—that mix, that diversity, that cultural kaleidoscope. That is what it means to be Australian. That is what it means to be Woodridge.

In my privileged position as the member for Woodridge, I am honoured to work with a range of leaders from east, west, south and central African communities, including Burundi, Rwanda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Sudan, Sierra Leone, just to name a few; the Middle-East, including Syria, Iran and Lebanon; the Pacific region, including Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, Tokelau, Tuvalu and the Cook Islands; and Asia, including Taiwan, Cambodia, India and the Philippines.


Just last weekend I joined the Burmese community in their festival which attracted more than 1,000 members of our community, both Burmese and non-Burmese. Last weekend I also joined the member for Waterford and our community at Marsden State High School for the opening of their new centre of excellence, funded by our government. Marsden State High School is one of the most multicultural schools in Queensland, led by passionate and engaging teachers who work together to deliver outstanding achievements across-the-board.

Ms Grace: Great school.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the Minister for Education. It is a fantastic school.

It is the camaraderie of multicultural communities like Marsden State High School, and communities like Woodridge that should give us all hope for a brighter future. In closing, I believe that the distinctions some may look to make based on faith, religion, language, skin colour or place of origin deny the fundamental democratic belief that all human beings have a right to life, liberty, security and happiness. We must all remember that we are united by a common humanity and bound by a common aspiration, and representing Woodridge reminds me of that every day.

Baringa State High School

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.12 pm): I tabled two petitions this week signed by 1,500 people calling on the government to construct Baringa state high school to be opened for the 2020 school year. I want to congratulate Deborah Hardie, the principal petitioner. She was the driving force behind the petitions and has the drive to continue the battle.


As I have said in the past, the current state school at Baringa is a STEM school. In fact yesterday the Minister for Education stated, 'Baringa State Primary School is our first STEM school of excellence.' We therefore agree on the point that Baringa State Primary School is a school of excellence. Yesterday in referring to STEM, the minister stated, 'We want more Queensland students to pursue the subjects that will set them up for the jobs of the future.' Clearly, I and the minister agree on the importance of STEM and that Baringa State Primary School is a school of excellence.

Yet we find that the government will build a secondary school at Baringa to open in 2021. However, children will move to grade 7 in 2020. Those children will need to go to another school and transition back to the Baringa secondary school in 2021. This raises a number of issues. Firstly, children will attend a school that was not purpose built as a STEM school. Secondly, children will be separated from friends they have made at their current school. Thirdly, the curriculum at the new school, though good, will not mirror what would be taught at a purpose-built STEM school.

There are also costs for parents. Firstly, we will have children attending different schools which will encompass complicated and lengthy travel arrangements which will be particularly difficult for single parents. Secondly, parents will need to buy new uniforms and textbooks to be used for only 12 months. That is an additional cost to their cost of living.

The education minister is in the House tonight. I ask her to consider her response to the petition carefully. I ask that she considers the children and parents who will be impacted by her response. The minister and I share an understanding of STEM and appreciate that it is critical that there is continuity in terms of the place of education for these children. Deborah Hardie has fought this battle. I ask the minister to acknowledge that and bring forward construction of the Baringa state high school so that it opens for the commencement of the school year in 2020.

Algerie Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (6.15 pm): I rise today to talk about the schools in my electorate and the amazing work they do. As a former teacher, education is a priority for me and of course it is for the people I get to represent in the electorate of Algerie. The schools in my community are strong, diverse and multicultural. The hardworking staff, students and parents make a real effort to ensure they are inclusive and welcoming places.

Each time I meet with students from the Algerie electorate I recognise and celebrate the grace with which these students carry themselves. They represent the building blocks of the multicultural and inclusive society that is Queensland and is Australia. Each year I proudly host the student leaders from each of my local schools at Parliament House. This year I have had the pleasure of hosting almost all of my schools, but I will mention a few just now.

From St Stephen's Catholic Primary School I hosted the school captains, Elise Ivankovic and Tejean Weesah-Nah-Konteh, and Deputy Principal Charlotte Thomson. St Stephen's Catholic Primary School is such a beautiful place when one walks into it. We recently had Schools Tree Day at the school. They planted some special trees that they will watch grow over the years. They will have a permanent place in the school grounds.

Ms Grace: Great photograph.


Ms ENOCH: It was great. From Algerie State School I hosted the school captains, Jaiden Bo, Jared Sparg, Alyssa Wong and Charlotte Cormack, and Deputy Principal Kristin Lord. Algerie State School is totally committed to coding and robotics. They have been doing some incredible things around STEM education for their kids. I provided them with some Ozobots a couple of years ago. They have grown that program so much. The kids are so engaged in it and are really competent. They have been absolutely amazing.

From Pallara State School I hosted the school captains, Emilie Cowley, Zayne Comerford, Ethan Tu, Nicolas Watts, and amazing Principal Mark Johnson. Pallara State School is well known for its environmental credentials. They have a great environmental program. The children are very engaged in that. They have some great recycling happening at the school which they are very proud of.

From the Murri School from Acacia Ridge I hosted Shakira Cloudsley, Sylah Costelloe, Isabella Fiore and Nadia Desnica, the administration officer. The Murri School hosts the Acacia Ridge NAIDOC events each year. They had an amazing event for the community just recently.

I have also welcomed the entire year 6 class of St Bernadine's in Regents Park to visit Parliament House. I am proud to represent these diverse young people as our next generation of leaders.

Scenic Rim Electorate, Rural Firefighters

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.18 pm): I would like to pay tribute to the volunteer rural firefighters in my electorate of Scenic Rim. It has been a very early start to the fire season this year. As many members would have seen on the news, there have been some quite large grassfires around the Scenic Rim and southern Ipswich region already. In particular, there was a large one at Mutdapilly a

couple of weeks ago which threatened property. I would like to say thank you to all of the volunteer rural firefighters who put their bodies on the line to prevent those fires from causing damage to property or loss of life.


There have been other fires around Rathdowney and the Lower Mount Walker area in the last couple of days and in other areas, I am sure. We have many rural fire brigades and volunteers. It is early in the season, but it is never too early to say thanks to those volunteers both for what they have already done and for what we know they will do in this bushfire season, which is predicted to be a very long one. It is going to be a very long one because it is extremely dry across much of Queensland at the moment. The Scenic Rim is no different. In fact, many people in the Scenic Rim have contacted me wondering whether the local drought committee would consider a drought declaration being made for the Scenic Rim regional area that I represent.

I wrote to the minister about this. He wrote back to me, mentioning that they had met at the end of April and that their assessment at that time was that a drought declaration was not required. I implore the minister to ask the LDC, the local drought committee, to consider that again, because a lot can change in four months and there has not been any significant rain during that time. There was reasonable summer rain, but a lot of the rain we had back in 2017, when, as members would know, there was a flood in the Scenic Rim, did not soak into the ground. It came so fast that a lot of that moisture did not get into the subsoil. I call on the minister to please get the LDC to reconvene to reconsider a drought declaration in the Scenic Rim.

I also pay tribute to our auxiliary firefighters at Boonah who have been very busy. I know that the Minister for Emergency Services was in the Scenic Rim recently. He visited Beaudesert and Tamborine Mountain. I also want to draw his attention to the Boonah auxiliary station, which is in dire need of replacement. They have been talking about getting that station replaced, but there seems to have been delay after delay after delay. I ask the minister to please recognise those auxiliary firefighters and to get them a new station.

(Time expired)

Thurston, Mr J


 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.21 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I think you will enjoy this one, as tomorrow we celebrate the life of a true North Queensland champion as he takes to the field of 1300SMILES. He was born in Brisbane on 25 April 1983. This 35-year-old was born to a proud Indigenous Gunggari mum and a New Zealand dad of Maori heritage. Now I know why I get on with the bloke so much! Of course, we are talking about the great Johnathan Thurston. He will take to the field for the very last time on what will be a very special occasion for the North Queensland fans who follow him and to celebrate what he has given to the game of Rugby League in North Queensland.

It is not so much what he has achieved on the field—and there are many accolades—but what he has done off the field. It would be remiss of me not to talk about that great moment in time of the 2015 premiership-winning North Queensland Cowboys team when he led them to victory in the last minute. In fact, there is now a play called *The Longest Minute*. We saw it again, Mr Deputy Speaker. You were there with Peter Beattie and we watched them do it again. They closed the curtain on the Brisbane Broncos game in true North Queensland Johnathan Thurston style in the last minute. It must have broken the Broncos' hearts, but we loved every minute of it.

He has played 37 State of Origin games and six Indigenous All Stars games. He is a four-time Dally M medallist and awarded the Golden Boot. This kid who started in Sunnybank as a junior was too small in his junior years to play. He actually offered to play for free for a number of clubs, but it was the Bulldogs who took him on in 2002 to 2004 before that great transition to the North Queensland Cowboys. How proud we all are in North Queensland of what he has achieved off the field, particularly his mentoring of Indigenous youth and his support of the Cowboys House, giving these kids hope to dream, to think that they, too, can become like Johnathan Thurston.

He is a true leader in the community. He should be celebrated for everything he is doing for the game. We get to see him play tomorrow night for the last time. Then he takes on another Queensland team, the Titans, next week. Let's celebrate everything that Johnathan Thurston has done for the great game of Rugby League. We thank him dearly for what he has done in Townsville and for lifting our spirits every time. He is the bloke who chases the ball down. He is the first one to be there. He lifts our spirits. He has lifted the game. Thank you and thanks for the memories, Johnathan Thurston.

Southport Electorate


 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.24 pm): I rise tonight to talk about a few of the great things that have been happening in the sensational electorate of Southport over the last few weeks. I had the pleasure last weekend of being the official starter for the Kokoda Beach Classic. I want to honour the Broadwater Southport Rotary Club. They have been running the event for a number of years. It had very small beginnings. It was good to see several hundred people on the beach last Sunday morning for the start of the race, with Rod West, the official commentator and starter on the day, giving a rundown on the purpose of the Kokoda Beach Classic. It is, indeed, a very worthy cause. It is there to support veterans' families on the Gold Coast. The Rotary Club has done a lot of work in helping to maintain the Kokoda Memorial at Cascade Gardens.

I want to thank Ken Vernon for his sterling efforts in helping to organise the event. My good friend James Kennett was there running the communications and making sure that everything was running as it should. It was great to see students from TSS, The Southport School, there as well from the cadet unit. I special especially want to mention Solomon Kasokason, Jakeb Marian and Sean McCarthy.

It was also my pleasure only a week earlier to attend the St John's Crisis Centre annual fundraising lunch. I want to honour especially the Reverend Jon Brook and Judy Bennett from St John's. They run an incredible support service on the Gold Coast for many people who are struggling. They also provide crisis accommodation and meals to many homeless people. It was my great pleasure to be their guest speaker on this occasion at the magnificent Edgewater restaurant, which is in John-Paul Langbroek's electorate but nonetheless just on the fringe of Southport. It was great to talk to people about some of the things that we can be doing to help people wrestling with homelessness. It was great for them to share some of the visions that they have for building even more support accommodation on the Gold Coast and their grand dream of one day even having a high-rise tower of their own to accommodate a range of people in need.

Southport is undoubtedly one of the best places on the planet to live. It is my great honour to be the member for Southport. We have enjoyed an incredible year with the Commonwealth Games and with so much activity in the area. Southport certainly benefited from the swimming, and the CBD area and Chinatown have benefited enormously from the amount of increased traffic through the area.

Australian Fish and Chips Awards

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.27 pm): It does not matter whether it is a Monday, a Wednesday, a Friday or a Sunday—it is always a good time to have fish and chips. If you are as passionate about fish and chips as I am, it pays to try the best. That is why I am encouraging Queenslanders to have their say in the search for Queensland's best fisho at the Australian Fish and Chips Awards. The Australian Fish and Chips Awards are a great opportunity for our local shops to get their name on the national stage.

Given our proximity to the freshest and most delicious seafood in the world, it is only right that we have the best fish and chip shops as well. Right along the Queensland coastline there are sensational examples of fish and chip shops using the freshest Queensland seafood to serve up innovative and tasty fish and chips. I encourage everyone to try our different stores in their local areas that support the Queensland seafood industry.

The awards are a chance to recognise some of the great seafood businesses serving Queenslanders. I note that members of the Labor caucus and no doubt those opposite are already getting behind this competition, throwing open the call to their communities to vote on the best fisho in their area. A few weeks ago I went to Fishlips, owned by James Maginness, and had some fish and chips there. I also went to Taylor's, owned by Tien Tran, a lovely Vietnamese woman, and tried her delicious fish and chips. Queensland has fantastic seafood and we are keen to get out there and taste Queensland's plates.

Earlier this month I was with the member for Maryborough at the Hervey Bay Seafood Festival. What a fantastic day that was! There was seafood flowing from every quarter. It was a wonderful occasion which showcased the best seafood Wide Bay has to offer, supporting local jobs with a quality feed for the family. That is a win-win in everyone's books. I urge everyone to get behind their local fisho and vote online for the one they think is best. I was talking to the member for Logan earlier tonight, and he said he is backing in his support for North Maclean Seafood and Takeaway.

To vote for your local fish and chip shop to be named as Queensland's best, head online to www.fishandchipsawards.com.au. Voting is open until 15 September. The 2018 state award winners will be announced at the Queensland Seafood Industry Awards on 28 September 2018. I will be in attendance and will be presenting the awards for the best fish and chip shops in Australia. Hopefully on this occasion, as repeated in the past, it will be a Queenslander and a Queensland fish and chip shop.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): I would like to take this opportunity to wish JT all the best for his last home game. He is a true legend of the sport.

The House adjourned at 6.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, 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, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson