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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 18 October 2018

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THURSDAY, 18 OCTOBER 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.

REPORT

Auditor-General



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 6 of 2018-19 titled *Delivering coronial services*. I table the report for the information of members.

Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 6: 2018-19—Delivering coronial services [[1669](#)].

PETITION

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

Abortion Laws

Mr Katter, from 51 petitioners, requesting the House to reject the proposed abortion law reform bill [[1670](#)].

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[1671](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3009-18) presented by Mr Berkman, and an ePetition (2943-18) sponsored by Mr Berkman, from 108 and 369 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to develop a sheltered and secure parking facility for bicycles at public transport stations, integrated with GoCard, across the TransLink network

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

[1672](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3011-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (2996-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 144 and 461 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reinstate the pedestrian and bicycle friendly design to Stanley Street for the Woolloongabba Bikeway as approved by the community consultation process and agreed to by the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Brisbane City Council

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch)—

[1673](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to a paper petition (3008-18), presented by Ms Richards, from 181 petitioners, requesting the House to consider a cull or removal of the bat colony, in the area bounded by Francis and Gregory Street, Macleay Island

Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe)—

[1674](#) Response from the Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Hinchliffe), to a paper petition (3010-18) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (2978-18) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 76 and 426 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to prevent local government authorities from imposing fines of any sort for the inability to control invasive pests

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Premier's Export Awards

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): My government is committed to growing Queensland jobs and Queensland industries by growing Queensland exports. Last Thursday night, the best and the brightest of Queensland's exporters were recognised at the Premier's Queensland Export Awards. In the same way that Queenslanders excel on the sporting field, these businesses—large and small—are doing the same thing on the global playing field. They are excelling in our traditional strengths but, importantly, they are also excelling in the new and emerging industries that will provide the highly skilled jobs of the future.

Mining services company Core Resources won the mining and energy category. It is using innovative techniques to process and extract minerals in a more environmentally friendly manner. Core Resources is also developing treatment options for minerals like cobalt, vanadium and graphene that will be vital to produce wind turbines, solar panels and batteries. Mort & Co is one of Australia's largest feedlot operators and took out the agribusiness category. As Minister Dick told the House, my government's Jobs and Regional Growth Fund is helping Mort build its own gas-fired power station on its feedlot near Dalby, allowing the company to take more control over its energy use.

Queensland exporter of the year, Tritium, specialises in fast-charging solutions for electric vehicles and has seen its revenue grow from \$14 million to \$34 million in a single year, with 97 per cent of that coming from exports. Finally, Tooletries took out the emerging exporter award. Its bathroom storage products are taking the US by storm, especially its patented shower mounted beer and wine holders.

Ms Jones: A great Aussie invention.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is a great Aussie invention, and it was definitely the talk of the night. Whether it is tourism, education, advanced manufacturing, medical devices or beer holders, I am committed to ensuring Queensland's role as Australia's export powerhouse continues to grow.

Works for Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): My government is committed to creating jobs for Queenslanders no matter where they live in our great state. I am delighted that my government's hugely popular Works for Queensland program is doing some heavy lifting in assisting councils to support jobs in regional Queensland. Everywhere I visit in regional Queensland, the enthusiasm of local mayors for Works for Queensland is clear.

During the Governing from the Regions week in Toowoomba and the Darling Downs, Minister Hinchliffe spent some time visiting the projects that have been completed. These projects are not only supporting jobs in local communities but also having real community benefits. That is food on the table for the families of local workers, the families of local tradies and the families of local businesses that supply materials.

More than \$100 million has been allocated for councils in the latest round of Works for Queensland, with 74 projects completed, another 428 underway and 2,700 local jobs delivered. This brings the total funding to 65 councils over four years to \$400 million. That is 1,354 projects and more than 12,000 jobs created across our state. Works for Queensland means one thing—jobs.

The works on the Goondiwindi Cultural Centre have been completed. In Texas, the town pool has been refurbished. In Port Douglas, the Flagstaff walking track will provide never-before-seen views of Douglas shire's most spectacular natural wonders. In Agnes Water, residents and visitors can now enjoy a new look Tom Jeffery Memorial Park. In Blackall, the showgrounds have been restored, UHF communications have fixed blackspots and streets have been widened. Mayor Andrew Martin enthusiastically explained how his region's economy has been stimulated by the funding.

These are just some examples of the projects completed or underway right across our state. It is also why in the budget my government announced an extension of Works for Queensland to 2020-21 and an additional \$200 million in funding for councils. I would like to pay tribute to the Deputy Premier and Minister Hinchliffe for continuing to roll out this great Works for Queensland package.

Invictus Games

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): One of the reasons the royal couple is visiting our shores is for the Invictus Games, which Prince Harry founded. On Saturday, a team of proud and skilful Australian athletes begins a week of competitions in Sydney. Thirty-two of them—almost half the team—come from Queensland, and it was only a few weeks ago that I joined the Minister for Sport, Mick de Brenni, here at parliament for an official send-off.

The Invictus Games allow wounded, sick and injured service personnel to demonstrate the power of sport to inspire recovery and rehabilitation and to demonstrate life beyond disability. There will be 500 competitors from 18 nations taking part in archery, athletics, indoor rowing, a driving challenge, powerlifting, road cycling, sailing, sitting volleyball, swimming, wheelchair basketball and wheelchair rugby. As I said to the Australian team captain, Nicole Bradley, who is from Brisbane, I could not be prouder that there is such a strong contingent going from our great state—such as Beau King from Townsville, who is competing in athletics and powerlifting; Stephen Osborne, an archer from the Darling Downs; and Stix Parker from Maryborough, who is in athletics.

Invictus means ‘unconquered’ which is what these athletes exemplify. They have already put their hand up for their country as service men and women, and they have all sustained illness or injury in the line of duty. For the first time, we extended the Queensland Academy of Sport’s Bonus Grants scheme so each athlete was eligible for a \$2,700 grant on top of the in-kind support already provided by QAS. This is significant. It is the same grant our Commonwealth Games and Olympic Games athletes receive and it is the right thing for our government to do. On behalf of all members here and all Queenslanders, I wish the Queensland contingent all the very best.

Royal Visit

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): Four days from now, the Duke and Duchess of Sussex, known to the world as Prince Harry and Meghan, will arrive in Queensland. Their visit will be brief but it will be important, shining a global spotlight on one of Queensland’s greatest treasures: K’gari, or Fraser Island. It was in April this year when Harry’s father, Prince Charles, was in Queensland to open the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games that he travelled to Bundaberg and dedicated two Queen’s canopy sites—Bulburin state forest near Miriam Vale and K’gari. Both sites had been nominated to the Royal Commonwealth Society by my government earlier this year to be part of the Queen’s canopy, a network of forest conservation projects across Commonwealth countries.

In the language of the traditional owners, the Butchulla people, K’gari means paradise. It is something all Queenslanders have long known, and next week’s visit means more people around the world will learn this as well.

When the duke and duchess unveil a plaque commemorating the Queen’s canopy site, Harry will be following in his father’s footsteps. Prince Charles visited K’gari when he came to Queensland in 1994. Through their visit to K’gari, Harry and Meghan will be accompanied by rangers from the traditional owners who will share with them the island’s history, ecology and culture.

The Queen’s Commonwealth canopy commits to raising awareness of the value of Indigenous forests and to saving them for future generations. On the island Harry and Meghan will also have the chance to see the towering Kauri trees, 1,000-year-old trees some of which were used as pilings for the London docks. Hopefully, they will also have a chance for some peace and quiet in what is a hectic tour and the chance to capture memories of a beautiful part of Queensland that they will share with the rest of the world and they will remember for many, many days to come.

Traditional Torres Strait Islander Child-Rearing Practice

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): The Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to introduce new laws to recognise Torres Strait Islander families’ continued use of traditional Torres Strait Islander child-rearing practices. This is an historic step, both nationally and internationally, in acknowledging the importance of this ancient and living culture in today’s contemporary world and it will give practical effect to the government’s commitment to reframing the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders.

Traditional Torres Strait Islander child-rearing practice is grounded in the concept of cultural and extended family responsibility and provides a sense of stability to the social order which has seen generations of Torres Strait Islander children raised in supportive and loving extended family environments. I am pleased to advise the House that last week we released a discussion paper as the next important step on this road to reform. Formal recognition of this ancient cultural practice will make day-to-day activities such as school enrolment, obtaining a birth certificate and accessing financial support so much easier for Torres Strait Islander families. I am proud that the Queensland government has chosen to introduce what will be landmark legislation for Queensland, for Australia and indeed the world.

Further, the government has committed \$1 million to make this happen. To ensure we get this right, we have engaged three eminent persons to assist with the community consultation with the Torres Strait Islander community throughout Queensland: Ms Ivy Trevallion is the first Torres Strait Islander social worker, having graduated from Queensland University in 1986, and is the current chair of the Kupai Omasker Working Party; Mr Charles Passi is a Torres Strait Islander member of the Queensland Centre for Domestic and Family Violence Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Group and former chair of the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing Foundation from 2013 to 2015; and the Hon. Alastair Nicholson AO, RFD, QC is a former Chief Justice of the Family Court with extensive knowledge of traditional Torres Strait Islander child-rearing practices and has previously assisted with consultations with government and advice to the Kupai Omasker Working Party since 2010.

I want to acknowledge the important role of Cynthia Lui, the member for Cook. She is the first Torres Strait Islander person to sit in any parliament and is a strong advocate and a very wise, steady influence on this significant cultural reform priority for her community. I want to acknowledge the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development for her previous work and her ongoing support on this very important issue and her strong advocacy as the minister or champion for the Torres Strait Islander communities. I also want to thank the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence for partnering with me on the Kupai Omasker recognition project.

I look forward to working with the Torres Strait Islander community as we work through the consultation and prepare laws to bring together Torres Strait Islander L-O-R-E lore with western L-A-W law to bridge the gap between Torres Strait Islander culture and western law for the benefit of Torres Strait Islander families and children.

Bioenergy Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.43 am): The Palaszczuk government is creating the jobs of the future through a new bioenergy industry for Queensland. Just this morning I addressed a meeting of key participants in the aviation biofuels sector as part of Bioenergy Australia's Bioenergy STRONG Conference. At this meeting representatives of airlines, fuel distributors and sustainable fuel producers all came together to discuss the exciting future of this industry.

As members will know, our state recently claimed a place on the world stage in this sector with a successful trial of biojet fuel. Brisbane stands alongside a very select group of world airports including Los Angeles, Oslo, Stockholm, Geneva and Chicago after jet fuel derived from sugars blended with traditional aviation fuel was used to power 195 domestic and international flights flying more than 430,000 kilometres. The success of the trial demonstrates that sustainable aviation biofuel can simply 'drop in' to Brisbane Airport's refuelling system. This positions Queensland as a world leader for biojet deployment and brings confidence to the industry about a future for aviation biofuels. Our vision is that in the not-too-distant future passengers will be able to fly from Brisbane to Los Angeles on a completely carbon neutral journey with biojet supplied from a Queensland refinery.

The successful trial was conducted with partners Virgin Australia, the Brisbane Airport Corporation, US based biofuel producer Gevo Inc. and supply chain partners Caltex and DB Schenker. We are paving the way to a viable, long-term market for locally produced biojet fuels in Queensland, opening up enormous opportunities for industry, employment and our economy. Many of these opportunities involve the high-value, knowledge-based jobs that we are so keen to create in Queensland, many of which will be in regional parts of our state. The supply chain runs from farmers supplying biomass in the form of waste from agricultural processes to the biorefineries turning this waste into bioenergy through to civil and defence aviation customers who are seeking biojet fuel. For Queensland and the aviation biofuels sector, the sky is the limit.

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (9.46 am): There are more police in Queensland than ever before. Queenslanders now see more police out and about in the community than ever before. Our Police Service is more mobile and more agile than ever before as it transitions to a borderless policing model. Queensland's police officers are better trained than ever before and better equipped than ever before with cutting-edge technology that is recognised—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left.

Mr RYAN: Our government is supporting the Queensland Police Service with a budget of approximately \$2.3 billion.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you are warned under standing orders. I just issued a general warning and you did not heed it. Cease your interjections. I do not believe the minister is actually being provocative.

Mr RYAN: Our government is supporting the Queensland Police Service with a budget of approximately \$2.3 billion. That amount is about the same amount as last year's budget, but it must be remembered—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mr RYAN:—that the previous budget included a massive investment in policing on the Gold Coast and right across Queensland to ensure the biggest event in Queensland's history, the Commonwealth Games, was staged.

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, please resume your seat. Member for Coomera, you are warned under standing orders. Members to my left, this is not a free-for-all. It is not an entitlement to interject. The minister is not being provocative as I hear his statement.

Mr RYAN: It must be remembered that the previous budget included a massive investment in policing on the Gold Coast and right across Queensland to ensure the biggest event in Queensland's history, the Commonwealth Games, was staged safely, and it was. The Commonwealth Games was a resounding success.

Our government is funding an additional 535 police personnel over four years. The rollout has already begun. We have also established a new counterterrorism command. On the Gold Coast we are building a new police facility at Arundel as well as other facilities right across the state. The Gold Coast has over 1,000 police officers dedicated to keeping their community safe. The latest data shows that there are more police officers on the Gold Coast than the Queensland Police Service approved allocation.

I am sure Gold Coast residents and business operators will be pleased to know that the Queensland Police Service is well resourced and is focused on fighting crime. It is the same situation on the Darling Downs, in the state's north, in the Moreton Bay region and right across the state. However, we must all live within our means, and as a government we are responsible—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr RYAN: As a government we are responsible for spending taxpayers' dollars prudently.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I have already instructed today that I would like you to cease your interjections. The minister is not being provocative. I will allow latitude if that is the case. This is my final warning. I will start foregoing warnings on standings orders and I will send people from the chamber. You have an opportunity during question time to interrogate the government.

Mr RYAN: Where savings can be made, they should be. It is about delivering more bang for taxpayers' buck. We make no apologies for the Police Service looking at ways to deliver more and better services in a more efficient manner. We are showing that by investing smartly we can deliver

efficiencies and still increase police resources across the state. Greater mobility and the greater use of technology is delivering those efficiencies right now for our Police Service and we should be proud of that, not critical. The Queensland Police Service's efforts are in fact being recognised worldwide as best practice for these very things.

The Palaszczuk government is backing our front line with more police, more police facilities, more technology, more resources and more specialist officers than ever before, but it is also important to remember that by law the allocation of police resources is determined by the Police Commissioner free from political interference. The Commissioner is constantly reviewing options to ensure that the best possible service is provided to all people in Queensland, including those on the Gold Coast.

Sport

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (9.51 am): As sports minister, over the past three months I have had the opportunity to meet some amazing people and hear amazing stories like that of Paralympic swimmer Paige Leonhardt and her journey to represent our nation at this year's Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. We have heard stories from Queenslanders who we can all look up to and who are inspirations to all Queenslanders like our Invictus athletes the Premier mentioned earlier or Tallisha Harden, who just made history as part of the Broncos' inaugural premiership winning team. She also won Logan's Athlete of the Year. I have heard stories of triumph and challenge from people like Abbey Lloyd, part of Brisbane Roar's W-League premiership winning team; Ryan Tyack, who went from playing computer games to winning medals for Australia in archery; and young Andre Rivett from Woodridge, Australia's only athlete at the World Down Syndrome Games. Andre—or 'The Hulk' as he is known—asked both the member for Woodridge and me to pass on his personal thanks for your support in his recent quest.

Over the past three months I joined our sporting ambassadors to consult with our state about the future of sport and active recreation in Queensland. Over 532 Queenslanders met us in person, 1,944 filled out an online survey and 1,749 completed a paper survey. This response shows that Queenslanders want change. The playing field is not level in sport. Nowhere is inequality seen more clearly than the way that participation rates relate to income. Around 80 per cent of kids who come from families with a household income over \$200,000 a year participate in sport and active recreation on a regular basis, but when we look at the families where household income is far less, on the minimum wage of \$40,000 or less, the rate of participation is halved. For girls in those households it is even less.

The Palaszczuk government has started work to address this. The Premier's Female Facilities Program has provided over \$15 million for facilities to ensure that women and girls can start playing sport in their community. Right now the Premier's program is delivering 112 change rooms for girls, 315 showers, 220 toilets, 14 parents' rooms, 30 officials' change rooms, 24 showers and toilets for disabled women and girls in clubs, and 15 first-aid rooms. I also acknowledge that three weeks ago the Deputy Premier announced a further \$2.5 million to boost vouchers for struggling families to enrol their daughters in sport and active recreation.

Throughout the development of our strategy and during the consultation process we asked Queenslanders how government can support healthy Queenslanders. We asked them how we can enhance community connections and equality. How do we promote economic growth and jobs as well as support our elite athletes? The feedback has been extensive. The feedback calls for a framework to shift the dial on outcomes around physical and mental health. It calls for an outcome to shift the dial around the rates of suicide in Queensland and improvements in outcomes in youth justice. I look forward to finalising Queensland's first sports and active recreation strategy, and I look forward to getting on with the job of delivering. I want to thank all members for their support and their engagement to date.

Billie Brown Theatre

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (9.54 am): Last week I had the pleasure of joining the Treasurer in her electorate of South Brisbane to deliver on an important commitment of the Palaszczuk government when we opened the new Billie Brown Theatre. This is a newly refurbished venue for Queensland Theatre, which was supported by a \$2 million investment from our government. This funding was secured by the Premier while she was arts minister with strong support from the Deputy Premier, who understands the importance of the arts in her community. The new theatre opened with *Nearer the Gods*, the latest work of acclaimed Queensland playwright David Williamson, directed by Queensland Theatre artistic director Sam Strong.

The theatre's expansion will benefit Queensland's performing arts sector and provide an enhanced experience for artists and audiences alike. The refurbishment boosts seating capacity to 351 and delivers improved amenities and disability access. This new, intimate venue was the ideal space to experience David Williamson's wonderful new work about Isaac Newton. The Billie Brown Theatre now includes Brisbane's first corner stage, which creates a unique and intimate audience experience. Last week's opening represents a tribute to two Queensland stage icons, with a new play by one of our most acclaimed playwrights in a venue named to honour the late stage and screen legend, Billie Brown. Industry and public reaction to the new theatre has been enthusiastic, with the *Australian* newspaper's reviewer saying—

The Queensland government put \$2 million into it and it was worth every cent.

The Billie Brown Theatre redevelopment reflects this government's commitment to the arts and ongoing investment in arts infrastructure. This year the Palaszczuk government has committed \$125 million over four years for a new \$150 million theatre at QPAC and \$8 million towards the \$35 million redevelopment of Queensland Ballet's home, the Thomas Dixon Centre. This government strongly supports a diverse and vibrant arts sector for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Unfortunately, for every dollar Queensland invests in our major performing arts companies the federal government chips in just 77 cents. Meanwhile, south of the border for every dollar the New South Wales government invests the federal government contributes a whopping \$3.90. With changes to the major performing arts funding framework being considered, the Palaszczuk government will stand up to the federal LNP government and demand our fair share of arts funding. I encourage those opposite to do the same and stand up for Queensland.

Public Transport, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): Under the Palaszczuk Labor government we are seeing public transport commuter patronage grow. The latest numbers are very positive and show that 5.4 million more public transport trips were taken across the region in 2017-18 compared to 2016-17, which is a 3.1 per cent increase. Lower fares for commuters introduced by the Palaszczuk Labor government are making a difference, but cheaper transport is only one barrier to growing patronage. Our government is committed to making public transport more accessible.

Across South-East Queensland there are 152 rail stations on the network, and some of these stations are more than a century old. Many more were built before modern disability legislation. Modernising historic stations is a significant undertaking by the Palaszczuk Labor government, as we are committed to every rail commuter being able to use their local train station without barriers. We are committed to the principle of universal accessibility by investing \$300 million to upgrade 16 stations. Queensland Rail's Station Accessibility Upgrade program has already delivered improvements at Graceville, Dinmore, Nambour, Alderley and Newmarket stations for commuters. Construction will soon start at Morayfield, Boondall and Strathpine, and upgrades are planned for stations at Dakabin, Buranda, Albion, Cannon Hill, Auchenflower, East Ipswich and Loganlea. Work is planned or underway right across the south-east, including the installation of lifts, raised platforms to assist boarding, pedestrian overpasses, tactile flooring, ramps, hearing aid loops and accessible toilets.

As a government that values the views of our community, we seek feedback and input on the design of these facilities. Queensland Rail seeks guidance from members of its Accessibility Reference Group, which includes representatives from Guide Dogs Queensland, Vision Australia, Queenslanders with Disability Network, the MS society, Spinal Life Australia, Arthritis Queensland and Better Hearing Australia. I sincerely thank all of those representatives who put forward their experience and collaborated with the government and Queensland Rail.

The upgrades in this program will increase the number of independently accessible stations on the network from 80 to 91. Once these projects are complete, 83 per cent of rail commuters will travel to and from accessible stations.

Station upgrades are not our only commitment to commuters. We committed \$114 million to build or expand park-and-rides across the south-east. That commitment will add 2,300 new spaces at nine locations to the 30,000 parks already provided at 159 park-and-rides across the TransLink train, bus, ferry and tram network.

More people are riding trains, buses, ferries and trams, and that passenger growth has gained momentum due to the introduction of Fairer Fares in late 2016 by the Palaszczuk government. By reducing the average adult fare by about 13.5 per cent compared to January 2014 levels, Fairer Fares has encouraged more people to give public transport a go and saved families more than \$117 million.

Concessions and discounts for veterans, jobseekers and asylum seekers also ensure public transport is accessible to those who may rely on it the most. To support the centenary of armistice services on 11 November, the Palaszczuk government will provide free public transport for uniformed serving Australian Defence Force personnel and veterans wearing their service medals. Accompanying family members wearing service medals will also travel free. I offer my thanks to the Redlands RSL, which proposed this excellent idea to acknowledge our veterans and their contribution to our community.

Power Stations, Upgrades and Maintenance

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.01 am): The Palaszczuk government is focused on employment—no more so than in the energy field and in regional Queensland. Upgrades at the Tarong and Callide power stations alone are providing employment for more than 400 Queenslanders.

Approximately \$35 million will be spent on overhaul works and improvement projects at Tarong Power Station, south-east of Kingaroy, during the next 60 days. The work will ensure the power station is well positioned to continue to provide secure and reliable electricity for Queensland heading into the summer months. The project includes extensive turbine and generator overhauls, boiler and air heater inspections and repairs as well as major electrical switchboard maintenance and motor overhauls. Locally based contractors including Kingaroy Hydraulics and G3 Engineering were engaged to provide skilled labour and are undertaking parts of these project works. Fifty local people will be engaged by Stanwell's contractors for the duration of the outage. Businesses in the South Burnett region also are providing catering, transport and accommodation for Stanwell employees and contractors during the overhaul, providing benefits to the local economy. Tarong Power Station is one of the most reliable and low-cost generators in the Queensland electricity market and across the national energy market.

A \$49 million overhaul and maintenance program also has begun at CS Energy's Callide Power Station. Approximately 370 contractors will be on-site for the major program of works, which will run to early December. Principal overhaul contractor MHPS has brought a range of contractors to site including electricians, boilermakers, riggers, fitters, welders, scaffolders and crane drivers. The contractors will work alongside the power station's permanent workforce and are being accommodated in motels and caravan parks in magnificent Biloela, bringing \$4 million in flow-on economic benefits to the region.

Queensland has surplus generating capacity—more than enough to cover the essential overhauls and maintenance. This is essential work being undertaken to ensure continuity and reliability of supply for Queensland and creating employment and added prosperity to our regions. In a spirit of unity, I will be happy to assist the members for Nanango and Callide in drafting a letter of appreciation to the Premier, thanking her for the jobs boom in their region.

Racing Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk government recognises the important role that racing plays across Queensland communities—in supporting jobs, generating economic activity—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, previous suggestions in terms of how you should be conducting yourselves this morning still stand. The minister is not being provocative.

Mr HINCHLIFFE:—and bringing people together. This industry supports more than 40,000 jobs in Queensland while generating some \$1.2 billion in annual economic activity.

Make no mistake: the Palaszczuk government has always been a great supporter of racing in Queensland and we are investing heavily in the industry. For instance, over the next two financial years we will invest \$111.8 million in racing—roughly equivalent to the support provided in New South Wales and Victoria. One of the centrepieces of this investment is the four-year \$70 million country racing support package, which has seen unanimous support in the industry. I want to acknowledge the

previous minister in relation to bringing that package forward. This package is supporting non-TAB clubs throughout regional Queensland—some of them might race only once a year—because we understand what racing means in those communities.

We are also delivering new and improved racing infrastructure. There is no better example of this than our \$13 million redevelopment of the Ipswich Turf Club. This will transform one of the state's oldest race clubs into a state-of-the-art racing facility, with new and improved facilities and a commercial capability to generate non-racing sources of income which will make the club more financially sustainable. In addition to this, we are providing ongoing financial support for Brisbane Racing Club's Eagle Farm track remediation project. I cannot wait to see racing return to our premier venue. The government continues its strong financial support for Magic Millions, one of Queensland's truly great major events. Through Tourism and Events Queensland we are also supporting iconic regional race events such as the Cairns Amateurs and the Birdsville Races.

This is by no means an exhaustive list of our support for racing. In fact, contrary to widespread reporting, the equivalent of 100 per cent of the proceeds from the new wagering point-of-consumption tax will be returned to the industry this year. I repeat: 100 per cent of its proceeds in the first year will be ploughed back into the industry. The point-of-consumption tax was front and centre at a meeting the Treasurer and I had with thoroughbred industry representatives last week. This was a productive, firsthand opportunity where industry participants argued passionately for a more sustainable funding model. The government has taken this input very seriously, and it is informing ongoing government considerations. We will continue to work with Racing Queensland and industry across the three codes to create a stronger and more prosperous racing industry in Queensland.

Weather Events, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.07 am): I have highlighted previously how Queensland is often at the mercy of extreme weather events. That has certainly been highlighted recently, and I must congratulate our hardworking staff and volunteers who have been helping out either on the fire front line or by assisting communities hit by superstorms. This week I have been thanking our volunteers from the State Emergency Service and Rural Fire Service taking part in clean-up and recovery efforts in the South Burnett region. Over one 24-hour period alone the SES received almost 500 calls for assistance, including with fallen trees, leaking roofs and other structural damage, with Gympie, the Fraser Coast and the South Burnett the hardest hit areas. In some cases they were actually working through the rain to help people out.

This week I have been highlighting the terrific efforts of firefighters, who have responded to more than 3,300 vegetation fires around the state since 15 August—an average of more than 40 every day. It is not just in the field where QFES staff and volunteers are shining. They are combining hard work with software to help make Queensland a safer place. QFES has developed world-class technology to help it accurately predict the path of destructive vegetation fires, potentially saving lives and property. Specially trained personnel were operating the SABRE system, which I am proud to say is a fire prediction system developed by QFES here in Queensland. We are the only fire agency in the country using this advanced software, which is used for more complex, larger scale fires. In fact, it was successfully implemented recently to provide information during a bushfire in Central Queensland which threatened the safety of eight adults and three children.

QFES's Predictive Services Unit worked with partner agencies to map the possible fire path, which was overlaid on satellite imagery. As there was no active fire suppression due to the inaccessible terrain, SABRE was able to determine with a high degree of accuracy the spread of the fire. QFES is also using a second system called Phoenix, which is integral with SABRE for predicting the spread of fires. The programs will determine where fire mitigation activities can be best targeted and where resources can be strategically placed ahead of days with an elevated fire danger. This helps keep our firefighters and our communities safe and provides timely and accurate information to better inform operational decisions.

It seems like every day we are witnessing the skill and dedication of our staff and volunteers helping Queenslanders when they need it most. The Palaszczuk government understands just how vital it is that our entire state has the highly skilled fire and emergency services teams required to respond swiftly and effectively if disaster strikes. That is why we delivered a record budget this year. This government is committed to ensuring QFES continues to meet the growing demand for its services and continues to deliver world-class services to Queenslanders.

Safe Work Month; Mental Health Week

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.10 am): October is Safe Work Month—a time for us to really focus on workplace health and safety messaging, because all Queensland workers have the right to come home safely every night after a hard day's work. During October the department of industrial relations is running industry forums, toolbox talks and community events around the state to raise awareness of this important issue. In the first week the King George Square breakfast again drew big crowds as did the Safe Work and Return to Work Awards ceremony, and I thank the member for Greenslopes, Joe Kelly, for presenting the awards on my behalf. Throughout the rest of the month Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is hosting eight breakfast forums in regional locations. Safe Work Month will culminate with the Injury Prevention and Return to Work Conference in Brisbane. Our ambassadors Shane Webcke, Libby Trickett and Trevor Gillmeister, as well as our safety advocates, are in full swing at events across the state, each sharing their own experiences and their passion for keeping people safe and healthy.

While work safety figures are trending in the right direction, we all can do more to make workplaces safe and healthy. Doing so means more workers will go home safely to their families and loved ones at shift's end and our employers will continue to enjoy the lowest workers compensation premiums of any state. We are spreading safety messages far and wide, including through our school kids in rural communities. Earlier this week I announced the 12 winners of the 2019 Farm Safety calendar. I love the Farm Safety calendar. This is a drawing competition for primary school students which highlights important messages about quad bikes, farm machinery, animal handling, sun safety and healthy lifestyles. This year the competition attracted more than 1,800 entries. All MPs have received a copy of the calendar and I encourage them to hang it in their offices or homes to promote farm safety.

Last week was also Mental Health Week. Our government has stepped up its efforts to create mentally healthy workplaces. Earlier this year I announced WorkCover Queensland is funding psychological support for workers while they navigate their way through some of the processes which support a workers compensation claim. Targeting health, safety and wellbeing in our workplaces is good for Queensland workers, is good for business and is good for our economy.

Cybersecurity

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.13 am): Last week students from TAFE Queensland participated in one of the world's largest hacker conventions at this year's Cyber Security Challenge. One of its kind in Australia, the cybersecurity hacking competition is organised by an alliance of government, businesses and academic professionals committed to finding the next generation of Australian cybersecurity talent and I was pleased to see that this year's competition had a strong focus on women in cybersecurity, offering a mentoring program to all female competitors to encourage greater participation in the industry.

The 2018 event showcased the growth in the industry. We saw not only an increase in students registered to compete but also a massive 450 per cent increase in TAFE student participation. I am pleased to report that Queensland TAFE students were the highest-scoring TAFE students in Australia. This is an incredible result, especially as the team comprised students who have only just started their certificate IV in cybersecurity. Working in close collaboration with industry partners, TAFE started offering a certificate IV in cybersecurity on 1 July this year at its Coomera campus. From early next year, due to increased demand the course will also be offered at the South Bank campus. The first intake took in 15 students for a 12-month period in partnership with local organisations such as the City of Gold Coast, Australian Computer Society and a network of businesses on the Gold Coast. These students have an incredibly exciting career ahead of them. Cybersecurity is a skill in big demand by Queensland businesses big and small.

Australia's Cyber Security Sector Competitiveness Plan estimates that Australian businesses will need at least 11,000 additional cybersecurity workers over the next decade. TAFE Queensland saw the need for training in cybersecurity and our government listened, providing a subsidy close to \$5,000 through our higher skills program for students to participate. The global cybersecurity industry is expanding rapidly and I am so proud that TAFE Queensland is playing its part to fill the skills gap and provide critical training so Queenslanders can compete for the jobs of the future.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge the presence of a delegation from the Western Cape Provincial Parliament from South Africa in the gallery this morning. I specifically acknowledge the Hon. Sharna Fernandez, Speaker of the Western Cape Provincial Parliament; the Hon. Denis Joseph, Deputy Chief Whip of the Majority Party; the Hon. Khaya Magaxa, Leader of the Official Opposition; and the Hon. Pat Lekker, Member of the Provincial Parliament. On behalf of the Queensland parliament, I warmly welcome the delegation and we thank you for including parliament on your itinerary. I also wish to advise members that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from Riverside Christian College in the electorate of Maryborough.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am): I wish to advise the House that the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors will be absent from the House today. The Premier and Minister for Trade will be taking questions for the minister during question time.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.16 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 30 October 2018.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.16 am.

Gold Coast, Youth Crime

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.16 am): I table the front page of today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* that states 'Cop out'.

Mr SPEAKER: Please table that. Thank you.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 18 October 2018, titled 'Cop Out' [\[1675\]](#).

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, the question will be heard in silence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Gold Coast has seen an explosion in youth crime, with petrified residents being carjacked outside their own homes, yet Labor's response has been to remove more than 44 cops from the Gold Coast beat and, as revealed today, Labor is reducing even more front-line resources. How can Gold Coast families feel safe and secure while Labor is leaving them unprotected in their own homes?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me say from the outset I have absolute confidence in the Queensland Police Service and my government will give the police the resources and the equipment that they need to do their job—\$2.3 billion last year—and each year we continue to increase the Police budget to ensure that they have the money that they need to do their job. Members would have heard in detail this morning the police minister outlining that we are putting in place an extra 535 police officers over four years. They are getting the equipment they need and it is the Police Commissioner who allocates where the police—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I might say this to the member for Kawana: respect is a very important word and it is one that I actually take seriously. After the respectful debate that we had here last night—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you will be the first today. You are warned under standing orders for not putting your comments through the chair. Future incidents will be dealt with.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, and I will say it again, we give the police all the resources they need and then the Police Commissioner allocates those resources to the regions as he sees fit. It is called operational matters. We will continue to invest in our Police Service. We will continue to roll out new officers—

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are already on a warning. If you wish to speak to me, you will rise to a point of order. You do not interject at the Speaker.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we also saw, another great achievement of the officers of the Queensland Police Service was the way in which they conducted and handled themselves during the biggest security operation that Australia has ever seen in relation to the Commonwealth Games. Where was that held? It was held on the Gold Coast. I thank all of our hardworking police men and women for the extraordinary work they do each and every day to ensure that communities are safe. They do all they possibly can—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will use that word again.

Ms Simpson: Criminals don't respect them.

Ms PALASZCZUK: From a former Speaker I would have expected more.

Gold Coast, Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is also to the Premier. Labor has left Gold Coast families at risk with fewer front-line officers, a botched implementation of the domestic violence GPS trackers, skyrocketing crime rates and deep secret cuts to front-line resources. How does the Premier retain confidence in the police minister when he continually fails the Gold Coast?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are definitely imputations in that question.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I believe the question is in order. I will allow the question.

Mr RYAN: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, the question from the Leader of the Opposition contained a number of statements that were misleading. I would like to put it on notice that I will be writing to you about this particular matter.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, after listening to the question, you have a choice. You can rephrase the question, or I will give unlimited scope in terms of its response. Could you rephrase the question?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Labor has left Gold Coast families at risk with fewer front-line officers, a delayed implementation of domestic violence GPS trackers, skyrocketing crime rates and deep secret cuts to front-line police resources—all facts. How does the Premier retain confidence—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will ask my question to the Premier.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please, can you hear the question in silence.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, there was no need for those interjections. Please complete your question, Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. Labor has left Gold Coast families at risk with fewer front-line officers, a delayed implementation of domestic violence GPS trackers, skyrocketing crime rates and deep secret cuts to front-line resources. How does the Premier retain confidence in her police minister when he continually lets down the people of the Gold Coast?

Mr SPEAKER: Before answering the question, Leader of the Opposition, the preamble is reasonably lengthy. I will allow the question, but I put you and other members on notice that lengthy preambles are not to be accepted.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I have absolute confidence in the police minister, because he is continuing to give the police the resources they need to do their job. There are a lot of factual inaccuracies in that question. Under the standing orders, there were imputations in that question that I reject.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I have given a ruling on that. If you have concerns about a question, you may wish to write to me.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I am more than happy to answer that question. As I said, the police budget is \$2.3 billion and the police strength on the Gold Coast is 842 permanent officers. As we know, because we had the Commonwealth Games there, there were more police. When it comes to the track record of valuing our police in this state, it is my government that values police in this state.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am more than happy to go to the Gold Coast and talk about your record of cuts to the Police Service across Queensland.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: When the Leader of the Opposition was the assistant Treasurer sitting around the CBRC table, those opposite failed to produce the police statistics report. They axed the report. They would not tell Queenslanders the truth. They sacked senior officers—middle management—right across the state. I know, because I met them. I went into their offices and I met the people who those opposite sacked. Let me make it very clear—

Mr Crandon: We put more police on the beat.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, the LNP did not.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Coomera, you are already under a warning. I have had to mention you three times today. You can leave the chamber under standing order 253A for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Coomera withdrew from the chamber at 10.27 am.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the police minister said earlier, we are giving the police the resources and equipment they need. We are also giving them the pay and conditions they need. As I said, it is a Police Commissioner operational matter to allocate the resources as the Police Commissioner sees fit, not like in the Joh Bjelke-Petersen days when the Police Commissioner was directed. This week, I found it appalling that I was asked by those opposite to direct the Police Commissioner. That harks back to the days of the Joh Bjelke-Petersen government.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They have not changed. They have the same principles and the same values that that government had back then. Nothing has changed. On this side, we value our workers. On that side, they cut and sell.

Screen Industry

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier tell the House about the new jobs that Queenslanders are exploring in the movie industry and what new incentives are available to expand the industry in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Getting more jobs for people on the Gold Coast is a key concern of mine. That is exactly what we have been doing with strengthening the screen industry in this state.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport and member for Theodore, the Premier is not being provocative as I hear her answer to the question. I ask you to cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I value these jobs. I am trying to create long-term permanent jobs for people on the Gold Coast—valuable jobs for their families. We know the record of those opposite when they were in government. They used to sack people and they did not understand the impact that it had on

families providing food on the table or paying the rent. Last week I was very pleased to go to the set of *Dora* to meet the crew who now have permanent, full-time, secure jobs when it comes to the movie industry in this state.

I heard some people opposite sniggering about the jobs. The Prime Minister of Australia has come out supporting this industry. It is about time those opposite supported the industry as well. In fact, on the set of *Dora* the producer from Paramount said to me that with the combined state and federal incentives for the first time it is now more attractive to film here in Queensland on the Gold Coast than it is in the United Kingdom. That is a huge achievement. That is giving a huge signal to those industries that they can film here and they can continue to have those jobs.

Today I am pleased to announce a new rebate. One area that we have really been missing out on is post-production. We want to value-add and attract the next stage to the production process. I am delighted to announce today a new incentive to attract high-end post-production work to Queensland. It is a 10 per cent rebate for investment in post digital and visual effects. The films were getting done here and then the post-production was getting done overseas. Now we will be able to get that work stabilised here in Queensland which will once again create even more jobs on the Gold Coast and right across Queensland.

The 10 per cent rebate is available to eligible productions that spend a minimum of \$500,000 on Queensland PDVE. Similar incentives overseas and interstate have seen the establishment of post-production hubs contributing to a lucrative global industry which is worth \$20 billion. This incentive is saying we want a part of the next section of film production; we want to keep that post-production here. That is part of the \$23 billion industry and now Queensland will be eligible to have a slice of that pie.

Police Service Annual Statistical Review

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police and Corrective Services. Will the minister tell the House when he will release the overdue Queensland Police Service Annual Statistical Review or will this be yet another report tabled late on Friday afternoon to avoid media and public scrutiny?

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right!

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Tourism, I asked for order. You are warned under standing orders.

Mr RYAN: I start by asking: where is the 2013 annual report? Where is the 2014 annual report? The reason it is missing is that those opposite hid it. They got rid of it. They destroyed it. They have no credibility on this issue when it comes to transparency and accountability.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, it is Thursday. Let us get through today, shall we?

Mr RYAN: Where is the 2013 statistical report? Where is the 2014 statistical report? Those opposite hid it. They got rid of it and they would not let us know what was going on around Queensland. They threw the report out.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister resume your seat. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under standing orders. You will put your comments through the chair.

Mr RYAN: The fact of the matter is that when we came back to government we had two commitments: the first was to bring back those reports, and we did. The second was to evolve those reports so that they could be independently scrutinised and independently produced. We have implemented both of those commitments. There has already been statements made about how our second commitment has already been delivered. That feature and function has now been transferred to the Queensland Government Statistician's Office, an independent crime stats body. That was our commitment. We have to have faith in those crime stats. The Queensland Government Statistician is conducting that work around producing the crime stats. That work has transitioned from the Queensland

Police Service to the Queensland Government Statistician, as we committed. This is all about having faith in those statistics, about ensuring that those statistics are available after being verified by an independent body. What did those opposite do? They ripped it up, threw it in the bin and hid the data from the Queensland community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, if you cannot hear me calling the House to order it means you are being too loud with your interjections. Member for Moggill, member for Glass House and member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under standing orders.

Mr RYAN: Where is the 2013 and 2014 data? They hid it. They got rid of it. We are very proud of our record to bring back the public reporting around those crime stats and we are very proud to have transitioned that to an independent body. We promised to have an independent crime stats body. We have delivered that. That work has transitioned to that independent crime stats body and that body is working on that work right now.

Brisbane Live

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of the Brisbane Live project and what entertainment offerings facilities such as this will support?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Capalaba for the question because I know he would be incredibly excited about hopping on a train from Thorneside and heading into a major musical event in the city as opposed to having to travel all the way out to Boondall.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms TRAD: I am not entirely sure whether there has been anything controversial I have said so far, but those opposite should stay tuned, I reckon. Brisbane Live is a once-in-a-generation project that could come to life because of the Cross River Rail project. This is about delivering world-class public transport and also catalysing development right throughout our city. Entertainment facilities are just one aspect. We are very pleased to be working on the business case. The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority is leading that in consultation with the industry leader AEG Ogden and I look forward to it being completed in the not-too-distant future. We all know how much we love music and culture. It is a fantastic thing.

Ms Jones: Well, we do on this side.

Ms TRAD: Yes, we do on this side. I take that interjection from the minister for tourism. It is incredibly important to have a vibrant music and cultural industry. We love music. We love our old favourites. In fact, I have noticed there are a few comeback tours and reunions happening throughout Australia and here in Brisbane. John Farnham is playing A Day on the Green. Our very own John Farnham equivalent in the federal parliament, Barnaby Joyce, just keeps coming back even when we think he has gone. In a deeply divided National Party, we have learned Barnaby Joyce is doing the numbers. All I can say is I hope Peter Dutton is not his tour manager. I hope Peter Dutton is not helping him on his tour.

I see he is going to take his tour on the road, just like Shania Twain who is playing in Boondall in November. All I can say to Barnaby is I don't think that impresses us much. I saw that Michelle Landry was in the paper today saying she thought Barnaby is going to be leader again. I say to Michelle that she should think bigger than that. She should put herself forward. The blokes have stuffed up the National Party so much and, man, she feels like a woman, she should certainly do the job.

Looking at the National Party I reckon they are more Eagles fans. They are also having a reunion. If 'Desperado Barnaby' becomes leader again Queensland is going to definitely feel some heartache tonight. I have some advice for Barnaby: parliament is not Hotel California; he can check out any time he likes and he can definitely leave.

Cross River Rail

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. Given that the Queensland Investment Corporation is a consortia member of a shortlisted bidder for Cross River Rail, a project that the Deputy Premier has direct responsibility for, will the Deputy Premier table the advice from the Integrity Commissioner on how to manage the clear conflict of interest from the secondment of an officer of QIC to a senior role in her office?

Ms TRAD: With the second question in as many days, I thank the new deputy leader of the opposition for his question. From the outset, I acknowledge that QIC is a bidder in terms of the Cross River Rail delivery project. That is fantastic. Investing Queensland superannuation funds into Queensland infrastructure projects is a great thing. Of course, that would not happen if those opposite were in government, because they actually do not believe in the Cross River Rail project and they do not believe in infrastructure projects or public transport. I can advise the House that the secondee from QIC had absolutely nothing to do with anything remotely associated with the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority or the project.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, Deputy Premier. Member for Broadwater, you are warned under standing orders. You have been repeatedly interjecting today and your interjections have been designed to disrupt.

Ms TRAD: As those opposite know, because they asked questions on notice in relation to this issue, and quite frankly it is abundantly clear to me that today they have absolutely nothing to put to the government—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection; it is actually grubby. The person being referred to by those opposite worked exclusively on the preparation of the MYFER and the state budget, and that alone.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on the achievements of the Palaszczuk government in developing the Queensland economy and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister has not even spoken and you are interjecting. Such interjections will not be tolerated.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Gladstone for his question and pay tribute to his ongoing work to strengthen the Gladstone economy. The Palaszczuk government continues to deliver on an economic agenda that is making a difference not just to Gladstone but also to Queensland. We are leading the nation when it comes to exports with over \$76 billion worth over the past year, an increase of over 70 per cent on the result under the CEO premier, Campbell Newman. Over 177,000 jobs have been created under this government. Investment in equipment and agriculture is up. Business confidence, tourism and interstate migration are all up under the leadership of the Premier. Of course, that stands in stark contrast to the wasteland we inherited and the complete economic policy vacuum that sits on the other side of the House.

Who could forget the member for Everton, the alternative Treasurer, in the greatest train-wreck interview since Campbell Newman declared that Queenslanders did not appreciate what he had done for them, saying on ABC radio that having a debt plan was irrelevant and irresponsible? Who can forget the member for Nanango's budget reply speech when her big plan to put air conditioning in every Queensland classroom, state and non-state, lasted as long as it took for her to walk out of the chamber? Members will remember the LNP's promise to force government owned power generators, which they wanted to sell, to invest in renewable energy. That lasted as long as Peter Dutton at a Malcolm Turnbull tribute dinner.

What is the go with the LNP? Yesterday we heard the federal environment minister, 'Melissa Everyone has their Price', tell the former Kiribati president that Pacific islanders were not really interested in climate change; they were really only interested in the cash. I am surprised that she did not add that it was okay to be white. Two months ago, Dutton challenged Turnbull and we got Morrison. Now Joyce is challenging McCormack and we will get Littleproud. All the while in the House, the member for Broadwater—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister—

Mr DICK:—sits and watches and waits.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, the minister could not hear me calling the House to order because you were too loud. Member for Burleigh, you will use members' correct titles in future. You are warned under standing orders. Minister, I would like to ensure that we hear a bit more about the Queensland economy.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left!

Mr DICK: When it comes to stability—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, this is not play time. Your behaviour today has been unruly. It has been disorderly. I will start sending out repeat offenders who are already warned under standing orders. I will not hesitate.

Mr DICK: When it comes to stability and economic plans, the LNP stands for literally no plan.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Maroochydore is warned under standing orders.

Mr DICK: Deloitte Access Economics says that Queensland will lead economic growth in this nation for a decade. I repeat: Deloitte Access Economics says that Queensland will lead economic growth in this nation for a decade.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mr DICK: The only party that can deliver that is the Australian Labor Party.

Racing Industry

Mr LANGBROEK: My question without notice is to the Minister for Racing. Does the minister take responsibility for failing to properly consult and negotiate an acceptable funding arrangement for the racing industry prior to the introduction of Labor's new tax, given the industry's response of threats of strikes?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I thank the member for the question. I start by thanking the racing industry for the patience, grace and dignity that they show in their dealings with the government, particularly over the past couple of weeks. Just last week, as I referenced in my ministerial statement earlier today, we had a very productive meeting. Since that time we have seen a withdrawal of the threat of strike action or at least a postponement of it. I thank them for that.

At the meeting we heard firsthand about the needs of the industry, as I said earlier. I reiterate on the record the Palaszczuk government's support for the racing industry. As I said, this year the equivalent of more than 100 per cent of the revenue from the point-of-consumption tax will go into racing. Clearly, already arrangements are in place so that half of the revenue from the point-of-consumption tax in the out years is going back to the racing industry. That is in complete contrast to the mistruths and the assertions that have been made by some in this place and beyond, including in the news media, that there is no income back to the racing industry from the point-of-consumption tax. That is an out-and-out mistruth. It is an unmitigated mistruth.

I think it is important that the industry understands what this government is doing for the industry and that they are hearing that message. We are working with them, and not just with the thoroughbreds but also across all codes. That is why I will be having further meetings today with representatives from the racing industry and the harness industry. It is important that we continue to consult about this tax, which is all about getting something out of corporate bookmakers who have contributed nothing. It is about how we get something out of them and make sure that they contribute back to the industry, to the state of Queensland and to good outcomes, like contributing to programs to get people and particularly children who are underrepresented in sport involved in sporting activities in this state. That is where some of this funding is going. That is the right thing to be doing on behalf of Queenslanders.

I will continue to work in partnership with the Treasurer in her role overseeing the tax and with this industry to make sure that we continue to deliver for the racing industry as the Palaszczuk government has done in spades.

(Time expired)

Gold Coast, Innovation

Mrs McMAHON: My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. Will the minister please update the House on the how the government's innovation agenda is benefitting Gold Coasters?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I had the great privilege last week of officially opening the Gold Coast's brand-new innovation hub. This hub was jointly funded by the council—Mayor Tom Tate was there at the opening—and the state government as part of our Advance Queensland agenda where we are working to create innovation hubs in regional communities right across our state, including on the Gold Coast. Premier, you know what I am like. I am a very friendly, welcoming person.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Minister.

Ms JONES: I invited the federal member, Karen Andrews. She came along even though they did not put in a dime. It was great to see the Minister for Industry, Science and Technology there. I have to be honest, she spoke very passionately about the fact that she understands that innovation is key to Queensland's future and to Queensland's future growth. I am really hopeful that having this woman in this role of—they do not call it innovation—industry, science and technology at the leadership table federally will result in a change in perspective by the federal government when it comes to the importance of the new economy to create jobs for Queenslanders.

Innovation is not something that people tend to associate with the LNP federally. We only need to have a look at the very innovative idea that they are floating today, which is on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*—bringing back Barnaby Joyce as the National Party leader. Once again, it is classic Barnaby Joyce. First of all he is saying it is a bit of a grey area. He does not even know if he is the one running the leadership spill—'It's not my leadership spill. It could be someone else's leadership spill.'

What this shows is that on the eve of the by-election in Wentworth they are fighting amongst themselves. It is about time the Australian government started acting like a government—

A government member: What did Gary Spence say?

Ms JONES: That is right. Have you got your memo from Gary Spence yet about which way you have to vote in the next preselection?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you will direct your comments through the chair. I also direct you back to the core of the question.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left.

Ms JONES: What we have seen is a total lack of innovation and foresight by the National Party at a national level. What we have seen once again is that, instead of getting on with the job of governing for the people of this country, they are still fighting amongst themselves. The LNP are deeply divided. They are deeply divided in this parliament, as we have seen this week, to the point that threats are still being made against members of parliament in this House by elements of the LNP. They are deeply divided at a national level. Poor old Johnny Howard has had to get dragged out in the last few days to try to save them in Wentworth.

We know that the people of Australia are bright people. They know that they cannot trust a government that cannot govern themselves. I call on those opposite to say to their colleagues in Canberra, 'Stop fighting amongst yourselves and put the people of Queensland and Australia first.'

Racing Queensland

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Premier. Racing Queensland's chief executive officer, Mr Brendan Parnell, says that Labor's new 15 per cent point-of-consumption tax will decrease racing's funding base of gambling revenue. Can the Premier confirm whether Mr Parnell is correct?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we heard extensively this morning from the Minister for Racing, we value the racing industry here in Queensland. From the outset, can I thank everyone involved in the industry—tens of thousands of people are part of that industry—as well the public that supports that industry on a regular basis.

My government is committed to the racing industry. That is why we announced over \$70 million to be rolled out to country racing. In Queensland we have more racing tracks, because of the country racing element, than, I understand, any other state in Australia. That huge commitment of \$70 million

is my government saying that we value country racing in this state. The Deputy Premier and the racing minister announced just recently that we are also investing, from memory, \$20 million into two new racing tracks—a harness racing track and a greyhound track. I honestly believe that that is a bright future for the industry.

My government will continue to engage with the industry. We will continue to work with the industry, just as we will with every other industry in this state. We are a consultative government. We are prepared to listen to people's ideas. At the end of the day we know that we have so much money that has to be distributed fairly across this state. The racing industry is a very important industry, as are other industries. As people would understand, there are competing demands right across the state. We want to make sure it is fair and equitable. We will continue those discussions.

Mr STEVENS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker, in terms of standing order 118 and relevance to the question that was asked. The question asked was in relation to the CEO of Racing Queensland's comments that the new point-of-consumption tax would reduce gambling revenue, which is the funding base of racing.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you member for Mermaid Beach. I am listening to the Premier's answer—

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Education, you are warned under standing orders. The Premier still has time on the clock. I ask the Premier to address the core of that question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look at the comments in total. I do not have the comments in front of me. I am more than happy to look at the comments in total.

The other commitment that the Treasurer gave to the racing industry was to wipe half of their debt, which is another great signal to the industry. We have put more than \$36 million into racing integrity—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Surfers Paradise!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Since we have come to office, we have put an extra \$188 million into racing, which is a show of the confidence that the government has in the racing industry in this state.

Regional Queensland, Water Supply

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House what the government is doing with regard to water security in regional Queensland? Is the minister aware of any alternatives?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Rockhampton for his question. I also acknowledge the actions of the member for Keppel and the member for Gladstone in terms of water security not only for Central Queensland but all around Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring water security in regional Queensland. Even the federal government is aware of what this government is doing. For instance, in the Rockhampton-Gladstone region we dragged them into eventually supporting Rockwood Weir, but they are there.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: It seems that what the federal government is doing has not filtered through to those opposite. Let me quote from a media release this week featuring the members for Nanango, Burnett and Callide. It reads—

"If elected, an LNP Government will raise the Burdekin Falls Dam wall, get the Urannah and Nullinga Dam projects shovel ready and finally deliver Rockwood Weir for Central Queensland ...

What rock are they living under? What has the Palaszczuk government done? Some \$225 million—

Opposition members interjected.

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

Dr LYNHAM: There is \$225 million for Townsville water security; we have made the first commitment to half funding Rookwood Weir with \$350 million; and feasibility studies or business cases are already underway for raising Burdekin Falls Dam, Urannah Dam and Nullinga Dam. We have action on this side of the House; it is mere words on that side.

As is the case with any responsible government, to ensure value for money we are also assessing the facts very carefully. For those opposite to say that those projects will be delivered without necessary due diligence is foolish and irresponsible. We also heard this week about Paradise Dam. It is absolute scaremongering from those opposite.

While the Queensland LNP are making these wild promises, we get the news that Barnaby is making a comeback—good old Barnaby! On the eve of the Wentworth by-election, we have the National Party replaying the Dutton-Turnbull-Morrison debacle. In my time as the minister for water, we have had three federal water ministers—Baldwin, Barnaby and Littleproud—and now Barnaby is back. Barnaby Joyce is as effective a water minister as an underwater fish tank!

TAFE Queensland, Termination Payment

Ms SIMPSON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. TAFE's annual report stated that the ex-CEO resigned in September 2017, yet the annual report's financials reveal that a termination payment of \$390,000 was made. Will the minister explain why a termination payment of such a substantial amount was required given the annual report says the former CEO resigned?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. As has been reported, the former CEO did voluntarily resign—the current TAFE CEO is doing a fantastic job I have to say, driving enrolments in TAFE. The former CEO has confirmed that she left voluntarily. The details of the contract are a matter for TAFE. I understand that that is absolutely commercial-in-confidence.

Mr Speaker, let me tell you about this government's record on TAFE. This is a government that went to the last election with an \$85 million commitment to revitalise TAFE assets. What was the record of those opposite on TAFE assets? To close them down, to privatise them and to completely sell off TAFE assets. This side of the House absolutely believes in supporting TAFE as a premier public provider. That is why our government has announced free TAFE for year 12 graduates. What was their record? It was the sacking of thousands of TAFE teachers. It takes a while to rebuild TAFE after thousands of teachers have been sacked. You want to talk about people leaving TAFE—

Mr Powell interjected.

Ms Trad: What about Caltabiano—\$700,000 for lying!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, resume your seat. Deputy Premier, I ask you to withdraw those comments. They are unparliamentary.

Ms TRAD: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are under a warning already. You are coming very close to being ejected from the chamber.

Ms FENTIMAN: The irony is that the opposition are asking about someone who left voluntarily from the organisation when 2,000 TAFE teachers were sacked. They were forced out. On this side of the House, we absolutely believe in a decent public provider so that anyone—no matter where they live, no matter how much money they have—can get a first-class education at TAFE. Our 160 priority courses are the courses that industry tell us they will be needing in the years to come. That is why we have made them free. We have made them free for year 12 graduates.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The minister has not answered why the \$400,000 payment was made.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Member for Maroochydore, it is not an opportunity to re prosecute the case. I have listened carefully to the minister's response. She has referenced an answer to your question but has, I understand, reverted that to the TAFE as an organisation.

Ms Simpson: She hasn't answered it.

Mr SPEAKER: I will be the judge of whether she has answered the question, member for Maroochydore.

Ms FENTIMAN: Let's look at what TAFE has achieved in the last few years. Queensland is the only state that has bucked the national trend in terms of increases in commencements for apprentices and trainees. We absolutely want to see more apprentices and more trainees getting a first-class education at TAFE.

Today I can announce a milestone for our Back to Work program, which absolutely supports students getting an apprenticeship through TAFE. We have the 4,000th apprentice and trainee through our Back to Work program as of today. This is a government that absolutely backs TAFE, backs apprentices, backs trainees and backs year 12 students to get a great education. They sacked TAFE teachers. They privatised the assets. It is a complete joke that they ask about someone voluntarily leaving when they forced thousands out.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southern Downs, I did not want to interrupt the minister yet again. You are warned under standing orders.

Climate Change

Mr MELLISH: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Two major climate reports were released last week. Will the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government is ensuring that Queensland manages issues regarding climate change?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for Aspley for his question and for his ongoing commitment to the issues surrounding climate change, and for being on this side of the House where we believe that climate change actually exists.

As the member alluded to, a number of reports were released very recently at the federal level. One was the *Quarterly update of Australia's national greenhouse gas inventory*, which unfortunately showed a continuing rise in almost all sectors in terms of our emissions and that, despite the Morrison government spin, we are unlikely to reach important emissions targets in this country. On top of that we saw the United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report also released, and that gave us some grave concerns about the future and about the need for action right now.

The Palaszczuk government absolutely believes in the science and that climate change does exist. Unlike the LNP, we have always believed in expert advice and in science. Whilst the federal government dodges their responsibilities with regard to climate change, continuing to step away from creating policy at the national level around this, we are working very hard to ensure that we are working towards our own targets. Unfortunately, we have also seen from the opposition—

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Minister, resume your seat. Member for Broadwater and member for Scenic Rim, if you wish to have a conversation, take it outside. Do not loiter.

Ms ENOCH: Also, what we have seen at the federal level with the release of these reports is the absolutely woeful response of the federal LNP government. The federal Minister for Environment dismissed the science by saying that they are 'drawing a long bow', dismissing the eminent climate scientists and the report that they had provided. In fact, the federal LNP government's response was so woeful that even John Hewson, the former Liberal leader, said that, if the Liberal Party does not stand up and argue the case on this, people should be encouraged to vote against them.

It has not been any better from those opposite either. When they came to power they cut the Office of Climate Change. They cut ClimateSmart Home Services. They cut the Sustainable Energy Innovation Fund. They were some of the first actions that they took. On this side, we have set some very critical targets: 50 per cent renewables by 2030; zero net emissions by 2050; we are working on carbon farming; we are introducing a Land Restoration Fund; and, of course, we established vegetation management laws in this state to ensure that we were meeting our emissions targets in Queensland. On this side of the House we take climate change very seriously and we are putting the policies and targets in place to address it.

(Time expired)

Climate Change

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Ten days ago the world's top scientists at the IPCC confirmed that the world must stop burning thermal coal by 2050 to avoid catastrophic global warming, including the total destruction of the Great Barrier Reef. Does the minister accept the IPCC's findings and what is the government's plan to stop burning and exporting thermal coal by 2050?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for the question. We all know back in 2015, 195 countries adopted the Paris Agreement's commitment to limit global warming to well below two degrees Celsius and as close to 1.5 degrees as possible. The member is referring to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. On 8 October 2018 a special report was released limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees above pre-industrial levels. The special report examines pathways to achieve this target, and these pathways illustrate a range of ways the 1.5 degrees target could be reached including through rapid uptakes in renewable energy sources—exactly what we are doing here in Queensland and exactly as per the previous response of the environment minister.

Can I relay his concerns, which I agree with, especially with the federal government? We are still in the dark as to the current status regarding the National Energy Guarantee. I have written to the energy minister asking what the government position is on the National Energy Guarantee, and we have not heard a thing. It is very disappointing. What we have is media reports, but it appears that the emissions reduction target is gone. They might as well rip up the Paris Agreement now let alone talk about it, as par for the federal government.

They have walked away from emissions. They said that they would get the 26 per cent reduction in emissions in a cakewalk. The 26 per cent reductions emission was based on assumptions by the Energy Security Board. The assumption was that the NEG would be implemented. Without any NEG, those assumptions are worthless. The only way they are going to get to 26 per cent is through the actions of the Queensland government and other governments such as Victoria. Only through us can they get to 26 per cent emissions reduction. If the Andrews government is not elected in Victoria, that 26 per cent trajectory will be under threat. It is only the state governments that are pulling their weight here. The Queensland government has consistently had strong, stable policies—a 50 per cent renewable energy target. Anyone who wants to invest in renewable energy in Australia is coming to Queensland. There are 16 projects underway, with another 16 on the way and 71 projects all lined up. A key component of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's illustrative pathways is the requirement to increase the renewable energy share of electricity generation by between 48 per cent and 60 per cent by 2030. We are doing this in spades.

Women

Mrs MULLEN: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister please update the parliament on some of the dangerous attitudes towards women in our community and the risks posed by these attitudes?

Ms FARMER: I thank the member for the question, particularly in Sexual Violence Awareness Month. I know that all members on this side of the House would have been appalled at the allegations made during the confirmation hearing of United States Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. Christine Blasey Ford shared her harrowing story of sexual assault in the most public of forums and was mocked across America. While most of the world stood back and watched in horror at her treatment, the Young Liberals of Australia were thrilled. 'Common sense has prevailed,' they said when Brett Kavanaugh was appointed. 'Tremendous selection.'

One in five women over the age of 15 in Australia have been victims of sexual assault, but as shocking as those statistics are we know that sexual assault is under-reported. One of the reasons it is under-reported is the harassment women go through when they talk out loud about their experiences. It is exactly the sort of harassment that the Young Liberals cheered on. It is exactly the sort of harassment Christine Blasey Ford experienced, and it is exactly the sort of harassment that Catherine Marriott experienced when she made a private complaint to the Western Australian National Party about Barnaby Joyce and subsequently had her name plastered all over the country.

Clearly, Young Liberals with shocking attitudes towards women turn into older Liberals with shocking attitudes towards women. We have heard quite a lot in the last few months about the bullying and harassment that women in the federal LNP have had at the hands of those men, but the fundamental issue in all of this—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I would like to hear the minister's response.

Ms FARMER: The fundamental issue in all of this is respect. We only have to look at those opposite to see that there are six women in their whole caucus to know how important the LNP thinks women are. We had the member for Everton in estimates last year complaining about four women

being appointed to the Parole Board—four women, for goodness sake! This government is appointing them as quickly as we can—47 per cent up from 31 per cent when they were in government. As quick as we appoint them, he wants to pull them off. Do members know the reason he was so upset? Because 92 per cent of the prisoners are men. There is a point there, because 52 per cent of our population are women. That is why women should be treated equally and they should be treated with respect. In this place we have such an important role to play in leading on attitudes towards women. We are doing our bit on this side of the House and it is time that the LNP did their bit.

(Time expired)

Renting Reform

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works. I table a number of Facebook posts from 34 government MPs advising constituents that the government is conducting a rental reform survey but directing them to a Queensland Labor Party data mining site instead of the official Queensland government website. Can the minister tell the House whether Queensland Labor has handed over the data to the government?

Tabled paper. Extracts from the Facebook pages of various members of the Legislative Assembly [1676].

Mr SPEAKER: The minister has one minute to answer.

Mr de BRENNI: I think it is fantastic that the member for Burleigh is sharing with the community of Queensland how important it is to talk about rental reform. I heard the member for Burleigh mention it in his adjournment speech the other night. It is not unusual for members of this House to engage with constituents about issues that matter to them. In fact, the member for Burleigh might want to start talking to renters in his electorate about rental reform.

A government member: Too busy on a cruise.

Mr de BRENNI: Too busy on a cruise? We have opened the doors through rental reform and we will keep doing it. Over 31,000 Queenslanders have already had a say through the government survey. I encourage every member of the House, particularly the members on the Gold Coast including the member for Burleigh, to start engaging with their constituents about rental reform.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (11.17 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. During question time the member for Mermaid Beach asked a question of the Premier in which he quoted, or claimed to quote, the CEO of Racing Queensland, Brendan Parnell.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: It appears—and I hear that that seems to be now confirmed—that it comes from an article published on 29 June 2018 in which there are a number of quotes from Mr Parnell but it does not include the quote used by the member for Mermaid Beach. That appears to be a reference to remarks made by the author of the article, a commentator in the *Courier-Mail*, and reflects what the corporate bookmakers are saying. I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, asking for you to adjudicate as to whether this is a deliberate misleading of the House.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 20 September (see p. 2750).

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (11.18 am), continuing: I started this speech in the previous sitting week and I wish to continue it. Before I do that, I wish to congratulate the Speaker on his election to high office and thank him for his rulings.

When I spoke last, I told the House about the spirit of Logan and the people who battled through the floods that we experienced, and I thank the Premier for visiting North Maclean and meeting with families at that point. I do think I represent an extraordinary electorate, one where there are great people who look after each other.

I also reflected on the democracy that we have and the election process. It is vitally important that we do not take our democracy for granted. We recognise that the diggers who stood together at Eureka and the shearers who gathered under the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine did so to assert the rights of ordinary working people to vote, protest and be treated fairly.

I wish to recognise through the election process Queensland's trade unions, especially the Australian Workers' Union, the Plumbers Union, the Transport Workers Union, the Electrical Trades Union and really all of the unions in Queensland. They fight so hard for the workers of Queensland in their workplaces, but they also encourage their members to be active citizens, participating in the political process. We hear so often those on the other side attacking our trade unions. We do not hear them talk about the dedicated men and women who feel themselves called to take on the tough job of representing their fellow workers. The voluntary delegates at each workplace and those who work to organise and represent workers all make a contribution to a better, fairer Queensland.

I want to thank my campaign team of Teresa, David, Elliott, Hazel, Chrystel and Joe. They ran the campaign and ensured that I could spend my time talking to people directly. I wish to thank the central campaign team of the Australian Labor Party, especially Evan, Josh and also especially Jon. I know that Jon's passion to organise and win individual seats made a difference for many on this side. I wish to thank all of the volunteers—Michael and Jen, Rod, Patricia, David, Tari, Scott, Michael, John, Doug, Brett, Eric, Liam, Mainaaz, Victor, Tom, Jill, Stuart, Steve, Don, Lilian, Portia, Thomas, of course Heals, Rod and Jack and Tom, Max, my old flatmate John, Julian, Glynis, Kate, Lisa, Nelson and the many others who came through and helped. I want to particularly thank the younger Labor members who added so much energy to the campaign. They are part of a great passionate generation that will strive to make our nation fairer.

I recognise the new members in this place who bring a new dynamic, especially my bench mates, the members for Rockhampton and Cairns—as well as the members for Redlands, Aspley, Gaven and Mansfield.

Ms Howard interjected.

Mr POWER: No, you are not new. They bring a new voice to take this government up to an even higher level. I also mention the member for Cook—wow, there are a lot of them.

While I am at it, I would also like to thank all of the volunteers for all of the candidates in Logan. We got on really well. We shared sunscreen, drinks and bikkies. We recognised in the spirit of being from Logan that, although we might have different ideas about how to make a better, fairer Queensland, we are all willing to make a debate in public and be part of the precious and fragile gift of democracy in our state.

In that same spirit, I wish to recognise the other candidates—Gloria Vicario, Liam Jenkinson, Scott Bannan, Danielle Cox and Daniel Murphy. I know better than most that not winning after putting your name on the ballot and working hard to put forward your position is very tough. I did the same in 2012 and I know how tough it was. I thank their families. Although their names were not on the ballot and they were not in public, they worked just as hard and cared just as much.

The pre-poll station was in an industrial shed in Logan Village. It was crowded with volunteers from all the candidates, with many voters shaking hands with all the candidates. Some even took the time to question each of the candidates in turn about an issue that really mattered to them. All of the volunteers and candidates were good humoured. We shared the one tent, helping together to set up each day so that we could get a little shelter from the rain or sun. During a storm, we all stood together holding the frame and stopping it from taking off to Yarrabilba. Don't ever say that political candidates cannot work together because we certainly did that day.

I wish to recognise someone special, the former Speaker of this House and former member for Logan, John Mickel. John helped out on the campaign team. Over the 20 years I have known him, he has given me enormous guidance in politics and in life. John sees service through Labor politics as a calling to fight for those who have tried hard in life to get a better life for their family but society did not always reward. He is still active in the local area, volunteering on community boards and groups, and he is always there to give me advice when I need it.

I want to especially thank my wonderful wife, Jacki, who is such an enormous support. She is equally passionate about social justice, and we try to pass on to our three children our family's belief in social justice for all Australians. I want to thank Jack, Caitlin and Lucy, who were here last night, for all their help. Jack is a great help with signs and is very much determined to do the handing out. He reads all about politics and often puts tough questions to Jacki and me at the kitchen table, including speaking to me last night about the tough issues that we debated in this House yesterday.

Caitlin and Lucy are wonderful too and a key part of my campaign team. They sometimes miss me when I am in this place, but I think they also grow as young citizens when we discuss issues and they see their parents caring so much about these topics. I miss you too, but I am proud of the amazing way in which you are developing.

One new member I did not mention earlier, because I was saving it, is the member for the newly created seat of Jordan. Charis Mullen, the new member for Jordan, and I are forming a formidable team to advocate for the issues in our area. It is great to join with her and to see her passion for the area of Flagstone and the surrounds that she represents so powerfully. It means we are a team advocating for these people.

I want to comment briefly on the redistribution. I found it extraordinarily tough to lose some of the areas that I stood for. I felt that the redistribution did not deal well with the methods and plans of transport. Unlike the disgraceful effort of the member for Glass House, I will not seek to politicise the role of the redistributors or suggest that any party had anything to do with it. Perhaps the member for Glass House felt that the redistribution had not served him well and that there were some other forces at play. I felt exactly the same and I wrote passionately about it. However, I accept that we have a very strong system of independent people making those decisions. To suggest otherwise is to disgustingly undermine the process of a fair democracy we have in this state. I would never seek to do that. Although I believe they got the redistribution wrong in my particular area, I do not suggest they did it for any ulterior motives. For anyone to suggest otherwise is frankly disgusting.

As I said earlier, when I was elected I made a simple pledge to continue to fight to stop the LNP cuts, to restore services and to invest in our local community. I made this same pledge to the people of Logan in 2015, and I believe that the Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on those things and is delivering them.

On the doorstep in 2015, I spoke about the bus services that were cut locally and I said I would do my best to improve public transport. I spoke of the neonatal maternity services that were cut in Browns Plains and I said I would do my best to restore them. I spoke about how the LNP only added \$1 million to the roads budget, despite the desperate need and, again, I promised to do my best to get extra investment. Members will note that I did not make extravagant, long-term promises—just a commitment to work hard and do my best as the advocate for Logan.

When I came to be elected in 2015, I was bitterly disappointed that there had only been an investment in two turn lanes with a budget of \$865,000. This was a wasted investment, as it turns out, as these turn spots will shortly be closed as part of the North Maclean safety project. As I said, I did not make extreme promises but instead I committed to work to turn it around. I would like to thank the Minister for Main Roads for constantly putting up with my demands, requests, questions, meetings and even pleadings. I know that under him the Mount Lindesay has had very much a fairer hearing than it had under the LNP. I warn him though that it does not mean I will not try even more to make up for the inaction of the LNP in the past.

I would like to talk to the House about some of the investments we have made. There is \$20 million in the budget for duplicating to four lanes the highway in Park Ridge South between Rosia Road and the intersection of Stoney Camp Road and Granger Road. There is \$20 million to put in a service road between St Aldwyn Road and Greenbank Road. That construction work has begun; they are clearing the path. We have already done the community consultation and I hope to be out there with the member for Jordan to talk more about it. There is the vitally important upgrade to the dangerous Greenbank Road intersection identified by the RACQ as one of the most dangerous. They recognise that we already had the money in the budget to fight for it. There is the uplift and four-laning of Camp Cable Road through Jimboomba. It is vitally important to those coming into Jimboomba. This upgrade means traffic will be able to stay in the left lane approaching Camp Cable Road and travel all the way through and then go up Tamborine Street without having to merge in and out.

There is the Camp Cable Road intersection upgrade that has already occurred. There are safer railings at Park Ridge; \$14 million in upgrades to Stockleigh Road; and then there is the \$40 million upgrade to Waterford Tamborine Road to install signals to improve safety, especially at Anzac Avenue.

This will mean that people who do not want to go back to Yarrabilba via the Anzac Avenue bridge will be able to safely make that right turn. There is also the upgrade to the North Street intersection, and surveyors are out at this very moment beginning that process; the money is in the budget. There is also \$5.8 million to be spent on Beaudesert-Beenleigh Road. These are strong investments in our roads. I know there is more to be done and I will continue to advocate for my constituents. I am pleased to be joined by the member for Jordan. We recently released an update to the very comprehensive report which is the West Mount Lindesay plan. This upgrade identifies new projects. They are the ones for which we have been fighting internally and I hope the community gets behind them.

We know that young people have limited experience, skills and confidence and can find it difficult to get work. If they do not get the experience or work for some time, they have a far greater chance of becoming habituated to not working. That is why I was gutted when the LNP cut the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program that was providing such great value for taxpayers and ensuring that Queenslanders were work ready. I was so proud when we restored the program but was even prouder when I saw the really good community projects being completed such as the new museum building at Logan Village, the renovation and fencing of the RSL at Jimboomba and things like the Greenbank Pony Club and St Clare's at Yarrabilba among others. We are often given the facts, identified in outside consultant reports, that this is a strong return to government in terms of improving employment outcomes. On the ground, however, I see more of the feeling of pride and achievement of young people and their team leaders. They are rightly proud of the lasting legacy they leave their community.

As I said, I was disappointed that the pre-birth and post-birth care for mums and bubs was cut from Browns Plains Community Health Centre. That meant that expectant mums and mums with a bub who do not have a car would have to travel to Logan Hospital on the 560 bus service. Incidentally, that was one of the bus routes that had bus services cut. The service was cut and the way to get to the new service was made more difficult. That is why it was with a real sense of achievement that, together with the member for Waterford and with the assistance of the member for Woodridge, the then health minister, we restored this service. Together we got the data that Logan had a greater percentage of mothers who did not make the recommended number of visits with a corresponding link to lower birth weights and worse lifetime outcomes. We have restored this service and there is a passionate team based out of the Benevolent Society at the Browns Plains Community Health Centre. I think restoring this for those mums who did not have proper access is one of my proudest achievements during my time here.

I wanted to speak more about the restoration of bus services, especially the innovative demand responsive transport service. I wanted to speak more about the schools: zero schools were developed under the LNP and we have put in place more than 40. I wanted to talk about police—how the new police expansion at Logan Village will more than double the number of police officers servicing Logan Village and Yarrabilba. I wanted to speak about the new fire services we are upgrading to auxiliary status and then building the full fire station. Those opposite cut our health services, they cut our transport services, they cut funding for our roads, but we build them. The Labor Palaszczuk government builds our schools, builds our roads and funds our medical services.

(Time expired)

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Condamine, I will read the warnings given this morning: the members for Nicklin, Coomera, Kawana, Cooper, Everton, Moggill, Glass House, Toowoomba South, Broadwater, Burleigh, Maroochydore, Buderim, McConnel, Gympie and Southern Downs. I see that most of them are not in the chamber.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not too late. We still have an hour and a half before lunch, member for Chatsworth.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.34 am): It gives me great pleasure to rise as a member of the 56th Parliament representing the seat of Condamine to deliver my address-in-reply speech. To begin, I congratulate the Hon. Curtis Pitt on the honour of being elected Speaker of this House. Having myself been given the privilege of being one of the temporary Speakers, I look forward to working with the Speaker and other temporary Speakers throughout this term.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you and others in this establishment know, politics can be a brutal game. Our time in this place is uncertain. At every election seats are won and lost and new faces replace the old. I have been lucky enough to have been re-elected for my second term. For the first

time I have witnessed colleagues and friends with whom I served lose their seats. Some of those losses were harder than others, and I make special mention of the former member for Hinchinbrook, Andrew Cripps, and the former member for Redlands, Matt McEachan. I wish them and all our other colleagues who were not returned all the best for the future whatever path they choose to follow.

I would also like to acknowledge our former member who retired at the end of the 55th Parliament: Lawrence Springborg, Jeff Seeney and Ian Rickuss. All of these members made significant contributions to the parliament and their respective electorates. When I first joined the then National Party in March 2003 I received a letter welcoming me to the party from the then new leader of the opposition, Lawrence Springborg. I met Lawrence soon afterwards and a friendship began which endures to this day through all the ups and downs of the political world. There are few people I have met during the course of my life that I would hold in higher regard than Lawrence Springborg. No-one could deny his dignity or integrity.

Whilst Lawrence never achieved his dream of becoming the premier of this state, he did in my opinion become the greatest health minister this state has seen during his time as a minister in the LNP government. Our health system was in crisis after years of neglect by Labor and in one term Lawrence managed to overhaul Queensland's disastrous health system, something a series of former ministers were incapable of doing. He did this not by simply throwing buckets of money at the problem but by addressing the issue of delivery outcomes, getting the best value for every dollar invested and introducing an outcomes based service delivery—a simple approach that worked very successfully. I will always be honoured to have served in the same parliament as my friend and mentor Lawrence Springborg. I wish him well for whatever the future may hold for him, Linda and the family.

I would also like to acknowledge the contribution made to this state by the former member for Callide, Jeff Seeney. Whilst Jeff could be a little less subtle at times, his contributions over his 20 years as a member of this parliament, especially during his time as deputy premier, cannot be disputed. The Royalties for the Regions program was one of his many achievements and an achievement of which he was immensely proud. This program led to some long-awaited infrastructure improvements for regional Queensland. I send my best wishes to Jeff, Therese and their family for a prosperous future.

I acknowledge the contribution of the former member for Lockyer, Ian Rickuss, or 'Ricko', as he was warmly known to most of us. I do not need to remind members of Ricko's unusual fashion sense and his somewhat unruly and unconventional behaviour at times in this establishment. These are just some of the reasons we will all remember fondly the former member for Lockyer. It was Ian's response to a particular event that occurred on 10 January 2011 that will always be front and centre of my memories of Ian. On that day, after torrential rain in Toowoomba, a wave of water swept down the range and decimated towns in the Lockyer Valley, particularly Withcott and Grantham. The damage inflicted was something usually only seen in a war zone: houses and buildings were swept away and destroyed and 12 lives were lost, and some of those bodies have never been recovered.

There would be few members of this parliament—or in this country—who have ever had to face the scale of destruction and loss of life that Ian faced after the events of that terrible day. I know the effect that event had on Ian and his wife, Ann, as they helped the community deal with their grief and rebuild devastated infrastructure. Ian and Ann worked tirelessly to assist in every way possible to assure all of their Lockyer communities were given the support they needed to go forward. They spent countless hours helping with the clean-up, listening to the locals' stories and fighting for whatever was necessary to get the community mobile again. I wish Ian and Ann all the best in the future.

I would like to congratulate the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, on her election to the role of Leader of the Opposition. It is often said that there is no tougher role in politics than being the Leader of the Opposition, but the member for Nanango has embraced the challenge with enthusiasm and energy. It will be my role and the role of all members on this side of the chamber to ensure that she becomes the next premier of this state. I also congratulate the member for Everton, Tim Mander, on his election as deputy leader. I know that he will be a great support to the leader during this term. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the new members of the LNP team on their election success. I wish them all the best during this term.

The recent electoral boundary redistribution has seen some significant changes to the seat of Condamine. Whilst the southern border has remained the same with the larger townships of Clifton, Cambooya and Pittsworth remaining in the electorate, elsewhere there were major changes. On the eastern side of Toowoomba the suburb of Darling Heights is now part of Toowoomba South in the hands of David Janetzki, whilst the growing town of Meringandan is now part of Condamine. The towns of Crows Nest and Quinalow in the north approximately halfway between Bowenville and Dalby are among the new boundary changes.

The largest town of the former electorate of Condamine, Dalby, now resides in the seat of Warrego. That was one of the biggest surprises of the redistribution, especially given the fact that my electoral office is located there and the staff reside in and around Dalby. My office and I are currently working with Parliamentary Services to relocate the office to the town of Oakey in the site of the now closed ANZ Bank building. At the time of writing this speech I was hopeful of moving in there before the end of this year. I am not so confident: I think it may be early next year before we finally get there.

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr WEIR: I have for a long time. These changes only add to the diversity that exists in the seat of Condamine. The seat is largely reliant on agriculture, with the cropping areas of Clifton, Felton, Brookstead and the Central Downs growing a diversity of broadacre crops, both irrigated and dryland: cotton, sorghum, corn, wheat and barley as well as pulses like chickpeas and mung beans. Horticultural cropping through the Felton Valley and other areas produces lettuce, carrots, onions and figs, to name a few. Much of this is exported or sent to restaurants in Queensland, Sydney and Melbourne. Pork and poultry production remains very important in the Clifton and Pittsworth areas, with new free-range poultry expansions dotted throughout this area. With the addition of the area north of the Warrego Highway, Condamine now has the highest concentration of beef feedlots in the country. The country north of the highway is predominantly grazing and cereal grains, but it also includes a number of dairy farms. One of those dairies is owned by the Rosenberg family, who milk about 900 cows per day.

I cannot help but be impressed with the sense of community in these towns. Communities like Quinalow, Kulpi, Goombungee, Haden and Crows Nest are all extremely proud of their heritage and are always looking for ways to enhance their townships. It was in the small town of Haden that I cast my vote in the 2017 election at the Haden school. My mother was a student at the Haden school and her father—my grandfather, Jack Coonan—was a first-day student when the school opened its doors back in 1912. His father—my great-grandfather, Tim Coonan—was the treasurer of the committee formed to build a new school for the town. Tim Coonan was a well-known identity in the Haden-Crows Nest area for a few reasons, not the least being his physique. He was a very big man: six foot six and 22 stone, I am told. Any of the old photographs from the time show Tim standing about a head taller than anyone else in the picture.

He did not have an easy start to life, as his father, who was an Irish immigrant, was killed in a fall from a horse aged 42. Tim was only a very young boy. One can only imagine the hardship that his mother had to endure to raise a young family alone in that era. Despite this, Tim went on to many different tasks and enterprises in his life, including owning and running a small dairy farm and building a couple of hotels. He built and owned the Royal Hotel in Haden, and my grandfather told me many stories about growing up around the pub and the many characters he met during that time. It sadly burned down sometime after Tim sold it to concentrate on the family farming enterprise. My grandfather, Jack Coonan, was great friends with the French family from Crows Nest. The family owned the local barbershop with Albert, the father, and John, the son, both working there. Albert was your typical barber, full of local gossip and chatty, while John was much quieter. John enlisted for service in the Second World War and was killed at Milne Bay in New Guinea on 4 September 1942. He was posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for outstanding bravery—one of only 20 VCs awarded to Australians during the war. John French is one of Crows Nest's most famous sons.

Although the seat of Condamine has a long history of agriculture, it also has large manufacturing, engineering and construction sectors. These industries employ a large number of people and have been growing at a rapid rate over the past five to six years. There are several major projects within the Condamine electorate, including the second range crossing, the Charlton industrial area and the Wellcamp airport. These have all contributed to the growth of the area and will ensure a strong economic future for the region.

The areas south-west of Toowoomba are experiencing rapid growth, with a large number of housing developments being approved and built upon. With these houses come families, who then require services and infrastructure to support them. Westbrook, Hodgson Vale and Wyreema are just three of the communities to experience a substantial rise in population over the past four to five years. Land is being developed for more residential blocks and commercial purposes. This is the time to start looking at the future needs of these areas. Medical, educational, recreational and emergency services requirements all need to be addressed now to ensure the community has access to essential public amenities.

The township of Oakey is experiencing two ongoing issues: the contamination of underground water from firefighting foam used at the Army aviation base and stage 3 of the New Hope Acland coalmine. Unfortunately, these issues have meant a downturn in the property market, with residences in the middle of the contamination zone being difficult to sell and small businesses suffering. The mine employs 300 people, 160 contractors and approximately 2,300 indirect jobs. All of these people are concerned for their future if stage 3 is not approved. In true Oakey form they are fighting to keep their town alive. Residents have the most amazing community spirit, and their loyalty to the town is remarkable.

The same community spirit is demonstrated with the three major tourist attractions that lie within the Condamine boundaries and are a tribute to our pioneering past: the Royal Bull's Head Inn, DownsSteam—which is an historical railway museum—and the Jondaryan Woolshed. None of these facilities would be able to operate without the assistance and dedication of a large band of volunteers. I am immensely proud of the work that is constantly being done to improve, restore and beautify these attractions. They are a tribute to those who volunteer.

Since becoming the member for Condamine I have met a lot of people, and this has been one of the most enjoyable parts of being a member of the Queensland parliament. Many meetings have been to discuss personal issues and views, many have been to support community organisations and events, and many have been to meet with small business owners who have generously given of their time to proudly show me what they have achieved. There have been so many great moments and memories. It is a difficult job sometimes; however, the incredible people you meet along the way make it all worthwhile.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the support my family have given me since I became a member of parliament. They are always there to help me when asked—especially my mother, Mary, who resides in the town of Pittsworth, and my children, Amy and Sam. I would like to thank Peter Wilson, Bradley Siddans, Jo Saal and Pam Grundy, who have served on the executive of my SEC. Your support and encouragement are appreciated. I thank my staff—Lisa, Kylie, Sarah and Wendy—for their dedication, support and ongoing loyalty. Without them I would be completely lost. I would like to particularly acknowledge the work of Kylie, who is always there to guide, push, correct and encourage me. I remain dedicated to the electorate of Condamine and all of the remarkable people I have met so far on this journey.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (11.50 am): Madam Deputy Speaker Pugh, I start by acknowledging your elevation to the important role of temporary Speaker in this parliament and acknowledging the elevation of the member for Mulgrave to the very high office of Speaker of the parliament. The member for Mulgrave and I were elected at the same time, in 2009. I have known him for a very long time. There are very few people who have the integrity and decency of the member for Mulgrave. He is a very suitable appointment to that high office of Speaker.

I take this opportunity to thank the people of the Morayfield state electorate for their support of me at the 2017 election and the previous elections I participated in. I love the Morayfield state electorate and the people who live within it. I grew up in the area. I have lived there my entire life. I am very grateful for the friendship and support that so many people of our community have demonstrated towards me and for the hope and reliance that they communicate with me about the Labor Party's vision and plans for our community. They know that the Labor Party is the only party that is truly committed to fairness and equality for all people but particularly the people of the Morayfield state electorate.

That leads me to take the opportunity to thank the great Australian Labor Party and our movement, not only for their support of me but also for the courage of every single member of that movement, of our party—not only to stand for what is right and fair in our community but also to have really robust conversations around how we can achieve greater fairness, greater equality and greater diversity within our community.

I also take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who participated in my election campaign. The volunteers I had truly reflect the diversity of our community and our party. We had people volunteering on my campaign from different cultural backgrounds and with different family connections, different heritage and different skills, talents and experiences, but they were all united by the same passion: to support the Labor movement and the constant struggle to create a fairer, more decent, more equal society where every citizen has the opportunity to access good quality health and education services, regardless of their postcode or the size of their bank balance. During the campaign the term 'Mark's Morayfield motley mob' gained a bit of currency, because of the diversity of our volunteer base and also the swelling of our ranks throughout the campaign.

I particularly thank all of the volunteers who were involved in my campaign. Although I would love to thank them all personally and individually in this speech today, I must acknowledge the few extraordinary contributions that were made by some of the volunteers on my campaign. I start by acknowledging Yvonne and her truly superhuman contribution. Yvonne did everything on the campaign: she doorknocked, she was the prepoll captain and she was the campaign photographer. She even roped in her sons, David and Sam, to help out as well. Yvonne, thank you for your contribution and for your support of me.

I thank my campaign director and great mate Michael, who was fired up and ready to go from day one. I also thank Michael's wife, Krista, and their son, William. Their support was invaluable. I am very grateful for their support of me. I thank another great mate Drew, who was an absolute workhorse—early starts, late finishes and getting it all done. I thank Drew's mum, Lisa. Thank you not only for putting up with Drew but also for your support.

Michael and Mirian probably win the title of my most passionate supporters, because they actually put my face on the side of their car throughout the campaign. It continues to be there, mind you, just to demonstrate their support of me. I thank them for their tireless efforts and also for the early starts. They were always the first at those early morning street stalls.

Justin, who is probably the biggest Cowboys supporter in Morayfield—

Mr Harper: Good to see!

Mr RYAN: There is nothing wrong with being a Cowboys supporter! I thank Justin for his contribution. Justin battled all odds to participate fully in our campaign, to the extent that while he was in his wheelchair he helped me doorknock through a pretty bumpy area of the electorate. I thank Justin very much for his support.

I thank Michael, Zeph, Marilyn, Eddie, Shayne, Cathie, Glen, Flora, Trevor, Anja, Andrew, Deb, Clem, Harry, Tsian and friends, Saroja, Jaya, Karol—who we also call 'Cinnamon'—Jo, sign site installer extraordinaire Ian, Jane and her army of friends, Corrina and the Pink Belles, Grace and the hundreds of other volunteers. There were literally hundreds of volunteers. I thank them.

I particularly thank some new friends that I have gained through the last few years through my advocacy on a very important issue to them in our community—that is, support for students with disabilities and bus transport. I thank Jane and Rob, who actually came to the rescue with a shuttle bus on election day. One of the election booths that had been used in the electorate for many decades was not available on election day. To ensure that people from that part of the community were able to vote, Jane and Rob came to the rescue with a shuttle bus. They shuttled people from that part of the community to the nearest election booth. I thank Jane and Rob very much.

I thank everyone who supports our mighty movement: the unions, businesses, community groups, battlers, workers and families right across our state and our communities. Thank you very much for being part of our movement and for believing in the Labor Party as the party of chance and opportunity, the party of fairness and equality.

To my electorate office staff and volunteers, who truly are the heroes in my role as a representative of our community: thank you for everything you do for our most amazing community. Thank you for the help and the assistance that you provide to everyone who comes to us seeking advice, seeking comfort, seeking information. What you do is extraordinary, and I am grateful for your contribution.

I also thank my ministerial staff, both past and present. I have always maintained that the true honour is to be preselected as a Labor Party candidate and to participate in an election as a representative of our great movement, but it is indeed an extremely rare honour and an awesome opportunity to become a minister in a Labor government. It is truly extraordinary. To my ministerial team who help in that extraordinary opportunity: I am very proud to work with you and I am very proud of the work you do every day on behalf of our community and our state.

That leads me to thank my family. To my family and extended family but especially my parents, Pete and Robbie, who selflessly give everything when it is campaign time and also outside of campaign time: I truly am very lucky to be blessed with a family who dedicates so much to assisting me in my efforts as a political representative. I am very, very grateful for their contribution.

My wife, Holly, is such an important support to me. She does keep me very grounded. Those people who know Holly know that she is never backward in her contributions about what she thinks. She keeps me grounded but, most importantly, she makes those sacrifices that people who are in

political families have to make as a result of the contribution and commitment of a political representative in that family. She does so without complaint and with great support of me. I am so grateful to be on this journey with her. I know that as a result of my role it is very hard for me to dedicate all the time that I would love to dedicate to sharing life with Holly and our son, Danny.

I know that it is always a challenge when you have a young family for the pressures to be managed appropriately, but thanks to Holly and to Danny—Danny particularly, who is a great hit with the voters and who has also learnt already, with no influence on my part, to be vocal when he sees a Tory on TV. I do not know how he did that, but he is very vocal. It is just instinct I think. He is very vocal when he sees a Tory on TV. He is very wise at his young age. To Danny, thank you for learning quick and thank you for also being a great campaigner and I look forward to spending as much time as I can with you and your mum. Thank you for your love and understanding.

To some of my longest political friends—and they are going to hate me for saying this—to the member for Bancroft, Whitey, thank you very much. He is a neighbouring MP and I always take great guidance and support and encouragement from the member for Bancroft. Thanks also to Kingy, the member for Kurwongbah. We make a formidable team as part of the broader Moreton Bay Labor team and we look forward to knocking off those few non-Labor electorates at the next state election to ensure that the Moreton Bay region is Labor wall to wall.

I want to finish by acknowledging the positive campaign that our party participated in at the last election of delivering for locals, restoring those front-line services which were cut by the former Newman LNP government and creating job opportunities for locals. I was able to participate in the campaign around the state on the 'cuts bus' with ministers like the Minister for State Development, and everywhere we went around the state we continued to hear that consistent feedback—that people remembered what the Newman government did to them and that they were grateful that the Labor government was reversing them.

When you look at a track record of delivering for people the resources, the services and the supports that they need, you do not have to look any further than the record of a Labor government, particularly the Palaszczuk Labor government. Right across the state we heard the consistent message of the restoration of front-line services and the investment in health and education and policing services. Right across the state we saw the investment in new infrastructure and those services that so many Queenslanders rely on. We also heard that message as well—that the people of Queensland did not want the cuts and chaos that those opposite in coalition with other minor parties would deliver for our state. They wanted a stable and good government and they voted accordingly at the 2017 election, and I am very pleased that they did.

Some of the commitments that our government made locally which I am very happy to celebrate include an investment in new policing infrastructure in the Morayfield electorate with a new police station for Caboolture, and that police station is well underway; the upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital, a \$253 million upgrade of the Caboolture Hospital, with parts of it already underway; a new special school for the Caboolture area, with construction due to start next year; and a new upgraded train station for Morayfield, with construction underway as well. We see investment in those services and infrastructure that our community needs and it is an investment that a Labor government is providing.

I want to finish by expressing my great thanks and gratitude to the people of the Morayfield electorate for putting their faith in me to be their representative once again. They know that a Labor government is the only government that will deliver the services and the infrastructure that they need and I am very proud to be delivering it on their behalf in this parliament.

Debate, on motion of Mr Ryan, adjourned.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (12.04 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

MINERAL, WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 118).

Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.04 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The purpose of the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 is to implement certain recommendations from the independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland and also to streamline and improve the operation of the resources legislation. It also amends the Water Act 2000 to enhance the water-planning framework. The independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland, conducted by Professor Robert Scott, made a number of recommendations to improve the statutory negotiation and dispute resolution process for conduct and compensation agreements. These private agreements are made between landholders and resource authority holders and set out how and when the resource authority holder may enter land; to the extent they relate to the landholder or occupier, how authorised activities may be carried out; and the compensation liability to the landholder.

Some of the GasFields Commission review recommendations also extended to make-good agreements under the Water Act 2000. A make-good agreement is a legally binding agreement between a resource tenure holder and a bore owner about a water bore which has been, or is likely to be, impaired by the exercise of underground water rights. According to the GasFields Commission Queensland, there are over 5,700 conduct and compensation agreements in place in the petroleum and gas sector alone, with over \$387 million paid in compensation to landholders as at 30 June 2017. Based on 2018 data from the Department of Environment and Science, the GasFields Commission also advises that there are 73 bores which are currently under make-good agreements.

The amendments proposed today will improve the negotiation of these agreements, making the process for landholders and resources companies more straightforward and cost effective. In short, it is proposed to amend the statutory negotiation and dispute resolution process to include the following features: for a conduct and compensation agreement dispute, removing department-run conferences as a pathway for an application to the Land Court to determine a conduct and compensation agreement; providing that, where the parties trying to negotiate a conduct and compensation agreement or make-good agreement cannot agree on an alternative dispute resolution practitioner or type, these decisions can be referred to the Land Court or a prescribed alternative dispute resolution institute to resolve the matter; providing that the costs of the alternative dispute resolution practitioner for a conduct and compensation agreement or make-good agreement negotiation are paid by the resource authority holder, irrespective of who issues an alternative dispute resolution election notice; and providing a distinct arbitration process as an alternative to making an application to the Land Court.

It is also proposed to amend the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 to clarify that a resource authority holder is liable to pay for a landholder's reasonably and necessarily incurred negotiation and preparation costs, including legal, accounting and valuation costs, even where a conduct and compensation agreement or deferral agreement is not struck between the parties. The amendments also extend these costs to include the cost of an agronomist to assist in evaluating the impact of the proposed activities. Where there are disputes about reasonably and necessarily incurred costs, the Land Court's jurisdiction will include the power to determine whether the negotiation and preparation costs were necessarily and reasonably incurred by a landholder when negotiating a conduct and compensation agreement or deferral agreement.

In addition to the amendments that arose from Professor Scott's review, the bill also proposes amendments that will change the way compensation matters are dealt with for both mining claims and mining leases under the Mineral Resources Act 1989. These amendments will remove the requirement for the chief executive to automatically refer unresolved compensation agreements to the Land Court of Queensland for a determination. Instead, if the landholder and the resources company cannot reach a compensation agreement, then either of the parties may refer the dispute directly to the Land Court without the department's involvement. If after the negotiation period no compensation agreement has been reached and neither party has referred the application to the Land Court, then the responsible minister may decide to refuse the application after undertaking a show-cause process.

The bill also makes amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989 that clarify the regulatory framework for industry. The bill's amendments clarify the activities that are allowed to be undertaken on land used to access mining tenements. The bill provides that materials can be transported across the surface of the access land and that roads can be constructed but that these activities must be necessary for the authorised activities on the mining tenement. If the proposed activities exceed those authorised for the access land, such as the construction of a pipeline, for example, then the resource authority holder must apply for a mining lease.

Further amendments clarify the overlapping tenure safety framework requirements for joint interaction management plans to manage the risks from overlapping coal and petroleum and gas operations. The bill also confirms that the safety provisions of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 also apply to operations under Petroleum Act 1923 tenures or authorities.

We have also listened to the coalmining industry's calls for more flexibility to acquire exploration tenures. This bill creates a new division in the Mineral Resources Act 1989 that will allow coalmining projects a limited ability to apply for an exploration permit for coal outside of the tender process. This will allow applicants to obtain up to six sub-blocks of additional land to optimise the design of their mine. Certain restrictions will apply to applications under this division so that the competitive tender process is not undermined. These restrictions include limiting applications under this division to one application per coalmining project, that land applied for must be contiguous to the coalmining project and that the area applied for must not already be covered by an existing coalmining or exploration tenure or application for a coalmining or exploration tenure. The bill also proposes to make a number of miscellaneous minor amendments that will clarify and improve the operation of the resources acts as well as streamline their administration, modernise the drafting style, reduce red tape and correct minor technical errors.

The bill also proposes a number of amendments to enhance the water-planning framework to ensure that potential climate change effects and the values and interests of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are explicitly considered in water-planning processes. Growing regional economies and jobs can be supported through viable and active water markets throughout Queensland. The proposed amendments will also free up unused strategic water reserves to support short-term economic development opportunities. There is approximately 990,000 megalitres of water currently set aside under water plans as part of the state strategic infrastructure reserves. This is a win-win approach. It enables the release of water for up to three years for productive uses and retains the ability to meet future water needs through new dams and infrastructure. Markets also respond to and depend upon information to operate. That is why the bill proposes that the prices paid for the seasonal or temporary trade of water allocations in supplemented water supply schemes will be made publically available. This will complement the existing availability of price information relating to permanent water trades.

To recognise the need for day-to-day, on-farm maintenance and repairs, the bill provides for improved operational flexibility for landowners regarding their subartesian bores. Landowners should be able to undertake limited alterations, repairs or replacement to bore casing without the requirement to engage a licensed driller. This is, however, limited to the casing that is above the ground and no deeper than 1.2 metres below the surface. The proposed enhancements to the water-planning framework will enable Queensland to deliver upon its commitments to the Murray-Darling Basin in full and on time.

The draft Condamine-Balonne Water Plan and Border Rivers and Moonie Water Plan are no-growth catchments. These draft water plans propose to apply the new provisions of the bill and consider cultural outcomes and climate change. They also propose to protect existing water user rights and environmental water needs by applying the bill's amendments to limit the growth in take of water in areas, such as Stanthorpe, where there is highly connected surface water and shallow underground water; and for particular overland flow water.

The bill establishes a layer of protection provided by water plans when managing the capture and storage of contaminated agricultural water. It has been identified that an increasing number of new overland flow storages have been developed purportedly for the purpose of capturing contaminated agricultural run-off in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin. Since the start of 2016, a total of 1,572 megalitres have been approved to be captured in storages as contaminated agricultural run-off. This is double the rate of the previous eight years. Currently, there are also applications for a further 1,637 megalitres of contaminated agricultural run-off storage. This is now considered important, as growth in the take of this type of water is a real possibility, which may impact on water security for other users.

The bill's amendments will allow water plans to limit the take of overland flow water for contaminated agricultural run-off purposes. These limits will be no more than what is required to meet obligations under the Environmental Protection Act 1994. Without these checks and balances, existing agricultural enterprises could be affected by needing to offset the potential increase in water take by reducing existing entitlements. The amendments in this bill are critical for Queensland achieving Commonwealth Murray-Darling Basin Plan requirements, including basin plan sustainable diversion limits.

The proposed climate change enhancements to the water-planning framework reaffirm the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Climate Change Adaptation Strategy. In developing a water plan, climate change scenarios are modelled as part of the technical assessments. The scenarios are used to understand the risk that climate change might pose to water entitlements and environmental assets in a plan area. This information will be considered in developing water plan strategies and rules. The five-yearly periodic assessment of water plans will ensure that any changes in risks to the plan's outcomes from climate change are routinely re-evaluated. The proposed amendments in this bill further expand the toolbox that is necessary to sustainably manage water in Queensland.

I turn now to the committee report on the bill. The State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee considered the bill and I thank the committee for its report. The committee's report recommended that the bill be passed and contained six other recommendations for consideration. I will address each of these recommendations in turn.

The committee's second recommendation was that I clarify in this speech the effectiveness of the current arrangements in addressing compensation for landholders who do not have resource tenure activity on their land but who may be affected by the impacts of such activity. This recommendation stemmed from concerns raised by some stakeholders regarding a minor wording change to section 81 of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014. The land access framework applies when a resources company is seeking to enter land to undertake authorised activities under the resource authority. It applies to all resource authority types with the exception of prospecting permits, mining claims and mining leases under the Mineral Resources Act 1989.

This framework is in place to ensure that direct impacts on a landholder's land from resources activities conducted on their land are compensated for. An environmental authority must be obtained by the project proponent before a resource authority can be granted. Environmental authorities contain conditions that address the environmental impacts from resource activities. These environmental impacts may include noise, dust, odour or light impacts that may impact landholders who do not have resource activities on their land. Conditions used in environmental authorities provide a flexible approach to manage these impacts, including reaching an alternative arrangement with the affected landholder. These alternative arrangements can include compensation for the impacts, which may be monetary or non-monetary. Non-monetary examples include the double glazing of the home to reduce a noise impact or paying for the temporary relocation of the landholder for the duration of the impact.

In addition, under the Water Act 2000, where a bore has, or is likely to have an impaired capacity, compensation may be payable to the bore owner by the resource authority holder. This is provided for in a make-good agreement, which may include provision for monetary or non-monetary compensation. Examples of non-monetary compensation here may include drilling a new bore or providing an alternate water supply to ensure that the bore owner has access to a reasonable quantity and quality of water.

The environmental authority and make-good frameworks provide avenues for compensation to be paid to landholders in situations where the resource activities may not be occurring directly on their land. They work in conjunction with the land access framework to ensure that the impacts of resources activities on landholders are appropriately managed.

The committee's third recommendation was that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy develop an extensive suite of education materials regarding the arbitration process. I confirm today that my department will work to develop these materials in time for the commencement of the relevant arbitration provisions. My department will also conduct information sessions with key stakeholders, peak bodies and affected communities about the materials.

The committee's fourth recommendation is that section 91C of the bill be removed in order to ensure there is access to legal representation in arbitration. Section 91C of the bill currently proposes to allow legal representation in an arbitration with the agreement of the other party or if permitted by the arbitrator. The government acknowledges the concerns about this provision raised by stakeholders. I will be moving amendments in consideration in detail to implement the committee's recommendation. As outlined in the government's response to the report, amendments will also be progressed to implement the recommendation in relation to the make-good agreement framework.

The government notes recommendation 5 of the committee report, which recommends that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy collaborate with stakeholders to investigate developing a methodology to determine reasonable landholder time related costs and how this could be included in legislation. The issue of landholder time has been investigated by the department in recent years. The issue was addressed as part of the Land Access Implementation Committee Report in 2013. As part of this process, the heads of compensation for land access in Queensland were reviewed, including the issue of compensation for landholders' time. However, the Land Access Implementation Committee recommended that there should be no further intervention into the heads of compensation available under the land access framework.

The Land Access Implementation Committee took the view that landholder and resource authority holder negotiation practices were evolving naturally and it would not be prudent for government to intervene and further legislate heads of compensation. Also, as Professor Scott acknowledged in his report, the proposed reforms to the conduct and compensation agreement framework, which this bill is striving to implement, are designed to lessen the amount of time a landholder has to spend negotiating an agreement. This is where this government is focusing its effort.

Recommendation 6 of the committee's report recommends the reversion of the changes to the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 to separate out the liability to cover a landholder's necessarily and reasonably incurred professional costs from the general liability to compensate under section 81. This was due to concerns raised by stakeholders about the amendments potentially changing the nature of the requirement to compensate a landholder for these costs. The government also notes this recommendation, but is proposing no change to the current drafting.

Let me state for the record that the new provision is not intended to change the nature of the compensation payable to landholders. The provision is and has always been intended as a cost recovery mechanism, which recognises that landholders are required to negotiate these agreements and, as such, should not be out of pocket for any professional fees that are necessarily and reasonably incurred in the negotiation process. The intent behind putting this provision into a new section was to ensure that landholders are entitled to recover necessarily and reasonably incurred legal, valuation, accounting and agronomist costs even where the resource authority holder walks away before a conduct and compensation agreement is agreed.

Currently we have a situation that landholders may be left out of pocket for their negotiation costs where a resource authority holder decides not to continue with negotiations. The government considers this unacceptable and so did Professor Scott in his report. My department will update guidance materials to ensure they clearly outline how this provision should operate.

The committee's final recommendation was that during my speech today I clarify how long an official will have to publish a report if a direction has been given to take action in relation to a water quality event. To ensure reporting on the use of this new direction power is carried out promptly and in an appropriate manner, it is proposed that the report be published within 30 business days after the action was taken by the relevant entity. This time frame aligns with similar requirements under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for emergency event reporting and flood event reporting by dam operators.

In relation to amendments to be moved during consideration in detail, in addition to the amendment proposed to implement recommendation 4 from the committee's report that I referred to earlier, further minor amendments are required to ensure the effectiveness of the bill. These include an amendment to insert a transitional provision to clarify that the requirement to state cultural outcomes in a water plan under proposed section 43 is not intended to be retrospective. It was intended that this requirement would be implemented progressively when triggered by specific water-planning processes—for example, when the minister prepares a new water plan or amends or replaces an existing water plan. The proposed amendment, which I will move during consideration in detail, will ensure that all current water plans do not become inconsistent with the Water Act on commencement of the bill.

I now table the explanatory notes to the amendments that will be moved during the consideration in detail stage.

Tabled paper: Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham's amendments [1677].

I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.24 pm): I rise to speak to the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, an omnibus bill which amends the following legislation: the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014; the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009 and the Water Act 2000. I say at the outset that the LNP's support of this bill is contingent on the government adopting the recommendations contained within the parliamentary committee report and I am pleased that the minister has addressed those recommendations here today and elaborated in detail on how the government will actually be accepting those recommendations.

This bill looks to implement recommendations 4, 7, 8 and 9 from the 2015 independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland which was released on 1 December 2016. I think it is important that we understand the content of those recommendations and the potential impact the implementation of these recommendations will have. It states—

Recommendation 4:

That for negotiations for a conduct and compensation agreement, the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* should be amended to remove the option of a conference with an authorised officer to satisfy the ADR requirement prior to a party being able to apply to the Land Court.

This recommendation does not apply to make good agreements.

...

Recommendation 7:

That the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* and the *Water Act* be amended to provide that if the parties cannot agree on an ADR process or practitioner, the President of the Queensland Law Society or similar office can decide on the ADR process to be undertaken (apart from arbitration) by the parties (depending on the nature of the dispute) and select an appropriate practitioner from the ADR panel.

Recommendation 8:

That the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* and the *Water Act* be amended to provide for a distinct arbitration process, as an alternative to making an application to the Land Court if a conduct and compensation agreement or make good agreement has not been agreed following the statutory negotiation or alternative dispute resolution process.

Consideration be given to the following rules being applied to an arbitration of this type:

- the arbitration option can be agreed to by the parties following statutory negotiation or alternative dispute resolution; or can be elected by the landholder within a statutory time period following ADR; or by the petroleum authority holder following the expiry of the statutory time period
- if either party elects to proceed to arbitration, then neither party can elect to take the matter to the Land Court
- the holder cannot undertake advanced activities on the land without the agreement of the landholder until the arbitration is decided and the 'appeal' period has expired. At this point, the holder can give an entry notice and after 10 business days undertake advanced activities under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* on the land
- evidence and submissions can be presented in person or in writing as determined by the arbitrator
- both parties are able to be legally represented if agreed or with the consent of the arbitrator
- the cost of the arbitrator is shared between the landholder and the holder (unless the parties have not been through an ADR process for which the holder paid the costs of the ADR practitioner, in which event the holder pays the costs of the arbitrator)
- each party pays its own costs of appearing in the arbitration, unless the arbitrator orders otherwise. This will act as an incentive to landholders to try to resolve the matter at ADR
- the arbitrator will make their decision according to the provisions of the relevant resources legislation, unless the parties agree that the arbitrator decide the matter on another basis (such as commercial terms)
- there is no right of appeal on the merits from an arbitration, but either party may seek a review of the arbitrator's reasoning because of a claimed error of law or some similar fundamental error
- the arbitrator should have statutory immunity for anything done or omitted to be done in good faith in his or her capacity as arbitrator.

The commission's recommendation No. 9 states that—

- a) the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* be amended to provide that the costs of the ADR facilitator are paid by the petroleum authority holder, not by the person who gives the election notice as is currently the case
- b) the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* (and the *Water Act*) be amended to provide that a landholder's necessary and reasonable professional fees incurred in the ... negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement (or a make good agreement) be paid by the holder, even in the event of a conduct and compensation agreement (or a make good agreement) not being concluded between the parties. The liability for costs would commence from the giving of a negotiation notice by the holder (or the day that a bore assessment is undertaken in the case of a make good agreement)

- c) the class of professional fees that are the subject of compensation under the *Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act* and the *Water Act* be expanded to allow a landholder to retain an agronomist or other such technical expert to assist in evaluating the impact of the proposed CSG activities on the subject land
- d) jurisdiction be given to the Land Court to determine the appropriate level of professional fees claimed by a landholder in the negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement or make good agreement.

Most notably the bill looks to implement changes to the statutory negotiation process for the negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement and a make-good agreement between resource companies and landholders. The LNP understands that the future success of both the resource and agricultural sectors relies on their ability to harmoniously coexist. Mining and agriculture are the economic mainstays of rural and regional Queensland, and it is essential that both are able to prosper with minimal disruption to their respective operations.

While from time to time there have been well publicised examples of the sectors having coexistence issues, for the vast majority of the time the two industries continue to operate harmoniously side by side. In fact, recently the member for Warrego and I toured the Santos and Senex gas fields at Roma where we saw some great examples of gas companies working collaboratively with landholders, where water is being used to irrigate cropping land and pasture and provide much needed water for graziers, particularly during the current drought. In fact, many resource companies have gone to great lengths to be good neighbours by working with landholders to address issues of compensation. That has resulted in many landholders establishing positive and mutually beneficial relationships with resource companies.

As I said, the LNP's support for this bill is contingent on the adoption of the recommendations of the committee. I pay tribute to committee members, particularly those from this side of the House, for their consideration of the bill and the recommendations contained in their report. These include provisions that ensure that farmers have the right to legal representation during arbitration through the removal of proposed section 91, and I note the minister will be adopting that recommendation through an amendment; ensuring that professional—including accounting, legal, valuation and agronomy—and legal fees incurred by landholders during the negotiations and preparation of a CCA are paid by the resource company, even if a CCA cannot be reached; and having regard to recommendation No. 5 of the committee, I am pleased that the minister has outlined the methodology to determine reasonable landholder time related costs and how this could be included in the legislation.

Having regard to recommendation No. 6, many small family farms are impacted by resource development and it is imperative that those landholders receive the appropriate advice, support and representation in their dealings with mining and gas companies. As one would appreciate, the costs involved in engaging professionals such as agronomists and lawyers can be considerable and it is vital that this provision is incorporated in the legislation. I note further that the committee recommended that the department collaborate with stakeholders to investigate developing a methodology to determine reasonable landholder time related costs. I note with great interest that the minister has just addressed that particular recommendation and how it will be rolled out. I point out that the Queensland Farmers' Federation noted that there should be potential for landholders to include the time taken to negotiate and prepare the CCA in their recovered costs.

Furthermore, the committee has recommended that the minister clarify the time frame proposed for an official to report on a direction given to a relevant entity to take action on a water quality issue. Once again, I note that the minister has indicated a time frame of 30 days. I will talk more on that particular issue later in my contribution. Obviously in the interests of transparency and good governance, officials given a direction should be reporting in a timely manner and not dragging out the time frame, as we have seen in recent years, to the point where it becomes farcical. If there is to be an inquiry or even an inquest, the provision of timely information and actions taken in response to a direction are imperative.

It is important to note that some non-mining groups did bring up the delicate and sometimes sensitive issues around resource companies continuing to have access to private land for advanced activities without a CCA. Again, I note the minister's response having regard to that particular point.

Under the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Land Court has conferred jurisdiction to determine compensation for landowners with mining claims and mining leases over their properties when the applicant and the landowner are unable to reach agreement. The vast majority of those matters are automatically referred by the department, as required by the Mineral Resources Act 1989, if the parties do not reach agreement by the end of the statutory negotiation period. I note the policy objective of the amendments is to prevent compensation matters being automatically referred to the Land Court by the department. That would provide substantial time and cost savings that would no doubt be appreciated by both the resource company and landholders.

I profess to having some concerns with the provision relating to the consideration of the water related effects of climate change on water resources. As we all know, a substantial body of literature, some of it very questionable, currently exists around climate change and the impact it is having on our environment and resources such as water. I ask: where will the minister be sourcing this information from and how can the community have confidence that the information or data relied upon by the minister is accurate, can be verified and is based on fact?

I concur with the provisions relating to the protection of cultural values of water resources, having regard to the importance of water resources to Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. There is no question that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have a wealth of knowledge about water and water-dependent ecosystems and should have input into the preparation of water plans. Often in this place I have spoken about the strategic importance of water. In fact, I titled my maiden speech 'Just add water' in an acknowledgement of the importance of water in driving jobs growth and economic prosperity in this state. Water is a precious commodity. To me, it is more precious than gold. Without water, you have nothing.

Around this state there are plenty of examples where communities and farmers have run out of water with devastating impacts. Many of our dams hold reserves of unallocated water and it makes perfect sense to allow temporary access to those reserves for other water users until the reserve is required for its intended purpose. Of course, strict parameters and guidelines, primarily around security and environmental flow objectives, will need to be built into the process, but it does not make sense to have water sitting unutilised in a dam when it could be used to grow crops or sustain a resource industry. Recently I have highlighted the situation that currently exists with our dams and the under-utilisation of water during one of the worst droughts in Queensland's history. Of course, access to water is one thing; the price of water and pumping costs are a completely separate issue.

The final provision relating to urgent actions for dealing with water quality issues is potentially the most important issue to be incorporated in the bill. We all know what happened when water that was released from Wivenhoe Dam during the 2011 floods caused widespread flooding throughout Brisbane. As a former police officer, deputy of a local disaster management group and Emergency Management Queensland area director, I can say that during times of emergency unbelievable pressure is brought to bear around important decisions such as releasing water. As we have seen, the ramifications of those decisions can have devastating consequence and it is imperative that decision-makers have the tools, information and expertise available to make informed decisions that will withstand scrutiny in a court of law.

I would certainly like to see strict protocols in place to ensure that the minister or chief executive, in satisfying themselves that urgent action is required, are following agreed protocols and procedures that have been developed in consultation with all stakeholders and rely on sound technical and scientific evidence. In short, these decisions need to be made objectively by qualified people and not subjectively.

I note the bill provides for a report to be prepared about the direction to outline the details of the water quality issue, the circumstances under which the urgent action was required and any actions carried out or not carried out as a result of the direction. This report will be made publicly available to ensure transparency, as it should, surrounding the need for and outcomes of the minister or chief executive using the direction power in those circumstances.

Whilst policy uncertainty has always been an issue for the resource sector—and this bill is very broad—I am pleased to hear the minister today address the recommendations and adopt the recommendations of the committee. As a consequence, the LNP will not be opposing this bill.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.40 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There are three things that I will touch on relating to the issue of water which we have heard about.

The first thing—and this addresses what the member for Burdekin has just talked about—is accounting for climate change in the water-planning framework. I start by pointing out that the shadow minister has said that on the one hand we should be wary of the data when it relates to climate change but on the other hand we should trust the data when it comes to the release of water. I do not think this is a consistent position.

I believe we need to have confidence in the data on climate change. It is called science. It is called evidence, as the member for Macalister, next to me here, has mentioned. Let me point out once again to the LNP that there is an overwhelming consensus regarding the evidence around climate change. Some 97 per cent of scientists in this area have said it is happening and it is real and that we need to start planning and taking action.

I believe that climate change places a large burden on our natural resource system. We are facing a warmer and drier Queensland. It is predicted that our average annual temperature will have gone up by about two degrees by 2050. Our rainfall will decrease by 21 per cent by that time. We are looking at sea level rises between eight and 18 centimetres above 2005 levels by 2030. Not only that, sea temperatures will rise by 3.6 degrees Celsius on average across Queensland if we do not address emissions. It is very clear in facing this scenario that we need to adapt our water-planning scenarios.

I want to hear whether the LNP addresses the issue of climate change. They have not mentioned climate change in this place except in parentheses—so-called climate change. I want them to say one day that they accept the science of climate change. I fear from listening to the member for Burdekin that we are not at that point as yet.

Secondly, I want to talk about the cultural values that need to be taken into account with water planning. It is very clear that water plans must include outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. For example, that we do not empty a water body or a waterhole that has cultural or spiritual significance for the local peoples. I do note that the report points out that the powers in this bill do not affect the use of water for economic purposes.

Thirdly, I want to speak about the further powers for the minister and CEO regarding the release of water. The chief executive can allow the release of water from the water reserve on a temporary basis to all for the better use of water. If a cyclone causes some flood contamination of a water source these powers allow decision-makers to make a decision very quickly. I think that is one imperative having seen how water sources have been contaminated in the past.

I forgot to mention that I rise as the chair of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. There were three issues that took up the time of the committee. The first of those issues was the conjecture around the diminished capacity or supposed diminished capacity for redress or compensation for neighbours affected by resource extraction activity. That relates to section 81 of the act. There was a lot of toing and froing and advice being given either way. I am satisfied that agreements negotiated to resolve these issues are not directly connected to the powers outlined in this bill. It is great to hear that we can and will do more regarding the enforcement of environmental outcomes for neighbours affected by resource extraction activities. I welcome the minister's comments in this regard.

The second thing that vexed us was the proposed section 91 wording. A lot of time was spent talking about this. This is the clause that allows legal representation for landholders in arbitration only if both parties agreed or the arbitrator allowed it. It was felt that landholders should be allowed legal representation in the arbitration process if they felt it was necessary. We felt that this was about bargaining power. We have heard about landholders being up against large resource companies with a fair bit of clout.

The scenario emerged that even if it were one on one with a company representative, if that company representative were a senior legal practitioner that would result in an imbalance of bargaining power. A lot of stakeholders were uncomfortable with this very small clause. We felt it would be a proper signal to everyone that the landholder could get legal representation when needed. I thank the minister for acceding to this request.

Thirdly, we talked about the ability for landholders to recover costs for professional services, reports and perhaps their own time. I note that there is a capacity within the new CTAs for these issues to be dealt with. This will obviously keep emerging. I thank the minister for his comments regarding this.

In conclusion, I say that we have dealt with a lot in this bill. The committee accepted virtually all of the recommendations from the GasFields Commission. We want to make sure that all sides, especially landholders, spend less time in court and less time engaged in legal jousting. That is a better outcome for everyone involved with this and a better outcome for Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (12.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. This bill was initially introduced into the 55th Parliament and the committee was due to report on 3 November. The election was called and parliament was dissolved on 28 October. The bill was reintroduced as an omnibus bill into this parliament on 15 February 2018 and was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. The report was tabled on 19 April 2018.

There are a number of objectives in this bill. They are to: give effect to the Queensland government's response to four recommendations of the independent review of the GasFields Commission; remove the automatic referral of compensation matters to the Land Court of Queensland under the Mineral Resources Act; ensure the consideration of the water related effects of climate change on water resources is explicit in the water-planning framework; provide for the inclusion of cultural outcomes in water plans to support the protection of the cultural values of water resources for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders; provide a mechanism to allow for temporary access to unallocated water held in strategic infrastructure reserves; and establish new powers for dealing with urgent water quality issues. It is a very large bill.

The committee received 17 submissions and a written response to these submissions from the department. A public hearing was held in Brisbane. It became evidence that landowners had a number of concerns regarding the amendments to the compensation for landowners adjoining resource activities. The Lock the Gate Alliance argued that the proposed amendment to section 81 would result in substantive changes. They stated—

Those amendments will limit compensation such that it will only apply to compensatable effects from resource activities which happen on the claimants own land.

The concern is that landholders can be heavily affected by noise and air pollution, but if it is occurring outside their land, they will have no claim for compensatable effects.

Peter Shannon representing Shine Lawyers also expressed concerns, stating—

It removes the right of neighbours who are within the tenement area to claim compensation for the impacts of activities carried on next door to them. Resource activity, particularly gas activity, typically has a huge and very widespread impact and does not only affect the landowner on whose land the activity is conducted.

Tom Marland from Marland Law stated that landowners can be surrounded by hundreds of coal seam gas wells. He said—

They have been previously unrepresented and yet they are now faced with a situation where their property is effectively worth nothing because no-one wants to buy a rural property in the middle of a coal seam gas field ...

The department's response was—

There is no change to the obligation to compensate neighbouring landholders as a result of changes to section 81. That section has always been about compensation for landholders upon whose land advanced activities are being conducted.

...

There is also no provision for a neighbouring landholder to apply to the Land Court for a compensation determination. As such, the view that changes to the wording of section 81 remove landholder rights cannot be sustained.

The committee accepted the department's advice on this, but it was of serious concern to many of the submitters. Just because people are not under the immediate footprint does not mean that they are not impacted by resource activities on adjoining land, whether it be noise, dust or water. There are many unintended consequences. Whilst this amendment may reflect the policy intent as stated by both the minister and the department, recommendation 2 requests that the minister clarify if impacts on adjoining landowners are being adequately addressed by the current legislation. The minister spoke on that in his address.

The bill also proposes a number of amendments to the alternative dispute resolution process. The noninclusion of statutory time frames for the appointment of an alternative dispute resolution facilitator and some clarification around the case appraisal process was a reflection of the complexity that arises in these cases. The bill proposes that arbitration will be an alternative to applying to the Land Court for a resolution as long as both parties agree. AgForce stated that, while they supported the voluntary nature of arbitration as a dispute resolution option—

Our strong preference is for an adequate ADR step prior to arbitration to encourage a full attempt at negotiating differences and to promote transparency, disclosure and release of information, which is of significant concern to landowners.

The department stated—

The Bill has been drafted with this concern in mind. For example, an arbitration election notice must state the consequences of accepting a request for arbitration, including that if the request for arbitration is accepted, an application to the Land Court for a decision about the dispute cannot be made.

The committee in recommendation 3 have recommended that the department develop a comprehensive and extensive suite of educational material and information sessions and report back to the committee in November 2018 with a progress report. This bill has only just come into the House, even though we produced this report six months ago.

Section 91C is one of the most contentious parts of this bill. Section 91C outlines the circumstances in which a party may be represented by a lawyer in the arbitration. A party can be represented by a lawyer if both parties agree to the party being represented or the arbitrator permits the party to be represented. This would result in landowners being placed in an extremely vulnerable negotiating position. AgForce stated—

We strongly encourage the Committee to consider changing this to allow landholders access to legal representation, without the need for other party consent.

This view was supported by the Queensland Law Society, who stated—

The Society does not agree with the proposition that in s 91C that a party will not be permitted to have legal representation in an arbitration unless both parties agree to the party being represented. We feel it is inappropriate that the parties to an arbitration be disallowed legal representation in any circumstances.

The committee recommended that section 91C be removed and both parties have the right to legal representation. This recommendation is, from our position, non-negotiable. I have had personal experience negotiating with a resource company for a compensation agreement. I know what an intimidating process that is. You are heavily outgunned. They are much more experienced in negotiations than most rural landowners. I was pleased to hear the minister's earlier comments in regard to that.

Valuing landowners' time was outside the scope of the bill, but the committee recommended that the minister develop a methodology to compensate landowners' cost of time during negotiations. Tom Marland gave a really good example of that. He said—

I suppose it has never been more poignantly driven home to me about what this means in terms of our responsibility than when dealing with a make-good situation last week. In the course of it the wife burst into tears and said, 'My husband should be harvesting sorghum. I should be at home with the kids. Instead, we are up until 12 o'clock every night reading documents we don't understand.'

The committee recommended that section 91 be removed and that an amendment be made to section 81(4) which would remove any unintended consequences.

There were so many other aspects of the bill. The release of unallocated water, I think, is a good step. There were some concerns about the building of infrastructure to be able to harvest that water. It is over a three-year period. I think the agricultural sector would welcome that. Our main concern was around the land access agreements and compensation. We were comfortable with what the minister said today, so we will be supporting this bill.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As detailed in the bill's explanatory notes, the primary policy objectives of the bill are to give effect to the Queensland government's response to four recommendations of the *Independent review of the Gasfields Commission Queensland and associated matters* report; remove the automatic referral of compensation matters to the Land Court of Queensland under the Mineral Resources Act 1989; ensure the consideration of water related effects of climate change on water resources is explicit in the water-planning framework; provide for the inclusion of cultural outcomes to water plans to support the protection of the cultural values of water resources for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander peoples; provide a mechanism to allow for temporary access to unallocated water in strategic water infrastructure reserves; and, finally, establish new powers for dealing with urgent water quality issues.

As the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy outlined in his introductory speech on 15 February 2018, this bill will amend a number of acts including the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Water Act 2000.

In December 2015, the Queensland government commissioned an independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland. The *Independent review of the Gasfields Commission Queensland and associated matters* report and the Queensland government response were released on 1 December 2016. This bill proposes amendments to give effect to four recommendations of the report. These recommendations relate to the statutory negotiation process for the negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement, otherwise known as a CCA, and a make-good agreement, otherwise known as an MGA, under chapter 3 of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 and chapter 3 of the Water Act 2000.

The bill will remove the option of a conference with an authorised officer to satisfy the alternative dispute resolution requirement prior to a party being able to make application to the Land Court of Queensland to determine a CCA. As well, the bill will provide that the president of the Queensland Law Society or a similarly independent person, can decide on the ADR process to be undertaken and the ADR facilitator for CCAs and MGAs if the parties cannot agree on a process or facilitator.

Debate, on motion of Mr Madden, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. This morning the racing minister accused me of misquoting Racing Queensland CEO, Brendan Parnell, in relation to my question without notice to the Premier and said that he would be writing to the Speaker. For the minister's and the House's edification, I quote Mr Parnell's comments from an article in the *Courier-Mail*—

"I don't believe it will be as extreme as it was in South Australia, because there are significantly more customers in Queensland, but we are expecting a downturn because of it ...

"This will do damage and the finances will be impacted ...

The article also states—

Racing Queensland chief executive Brendan Parnell conceded the introduction of the tax would affect overall revenue returned to the control body ...

I table that document. I will not be bullied by an incompetent racing minister.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 8 October 2018, titled 'Industry in dire straits' [[1678](#)].

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Day for Daniel; Nambour Police Station

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.02 pm): As we approach the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's Day for Daniel next Friday, 26 October, I want to pay tribute to the tremendous work that Bruce and Denise Morcombe have done for many years now protecting our children right across the nation. To the foundation's CEO, Holly Brennan, and her team including staff and volunteers, along with community and businesses who support this important work, we say thank you.

I had the absolute privilege of spending my very last shift as a police officer presenting with Bruce and Denise Australia's biggest child safety lesson broadcast across Australian schools and recognised recently with a Child Protection Week award. I look forward to catching up with Bruce, Denise and all the supporters at the 'Walk for Daniel' next Friday as we remember Daniel and participate in Australia's largest child safety awareness and education day. I encourage all members to wear red, educate and donate.

I also want to draw to the attention of the House and the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services the urgent issue of the Nambour Police Station. Twelve years ago Nambour got a temporary, demountable police station delivered on the back of a truck and that facility is still there. However, that facility is luxurious compared to the poor detectives' office still in a disused old carport. I myself remember working there nearly 20 years ago. Last weekend after heavy rain the office flooded up to about an inch of water, and this is not the first time this has occurred. I table pictures showing carpets removed, damage caused and industrial fans and dehumidifiers that the detectives currently have to dodge to try to get their work done.

Tabled paper: Bundle of photographs depicting Nambour Police Station [[1679](#)].

As I have pointed out in the House before, Labor has been in government for around 25 of the last 30 years and this is not a new issue. It is a generation of neglect that has led to this point where the situation has become urgent. The minister is desperately trying to get out of the \$9 million commitment to Nambour by pushing it out into next year's budget and looking to lease council chambers

instead that might not be vacated for many years to come. I am calling on the minister—instead of trying to distract and deflect responsibility by talking about what an LNP government might or might not do and the usual blame game we have grown used to—to get on with his job so the Nambour police can do theirs.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Cook, I welcome students joining us in the gallery today from Riverside Christian College in the electorate of Maryborough.

Mareeba Multicultural Festival

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.05 pm): The Mareeba Multicultural Festival is a major calendar event that takes place annually. On 25 August I had the absolute pleasure of representing Minister Stirling Hinchliffe, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, at the official opening of the 2018 Mareeba Multicultural Festival. It was an honour to take part in this year's event to mark 20 years of celebrating cultural diversity in the region. We should be proud that people from all over the world have chosen to make Queensland their home. According to the 2016 census, there has been a 64 per cent net increase in migration over 10 years with people now calling Mareeba home. In doing so, they have created the vibrant and culturally diverse society that makes Mareeba what it is today.

With August recognised as Queensland Multicultural Month, I could not have picked a better time to host the festival to celebrate the many cultural backgrounds that make up our state's identity. It would not be right for me to tell the House about the Mareeba Multicultural Festival without shining light on the festival's history. I would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of Mr Giuliano Cordenos, someone who is very passionate about cultural diversity, community and bringing people together. Twenty years ago Giuliano casually showed up for a town hall meeting and walked out of that meeting with the responsibility to pull together a festival to encompass the region's cultural diversity.

With the title of chairperson of the organising committee—a position he has held for the past 20 years—and \$1,000 in funds, he went on to host the very first festival with half a dozen performers. Each year the festival came with a theme to promote unity. The Mareeba Multicultural Festival is now one of the most successful calendar events in the region. This year was its largest event yet, with over 30 performances through songs and dance, exotic food and the local community coming out to share and celebrate each other in culture.

The Palaszczuk government supported the Mareeba Multicultural Festival over the past three years through the Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program. The Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program currently supports around 130 events and projects across the state and has doubled the annual budget for this highly popular program to \$2 million a year from 2018-19. Events like this help to promote community cohesion and to strengthen our understanding of cultural diversity and the many benefits it brings to our community.

It was wonderful to see the Mareeba community come out in force to celebrate cultural diversity. I would like to congratulate Giuliano Cordenos and the Mareeba Multicultural Festival organising committee for putting on another fantastic event and, in particular, for celebrating 20 years of this festival and still going strong. I am proud to be part of a government that is committed to promoting Queensland's multiculturalism as a true champion for safe and inclusive society for all Queenslanders.

Bundaberg Region, Health Services

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.08 pm): We have just had a great announcement in Bundaberg: residents now have access to local cataract surgery in addition to a private day hospital. It is a great partnership and it is thanks to the public-private partnership between Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service and a private day hospital. I commend the CEO of the hospital, Adrian Pennington, for delivering this service for the people of the Bundaberg and the greater Bundaberg region.

Those receiving cataract surgery are often elderly and sometimes frail, and the journey to Hervey Bay for surgery regularly takes a huge toll on their health. They have to find their own way down the coast—something they find hard—they have to stay overnight to recuperate and they then have to make the long journey home. It is a huge relief for many in the region to know that they do not have to go on an arduous 250-kilometre round trip to receive a specialist service. I want to thank the Minister for Health and ask why a similar public-private partnership cannot be arranged for the many people in Bundaberg and Burnett who are suffering from chronic pain. Why can the state government agree to a specialty service for eyes in the region but not for our chronic pain sufferers?

I recently tabled a petition in this place with 600 signatures asking for the state government to fund a pain management clinic in the region. Despite seeing hundreds of signatures in support of the clinic and the pleas from residents who are in unbearable pain, Minister Miles ignored the petition, instead stating that the Sunshine Coast HHS provides a chronic pain service as a hub for the area, which includes the Bundaberg region. This is simply not good enough.

Many constituents have raised the idea of seeing a visiting specialist in the region, and we see that as a great possibility. Unless you are a sufferer of chronic pain, you will never truly understand the trials and difficulties that come with living daily with pain. One constituent has been brave enough to speak out and she tells me that a simple touch on the shoulder is a real problem. Members can only imagine how awful and unbearable a more than 300-kilometre round trip for some of these patients would be. I am calling on the minister not to simply close his eyes and turn his back on these people and the region. Many are in so much pain that the thought of travelling for hours is unbearable.

I am asking the minister to reconsider his reply and look at enacting a public-private partnership to see a chronic pain specialist come to the Bundaberg region. Chronic pain sufferers are crying out for help so, please, Minister Miles, listen to them. The 600-signature petition is something we should not ignore in this place. The 600 signatures from pain sufferers shows that this is a significant issue within the region. Chronic pain sufferers should not need to travel to the Sunshine Coast regional hospital to gain those vital connections with a specialist.

In closing, I ask members to imagine what it means for people who have to travel those hundreds of kilometres in excruciating pain just to see a specialist to give themselves some quality of life. All of us should have some sympathy and empathy. More importantly, our government should show real leadership and provide chronic pain management to people in the Bundaberg region.

Korean Society of Queensland



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise to inform the House of the fantastic work being done in my local community by my friends from the Korean Society of Queensland. My electorate of Stretton is the most multicultural electorate in the state, so there is absolutely no better location for the Korean Society of Queensland to be based than in my local area. They officially opened their new community hall in Kuraby at the start of the year, and the Korean Society of Queensland has well and truly hit the ground running.

It was a fantastic opening ceremony that was followed by a community celebration as part of the BrisAsia Festival. While the weather was similar to the weather we have experienced over the last few days, it certainly did not dampen spirits. There were many highlights, but there was one that really stood out for me. I always like to stir the pot, and we stirred the biggest bibimbap I have ever seen. It took four of us and I had both hands on the wooden spoon stirring it around. For anyone who thinks I might be misleading the House, I table a photograph of that bibimbap.

Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a big bibimbap, Korean Society of Queensland [[1680](#)].

Since the opening, I have presented the Korean Society of Queensland with a Queensland flag and they already hold many regular activities, such as zumba, a regular seniors group and seminars in relation to education and other important matters for the community. Next year they also have plans for a library so lots of great things are happening with the Korean Society of Queensland, but there is one important aspect of Korean culture that has been missing so far and that is K-pop. I am very, very pleased to inform the House that preparations are being made for K-pop to come to the Korean Society of Queensland's hall in 2019. They have an application in for mirrors to be installed to facilitate K-pop. I say to everyone to get your dancing shoes ready because K-pop is coming to Kuraby.

President Gwang Hoon Hyun has recently received a medal of honour from the South Korean President for his dedication to looking after the multicultural relationship between Korea and Queensland. I thank him for that and want to recognise all of his hard work. I also want to put on record my congratulations and thanks to the following: vice-president, Peter Nam; secretary-general, Hyeri Robertson; director of administration, Cindy Lee; executive directors, Matthew Moon-Ki Kim and Johnny Shin; director of project management, Hae-Yeon Kim; chairman of women's welfare, Eun Sook Kang; chief technology officer, Matthew Shin; chairman of the legal committee, Tenny Kim; chairman of the education committee, Teresa Cho; chairman of the culture and arts committee, Sarah Jeong; chairman of the marketing committee, James Lee; and the chief strategy officer, TK Kim.

As members can see, there are so many people doing such great and fantastic work in the Korean Society of Queensland. It is a really active community. They are doing fantastic work, supporting the Korean community, getting our community engaged and understanding Korean culture. I look forward to working with the Korean Society of Queensland as they continue to make a fantastic and ongoing contribution to my local community.

Renting Reform

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.13 pm): The Greens welcome the government's consultation on making renting fair in Queensland. It is long overdue and was a key tenet of our election platform last year. Housing is a basic human right and all levels of government have a responsibility to ensure everyone has access to safe and secure housing, but in Queensland in recent decades, the provision of this basic human right has increasingly been outsourced to the private sector. Australia's current housing system was created in the days when there was a large public housing safety net and where the risk of monopolies and exploitation was moderated by access to government owned public housing for everyone. That safety net no longer exists.

At the same time, home ownership is increasingly out of reach for millions of Queenslanders. The tax system encourages property investment as a form of wealth creation, driving up prices and forcing first home buyers to take on massive, crippling mortgages. Meanwhile, the Australian Homelessness Monitor 2018 report shows that homelessness in Brisbane has increased by 32 per cent since 2011. Lack of lease security for tenants means more people sleeping on the street.

Landlords and real estate agents have an immense amount of power over tenants' lives—the power to make someone homeless. That power can be exercised arbitrarily and at relatively short notice. Apart from your landlord, no one else in your life can make you homeless if you have a disagreement. No matter what our income or circumstances, we renters deserve to have the security of knowing that our kids can stay at their school and that we can stay in the place where we have put down roots.

The Greens will be pushing for a right to remain, which means a ban on 'no grounds' evictions. A landlord should only be able to end a lease or fail to renew a lease on very narrow grounds. The only circumstances where turfing someone out of their own home should be acceptable are where a tenant fails to pay rent or trashes the place, where the landlord or their immediate family need to live in the house or for very significant renovations. We will also be pushing for limits on how often rents can rise. Landlords should not be able to increase the rent more than once every two years. By itself, that change will encourage longer leases and more security.

Crucially, we will also be pushing for caps on how much rent can rise by. We believe that a one-per-cent-per-year increase is a reasonable target to make sure rents do not outstrip income rises for low-income Queenslanders, some of whom are seeing no wage growth at all. Without rent caps, the right to remain becomes meaningless and landlords can simply jack up the rent to evict tenants by proxy.

Less than 10 per cent of Australians are landlords and even fewer own more than one investment property, but if you are a landlord who objects to improving renters' rights on the basis that it will be less profitable for you the conclusion is simple: do not be a landlord. If you cannot manage your rental property without respecting your tenants' basic human rights to stable, secure housing, I would suggest that you should not be a landlord in the first place. Sell the property and let a young first home buyer have it instead. Housing is a human right, not a speculative commodity for making profits. The Greens are working to tip the balance back in favour of ordinary Queenslanders.

Kurwongbah Electorate

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.16 pm): Recently, I spoke about how scouting had returned to my former electorate of Kallangur. Another community service that was lost during my predecessor's term in government has been returned to the Kallangur, Kurwongbah and Petrie communities. Belinda Norrie, who is a strong community activist, Valmae and the Marsden Families Program at the old Frederick Marsden home have worked together to open a community library which also services parts of my new electorate of Kurwongbah.

When I was elected in 2015, I hounded our mayor about the disappointment my community felt at the closure of the Kallangur and Narangba libraries in 2014. My pleas did not fall on deaf ears, as when the Petrie university project was announced the mayor informed me that when the university opened it would have a full public access library. Belinda and Marsden Families could not wait that long

and went out into the community for help. It was inspiring to see our locals stand together to make this project a reality. From the overwhelming donation of books to the library to the huge number who turned up on the opening night and are patronising this facility, I have no doubt that we can call this project a resounding success. I give thanks to Belinda, Valmae and Marsden Families as well as my community for coming together to show that when we do work together we can create something worthwhile for all of us.

Since becoming the member for Kurwongbah, I have become a bit of a fan of Aussie rules. Even though years ago I spent nearly six years living in Western Australia and that was the only footy we had there, I never really embraced the game until I inherited two AFL clubs in the recent redistribution—the Narangba Crows and the Moreton Bay Lions. They have been educating me.

I have been fortunate to watch a few women's AFL games, including a great finals game between the women's Brisbane Lions and Collingwood teams at the Moreton Bay Lions' home ground in Burpengary. The players certainly do not mess around. Although the Lions did not win, they left nothing in the tank during that game.

I have also gained two more Rugby League clubs in Kurwongbah in the Narangba Rangers and the Burpengary Jets. Along with the Pine Rivers Bears, I now have to share my Rugby League allegiance three ways. They are all great clubs and with my two AFL clubs, the soccer club—I have Narangba United—I will never have to look too far to watch a great game of footy.

In conclusion, I would like to thank our great education minister, Minister Grace, for inviting me recently to see the construction site of a vertical school. With our new university coming along, at some stage there will be a conversation about a STEM school there. This concept is amazing. I would like to see it again further down the track when it is actually up and running because I think it is a great idea.

Bribie Island, Health Services

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (2.19 pm): There is nothing more repulsive than someone taking a serious issue like the health needs of Queenslanders and turning it into a joke on the floor of parliament. It is even more offensive when it is someone in such an important role as the state's health minister, who yesterday showed his true colours when he used the serious health needs of my constituents to perform a cheap political stunt.

As the state representative for Pumicestone, I wrote to the health minister about the pressing need for extended urgent care services on Bribie Island. I did so because this matter has been neglected for far too long and my community has asked me to fight for them. For the Minister for Health to then take aim at me for daring to write to him about this, standing there laughing, shaking a copy of my letter around as if it was nothing more than a scrap piece of paper not worthy of his consideration, is mind blowing.

There is a time and a place for wise guys, but there is no room whatsoever for them when it comes to the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders. What the minister failed to admit during his pathetic little spray directed at me is that he could not even be bothered to write back to me himself. Instead, he fobbed off the needs of the Pumicestone electorate onto departmental officials, who at least showed compassion and understanding of the situation. In his letter, Mr Shaun Drummond, the Chief Executive of Metro North Hospital and Health Service, said—

... Bribie Island has an ageing population and last year accounted for approximately 10 per cent of presentations to the Caboolture Hospital's emergency department. The need to travel for urgent care, that could be provided in the community, is problematic and the impact on individuals and their families is significant.

Mr Drummond gets it. I table a copy of Mr Drummond's letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 4 October 2018, from the Chief Executive, Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Mr Shaun Drummond, to the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Simone Wilson MP, regarding the health and wellbeing of residents of Bribie Island [[1682](#)].

I also wish to table a copy of the letter that I sent to the minister, the one that he flapped around—yes, that is right, the one that he flapped around—but would not table. He did not want it in *Hansard*, so I will table it on his behalf.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2018, from the member for Pumicestone, Mrs Simone Wilson MP, to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles MP, regarding the health and wellbeing of residents of Bribie Island [[1681](#)].

The Minister for Health may think it is fine to shirk his responsibilities for the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders, but I will not be giving him any reprieve on that. I will also be letting my constituents know that they have been laughed at and used to score cheap political points in this House, the house of the people, by the Minister for Health and the Palaszczuk Labor government. What a monumental disgrace!

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Small Business Awards

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.22 pm): Small business is booming in Mount Ommaney. Since the beginning of the year I have been working closely with the Centenary & Districts Chamber of Commerce. I would like to give a shout-out to Keith, Dan, Dave and the whole team because they have been doing a fantastic job this year undertaking a revitalisation of the chamber and reinvigorating its membership base. It has been a privilege to be part of it, but that is just the start.

On 20 November this year the chamber and I will be hosting the Small Business Awards. We are excited that we are going to be joined by the small business minister, Shannon Fentiman, to celebrate the amazing array of small businesses in the electorate of Mount Ommaney. The awards will be distributed according to a popular vote. I spoke to my electorate staff earlier today and they told me that the local community is right on board. At last count we have had over 600 nominations from locals keen to nominate fantastic local small businesses.

I had a conversation with the Minister for Innovation, Kate Jones, a little while ago. She said to me, 'What's going on in Mount Ommaney? Barely a week goes by that we do not get an application for innovation funding from the Mount Ommaney electorate.'

Ms Jones: A great local member.

Ms PUGH: I take that interjection from the minister. I am beyond proud to help and promote small business. I would like to take this opportunity to tell the House about some of the innovative small businesses in Mount Ommaney, some of the nominees for the upcoming awards. There is Oz Wagtails, which is a unique doggy day care. If, like the member for Aspley, members are not an actual parent but have a fur baby that likes to dig up their backyard, they can take them to Oz Wagtails and save their backyard landscaping. We are also home to the best burgers in Brisbane. Do not just take my word for it. That is according to Triple M; Ed and Marto gave them the award for the best burger in Brisbane. They told me that they are yet to win a local award; they are keen to scoop the pool this year.

We are also home to White Lies microbrewery. Tomorrow they will celebrate their second birthday and I will be there to have a drink with them. I am very excited about that. Also we have Tudor School Uniforms. They are unique because they make their uniforms for local schools like Middle Park State School, where my little ones go, right here in Australia. They use Australian fabric—Australian made and Australian owned.

We also have Monier Fresh. I reckon it is one of the best local fruit shops around and Nathan has the best baklava in the whole of Brisbane. We also have Hydrox Technologies. These guys are kicking goals in the agribusiness space. They have invented a solar shrink plastic which helps farmers to look after their crops. It shrinks tight in the sun. It is amazing. They have just been given an Advance Queensland grant. Some of these businesses have already applied for funds. I say to all the small businesses in Mount Ommaney that if they have not done so yet, have a meeting with me. I would love to tell them about what they can get.

Scholars Drive, Sippy Downs

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.26 pm): I rise today to express my concern that this Labor government does not genuinely prioritise the road safety of Queenslanders who live outside Labor electorates. I speak of those who live in suburbs choking with congestion like Sippy Downs, where in past years Labor have built one of the Sunshine Coast's biggest schools at the end of a cul-de-sac. Last week I stood beside Sunshine Coast division 6 Councillor Christian Dickson when he announced council's investment of \$200,000 to upgrade Scholars Drive. It is right that councils should upgrade their own road. However, even though this was a positive announcement, much more investment is needed.

Here is the kicker: the Labor state government made the decision that caused the problem in the first place. They built a large school in a small, dead-end street and they refused to take responsibility. Labor refused to match my election commitment of a million dollars to solve the problem that they created. Labor refused to listen to those residents who have signed my petition who simply want to get

their children home safely, make it to work on time so they can keep their job and cut down on the stresses that make us all question ourselves and how we manage. Frankly, I cannot help but shake my head in disbelief.

Scholars Drive is a disaster waiting to happen. Families tell me that at pick-up and drop-off time what should be a 10-minute round trip takes on average 45 minutes and it is one where stress and frustration is palpable. It is a car ride that most children would choose to avoid at the end of a busy day. Council's \$200,000 is a good start, but it is clear that the scale of improvements required will exceed this amount. The upgrade is not only costly but also urgent. What if a child is injured and emergency services cannot reach them? This is not a place for politics. This is a great opportunity to show the people of Sippy Downs and, indeed, the rest of Queensland that politics can be put aside when the safety of communities is at stake.

This is a positive message to send to tired and disengaged constituents that different levels of government can put people first and politics last. As the Premier said on 15 May this year, 'I always say that government works best when all levels of government work together.' I agree. She should show the people of Sippy Downs that her words are more than just hollow platitudes. She should work with the Sunshine Coast Council to fix the problem that is Scholars Drive. If she does, I will be the first to congratulate her.

The community of Sippy Downs does not care who pays for road safety as long as vital improvements are made. Safety is paramount. A total of 238 residents have signed my petition calling on the Labor government to contribute funds for an upgrade of Scholars Drive. I table that petition.

Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding the upgrade to Scholars Drive, Sippy Downs [1683].

If the LNP were able to identify the need and commit the funds at the last election to upgrade a number of local roads that are crippled with congestion and holding communities back, Labor must do so also. I will not stop until Scholars Drive is fixed.

Brisbane Urban Corridor

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.29 pm): In the lead-up to the 2017 state election a large number of community members raised with me the issue of heavy transport on Kessels and Mount Gravatt Capalaba roads. Many of these conversations and letters were quite moving. People talked to about being unable to sit on outdoor patios due to the incessant roar of heavy vehicles. In fact, one writer even used the phrase 'we are prisoners in our own homes'. Constituents talked of windows shaking, items moving in cupboards and having to stay inside their homes during the long, hot summer to attempt to keep out the noise. One elderly woman who worked hard to gain the security of a home she could afford many years ago is now in her twilight years, and she implored me to take some action. Action was taken.

As a result of intense lobbying to the Department of Main Roads and the minister, I can proudly announce that the constituents who live in close proximity to the Brisbane Urban Corridor will soon notice a reduction in heavy vehicle traffic and a commensurate increase in their quality of life. On 28 September the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and I announced the commencement of a three-month trial followed by rigid enforcement from 1 January 2019 aimed at getting some of the heavy vehicles off the Brisbane Urban Corridor. The corridor is a major artery for the transport industry, linking the industrial and commercial areas of Archerfield and Acacia Ridge with the Gateway Motorway.

Unfortunately, some of the traffic that uses the corridor does not deliver locally. It has been encouraged for some time now to use the alternate route via the Logan Motorway and the Gateway Extension. This trial, followed by enforcement using state-of-the-art numberplate recognition software, will impose fines on drivers who are not engaged in local deliveries. Traffic signs are apparent and warning letters will be sent to owners and drivers during the trial, but from 1 January next year fines of \$130 and three demerit points will be imposed. Corporations will receive much greater fines.

It is true that without trucks Australia stops. We all recognise that road transport is what brings to each of us the things that we need; however, there can and should be a balance. As a government, we have a duty to ensure that people in our communities are not unduly affected by policy decisions particularly when, with a little more effort, a compromise that is acceptable to all can be reached.

I would like to thank the minister for his interest and efforts in bringing these regulations into effect. I also thank the hardworking officers of the transport and main roads department for their efforts in ensuring that these regulations are enforced. Finally, I would like to thank the long-suffering residents who live along the Brisbane Urban Corridor who put their faith in me to deliver for our community.

Currumbin Entrance Dredging Working Group; *Dora the Explorer*

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.32 pm): On 3 October the Currumbin Entrance Dredging Working Group held its annual meeting to discuss the dredging program which commences around this time of the year. Currumbin estuary is an incredibly popular location and attracts thousands of people who enjoy it for many different reasons: surfing, boating, swimming and several other water activities. Problems with excessive siltation have existed for years. Some say it is worsened by the Tweed Sand Bypass, which was built almost 20 years ago. No-one wants to accept that the problem is theirs, claiming that it is not a navigable waterway. I will save that debate for another day.

Once a year a small dredge removes a specified amount of sand which is used to replenish nearby beaches. The designated grid area, as it is called, has not changed much in many years, and there are calls to alter the current footprint to get better, longer lasting results. There are also concerns about water quality in the adjoining parklands, known as the Pirate Park, due to inadequate flushing out of the estuary and heavy siltation. That is why with regard to the dredging of this estuary I asked the Minister for the Environment if she can advise what the state government's financial commitment has been each year for the past five financial years; what steps need to be taken to modify the designated dredge area; and what involvement the state government has in assessing water quality in Currumbin Creek.

I also had the pleasure of taking a tour of the *Dora the Explorer* film set at the local Palm Beach Currumbin State High School—AKA Silver Lake High—during the September school holidays. Together with school principal Chris Capra, Paramount Pictures' Ernie Malik from Chicago, and local Gold Coast film location manager Duncan Jones, we visited on the last day of filming at the school. *Dora* is being filmed at 25 locations, all in Queensland. Filming will finish in Queensland mid-November. It was surreal to walk around the facility and see the transformation.

Mind you, it is not the first time our southern Gold Coast has been chosen as a film set. I recall watching the award-winning *Muriel's Wedding* in the Coolangatta cinema. Much of it was filmed in the streets surrounding it but with name changes. More recently the comedy *Swinging Safari* with Kylie Minogue and Guy Pearce was filmed there. Again I watched it in the Coolangatta cinema complex.

For *Dora* there was a cast of around 180, with 200 extras including 40 to 70 PBC students. Forty-five trucks and trailers were set up on the school oval to accommodate all crew and staff, and 12 per cent of the film has been shot at Palm Beach Currumbin High School. I am sure everyone will be fascinated to learn that the final sequence was filmed in the PBC High hall, and the last moment of the film will be our school. I look forward to watching the film next year and seeing our local area featured. Once it is opened in the US in August, Australia will be next.

Mid-Brisbane River

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.34 pm): On 9 October I joined the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Dr Anthony Lynham, Seqwater CEO Neil Brennan, Healthy Land and Water CEO Julie McLellan and recently appointed Seqwater chairman David Hamill to announce that the Palaszczuk government will contribute \$20 million over the next 20 years for projects in the Mid-Brisbane River area to improve water quality. The Mid-Brisbane River is that section of the river located between the Wivenhoe Dam and Mount Crosby. It is within the Somerset and Ipswich Council areas.

The \$20 million Mid-Brisbane River partnership program is a partnership between Seqwater and Healthy Land and Water working directly with landholders along the Mid-Brisbane River. This section of the Brisbane River is a direct source of raw water supply for South-East Queensland's largest and most important water treatment plants at Mount Crosby. The Mount Crosby east bank and west bank treatment plants provide about 50 per cent of the current water needs for South-East Queensland, but within the next 10 or 15 years due to population growth it is expected that it will supply up to 60 per cent of South-East Queensland's drinking water.

I met with Dr Lynham at a privately owned property in Pine Mountain, where work is already underway to stabilise an eroding gully by installing a rock chute and revegetating the area. This project is about engaging with landholders and investing in projects that help make their properties more resilient to floods while improving water quality in the Mid-Brisbane River. At least nine properties have been earmarked for works. The contribution of \$20 million by the Palaszczuk government is a dedicated fund that will involve on-farm works that include: working on active gully erosion sites; undertaking earthworks; installing rock chutes and baffles; establishing native vegetation; installing fencing to

manage livestock access; undertaking revegetation along riverbanks using native species to improve water quality through reduced channel erosion; and addressing other farm related issues that can affect the quality of water in the Mid-Brisbane River.

This is a great initiative and a great investment by the Palaszczuk government in the environment. It will provide water security for the residents of South-East Queensland. It is great for the landholders involved in the program; it is great for the environment; and it is good that South-East Queensland's water supplies will be guaranteed along this section of the Mid-Brisbane River.

Mount Perry

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (2.37 pm): I rise to inform the House of the importance of gold mining in the Mount Perry region in the Callide electorate. Home to 408 constituents, the tiny town of Mount Perry is punching well above its weight. The Mount Perry district was settled by shepherds in the 1840s. Copper was discovered in 1867 and the town grew to be an important mining centre, rapidly expanding to a population of 3,200. As with so many mining boom towns of the era this did not last, and the copper was mined out over a period of 50 years. Alluvial gold was first discovered in the hills near Mount Perry in 1946, leading to early mining endeavours; however, the gold grade was too low to be profitable in those times.

Evolution Mining now operates the Mount Rawdon mine 20 kilometres from Mount Perry. It has produced more than 1.5 million ounces of gold since it started production in 2001, which converts to 50 tonnes of gold bullion. The mine employs 250 people and operates from a single open pit using conventional drill-and-blast, load-and-haul methods. It operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week. At current estimates the operation is scheduled to continue until 2026. It is a significant contributor to the Mount Perry and Queensland economies.

The mine is expected to produce between \$90 million and \$103 million worth of gold in the 2018 financial year. In 2018, 56 ounces, or 1.65 kilograms, of gold found its way into the iconic Melbourne Cup trophy. The extracted rock is processed into dore bar at the mine and sent to ABC Bullion in Sydney, who are in charge of making the iconic Melbourne Cup.

After being manufactured in Sydney, the Melbourne Cup trophy sets off on a whirlwind tour in July. The itinerary includes 37 localities spread throughout the UK, Ireland, New Zealand, Korea and Australia. The trophy went home to Mount Perry in September, visiting the children at the Mount Perry State School and attending a community function at picturesque Mount Perry racecourse on 15 September.

On the first Tuesday in November, when the race that stops a nation has been run and the festivities are done and dusted, those fortunate Melbourne Cup winners will forever be in possession of a precious piece of gold from the little Callide town of Mount Perry. I implore the Minister for Racing to make sure that some of the promised and yet-to-be-delivered \$70 million to rural and regional country racing finds its way to the Mount Perry Race Club.

Cairns Safer Streets

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.40 pm): Crime and the causes of crime are complex and multifaceted. Tackling the issues requires not only immediate action but also dedication, innovation and cooperation, because the solution to crime problems does not lie with any one agency, level of government or strategy. To achieve this, the Cairns Safer Streets initiative was born. In early 2017 Cairns Safer Streets initiated the youth activity enhancement program. Since April 2017 there have been over 94 youth activities in nine different locations with a total of 1,748 instances of participation in sports as varied as soccer, table tennis and traditional games—even frisbee and robotics. A preliminary review of the project saw improvement in the community and school based behaviour of some young people, improved peer interactions and positive participant and community feedback.

This crime-breaking initiative was to provide diversionary activities for young people in West Cairns. This was in response to issues raised by the residents of West Cairns in relation to juvenile delinquency and the lack of available activities and events for young people. Research shows that a lack of structured leisure and recreation activities is a significant criminological risk factor and is regarded as an important prevention and early intervention strategy to divert young people away from offending. Research also supports the notion that the positive and frequent use of public parks and spaces discourages antisocial behaviour, improves a community's view of itself and creates a sense of ownership and belonging.

The vision of Cairns Safer Streets is to improve community safety and wellbeing in not only West Cairns but also throughout Cairns through community and a whole-of-government approach. Its objective is to develop, implement and finalise projects relating to safety and wellbeing for the community and, more importantly, to ensure people feel safer.

The Cairns Safer Streets Taskforce has been established and has been operating since May 2013. It comprises representatives from six key agencies: the Queensland Police Service; the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships; the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; the Department of Housing and Public Works; Education Queensland; and Queensland Health. These organisations and the people working in them also work with a number of NGOs to ensure that the people of Cairns will get what they need—that is, a far safer community. We are working towards it. As the representative of the people of Cairns I know that more needs to be done. I assure my electorate that more is being done to reduce the scourge of crime.

Biggen, Mr P; Hervey Bay Electorate

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the hardworking police officers in my electorate of Hervey Bay. I have had the pleasure of knowing Inspector Paul Biggen for many years. Paul is a great police officer and he has done his job very well. Paul has chosen to take a position in Brisbane in order to further his career. He will be missed. Paul is very well respected by his peers and the community. A send-off is being held tonight at the Hervey Bay surf club at Torquay. I take this opportunity to farewell Paul and wish him all the best in his future career.

Speaking of our valued police, we need to keep up with what is needed. The population of the Hervey Bay and Maryborough state electoral districts as at 30 June last year was over 100,000 people. This does not include the outlying areas of the Maryborough police district area. The Maryborough district police have a lot of work to do, and we need to make sure they have the infrastructure they need to meet the demands of a growing population.

The Hervey Bay Police Station needs extension. I have asked the police minister about the expansion of the Hervey Bay Police Station on a number of occasions. Two properties at the back of the police station are currently for sale. The police station at Hervey Bay sits alongside the courthouse. That is very convenient for our police and works well. If we lose the opportunity to buy these properties, the government might have to shift the police station to another location, because the station was not built to have storeys added. Moving the location of the police station away from the courthouse would create a few hassles. The courthouse and the police station being located together is fantastic. I hope that the government listens to reason and takes the opportunity to investigate these properties that are currently for sale behind the police station to be ahead of the infrastructure need. Playing catch-up with infrastructure never works.

I thank the Hervey Bay Orchid Society, the Leukaemia Foundation, the JPs, Meals on Wheels and the Fraser Coast Historic Vehicle Club, which had its 50-year anniversary a couple of weeks ago. It was fantastic to be able to attend events of those organisations. I thank them.

Vaccination

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.46 pm): I wish to speak briefly about an issue I am wary of giving more attention than it deserves, but I feel it is something that merits challenge wherever it pops up. I speak regarding a billboard that is currently displayed on Beams Road, on the border of the Aspley and Sandgate electorates. The advertisement in question—a billboard depicting the question 'Vaccinated or Unvaccinated: Who is Healthier?'—is paid for by the Australian Vaccination-risks Network. This is a group that in 2015 ran stories comparing vaccination to rape, with a heading that mocked 'Forced penetration' and asking 'Do you really "need" control over your own choices?'

The current billboard has resulted in a significant number of complaints to me from constituents and members of the public who are uncomfortable with an advertisement that promotes wholly untrue and unscientific behaviour with regard to vaccinations in our community. The member for Sandgate and I have today written to APN, the billboard owner; Ad Standards, the industry self-regulatory body; and Senator Mitch Fifield, the federal communications minister, calling for action to remove the billboard.

I am and will continue to be a strong proponent of the right to political free speech in public discourse; however, coming from a science background, I cannot stand by and say nothing while an advertisement that puts the lives of children in our community at risk remains in full public view. By pushing the message that somehow if you are unvaccinated you are healthier, this advertisement actively harms public health. I believe that the content of the advertisement may contravene section 2.6

of the Australian Association of National Advertisers Code of Ethics and goes against the prevailing community standards on health and safety, in light of the significant volume of research that has proven time and time again that vaccines are highly effective and safe.

A prominent advertisement promoting antivaccination pseudoscience has no place in our community and harms the legacy and ongoing benefits of vaccination, which is the biggest and best public health intervention of the last century. Of course there are risks with vaccination, just as there are risks with any medical procedure or treatment, but the risks are far outweighed by the benefits to the individual—importantly, those who are too young or too immunocompromised to be vaccinated—and the community at large.

The right to free speech is important, but the right of vulnerable people and children to be protected from preventable diseases is a fundamental right of a modern society. It is unfortunate that a dramatic rise in freely and readily available information over the last decade has resulted in a corresponding rise in readily available misinformation. Googling a few antivaccination sites does not qualify as doing your research, just as closing your eyes and imagining that you are Usain Bolt does not make you the world's fastest man.

I am sure there are some in my electorate who will strongly disagree with me on this issue, and I could have just as easily not taken up this issue, but bad ideas thrive in a vacuum and really bad ideas need to be challenged by those in public positions. People should not take my word for it. This is not about my own qualifications or lack thereof. This is not about how much Google research I have done on my own. People should see their local GP or talk to another practising health professional and make a decision based on logic, not emotion—for the benefit of their own children and the benefit of the community.

Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Queensland; Moggill Electorate

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.49 pm): Recently I had the great honour as the shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors to address the annual Australian Pensioners' and Superannuants' League Queensland state conference. While pensions and superannuation have featured heavily in our national news in recent times, the conference held last month was the APSLQ's 70th state conference, with the APSLQ proudly celebrating 73 years in existence—that is, 73 years of consistently advocating for the needs of all seniors. Members of the APSLQ travelled far and wide to attend the conference held in Acacia Ridge, with this year's theme being 'Your Voice', a rather apt theme considering the diverse issues facing our seniors and the various matters raised during the conference.

As the LNP shadow minister, it was a great opportunity to visit this conference and be able to engage with so many seniors as they truly expressed their voice and provided feedback on the issues that concerned them the most. It is perhaps not surprising that one of the key issues that was raised with me was the feeling that Queensland seniors are just not being listened to by the Palaszczuk Labor government. In contrast, the previous LNP government listened to seniors. We took action to help with cost of living by freezing family car registration for three years and by reducing public transport fares to name just a few initiatives but, sadly, this Labor government is not listening and has not been listening for some time.

Seniors have had to contend with car registration costs rising by 3.5 per cent year after year. They have had to scrape and save every dollar for ever-increasing electricity bills and they are having to navigate a health system that has seen the return of ambulance ramping, a blow-out in emergency department wait times and longer surgical waitlists. As the LNP shadow minister for seniors, I am proud to be their voice and I will continue to be their voice for as long as this Labor government refuses to meaningfully act in the best interests of these great Queenslanders. Our Queensland seniors deserve nothing less.

I also want to note that at the recent conference a number of issues were canvassed regarding our aged-care sector, and I again wish to acknowledge and support the positive action taken by the Morrison federal coalition government to address the disturbing reports of elder abuse and neglect by establishing a royal commission into the aged-care sector. I once again thank the APSLQ for its kind invitation to be a part of its state conference and extend my sincere appreciation and congratulations to State President Cherith Weis and Secretary Noela Harvey for organising a terrific conference.

In my remaining time I want to mention two events held last weekend in the electorate of Moggill. Pullenvale on a Platter was held at the Pullenvale Hall. It was a terrific day with emcee ABC journalist Leonie Mellor. I want to congratulate the President of the Pullenvale Progress Association, Julie Smith,

as well as Kate Christiansen, Marita Davis, Sophie Weitemeyer, Emma Carsen, Libby Maiden and many others for that terrific event. Also, the Kenmore park kindly celebrated its 50th birthday. I congratulate president Catherine Robertson, vice-president Sarah Lindeman and director Joanne White as well as many others on a great event.

Macalister Electorate, Beenleigh

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.52 pm): As a member representing a new electorate with an eponymous name, I spend a bit of time having to explain where Macalister is in Queensland. I tell most people that I am probably better known as the member for Beenleigh, and it is Beenleigh that I stand up and advocate for here today. In my first speech in this House I spoke about the potential the future holds for my electorate.

I was pleased to attend the Logan City Council Destination Logan launch last week. Logan is a proactive council looking to capitalise on its key location between Brisbane and the Gold Coast to drive and increase its tourism dollars. It was a fantastic event held at the newly refurbished Beenleigh artisan rum distillery, Australia's oldest functioning distillery. Next door to the distillery we see the work being done to reclaim the derelict DFO buildings along the banks of the Albert River. Zarraffa's is in the first stage of transforming what has been an eyesore on the side of the M1 into a vibrant foodie epicentre. I look forward to working with not only Kenton Campbell and his team but also the Logan City Council to realise this ambition.

While we talked up Beenleigh's future, last month Beenleigh's history was in sharp focus. In September each year the Beenleigh Show Society hosts the annual Beenleigh Show. While it is no longer the three-day event of days gone by, it is still the largest event in Beenleigh each year. In 2018 the Beenleigh Show had 6,000 people through its gates that day, with over 600 exhibitors showing everything from needlework to woodworking as well as produce and agricultural exhibitors. I would like to acknowledge the work of the show society, particularly Annette and Lionel Mundt, and the over 100 volunteers who make it possible each year.

The Beenleigh Show Society is the longest running show in Queensland, having been a local institution since the first show in 1871. Apart from the war years, it has run every year without fail. The Palaszczuk Labor government supports these local institutions and in 2018 provided over \$24,000 in funding to keep the show going. Our society may change and our kids may find new ways of entertaining themselves, but there is nothing quite like a day at the show—the sights, the sounds, the rides, the various meat and other things on a stick and the main ring entertainment, not forgetting the fireworks to top it off. These events are central tenets, even to old country towns now becoming outer urban centres.

In Beenleigh we acknowledge our history. We have one of the few remaining functioning historical villages in South-East Queensland. We are proud of that. The Beenleigh Historical Village is now home to the Beenleigh time capsule. Originally interred in 1964, it was dug up as part of the Beenleigh 150 celebrations and nearby upgrades to the Beenleigh Aquatic Centre thanks to support from the Palaszczuk Labor government to the tune of \$1.5 million. Because the capsule was originally sealed by the then Governor of Queensland, approval was sought from our current Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey, who was on hand last month as it was reinterred at the Beenleigh Historical Village as part of the inaugural Beenleigh Heritage Day. I can only hope that I may be there when it is dug up again in 2064. Fingers crossed!

Salisbury, Mr J; Scenic Rim Electorate

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (2.55 pm): Last week the Rathdowney community and wider Beaudesert district farewelled a fine gentleman who had contributed immeasurably to his community. John Thomas Salisbury passed away, aged 84, on 1 October 2018. He and his wife of over 50 years, Margaret, have been part of the fabric of their home community all of their lives. I especially want to mention that John was recently honoured for his more than 50 years service to the Rathdowney Rural Fire Brigade—a brigade that I have spoken of in this House many times, a brigade that I have been fighting for over the last 4½ years to get its new shed built so that rural fireys, who John gave so much time to, could have a shed fit for purpose. Sadly, lethargic government in Brisbane meant John never got to see this become a reality, but I will keep on working to see that it does. I table an article from the *Beaudesert Times* of 17 October 2018 that shows that the rural fire brigade was just one of the community service activities that John was involved in.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Beaudesert Times*, dated 17 October 2018, titled 'Rathdowney' [[1684](#)].

John and Margaret also served the Rathdowney school community, St Joseph's church, the bowls club—and what a superb bowls club it is in Rathdowney—the RSL subbranch, the Rathdowney hall and the information centre. They have been in everything and it is fitting that I pay tribute to John Thomas Salisbury in this Queensland parliament today, 18 October 2018, which would have been John's 85th birthday. Rest in peace, Sir.

The Mount Lindesay Highway south of Beaudesert is in dire need of work by Main Roads. Residents in Kooralbyn, Rathdowney, Hillview, Christmas Creek, Running Creek, Laravale, Tamrookum and all the surrounding areas depend on it every day. That is why I committed in the 2017 election campaign to making sure that Main Roads fixes this part of the Mount Lindesay where motorists, particularly those in trucks, experience dangerous road conditions. The section just north of Laravale is particularly bad and urgently needs repairs. I have been raising this matter with Main Roads constantly but, unfortunately, so far, no real work has been done to fix these issues. TMR has advised me that it will do it in 2020-21 and 2022-23. This is an outrageously long time to wait, and why the one-year gap? Should it not all be done at once? This part of the road carries a lot of heavy vehicles and freight and for the safety of everybody I urge TMR to look at bringing this work forward. The Mount Lindesay Highway needs work along its entire stretch and I will make sure that those people who live along this southern stretch of the Mount Lindesay are not forgotten about.

Our community needs an affordable, reliable electricity supply, but the Labor Party's pilfering of people's pockets through electricity prices continues unabated. The budget shows that government owned bodies are making higher profits—up 45 per cent last financial year—and sending more money than ever back to the government so that the government can employ more public servants in Brisbane. While local dairy farmers, growers, families and businesses are struggling to pay their bills, struggling to keep people employed, the Labor Party keeps on raking it in and taking it off these struggling people in rural Queensland. Its own crazy rush to introduce expensive renewable energy only adds to this pain. Affordable, reliable power is what we need to keep the costs of living and running a business under control, yet Labor simply cannot and will not deliver it.

Alumina 2018

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.58 pm): Today I rise to speak about Alumina 2018, known also as the 11th Alumina Quality Workshop international conference, which was recently held in my electorate of Gladstone. Alumina 2018 is an international symposium that has been held triennially in the Gladstone electorate for the past 30 years. It began in 1988 as a small forum to bring alumina producers and their customers together to exchange ideas and information on production quality, but over time the symposium has grown and flourished until in recent years it has become the international forum in which to hear about the latest developments in alumina production. It now offers a unique opportunity to network on a global scale with Australian and international alumina producers, Australian and international academics and industry based researchers and local and worldwide transportation and logistics experts.

As the 2016 Census figures demonstrate, of the roughly 61 per cent of all constituents of working age living in my electorate, nine per cent were directly employed in alumina production and smelting. This figure is made up of trades and administrative staff employed by the alumina industry in Gladstone who would, when added together, constitute approximately a further 10 per cent or so of all persons employed in Gladstone. That is over 20 per cent plus of all persons of working age in Gladstone who are involved in some way or another with the international alumina or aluminium industry in Queensland. Employment and the individual and family prosperity that employment brings is why I attended Alumina 2018 and why I am so pleased to be able to see this event in my electorate. Before becoming a member of this House, I was a worker in this same industry for 21 years.

For those attending the conference, it was not all about the industry. Alongside all the papers and discussion, the lucky delegates experienced the very best that Queensland has to offer, which is, of course, the beautiful Gladstone region. They dined on mud crab and Queensland beef in our finest restaurants. They were taken to the Quoin Island Turtle Rehabilitation Centre where they could spend time with the local tame kangaroos whilst attending a poolside cocktail function. They were treated to the private beaches and tranquillity of north Facing Island, which is one of the many glorious islands in Gladstone Harbour that are within easy reach by boat charter from our world-class marina.

Alumina 2018 functioned as a brilliant showcase of the best that my electorate and the Palaszczuk government has to offer a global audience. I am very pleased to say that, in September, given the myriad of potential offered to it, the world came to the wonderful electorate of Gladstone and was reluctant to leave.

**STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL
INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE****Report, Motion to Take Note**

Resumed from 20 September (see p. 2724), on motion of Mr Whiting—

That the House take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report No. 10 titled *Consideration of Auditor-General's report 16: 2015-16—Flood resilience of river catchments* tabled on 19 July 2018.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.01 pm), continuing: The QRA advised that significant progress had been made, with planning scheme amendments taking into account flood hazard and flood risks. The committee noted that a range of actions to strengthen flood resilience is taking place in Queensland. It is clear that a significant and varied range of actions have already been implemented or are planned to be implemented shortly. The committee acknowledges that a one-size-fits-all solution is not appropriate for Queensland. Instead, locally specific fit-for-purpose solutions are best placed to deliver improved flood resilience.

Resilience activities are underway across Queensland. To promote this issue, the QRA advised—

We also have a strong focus on land use planning. Land use planning is our best capability for dealing with future risk. We also need to deal with improved disaster management with the new information that we have. Improved community information, education and awareness are also very important.

I am seeing these activities at the local level in my community of Oxley, where the Oxley Secondary School site is being redeveloped. EDQ is well aware of the significant risk of flooding on this site and its plans for the site address this issue clearly. The wonderful Yuingi childcare centre, the site of many significant flooding events over the years, is being moved out of the flood plain. The area of the site that floods is being set aside for playing fields and the 74 new homes will be built on higher ground. This is a key demonstration of the outcomes of the report at work to ensure better outcomes for Queenslanders. I want to finish by thanking the Auditor-General's office for examining this issue, which is so important for Queenslanders.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.03 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on this motion to take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Auditor-General's report in relation to the flood resilience of river catchments. The impact of flooding on communities across South-East Queensland and Queensland more broadly remains fresh in people's memories. It is right that important work, such as reducing the impact of floods on communities, is at the forefront of government action. The average financial loss experienced from flooding was \$377 million per year across Australia and Queensland properties make up 35 per cent of all Australian properties at risk of flooding. Put simply, Queenslanders are more prone to get flooded and, when they have been flooded, the financial impact has been significant. Any steps that we can take to mitigate such an impact need to be pursued.

I experienced firsthand the dreadful impact of flooding when I led some of the first soldiers in and around Grantham in the aftermath of the devastating 2011 floods. I will forever remember the all-pervading stench of death and destruction that was wrought on a small town that was ill-prepared to deal with it. I will never forget the sense of great sadness in searching for toddlers and their grandmothers and the memories of families' lives turned upside down in a moment owing to a devastating torrent of water that tore apart a community.

Knowing the impact that such an event has on a community, I find it astounding that a local council would fail to respond to the Auditor-General's inquiries in relation to the effectiveness of flood resilience activities in river catchments that directly affect their community. That is exactly what occurred in the case of the Ipswich City Council, which failed to respond when asked for feedback from the Auditor-General. It is little wonder that such an incompetent and bumbling council needed to be removed. I only wish it had occurred sooner.

I note the Auditor-General's recommendation that flood resilience activities should be coordinated at a state and catchment level. I support the establishment of a catchment management authority as that best addresses the cross-jurisdictional issues that sometimes arise. I support the notion that we need to remain flexible enough to employ approaches that work best, considering local conditions, but it is also important that resources are applied to best effect for the good of the entire catchment, not just a single local government area. In that regard, I note the work of the Queensland Reconstruction Authority and the significant progress that has been achieved, but more needs to be done.

I note the evidence received by the committee in relation to warning systems and flood monitoring. It is clear that more needs to be done to modernise our approach. There is still a requirement to manually read gauges to establish water levels. This is unacceptable. Similarly, my experience in places such as Grantham tells me that we need to employ better strategies to warn Queenslanders when they are in imminent danger from events such as flash flooding.

The range of actions that have been implemented to strengthen flood resilience across Queensland will make Queensland more flood resilient. We need to continue to focus as the years pass and our memories fade so that future generations do not have to experience the destruction that Queenslanders have unfortunately had to suffer too often in the past.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.07 pm): In January 2013, ex-Tropical Cyclone Oswald devastated the Bundaberg region. Some 2,400 properties were destroyed or damaged, 7,000 people were evacuated and 600 businesses were damaged. The then LNP government introduced the signature Royalties for the Regions program, which, along with Bundaberg Regional Council, funded the work to develop flood mitigation priorities. It is appropriate to say that the member for Broadwater, who is sitting next to me, was integral in providing a rapid response to what had occurred to the Bundaberg community. I thank the member for Broadwater for his true friendship extended to the Bundaberg region in those difficult times.

The LNP government was fully committed to flood mitigation in Bundaberg, and \$174 million in state and federal funding restored community infrastructure and 18 betterment projects improved flood resilience. In Bundaberg, a community reference group was established to consult widely on flood mitigation options and, in December 2013, made a number of recommendations to the Bundaberg Regional Council.

As a result, the council resolved to move forward with a group of priority projects and, in January 2015, began submissions for funding for design works. Those projects were the Millaquin Bend dredging, providing protection to 436 properties at a cost of \$32 million; the Bundaberg East levee and floodgate, providing protection to 741 properties at \$71 million; the Hinkler Avenue upgrade from Tallon Bridge to the North Hill roundabout, at a cost of \$104 million; the Pine Creek, Givelda and Electra alternative evacuation route, at a cost of \$1 million; and the Goodnight Scrub alternative evacuation route, at a cost of \$5 million to \$10 million.

In 2015 the Palaszczuk government determined that yet another study was needed and established the Bundaberg Flood Protection Study to develop a \$4 million, 10-year plan for flood mitigation. The study came up with 11 flood options, most of them the same as those developed in 2013 under the community reference group, and they included again the Millaquin Bend widening, the Bundaberg East levee, the emergency access, the upper flood plain excavation improvements and also a new and a surprising one to the community, the flood house purchase scheme. These findings took until early 2017 to be presented, four years after the devastation of the floods and three years after these priority projects for flood mitigation were identified and recommended.

In June 2016 the Palaszczuk government promised that there would be 'boots on the ground tomorrow' and the first four mitigation options were launched. It is good that the minister is in the House to remember those wonderful moments two years ago when he was promising boots on the ground. As at January 2018, after \$4 million and yet another review, no infrastructure has been started to protect Bundaberg five years on from the disastrous floods of 2013. In the middle of this year, the Bundaberg East levee remained a proposed project with potential sites and details under consideration. There is no sign of the proposed northern evacuation routes for the outlying rural areas and the proposed housing buyback scheme seems to be another thought bubble and something that we should be concerned about.

I must ask: is this government serious about protecting the thousands of citizens of Bundaberg and the wider Burnett area or must we suffer through another five years of reviews? Quite frankly, I think the community wants to see action. I think the 10-year strategy is starting to creep up on us very quickly. We cannot sit around for another couple of years talking about what flood mitigation should look like. The community deserves, expects and really wants action and leadership from this Palaszczuk Labor government. I recommend sincerely that they give our community the attention it deserves and get on with the flood mitigation.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the motion to take note of report No. 10 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in consideration of the Auditor-General's report No. 16 of 2015-16, *Flood resilience of river catchments*. Over many years my electorate has been affected by flood events.

My former electorate of Albert was affected in 2017 and in years previous to that. There are two major rivers that feed into the Moreton Bay and Gold Coast region: the Albert-Logan and Coomera rivers within the old boundaries of Albert. I found it very interesting reading through the committee's report and seeing how the recommendations have been implemented. I agree that one size cannot fit all situations. In my region, for instance, the Albert River is a slower running river than the Coomera River. The Coomera River has a tendency to peak very quickly and bring water down very rapidly and therefore would give most residents in that region very little warning time.

In 2017 when the ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie rain event came down into my region I will never forget the heartache for so many residents around Halls Road, which is located on the banks of the Albert River. We had a situation of mass devastation where people's houses and sheds were washed away. There was a very, very daring rescue by the local SES. I thank again Jim Ferguson, the SES controller for Logan, and his team for their rapid reaction in saving those people's lives by getting them off the roof of that house. As history would demonstrate, that house did not last very long in that flood. For those residents in Halls Road it was a scene of absolute disaster. Their precious items—memorabilia, photographs, et cetera—were stripped away from their houses and washed down the river.

Whilst the floodwaters rose very rapidly there, it was nothing compared to the flood we had on the Coomera River. That leads me to my main point when it comes to flood resilience. As development happens in my region and there are more houses and more roadways with kerbing and channelling, water is transferred more quickly into these rivers, and therefore causing the rivers to rise more rapidly reducing time for warnings but also enhancing the height of these floods. This was no more evident than on the Coomera River in the 2017 floods where, unfortunately, the Tamborine Oxenford Road was cut.

Governments of all layers need to come together to work towards one common goal. Unfortunately, we see a bit of a political blame game between two layers of government over the John Muntz Bridge in my region. It is the residents and local businesses who will suffer the next time that riverbank gives way and the connection road is washed away. I hope that the state government and the Gold Coast City Council can come together to reinforce that riverbank to prevent any further erosion to that connection road. That connection road, as I say, is a very important arterial link for my region—Tamborine Mountain, Upper Coomera and Maudsland. Many thousands of vehicles drive across that bridge every single day. The government needs to sort this issue out.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.16 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Auditor-General's report titled *Flood resilience of river catchments*. I start by saying that it is an excellent and timely report. We should never take our eye off the ball when it comes to flood resilience and the way we prepare for and deal with disasters. It is a report that outlines that about a third of flooded dwellings in Australia are in Queensland. It speaks of the hundreds of millions of dollars.

What is not in the report though are the things that I saw after the floods of Bundaberg in late January 2013. It does not tell the story of the people who would cry on my shoulder who had lost everything without insurance. It does not tell the story of the young couple in Bargara behind the bowls club who had lost the roof of their home and their watering hole next door. They had lost everything. It does not tell the story of the SES worker who was there cleaning up other people's property when her own was under water. It does not tell the story of a young deputy mayor who put everything on hold for months and months to rebuild his city and find leadership the likes of which I have never seen before. That young deputy mayor is today in this parliament as a fine state member. It does not tell the story of the member for Burnett who was there side by side with his growers who had been so badly impacted with roads torn apart.

It also does not tell the story about why it is so vitally financially important for us to do better in the way that we deal with disasters. After this event we went to the Commonwealth government with what I thought was a lay-down misere of a proposal—a proposal that would see, when infrastructure was rebuilt, that it would not just be rebuilt to the same standard; it would, in fact, be improved and upgraded. We banged heads for a long time. In the end we received what I thought was a modest amount of \$40 million, which the state matched.

Today there are projects that have stood the test of time as a result of that. In the North Burnett area a water treatment pump that had been washed away time and time again and rebuilt in the same location is now out of harm's way. That might not mean much to a boffin in Canberra, but it means a heck of a lot to that community. In the long term it makes so much sense financially as well. Why not take that attitude all the time? It is not the local government that bears the financial cost; it is the state

and the federal government. Why not take that a step further when looking at infrastructure in communities? Why not make a decision to make it stronger from the start? Why not spend a little bit more and build flood resilience at the front end? Unfortunately, that is not something that Canberra has understood.

I also wish to speak of the Queensland authority that deals with this, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority. It is indeed the right entity to respond to these kinds of crises. It is fair and proper that there is a dedicated authority. It is also fair and proper that that authority leads the rebuilding effort, the recovery effort, the preparation effort and also the disaster mitigation and resilience factors that need to be built in.

In this state there has not been a great appetite for building levees, because whenever you build a levee there will be a winner and a loser. Too often, the smaller number of losers have the greater say. That is why my admiration for people such as the former mayor of Balonne, Donna Stewart, is so very high. When we put up the offer to build levee banks, it was that strong country woman who stood up against the naysayers and said, 'Yes, please.' Some in her community made a lot of noise and said that a lot of things would go wrong, but she delivered it on time and she delivered it on budget. Today that community is protected, as is the little community of Balonne, which is also situated in the Balonne shire, very close to St George.

We need to take flood resilience seriously. The Auditor-General's report takes the first step in putting it on the agenda and we should continue to do all we can.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.21 pm): As much of the Bremer catchment falls within the electorate of Scenic Rim, I want to make a few comments about the report into the Auditor-General's report and, in particular, the point about coordinating flood resilience activities and funding at a state and catchment level. Of course, catchments and floods do not know any local government boundaries or any other boundaries that we put in place. There is no better example of that than the 2013 flood along the Bremer catchment, which affected Ipswich so badly. Much of the rain that impacted Ipswich during that horrific event fell in the Bremer catchment above Rosevale, Mount Walker and on the Great Dividing Range in the Scenic Rim electorate. On that particular evening in 2013, the rainfall amounts were unprecedented and frightening for many of the locals, but had a devastating impact downstream. Therefore, this does need to be looked at on a catchment level.

After that devastating flood in 2013, consideration was given to building a detention basin around the Willowbank area to mitigate the impact of flooding in Ipswich in particular. During the term of the LNP government, that idea was looked at. To my knowledge, it was still being looked at in 2015, at the time of the change of government. The idea has not progressed any further at this point. However, it is timely to again raise that prospect, particularly as now there is a proposal for a railway to be built in the area where the detention basin was suggested. The Australian Rail Track Corporation is planning to build the inland rail not in the exact same spot, but in the general vicinity. They really need to consider very carefully the design of that railway, the impact it might have on the flow of water through the area and whether it should be built in a particular manner because of the fact that, after the 2013 flood, there was a proposal to construct a flood mitigation structure there. The 2013 floods really were terrible for that catchment.

It is not just flood mitigation that should be considered on a statewide basis but also the issue of disaster management. Just as catchments know no boundaries, sometimes the fact that one local government area is more affected by flood can have some perverse consequences for people who live just outside that LGA but in the same catchment. We saw that in the last flood, the 2017 flood, when people on the Bremer catchment who live just inside Ipswich City were not able to access disaster assistance, even though they were just as affected by the flood as those people who live in the same catchment but in the Scenic Rim Regional Council area.

I note that the 2013 floods also impacted terribly on the communities of the Logan and Albert rivers and the 2017 flood, which was a major disaster in Beaudesert, saw unprecedented rainfall in those catchments, as well. While having state based catchment management of flood mitigation is a good idea, it requires that you go out into the top of those catchments in the Logan, Albert and Bremer rivers and Reynolds and Warrill creeks and look at how to mitigate the downstream risks, as well as doing work that may mitigate the damage caused by floods in those communities.

In closing, in the Scenic Rim flood disasters, in 2017 in particular, the local response of SES volunteers could not be faulted. It was second to none, both in dealing with people who had been affected by flooding, were inundated and needed rescuing, and also in warning residents that flood was

coming. In the Boonah region some very proactive SES people went out to try to warn people that floodwaters were approaching. On the Beaudesert side, a very dedicated swiftwater rescue team had to cross a massive inland sea that was full of debris to rescue people from their homes in the early hours of that morning. We say thanks to them.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to take Note



Mr WHITING (Bancroft—ALP) (3.26 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report No. 11 titled *Consideration of Auditor-General's report 19: 2016-17—Security of critical water infrastructure* tabled on 19 July 2018.

I rise to speak to report No. 11. This is one of the most important reports that this committee has done. It points out that our water supply is vulnerable at certain points. I hope that this report will put water entities on notice. I hope it will stir them into greater action to ensure that our water infrastructure is more secure.

In this report, two large risks have been pointed out and the first is telemetry and water control systems. It is clear that there is a huge growth in remote access to our water control systems, but that also means that there are some increased vulnerabilities to attack or disruption, which have led to sewerage systems overflowing or reductions in water pressure. Remote access is great when you are servicing those facilities, but it opens up more entry points into our water systems.

Another risk outlined in the report relates to the systems and processes. When we were briefed on the report we heard some concerning evidence, the crux of which is that water control systems have not been adequately secure. Why is that? It is partially because of the age of the control systems. They are ongoing and we are trying to integrate into those aged systems some newer corporate networks. All the entities said that they could operate their plants manually, but none of them demonstrated that. Only one entity demonstrated that it had documented its manual operations procedures.

The report outlines that cybersecurity systems are not adequate, affecting basic things such as changing passwords regularly, installing needed program updates, locking unattended computers and limiting physical access to buildings. Those are all pretty straightforward things that many other government corporations have done.

There are a number of issues I will mention in passing. There are many points of entry for someone wanting to breach the security of our water assets. That has been exacerbated by the sheer number of water assets in Queensland across what we know is a very broad area. There are 85 registered drinking water service providers, but 69 of those 85 supply under 1,000 people. There are 300 individual water supply sources.

There have been some far-reaching and special recommendations from the Audit Office handed to these water entities. They include: integrate all risk management frameworks; facilitate information sharing; improve oversight and monitoring of IT; establish incident response plans; test capabilities to respond to incidents; train staff; get business continuity plans in order; update and test disaster and recovery plans; and plan to deal with incidents of multiple system failures.

I view what we have learned as deserving of wider attention. As I have said, I hope that our water entities are listening to this or take note of this. The committee was concerned that the departmental progress towards implementing the recommendations of the Audit Office has not been timely and therefore has been limited. We note that there are a number of actions that will not be delivered by the original deadline. That is why we have said that we want to be updated by June 2019 on the implementation of recommendations 1 and 2. Progress has been made and we are seeing a real commitment to closing these gaps.

Lastly, I acknowledge that there are many hardworking people in the water and sewerage industry. I have worked with many over the years. I know that they are dedicated to the community and their local government. I have always been impressed with their dedication to the service and the community, especially at times when they are very much needed. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to speak to Auditor-General's report No. 19 titled *Security of critical water infrastructure*. On 8 August 2017 Auditor-General report No. 19 titled *Security of critical water infrastructure* was referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee of the 55th Parliament. That committee did not report before the dissolution of parliament on 29 October. The report was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee on 3 May 2018.

In Queensland, water service providers monitor and control water transport, treatment and distribution. This includes the water distribution network for drinking water, reservoirs and pump stations and collection and treatment of wastewater. Water control systems in Queensland have been maliciously targeted, resulting in danger to public health and safety. The Queensland Audit Office identified that attacks have resulted in overflows of untreated sewage, reductions in water pressure or shutdowns in the distribution of water. As many of these systems are now connected to other networks and the internet, the risk of unauthorised access has increased.

The audit was conducted because of the necessity for secure critical infrastructure, heightened security risks and cyber attacks leading up to the Commonwealth Games and a previous audit of systems used to manage traffic signals that found control systems were not secure and susceptible to targeted attacks. The Auditor-General told the committee—

Targeted attacks previously have resulted in overflows of untreated sewage and shutdowns in the distribution of water. We acknowledge that entities cannot always prevent attacks through information technology, but they can strengthen their defences. They also need to implement processes to detect and recover from security breaches, enhancing cyber resilience.

All entities audited were found to be susceptible to security breaches or hacking attacks because of weaknesses in processes and controls. The entities reported that they could operate smaller plants or parts of their larger water treatment plants manually in the event of disruption to computer systems, but had not demonstrated this capacity. Only one entity had documented its manual operating procedures and none had ever tested running their whole plants manually.

The audit report made a number of recommendations, which we just heard about from the chair of the committee. They included: integrating information technology; facilitating information sharing; and improving oversight. It recommended simple things like implementing KPIs. We have asked for an update on this. This was a disturbing report. Security was so lax on such critical pieces of infrastructure. I thank the other members of the committee for their work. I look forward to a better audit report on water security the next time around.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise to outline the findings of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Committee's consideration of Auditor-General report No. 19 for 2016-17 titled *Security of critical water infrastructure*. This report was report No. 11 of the 56th Parliament and was tabled in July 2018.

The committee's task was to consider the Auditor-General's findings as to whether a selection of entities responsible for critical water infrastructure had processes in place to protect their water control systems and whether these entities could detect security breaches and, where there are breaches, restore the systems after an attack. The committee also examined the progress of these entities in implementing previous recommendations by the Auditor-General.

On 8 August 2017, Auditor-General report No. 19 titled *Security of critical water infrastructure* was referred to the Public Works and Utilities Committee of the then 55th Parliament. That committee did not report before the dissolution of our parliament on 29 October 2017. After the 2017 election the report was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee on 3 May 2018.

The committee received a public briefing on the Auditor-General's report from the Queensland Audit Office and also from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy on 11 June 2018. In Queensland, water service providers monitor and control water transport, water treatment and water distribution. This includes the water distribution network for drinking water, reservoirs and pump stations as well as the collection and treatment of wastewater.

Water control systems in Queensland have been previously maliciously targeted resulting in a danger to Queensland public health and safety. The Queensland Audit Office identified attacks that have resulted in overflows of untreated sewage, reductions in water pressure and shutdowns of the distribution of water. As many of these systems are now connected to other networks and the internet, the risk of unauthorised access has increased greatly.

Water entities are responsible for securing their own water assets. However, several Australian government entities play a role in setting guidelines and strategies for securing critical infrastructure and assisting critical infrastructure owners when security breaches occur. The safety and reliability of the water supply in Queensland is governed by the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008. Under this legislation safety relates to ensuring that there is a supply of water rather than providing for information technology security. The legislation does not require guidance on information technology security to be provided to water entities.

The committee found that the water control systems for the entities were not adequately secure. Consequently, the committee made two recommendations: firstly, that the Legislative Assembly note the contents of the committee's report; but, more importantly, secondly, that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy provide a briefing or written briefing to the committee by the end of June 2019 on its implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations 1 and 2 in Auditor-General's report No. 19 of 2016-17 titled *Security of critical water infrastructure*. In closing, I would like to thank my fellow committee members, the secretariat, Hansard, the government departments and the Queensland Audit Office.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (3.39 pm): I rise to speak as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in consideration of the Auditor-General's report of 2016-17 titled *Security of critical water infrastructure*. The Auditor-General's report discusses the performance audit conducted to assess whether systems used to operate, manage and monitor Queensland's critical water infrastructure were secure, appropriate and effective throughout 2016-17. The audit also sought to clarify whether effective processes were in place to recover from adverse events, should they occur.

On 3 May 2018 the report was referred to our committee for consideration and a public briefing on the report, conducted by the Queensland Audit Office and the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, was received on 11 June 2018. As a committee member, I would like to thank both the QAO staff and the departmental staff for their assistance.

At the briefing in June, the Auditor-General, Mr Brendan Worrall, discussed the increase in reported attacks on critical infrastructure via information technology, or IT. The Auditor-General also discussed the assessment of how well a selection of water service providers are managing that high risk. The Auditor-General acknowledged that entities cannot always prevent attacks through IT but are able to strengthen their defences by implementing processes to detect and recover from security breaches, which results in overall enhanced cyber-resilience. The Auditor-General also advised the committee that the entities that were audited were proactive in improving their control environments and took advice into consideration as the audit was completed. The Auditor-General noted that all entities agreed to address each risk as it was discovered and intended to make sure they have a good, secure environment.

The audit recognised a number concerns, which resulted in the Auditor-General making four recommendations as part of the report. The first recommendation is that the Department of Energy and Water Supply integrates IT risks and cyberthreats into the existing risk management framework for drinking water services and sewerage service provider performance reports—one would wonder why that is not already happening—and that the department facilitates the sharing of information regarding adopting standards for securing IT amongst the entities that manage the water control systems. Additionally, the Auditor-General recommends that the entities that were audited improve oversight, identification and monitoring of IT risks and cyberthreats to water control systems and that enterprise-wide incident response plans, business continuity and disaster recovery processes for IT are established—again, one would why they are not already there.

The committee is pleased with the Auditor-General's recommendations and commends the QAO for the thorough investigation and significant contribution to public sector performance. Further to the AG's audit and resulting recommendations, the committee recommends the Legislative Assembly notes all content and makes one further recommendation, as we have heard from other members, to ensure that the Auditor-General's recommendations are implemented accordingly. The committee recommends that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy provides a briefing—written and/or spoken—to the committee by the end of June 2019 to ensure the Auditor-General's recommendations have been implemented and reflected upon.

Ensuring the water and sewerage systems are safe and will not affect the health and wellbeing of the people of Queensland is extremely important. I am encouraged by the willingness of the water entities to address the identified weaknesses and develop comprehensive management approaches to

protect our state's critical water infrastructure. I also acknowledge the constructive responses of the water entities both during and after the audit and look forward to some positive outcomes when the committee is briefed in June 2019.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak on the committee report on water cybersecurity and the QAO audit of critical infrastructure. As we have heard, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy have worked closely with the Queensland Audit Office throughout the audit. It should be noted that they are committed to implementing the two relevant QAO recommendations. These recommendations were to integrate information technology risks and cyberthreats into the existing risk management framework for drinking water services and in the Queensland water and sewerage service provider performance reports and also to facilitate information sharing about adopting standards for securing information technology amongst entities that manage water control systems.

The department regulates drinking water quality and service provider performance. The department is committing to adapt the regulatory framework to ensure cybersecurity and information technology hazards are assessed by water and sewerage service providers and that these outcomes are reported. These adaptations will be developed in consultation with the relevant service providers and industry bodies to ensure that they are both relevant and cost-effective. A project is underway to collect data that will inform this process.

There are 84 registered providers of drinking water services operating over 300 drinking water supply schemes across Queensland, with 45 per cent of service providers having fewer than 1,000 connections—which means that they are servicing relatively small amounts. The QAO report is based on audits of three drinking water service providers, all of which are very large urban providers. These providers are more likely to be vulnerable to security related issues that have technological components to their systems. The entities audited have already begun implementing improvements in their management of cybersecurity, and this was acknowledged in the report.

The use of technology varies greatly across providers and hence the susceptibility to information technology and cybersecurity issues. For example, there are many providers that do not have supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA, systems or that do not have SCADA systems that are integrated into a broader network. A number of good practice guidance documents already exist that can and are being used by the relevant providers to establish or improve their resilience against cyber and information technology risks.

The department has engaged a contractor to undertake investigations with six medium to large service providers as a pilot to determine the extent and type of potential of cybersecurity threats. This study will provide data to help the government determine what needs to be incorporated into the existing framework and how best to implement it. We as a government are working with water industry bodies and keeping service providers informed about the project.

I would like to finish by thanking my committee mates. It has certainly been a very diverse and interesting year for our committee and it is not over yet. I have enjoyed it so far. We have looked at everything from fisheries to farm yards. It has been lots of fun—long may it continue.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.46 pm): I rise to make a contribution in relation to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Auditor-General's report in relation to the security of critical water infrastructure. Queenslanders deserve to have confidence in their water assets which provide life-sustaining clean and safe water. In the past, as we have heard, water infrastructure has been targeted maliciously which was a danger to the community and resulted in environmental damage. Such events occurred some years ago but, with the advent of increased internet connectivity, the risk has only increased. I note that a previous audit had identified that systems used to manage traffic signals were not secure and were susceptible to targeted attacks. As a consequence, it was deemed that critical water infrastructure should also be reviewed in advance of the Commonwealth Games.

I note with concern that the audit identified that water control systems were not adequately secure. In particular, I note with concern that processes and controls were lacking, particularly given that these issues can be remediated without the addition of significant financial resources. The audit identified that attacks on critical water infrastructure could disrupt water and wastewater treatment services and that an attack could result in significant risk to public health and economic loss as a result of lost productivity and could significantly impact the environment.

Such findings should not be taken lightly, and I would expect the relevant minister to address the issues identified by the Audit Office and subsequent committee report by updating the House on what has been done. This is not a minor issue. This is an issue that should be on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*, and Queenslanders should be rightly appalled. I hope the minister feels similarly concerned, and if he does not he should.

I acknowledge that some remediation has occurred since the initial audit was performed, but Queenslanders should not have to worry about the security of their public assets. That is our job and the job of public servants. To that end, I support the committee recommendation that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy report back to the committee on its implementation of the Auditor-General's recommendations by the end of June 2019.

I expect that such a report will be of substance and of sufficient detail that reflects the importance of this issue. Given the importance of this issue, it is disappointing that many water service providers have historically not paid sufficient attention to the potential vulnerabilities to their water infrastructure. To my mind, those executives and senior managers who head up public entities responsible for critical water infrastructure should be held to account personally if they fail to remediate the issues identified as a threat to public safety. I note the Auditor-General's comment that many of these entities have sought to improve issues when identified but, frankly, that is the least that should be accepted. I look forward with anticipation to reviewing the implementation of the recommendations listed in the Queensland Audit Office report when briefed by the department no later than June next year.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Auditor-General's report titled *Security of critical water infrastructure*. In reading this report, there is a serious overview of the state's water providers including issues of monitoring and control of water transport, treatment and distribution. We need to be checking and testing our systems, especially water distribution networks, for drinking water, reservoirs, pump stations and wastewater treatment plants.

What was disturbing was the increase in reported attacks on critical infrastructure through information technology. The report found that all entities audited were susceptible to security breaches or hacking attacks because of weaknesses in processes and controls. This has not been addressed or highlighted in any detail and that is concerning. Although there have been recommendations to the department responsible, we read in the report that the department has turned to a bureaucratic response by undertaking a 'project'—whatever that means—to improve its understanding of weaknesses across the sector. We now have key performance indicators implemented through a technical working group. Does this instil any confidence or raise concerns? It does with me.

I share the committee's concern and we should be deeply concerned that the department's progress towards the recommendations of the Audit Office has not been timely and is limited. Actions not being delivered by the original deadline also set a disturbing trend. The committee was right to highlight that these government water service providers have not paid sufficient attention to potential vulnerabilities with their water infrastructure. Considering the serious breach of management and leadership, the minister needs to urgently advise what is being done to secure these audit findings. Just providing a letter next year in June 2019, with due respect to the committee, is not good enough. This is serious. While the minister is at it, he can explain serious proposals that risk security of critical water infrastructure. I am referring to the Paradise Dam improvement project. From what I see, there are no improvements, just devastation on the horizon.

Having become aware of serious consideration being progressed to a detailed business case to lower the spillway at Paradise Dam by a massive 17.6 metres or 10 metres, one can imagine our surprise that many key stakeholders have not been advised or, even worse, have not been consulted. The boffins who are doing the briefing claim they will consult before works commence. How about consulting now before the minister tries to spin a preferred position of wiping out our agricultural, economic and cultural future? This is serious and is something the minister needs to address, not dismiss.

I am concerned that this attack on our critical water infrastructure is being driven by extreme environmentalists who we know control this government. They do not want dams so they spin hysteria in an attempt to remove our critical dam infrastructure, and they will do anything. A new safety standard and proposals have identified 17 projects across multiple dams in Queensland. We need to realise how devastating this is for critical water infrastructure. Why are we even considering this? The minister as early as yesterday claimed that the dam is safe, so why a ridiculous proposal to lower a dam's spillway by 17.6 metres? If the spillway is lowered by 10 metres, it will cut our water allocations in half. If it is cut by 17.6 metres, you may as well take the dam away and forget it was even there. I can tell the House

that there is only one option that will be discussed: leave the wall as it is and fix it up. If they cannot do that, get out of the road and let someone else do it. Sort out this ridiculous safety standard that is posing such a devastating threat to our critical water infrastructure.

I wonder if the people responsible for this proposal understand just how devastating these options are. Our region has a great reputation for water security both now and into the future. We are seeing record investment into horticulture and agriculture based on our dam and water availability. In good years we currently have 95 per cent water allocation. If you lower the spillway by 17.6 metres, it is calculated that allocations will drop by 50 per cent, halving the water allocation to the Burnett and Bundaberg regions. That will halve production costs, halve the value of properties and halt any proposed expansions of production and value adding.

I anticipate that the value of high-value irrigated agricultural land will also significantly drop. This is a disaster. As late as today there have been many phone calls from those who have not been consulted on these proposals who continue to be very disturbed. The Bundaberg region is currently seeing record investment. Hundreds of millions of dollars are being spent on high-value irrigated agriculture. To have even a proposal being endorsed by a minister without consulting with stakeholders is very disturbing. This is about critical water infrastructure. We need to be very careful that this government's agenda does not destroy what is a magic opportunity for the future of the region.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

Report, Motion to Take Note



Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (3.55 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report No. 16 titled *Oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission* tabled on 31 July 2018.

I rise to speak to report No. 16. The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has oversight of the responsibilities for the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Report No. 16 by the committee provides information regarding the performance by the Queensland Family and Child Commission of its functions under the Family and Child Commission Act 2014.

The committee met with Ms Cheryl Vardon, the Principal Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, and Mr Phillip Brooks, Commissioner of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, on 11 June 2018. The committee also reviewed the Queensland Family and Child Commission's annual report, which was tabled on 29 September 2017.

As I stated in my foreword in report No. 16, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff of the Queensland Family and Child Commission who assisted the committee throughout the course of its oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission for the 2016-17 financial year. A special thanks goes to the Queensland Parliamentary Service staff, Principal Commissioner Cheryl Vardon and Commissioner Phillip Brooks.

The committee makes one recommendation in the report: that the House note the contents of the report. The Queensland Family and Child Commission is established under the Family and Child Commission Act 2014 to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and improve the child protection system. Schedule 6 of the standing orders provides that the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee has oversight responsibility for the Queensland Family and Child Commission including to monitor and review the Queensland Family and Child Commission functions and report to the Legislative Assembly on any matter that the committee considers should be drawn to the Legislative Assembly's attention.

The Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee tabled report No. 16, *Oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission*, in the 56th Parliament on 31 July 2018. The report focused on the 2016-17 financial year and notes the work that the Queensland Family and Child Commission has achieved, especially given the extremely challenging issues it examined. The committee congratulates the Queensland Family and Child Commission on its performance and recognises the enormous body of work generated in the context of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's focus on the safety, wellbeing and best interests of all children and young people in Queensland.

During the hearing, the principal commissioner told the committee that the Queensland Family and Child Commission promotes the safety, wellbeing and best interests of all children and young people in Queensland. The principal commissioner pointed out in the hearing that this is quite a significant undertaking. The principal commissioner went on to say that the commission focuses on the vulnerable as a priority and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children but stressed that the commission's remit is for all children.

The principal commissioner pointed out that there are something like over one million children and young people in Queensland aged between zero and 18 years and that this is a figure they hold in their heads daily. The principal commissioner went on to say that it is a privilege and a responsibility, and that they go about their business by identifying and advocating for improvements to the child and family support system. The principal commissioner said that the Queensland Family and Child Commission is quite unique in that over recent years since the machinery-of-government changes in 2014 the commission has been building a contemporary, sustainable children's commission for Queensland—one that does its very best. I commend the report to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.00 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that: the Auditor-General's report No. 2 of 2018-19 titled *Access to the National Disability Insurance Scheme for people with impaired decision-making capacity* and report No. 4 of 2018-19 titled *Managing transfers in pharmacy ownership* be referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee; and the Auditor-General's report No. 3 of 2018-19 titled *Delivering shared corporate services in Queensland*, the Auditor-General's report No. 5 of 2018-19 titled *Follow-up of bushfire prevention and preparedness* and the Auditor-General's report No. 6 of 2018-19 titled *Delivering coronial services* be referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

MINERAL, WATER AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3006, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.01 pm), continuing: I continue with my submissions in support of the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The bill will introduce a distinct arbitration process for CCAs and MGAs as an alternative to making an application to the Land Court and extend the resource authority holder's liability to pay the landholder's necessary and reasonable costs incurred in negotiating and preparing a CCA to include the cost of an agronomist. The bill importantly will also provide that the resource authority holder will be liable to pay the landholder's necessary and reasonable costs incurred in negotiating and preparing a CCA where the resource authority holder has abandoned negotiations. As well, it will allow the Land Court jurisdiction to determine the liability for necessarily and reasonably incurred negotiation and preparation costs in preparing a CCA.

In his first reading speech on 15 February 2018, the minister advised the House that this bill was originally introduced in the 55th Parliament, with the bill introduced in the 56th Parliament essentially the same bill with some minor modifications to improve the statutory conduct and compensation process and to correct some minor identified errors. The minister also requested that the bill be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill. The committee tabled its report in April 2018, being report No. 4 of the 56th Parliament. In that report the committee made eight recommendations.

Firstly, the committee recommended importantly that the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill be passed. The committee also recommended that the minister in his second reading speech clarify the effectiveness of the current arrangements in addressing compensation for landholders who do not have resource tenure activity on their land but may be affected by the impacts of such activity.

The committee went on to recommend that: the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy develops an extensive suite of educational material regarding the arbitration process and that this material be readily available and easy to find on the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy website; that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy conducts information sessions with peak bodies, key stakeholders and affected communities to provide, and advertise, the availability of this material; and that the department reports to the committee in November 2018 on the development and distribution of this material.

The committee went on to recommend that proposed section 91C be removed and that the bill be amended so that parties have the right to legal representation during arbitration. The committee recommended that the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy collaborates with stakeholders to investigate developing a methodology to determine reasonable landholder time related costs and how this could be included in legislation.

The committee recommended that the bill be amended to remove proposed section 91 from clause 46 of the bill and retain the current provisions with respect to professional costs as set out in section 81(4)(b) of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, under clause 38 of the bill, with a minor amendment to include the costs of an agronomist by amending section 81(4)(b). Finally, the committee recommended that the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy clarify during his second reading speech the time frame proposed for an official to report on a direction given to a relevant entity to take action on a water quality issue.

In closing, I would like to thank my fellow committee members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee, the committee secretariat, Hansard as well as the submitters.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.06 pm): I rise today to speak on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee tasked to review this bill, I would like to recognise the work of the committee secretariat, ably led by Dr Jacqui Dewar. I would also like to recognise the contributions of my fellow committee members—the members for Bancroft, Condamine, Bundaberg, Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney.

This bill was one of the first bills considered by the committee at the start of this parliament. At that early stage of my experience in this place, I was heartened at the relatively bipartisan approach with which the committee approached our inquiry and subsequent report. The committee made some sound recommendations to remediate concerns expressed during the committee process. As mentioned by previous speakers, this bill seeks to implement the recommendations of the independent review of the GasFields Commission to remove the automatic referral of compensation matters to the Land Court, amend the water-planning framework including the provision of a mechanism allowing for the temporary allocation of unallocated water and establish new powers to deal with urgent water quality issues.

During the committee inquiry process, concerns were expressed in relation to the lack of consultation. As the committee report states, substantial concerns were received from some stakeholders. In particular, concerns were expressed that consultation was not adequate in relation to small and medium tier organisations. It is a pretty consistent theme repeated time and again on bills introduced by this government, unfortunately.

The committee heard divergent views on the issue of compensation from mining companies, the department, landholders and legal practitioners. One of the principal concerns heard during the inquiry process was concerns expressed by non-mining sector stakeholders who did not support the amendments to section 81(4)(a) that state the compensatable effects only apply where authorised activities have been carried out 'on the eligible claimant's land'. Specifically, it was argued that the amendment removes the rights of neighbours within the resource authority area, but without authorised activities on their land, to claim compensation for the impacts of nearby activities.

I note that the Queensland Law Society expressed similar concerns. Their submission stated—

Under the current regime, there is some debate as to whether it is the legislature's intention that the liability of resource authority holders extends to encompass liability for the effects and impacts suffered by eligible claimants arising from activities undertaken off their properties.

Under the new draft as proposed, it is clear that a resource authority holder's liability to compensate will only extend to those owners and occupiers of properties on which the activities are undertaken. Resource authority holders will not owe a liability to compensate owners of properties nearby to their activities ...

It is clear that 'compensatable effect' is dependent on legal interpretation. Evidence heard by the committee also suggests that it is often landholders who do not have resource tenure activity on their properties who are often most vulnerable as they have limited legislative protections. I note that in his speech today the minister has sought to clarify the intent of the legislation in this regard to provide clarity for all concerned.

In relation to the alternative dispute resolution process there was support generally for the amendments. However, concern was expressed in relation to the uncertainty of time frames to the statutory negotiation process and, importantly, in relation to the ability to access legal representation in the arbitration process. I shared these concerns in relation to the access to legal representation during the arbitration process. The bill would have provided scope for mining and gas companies to use in-house staff with legal experience while landholders could have been denied the ability to engage legal counsel in what is a complex process which has significant implications for the landowner. I welcome the amendments to the bill circulated by the minister this morning as they remediate my concerns in this regard and align with the recommendation of the committee.

Another concern expressed by submitters during the inquiry process was in relation to the professional fees incurred in the negotiation and preparation of a conduct and compensation agreement. Specific concern was expressed in relation to the fact that landholders need to invest significant time in preparing and negotiating a conduct compensation agreement and that they are not able to receive compensation for such loss. Submissions from the QFF noted that there should be potential for landholders to recover such costs. I note that the committee recommended that the department investigate a methodology to determine reasonable landholder time related costs and how this could be included in legislation. I support that proposal. I am disappointed with the minister's failure to adopt this recommendation given the genuine concerns expressed by multiple stakeholders.

Before I conclude my contribution today I would like to make mention of the fact that this bill was introduced on 15 February and it is only now, eight months later, that the bill is being debated. I note that during the committee process submitters expressed concerns that they did not have sufficient time to make detailed submissions during the two-week consultation period. Such a compressed time frame would have been understandable had this bill been considered by the House in a timely fashion. However, here we are, many months later, and the government has still not seen fit to debate the bill. Such a situation is emblematic of this Labor government's incompetence and mismanagement of the business of the House. This Palaszczuk Labor government seek to obfuscate and hide from scrutiny, and this bill is just another symptom of the hubris and arrogance which pervades all that they do.

Mining and agriculture are the economic mainstays of the Queensland economy. They need to be able to coexist in a mutually beneficial way. Thankfully this bill is an example of how the committee process can work to improve legislation when dealt with in a fair and reasonable manner. I will be supporting the bill as amended.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. In doing so I will first address issues relating to water as covered in the bill. The Palaszczuk government wants to ensure that Queenslanders have the utmost confidence in their water supply, and they know that climate change is front of mind when we are planning for water. This legislation updates the Water Act 2000 in order to address the impact of water related effects of climate change on water resources as well as recognising the cultural values and uses of water resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Although climate change and variability are currently part of the technical assessment process, it is not always obvious or always clear how these assessments feed into the water-planning policy decisions or how they are reflected in the water plans as climate change is not currently an explicit consideration in the current legislation. What a difference 18 years makes as climate change is now front and centre in our policy and legislative agenda. The Palaszczuk government has a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030 and we are focused and committed to doing everything we can to address climate change.

This bill is modernising the Water Act by adding requirements that the water related effects of climate change on water availability, use practices and risk to land or water arising from the use of water on land will now be considered in water planning. This bill places the importance of climate change beyond a doubt by requiring the minister to consider climate change in the water-planning process. This change will ensure that climate change is required to be considered in the water-planning process to ensure water management policies and practices respond to climate change. As I said before, we want to ensure that Queenslanders do have the utmost confidence that climate change is

front of mind when we are planning for water because we know it is an issue that matters to them. These changes will ensure consistency and transparency when considering climate change as part of the legislative framework.

This legislation also recognises the cultural values and uses of water resources separate from other outcomes. While in many cases cultural outcomes will already be achieved by existing strategies, it is nonetheless crucial to ensure that these will always be considered. To provide clarity in how cultural outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples will be achieved, the amendments also expand the definition of 'environmental flow objectives' to make it clear that they are intended to provide for social and cultural outcomes through the use of, or access to, water. Water plan provisions will continue to be designed in close consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These measures are critically important to update this wideranging bill and reflect where we are today in terms of our understanding of climate change and our relationship with our nation's first peoples.

I would also like to note the wonderful work of our secretariat on this and the many other bills that our committee has had before it this year. We have had committee work ranging from agriculture to tomorrow's space inquiry hearing. We really have run the whole gamut and gauntlet. Key among that is the wonderful Jacqui and her trusty offsideer Natasha. They do an absolutely outstanding job in organising inquiries, finding witnesses and organising relevant and meaningful site visits to help us as a committee better understand the legislation and reports that we are helping to write. We really could not do it without them. I know it has been invaluable for me as a member of this committee to have the opportunity to do all of these things. Without Jacqui and the secretariat we simply would not have that opportunity. I wanted to place on record my thanks to the secretariat for all their wonderful work. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (4.17 pm): I rise to speak on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The bill was introduced to the Queensland parliament on 15 February 2018 and was referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for consideration. As a member of this committee, I would like to thank the secretariat staff, as have other members, for their continued professionalism towards our committee and the submitters.

During the committee's consideration of the bill, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy was consulted. Originally, the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 was referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee prior to the dissolution of parliament for the 2017 election. The 2018 bill is substantially the same.

In December 2015 the Queensland government ordered an independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland, the report of which was released on 1 December 2016, a year later. There were 19 submissions to the 2017 bill and 17 to the 2018 bill. The majority of these were resubmissions and were generally supportive of the bill and its intentions. There were a number of recommendations for various reasons.

There were noteworthy submissions from the Queensland Resources Council, Queensland Law Society, Queensland Farmers' Federation, Cotton Australia, AgForce, Lock the Gate, WWF-Australia and the Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association. This bill has proposed changes to give effect to recommendations 4, 7, 8 and 9 of the review report which were supported in principle by the government. These recommendations relate to the statutory compromise process for the negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement to a make-good agreement.

This is a compilation bill, which includes amendments to seven different acts. I believe the key issues brought to the surface by submitters have been addressed, and recommendations have subsequently been made to address those issues. Landholder and legal groups raised significant concerns regarding the proposed amendment to section 81 of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014. This act established the general liability of resource authority holders to compensate the owners and occupiers of public and private land.

Non-mining sector stakeholders did not support amendments that stated that compensatable effects only applied where authorised activities have been carried out 'on the eligible claimant's land'. It was argued that the amendment removes the rights of the neighbours within the resource authority area—but without authorised activity on their land—to claim compensation for the impacts of nearby activities. The committee acknowledged that resource tenure holders currently go to great lengths to be good neighbours and that they have worked with landholders to address issues of compensation. The committee is aware that many landholders have established a positive and mutually beneficial relationship with resource tenure holders. A recommendation was made by the committee that in his

second reading speech the minister clarify the effectiveness of the current arrangements in addressing compensation for landholders who did have resource tenure activity on their land but who may be affected by the impacts of such activity.

In relation to the recommendations from the independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland report, the committee is satisfied with the department's response regarding the noninclusion of statutory time frames within the bill for the appointment of an ADR facilitator to allow for the differences in complexity and volume of matters being referred. The committee recommended that the department develop an extensive suite of educational material regarding the arbitration process and that this material be readily available and easy to find on their website. The committee also recommended that the department conduct information sessions with peak bodies, key stakeholders and affected communities to provide and advertise this material. It was also recommended that the department report back to the committee in November this year on the development and distribution of this material. That date is almost upon us, which goes to the backlog of bills we have before this parliament that need to be dealt with.

Several stakeholders expressed concern regarding section 91C of the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014. This section outlines the circumstances in which a party may be represented by a lawyer in arbitration. The explanatory notes state—

Section 91C outlines the circumstances in which a party may be represented by a lawyer in the arbitration. A party can be represented by a lawyer if both parties agree to the party being represented, or the arbitrator permits the party to be represented.

The committee acknowledged the concerns of landholders and other stakeholders regarding this section and its potential to disadvantage landholders in their negotiations with the resource industry. As stated in the committee report—

The committee notes the Bill provides that, if one party wishes to have legal representation during arbitration, they can make their case to the other party or the arbitrator and gain consent.

The committee recommended that the proposed section 91C be removed and the bill changed so that parties have the right to legal representation during arbitration. It is very pleasing to hear that the minister has agreed with the committee's recommendation, and section 91C will be removed from this bill.

The bill also proposes changes to implement recommendation 9 of the review report to ensure that the resource authority holder will be responsible for the professional fees necessarily and reasonably occurred in the negotiation and preparation of the conduct and compensation agreement, including costs of an agronomist. The costs are payable even if the negotiations are abandoned. The committee recommended that the department collaborate with stakeholders to investigate developing a methodology to determine reasonable landholder time related costs and how this could be included in legislation. The committee also recommended that the bill be amended to remove proposed section 91 and clause 46 of the bill and retain current provisions with respect to professional costs as set out in section 84(4)(b) of the Mineral and Resources Energy (Common Provisions) Act 2014 with a minor amendment to include the cost of an agronomist.

The bill proposes to strengthen the climate change considerations in the water-planning framework by making it an explicit requirement for the minister to consider the water related effects of climate change on water availability when preparing a water plan, and water use practices and risk to land or water resources arising from the use of water on land when preparing a water use plan. The committee is satisfied with the changes to the bill in relation to water planning and allocation and the consideration of the Great Barrier Reef within water plans.

The bill proposes to enhance the water-planning provisions of the Water Act 2000 to better recognise the importance of water resources for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to ensure that the cultural values of water resources are clearly protected under water plans. The committee supports the department's objective to better recognise the importance of water resources to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

The committee acknowledges stakeholder comments regarding the proposed amendments to the Water Act that allow the chief executive to temporarily release water from a strategic water infrastructure reserve.

In relation to urgent actions for dealing with water quality issues, the committee recommends that the Minister for Natural Resources and Mines clarifies during his second reading speech the time frame proposed for an official to report on a directive given to a relevant entity to take action on a water quality issue, which the minister has done earlier today.

I believe that all of the recommendations satisfy the issues raised by submitters. Given this and the success and inclusiveness of the committee process, and with the recommendations being taken into consideration, I support the passing of this bill.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.25 pm): I rise to contribute to the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill debate. The Mackay electorate is a service centre for the Bowen Basin mining hub and hopefully will service any mines that open in the Galilee Basin. The wider Mackay, Whitsunday and Isaac region is also an agricultural area producing sugar cane, dry crops, beef cattle, vegetables and some dairy. Mining, manufacturing and agriculture are of vital importance to my region. We have skin in the game. We want to ensure that legislation relating to our industries and water resources is right, now and into the future. I will focus on the section of this bill that deals with water.

People who live in my region want a balanced approach to water management and are prepared to work alongside each other's industries. At last week's Mackay Chamber of Commerce AGM, beef producer Peter Hughes and Lucas Dow from Adani talked honestly about water resources. They also talked about how the two sectors can work together, share resources and benefit from the improved infrastructure that each industry develops; for example, the roads that will be built for the mine.

Amendments to the Water Act 2000 will address the effects of climate change on water resources and recognise cultural values and the use of water resources by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The bill reaffirms the Queensland government's commitment to the Climate Change Adaption Strategy. The unpredictability of weather patterns is already evident in my region. Farmers and locals comment on when there used to be a wet season in January, but now there can be a wet winter or no rain at all. We have recently seen that cyclones are behaving differently. Ex-Tropical Cyclone Debbie is a case in point. It went on for days instead of being short and sharp when it crossed the coast.

The bill clarifies and strengthens approaches to climate change by making the consideration of water related effects of climate on water availability an explicit requirement when preparing a water plan. This will ensure that climate change is consistently and transparently considered in water-planning processes. Queenslanders need confidence that climate change risks to water resources have been identified and that strategies have been included in water plans to respond to these risks.

The bill also improves the way water-planning frameworks recognise cultural values and the use of water resources by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This will ensure that future water management decisions will consider cultural outcomes and that water plans will include strategies to achieve these outcomes. This amendment will support existing mechanisms for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to take and access water to support their economic development. I know that in my region our local Indigenous groups are planning on tourism activities and they will need to access some of the water.

Other proposed Water Act amendments include: supporting the productive use of unutilised allocations by providing temporary access to water that has been reserved for strategic water purposes; strengthening the water market by allowing water allocations to be traded multiple times per year; reinstating protections in water plans to mitigate potential risks when managing the capture and storage of contaminated agricultural water as growth of this take increases; and providing new direction power to take action to deal with certain urgent water quality incidences. The water quality powers would only be used in exceptional circumstances and would take into account potential impacts on critical water supplies and the water security of water entitlement holders. The bill provides increased transparency and operational efficiencies in the Water Act.

I would like to thank Minister Lynham, his staff, the department and the committee for their work on this important bill in my part of the state, where there are sensitive industries working alongside each other. We need strong legislation to ensure our water resources are appropriately managed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.31 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill because it will have a direct impact on my constituents in Gregory. While this is an omnibus bill, it most notably seeks to clarify and streamline the statutory process of negotiating both conduct and compensation agreements and make-good agreements between resource authority holders and landholders. In doing so, it is in fact implementing four of the GasFields Commission's recommendations following the independent review. The report and the government's response were made public on 1 December 2016, so this legislation has been a slow train coming—a slow train that has been anxiously awaited by many landholders in the Bowen Basin.

The electorate of Gregory contains the rich agricultural area of the Central Highlands. Beneath these fertile fields lies the rich reserve of coal and gas of the Bowen Basin. This double blessing sets up competing interests between overlapping tenures which must be fairly balanced if Queenslanders are to enjoy these blessings. I understand this balancing act, because my constituents include great people working in both industries and in my lifetime I have seen the contribution that both industries—primary production and coal—have made to the Central Highlands and its development. It is vital for the good of Queenslanders and the good of the Central Highlands that these two industries can coexist. Amazingly, I would say that in large part they do so quite successfully. I know of resource authority holders who have negotiated agreements with landholders that have served both parties very well—helping the landholder while allowing valuable resources to be developed.

However, there will always be a need for the Queensland government to use good judgement when balancing the interests of farmers and graziers against the interests of coal and gas proponents. Indeed, I have just recently received representations from constituents asking why the Labor government is not using the Queensland exploration program 2018 as a vehicle to protect the prime strategic cropping land of the Central Highlands, in particular the 'golden triangle'—Springsure to Rolleston and back up to Gindie—which has valuable blacksoil land that definitely needs protecting. Instead, the Labor government is actively promoting the exploration of this area through a public call for exploration tenders from the resource industry. Looking at the QEP 2018 document, it is quickly obvious that nowhere are potential explorers advised that this is strategic cropping land; nor does it highlight the need to obtain a regional planning interest authority as a requirement of the tender, exploration or production approval processes as set out in the document. It is this sort of approach that makes me consider the bill before us today with some reservations.

I accept the good intentions behind the bill. These are to clarify and streamline the negotiation arrangements for the CCAs and the MGAs. At the moment, some 20 per cent of matters before the Land Court involve this issue, largely because existing legislation triggers an automatic referral to the Land Court by the department when the statutory negotiation period expires without an agreement. In my experience, the process causes great anxiety for people. I commend the fantastic work that the land access officers of the department do every day in this regard. I cannot thank them enough for their professionalism in assisting everyday Queenslanders who find themselves in the highly stressful and emotional position of negotiating one of these agreements.

Many landholders feel anxious that this bill removes the Land Court from the process. The Land Court will retain its jurisdiction over determining what costs have been necessarily and reasonably incurred by landholders as a part of the negotiation, so the Land Court will still be deciding the liability of the reimbursement of the landholder by the resource authority holder. At the moment, such a liability covers a landholder's legal, valuation and accounting costs. The act will add the services of an agronomist, which is very sensible. It will allow the agricultural productivity of the land to be better reflected in the conduct and compensation agreement.

This brings me to the negotiation and arbitration process itself. What takes the place of the Land Court to ensure fair outcomes for all parties? The bill introduces a new arbitration process wherein the president of the Queensland Law Society or a similar independent person decides on an alternative dispute resolution process and also appoints a facilitator to oversee the dispute resolution if the parties cannot reach an agreement. In principle, this should create a faster and smoother process and one that will be more alert to the individual differences to be addressed in different agreements. This will clearly have administrative advantages, but I say that with reservations. It would be disappointing if it became a lawyers' banquet. Much will depend on the spirit in which the legislation is applied in individual cases. In this sense, it is very much an untested solution.

I will be watching the real-world effects very closely. I would hope that the minister and the department will be doing the same. It is the real-world outcomes and the perceived fairness of those outcomes that are the true test. I hope that the minister and the department will actively be reviewing these outcomes. We cannot afford to drag the chain if there are negative outcomes. We need our two key industries to be good neighbours.

This is an omnibus bill which also amends laws pertaining to the management of our most vital natural resource: water. I note that the bill proposes to strengthen the climate change considerations in the water-planning framework by making it an explicit requirement for the minister to consider the effects of climate change when preparing a water plan or a water use plan. When I first read that in the bill I was somewhat alarmed. Understanding the nature of the issue when it comes to water resource plans and the need to have truly effective water resource plans, we need to make sure we get this right. I

believe that the minister and the department have an obligation to show local stakeholders the science they are using to justify water-planning decisions. This is an area of vital interest to all Queenslanders. Science based planning is a key aspiration, but it must be robust science, untainted with green ideology.

Secondly, I note that the bill will allow water users to gain temporary access to unallocated water held in strategic water infrastructure reserves until such time as the water is required for its intended purpose. This is a positive step. Indeed, I have written to the minister this week to see if this mechanism can be applied to the surplus water the department has identified in some of the aquifers of the Great Artesian Basin in drought-affected Western Queensland. The Great Artesian Basin Sustainability Initiative is one of the most successful joint government initiatives ever undertaken. It is the success of GABSI which is allowing science based water planning to be applied to Great Artesian Basin aquifers. It is due to the capping of historically free-flowing bores by landholders working under GABSI and also to the replacement of open channels with pipes that we are seeing a replenishment of aquifers and sustainable management of aquifers.

In the Hutton Aquifer in the electorate of Gregory, which is just north of Longreach, the department has identified some 3,000 megalitres of unallocated water. If landholders could access allocations as small as 100 to 150 megalitres, they would be able to grow irrigated fodder for their livestock. This would be an outstanding assistance at a time of horrific drought and shrinking fodder supplies, which we are experiencing at the moment. This is putting something in place whereby we can continue to look at drought mitigation and be prepared for the next drought when it comes, so that there is some sort of infrastructure which could supply, in a small way, the fodder we need when we are coming to drought.

I urge the minister and the department to look at that to see if we can do something positive when it comes to being prepared for drought and for drought mitigation in the future. I hope the minister will apply the mechanisms in this bill to that situation. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (4.39 pm): I rise to speak on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and say at the outset that there is much in this bill to commend, particularly around the government's endeavours to resolve some of the very onerous and complex processes that landholders are left to deal with in negotiating with resource companies and dealing with the Land Court. This is a bill that, as other speakers have mentioned already, does address the power balance between the resource sector and the agriculture sector in important ways. These are issues that the Greens have long been concerned about and we have fought for landholder rights in various contexts. In some respects we are really the only party that is representing those people who are struggling to express their rights against coalminers and CSG fracking companies across the state.

I reflect on the bill that Larissa Waters has brought to the federal parliament a number of times to seek to enshrine the right of landholders to refuse entry to resource companies on their properties. This is an imperative right—an imperative protection—that those who claim to represent rural interests should themselves be very interested in. We engage with people whose rights are being trampled and who have to go up against these resource companies. Just last week I had the pleasure of visiting Acland, and it is interesting reflecting on that.

I note the response from my friend the member for Condamine, who does not appear to have much interest in the interests of those farmers who are affected by the New Acland coalmine, particularly the stage 3 expansion, but I have seen firsthand the impacts that this project is having on neighbours of the project. I would encourage the member for Condamine to look beyond just the interests of the mining company and the substantial LNP donor parent companies of that mining company and engage with the Plant family and Glen Beutel, who now has mining operations only a few hundred metres from his door.

Turning to the substance of the bill, others have raised this issue of the change in definition around compensatable effect for landholders. My friend the member for Buderim raised it earlier, but the concern is that the amendment narrows the definition of compensatable offence for which a landholder might be compensated under a conduct and compensation agreement. The existing wording defines this term by reference to certain effects on land value 'relating to the eligible claimant's land' whereas the proposed new section narrows this wording to specify those same effects as are currently in the section where they are caused by the holder or person authorised by the holder carrying out authorised activities on the eligible claimant's land.

This was a concern that was raised by a number of submitters—by Lock the Gate, the Queensland Law Society, George Houen, Shay Dougall, Russell Bennie, Protect the Bush Alliance and Shine Lawyers. It was not just an isolated concern. The Queensland Law Society best sums it up in that same passage read by the member for Buderim earlier and gets to the nub of the issue. It refers to this question of whether—

... the liability of resource authority holders extends to encompass liability for the effects and impacts suffered by eligible claimants arising from activities undertaken off their properties.

The committee has acknowledged this concern. It raises a really complex question of statutory interpretation, so bear with me if you will please, Mr Deputy Speaker Kelly. We are focusing here on eligible claimants—that is, those people who have tenure on their property and compensation that may be payable for the impacts and costs of activities that occur off their property. The explanatory notes for the bill make quite clear the purpose of this section. It states—

The original policy intent remains unchanged despite other minor amendments to the drafting of the section.

...

A compensatable effect is a cost or impact that arises from the authorised activities being carried out on the land.

Then it says—

See the explanatory notes for the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Bill 2014, which outlines the policy intent of this section.

The explanatory notes are specific about it being compensation only for the activities being carried out on the land. I have looked at the earlier explanatory notes and I can find no such succinct statement of policy intent. It does not appear, on my reading, to narrow that compensation for an eligible claimant to only those activities that are conducted on their land. In fact, this supposed policy intent appears to run counter to the case law that has recently come out of the Land Court on this issue. On my understanding, the court agrees with the position that a conduct and compensation agreement can properly provide for compensation for activities taking place on neighbouring land, particularly the 2017 Land Court case of Nothdurft and QGC Pty Ltd. On my reading, this decision does not reflect what the department claims is the current policy and the intent of both the existing provision and the proposed new wording of section 84. The provision along with the explanatory notes ensure a narrowing of the compensation payable to landholders.

Resolving any supposed existing ambiguity in this section—and by reference to that limited scope that is described for the first time in the explanatory notes—will exclude compensation, as I read it, for an eligible claimant for any approved activities conducted on neighbouring land. I am sure that anyone who has had exposure to these projects would understand that these can be some of the worst impacts. Say you have a single well on your property and you have a condenser plant next door. The noise, the fugitive emissions, the gases and the potential dust impacts—all of these can affect your property.

The department's response to these concerns was less than comforting for those neighbouring landholders and I think it skirts around the central issue as articulated by the explanatory notes—that is, that question of whether eligible claimants are entitled to compensation where the activities are being carried out on the neighbouring land. The department says—

There is no change to the obligation to compensate neighbouring landholders as a result of the changes to section 81. The provision has always only been about compensation for landholders upon whose land the advanced activities are being carried out on.

This does not reflect the full concerns raised by the QLS. It does not address what is the position for those landholders—the eligible claimants—and the impacts on neighbouring properties. The committee observed as well—

The department argued that changes to the wording in s 81 did not alter the intent of the MERC Act:

These stakeholders submitted that a proposed minor change to the wording in section 81 ... represents a significant change to landholders' rights to claim compensation for the impacts of resource activities. This is not the department's view. The minor wording change to section 81 does not alter the compensation entitlement of landholders and does not reflect a change in policy.

The committee has made a fair paraphrasing of the department's observation there, but the purpose of this new section when compared to the position taken by the court would narrow the costs or impacts for which compensation is payable, and that is a concern.

The committee recommended that the minister clarify this, except it is not the same point. It has again recommended that clarity be given around arrangements for addressing compensation for landholders who do not have a resource tenure activity on their land but might be affected. Alternative arrangements under the EP Act and make-good agreements are all well and good, although there are a number of issues with these compensation mechanisms in practice and it is onerous of course to require landholders to engage with further separate processes outside of a conduct and compensation agreement.

If we turn again to the QLS, the question is whether the liability of resource authority holders extends to encompass liability for the effects and impacts suffered by eligible claimants arising from activities undertaken off their properties. These are immensely important issues for the people affected and the section should not be amended. The intent is actually being clarified now.

The intent is being made clear that where previously the court has found compensation will be available the explanatory notes say it no longer will be. If we get to the third reading I will introduce a simple amendment to retain the wording from the existing provision among the other changes proposed in section 81. The wording 'in relation to the eligible claimant's land' should be retained in section 81(4)(a) in place of the words 'carrying out activities on the eligible claimant's land'. This retention would ensure that the compensation available to claimants now would be retained, as the courts found previously. Short of that, I broadly support the bill.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.49 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I have followed the contribution by the member for Maiwar. It never ceases to amaze me—

Mr Powell: Where do you start?

Ms LEAHY: I take that interjection from the member for Glass House. Where do I start? The Greens want to shut down the coal industry. Yesterday, they wanted to shut down the CSG industry. They want to shut down the primary industries—the sheep exports, the live cattle exports. Who do they expect to pay for the schools, the hospitals and the roads in this state? Their expectations are quite unbelievable.

I would like to thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its consideration of this legislation. It should be noted that, prior to the dissolution of the parliament before the 2017 election, a previous version of this bill was referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee. That bill lapsed when the 55th Parliament was dissolved. This bill is substantially the same as that previous bill. I was a member of the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee and took great interest in this legislation when it came before the committee in the previous parliament.

One of the major factors of the LNP's support for this bill has been the government's acceptance of sensible recommendations suggested by the LNP committee members. Recommendation No. 2 in the committee's report requests the minister to clarify the effectiveness of the current arrangements in addressing compensation for landholders who do not have resource tenure activity on their land but may be affected by the impacts of such activity. I note the government's response is to support the recommendation and for the minister to clarify the effectiveness, but I would like him to listen to the situation that I have occurring in my electorate. This is a particularly interesting case. I think the government might have to do some more work in relation to this issue because of the implications for landholders and resource companies in the state.

This case is particularly interesting, because it deals with original freehold. I want to make sure that in this parliament I highlight to the government and also to the Queensland resource companies an awareness of original freehold because, when I raised this issue with one of them they asked me, 'Does this really exist?' I would like to say that, yes, it does. I will outline an explanation of the mineral rights that were granted back in 1884 under the Crown Lands Alienation Act 1876.

Section 8 of the Mineral Resources Act 1989 states that, with a few exceptions, minerals upon and beneath the surface of Queensland land belong to the state. The exceptions are coal within land granted by the state before March 1910, where the grant did not reserve coal to the state, and minerals granted under the Crown Lands Act 1860, the Crown Lands Alienation Act 1868 and the Mineral Lands Act 1872.

Under section 6 of the Mineral Resources Act, coal seam gas is mentioned as a mineral. The Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 states that all petroleum is and always has been the property of the state. This applies whether the land is freehold or other land. There is an issue with

the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, because coal seam gas would not occur without coal. If a landholder has a royalty right to coal, that landholder should have a royalty right to that coal seam gas. It is not possible to have coal seam gas without coal, because the coal seam gas is derived from coal.

In this case, the freehold land was granted originally on 1 May 1884 under the Crown Lands Alienation Act 1876 and not the Crown Lands Alienation Act 1868. There was an 1876 act that repealed the 1868 act and the land granted under the 1876 act does not fall within the exceptions mentioned in the Mineral Resources Act. It is for that reason the landholder does not appear to own the coal seam gas if it occurs under his land, because the coal seam gas is mentioned as a mineral. However, it appears that the landowner owns the coal deposit under his land because the freehold was granted prior to 1 May 1910. In this case, the ownership is not a freehold title but instead an ability to realise a royalty stream from the coal removed.

The Mineral Resources Act allows the holder of a mining lease to extract, in addition to the coal, the incidental coal seam gas. However, in this case, where the resource company is operating under a mining lease, the landowner potentially could be entitled to a royalty for the incidental coal seam gas. However, the CSG company operating under a petroleum lease under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act is not mining for coal. Therefore, it is unlikely that the landholder would be entitled to any royalty if the CSG company removed the coal seam gas, as alluded to, under the Mineral Resources Act.

In this case, the CSG company is directional drilling from the neighbouring property into the coal that the landowner potentially has a royalty right through his freehold title. The landowner has no say in relation to this issue, because the CCA and any compensation agreements are with the neighbour. Even though the landowner has a right to the coal royalties, he has no CCA—even though the company is drilling underneath where he has a right to the coal.

There is a need to address the compensation arrangements for neighbouring landholders, not just on the surface of the land but also for those who may have rights below the surface of the land. The government has not addressed this issue and it is happening as we speak. I would like to hear if the government would look more closely at this issue, because the compensation of that neighbouring landholder needs to be addressed. This is a unique situation. There is not very much original freehold, but this situation is occurring in my electorate at present. I hope the minister takes this issue on board. I look forward to the government's further consideration of this matter. It is a complex case in relation to the legal situation and the history of the matter, but it is certainly worthy of further consideration by the government.

I also want to place on record some information about the conduct and compensation agreements. I note that the bill looks to implement changes to the statutory negotiation processes for the CCAs and the MGAs between the resource companies and landholders. For the gas industry in Queensland alone, the number of CCAs with landholders is almost 5,000—in fact, it is more than that—with over \$230 million in compensation already paid to landholders in July 2015. That figure is a number of years old. Today, there would be many more. Landholders can structure these payments to match their circumstances.

Landholders are some of the most resilient people I know and I have the pleasure of having them in my electorate. Their business models change for all sorts of reasons and there is always room for improvement in the processes to ensure that the outcomes that are delivered are relevant to the changing business environment. For some, compensation funds might help them with retirement or transfer to the next generation. Others look for the security of that annual guaranteed payment every year. One company operating in the Surat Basin alone provides over \$400 million to 100 landholders to access the gas below their land. Many landholders have negotiated non-financial outcomes.

I want to thank the shadow minister for natural resources who visited my electorate to look at some of those non-financial outcomes. We saw all sorts of things such as roads and cattle yards. We saw where mobile phones and internet services have been upgraded. There have been numerous sales of gravel to the CSG companies. We saw some council roads that were in a better condition than the Warrego Highway. There certainly has been some benefits gained from the CSG industry. We also saw crops being irrigated at Pleasant Hills. It was very interesting to see that and also to see the partnerships that have been developed between landholders and the companies.

I thank the shadow minister for natural resources and also my parliamentary colleagues who came out to look at that work and to meet with representatives of those companies. I thank those companies sincerely for the work they put in so that we could have that very comprehensive technical

tour. We do see the legacy projects, but also the technology has helped people in those areas where they have been able to work with those coal seam gas companies. In recent times we do see a bit more benefit occurring.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to speak on the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I too would like to add my thanks to those of the speakers who came before me to the committee for the work that they have done. I thought that the member for Mount Ommaney spoke well when she highlighted the good work that the committee does and I would like to say the same thing about my own committee staff in the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

The LNP supports this bill. I would like to thank the minister for his speech today which alleviated a number of concerns that we had regarding the adherence of the legislation to the recommendations of the committee. This bill looks to implement changes to the statutory negotiation process for the negotiation of conduct and compensation agreements and make-good agreements between resource companies and landholders. We understand that the future success of both the agricultural and mining sectors depends on their ability to harmoniously coexist. We also understand that mining and agriculture are the mainstay of our Queensland economy. No matter where you live in this state, to some extent your livelihood depends on those industries. While from time to time we have seen some prominent disagreements between agricultural and mining interests, by and large—in fact overwhelmingly—they do coexist to the great benefit of the state.

One of the main factors behind the LNP's support for this bill has been the government's acceptance of the sensible recommendations put forward by the LNP members of the committee on behalf of stakeholders. The Queensland Farmers' Federation noted that there should be potential for landholders to be compensated for their own valuable time used in negotiating and preparing their CCA. I think that is a very good point. A farmer's time is not free. They are busy. They are doing all of the things that a farmer has to do these days, not just the actual farming; they have to be their own marketing manager, they have to be a fencing contractor, a mechanic, a father, a grandfather and a husband, amongst others. There ought to be some recognition of the value of their time.

What element interests me most in this bill, and I acknowledge that those who have spoken before me have done so with a level of granularity on the detail of this bill which has been commendable, is the release of unallocated water. Again I would like to thank the minister, because I know he does have a well deserved reputation for wanting to see unallocated water released. For a constituency like mine in Southern Downs that is a very good thing.

I would like to talk about a particular case of releasing unallocated water for industrial use, which would be a terrific way to grow production and jobs and prosperity in my electorate of Southern Downs and that is the Emu Swamp Dam or, as it is known now, the Granite Belt Irrigation Project. This is a transformative project to dam the Severn River at Emu Swamp and provide a reticulation system to the fruit and vegetable growers throughout the Granite Belt so that they can increase production. Water is very valuable on the Granite Belt. They are prepared to pay a great deal for it, much more than someone elsewhere because the Granite Belt is a very productive horticultural area. Releasing unallocated water is important for us. It disappoints me that the proponent for this particular transformative project, for the detailed business case, is the Stanthorpe & Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce. They were awarded funds through the state government under the Federal National Water Infrastructure Development Fund. They are using those funds to progress a detailed business case, design and a costing for Emu Swamp dam and operating model to demonstrate the viability of the project.

There is just one thing missing: the environmental impact statement, which has been renewed, thankfully, by the Coordinator-General. We are grateful for that. It has been renewed for only six months. Unfortunately the proponent for that document, the Southern Downs Regional Council, has dillydallied for a great deal of time in the task of transferring that to the proponent for the detailed business case, the Stanthorpe & Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce.

I judge people and organisations not by what they say but by what they do. Any measure of the actions of the Southern Downs Regional Council finds them wanting. They have had months and months and months to get started on the process of transferring this environmental impact statement but nothing has happened. The mayor herself publicly assured everyone at a meeting in about April this year that work would start tomorrow. It certainly did not. For the benefit of the House I would like to table some correspondence concerning that failure to work on that transfer.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 16 October 2018, from Stanthorpe & Granite Belt Chamber of Commerce to the Mayor, Southern Downs Regional Council, Cr Tracy Dobie [\[1685\]](#).

I would like to take this opportunity when talking about the release of unallocated water for industry to urge the CEO of the council and the mayor and the councillors to get out of neutral, start acting the words that they have uttered about their support for that water supply and get the transfer going. So far, by evidence of their actions, there seems to be an orchestrated obstruction of that process which will lead to a loss of jobs and productivity on the Granite Belt. I am very sorry to have to rise in the House to mention that, but I feel I must because it is a matter of great importance for a great number of people in my electorate. Apart from that, I would like to say that, with some minor reservations, the LNP and I do support the bill and I commend it to the House. Thank you.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (5.06 pm): I rise to speak of my concerns with the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to thank the committee and the secretariat for their work on this. As the member for the seat of Mirani, I represent a substantial number of agriculture based businesses that are absolutely dependent on the availability of cost effective and reliable water. Any increase in the price of water or disruption in the availability of quality supplies, especially during periods of low rainfall, can easily lead to the permanent destruction of agriculture based ventures and cause great harm to the welfare and personal lives of families with generations of farm experience as well as the local communities they have previously supported for many decades.

In turn, seeing farmers walk away from agriculture and being unable to use their land, irrigate crops or water stock then compounds into a vastly wider impact across the entire state economy inclusive of being left with water assets that become underutilised and impose an increasingly costly burden on those who remain. We have an issue in Mirani at the moment with stranded assets. Some of the dams are not being used. We also have a reduction in the amount of molasses that is being produced because these water resources are not being used and that is affecting us as a state.

As such, whilst I recognise some of the amendments to the Water Act are needed and aspects are well meaning in their intent, I am concerned that adding additional complexity will present a range of new opportunities that are open to abuse of process. One must consider who the parties involved are likely to be and question whose best interests the outcome will serve when this proposed new legislation is applied. Most notably, the legal, technical and financial resources available to the typical small farmer are often insignificant compared to those available to the larger corporate operators and multinational resource proponents with the intent of avoiding responsibility for causing adverse water outcomes.

In a practical sense, the existing Water Act does provide an established legal framework to facilitate the creation of conduct and compensation agreements, CCAs, and make-good agreements, MGAs. If an acceptable outcome cannot be negotiated in good faith or the future operation of these agreements is deemed unsatisfactory to either party then proceedings can be advanced through to the final binding decision in the Land Court. Amongst a number of flaws within the amendment bill there is not enough support to fully relieve the pressure exerted on the smaller party to sign a CCA or an MGA.

Doing proper due diligence by way of seeking independent legal and technical advice is often highly specialised and very costly. Whilst the amendment bill introduces some measures for costs to be transferred, the impost of carrying such debt for any length of time may still be too much. As legislators, it would be foolish to think that a sizeable resource tenure proponent would not seek every opportunity to exert influence to secure itself a most favourable outcome over a smaller party. In many cases, the significant power imbalance is obvious, for example, when a primary producer is seeking to resolve a make-good agreement on a bore that has been adversely affected by a neighbouring mineral development lease.

I believe the inclusion of new section 433A through to 433F, prescribing a new arbitration mechanism, diminishes the significant importance of participating in and, more importantly, showing good faith during the conference-style negotiations. A reasonable person would recognise that a large resource company would be infinitely better positioned to favour legal proceedings being elevated to a higher level, which the average primary producer simply could not afford the time or cost to pursue. Worse still, by having entered into the conference-style negotiation, there exists a very real opportunity to invoke new section 433E and impose on a smaller party a significant financial penalty by way of having to bear their own costs related to participating in a privately convened arbitration. There is certainly no up-front surety in leaving the decision on alternate financial agreements to the private arbiter, especially once significant expenses have been incurred. Clearly there need to be better thought through and improved safeguards to ensure equality in representation.

However, in saying all that, the amendment bill, via the application of new section 433F, effectively circumvents section 434 in the existing Water Act by removing the right to appeal the matter in a Land Court once the private arbitration mechanism has presented a binding outcome. That being the case, it is an extraordinary legal precedent that denies a person the right to pursue a bona fide matter inside a regular court of law, especially involving such a significant matter as water supply. On those grounds, I believe that the Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Bill 2018 is not worthy of my support.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.11 pm), in reply: Firstly, I thank all honourable members who have participated in the debate. I also thank the members and secretariat of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for their consideration of the bill.

The Mineral, Water and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 is an omnibus bill that makes numerous changes to the resources acts and the water-planning framework. On the resources side, the key changes give effect to the government's response to certain recommendations of the independent review of the GasFields Commission Queensland and changes the way that compensation matters are referred to the Land Court. On the water side, the bill reaffirms the Queensland government's commitment to the Climate Adaption Strategy released by the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. That was outlined by my department during the committee process, but for the benefit of the House I outline it again.

Now I turn to specific issues raised by members during the debate. I refer to the contributions from the members for Burdekin and Condamine. I welcome their support for the bill. I take the opportunity to again clarify the government's position on recommendation Nos 5 and 6 in the report of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee on the bill.

In relation to recommendation No. 5, I make it clear that the government has noted this recommendation, but will not be undertaking a further investigation into the issue of compensation for landholder time. As I noted in my second reading speech, this matter was investigated previously through the Newman government's Land Access Implementation Committee report process. That report recommended no changes to the heads of compensation for land access. The government's approach is to reduce the time that landholders and resource authority holders have to spend in negotiating conduct and compensation agreements. The amendments contained in the bill will achieve that, whilst protecting landholder rights.

In relation to recommendation No. 6, after careful consideration the government has noted this recommendation. However, the government has decided not to make the recommended amendments. That is because the changes contained in the bill close an important loophole in the current framework. They do so by providing a separate head of power that requires the resource authority holder to pay for any necessary and reasonable negotiation preparation costs incurred by a landholder in the negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement. In his independent review of the GasFields Commission, Professor Scott noted that the ability for resource authority holders to walk away from negotiations without paying the landholder's costs was unacceptable. He further recommended that amendments be made to the legislation to close that loophole.

The amendments contained in the bill achieve that policy intent. The amendments in the bill do not change the requirement for those costs to be necessarily and reasonably incurred in the negotiation process. They ensure that the liability for those necessary and reasonably incurred costs sits with the resource authority holder, even where a conduct and compensation agreement is never reached. The amendments also ensure that there is recourse to the Land Court in the event of any dispute about them. As such, landholders should not be out of pocket for any professional fees that are necessarily and reasonably incurred in the negotiation process.

I refer to the member for Burdekin's comments about the proposed climate change enhancements to the water-planning framework. I reaffirm the Palaszczuk government's commitment to the Climate Adaption Strategy. To strengthen the consideration of climate change in the water-planning framework, the bill provides for explicit consideration of the water related effects of climate change on water availability and the water related effects of climate change on water use practices and the risks to land or water resources arising from the use of water on land when preparing a water use plan. Those considerations are important, because climate change is a key risk to water resources and availability. Making those considerations mandatory will ensure that climate change is consistently and transparently considered in water planning.

It is important to note that the water-planning framework ensures consultation regarding climate change with all stakeholders, so that they can adapt business and water use practices. The requirement to consider climate change in water planning formalises the assessments that are routinely undertaken as part of the water-planning process. In developing a water plan, climate change scenarios are modelled as part of the technical assessments. The scenarios are used to understand the risks that climate change might pose to water entitlements and environmental assets in a planned area. That ensures that the water plan includes the right balance of strategies to manage risks.

Climate change assessments for water planning are undertaken by Queensland government. It is important to note that those assessments are not predictive; instead, they assess the likely impact of climate change scenarios on water resources and availability. The scenarios are based on models selected by CSIRO as the most appropriate for use in the Queensland context. Water plan modelling typically involves selecting dry, wet and medium climate change scenarios to test in the hydrological model. Climate change flows are then compared to historical flows to see how the different climate scenarios affect rainfall and stream flow. The results of the climate change assessments alone do not change the amount of water allocated, as those calculations are based on hydrological modelling using historical rainfall records. The five yearly periodic assessment of water plans will ensure that any changes in risk to the plan's outcomes from climate change are routinely re-evaluated. Additionally, water plans have a life of 10 years and the assessment of climate change in preparing a water plan is aligned with that time frame.

The member for Burdekin also commented on timely action to address water quality incidents. Extreme weather events, such as floods and cyclones, are a fact of life in Queensland. Those events can have serious and widespread consequences, and require decisions to be made and actions to be taken quickly. Intense rainfall events may adversely impact on water quality through elevated sediment loads, low oxygen levels or other pollutants in the water.

The bill proposes mechanisms to address an urgent water quality issue. It will allow for a direction to be given by the minister or the chief executive for an action outside the approved water-planning rules and operational arrangements without delay. The direction power would only be used in exceptional circumstances. For example, a cyclone or intense rainfall event may lead to poor quality water entering a weir used for town water supplies. In that circumstance, timely action may be necessary for the continued operation of water treatment facilities dependent on the weir. If water-planning rules and arrangements do not anticipate an occurrence, the direction power could be used to order the passing of the poor quality water downstream. Such a direction would support the continued supply of drinking water during a water quality event.

A range of considerations are to be taken into account before applying these provisions, namely any potential impacts on: critical water supplies including, for example, impacts on any town water supplies or the critical needs of a power station; water security for water entitlement holders; the environment, including the Great Barrier Reef; and the public interest, including public health. These considerations will support objective, evidence based decision-making. My department is currently developing operational protocols for the implementation of this provision.

To ensure accountability and transparency in the way this new direction power is used, the amendment requires that a report be published within 30 business days after the action was taken by the relevant entity. This time frame aligns with similar requirements under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 for emergency event reporting and flood event reporting by dam operators.

The amendments in this bill will work to further advance Queensland's nation-leading land access framework by adding flexibility to the negotiation process for conduct and compensation agreements and make-good agreements. The bill also makes a number of changes to improve the administration of Queensland's resources act by providing more flexibility to the state in its administration of resource tenures.

The proposed changes to the Water Act in this bill will ensure that Queensland's water-planning framework can adapt to potential water related impacts of climate change and to clearly recognise cultural outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islanders. This bill also provides flexible pathways for economic development by making unused water reserves available for short-term opportunities.

As I highlighted in my second reading speech, I will be moving amendments in consideration in detail. These amendments are minor in nature and clarify the policy intent or correct drafting errors. In particular, I will move amendments to implement the fourth recommendation of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. Some stakeholders had

submitted during the committee process that access to legal representation in an arbitration should not be limited to either party having to obtain the agreement of the other party or the consent of the arbitrator.

Though the proposed section implemented the recommendation of the independent review of GasFields Commission, the government has listened to the concerns of the community on this issue and I will move amendments to amend this section. However, I take the opportunity to clarify that parties may of course agree to have no legal representation in the proposed arbitration process if they wish.

I will also move minor amendments to correct minor drafting issues in the bill. Finally, I will also move an amendment to clarify that the requirement to state cultural outcomes in a water plan is not retrospective and can instead be progressively implemented when triggered by specific water-planning processes.

I commend the work undertaken by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and the Department of Environment and Science to bring this bill before the House. I would also like to thank all stakeholders that have provided feedback into this bill process, from early policy development through to and including the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

Additionally, I specifically thank Professor Robert Scott for the work undertaken in preparing the *Independent review of the Gasfields Commission Queensland and associated matters*. This bill implements several recommendations from that report and I believe this will materially improve the balance between landholders and resource companies under the land access framework. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 37, as read, agreed to.

Clause 38—



Mr BERKMAN (5.24 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 38 (Replacement of s 81 (General liability to compensate))

Page 28, lines 18 to 20, from 'caused by' to 'activities on'—

omit, insert—

relating to

As I raised very recently in my contribution to the second reading debate, this appears to me a minor and simple amendment to ensure that none of the compensation rights are lost by those landholders, eligible claimants, who are suffering impacts from additional activities on neighbouring properties. This was raised by a number of concerned submitters.

I would suggest that if this is just supposedly an amendment for clarification, then the change in the clause risks whatever compensation might be available to those people. As I mentioned, the recent case of Nothdurft did deal with a conduct and compensation agreement, and those off-property impacts were considered a legitimate basis for a compensation agreement. I commend this amendment to the minister and the House.

Dr LYNHAM: I note the comments made by the member for Maiwar while moving this amendment; however, I do not believe they are necessary. The government will not be supporting it. It is simply not the case that the wording change to section 81 amounts to a reduction in the compensation rights of landholders in relation to the impacts of resource companies.

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

AYES, 6:

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 83:

ALP, 46—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, Miller, Mullen, B. O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

LNP, 37—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Costigan, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O’Connor, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Pair: C. O’Rourke, Perrett.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendment (Mr Berkman) negated.

Clause 38, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 39 to 282—



Dr LYNHAM (5.33 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Dr LYNHAM: I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 46 (Replacement of ss 88–91)

Page 35, lines 33 to 35—

omit.

2 Clause 46 (Replacement of ss 88–91)

Page 37, lines 2 to 8—

omit.

3 Clause 67 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 47, line 26, ‘registrar of the’—

omit.

4 Clause 266 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 5, div 4, sdiv 3A)

Page 155, lines 29 to 31—

omit.

5 Clause 266 (Insertion of new ch 3, pt 5, div 4, sdiv 3A)

Page 157, lines 2 to 8—

omit.

6 Clause 280 (Insertion of new ch 9, pt 11)

Page 164, after line 25—

insert—

1286A Application of requirement for water plan to state desired cultural outcomes

The requirement under section 43(1)(b) for a water plan to state desired cultural outcomes applies only to a water plan prepared by the Minister under section 42 or 50(1)(b) after the commencement.

Amendments agreed to.

Mr WEIR: I wish to speak to clause 46 to seek some clarification from the minister. Recommendation 6 was vital in our recommendations to this legislation. The minister has given an assurance that the provisions under recommendation 6 are covered under this legislation. I would like to hear that assurance in terms of how they are covered. This goes to professional costs—accounting, valuation and other costs reasonably incurred. I would like some assurance from the minister that all of those costs are covered under this legislation.

Dr LYNHAM: We considered the committee’s recommendation in the development of the government’s response to the committee’s report. The issue here is that there is a loophole in the existing framework—one which allows resource authority holders to avoid paying a landholder for necessarily and reasonably incurred costs if negotiations fail to end up with a conduct and compensation agreement.

Professor Scott in his independent review noted that this was unacceptable and recommended that amendments be made to the legislation to close the loophole. The amendments contained in the bill achieve this policy intent. They do so by providing a separate head of power which requires a resource authority holder to pay for any necessary and reasonable negotiation and preparation costs incurred by a landholder in negotiation of a conduct and compensation agreement.

The amendments also give the Land Court power to determine whether costs were necessarily and reasonably incurred in the event of any dispute about the payment of costs. Not only is it there but it also directs the Land Court. The amendments to the bill do not change the requirement for these costs to be necessarily and reasonably incurred in the negotiation process. These amendments do not mandate how or when these costs should be paid. This is something for the parties themselves to agree.

They ensure that the liability for those necessarily and reasonably incurred costs sits with the resource authority holder even when an agreement is not reached. The amendments also ensure that there is a recourse to the Land Court if there is any dispute about these costs.

Clauses 39 to 282, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule—



Dr LYNHAM (5.37 pm): I move the following amendment—

7 Schedule 1 (Act amended)

Page 171, lines 1 to 7—

omit.

Amendment agreed to.

Schedule, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.38 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.38 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from p. 2995.



Mr LAST (Burdekin—LNP) (5.39 pm): I rise to provide my address-in-reply to the speech delivered by His Excellency in opening the 56th Parliament of Queensland. When I stood in this place and delivered my maiden speech during the last term of parliament, I did so with enormous pride, humility and an enthusiasm to make a difference in my electorate of the Burdekin. That pride I have as the member for Burdekin has not diminished. I am both humbled and privileged to represent the Burdekin electorate during the 56th Parliament, and I look forward to continuing the work I started during the previous term to ensure my constituents have access to the same support and services and the same opportunities as those available in metropolitan areas of the state.

I thank the Leader of the Opposition for her faith and trust in appointing me to the role of shadow minister for natural resources and mines and shadow minister for Northern Queensland, a role I believe is a perfect fit in my capacity as the member for Burdekin. I also want to thank a number of people who have assisted me during the campaign: Jim and Jewel Gist, Mark and Joan Stoneman, Ian Shields, Carl and Andrea Moller, Richard Hughes, Dave Nebauer, David Evans, Trevor Nicholson, Marlene Benn, Howard Simpson, Neville and Elvie Dickinson, former member for Burdekin, Rosemary Menkens, and her husband, Ray, and all the LNP members and volunteers who helped and supported me during the election campaign including working on the six pre-poll booths and assisting at the returning office.

It was a tough campaign with a newly expanded electorate, and the fact that I was returned for another term is testament to the hard work and the commitment to take up the fight on the issues that matter. Those issues revolve around jobs, cheaper power prices and insurance premiums, and the delivery of projects that will help drive economic prosperity in the region. I am passionate about equality and services, whether it be education, health, police or transport, and I will fight tooth and nail to ensure my constituents have the same opportunities and access to services as those available in metropolitan areas.

I want to acknowledge the team in my office, Julie and David, who embraced the electorate boundary changes and the increased workload with enthusiasm and a willingness to ensure fair representation across the electorate. The logistics of servicing an electorate the size of Burdekin became evident during the campaign. With an eight-hour drive from north to south and an average of 10,000 kilometres per month, my vehicle has truly become my second office.

I want to particularly acknowledge and thank my partner, Kim, and children, Jack and Molly, for their support and understanding. My regular absences have meant that Kim's workload has gone through the roof, and I have to say that at times I am in awe of her ability to cope with the demands of working, running a household, getting kids to school and performing the myriad other duties involved in looking after a house and five acres. I also want to acknowledge Rachel and John, who are down at the Sunshine Coast, for their ongoing support.

I have kicked some goals during the past three years, but there is more work to be done. I will elaborate in due course what I see as my priorities during this term of parliament. The 2017 electoral redistribution had one of the most profound impacts on the Burdekin electorate in its history. The electorate has virtually doubled in size and now stretches from just south of Townsville to south of Bowen and inland through the coalmining, grazing and cropping communities of Collinsville, Glenden, Nebo, Moranbah, Coppabella, Dysart, Middlemount and Clermont.

The Burdekin electorate is surely the most diverse electorate in Queensland. When we talk about what electorates contribute to this state, the Burdekin electorate has no equal. The largest sugarcane-growing area, one of the largest horticultural industries and the majority of coalmines in Queensland can be found within the electorate. It is a vast electorate with untapped potential—a land of opportunity with people whom I consider to be the salt of the earth. It is those opportunities that I want to talk about here today, because unless we take up those opportunities and turn them into reality they mean nothing.

Health, education, roads and transport, water and telecommunications are so important in regional and rural areas. We have to fight to attract teachers, nurses, doctors and allied health practitioners. When families are considering a move to these towns, this becomes vitally important. I am passionate about my schools, and I want to share with the parliament an initiative I started last term with regard to bullying in our schools. I have committed to delivering into all my schools two antibullying books titled *Have you Filled a Bucket Today?* and *Growing Up With a Bucket Full of Happiness*. These books are centred on the invisible bucket concept and have been enthusiastically embraced by all my schools with some wonderful feedback. I have also delivered buddy benches to every high school in my electorate. I want to acknowledge the Burdekin and Clermont men's sheds for building these benches and becoming involved in this important initiative.

It is absolutely imperative that our school students in rural and regional areas have the same opportunities, support and access to services as those enjoyed by their city cousins. A student being educated at Collinsville, Glenden or Dysart should not be disadvantaged because they live in these communities, and I am passionate about ensuring equality in education. I have some fantastic teachers and support staff in my schools, and I know that many of these staff go above and beyond their duties to ensure the best educational opportunities are provided to their students.

I am particularly concerned that the fabric of many resource communities is being torn apart due to the impact of mine rostering practices and FIFO workers. We have seen the demise of many sports, community organisations and businesses because of 12-hour shifts, and seven-on, seven-off rosters. This is even flowing through to schools where students are being pulled out of schools by parents for seven days to coincide with rostered days off, which, as members can appreciate, has a significant impact on school resources and the students themselves.

To give members some idea of the scope and extent of FIFO workers in my area, we spoke to Isaac Regional Council last week and on any given day it estimates up to 11,000 FIFO workers are in that council area working in the mines. That is a lot of extra staff coming in and out of my electorate on a daily basis. It is my goal to have some of those workers and their families move permanently to the electorate to help support those communities.

I have seven hospitals in my electorate which do a magnificent job, but once again I want to highlight the challenges faced by health boards in attracting and retaining staff at these centres. As an example, Collinsville Hospital has a single medical practitioner to service a community of almost 2,000 people. I know that the Mackay Hospital and Health Services team have been endeavouring to source a second doctor for over three years without success, which highlights the problems in the provision of health services to rural areas. It seems to be a constant battle, and the absence of a single doctor in some of my communities can have a major impact on the provision of medical services. What we take for granted in terms of accessing specialist treatment or medical imaging services is often a major logistical exercise for my residents, particularly the elderly.

I called my maiden speech 'Just Add Water' because I wanted to highlight the importance of water resources within the electorate and the potential that could be delivered with the delivery of critical water infrastructure. My enthusiasm for water development has not waned and, with projects like Urannah Dam, raising the wall of the Burdekin Walls Dam and the Elliott Main Channel, the future for agricultural and resource development could not be brighter. The delays in delivering these projects are a source of constant frustration and angst in my electorate. If there is one message I would like to give to the government today, it is simply this: make it happen. Of course this is tempered somewhat with the passing of the vegetation management legislation in May this year which has made agricultural development in this state, and particularly in my electorate, so much more difficult for our farmers.

I firmly believe that the Burdekin can become the food bowl of Australia and that the opportunities to grow and produce fruit and vegetables not only for domestic consumption but also overseas export is unlimited. We have the land, the infrastructure in terms of power supply and the roads, ports and labour. Our farmers are amongst the most innovative in the world, and it breaks my heart to see the brakes being put on them by a government which has no understanding of the importance of agriculture, particularly high-value agriculture, to the Queensland economy and no understanding of how the vegetation management laws will impact on this sector.

My support for the sugar industry is well known. During the last term of parliament our canefarmers, particularly those in the Wilmar Sugar Mill cane-growing areas, were under attack. The implementation of the sugar marketing legislation, giving our farmers choice in who markets their sugar, was a massive win for our farmers and a win for common sense and equality. Going forward, I want to be very clear that I will vigorously oppose any attempt to repeal sugar marketing legislation, and I certainly support the federal government in their moves to reinforce the code of conduct and carry that code of conduct forward. I am united with our canefarmers on sugar marketing, and I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with them on this important issue.

Of course I share their concerns with escalating power and water prices, which in some cases are crippling our farmers. When our farmers are reverting to diesel pumps around Queensland, you know something is seriously wrong. If power prices continue to rise at the levels they have in recent years, we will see a lot more farmers reverting to diesel powered pumps. I have already spoken in this place this week about unallocated water and the capacity in our dams and the fact that a lot of this water is not being utilised, particularly when we are in the middle of a drought.

During the previous term, I worked closely with my four local government authorities within the electorate—namely, the Townsville City Council, the Burdekin Shire Council, the Whitsunday Regional Council and the Isaac Regional Council—and a number of community organisations, chambers of commerce and industry groups to deliver better services and infrastructure for the electorate. It may come as a surprise to some members in this House that I still have unsealed roads within my electorate, like the Bowen Developmental Road between Collinsville and the Gregory Developmental Road, the Suttor Developmental Road, the Clermont Alpha Road and the Red Hill Road which runs past Goonyella mine. These roads are used to transport produce, resources and livestock from throughout the region to major centres, and it defies belief that my residents and businesses are still being forced to drive on these substandard roads which during the wet season regularly become impassable. We take sealed roads for granted in the south-east of the state, but when you consider the value of the produce that is transported over the roads in my electorate you have to question the equity in road funding.

Given the royalties flowing into the state coffers from the mines in my electorate, you would be forgiven for asking why we do not have the best roads and associated infrastructure in the state. You may well ask why we are still driving on unsealed roads over single-lane bridges and flood-prone causeways when the region contributes so much revenue to the state coffers. We do not want gold-

plated roads. All we want is our fair share, and I think it is about time this Labor government started reinvesting some of these mining royalty funds into the communities and areas where the revenue comes from.

We live in an age of telecommunications technology, and simple things like making and receiving a call on a mobile phone that we take for granted in our metropolitan areas are simply not possible in vast areas of my electorate. When you combine that with intermittent or non-existent internet services, you begin to understand the impact this lack of service accessibility has on residents and businesses throughout the electorate.

Our youth are our future, and it concerns me that unemployment in rural and regional centres throughout the state is at record highs. If we are to attract and retain our youth, we need jobs and we need opportunities. Certainly, the resource sector is doing its share of providing jobs, but it needs to be more than that. We should never underestimate the importance of delivering a single service or a single project or supporting the start-up of a new business to rural communities. The addition of one or two families can have a massive impact on some of these small communities. It can mean the difference between a school staying open, the retention of teacher aides, the employment of nursing staff and the retention of police officers.

If there is a single project with the potential to deliver jobs and economic prosperity to the region, it is the Carmichael mine project. The Abbott Point coal-loading facility is in my electorate, along with the majority of the railway line infrastructure linking this port to the mine site. The potential for this project to deliver several thousand jobs to North Queensland is unparalleled, and I for one will not sit back and see this project sabotaged by green activists who have no idea what they are protesting about. These protesters are not only disrupting businesses, like the Abbot Point coal-loading facility, they are damaging our international reputation. I certainly join my constituents in their condemnation of these activists and their repeated attempts to disrupt business in my electorate.

I have witnessed firsthand the demise of businesses in communities like Bowen and Collinsville who could no longer wait for this project to commence. I note the recent advice from Adani that they are moving ahead with the construction of the railway line and they are in the final stages of finalising approvals which will enable this project to commence. We need the project to start sooner rather than later, and we certainly need the jobs in North Queensland.

There are a number of projects on the horizon for the Burdekin electorate with the potential to deliver significant numbers of jobs and economic prosperity to my communities—projects like the development of industrial land at Ayr, the Haughton River Bridge replacement project, the construction of a food-processing facility at Bowen, the construction of Urannah Dam, the construction of DV shelters at Bowen and Ayr, the redevelopment of the basketball stadium at Ayr, the construction of the Drive It NQ facility at Calcium, the construction of an all-tide facility at Molongle Creek, the sealing of the May Downs and Pasha roads in the Isaac area, the replacement of the Phillips Creek Bridge at Moranbah, and the construction of multipurpose halls at Clermont and Collinsville state high schools.

I will come back to where I started. The Burdekin electorate has unlimited opportunities—opportunities that will make a real difference to my constituents, opportunities that will translate to jobs and economic prosperity. However, those opportunities will mean nothing unless we have a commitment to deliver them. I am up for the fight and I look forward to working with all the residents, businesses and organisations in my electorate during this term to make it a better place to live, work and play.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.55 pm): At the last election, Queenslanders were asked to choose between what I believe are the cuts and chaos offered by the LNP and a government that would continue to take our state forward. I am pleased to say that the people chose progress and a Labor government. I congratulate the Premier on a fantastic win which returned a Labor government to this state so we can continue the great work we had done in the previous three years.

I am proud to be a representative of a government which values the contribution of all Queenslanders and serves them equally. I am honoured to have been appointed the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. I am particularly honoured to be sharing with the new members who joined us at the last election. In particular, I acknowledge the member for Cook, Cynthia Lui, our first Torres Strait Islander representative. It is an honour to be in the House with the member for Cook. She is a wonderful representative for the constituents in her area.

I welcome all the new Labor members who are absolutely fantastic. I do not want to name them for fear of forgetting one, but I welcome them all to the chamber. I also welcome those on the opposite side who have come into this House for the first time. I welcome each and every one of you and look forward to working with you in my portfolio of education. I notice the member for Buderim is in the House. How much money has the member for Buderim got for schools in his area? If I hear him complain, I will have words with him.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I have got them all stirred up. It is an honour to return with all of the members of parliament who were here last time as well, and I welcome them all into the House. It is an honour to serve once again in a cabinet that has at least 50 per cent representation of women and to share the cabinet with my colleagues. We are a united cabinet and that comes from strong leadership from the Premier and the Deputy Premier. We work on issues together to make sure that we advance Queensland in the manner which we believe only a Labor government can.

In a Labor government, we know that education is a great equaliser, and it is a privilege to be entrusted with the future of our greatest assets—Queensland's children. In the industrial relations portfolio, I am on the record as being a proud trade unionist, and everyone knows my passion for standing up for workers' rights. The budget that I have this year to deliver education is incredible, but what we do need is long-term guaranteed federal funding both in early childhood education and care and in education. I look forward to completing the bilaterals so we get our fair share.

I note that the federal government has made their deal with the non-government sector. Additional money has been provided to that sector. I once again reiterate that I do not begrudge any educational institution receiving additional funding; however, the state of Queensland wants our fair share for government schools and I will not stop until we get that.

The seat of McConnel changed its name at the last election. We went from being Brisbane Central to McConnel. I must admit I did prefer the name Brisbane Central.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms GRACE: We had some boundary changes, and I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield, who inherited some areas of my electorate. McConnel is what the electorate is called now. No matter what the electorate is called, it is a wonderful electorate. This electorate is an inner-city electorate. Let me tell honourable members that every state is judged on its capital city, and Brisbane is a fantastic city and it is going to be even better. We are delivering infrastructure in the inner city that will well and truly make us a world-class city on a par with any city.

Debate, on motion of Ms Grace, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Health System

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.00 pm): Recent reports suggest that parents of sick children are sleeping in their cars in car parks because the Queensland government is failing to support regional families that need to travel to the city for health care. The PTSS—Patient Travel Subsidy Scheme—provides travel and accommodation subsidies for patients who are required to travel more than 50 kilometres from their nearest hospital for treatment and specialist appointments. Patients are not being properly informed of their entitlements. The application process is lengthy and reimbursements come with lengthy delays.

Reports suggest that despite Queensland Health conducting four reviews of the PTSS since 2010, no reforms have been implemented. That was eight years ago. Today there were also media reports suggesting that \$10.6 million in funds was cut from children's health last year. This saw six health and hospital services suffer cuts in state government funding, including Mackay and the Wide Bay which received less funding in 2017-18 compared with the previous year. This is an appalling state of affairs for regional health and families.

It is also concerning that I have just learnt today from a constituent that the Mackay Base Hospital was without a full-time paediatrician for four months. A young mother, grappling with a firsthand experience of how our health system has let her, her sick child, Molly, and their family down, provided

her views. She stated that the nurses at the hospital are superheroes without powers. They are on the brink as resources are stretched and yet they find themselves on the front line dealing with mothers like this lady who have a sick and suffering child in pain but cannot even get an appointment with a paediatrician.

Parents like her with sick children in pain have to fly to Brisbane so they can be seen at the Lady Cilento hospital because they are not receiving timely and adequate care in Mackay. There is a major flaw in the health system in the regional setting for complex children with a rare disease, especially with the lack of specialist doctors. If I could retell the absolute horrors explained to me by this mother regarding the misdiagnosis, the backwards and forwards and the sometimes inappropriate care, not to mention the emotional and physical stress placed upon all the family, then maybe we could reach common ground and the government would see that this is not acceptable. It is almost forcing suffering upon the children, and that is no exaggeration. That is simply not good enough and it is beyond inappropriate for the families who are struggling enough already. It is not just the heartbreak of having a sick child but also the helplessness in their pursuit of the best care for their children. For many there are also socioeconomic factors. More should be done to encourage doctors and specialists to regional centres—

(Time expired)

Morayfield Railway Station

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.03 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to update the House about an important government project which is currently underway in the Morayfield state electorate and that is the upgrade of the Morayfield train station, something for which I have long advocated. I am very pleased to see progress continuing on the upgrade of this train station.

As many members may be aware, this is a multimillion dollar upgrade of a very busy train station on the Caboolture line, a well frequented train station. Part of the accessibility works that will be undertaken at this train station will include: a new station building, new toilets, a footbridge with lifts, raised platform sections, extended platform shelters, upgraded lighting and CCTV and car parking, just to mention a few. I am informed by the Minister for Transport and Main Roads that this multimillion dollar upgrade project at Morayfield train station will support 250 jobs for contractors and suppliers from the construction industry including all of those trades that we would normally expect to be associated with a train station upgrade such as electrical, carpentry, painting, plumbing, labouring, roofing, glazing and traffic control. It is a very good project and of course it has been very well received by constituents of the Morayfield state electorate.

We have just reached a milestone in the progress of this project with the temporary station building going up. That will signify the formal commencement of major works. The next stage that we will see is some demolition works on the platforms and then, of course, major construction of the replacement station building as well as all of those upgrades I have just mentioned.

One of the things I have been working on in partnership with other community stakeholders and community champions is how we might get a great outcome for taxpayers and also a great outcome for the community in respect of upgrading car parking at Morayfield train station. Right next door to Morayfield train station is the Caboolture Sports Club. They are a very popular sports club. They do great work in the community and they have over 40,000 members. Would members believe their peak time is the off-peak time for trains? Of course the train peak time is their off-peak time. I have been talking for quite an extended period about what sort of partnership the Caboolture Sports Club could have with Queensland Rail. I am very pleased to inform the House that we have been able to do a deal whereby the car parks will be shared so that commuters will be able to access the sports club car park and, in turn, patrons of the sports club will be able to access the Queensland Rail car park. It is a win-win for taxpayers.

(Time expired)

Australian 4WD Hire; Albion Railway Station

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (6.06 pm): I want to touch briefly on two matters. Members will recall some time ago I raised the matter of Australian 4WD Hire and the shonky practices of that operation. I want to report to members that despite being referred to the ACCC and to others, Australian 4WD Hire continues with its shonky practices and my office continues to receive reports of complaints

of what I believe to be unscrupulous, unfair and potentially illegal practices. I will keep the House and the public informed. In the meantime, stay away from Australian 4WD Hire. There are many other places that people can go to in order to hire a vehicle if they want to see this great state and this great country.

I want to turn to another matter locally and that is the development of what is known as Albion Exchange at the Albion Railway Station, a transit oriented development. I heard the member for Morayfield talk about parking and the great deal he will be able to get for residents in his area in relation to parking at a railway station. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said under this Labor government for the residents in the Albion area. Despite the Albion Railway Station redevelopment being, in the words of Minister Bailey, 'supersized' not one additional car park is to be provided. What is to happen is a 30-storey residential tower, a 23-storey residential tower and an office building of between 12 and 14 storeys are all to be placed on that site, increasing the load on traffic in that area, increasing the number of accidents that I believe will occur in what is already a dangerous intersection without proper development and planning approval.

On 15 October the council indicated in a 13-page letter to the development organisation Geon that the application is unsupported. What is more concerning is that this minister is selling off this land. He is selling off land along the corridor to a private developer in a 10-year-plus deal, the first stage of which is \$750 million. He is doing so under the guise of fixing up the Albion Railway Station—supersizing it. Residents are very concerned.

Recently people would have heard of a fatality at the corner of Albion Road and Hudson Road. A cyclist tragically lost his life when a truck took that corner. This development will only see traffic get worse. Traffic needs to be fixed in that area. The council has a role to play as well. We cannot—and I believe we should not—see this development go ahead in the form that it is in without substantial community input. The great concern local residents have is that, in its desire to earn an income and sell off this land to the private sector, the government may well declare the area a PDA and assess the development itself. Local residents do not want to see that. They want to have input into the development of their area; they want the council to assess it; and they want the council to assess it against the local plan.

Ferny Grove Electorate, Traffic Congestion

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (6.09 pm): I rise to update the House on the Samford Road traffic study that was commissioned by the Palaszczuk government last year. Since taking office in 2015 I have been pressing the Department of Transport and Main Roads to make improving the flow of traffic on Samford Road a priority. Last year, after numerous requests from my office TMR conducted a major traffic flow study of a section of Samford Road. This was the first such study of this section of the road in a quarter of a century.

As part of the review I requested that TMR investigate fixing the bugbear of the Enoggera barracks entrance on Samford Road. This was an entrance that, members opposite may recall, was championed by their former leader, Campbell Newman. The Newman government spent a fortune on the Samford-Wardell upgrade, including \$4.5 million to take houses away and then put them back. They did not think to increase the signal time to get soldiers and support workers into the barracks of a morning. TMR considered my request as part of the new study and trialled an increase in right-turn signal time into the barracks by 10 seconds. Further, at certain times of the morning the signalling was run twice per cycle to improve traffic movement.

I am pleased to report that as a result of these signalling changes alone we have now shaved five minutes off the travel time between Osborne Road and Wardell Street inbound on Samford Road. That may not sound like much, but when you are stuck in traffic and late dropping the kids off to school, five minutes is a long time. This is the first tangible dividend from the review and a big win for Samford Road commuters.

I am pleased to report to the House that the election commitments made by David Greene, the Labor candidate for Everton in the 2017 election, have been delivered by the Palaszczuk government. Construction of the Everton Park Link Road will commence in 2019 and will connect South Pine Road through to Stafford Road. The project is long overdue and is estimated to cost \$26 million. This concept plan was provided by TMR in 2012, but it was not delivered by the Newman government or the current member for Everton. David was unsuccessful at the last election, but Labor governments do not play favourites. We just get on with the job and deliver for motorists and busy families, no matter where you live in Queensland.

Bloomhill Cancer Care; Newton, Mrs J, OAM

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (6.12 pm): I rise today to speak about the incredible charity in my electorate known as Bloomhill Cancer Care. Bloomhill began 21 years ago with a mission to enhance the quality of life of cancer sufferers and survivors. Currently, Bloomhill's 50 staff and 500 volunteers support over 1,200 clients by providing practical, physical and emotional support from the time of diagnosis all the way through their journey. Everybody there has been touched by cancer in some way, either directly or indirectly. Having lost my mother to cancer, I am passionate about ensuring that loved ones are respected and nurtured all of their days, especially when they lack the strength and energy to fight for themselves. I am acutely aware of the impact that cancer has on families and entire communities, and on behalf of the Buderim electorate I congratulate and thank Bloomhill for providing a safe and supportive environment for those who have never felt more alone or frightened in their life.

In 2012 a federal government grant of \$560,000 funded a small expansion, but it could not stretch to upgrade the original 10-person capacity septic system, which is impaired by toxic chemicals including chemotherapeutic substances. These pose significant health risks. Recently, Bloomhill received a \$35,000 Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant, which will cover roughly half of the funds required to upgrade and relocate the holding tank so it can be emptied on a weekly basis via mechanical extraction. To link the system with the main sewerage system of the Sunshine Coast council will cost a further \$200,000. Bloomhill has a blueprint model of cancer care, and the rest of Australia is watching. In fact, the model is being replicated in Cairns.

Sadly, as a direct result of its success Bloomhill faces an increasing demand for their services and is once again rattling the tin to fund the Bloomhill wellness centre expansion project. This project will extend their capacity to 2,000 people by 2020. Bloomhill is achieving tangible, positive health outcomes for the Sunshine Coast. I call on the government to support and recognise the cost benefit that Bloomhill is providing and assist Bloomhill in remaining viable so they can support the health of the Sunshine Coast community.

Before I finish, I would like to take a moment to recognise the tremendous contribution of Joyce Newton OAM. The member for Glass House spoke eloquently about Joyce on Tuesday and I will not duplicate his contribution, but I wanted to place on the record my condolences and those of my family. No-one will forget Joyce's contribution to her community and to Queensland more broadly. Joyce, you will be sorely missed. Our thoughts are with Greg and the rest of the family at this difficult time. Rest in peace.

Woodridge Electorate, Sport

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.14 pm): In active and growing communities like Logan, sport stands as a central beating heart. It helps to motivate people of all ages, it improves health and wellbeing, and it also provides a fantastic platform for lifelong friendships to form. The Palaszczuk government is a huge supporter of sport in the south-east as well as the rest of Queensland. As the local member for Woodridge, I was delighted to recently be on the track, field and stage to share in the announcement of some vital new infrastructure and to celebrate champions big and small.

Last week I joined the member for Logan, Linus Power—a huge advocate for his local community—to open the Centenary Plains BMX clubhouse at Browns Plains. The Palaszczuk government contributed \$335,000 to this project in partnership with Logan City Council and the club itself, which will position Centenary Plains as one of the premier BMX facilities in the country. For more than three decades this club has been encouraging wheels to spin, and I am delighted that off the back of our investment more BMX riders will have the opportunity to try and thrive racing BMX.

Meanwhile, this past weekend I joined Maroons enforcer and club legend Josh Papalii to recognise the achievements of Logan Brothers players in 2018, including the Superstar Under 6s—the future of Rugby League in our region—whose awards I was proud to sponsor. This presentation day held even more significance than usual with the opening of Logan Brothers' new clubhouse, which the Palaszczuk Labor government helped fund with a \$100,000 investment through our Get in the Game Places and Spaces Program. Featuring training and gym facilities, additional office space for volunteers and a terrific viewing platform for coaches and officials, this facility will strengthen an already strong club. I want to thank the club executive, president Matthew Ale, past president Matt Mead, secretary Christine Blackwell, vice-president Luke Gardner, treasurer Jacki Ale and the Logan Brothers old boys, so ably led by Brian Roberts, for the enormous amount of work they contributed to this project.

The Palaszczuk government knows just how much Logan Brothers and the Centenary Plains BMX Club mean to Woodridge and will always support clubs who support so many in our community. Luckily, when it comes to inspiration, our next generation in Woodridge does not have to search too far to find a sporting hero. Local Logan hero and boxer Clay Waterman, a bronze medallist at the 2018 Commonwealth Games at the Gold Coast, was awarded Logan Sportsman of the Year at the annual City of Logan Sports Awards last Saturday night. I sponsor this award, and I was again honoured to present the trophy. I was joined by former world boxing champion Danny 'the Green Machine' Green to congratulate Clay on everything he has accomplished in 2018. It was a special night for all in attendance and a showcase of just how meaningful and powerful sport can be. That is why the Palaszczuk Labor government will continue to back sport in the south-east and across the rest of Queensland. Hearts remain pumping in communities like Woodridge, and our local clubs keep chalking up the big wins.

Mental Health Week

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (6.17 pm): Mental health is an incredibly important and delicate aspect of life that needs to be addressed. Each and every year the discussions surrounding mental health are becoming more prominent and less secretive, which is fantastic news. Discussing the struggles and realities of mental health makes it easier for those needing help to seek it, and it shows them that they are not alone. Last week during Queensland Mental Health Week, Bundaberg region Rotary clubs joined forces to lift the lid on mental illness by hosting Bundaberg's Mental Health Wellbeing Festival. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all involved.

Mental Health Week is a time to increase awareness and positive interest in looking after your mental wellbeing, and the organisers of the Bundaberg Mental Health Wellbeing Festival did a wonderful job in doing just that. Special mention goes to Rotarians David Facer and Sue Gammon, who put a lot into organising events for the week.

Despite the miserable weather—not so miserable for the farmers—the festival soldiered on, and various pop-up events were hosted throughout the Bundaberg region to shine a light on mental wellbeing. Events included beach yoga, park yoga, Red Collar Rescue adopt-a-dog cuddles—it was great to have the member for Toowoomba South with me in Bundaberg to pat a few dogs—Hat Day party, shared meals, musical activities and meditation. The events finished with a gala dinner. All of the events were open to the public and widely advertised within our community. It was a great event for everybody in the Bundaberg region to attend.

Unfortunately, the Wide Bay tends to have a higher than average number of residents affected by mental health conditions. However, within our region we have countless individuals and groups that work tirelessly to combat the mental wellbeing struggles people face. It is impossible to name them all, but I would like to say a genuine thankyou for all of their invaluable contributions and congratulations again to all involved with last week's Bundaberg Mental Wellbeing Festival.

Gilmour, Mr S

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (6.20 pm): I rise to talk about a good mate of mine who on 2 October this year resigned from Triple M in Maryborough. Scott Cameron Gilmour, better known as 'Scoot' to those who worked with him in radio, spent 39 years at the radio station. It is a pleasure to know Scott and to have worked with him. I remember the day that Scott drove in. I was doing the breakfast show at 4MB when the boss phoned me and said, 'Watch out for this bloke. He is moving from Gladstone to Maryborough.' I looked out the window and saw a bloke turn up with curly hair, dressed like someone out of *Starsky & Hutch* and driving a German car. We formed a great friendship from that day on.

It is fair to say that Scott was not a Labor man—that is an understatement—but we had many good debates. He was a great radio presenter. After 4MB became Triple M, Scott and Andrew did the Big Breakfast show for 22 years. That is a record in the radio world—to do a show together for 22 years.

Scott will be sadly missed in the community. Although he put on a brave and harsh face, he was a bit of a softie at heart. Scott helped countless people in the Maryborough and Fraser Coast community over the years he was on air. I think he will have a go at me for saying this, but Scott helped a lot of people.

We will miss Scott on the radio. Not only is he a good bloke; he is also a fantastic entertainer. He did a very good breakfast show. Every Monday morning I did a show with Scott and Andrew. As I said to Andrew the other day, walking into the studio is not that same now that Scott is not there—after 39 years of continuous broadcasting in Maryborough.

The community really got behind Scott. They are saddened to see him go. As I said, he did a great deal of things for members of the community and community organisations that he did not flap his gums talking about. He did them quietly, behind the scenes, and helped a lot of people. He would be embarrassed to know that I am talking about the good things he did.

Scott Gilmour is a friend. The radio industry will certainly miss Scott's wit and intelligence. He is an all-round good bloke. It is a shame that those of us who are getting older are coming to the end of our careers. On behalf of the residents of the Fraser Coast, particularly the Maryborough electorate, I wish Scott the best in his retirement. He is a really good bloke. Scott, thank you for the years of entertainment and what you have done for the Fraser Coast community.

Lions Clubs; Smith, Mr B

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.23 pm): I rise to speak about possibly the newest Lions Club in Queensland if not Australia: the Upper Coomera Lions Club. The Upper Coomera Lions Club had its first meeting on 27 September 2016. The first members were inducted on 17 October that year. It started out as a satellite club of the Ormeau Lions Club, a very well liked and very strong club in the Ormeau region.

The club operates under the leadership of Carey Dobson, who is certainly one of the most passionate individuals when it comes to the community. He has a great affinity for helping other individuals. I have to give him his due: he would never turn down a job.

The members of the Upper Coomera Lions Club are the first people to volunteer to community groups—supporting the local market day, helping out at the Ormeau fair, helping on Bunnings barbecues doing some necessary fundraising, or being involved in environmental programs. They are very passionate about tree planting. They have also helped local kids by fundraising for wheelchairs and other special equipment. The Lions club is also very passionate about the drought relief appeal. It has been donating large sums of money from Bunnings barbecues and other fundraising initiatives to the Lions drought appeal.

I give a big shout-out to president Carey Dobson; secretary Andrew Stimson; treasurer Rick Hutton; first vice-president Scott Tegan; tail twister Glenn Davis, who is certainly a character of an individual; and lion tamer Glenda Hart. I also mention David Chan, Andrew Killick, Tanya, Jo, Adrian, Nick and Laura. As I said, theirs is a wonderful, very proactive club.

I will end with some sad news. We lost a very good Lion recently in Barrie Smith. Barrie was in the Lions club for many decades. After his recent passing I had the great honour to speak at his memorial service. Barrie will be greatly missed. Barrie was a member of the Daisy Hill Rochedale Lions for many years. He is the one who got me into Lions all that time ago. Barrie, you will be sadly missed in our community. You will be sadly missed in the Logan region. Godspeed and a nice life on the other side.

Mount Lindesay Highway

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (6.26 pm): I was really pleased to join the member for Logan last week to release a major update to the transport plan focused on the Mount Lindesay Highway. The update of the 2010 *West Mt Lindesay development corridor major road network study* confirms that the Mount Lindesay Highway will remain a vital north-south road transport link for the Logan West area. The 2018 update takes into account the anticipated future population growth we will see in the region over the next 25 years.

The 2010 study was comprehensive, and the 2018 update builds on this and the significant amount of work we have seen since 2010, including the Mount Lindesay Highway Safety Review, the Logan West Area Transport Study and the Logan Enhancement Project. The 2018 update provides the community with a clear understanding of the upgrades that we have completed and those upgrades where we have committed funding. What is even clearer through this update is that over the next few years we will see investment of almost \$78 million by the Palaszczuk Labor government on the Mount Lindesay Highway, with the federal government providing just \$16 million of that funding.

I would like to pay credit to my colleague the member for Logan, who worked so hard to secure much of this funding in the last term of government. He has been a true champion of the Mount Lindesay Highway. When I was elected I pledged to work with him to continue fighting for further funding, and the community can feel confidence that they now have two members of parliament strongly advocating for the Mount Lindesay Highway and that we have a strong and supportive Minister for Transport and Main Roads in Minister Bailey.

We are progressing the North Maclean safety improvements which will fix that notoriously dangerous section, particularly at Greenbank Road. Work is underway, with vegetation being cleared and services currently being moved. We are also progressing the South Maclean safety upgrades, four-lane widening of Rosia Road to Stoney Camp Road, and Camp Cable Road to Johanna Street. We are starting the planning work of four lanes from Stoney Camp Road to Chambers Flat Road and Johanna Street to South Street.

The 2018 update goes even further. We now have a list of identified upgrades to the Mount Lindesay Highway through to 2028—seven identified upgrades that, forgive the pun, give us a clear road map for the Mount Lindesay Highway as we continue to push for more funding.

What we are keen to see is the Queensland LNP also support this future plan for the Mount Lindesay Highway and work with us in seeking additional funding from the federal LNP government for this major transport corridor. On 30 August the Leader of the Opposition visited our region and said to the local newspaper that it was time for the Queensland government to deliver a long-term solution to reduce congestion for motorists making the daily commute. We have that long-term solution. Here is the LNP's opportunity to support the forward plan for the Mount Lindesay and for our growing communities.

The House adjourned at 6.29 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson