



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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## THURSDAY, 15 NOVEMBER 2018

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### PRIVILEGE

#### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member



**Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. During the last sitting week the member for Burleigh claimed that I was aware that the former minister for public works and member for Rockhampton, the Hon. Robert Schwarten, had his home painted by Rockhampton based firm JM Kelly Builders using taxpayers' funds allocated to the construction of a hospital. He stated in parliament that not only was I aware of this alleged corruption, but so, too, were the members for Keppel and Rockhampton.

I note that the Hon. Robert Schwarten has already stated publicly that the member for Burleigh's allegations are completely untrue. Furthermore, I table for the benefit of the House the statutory declaration from the local painting firm McAlister & Burford, duly sworn and witnessed, that clearly states that he, Mr Bruce McAlister, was not ever employed by JM Kelly to work on Mr Schwarten's Kinka Beach home and, indeed, he was actually employed by Mr Paul Forrest, who paid him in full for the painting works undertaken. I table that statutory declaration for the benefit of all members.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 5 November 2018, titled 'Statutory Declaration' [[1915](#)].

It is clear to me that the member for Burleigh did no research on his slanderous claims against me and other members of this House and has no evidence to substantiate the claims he made in this House. Finally, the day he made those allegations in this House I rose in this House and challenged the member for Burleigh to repeat his claims outside the chamber without the protections afforded to us in this esteemed House. It has now been two weeks and he has failed to do so. I believe this is because the member for Burleigh knows full well that he deliberately misled the House. Mr Speaker, I will be writing to you regarding the member's conduct and the offence of deliberately misleading the parliament.

### REPORT

#### Auditor-General



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 8 of 2018-19 titled *Water: 2017-18 results of financial audits*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 8: 2018-19—Water: 2017-18 results of financial audits [[1900](#)].

### SPEAKER'S RULINGS


#### Questions on Notice, Out of Order



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, standing order 231 provides that a member may not anticipate the discussion of any subject which appears on the *Notice Paper*. Yesterday the member for Traeger asked a question on notice which anticipated debate on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill currently on the *Notice Paper*. Accordingly, yesterday evening I ruled the question out of order and it was not included on today's *Notice Paper*.

I have also reviewed question on notice No. 1719 of 2018 submitted by the member for Maiwar. As I stated in my earlier rulings this week, standing order 115(a) requires questions to be brief and relate to one issue. While this question relates to one broad topic, it contains two questions relating to two distinct issues. I therefore rule it out of order.


### Incident in Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 18 September 2018 I informed the House about a photograph appearing on social media taken in the gallery in apparent breach of rules and directions. Investigations revealed that the photograph was taken by a person casually engaged by a member as an electorate officer. The Clerk has been in correspondence with this person as it involved not only the possible breach of rules and directions about access to the precinct and conduct in the gallery but also the Parliamentary Service's Code of Conduct. Ms Catherine Toomey, casually employed by the member for Maroochydore as an electorate office staffer, has apologised for the procurement of a pass and the taking and publication of the photograph in the gallery, and I am satisfied with the explanation of events that she has provided. I wish to make it clear that Ms Toomey was not at the time acting for the member for Maroochydore as an electorate officer but was, in fact, acting in another capacity for a campaign or protest.


In terms of the breach of rules and directions in the gallery, I have considered the apology, the explanation, the prompt removal of the material from the website and that this matter also involves potential disciplinary action. In these circumstances, I believe that it does not warrant further consideration by the Ethics Committee. The remaining matters regarding the procurement of a pass and the conflict of rules involving consideration of the Code of Conduct will be addressed by the Clerk.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Parliamentary Service Staff, Retirement

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, it is my sad duty to inform members of the retirement of long-serving officers of the Parliamentary Service that will occur over the recess. Lyn Whelan from the committee office, currently on preretirement leave, will retire from the service on 30 November 2018 after 12 years service. Monica Pearce from the Parliamentary Library will retire from the service on 6 December 2018 after 26 years service. Margaret Curran, one of our parliamentary attendants, will retire from the service on 19 December 2018 after 19 years service. Colleen Lutzke from Catering Services will retire from the service on 21 December 2018 after 25 years service. Dave Newman from Parliamentary Security will retire from the service on 21 December 2018 after 32 years service. I am sure all members will join me in thanking all of those staff for their dedication and service to this parliament. We all wish them the very best in retirement.

### School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the House this morning by students and teachers from the Anglican Church Grammar School in the electorate of South Brisbane.

## PETITIONS

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

### Toowong Creek, Development

From 3,854 petitioners, requesting the House to relocate the Education Department's proposed three storey building (NorthernHub) well away from the proposed location along the Toowong Creek and its associated 'Buffer Zone' [[1901](#), [1902](#)].

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

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

[1903](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Health Services (Hon. Miles), to a paper petition (3022-18) presented by the member for Burnett, Mr Bennett, from 462 petitioners, requesting the House to meet with stakeholders including government, community and the Gladstone Hospital to review the decision to close the Obstetrics practice at the Mater Hospital

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

- [1904](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2913-18), sponsored by the member for Capalaba, Mr Brown, from 921 petitioners, requesting the House to build the Eastern Busway and call on the Government to instruct Building Queensland to do a business case in 2019 for submission to Infrastructure Australia
- [1905](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2973-18), sponsored by the member for Theodore, Mr Boothman, from 184 petitioners, requesting the House to review current legislation and planning requirements regarding local carriageway width, in particular within new housing developments
- [1906](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (2997-18), sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 105 petitioners, requesting the House to rename the Toowong Cycle and Pedestrian Overpass to Canon Garland and Anzac Memorial Cycle and Pedestrian Overpass
- [1907](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3025-18), presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (2974-18), sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4), from 118 and 285 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to not build the boat ramp at Yorkeys Knob but at the more suitable location at Trinity Park and to publish detailed comparisons of costings and engineering investigations of the two sites

#### MEMBER'S PAPER


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

Member for Maiwar (Mr Berkman)—

- [1908](#) Nonconforming petition regarding protecting Mount Coot-tha Trust Lands from development


## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Governor of Queensland, Extension of Appointment

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): I wish to inform the House that Her Majesty the Queen has just approved a two-year extension of His Excellency the Hon. Paul de Jersey AC as Governor of Queensland. His Excellency has made a significant contribution to Queensland since he was sworn in as the 26th Governor of Queensland on 29 July 2014. The Governor has undertaken an extensive program of community engagements and regional travel, ensuring that as many Queenslanders as possible have had the opportunity to see and meet him. His Excellency has also strengthened Queensland's international relationships by promoting Queensland to high-level visitors to the state and when overseas through programs that support Queensland's trade, investment and cultural objectives.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of His Excellency in commemorating and honouring the service and sacrifice of Australians in war. His Excellency recently represented all Queenslanders at Remembrance Day ceremonies in London and France for the centenary of the First World War armistice. The government is very pleased that His Excellency has accepted the opportunity to continue to serve Queenslanders as their Governor for a further two years. I know that the Governor will continue to be a Governor for all Queenslanders and carry out his responsibilities with honour, respect and pride.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Today I table an update on the progress of election commitments as at November 2018 in reports titled *Progress report on 2015 government election commitments* and *Progress report on 2017 government election commitments*.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government, Progress report on 2015 government election commitments, November 2018 [\[1909\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Government, Progress report on 2017 government election commitments, November 2018 [\[1910\]](#).

Mr Speaker, they make excellent Christmas reading! For those honourable members who would like a summary, they say that we keep our promises and we deliver. We made 498 commitments to the people of Queensland last November, and we have fulfilled 213 of them in less than a year. We went to the election promising to end a century of discrimination against women. We gave women the right to be in charge of their own bodies and their own health care in the privacy of their doctor's surgery. Together we have delivered.

We restored laws that protect our environment and our Great Barrier Reef yet still uphold a farmer's ability to feed their stock whilst in the grip of crippling drought. We allocated another \$6 million to add to the 7,000 kilometres of fencing that has brought back the sheep industry in Western Queensland.


Everyone knew that something had to be done to stop the hideous practice of cyberbullying. Within the first year I was able to embrace Tick and Kate Everett, and now we have done more to stop the bullying that took their daughter Dolly's life than any other state.

We have created 39,100 jobs—that is 170,000 since 2015—by restoring and boosting our famous Skilling Queenslanders for Work program; helping business take on younger people in particular who are looking for work; providing free TAFE courses for school leavers; boosting our exports another \$6 billion to an incredible \$77.6 billion, which is more than New South Wales and Victoria combined; spending \$11.6 billion this financial year on building infrastructure supporting another 38,000 jobs; and yes, we support the jobs created by Queensland's screen and stream industry, a success story so compelling that even the federal government now supports it.

I have stood next to excited parents, teachers and students as we have opened new schools. We are building seven more, including the first new high schools in Brisbane in 50 years. We are building or upgrading 40 hospitals including Logan, Ipswich, Caboolture, Nambour, Blackall, Roma and Toowoomba. We are hiring more doctors, nurses, teachers, teacher aides, fireys and paramedics. We are widening the M1 all the way to the border. We are putting downward pressure on electricity prices and, unlike the federal government, we have an energy plan.

In short, we are doing what we said we would do. Twice now, as recently as a year ago, we asked the people of Queensland what they want. They have told us, we have listened and we are delivering.

### **Veterans, Programs; Anzac Prize**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): Remembrance Day may have been and gone for another year, but the spirit of those Queenslanders who have died in wars and conflicts lives on in all of us every day. Between 2014 and 2018 more than 330 community projects and events were awarded over \$6.85 million in funding under the Queensland Anzac Centenary Grants Program for things like memorials and honour boards.

Today I announce that we are investing \$1.5 million to continue a memorial program and further funding to support our veterans. This includes \$1.2 million for the Queensland Veterans' Memorial Grants Program, which means that funding will continue for communities wishing to honour their war heroes as well as \$300,000 for additional services for veterans under the Anzac Day Trust Fund. I want to encourage veterans' groups and other eligible community organisations to apply for grants up to \$30,000 when applications open at the end of this month.

For our veterans, particularly those trying to transition from the Defence Force to civilian life, my government will host a veterans virtual careers fair next week, 21 November, to showcase public sector job opportunities. As Queensland's largest employer, the Public Service has taken a lead role in supporting veterans into meaningful postservice employment. That is why in July I announced a 12-month pilot program to identify at least 100 job opportunities for our veterans and provide online resources to help match veterans' existing skills with available roles.


I would also like to congratulate the 2019 Premier's Anzac Prize winners, who will tour the Western Front region and attend the Anzac Day dawn service at the Australian War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux in France next year. The 2019 Premier's Anzac Prize winners, from schools right across our state, are Annabel Jellett, Atticus Solomon, Chontelle Harris, Claudia Maher, Claudia McPherson, Douglas Gemmell, Ella Magner and Madeline Francis. One hundred students have participated in the program since 2013. Recently while visiting Blackall I met student school captain Bayley Williams from Blackall State High School, who was the recipient of one of these prizes in 2015. These students are great ambassadors and, like Bayley, also go on to leadership roles in their schools.

### **Redlands, Community Cabinet**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): My government is committed to investing in Redlands. This year's state budget includes a number of initiatives and projects that will boost the economy and create jobs. These include the North Stradbroke Island Economic Transition Strategy. We are focused on tourism, and soon construction will start on the \$7.2 million Victoria Point central bus station. Today I am very pleased to advise the House—and I know that the member for Redlands is very excited about this because I have spoken to her personally—that we will hold our cabinet meeting in the Redlands on Monday, 26 November. It will be a great opportunity for my ministers and me to visit this great region and get out and talk to locals about issues that are important to them.



## Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements


 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.46 am): This month marks a year since the election of the Palaszczuk government to our second term. Every single day since we were first elected in 2015 this government has worked hard to deliver for Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government is one of delivery and achievement. This is a government that just gets on with it. We are always focused on the things that make people's lives better. That means growing jobs and building an economy that works for everyone, encouraging new industries, building the infrastructure that our growing community needs, and making sure everyone has access to high-quality front-line services no matter which part of our great state they live in.

We have delivered on the economy and produced four successive surpluses without selling our income-producing assets. Our economy is growing. In year-on-year terms the Queensland economy grew by 3.5 per cent to June 2018. Our unemployment rate is well below that which we inherited—6.1 per cent—down from the 6.6 per cent the LNP left behind. Since then we have worked with business and industry to create 170,000 jobs. That is almost as many extra jobs in Queensland as there are residents in the great city of Townsville.

Merchandise exports have increased by more than 70 per cent since we came to office. Our overseas merchandise exports of \$77.6 billion in the last 12 months to September are the highest on record. Despite the prolonged drought and the end of the mining boom, we have been able to build an economy that is stronger and more diverse than what we inherited. We are making sure that the future workforce has the skills we need and the ability to get good, secure work. With programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work and Back to Work, we have introduced employment, training programs and incentives for employers to recruit Queenslanders and create opportunities for work, and we have given year 12 graduates access to free TAFE.


We are growing our economy. We have attracted new investment in jobs in key new industries including biofuels and large-scale renewables. Our renewables pipeline is delivering jobs and economic benefits for regional Queensland and helping us meet our commitment to 50 per cent renewables by 2030. We know that infrastructure is transformative, both in preserving our great lifestyle and in delivering jobs. In my first budget this year we delivered \$45.8 billion worth of infrastructure spend over the next four years, which is the biggest since the 2011 floods. Cross River Rail, upgrades to the M1 and the Bruce Highway, Rookwood Weir, the Townsville water pipeline, Cairns Convention Centre, Gold Coast Light Rail Stage 2 and planning for stage 3 were all planned, funded and delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government. We will continue to deliver every day for every Queenslanders.

## QSuper

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.48 am): I refer to reports on ABC Radio this morning regarding QSuper members being subjected to overpayments and underpayments dating back to 2006. This matter came to my attention yesterday.

I can advise the House that I have made it very clear to QSuper chair Karl Morris it is completely unacceptable that members who place their faith in QSuper to look after what is one of their most important financial assets have been placed in this distressing situation. I understand that a large number of these miscalculations are related to the division of assets associated with complex family matters. I have been assured by QSuper that they are working proactively with all impacted members to mitigate potential disadvantage. I have asked Mr Morris to advise me what measures QSuper has put in place to ensure this never happens again.

## Manufacturing

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.49 am): 'Queensland made'—they are two simple words, but they mean a lot for our state. That is the policy we took to the people of Queensland at the last state election—a policy designed to protect and create manufacturing jobs. It was a plan that was roundly endorsed by the people and it is a policy that we are delivering. It means more jobs, secure jobs and higher paying jobs, because that is what manufacturing offers. That is what Queenslanders are getting.

Last night the Premier and I hosted a reception for companies and industry stakeholders from around Queensland as well as trade unions and peak business and industry bodies like the Australian Industry Group and the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Hear, hear—working together.


**Mr DICK:**—to update them on how that policy is rolling out—as the Premier said, everyone working together to deliver for Queensland.

We gave them good news. Our policy is working. Manufacturing in our state is growing. Some 179,000 Queenslanders now work in the manufacturing sector in our state—an increase of almost 10 per cent from when we commenced implementation. This growth has been supported by our government's clear policy. We are out with expressions of interest for \$70 million for round 4 of Building our Regions, delivering the economic infrastructure to regional Queensland to support jobs. We have boosted Made in Queensland by \$20 million. We are working with communities, industry and unions in Rockhampton, Townsville and Cairns to scope new manufacturing hubs. There is more to come.

We know that industrial land means jobs, and we are acting for regional Queensland. That is why we have declared the new Cairns South State Development Area, opening the Far North to the prospect of more industrial development and the opportunities for advanced manufacturing jobs. We are powering up the Townsville State Development Area, with the Coordinator-General acquiring 810 hectares of land in the state development area at Stuart. We have put out a new development scheme for the Bundaberg State Development Area—not just great news for Bundaberg but even better news for export businesses on the Fraser Coast and surrounding areas. We have seen projects come in the door for hydrogen, ammonia, meat processing, food processing, recycling, brewing, defence industries and aerospace.

Our government is supporting companies that are investing in Queensland because they know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has a plan for manufacturing and a plan for jobs, both now and in the future.


### Queen's Wharf

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government is working with the private sector to build new world-class tourism infrastructure. Today I am proud to announce a major construction milestone for the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf redevelopment. As of today we are officially halfway through the excavation. Already workers have dug about 225,000 cubic metres of rubble from the Queen's Wharf site. Workers have completed more than 200,000 hours and we have seen more than 15,500 truck movements on the site since we started excavation in March this year. In total we will excavate almost 450,000 cubic metres of earth before construction officially starts next year.

These numbers are impressive, but what is even more impressive is what this means for Queenslanders. During construction Queen's Wharf will support around 2,000 jobs. Once operational it will support around 8,000 jobs. This is a testament to the fact that our tourism industry is booming.

The earth that we are excavating at Queen's Wharf will be used for another major tourism infrastructure project, the Brisbane Airport upgrade. In years to come tourists landing at Brisbane Airport will touch down on land reclaimed with rubble that was once excavated from Queen's Wharf. This just goes to show that we are delivering the infrastructure the industry needs to grow Queensland's tourism. We will continue to partner with the private sector to grow this industry because we know that tourism touches every single community in our state.

### Hospitals and Health Services, Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): On Monday I was pleased to announce the successful contractor for the \$86 million redevelopment works at Nambour General Hospital. Thanks to this redevelopment, Nambour hospital will become a centre of excellence for the care of older people and their specific health needs. The project will deliver expanded wards for mental health services, surgical services and medical services, with a focus on families and older persons. It is just another example of how the Palaszczuk government is delivering on its commitment to build the hospitals of the future.

We are investing \$985 million in our hospitals this year—a \$69 million increase on the year before. We are expanding and improving hospitals and health facilities in Ipswich, Logan, Caboolture, Roma, Blackall, Kingaroy, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Townsville, Mareeba and Cairns and on the islands in the Torres Strait. In fact, we are delivering major capital projects and redevelopments at 40

hospitals statewide. These funds will also progress other health infrastructure priorities including supporting new infrastructure, mental health services, information technology and research equipment. We are completing major infrastructure projects this year in—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I am having difficulty hearing the minister. I appreciate that everyone likes a hospital, but I really would like to hear the minister's statement.

**Dr MILES:** I am not sure those opposite do, Mr Speaker. They never funded any of them.

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Minister, I would appreciate it if you did not poke the bear.

**Dr MILES:** We are completing major infrastructure projects this year in Aurukun, Palm Island, Townsville, Hervey Bay and Rockhampton and we are starting construction on the Cairns South health precinct, which I know is of interest to you, Mr Speaker, the Atherton Hospital redevelopment and the Kingaroy Hospital redevelopment, which I am sure is welcomed by the Leader of the Opposition.

Our government is delivering the infrastructure needed to meet the ever-growing demand for public health services across the state. Down here in the booming south-east, our Building Better Hospitals program is making sure we keep up with community needs—projects like the first stage of the Ipswich Hospital expansion, with the detailed business case phase underway; \$281 million for the redevelopment of Logan Hospital, with an additional \$12.6 million for the Logan Hospital maternity services ward; and \$252 million for the Caboolture Hospital redevelopment that will bring the hospital's capacity to 390 beds. The Caboolture Hospital business case also includes the hiring of more doctors, nurses and support staff and a new purpose-built emergency department that will account for the expected community growth.

The LNP would not know anything about health infrastructure. It did not make a single election commitment to build a single new hospital or health facility. We on this side of the House will continue to deliver for our doctors, nurses and hardworking Health staff and deliver for the people of Queensland.

## Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.57 am): Queensland is the shining star when it comes to education. Twelve months ago the Palaszczuk government was re-elected on a platform of ensuring young Queenslanders receive the best possible education no matter where they live, and we have delivered. Thanks to the Palaszczuk government there are 1,009 more teachers working in classrooms—from Cape York to Coolangatta—than there were 12 months ago. As the Premier mentioned, we have built five new schools and opened Baringa, Picnic Creek, Townsville's North Shore and Yarrabilba, with Spring Mountain State School near Springfield to be opened in January to welcome its first students. On Tuesday the Premier and I turned the first sod on construction of the new Inner City North State Secondary College, one of six new schools that will be ready for students in 2020.


We are also building new classrooms and school halls and refurbishing existing facilities across the state. In the past 12 months, new or upgraded school halls have been opened at 22 schools across the state and a further five halls will be completed by the end of the month. These are fantastic facilities, like the new multipurpose hall at Trinity Bay State High School that I opened recently with the Premier and the member for Cairns, and the halls at Kingaroy, Balmoral, Yeppoon and Pimpama, to mention a few. I thank the local members who opened the halls I was unable to open. As part of our \$250 million 2020 Ready initiative, new and enhanced classrooms have been built at 12 schools and are now being put to good use.

The Palaszczuk government's investment in more teachers and teacher aides and better education facilities is paying great dividends. Queensland is one of the most improved states since NAPLAN testing started, as we have seen continued improvement in reading and spelling, especially in years 3, 5 and 9.

Let us not forget the recent Grattan Institute report which singled out Queensland as a shining star in its state-by-state report. The Grattan Institute commended Queensland for its emphasis on lifting standards for teacher professional development and our unrelenting focus on improving literacy and numeracy. It has been a very busy 12 months and successful 12 months in the Education portfolio, with

Queensland shining on the national and international stage. The Palaszczuk government has delivered, but we need the federal government to provide equitable funding so we can continue to deliver a world-class education for Queensland students and give every child a great start.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Energy Policies

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to drive forward-thinking, effective energy policy and deliver on its commitments. We are maintaining downward pressure on electricity prices despite the federal government. We have a multibillion dollar pipeline of renewable energy projects and we are doing the heavy lifting on gas to ensure supply for manufacturers, businesses and homes. That is a big tick for delivering on our commitments. We said that we would keep electricity price rises capped at inflation. We are over delivering, and the Queensland Competition Authority, the Australian Bureau of Statistics and the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission have all given us a big tick.


**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Southern Downs.

**Dr LYNHAM:** The latest report from the independent Queensland Competition Authority says that power prices have either fallen or remained stable in South-East Queensland for the fourth quarter in a row and this financial year the average household in regional Queensland will see a 1.3 per cent reduction in their energy bills. We have delivered the first of two \$50 annual rebates this year, with another to come in 2019. We are delivering more than \$13 million worth of rebates for energy efficient appliances and interest-free loans for solar panels so Queensland families can cut their usage, cut their bills and cut their emissions. There is also CleanCo—Queensland's third publicly owned electricity generation company. Preliminary analysis indicates this could generate another \$70 per year saving for the average Queensland household.

We are well on track to achieve our commitment to 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Over the past two years 18 large-scale renewable energy projects have commenced operations, bringing the total operational capacity of renewable energy in Queensland to more than 1,700 megawatts. Another 14 large-scale projects worth around \$2.8 billion are currently under construction, creating more than 2,200 jobs during construction. That is a tick on renewable energy. We have reliable supply and the nation's youngest fleet of coal-fired power stations. How have we been able to achieve all of this? It is by ensuring Queensland families that they still own our power assets, and that is a very big important tick. We continue to lead the nation on gas policy with yet another Australian first today, as tenders open for land for Australian manufacturers only. In February last year I announced Australia's first release of gas land to supply the domestic market and today we have extended that groundbreaking policy.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Transport and Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.03 am): I am proud to work in a government that keeps its promises to the people of Queensland. For the third year in a row we are delivering record investment via QTRIP—\$21.7 billion over four years for transport and roads infrastructure supporting an average of 19,200 jobs. Major projects in construction include upgrades to the Ipswich Motorway, the Mackay Ring Road, the Gateway Arterial North, the Hann Highway, the Toowoomba Second Range Crossing, the Peninsula Developmental Road in Cape York, Riverway Drive, the Warrego Highway and two M1 upgrades underway at the Gateway merge and Varsity Lakes and two to come. We remain committed—

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Minister. Member for Southern Downs, I have already had to chip you once this morning. You are warned under the standing orders for repeated interjections.

**Mr BAILEY:** We remain committed to our \$8.5 billion 10-year Bruce Highway Upgrade Program, including important projects like the \$1 billion Cooroy to Curra upgrade and the Caloundra Road to Sunshine Motorway upgrade, which is well underway now. Early works have also started thanks to the \$550 million joint commitment for the Nambour to Beerburum rail duplication. We allocated \$300 million to a five-year upgrade program to make our railway stations more accessible. The Palaszczuk government will ensure that everyone will be able to use our stations, including those with disabilities. Upgrades have been completed at Graceville, Dinmore, Nambour, Alderley and Newmarket. Works have started at Morayfield—

**Mr Crandon** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. I make the point that the minister appears to be reading a list of projects. I do not believe he is being particularly combative. I ask you to cease your interjections.

**Mr BAILEY:** Works have started at Morayfield, Boondall and Strathpine and planning is underway for station upgrades at Buranda, Albion, Loganlea, Cannon Hill, East Ipswich, Auchenflower and Dakabin. We said we would invest \$114 million to build 2,300 parking bays at our park-and-ride facilities and we are well underway in doing that. This week commuters at Mains Road at Nathan had the first chance to use their new multistorey car park—the first multistorey park-and-ride ever built in Queensland to service major bus routes. Park-and-ride upgrades are also being planned at Springfield, Murarrie, Cannon Hill, Ormeau, Ebbw Vale, Salisbury, Eight Mile Plains, Geebung, Lindum, Lawnton, Greenbank and Darra.

The rail system in South-East Queensland has stabilised and is improving with 5.4 million extra public transport trips and—wait for it—1.7 million extra trips on rail in the last financial year. Commuters are voting with their feet. More than 182 million public transport trips were taken on the system—the most on record. Gradual increases to train crew supply are delivering incremental improvements for customers, with both the June-July and September school holiday periods not requiring service downgrades despite previously being identified as timetable stress periods. The Palaszczuk government is also delivering eight training schools this year for train drivers to increase the pipeline of both guards and drivers and we remain focused on restoring services and improving the rail system after Queensland Rail suffered a net loss of 48 train drivers under the previous LNP government.

We are building bike-riding infrastructure, with work now underway on stage E of the Veloway at Tarragindi which will provide riders with a separated 17-kilometre route from Eight Mile Plains in the city of Logan all the way into the Brisbane CBD. We also promised and are delivering more and better boat facilities across Queensland by extending the Marine Infrastructure Fund for two years with \$30 million.

### Electric Scooters, Lime


 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.08 am): Electric scooters have proven popular in cities around the world. We have recently learned that South-East Queensland is on the radar of companies looking to bring their services to our region. Cheap and accessible electric scooters will give people another travel option, particularly on the last section of the journey to work or home on public transport. This proposed investment in Queensland is an exciting proposition. One of the more well known companies operating in this space is of course Lime.

Lime launched in January 2017 and operates in over 80 international locations offering electric scooters and bikes for hire. Lime users find, unlock and pay for the device using an app. Instead of using docking stations like bike-share schemes, including the yellow share bikes we see around Brisbane, Lime users leave their scooters at their final destination. Lime's electric scooters have a 250-watt motor and can reach speeds of up to 27 kilometres per hour. This means that they do not currently comply with Queensland laws and regulations. However, the Palaszczuk government is keen to facilitate and fast-track this new mobility service. We are reviewing laws and regulations now and expect to have that review finished before Christmas.

Lime has signalled its wish to conduct a pilot in Brisbane this weekend and we support the pilot happening in a safe and responsible way. I will be inviting Lime to meet with my department today to discuss options, including offering a temporary exemption from our regulations so that we can support their pilot.

We see the benefits of businesses like Lime and will work with those businesses to make sure that what they offer can be enjoyed by Queenslanders and visitors to our state. People will be keen to give Lime a go, so we urge those people who use their service to wear a helmet, stay safe and respect other commuters.

### Housing and Public Works, Digital Technology and Sport Portfolios

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (10.09 am): I am pleased to rise in this House to report on the delivery of election commitments in my portfolios over the past 12 months. That is because we have delivered or are on track to deliver 100 per cent of those commitments just one year in—every single one of them.

A year ago, 48 members of this House embarked on a highly ambitious journey to continue the good work we started in the previous term and to further advance our reform agenda. They have delivered in spades—spades like the ones used to turn the sod to begin construction of the North Queensland Stadium. This Palaszczuk government led initiative is supporting thousands of jobs in North Queensland. It is also a project that the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government needed to be dragged kicking and screaming to support with any kind of funding. That is because, in this state, it is Labor that builds things. We get things done—like our Open Doors to Renting Reform consultation, which is going gangbusters with more than 50,000 respondents across every electorate logging on to tell us about their experiences in the rental market. The Palaszczuk government is looking to better protect tenants and property owners as well as increase stability in the rental market.

We have also begun rolling out the Premier's \$15 million Female Facilities Program, which is providing funding for grassroots clubs to cater for female players of all ages. The contracts have been signed on more than \$32 million of grants for sporting clubs across the state. This money will go towards new facilities and amenities at 52 sporting clubs to ensure that our next generation of sporting stars have the best start to their careers and help the rest of us stay active.

What else has the Palaszczuk government achieved? We are continuing to roll out our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program, ahead of schedule, to build almost 3,000 new social homes across the state by 2022. We have invested \$55 million in new houses or upgrades for our teachers, nurses, police officers and ambulance officers in remote Queensland. We have helped 48,000 Queenslanders access and sustain private rental tenancies through the implementation of our Queensland Housing Strategy. We have delivered new fair rules for our elderly in retirement villages, which will provide certainty and financial security to those residents and their families. By the end of the year we will have employed new Building and Asset Services apprentices across the state, including in Brisbane, Cairns, Longreach and Thursday Island, with 40 more tradespeople helping to deliver over \$1 billion worth of works this year.

The Palaszczuk government is delivering for all Queenslanders. Since it is the last sitting day for 2018, I acknowledge every member of the government who worked so hard to ensure that this record of achievement delivered for their community.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION



**Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (10.12 am): I seek leave to move general business notice of motion No. 1 standing in my name.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

### AYES, 42:

**LNP, 36**—Bates, 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, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

### NOES, 45:

**ALP, 45**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Pairs: C. O'Rourke, Sorensen; McMillan, Stuckey.

Resolved in the negative.

## MOTION

### Referral to Transport and Public Works Committee



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.18 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the Transport and Public Works Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly by 26 April 2019 on a sustainable Queensland intrastate shipping industry.

In undertaking this inquiry, the committee should consider:


- (a) the regional economic development and labour market benefits of a sustainable intrastate shipping industry in Queensland;
- (b) current intrastate coastal shipping task and identify any barriers and options to strengthen the intrastate shipping industry;
- (c) Queensland's contribution to, and the need for, an Australian interstate shipping industry, and identify ways in which Queensland could contribute to improving the Australian interstate shipping industry;
- (d) opportunities for future common user port infrastructure, and any adjustments to the provision of port services, to support the viability of a regular intrastate freight shipping service;
- (e) working conditions and safety practices on current coastal shipping vessels, comparing international vessels to Australian vessels;
- (f) any practices that are being used to erode working conditions, such as entitlements and legislative protections that currently apply to employees in the industry;
- (g) options for legislative, regulatory or policy reform that could strengthen the intrastate shipping industry, and ensure that Queensland's labour market would benefit from this expanded industry, considering current Commonwealth legislation, reviews and constitutional limitations;
- (h) options for legislative, regulatory or policy reform to maintain the safety, rights and protections of workers in Queensland ports and maritime industry; and
- (i) options to minimise any potential impacts on the Great Barrier Reef from a strengthened intrastate shipping industry.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (10.20 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That the Fisheries (Vessel Tracking) Amendment Regulation 2018, subordinate legislation No. 179 of 2018, tabled in the House on 13 November 2018 be disallowed.

## LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (10.21 am): I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 42:**

**LNP, 36**—Bates, 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, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 45:**


**ALP, 45**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Pairs: C. O'Rourke, Sorensen; McMillan, Stuckey.

Resolved in the negative.


## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Questions Without Notice, Extension of Time

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members of rulings by previous Speakers that if members cause divisions so as to cut into question time Speakers may, at their discretion, not extend the time for question time. I will not do that today, but members are on notice that I may consider that in the future. In the spirit of Christmas, during question time today I will be making a list but, members, I will not be warning you twice. Question time will conclude today at 11.26 am.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Cross River Rail

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.26 am): My first question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. At the recent Labor Party conference, business program, the Treasurer met with the Plenary Group, who are part of a short-listed bidder for Cross River Rail, apparently, and in accordance with published diaries, without a probity auditor being present. Why did the Treasurer hold an \$11,000 cash for access meeting with a company at the same time the Treasurer is actively considering that company to be awarded billions of dollars of government contracts?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for the question. I think the member's categorisation of that event is wrong. It is absolutely incorrect. I would caution the member to be referring to these matters more accurately.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you will put your comments through the chair. That is the only warning I will issue to all members today.

**Ms TRAD:** To go to the matter of substance, let me make it absolutely clear: there was no discussion with anyone in relation to the Cross River Rail project and that was made abundantly clear. I ensured that there was a staff member present and notes were taken of that meeting.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left, order! The Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question that has been asked. I ask that you hear her answer.

**Ms TRAD:** Let me be absolutely clear about this as well: the consortia and alliance members who have sought to bid for the Cross River Rail project are an absolutely stellar line-up.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, the question has been asked. I do not need further questions.

**Ms TRAD:** The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, which is an independent authority which those opposite voted against in this House, is doing the assessment of all of the bids. Let me make clear that there are literally dozens of technical experts going through all of the bids from the consortia, from the alliance, to make a recommendation to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Board for the selection of the successful tenderer. That is the process at arm's length from government. It is a process that would not have been put in place if those opposite were sitting on this side. In fact, Cross River Rail would not be proceeding because they cancelled that project.

Let us be abundantly clear: we are a government that is focused on building the infrastructure that this state needs and we will do it despite those knockers, despite their colleagues at the federal level who give Queensland short shrift in terms of our fair share of funding. In relation to those opposite, clearly they have no plan for Queensland. It is just about grubby innuendoes.

### Cross River Rail

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. I refer to the Treasurer's recent taxpayer funded trip to New York. Did the Treasurer seek advice from the Cross River Rail probity auditor before talking about Cross River Rail with QIC and investors invited by QIC given that QIC is a short-listed bidder for this multibillion dollar project?

**Ms TRAD:** Let us be clear about what is happening here.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left, the Deputy Premier must be afforded an opportunity to answer the question before the mass interjections that we are hearing. I would like to hear the response.

**Ms TRAD:** Let us be clear about what is happening here. Those opposite have never supported this project and they will take every single opportunity to run this project down. The post budget QTC-CIC roadshow that I participated in is the same roadshow that occurs every year by every Treasurer that has served in this state since Sir Leo Hielscher was the Under Treasurer. That is



incredibly important for our state and our economy, and for continuing confidence from investors in our state. I make no apology for that. The QIC has been a part of this program for many years and they were a part of this program this time.

**Ms Simpson:** You haven't answered the question.

**Ms TRAD:** I am very happy to answer the question, but they do not want to listen. They just want to bark from the benches like a bunch of whingers.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am listening to the Deputy Premier's response. She is being responsive, as I hear it, to the question asked. I ask members to my left to cease interjecting, so that the House can hear the Deputy Premier.

**Ms TRAD:** I have made it clear to absolutely every single participant in the consortia and in the alliance that there will be no discussion by me or any member of my staff in relation to this project and their bids.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are not putting your comments through the chair. You are interjecting almost immediately after I have asked to hear the response. I warn you under the standing orders.

**Ms TRAD:** For the benefit of the House I can also confirm that when I went to a dinner with former federal treasurer Peter Costello, now chair of the Australian Future Fund, at which the Deputy Leader of the Opposition was present and a number of significant Queensland businesses were also present, including the QIC, I did not seek probity advice about whether or not I should attend that dinner because QIC was there. I made it abundantly clear publicly, in front of every single member of that dinner party, that Cross River Rail would not be discussed. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition knows that because he sat across the table from me.

Those opposite are a disgrace. They take this government and Queensland taxpayers to court to keep hidden their donors—to keep their secret donors hidden. These people have absolutely no shame. They lifted the disclosure threshold so that absolutely anyone could walk into an electorate office, hand over \$10,000 and say nothing. They have no credibility.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, I will not accept any more interjections at the volume or the repetition that you are currently giving them.

### Screen Industry

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on any exciting developments for the screen industry in Queensland, particularly for the Gold Coast?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Gaven for that question. Of course, we know how important the Gold Coast is for the film industry, not just at a state level but also at an international level. We know how important those jobs are for people on the Gold Coast, especially those who work in carpentry, painting, construction, make-up and all the people involved in putting together sets. Those are the people who benefit from having long-term secure jobs in our film industry on the coast.

Today I am very excited to announce that on 18 December on the Gold Coast we will be welcoming Jason Mamoia for the Australian premiere of *Aquaman*. Of course, this is wonderful news for Queensland. It is the culmination of yet another blockbuster that was filmed on the Gold Coast. On this side of the House, we deliver for the Gold Coast because we know how important the Gold Coast is. Our fabulous locations are already on show in a behind-the-scenes video that has been released online. I encourage members to look at that video.

I am equally excited for the premiere of local production *Tidelands* on 9 December in Brisbane. On 14 December, Netflix will release the series onto the international stage. It was filmed in South-East Queensland, including on Stradbroke Island. More than 500 Queenslanders were employed and an estimated \$12 million was injected into the local economy.

In more good news, this week the second season of *Harrow*, starring Ioan Gruffudd as crime-solving forensic pathologist Dr Daniel Harrow, has started filming in South-East Queensland. What is wonderful about *Harrow* is that it has been sold worldwide.

**Mr Stevens:** Are you looking for a cameo?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Member for Mermaid Beach, I might have more chance than you.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection: if they are looking for a dancing role—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Premier.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In the spirit of Christmas, let me move on. What is great about *Harrow* is that it showcases South-East Queensland, especially Brisbane, and all of the good things that we have to offer. Recently we secured *Godzilla vs. Kong*. That will be a good one.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is a bit of tension over there. And then there is *Dora the Explorer* and, of course, we know that those opposite did not want *Dora the Explorer* here. Finally, a big shout-out to a local animation being filmed in Queensland called *Bluey*. If anyone has children or grandchildren, I encourage them to make sure they watch that animated show. *Bluey* is absolutely fantastic. It is a real testament to the animation circles that we have in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### Cross River Rail

**Mr MANDER:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Treasurer. In light of the serious probity questions with the Treasurer's handling of the Cross River Rail bidding process, will the Treasurer now table the probity plan as noted in the business case for Cross River Rail and the notes of the Treasurer's adviser at the meeting with Plenary Group?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me state from the outset—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** I do not know why they ask questions if they do not want to listen to the answers. Organisations tendering for the Cross River Rail works and members of bidding consortia are required to observe strict probity processes. The successful consortium will be chosen based on the strength of their offering in meeting the state's requirements for Cross River Rail. The state's requirements have been set in advance with clear criteria against which consortia bids will be assessed.

Each consortium's proposal is being rigorously evaluated currently by the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority, assisted by external advisers, including a probity adviser who is responsible for ensuring a fair process for all participants. I am enormously proud of this project. It is a \$5.4 billion investment in our economy. It will unlock significant amounts of land held by the state for more commercial, more industrial, more residential offering to the people of South-East Queensland. This will double our heavy rail capacity right across the South-East Queensland network.

Do those opposite seriously believe that a \$5.4 billion project is going to be determined by a minister and not literally dozens of technical experts and probity advisers who are going through the process of assessing all of the applications, all of the consortia's criteria against the criteria we set in place? I know that is the way they operated when they were in government. That is the way they operated—no business case.

I remember sitting on that side of the chamber when the former premier, Campbell Newman, whom they do not like to talk about but whom we like to talk about to remind them of his track record, came into this place and defended Dave Hanna and talked about the great deal they had with Cbus to build—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. My point of order relates to standing order 118—relevance. The question was: will the Deputy Premier table the probity plan? That was all that was in the question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I listened to the question. It certainly did talk to components regarding notes by advisers and the probity plan. Deputy Premier, I think you are being responsive but in the remaining time can you please round out your answer.

**Ms TRAD:** I know that that is the way those opposite like to do their business. Let me assure those opposite that the probity plan that they are seeking can be provided for the benefit of the House. We are absolutely happy to provide that. Perhaps former treasurer Tim Nicholls can provide details of

whether or not he sought probity advice when he met with Singapore Power on his trade mission to discuss selling our assets. That did not happen. Where was the probity plan then? Where was the business case for 1 William Street? It does not exist.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind members that a point of order was raised as to relevance. The Deputy Premier was being relevant but interjections continued. When questions are being answered and members are responsive in those answers I want to hear those answers.

### **Torres Strait, Visit**

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier provide an update on her visit to the Torres Strait last week and the progress the Palaszczuk government is making to deliver on the commitments made to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Cook for the question. I also want to particularly thank her for the amazing hospitality and welcome by her and her community when I went to the Torres Strait last week. This was a very important visit. It was a visit that was designed to essentially commence the public consultation process around Kupai Omasker.

I want to acknowledge the community's participation in what was an incredible meeting with stories, emotion and sharing. It was so gracious and so beautiful that I want the member for Cook to know how deeply I appreciated it. I know that the member for Waterford, the Minister for Employment and Minister for Training, really enjoyed and valued the visit. I want the member for Cook to take that back to her community.

It was incredible. I particularly pay tribute to Ivy Trevallion and Charles Passi from the eminent persons' panel who were there. They did a terrific job in terms of engaging with the community. I also particularly pay tribute to Minister Shannon Fentiman, the Minister for Employment and Minister for Training, who has been the fiercest advocate for getting Kupai Omasker and traditional adoption on the table for the Palaszczuk Labor government to look at in terms of a significant reform agenda. I want to thank the minister for that. An offer was made—I think it was more of a demand that was made—that the minister actually become a traditional adoptee of the Torres Strait community. This is something she is very much looking forward to taking part in.

After I went to the Torres Strait and participated in that excellent public consultation I went to Doomadgee. I thank the Doomadgee community for an excellent visit. It is wonderful to see so much happening in our remote communities, and particularly in the school where there is coding and programming going on. The kids at the school were incredibly excited and engaged in that program.

It just goes to show, when we have leadership around innovation and when we have leadership around ensuring that every state schoolkid in this state—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Leadership, full stop.

**Ms TRAD:** I take that interjection—leadership, full stop. You then get excellent outcomes like that on the ground. I want to acknowledge that. I also went to Mount Isa to participate in the Northern Australia ministerial forum—the forum that has delivered no money through the NAIF to one single project in Queensland. It was an interesting forum.

*(Time expired)*

### **Hard Rock International**

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development. I refer to the minister's public statements that the Palaszczuk cabinet is deliberating on the process to decide the \$2 billion Hard Rock International casino proposal by the end of the year. Can the minister explain why no probity auditors were apparently present when the minister met with Hard Rock International in Las Vegas in June this year even though a competitive process was underway?

**Ms JONES:** I would just like to point out to the honourable member that there is no process underway. My public comments are actually saying that a decision would have to be made by the government to get the process underway. I ask him to check his facts.

### State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning Portfolio

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please advise the House on how the State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning portfolio delivered for Queensland in 2018, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Surfers Paradise and member for Broadwater, I believe I heard you both speaking then. I hope that was not correct. I ask for silence during questions and I expect silence during questions.

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question and for her ongoing commitment to delivering for Queensland as our government continues to deliver for Queensland. It has been a year of achievement for our government. It has been a year of achievement and opportunity for the Palaszczuk Labor government. It has been a year in which we attracted Rheinmetall to Queensland, landed the Qantas Group Pilot Academy and through our master planning process we are moving forward and starting to replace conflict with consensus when it comes to The Spit.

In contrast, what a year of disappointment for those members opposite, led from the rear by the member for Everton—the member with the anti-Midas touch. Everything he touches turns to custard. I can say that the member for Everton does finish the year strongly.

**Ms Jones:** How?

**Mr DICK:** Well he no longer needs to worry about too many women being on the Queensland Parole Board. I am pleased to report to the House that the member for Everton can now focus his attention solely on the LNP after last night in the Australian Senate Queensland LNP senator Barry O'Sullivan declared himself to be a woman. I suppose that is one way to deal with the need for quotas for women in the LNP.

It is not just the government that thinks the opposition is embarrassing. It is the member for Whitsunday, who declared he was embarrassed by his own party in the House just last night. Won't the member for Whitsunday be popular at Christmas time, looking to add to the two votes he got in the ballot for deputy leader?

What a year it has been for the member for Broadwater. So impressed with his own performance this year that he has erected enormous billboards in his electorate to remind everyone what he is focused on. What a waste of money. Everybody knows exactly what the member for Broadwater is focused on.

What a year it has been for the member for Surfers Paradise—a year of thwarted ambitions and disappointed dreams. In other words, for the member for Surfers Paradise it was just like last year and the year before that and the year before that.

What a year it has been for the Leader of the Opposition with the amazing disappearing policy agenda. Compulsory renewable energy targets—abracadabra they are gone. A cruise ship terminal on the Gold Coast has disappeared from the map—it has no location. The Leader of the Opposition needs to be careful with that disappearing act. She may very well be next.

I end in a joyous Christmas approach to the members opposite. Maybe if they are nice to Santa, who I might add wears red, and not naughty, they might get a couple of more policy presents under the tree, but do not hold your breath, Mr Speaker—do not hold your breath.

### Queensland Rail

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. On 1 February next year Queensland Rail's new Citytrain enterprise agreement will come into effect which includes a new entitlement for train crew to have two breaks of 30 minutes each per shift, amongst others. Can the minister guarantee that the new enterprise agreement will not cut services from the already reduced Queensland Rail timetable and prolong Labor's 'rail fail'?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for the question. That question was from the assistant minister for public transport under the Newman government, the government that cut 48 train drivers—a net loss of 48 train drivers under their watch. That is their record of handling the workforce. They sacked 1,700 staff in Queensland Rail. They ordered trains from overseas. That is their record. To get a question from the honourable member given that he was a part of the mess and the botch-ups of the LNP when it comes to the rail network, really who is he kidding?

We are seeing a stabilisation and an improvement in Queensland Rail. We are seeing, instead of the stress periods of the last two school holidays, a normal timetable for the first time since October. We have trained 109 train drivers.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing the minister. There are too many interjections. The minister is being responsive, as I hear it, to the question asked.

**Mr BAILEY:** We are seeing 109 train drivers fully trained and operating in the system for a net gain of 53, not a cut of 48 drivers under the LNP. That is their record. They knew the Redcliffe line was coming, with six new stations and an entire new line. They knew the Commonwealth Games were coming and they cut the drivers—48 fewer drivers under the LNP. That is the albatross around the member for Chatsworth's neck.

Under this government we are seeing an increase in drivers, of course. We have another 92 drivers currently being trained right now. Every train driver school is full, as we get them into the system to correct the botch-ups of the previous government. We are seeing on-time running above the 95 per cent level for five quarters in a row. Overtime is coming down. What did we see under the LNP? In the last year of the LNP government, overtime went up 25 per cent. Under us, it is coming down—a reduction of four per cent in the last year. We are seeing patronage on our rail system return—1.7 million extra trips.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Kawana, you are going to be warned under the standing orders. It is a delayed reaction from me, but you have been repetitive in your interjections this morning.

**Mr BAILEY:** We are seeing smart ticketing being introduced not just across South-East Queensland but across the whole state. We are seeing improvements and we will see incremental improvements in 2019 under this government because we are recovering this system from the botch-ups of the previous government when they sacked so many staff. We saw them cut train drivers, snowballing into impacts that we are still dealing with to this day. That is the reality.

We have the times for training drivers down from 18 months under them to 13 months under us. It is going to be a gradual sustained improvement under this government. We know they botched the rail system.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** We will see continual improvements under this government.

*(Time expired)*

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

### Tourism Industry

**Mr POWER:** 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 success of Queensland's largest tourism conference?

**Ms JONES:** There is only one thing I love more than Queensland and that is Queensland's tourism industry. I am so excited because on Friday night we will be having Queensland's tourism industry awards. This is a night of nights for the tourism industry, and we are so excited that the honourable Premier will be joining us for this awards night to acknowledge all of the great operators from right across our state that are pumping more than \$25 billion into the Queensland economy.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I know some of you are going to be there. I am looking forward to seeing you in your tux all dressed up. I am excited.

In actual fact, this is the largest DestinationQ forum ever held since they started. It is the first time that it has been held on the Gold Coast in nine years. We are very excited that it is this side of the House that is taking it back to the GC.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I take that interjection. I look forward to seeing you in your tux too, buddy.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** Honourable member—come on!

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** I can hear the honourable member for Broadwater interjecting over there. I look forward to seeing him there too tomorrow night.

**Mr Dick:** Yes, he'll be there. He'll be there near the front.

**Ms JONES:** Yes, that is right. In actual fact, it is so popular that we have a waiting list to come to the awards. We do know that there is someone who is waiting in the wings—someone who is waiting in the wings just ready to take flight. He has already flown from Townsville down to the Broadwater. We know that he—

**Mr Mander:** And he's got a really big sign.

**Ms JONES:** He has a very big sign. I take that interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Who said that?

**Ms JONES:** The deputy leader.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** The member for Everton said that?

**Ms JONES:** Yes, the member for Everton said that.

**Mr Dick:** She's not worried about you, Everton.

**Ms JONES:** No. I take that interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister for State Development, you will direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms JONES:** It was a very observant comment by the deputy leader.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms JONES:** That is right. He only has one thing on his Christmas wish list: 'If only I could be leader.' He is working on it. We know it. Those opposite sit there quietly because all of those blokes are sitting around behind closed doors going, 'Not long now, member for Nanango.' As I predicted, we will not be seeing this same line-up next year. When we come back after Christmas, it will be a very, very different line-up over there.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Members to my left, please reduce the level of interjections.

**Ms JONES:** Mr Speaker, you do not even have to take my word for it. You can just read the *Gold Coast Bulletin* where under questioning from the editor—

**Mr Watts:** Nobody believes you.

**Ms JONES:** You are kind of acting like you do believe me.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Order, members! Member for Toowoomba North, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, you will cease the direct attacks on other members using the word 'you' or there are going to be fewer members in this chamber very soon.

**Ms JONES:** Mr Speaker, outside the parliament the honourable member for Broadwater was asked whether he supported his leader. Do you know what he said? He only had to say one word. He just had to say yes—but, no, he was not capable of doing that. Instead, he talked about me—his other favourite topic. We know that he is waiting in the wings. We know that he wants to pounce. The member for Broadwater—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I know there might have been some residual things there, member for Broadwater, but you are warned under the standing orders. I call the House to order.

### Agricultural Training Colleges

**Mr PERRETT:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development. Given Labor's history of closing down agricultural colleges in areas like Burdekin and Dalby, can the minister rule out the closure of the Emerald and Longreach colleges ahead of 2019 and the release of the Coaldrake review?

**Mr FURNER:** I welcome the question from the member for Gympie in respect to the QATC. No doubt this is a matter that is currently before cabinet. It is a matter that is under consideration of the Coaldrake review, and at a particular time—no doubt towards the end of the year or early in the new year—we will be making a decision based around QATC. I must inform the House, however, that the number of students attending these colleges has diminished over a period of time, and no doubt we will be looking vigorously at the findings of the Coaldrake review. Certainly in my travels I have attended both the college at Longreach—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba South, you are warned under the standing orders. Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. I ask that you hear the minister's response.

**Mr FURNER:** I am not certain the member for Gympie at times gets the whole view of agriculture. I know that the member for Gregory does. Given that both these colleges are in his region, he has a broad understanding of what applies in respect of the areas of Gregory and his constituents that he truly represents as opposed to the member for Gympie, who occasionally gets out in the regions and pretends to be the shadow minister for agriculture.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr FURNER:** I do once again congratulate the member for Gregory—

**Mr Perrett** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Gympie, I was going to cut you some slack because I appreciate you may be the target of some of the minister's comments. You are warned under the standing orders for not listening to the House being brought to order. The member was the subject of the comments. There was no recourse for other members to be carrying on. I really need ministers to be able to be heard so that Hansard can hear them. The level of interjections is too high.

**Mr FURNER:** Once again, I proudly go out into the regions into drought affected areas on a constant basis, and I do so with the backing of the Premier through opportunities for getting out there. Quite often the Premier and I travel into those regions—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** That is right; Blackall.

**Mr FURNER:**—in respect of Blackall recently. I take the interjection from the Premier. We have an understanding of what applies to some of those areas out in the regions. Once again, I know that the member for Gregory is of the same view. Quite often we have conversations about the tyranny of distance and the situation that those landholders are in. We were having a conversation only the other day about the drought summit and how appalling it is that the Prime Minister of this country has let down the bush in respect of emergency water infrastructure rebates. It is a conversation the member for Gympie has never had and he never will most likely because he has no clue of what issues are facing the regions and facing the bush. It is only men like the member for Gregory who have a true grasp of what applies in the regions, and it is only a Labor government that represents the regions on a constant basis and we always will.

*(Time expired)*

### North Queensland Stadium

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister inform the House of the ways in which the Palaszczuk government is forging great outcomes for the \$250 million North Queensland Stadium and for Townsville residents?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I know that the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville—in fact, all members on this side of the House—are particularly interested in the Palaszczuk government's record of building things. The Palaszczuk government holds the record when it comes to delivering on our commitment to build things. We do exactly what we say we are going to do—exactly what is written on the tin, unlike those opposite.

Let us compare our record of delivering on building things to that of the opposition record. But just a moment: they have a record of a \$300 million loss and a fire sale of government owned buildings here in the CBD. Compare that to our \$1.6 billion Housing Construction Jobs Program, which is well ahead of schedule, and the Queensland government building arm, QBuild. Fourteen thousand workers were sacked by the opposition when it was in government, 1,600 of those from the Queensland government building arm—60 per cent of the building workforce employed by this government. In contrast, new apprentices and tradespeople are being employed by the Palaszczuk government. There are 700 local workers on the North Queensland Stadium as we speak.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southport!

**Mr de BRENNI:** Unlike their mates in Canberra in the LNP, we will continue to contribute to this stadium to make sure it is delivered in December 2019 to Stadiums Queensland for commissioning for the first game of the NRL season in 2020.

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr Hart** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Burleigh, if you would like to ask a question rise to your feet; otherwise cease the interjections.

**Mr de BRENNI:** Just like the 'ScoMo Express' abandoned Townsville before it got there, the opposition leader will always leave Townsville with a sense of FOMO, with a fear of missing out. They are rightly concerned because it was the opposition leader and this opposition who railed and rejected the Buy Queensland procurement policy that sees local companies in Townsville delivering that stadium. I want to report to the House that 98.8 per cent of the contracts there are local contractors; 94.5 per cent of inductees live in the North Queensland region; 39 out of 47 trade packages have been let to locals; and over 400 North Queensland businesses are engaged in the extended supply chain.

I note that the member for Thuringowa announced today the opening of the catering contract there. Everything in this stadium will be local, unlike those opposite who wanted to see overseas companies and interstate companies vying for contracts. Maybe we will even see local boy Valentine Holmes pulling on a jersey up there. But there will be local pies. We have heard a lot about pies lately. We know that there will be enough pies sold in this stadium—so many pies he will have to fight Scott Morrison off with a stick. We have all had a pie and a pint when it comes to sport. The problem with pies, though—just like the opposition leader—is that you never know what is on the inside. The opposition leader and the Prime Minister make a good pair. Just like the pastry and filling, they are flaky and you do not know what they are made of.

*(Time expired)*

### Lockyer Valley, Water Supply

**Mr McDONALD:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. At the irrigators meeting held in Gatton on 8 November, a motion of no confidence in Labor's handling of the water entitlement process was unanimously carried by almost 250 people who were present. Will the minister listen to the concerns of local landholders and stop the implementation of nominal entitlements as they are based on flawed data?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for the question. I am happy to advise the House that on 5 November 2018 I released a draft amendment to the Moreton water plan that provides greater certainty and security for central Lockyer Valley irrigators. I have toured the Lockyer Valley. I have



spoken to irrigators and farmers out there, and I understand the issues facing that region. I appreciate that water in the Lockyer is a very complicated and challenging matter, and this area is a significant part of Queensland's agricultural future. The draft amendment provides a strong platform for any future new sources of water to grow a strong economy for that region's future.

There has been thorough consultation by my department with local farmers and landholders to develop a comprehensive understanding. In fact, it has been one on one. We have put so much time and resources into the Lockyer that my department has met with each individual farmer on a one-on-one basis to hear their concerns.

The proposed change is to simply have a water resource plan in that area. Previously, it was an ad hoc arrangement. We have to have a water resource plan. It is one of the few areas in Queensland that does not have a water resource plan. We need to get this right, and that is why we are consulting and that is why the draft plan is out there now and that is why we have extended the time for consultation.

We have been working with Building Queensland, the local government, the Queensland Farmers' Federation, Seqwater and local growers to evaluate the viability of additional water, but additional water cannot come without a functioning water resource plan. It has to come first. That is why we are out there making sure we get this right. It is important because we want to be with the local member and see this area grow and prosper into the future, but it cannot grow without a water resource plan and it cannot grow without consideration being given for extra water for that region.

By simply saying, 'We just need extra water,' it does not cut the mustard. There needs to be a plan to go forward. We need equitable sharing of that water. We need a water resource plan for the future of the Lockyer. We are with the member for Lockyer. We want to see the area developed like the rest of Queensland but, as all members over there know, we do need water resource plans. Everyone supports them. It is only Lockyer and one other region that does not have a functioning water resource plan. I am with the people of Lockyer. We have to get this right, but we need to have a functioning water resource plan to push this valuable community and this valuable resource to the future.

### **Natural Resources, Mines and Energy Portfolio**

**Mr BROWN:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House of policy achievements in his portfolio over the past 12 months, and is the minister aware of any alternatives?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for Capalaba. It is that time of year when we take stock and start to prepare for a busy holiday season and Christmas with friends and family. We have a to-do list; everyone has a to-do list. The people of Queensland gave us a to-do list a year ago—a mandate to deliver on our election commitments. I have checked and we are doing fine. On the list: reinstate a responsible vegetation management and protection framework for Queensland—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, I recall we have had that debate this year. I do not intend on having that debate again during this question time.

**Dr LYNHAM:** Reinstate a responsible vegetation management and protection framework for Queensland: that is a tick. Retain self-assessable codes for vegetation management: that is a—

**Government members:** Tick!

**Dr LYNHAM:** What have we seen from those opposite? Myths and inaccuracies, especially about harvesting mulga. I repeat: myths and inaccuracies. Their achievements so far have only caused unnecessary concern and angst amongst landholders already burdened by drought.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, I have given clear instructions this morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Dr LYNHAM:** Let me say this slowly and clearly for the record. Queensland farmers can still push mulga to feed stock. Now to energy: keep electricity prices below inflation. Well, prices are falling in Queensland. That is a big—

**Government members:** Tick!

**Dr LYNHAM:** As for those opposite, so far they have delivered a 43 per cent increase in power prices—

**Mr Stewart:** How much?

**Dr LYNHAM:** Forty-three per cent. Their electricity policy in regional areas of Queensland is to push up bills by \$400 each and every bill. Also on our list: 50 per cent renewables by 2030. We are steaming ahead on this one. We have got investment and jobs booming in renewable generation projects: that is another—

**Government members:** Tick!

**Dr LYNHAM:** Those opposite just get a tick for backflips. On gas, we are going gangbusters. There was an Australian first today, with another tenement released for manufacturing so Queensland manufacturers can benefit. Where is the federal LNP on gas? Nowhere. Labor is delivering. The contrast with those opposite is absolutely stark. The key item on the member for Nanango's to-do list is to stop the member for Broadwater implementing his.

### Sugar Industry, Code of Conduct

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. With reference to the federal agriculture department in its final stages of preparing a report into the sugar industry code of conduct, can the minister please provide a response confirming that the Palaszczuk government remains supportive of the sugar industry code of conduct and its important role in ensuring fair treatment of the sugar growers and this important economic sector, which has to provide jobs for Queensland into the future?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am feeling generous today, member for Mirani. It must be the last sitting before Christmas.

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for Mirani for his question. There is no doubt that the sugar industry has been facing difficult times of late in terms of worldwide prices. I know there has been some feedback and approaches by the Premier in contacting the consular general of India to make requests with respect to the current pricing of sugar. In relation to the member's question in particular, once again, this is part of my portfolio that I engage with on a regular basis with not only the canegrowers but also the millers. I enjoy the opportunity to speak to them over a number of issues that they raise.

I will use what is happening in Mackay as an example. Those millers up there, particularly the mill in Mackay, are struggling through a difficult time with respect to the financial viability of that particular mill. I am waiting to see what might occur as a result of the possibilities of making sure that mill is sustainable. The member for Mackay constantly engages with my office about the particulars around that mill and also the economy and the jobs in that region. She is a very positive and proactive member for Mackay. I constantly and thoroughly engage with the interests she takes in sugar and also her constituents in and around the area. I wish others opposite in that area would show the same interest and engage with my office.

Getting to the question in particular, there is no doubt that the international sugar market is at near record level of oversupply. That is one of the reasons we are constantly seeking the support of international and trade opportunities. I certainly would encourage the federal trade minister to make approaches to India about that matter in particular.

Getting to sugar marketing, since the beginning of the sugar industry marketing issues, our government has had a position that has been consistent—that is, it is a commercial matter that should be resolved by industry through normal commercial means. By supporting the Sugar Industry (Real Choice in Marketing) Amendment Bill 2015, the LNP and the crossbenchers, before you were here—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair, Minister.

**Mr FURNER:**—intervened in a commercial process. That was against independent advice by the Queensland Productivity Commission. As you can understand and appreciate, despite the advice by QPC and others, it was a disappointing fact at the time that those opposite with the crossbenches passed that piece of legislation. Until such time as that—

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

**Mr FURNER:** I have not finished yet.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The clock says differently, Minister.

*(Time expired)*

### Sexual Harassment

**Ms PUGH:** 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 advise the House on how important it is to call out sexual harassment, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

**Ms FARMER:** I thank the member for her question. I acknowledge her stance as a champion for women—young women in particular—who have experienced sexual harassment in the workplace. We have a huge responsibility as members of parliament. We are the leaders of our community and should be so in thought, in actions and in the values that we espouse. We should exhort Queenslanders to be the best they can be.

When we see behaviour which is at odds with our values as a community, we should call it out and we should call it out unequivocally. That is why the silence from Greens leaders on the sexual harassment controversy that is engulfing them at the moment is totally untenable. Woman after woman has been speaking out in public on the sexual discrimination, the sexual harassment and the sexual assault that they have experienced as members of the Greens party. There is an endorsed Greens candidate for the upcoming Victorian election who previously rapped with the band Broken Aesthetiks about the date rape drug Rohypnol, using violence against his girlfriend and—

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Theodore, you are warned under the standing orders. You are interjecting. You are not even in your allocated seat; you are standing in the aisle. Please return to your seat or leave the chamber.

**Ms FARMER:**—using derogatory language about sex and people with disabilities. I cannot even repeat the sorts of things that were in his songs because it would not be allowed in this House.

The Greens leaders are still putting him up as someone they think should be a leader in the community in Victoria. Woman after woman is speaking out about taking their concerns to the Greens' hierarchy and being fobbed off or ridiculed. They are talking of system-wide cover-ups instead of believing complainants and of maintaining the party brand at all costs. One woman was told, 'I don't need to know what happened. I just need to know what you're going to do about it.' They are told not to railroad the campaign. The treatment is absolutely disgusting.

This week the Queensland Greens issued a statement on their party's sexual harassment and abuse policies; it has amendments to their code of ethics and their by-laws. They have sought legal advice on how to improve member and supporter safety. We do not need legal advice to know that sexual harassment, sexual discrimination and sexual assault of women is not okay. The Greens lecture us—

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Oodgeroo, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms FARMER:** The Greens are happy to lecture us and take a high moral stand on any range of things: inappropriate development, banking reform, pill testing, energy efficiency, protecting the Sydney Opera House and campaigning against cutting down trees at a school. Where is their stand on sexual harassment, sexual assault and sexual violence? One in five women over the age of 15 and one in six under the age of 15 have suffered sexual assault. We need to call it out in this House. I call on the Greens to take some leadership.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Unemployment

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. Today's labour force data just released shows Queensland's unemployment rate remains the highest in the nation. Queensland is the only state to see an increase when the national rate is at a six-year low and Queensland is the only state with an unemployment rate with a '6' in front of it. After one year of the majority Palaszczuk government, do today's results not show that Labor's only plan is to slug Queenslanders with new and higher taxes, leaving them with less?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am very glad that I have finally received a question from the opposition. Finally, today I have been asked a question. In all seriousness, we know that the economy will sometimes go through its ups and downs. It is still lower than the high rate it hit under the LNP. On this side of the House we do not sack people like those people opposite. We do not cut programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work; we deliver for Queenslanders and we will continue to do that.

As I have said in this House—and I will say it again—we will continue to work with employers to grow the small business industry in this state. We will continue to work with our resource industries to continue to grow the jobs in this state and we will also continue to work with all types of industry as we transition to the new economy. As I said in the House this week, we will be having a skills summit in a couple of weeks time to talk about those new jobs that our children will need into the future.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said, we will not sack people. We will never give the people of Queensland the sort of Christmas present the former government gave them in 2012. Those people went home to their families at Christmas after the budget was handed down in September that year and had to explain why the Newman government had given them no job. That is what we will not do.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will continue to work with everybody to continue to support Queenslanders no matter where they live.

### Road and Transport Infrastructure

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on the progress being made on road and transport projects across Queensland?

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

**Mr BAILEY:** We are delivering infrastructure up and down this state: the Gateway Arterial North, the Smithfield Bypass, Peninsula Development Road, Mackay Ring Road, the southern access Bruce Highway in Cairns, the Hann Highway and two M1 upgrades. We are getting on with the planning that was stopped under the previous government for the Coomera Connector, or the second M1.

I was very interested to see comments in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. In that publication the member for Coomera said that the LNP had ruled out making the M1 alternative road a toll road. However, at the end of the article Ray Stevens, the member for Mermaid Beach, said that he would support a toll road option for the M1 alternative. He stated—

We need a second motorway, whichever way we are going to get it, either through state government funding or private partnership as a toll road.


It is clear that the member for Mermaid Beach has a present for the Gold Coast and it is a toll road. Shame on him for doing that.

*(Time expired)*

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

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 14 November (see p. 3576).

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.27 am): I rise to contribute to the debate on the address-in-reply motion as it stands before the House. Firstly, I acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which this House stands, the Jagera and Turrbal people, and I thank them for their custodianship, their wisdom and their preparedness to walk the path towards full reconciliation after so much injustice and pain. The community that I represent including Kurilpa, the place of the water rat, has been home to the first nations people of Brisbane or Meanjin for thousands of generations, and I pay respect to elders past and those still amongst us sharing their ancient culture and traditions.

I wish to extend my thanks to His Excellency Governor Paul de Jersey who, together with his wife, Kaye de Jersey, have served the people of Queensland with distinction and have been exemplary servants of our state. I wish to also congratulate him on the extension to his term of Governor of our great state of Queensland.

It is an honour to stand in this place as part of a re-elected Palaszczuk Labor government representing my community of South Brisbane. I am only able to do so because of the strong love and support of my family. I pay tribute to and thank my life partner, Damien van Brunschot; our two boys, Leo and Vincent; my mother, Yesmine Trad; my sisters, Marilyn, Lorene and especially Fina; my brother, Naji; and their families. I also thank all my cousins and extended family.

This time last year was particularly gruelling on us all in a fiercely contested local election battle. I am very proud of the campaign that we ran in South Brisbane. It was by the community, for the community and was driven by local progressives who were absolutely committed to making sure that together we could deliver a second term Palaszczuk Labor government with a majority and a mandate to deliver the reforms that our community demands and quite rightly should expect.

I want to take this opportunity to place on record my thanks to the people who stood shoulder to shoulder with me every day. I particularly want to pay tribute to Elly Desmarchelier, Mark Woodley, Stef Dunn, Fina Trad, Joanne Ghanem, Sarah Bowman, William Akol, Emma Frost, Rachel Gallagher, Michaela Sherry, Alex Caddie, Clint McDonald, Andrew Friend, Tash and Angie, former state secretary Evan Moorhead, current state secretary Julie-Ann Campbell, assistant national secretary Paul Erickson, and all my comrades in the union movement including the UFU, AMWU, United Voice, ETU, QNMU, QTU and QCU. I thank you all for participating in what was a Herculean effort to retain the seat of South Brisbane against so much resourcing and so many fly-in drive-in campaign workers from the Greens political party who set up in South Brisbane to take it over from Labor. I am very proud of the campaign that we ran. It is an honour to serve in this place on behalf of my community.

Every day I am very proud to stand alongside our Premier and my caucus colleagues, because I know that our government is one of integrity and purpose and, most importantly, delivering for Queenslanders. I thank the Premier for asking me to take responsibility for the portfolios of Treasury and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. I am enormously excited about the opportunities and the challenges in both. We are a government that has demonstrated our commitment to the aspirations of Queenslanders and making people's everyday lives better. We have done that by focusing on the core Labor values of equality, a fair go, opportunity, the light on the hill. Labor governments are about making people's lives better, making our world fairer and remedying injustice. As the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, I know there is so much more that we must collectively do before we can say that our state is better, fairer and more just for first nation people.

On 23 August this year in her contribution to this very debate, the first Aboriginal woman elected to the Queensland parliament, LEEANNE ENOCH, a Nughi woman of the Quandamooka nation, spoke so eloquently and passionately about the need for truth telling, agreement making and treaties. I would suggest that this is perhaps the first time such a compelling case has been made in this House of the need for truth telling in treaties with first nation people in Queensland. It is both poignant and powerful that it was Queensland's first Aboriginal cabinet minister who did so. In my contribution to this debate I pledge my commitment to work with the member for Algester, the member for Cook—who is the first Torres Strait Islander elected to any parliament in Australia—and our community to start a long overdue and necessary conversation about truth telling and treaty making with first nation people in our state.

We were elected first and foremost to deliver jobs for Queenslanders. Since we were first elected in 2015 more than 170,000 jobs have been created in Queensland. Over the past 12 months we have delivered some of the fastest jobs growth in the country. We have helped people buy their first homes. We have invested in front-line services that were slashed by the LNP with more teachers, nurses, doctors, firefighters, child safety workers and RoadTek crews. We are delivering the infrastructure that Queensland needs to grow and thrive like Cross River Rail, a once-in-a-generation transport project that will transform the way people get around the south-east corner for generations to come just as the Merivale Bridge did and just as the Story Bridge has.

We are taking action on climate change, leading a massive renewable energy investment program in our state to meet our target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. We have banned the dumping of dredge spoil on the Great Barrier Reef, we are ending sandmining on Minjerribah and we have stopped the destructive and unsustainable rate of tree clearing in our state. We have introduced a container refund scheme and we have banned the use of single-use plastic bags. Yesterday we championed and passed world-leading mine rehabilitation laws and ensured financial assurance for postmining clean-up, progressive rehabilitation and closure commitments. We established CleanCo, which is a third energy generator solely focused on publicly financing, building and operating renewable energy generation in our state.

We have confronted discrimination by legalising same-sex adoption, expunging historical convictions for consensual homosexual acts, reinstating funding for the Queensland AIDS Council, investing in PrEP, reintroducing civil unions and introducing a human rights act for Queensland. Last year we finally saw the passing of marriage equality in Australia, and I am incredibly proud that our Premier and our government stood so firmly in support of the LGBTIQ community during the at times very damaging postal survey.

We have decriminalised abortion in Queensland so that 'once and for all' abortion will be regulated as a health issue for women and not a criminal matter that punishes and shames women and health professionals.

We have been transparent and accountable, winding back the damage done by the Newman LNP government to accountability mechanisms in this state. We have brought the donation disclosure limit down to \$1,000 despite fierce opposition and legal action from the LNP. We have introduced real-time donation reporting and ensured the independence of the CCC and our judiciary.

Throughout this progress we have made sure that we take Queenslanders with us. I know that I speak for everyone in our government when I say that we always have the interests of Queenslanders at the forefront of our minds because it is the people who put us in this place. It is indeed a privilege to serve in this parliament on behalf of my community—the community that I have called home all my life. It is my connection with my community that shapes what I do as a representative in this place.

South Brisbane is a destination not just for our Brisbane neighbours but for visitors from across Australia and the world. From the iconic surrounds of South Bank to bustling Boundary Street, from the tin and timber homes perched on Highgate Hill to the bright lights of the Gabba and the might of the Kangaroo Point cliffs, my electorate is quintessentially Queensland. Like many communities across the south-east, South Brisbane is changing. We have been the beneficiaries of so much of this change, with a vibrant retail community and cultural institutions putting South Brisbane on the map; however, we are still learning to adapt. I know that my role during my third term here representing the people of the inner south is to make sure that South Brisbane will continue to thrive through this change.

With population growth in the inner city double the state average, it is critical that we invest in the infrastructure—the social transport and green spaces—necessary to meet the challenges of growth in our community. At the last election, in a strategic partnership with the University of Queensland, I committed to continuing to deliver a new high school for the inner south to relieve pressure on our nation's most populated high school, Brisbane State High School. As Queensland's only GPS public school, it attracts students from across the city and state as well as serving as my community's local high school. Brisbane State High is now the biggest high school in the entire country, with more than 3,100 students from years 7 to 12. We need serious investment in public education in the inner city, and that is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering. That is what Labor governments do: we fund education. Through our \$800 million Building Future Schools Fund we will build two new high schools in the inner city as well as upgrade schools in a five-kilometre radius to help them prepare and plan for future population growth.

As a local mum and local representative, I have been campaigning on this issue for a long period of time alongside my community, because I know that the No. 1 investment we can make for our future and our kids' future is in a great education. There has not been a new public high school built in the inner suburbs of Brisbane for more than 50 years. As our city grows we need to invest in the infrastructure to support it. This will be a high school for local kids, relieving the pressure on Brisbane State High School and meeting the needs of a rapidly growing population.

We are also seeing our local primary schools struggle to keep pace with enrolment growth, particularly at West End State School, my son's local primary school. That is why we are investing in the West End State School master plan, securing the Queensland police site on Vulture Street so the school has room to grow. I have also secured refurbishments at East Brisbane State School, Dutton Park State School and Narbethong State Special School so that all our kids can get the best start in life.

I have seen firsthand the way growth has challenged the way we get around our community. When I first learned how to drive my dad would take me out in our Ford station wagon to the quiet industrial streets off Montague Road where there were no other cars around in case of an accidental collision. However, the Montague Road precinct and Kurilpa peninsula are now some of the most congested parts of my community. There is no doubt that the Brisbane City Council has failed to make the necessary investment in the local transport infrastructure and services that our community needs to adapt to population growth. It is far and away the No. 1 issue that locals raise with me. To this end, I

have secured a transport and mobility study that will consider road, public and active transport issues such as cycling in the South Brisbane, West End and Woolloongabba areas so that locals can have a say in critical issues such as transport and traffic and how to make it easier to get around in our local community.


As transport minister in the last term I oversaw massive investment in public transport and infrastructure in our local area including Cross River Rail and the slashing of public transport fares. We need to continue this investment and use smart solutions to keep our community connected. These are the issues that shaped the South Brisbane Labor campaign—local issues about making our community a better place.

To every single person in South Brisbane who put their trust in me, and even the ones who did not: I promise that I will work hard every single day to make our community and our state a better, fairer and more progressive place because there is still so much to do. The great American feminist and activist Angela Davis said—

I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.

That is the way I will be approaching the next two years alongside my colleagues in the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is not acceptable that Queensland is being used as a dumping ground for New South Wales, so we will change that. It is not acceptable that the gaps in health, education and life expectancy between first nations and non-Indigenous Queenslanders are still so large, so we will work together with first nations people to try to change that. It is definitely not acceptable that women should in this day and age experience so much sexual harassment in the community and in the workplace. We will continue to work through those issues. I am looking forward to the next two years because I know that the challenges that lie ahead are nothing compared to the opportunities for Queensland and Queenslanders.

I first came into this place as one person in a caucus of seven, as part of a Labor movement that was broken and beaten down. Today I stand here as a proud Labor woman in a majority government—proudly standing beside our Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, ready to continue to fight for working people, for equality, for the fair go and for the light on the hill.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (11.41 am): I am very grateful that I am now speaking after the Deputy Premier, after her amazing contribution. I rise to conclude the address-in-reply. In 2006, when I was first elected, I was the first speaker. Now I am old hat, in 2018, making the final speech.

I comment on the significant contribution of the Deputy Premier. I am so proud to be a woman in this cabinet, serving with the calibre of women like her and the Premier of Queensland. I often reflect on some of the first women to be elected to this House and the challenges they faced. I feel very privileged that I am here at a time when I get to serve with such amazing leaders. I thank the Premier, the Deputy Premier and all of my colleagues. In fact, the reason I gave the first speech in 2006 is that I was not only the first woman elected as the member for Ashgrove but also the youngest woman elected to the parliament at that time. That shows that, even in the time I have been in and out of this place, we have changed significantly.

Today I make a contribution to the address-in-reply as the first member for Cooper. Cooper is an electorate created after the last redistribution, which saw the seats of Ashgrove and Mount Coot-tha dissolved and the new seat of Cooper established. As it is for all members, it is always very nerve wracking to go through a redistribution, but I am so grateful, as the Deputy Premier has just said, to have a seat that now encapsulates nearly all of my childhood. I went to Rainworth State School. I had my first job at 12 at the Rainworth fish and chip shop. As a child I walked up and down the hills of Bardon on my first paper run before I was able to secure a job at McDonald's at 14 and six months. I did not hit the floor until 14 and nine months, when I was legally able to do so, but I was very excited in those three months.

I now have in my seat for the first time the Kelvin Grove State High School catchment. I am a very proud Kelvin Grove State High School pupil, as are Coralee O'Rourke and the member for Townsville, Scott Stewart. I think we are doing better than Churchie in regard to alumni! Schools and sporting clubs are the heart and soul of the seat of Cooper. I picked up Suncorp Stadium and the XXXX brewery. That is always a good win in a redistribution!

Nothing has changed in that my electorate is firmly a place where people choose to raise their families. Often people move from the inner-city suburbs, just a little bit further out, for that larger backyard for their children and so they can attend some of the best schools in our state.

As the first member for Cooper I am very proud already that we are delivering on the commitments we made at the last election. I will outline some of the things I fought really hard for as a candidate and am now delivering as the local member. There is \$300,000 for the Red Hill Special School. The Red Hill Special School continues to see increasing demand. It is fantastic that our government is prioritising providing the infrastructure that this growing school needs.

There is also \$150,000 for The Gap State School pool. This is a pool that services all of The Gap community, both Catholic and state schools. It is the only school pool in The Gap. I will share with the House the history of it as it goes to the heart and soul of The Gap community. A family in The Gap borrowed against their own home mortgage to deliver that pool at the school. I am very proud that for the first time the state government will be making a contribution that delivers for not only that school but also the high school and the Catholic schools in that community.

For 10 years the Petrie Terrace State School has tried really hard to provide an oval by growing natural grass. However, we finally bit the bullet and have installed synthetic turf. When I visited recently the teachers, the principal, the parents and the students all said that the fact that these kids finally have a decent playing surface has changed the whole dynamic of the school. They are seeing more girls participating in sport and more children getting active during school breaks. This is something that has transformed that school community.

Where I live is just around the corner from GPS Rugby and Valley District Cricket, two of the largest sporting clubs in the Southern Hemisphere. I think Valley District Cricket claims to be the largest cricket club in the Southern Hemisphere. While I was on my run the other morning I saw that the lights we promised at the last election—\$300,000—are being erected on that site as we speak. I am very pleased that this election commitment is being delivered.

In all of my address-in-reply speeches I have spoken a lot about community spirit. Also near where I live are the Des Connor Fields, which are owned by Marist Ashgrove but are available to everybody in our community—not only to people who play touch on a Sunday afternoon with their mates but also to Catholic, state and independent schools in our region. Marist Brothers makes these fields available to everybody in our community. The Deputy Premier reflected on learning how to drive. Well, my children learned how to ride their bicycles on this field. I am very proud that we are contributing \$170,000 to the upgrade of these fields.

One of the things I am most proud of is what is happening at The Gap State High School right now, because it talks to our vision as a government about really understanding the importance of giving our children the skills they need for the future. A new \$12 million science and innovation centre will be delivered at The Gap State High School. This will give a whole new generation of young people in this suburb, one of the largest suburbs in Brisbane, access to the best quality education facilities we can provide. It is on track for completion for the beginning of the 2019 school year. The excitement about this new world-class facility is apparent to anyone who visits the school—apart from the fact that it is huge and fronts Waterworks Road so you could not miss it if you tried! It will really increase the opportunity for boys and girls to get those STEM skills they need for the future. It is something that I know will be a down payment for all of us on ensuring the next generation of Queenslanders comes through with the new skills for the new economy. It was one of the decisions we made very early on as a government—that we would fast-track the digital technologies curriculum in our schools to ensure our students will be at the forefront and have that advantage.

I conclude by thanking my family. As all members have said in their contributions, we cannot serve in this place without the constant support of our families and friends. I acknowledge my husband, Paul; my beautiful children, Thomas and Grace; and my mother. I cannot talk about my mother in this House; I tear up every time. I could not be here without my mum. I also want to acknowledge our nanny. We have a beautiful nanny, Zoe Edmonds. I knew she would be awesome because her mother is awesome. I say once again that I would not be able to be here today without her constant hard work and support and love of my children.

With those few words, it is my great honour and privilege to conclude the address-in-reply. I, too, want to place on the record my congratulations to His Excellency and Kaye for the work that they have done in their job in my electorate at Government House. We are very happy to see the Christmas tree going up. As it was when I was a child, it is a joy that my children get to see it.

Finally, I will say this: the reason we get emotional—and I know sometimes others in this House question that—is that we get into parliament for one reason and one reason only, and that is to address the unfairness that happens in our society. With regard to the contribution of the Deputy Premier, that is why we come here every day and fight. We take down those barriers. We take down those pieces of



discrimination that still exist in Queensland that should not. That is why Labor is constant in reforming. I totally reject accusations from those opposite that we are not getting on with the job. We are delivering in spades reforms that no-one thought that we could deliver. I very much look forward to working with my ministerial colleagues in delivering truth telling and a treaty in Queensland.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Honourable members, the address-in-reply will be presented to his Excellency the Governor at Government House at a time and date to be advised.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Further Answer to Question, Cross River Rail

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.51 am): This morning during question time I was asked about probity processes regarding the Cross River Rail project. For the benefit of the House, I table a copy of the probity protocols for the Cross River Rail project provided by the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Cross River Rail Probity Protocols' [1916].


At all times I have complied with these requirements. The protocols require that meetings should not be held with bidding organisations to discuss any issues relating directly to the Cross River Rail project without notice to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority chief executive officer. The protocols require that should interaction occur—for example, attendance at an event with any of the bidders—refrain from specific discussion regarding the project or make any unauthorised statements in relation to the project. At the Labor Party conference I met with the Plenary Group, as was published transparently in my ministerial diaries. That meeting was largely social in nature and there were no issues of substance discussed that required formal notes or any follow-up action. The Cross River Rail project was not discussed at this meeting in accordance with the probity protocols.

More broadly, organisations tendering for Cross River Rail works and members of bidding consortia are required to observe strict probity processes. The successful consortium will be chosen based on the strength of its offer in meeting the state's requirements for Cross River Rail. The state's requirements have been set in advance with clear criteria against which consortia bids will be assessed.

Each consortium proposal is being rigorously evaluated by the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority assisted by external advisers, including a probity adviser who is responsible for ensuring a fair process for all participants. Any probity queries on the procurement process are rightfully referred to the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority's probity adviser, O'Connor Marsden & Associates. The continued attempts by the LNP to attack the Cross River Rail project reflect nothing more than the fact that it has never supported this project and will continue to take every opportunity to discredit a project that will deliver more jobs and better public transport for our entire region.

## CIVIL LIABILITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (11.53 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Civil Liability Act 2003 and the Civil Proceedings Act 2011 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [1911].

*Tabled paper:* Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [1912].

This bill is in response to the civil litigation recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in its *Redress and civil litigation report*. The purpose of the amendments to the Civil Liability Act 2003 in the bill is to improve the capacity of the justice system to provide fair access and outcomes to survivors of child sexual abuse wishing to pursue a claim for civil damages for personal injury arising from the abuse. As members are aware, Queensland has already acted on a number of the commission's report recommendations.

The Limitation of Actions Act 1974 has been amended to remove the limitation period in which to commence an action for damages relating to the personal injury of a person resulting from the sexual abuse of the person as a child. The government has also adopted whole-of-government guidelines which set out how the state of Queensland and its agencies should respond to civil litigation against the state brought by claimants who have been sexually abused as children. The guidelines are intended to ensure a compassionate and consistent approach by government and to make civil litigation less traumatic for victims.

More importantly, Queensland will soon be participating in the national redress scheme. The amendments to the Civil Liability Act in the bill relate to the commission's recommendations concerning the reverse onus of proof and the proper defendant. I note the commission recommended the imposition of a non-delegable duty that would make institutions strictly liable for child abuse perpetrated against a child by a person associated with the institution in connection with stated facilities or services facilities. While I appreciate that there are differences of opinion on this issue, the government's position is that it would not be appropriate to adopt a strict liability approach where abuse occurs despite an institution having taken all reasonable steps to prevent such abuse. However, the government will continue to monitor the operation of the reverse onus amendments in this bill and legislative developments in other jurisdictions.

The bill imposes a duty on institutions—applied prospectively—to take all reasonable steps to prevent sexual abuse of a child by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution. This is intended to address the power imbalance between the victim and the institution, ensuring that a victim does not have the burden of establishing liability and recognising that an institution should be liable where it has failed to put in place safe systems or failed to act. The institution will be taken to have breached its duty unless it can prove it took all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse, reversing the usual onus of proof.

Factors that would be taken into consideration in determining whether an institution took all reasonable steps include the nature of the institution, the resources that were reasonably available to the institution, the relationship between the institution and the child, and the position in which the institution placed the person in relation to the child such as authority, power, trust, control and the ability to achieve intimacy with the child.

The definition of a person associated with an institution for the purpose of the reverse onus amendments is inclusive. While it specifically mentions certain classes of person—for example, an officer, representative, leader, member, employee, contractor, volunteer of an institution and a minister of religion—it is not intended to limit persons who may be regarded as associated with that institution according to its ordinary meaning. The definition also includes a person prescribed by regulation to allow for prompt clarification should there be uncertainty about whether a particular class of person should be recognised as being associated with an institution. The bill also clarifies that a person is not a delegate of an institution only because a child protection order is made granting long-term guardianship of a child to the person. This is appropriate where the administering department has no ongoing responsibility for the care, supervision or authority over the child.

To overcome the difficulties that a victim may face in identifying a proper defendant to sue, the bill provides a statutory framework for the nomination of a proper defendant by an unincorporated institution. If the institution does not nominate a proper defendant or does not nominate a suitable person and at least 120 days have passed since the proceeding started, the court may order that the trustee of an associated trust of the institution is the institution's nominee, if satisfied the order is appropriate. The bill provides for how a proceeding applies in respect of the nominee and the institution respectively, including for the liability of the institution on the abuse claim to accrue to the nominee; things done by the institution are taken to be done by the nominee; and any right of the institution to be indemnified, including under an insurance policy, in respect of damages awarded in an abuse claim extends to, and indemnifies, the nominee.

The bill also provides that, if a claimant has or had a cause of action against a former office holder of the institution when the cause of action accrued and the institution was unincorporated at the time but is now incorporated, the proceeding may be continued or started against the institution and any liability of the former office holder is a liability of the institution.

The bill provides that, if a claimant has or had a cause of action against a former office holder, who no longer holds office, and the institution was at the time the cause of action accrued and is currently unincorporated, the action may be started or continued against the current holder and any liability of the former office holder is the liability of the current office holder.

The bill provides that liability may be satisfied by the institution out of the assets of the institution and the assets of an associated trust that the institution uses to carry out its functions or activities; the nominee, if the nominee is the trustee of an associated trust of the institution, out of the assets of the trust and the assets of the institution or, otherwise, out of its assets and the assets of the institution; and the current office holder, who is not personally liable, out of the assets of the institution and the assets of an associated trust that the institution uses to carry out its functions or activities.

As 'associated trust' is widely defined, this is appropriate for the purposes of allowing an unincorporated institution to nominate the trustees of an associated trust as a proper defendant as the trustee must consent to being so nominated. It will also apply for the purposes of the court ordering the trustees of an associated trust as an institution's nominee where it is satisfied that the order is appropriate. However, in providing that an institution or current office holder may satisfy liability from the assets of an associated trust, it is appropriate to limit such access to the assets of an associated trust which it uses to carry out its functions or activities. This is to ensure the institution cannot access the assets of an associated trust with which the institution has only a tenuous connection.

Where liability may be satisfied out of the assets of an associated trust of an institution, the trustee of the associated trust may pay an amount in satisfaction of the liability and, for that purpose, may realise assets of the trust. The proper expenses of the trustee may be indemnified out of the trust property. The liability of the trustee of the associated trust, as the institution's nominee, is limited to the value of the trust property.

The bill provides that an institution, an institution's nominee, a current office holder or the trustee of an associated trust of an institution may act to achieve satisfaction of the liability out of the stated assets and the trustee of an associated trust of an institution may consent to being the institution's nominee. This is despite another law, or the terms of the associated trust, including a trust for a charitable purpose, or a duty, whether as the current holder of an office in the institution, or as trustee, or otherwise.

The bill also provides a current institution to be taken to be a former institution if it is substantially the same as when the cause of action accrued, even if it has changed its name, restructured, become incorporated, or its functions or activities are carried out at a different place. If there is no institution that is the same institution, or substantially the same, a relevant successor of the old institution is taken to be the same institution as the old institution. The relevant successor may be prescribed by regulation if the head of a current institution consents to the current institution being the successor.

The bill provides for the continuity of an office, for the liability of current office holders, where the office in an institution is substantially the same as it was when the relevant cause of action accrued. If there is no office that is the same or substantially the same, the head of the institution is taken to be the current office holder. Certain provisions are declared displacement provisions for the purposes of the Corporations Act 2001.

The reverse onus and proper defendant amendments have been the subject of considerable consultation through submissions on an issues paper and subsequent targeted face-to-face consultation. Regard has been had to developments in other jurisdictions, in particular corresponding provisions in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. A wide range of stakeholders—government, legal, church, educational, victims' representatives and community organisations—have been consulted on a consultation draft of the amendments and were invited to a round table to discuss these amendments. Comments from stakeholders' submissions and at the round table were taken into account in finalising the drafting of the bill. I would like to thank all individuals and stakeholders who have contributed to the government's consideration of these issues.

In conclusion, the bill also amends section 64 of the Civil Proceedings Act 2011 to clarify that a person under a legal incapacity may recover the cost of trustee management fees in the award of damages for wrongful death of members of the person's family. This amendment will ensure that an amount awarded, for example, to the child for the loss of parents, will not be significantly depleted by the cost of managing the funds. I thank the Queensland Law Society and others who made representations on the need for this amendment following the decision in *Maggs v RACQ Insurance Ltd*.

These amendments to the Civil Liability Act are important steps forward in pursuing access to justice for those who have suffered child sexual abuse in institutions throughout Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

## QUEENSLAND CIVIL AND ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.05 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Fair Trading Act 1989, the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [[1913](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes [[1914](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, a bill for an act to amend the Fair Trading Act 1989, the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 and the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008.

Before I go to the elements of this bill, I want to acknowledge in the gallery today Connie Cicchini and Stewart Lette, who have been strong advocates for the reforms that we are introducing today in relation to lemon laws. I thank them for their ongoing advocacy on this matter. I also want to acknowledge Ashton Wood for his efforts and ongoing campaigning to see protection and improvements on consumer rights around lemon vehicles.

The purpose of this bill is twofold. Firstly, it delivers on the implementation of recommendations from the review of the QCAT Act. Secondly, I am very pleased that, through this bill, we are delivering on the Palaszczuk government's promise to introduce laws to help purchasers of lemon motor vehicles.

In December 2009, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal commenced operation, undertaking the work of 18 tribunals with 23 jurisdictions, the minor debt claims jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court and almost all the administrative review jurisdiction of the courts. QCAT's legislative scheme comprises the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009, the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Regulation 2009 and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Rules 2009. There are also over 160 acts and regulations, known as enabling acts, that confer original, review or appellate jurisdiction on QCAT and provide specific powers and procedures for certain matters.

The establishment of QCAT addressed longstanding concerns about the proliferation of tribunals in Queensland and the need for a single recognisable gateway to increase the community's access to justice and increase the efficiency and quality of decision-making. As such, the objectives of the QCAT Act include ensuring that QCAT deals with matters in a way that is accessible, fair, just, economical, informal and quick. This bill contributes to these objectives.

As required under section 240, the QCAT Act has been reviewed to determine whether its objects remain valid, whether the act is meeting its objects, whether the provisions of the act are appropriate to meet its objects and to investigate issues raised by me as Attorney-General or by QCAT's president.

On 21 September 2018, I tabled the report, *Review of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009*, in the Legislative Assembly. Overall, the QCAT Act report concludes that the QCAT Act is working well and that stakeholders support the act and its objects.

However, the QCAT Act report recommends a small number of legislative amendments to improve QCAT's operational efficiency to better achieve the objects of the QCAT Act. After almost 10 years, there is room for some minor updating. The bill will therefore implement a number of conclusions of the QCAT Act report.

The bill will make amendments to the QCAT Act to change the scope, timing and operation of stay orders, including allowing QCAT to stay the operation of part of a reviewable decision; allowing QCAT to impose conditions on a stay order; and broadening the circumstances in which QCAT can grant a stay to include cases where a person applies to reopen a proceeding; have a decision set aside and have a decision amended by default.

The bill will also amend the QCAT Act to allow the principal registrar to issue notices to a party to attend a hearing or proceeding or to require a person to produce a stated document or thing to QCAT; allow QCAT to remove a party to a proceeding if QCAT considers that the party's interests are not, or are no longer, affected by the proceeding, or the party is not a proper or necessary party to proceedings; permit QCAT, including the appeal tribunal, to reinstate proceedings dismissed in error; allow the Attorney-General to appoint members and others to a pool of persons who can act as senior members of QCAT from time to time; clarify that an adjudicator sitting alone can constitute QCAT; and provide the appeal tribunal with discretion to remit all matters, including where the appeal is on a question of fact or mixed law and fact, back to the tribunal.

The bill also introduces a legal framework for conciliation, giving QCAT another mechanism, alongside mediation and compulsory conferences, to add to QCAT's alternative dispute resolution processes. It will not be mandatory for QCAT to use conciliation for every matter, but having a legislative framework in the QCAT Act provides another option to assist QCAT to resolve disputes before a hearing.

The bill also clarifies that QCAT's tenancy jurisdiction is limited to claims for \$25,000. A perceived lack of clarity about the limit of QCAT's jurisdiction in these matters was raised during the review, and in the decision of *Avery v Pahwa* QCAT held that there was no restriction on QCAT's jurisdiction in relation to residential tenancy matters. The QCAT Act report concluded that the QCAT Act should be amended to provide that QCAT's jurisdiction for tenancy matters is limited to \$25,000, the prescribed amount for all minor civil disputes under that act. The bill also makes a consequential amendment to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008. These amendments reflect that the framework for minor civil disputes is generally not suitable for larger or more complex claims.

Perhaps some of the most significant amendments in the bill, however, are those relating to QCAT's expanded motor vehicle jurisdiction. We are delivering on our promise to Queenslanders to improve consumer rights when it comes to lemon vehicles in Queensland. These amendments are being made to implement elements of this government's 2017 commitment to improve fairness and provide greater rights for Queenslanders buying a vehicle. They will also address recommendation 7 of the 2015 report of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, *'Lemon' laws—inquiry into consumer protections and remedies for buyers of new motor vehicles*, which recommended a change to QCAT's current jurisdictional limit of \$25,000 for matters involving new motor vehicles with major defects.

During the previous parliament, I asked the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to look at whether there is a need to improve the consumer protections and remedies for buyers of new motor vehicles with numerous defects that reoccur despite multiple repair attempts or where defects have caused a new motor vehicle to be out of service for a prolonged period of time. These vehicles are more colloquially known as lemons. We did this because the Palaszczuk government recognises that there are serious issues concerning lemon motor vehicles. I have had many conversations with people who have bought a lemon car or caravan—two of those people are sitting in the gallery today. I have heard far too many stories of people being pushed to the brink by manufacturers and dealers insisting on new cars being returned for repairs over and over again, if they offer a repair at all.

In its report, the parliamentary committee recognised the many stresses that owning a lemon vehicle may impose on an individual or a family. A car can be a significant expense, often purchased with finance. The purchase of a new car is usually the biggest purchase a person will make in their lifetime other than their home. If the car has persistent and ongoing defects an owner can spend

significant time requesting repairs, refunds or replacements, visiting or negotiating with the dealer and their vehicle servicing department, writing to the manufacturer and seeking reports from independent mechanics and specialists.

On a personal level, this can create health costs, emotional and financial stress and financial loss where a motor vehicle is ultimately traded in at below cost. Without the means to attend work, a person's ability to earn a livelihood and meet their family's needs may be compromised. I have also heard many stories of pensioners who have purchased a caravan to serve as their home but have found themselves bogged down in an endless cycle of repairs and litigation. Caravans are not inexpensive and many new caravans cost anything from \$40,000 up to, or even more than, \$100,000. For some purchasers it is a recreational vehicle for holidays, but for others it is actually their home. Queenslanders buying a caravan as an affordable home are the very people who may find commencing an action in the Magistrates Court to be cost prohibitive.

This is absolutely about providing access to justice, something that has been denied to purchasers of lemon vehicles for too long. Consumer guarantees contained in the Australian Consumer Law, the ACL, require suppliers and manufacturers to guarantee, among other things, that motor vehicles are of acceptable quality and fit for purpose. Generally speaking, the ACL consumer guarantees apply to goods and services across the marketplace, including new and used motor vehicles, motorhomes and caravans. The guarantees also set out what consumers have to do in order to obtain a refund, replacement or repair. In relation to the ACL consumer guarantees, as members of the House will recall, recommendation 4 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report on lemon laws recommended that our government pursue national action on lemon laws to ensure that there is a consistent national approach to this issue. In 2016, the Palaszczuk government was successful in getting the issue of lemon laws to form part of the recent review of Australia's consumer laws.

I recently attended a meeting of federal, state and territory consumer affairs ministers, the Consumer Affairs Forum, where ministers voted on a number of reforms that would have the effect of bringing in national lemon laws. While I am very pleased that, following the Palaszczuk government's push for national laws, the Australian Consumer Law will be amended to clarify that multiple non-major failures can amount to a major failure, I am disappointed that further necessary reforms were not endorsed at this meeting. However, I am pleased that Queensland was able to ensure that the issue will be considered at a future meeting although delaying important protections for consumers. I will continue, as will the Palaszczuk government as a whole, to push for further reforms, including the right to a refund if a motor vehicle becomes immobile or undriveable because of a fault within a short specified period of time, for example 60 days. If a consumer cannot obtain a suitable remedy in negotiation with the dealer or manufacturer, they have the option of seeking a remedy through QCAT or the courts.

QCAT also hears and decides disputes about repairs of defects under the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act 2014 statutory warranty framework, which applies to used motor vehicles sold by motor dealers and chattel auctioneers. The statutory warranty under the Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act does not apply to certain types of vehicles, such as caravans. These motor vehicle proceedings are currently heard as minor civil disputes under the QCAT Act, which are limited to the prescribed amount of \$25,000. Beyond this limit, consumers need to initiate proceedings in the Magistrates Court or District Court, which have limits of \$150,000 or \$750,000 respectively. The bill will extend QCAT's jurisdiction for motor vehicle related claims under the Fair Trading Act and Motor Dealers and Chattel Auctioneers Act from \$25,000 to \$100,000. The new limit of \$100,000 will increase access to justice as consumers who have problems with vehicles of a higher value will be able to have their matter heard by QCAT.

This bill will also reinstate the statutory warranties that applied to older second-hand vehicles under the now repealed Property Agents and Motor Dealers Act 2000. This will mean there will be a statutory warranty for cars which are more than 10 years old or which have clocked up more than 160,000 kilometres. These matters will not form part of QCAT's minor civil disputes jurisdiction but QCAT's original jurisdiction—that is, part of the jurisdiction conferred on QCAT by various enabling acts.

To reduce costs to consumers and to QCAT and ensure accessibility, the bill will provide QCAT with flexibility in the way that these proceedings are heard. This will be achieved by enabling QCAT to conduct expedited hearings if the claim in the proceeding is not more than \$25,000 or if the president of QCAT considers it appropriate having regard to a number of factors, such as the nature and complexity of the proceeding. The bill will also enable an adjudicator to hear and decide such

proceedings. It is important that consumers have certainty that costs will not be awarded against them in this forum. To remove the possibility of costs being awarded against consumers, the bill will restrict costs orders for all motor vehicle proceedings to orders that a respondent pay the applicant an amount of any prescribed application fee.

In conclusion, this bill delivers on another Palaszczuk government commitment to improve consumer protections and remedies for buyers of motor vehicles in Queensland and create efficiencies and improvements to QCAT which supports better access to justice for Queenslanders. However, reform on lemon vehicles cannot stop here with this bill. That is why I intend to continue my fight at a national level for proper reform on the issue of consumer rights and defective motor vehicles. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.19 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


### Referral to Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

## LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 February (see p. 121).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (12.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its consideration of the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I note that the committee tabled its report on 19 April 2018, with an erratum tabled on 20 April 2018, and the government tabled its response to the committee's report on 19 July 2018. I thank those who took the time to lodge a submission and participate in the committee process.

A version of the bill was first introduced in 2017 but lapsed when parliament was dissolved before the last election. On 15 February 2018, I reintroduced the bill with minor drafting amendments to the lapsed 2017 version. The amendments are based on additional consultation undertaken with key stakeholders during the intervening period. I again thank the stakeholders who participated in the development of this bill, including the previous version. As it has been some months since the introduction of the bill, I will take a few moments to go over the key reforms to be delivered through the bill.

The bill amends the Explosives Act 1999 and the Explosives Regulation 2017 to improve the safety, security and transportation of the approximately one million tonnes of explosives consumed in Queensland annually. As it stands, the Explosives Act is largely silent on security related matters. It is essential that Queensland's explosives legislation is kept up to date with contemporary safety and security standards and meets both community and industry expectations. The amendments proposed in the bill achieve this.

The bill improves community safety by strengthening safety and security provisions for explosives, including by requiring a security-sensitive explosives plan to identify security risks and adopt processes to manage those risks. It also improves community safety by requiring all persons who have access to certain types of security-sensitive explosives to hold a security clearance. This ensures that only appropriate persons have access to high-risk explosives.

The bill also makes improvements for the transportation of explosives by introducing a new explosives driver's licence and provisions to enable powers for the chief inspector to approve or prohibit certain routes, areas and times for transporting explosives. This benefits drivers, saves time and money for industry, and improves the safety and security of explosives on public roads.

In addition, the bill includes amendments to prohibit a person who is the subject of a domestic violence order from holding a security clearance or an explosives authority or licence. This change contributes to the Queensland government's strategy to end domestic and family violence in Queensland through its *Not now, not ever* policy.

The bill also seeks amendments to the definitions of who meets the criteria for notifying the state under the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 so that those definitions are consistent with other state legislation, such as the Duties Act 2001.

The bill amends the Land Act 1994 to provide a modern compliance framework. Currently, the Land Act provides only limited tools to allow the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy to appropriately manage state land, particularly unallocated state land and reserves that have no trustees. The proposed amendments will also provide powers to deal with dangerous, unwanted and unsafe infrastructure on state land. Amendments are proposed to the Land Title Act 1994 to further facilitate the take-up of online conveyancing by seeking to eliminate the need for the remaining paper certificates of title and updating and clarifying certain titling provisions.

The bill amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of gas safety regulation, modernise safety reporting requirements, clarify definitions and introduce a new framework for managing abandoned operating plants. The bill clarifies and improves operational safety outcomes for workers in the petroleum and gas sector by modernising and streamlining safety reporting requirements, previously required in an annual safety report, so safety critical information is provided online as changes occur to support effective gas safety regulation. Amendments in the bill also establish a transparent process for the appointment of gas device approving authorities to improve safety outcomes and confidence for users of gas devices and appliances.

In addition, the bill inserts a new framework into the petroleum and gas act for the safe management of abandoned operating plant. The new framework relates to operating plant that has not been decommissioned and that does not have an applicable tenure or environmental authority in place. I note that the committee acknowledged the importance of introducing the abandoned operating plant framework through amendments to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act. This framework will ensure that operating plant can be safely managed where there is no resource authority or environmental authority in place. This may happen, for example, where a resource authority holder disclaims a resource authority and environmental authority under the Commonwealth government's Corporations Act 2001. These provisions are based on the existing abandoned mines framework contained in the Mineral Resources Act 1989. They will provide the state with the power to authorise a person to carry out remediation activities on abandoned operating plant.

The bill also contains minor and technical amendments to the overlapping coal and coal seam gas tenure framework. These amendments will align the legislation with the original policy intent behind this industry developed overlapping tenure framework. Both the coal and coal seam gas industries have been consulted on the proposed amendments and are supportive of the changes.

The bill seeks amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to provide the option of granting land to a registered native title body corporate outside of their determined native title area, subject to a number of safeguards. Further amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act will provide greater options for the government and trustees to determine or agree on the sale prices for social housing. The purchase of social housing stock is the most feasible path to home ownership in Indigenous communities.

This government is committed to increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's ability to access and utilise their land. Under the Aboriginal Land Act and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act, a registered native title body corporate can be appointed as grantee of land to hold the land on trust but only where they hold the native title for the land. This is problematical where native title has been extinguished or where their native title claim is yet to be determined by the Federal Court. In those cases, there will be no registered native title body corporate for the land in question. That means that people will need to establish another corporation to hold the land, even though there may be an existing registered native title body corporate made up of the same membership and the people want them to hold the land on their behalf.



The proposed amendments will resolve this problem by enabling a registered native title body corporate to be appointed as grantee of land where they do not hold the native title. This will reduce the need for establishing multiple landholding entities with the same or similar membership and prevent the unpaid and overworked executive members from having to deal with duplicative administrative and governance arrangements.

Additional safeguards are being put in place alongside this amendment. As the minister responsible for the acts, I will have to be satisfied that it is appropriate to grant land to a registered native title body corporate in the circumstances. The amendment also includes a number of examples of where it would be appropriate to grant land to a registered native title body corporate. The Aboriginal Land Act and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act already provide that Aboriginal people or Torres Strait Islander people particularly concerned with the land the opportunity to make submissions about the proposed appointment to myself as the relevant minister. This also will apply to the proposed amendment to appoint a registered native title body corporate as grantee where they do not hold the native title.

This amendment has been strongly supported by a number of stakeholders, including the Cape York Land Council, the Balkanu Aboriginal Development Corporation, the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation and individual native title holders. Concerns were raised by some stakeholders that they feared the land already granted to them under the Aboriginal Land Act or the Torres Strait Islander Land Act would be now transferred to a registered native title body corporate against their wishes. I can assure those concerned and the members of parliament that this will not occur as a result of this amendment, which deals with the grant of land and not the transfer of existing Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander land. There are provisions in these acts which allow for land to be transferred, but this requires the approval of the existing grantee and myself as the responsible minister. To be clear, there is no risk of land being transferred against the wishes of the existing grantee as a result of this amendment.

Amendments are sought to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 to ensure that the existing prohibition on resource extraction activities on the Shelburne Bay and Bromley properties is retained following their transfer as Aboriginal freehold land. The prohibitions were originally put in place to protect the outstanding cultural, environmental and landscape values of these properties.

After examination of the bill, including the policy objectives which it will achieve, and consideration of the information provided by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy and the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and submitters, the committee tabled three recommendations. The first recommendation was that the bill be passed. The second committee recommendation was that I provide advice in this speech in response to requests made by the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, the Batavia Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Chulangun Aboriginal Corporation to have additional land parcels included in proposed new section 27A of the bill as protected land.

The committee also asked that I provide advice on a possible formal mechanism or process that allows Aboriginal corporations to nominate Aboriginal land, at the request of the traditional owners, for protection from mining interests. I thank the committee for this important recommendation. In response, firstly for clarification, I would point out that land held by Aboriginal people under the Aboriginal Land Act and by Torres Strait Islander people under the Torres Strait Island Land Act is considered to be reserve land for the purposes of the Mineral Resources Act 1989. As the minister responsible for the Mineral Resources Act, I am only able to grant a mining lease or mining claim over reserve land if there is written consent of the owner of the reserve or with consent from the Governor in Council. Governor in Council consent would only be sought in situations where there is a compelling argument that granting the mining lease or mining claim is in the public interest.

As I have advised the parliament previously, the Palaszczuk government has committed to review certain aspects of the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007. The purpose of the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act is to balance conservation of the cape's unique environmental values with providing appropriate economic development opportunities. Importantly, this act places particular emphasis on providing for the economic, social and cultural needs and aspirations of Indigenous communities.

The review of the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act will provide a valuable forum to consult on mechanisms or processes to enable Aboriginal corporations to nominate Aboriginal land for protection from mining interests. Consultation will be a key component of the review with all relevant stakeholders

invited, including Indigenous organisations and local governments and the mining, agriculture and conservation sectors. Clearly, the issues identified by the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, the Batavia Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation are relevant to the objects of the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act. I am pleased to assure the House that their issues will be fully canvassed and addressed as part of the review.

In the interim, protection from new resource authorities being applied for under the Mineral Resources Act can be provided through the declaration of a restricted area. I have already met with representatives of the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation and, effective as of 10 August 2018, I have declared a restricted area reserve over the land owned by the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation. It should be noted that a restricted area over Olkola land will not affect existing resource authorities over the land but will prevent new applications being lodged, minimising land use conflict while the area is assessed.

I also have corresponded with the Batavia Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation, notifying them of my decision to declare this restricted area over Olkola land and seeking their views in relation to the possible declaration of a restricted area over their land. Ministerial and departmental officers have met with representatives from the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation to further discuss the declaration of a restricted area over parts of their land.

As part of recommendation 3, the committee recommended that I address in this speech concerns raised about deemed liability for certain offences under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act. It is important to note that this legislation applies safeguards to the application of deemed liability provisions. Executive officers of a corporation will only be deemed liable for relevant offences, which relate to false and misleading information and noncompliance with conditions of a gas device approval authority, if the prosecution proves that the executive officer authorised, permitted or was knowingly concerned in the corporation's conduct.

A person will only be deemed liable for acts of an employee or other representative if the person fails to prove that the act was unavoidable even if reasonable precautions and proper diligence had been exercised. This person is best placed to demonstrate that circumstances beyond their control led to noncompliance and the reversed onus is considered justified in this case. It is critical that corporations and persons employing other persons exercise due diligence and ensure systems are in place to enable representatives to discharge relevant obligations.

As part of recommendation 3, the committee also asked that I address issues raised about protection against self-incrimination under changes to explosives legislation. Although an inspector can compel a person to provide information in some circumstances, this information generally cannot be used against a person in civil or criminal proceedings. The proposed changes provide an appropriate balance between the need to obtain critical information to ensure the safety and security of explosives operations while preserving the rights of the person who provides the information.

Excusing persons from answering questions can mean that important information showing why an explosives incident occurred might not be revealed. This information might be necessary to help stop a similar incident in the future and is particularly important given the potential for death, injury or property damage from the misuse of explosives.

Given the nature of explosives and the associated safety and security risks, I believe the proposed changes are necessary for ensuring the purpose of the Explosives Act is achieved—namely, to regulate the handling of, and access to, explosives to protect public health and safety, property and the environment. The proposed changes are also consistent with similar provisions under Queensland's existing mining safety and health laws, where determining the nature and cause of mining accidents and incidents is also of high importance, as well as under the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. As provided for in these other acts, any information or document or other evidence received under the new provisions will not be admissible as evidence against the person, other than proceedings arising out of the false or misleading nature of the answer, information or document.

Finally, the committee also asked that I address issues raised about protection against self-incrimination under changes to the Land Act. The bill seeks to modernise the Land Act compliance framework, and broadens the supporting authorised officer's powers, to ensure the framework will support improved land management outcomes and efficient delivery of compliance activities by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Authorised officers play an integral role in managing access to and use of the state's land by monitoring compliance with the legislation, investigating alleged breaches and enforcing compliance. The bill includes a number of provisions

which enable an authorised officer to ask for reasonable help to exercise a general power, require a document or information required to be kept by a person under the act to be produced or for a copy of a document to be certified, as part of an authorised officer's functions under the act to investigate, monitor and enforce compliance with the act.

As detailed in the explanatory notes and the departmental response to submissions, the bill reflects careful balancing of the importance of the privilege against self-incrimination and the necessity to ensure that effective compliance action can be taken by the department. As in other existing legislation such as the Fair Trading Inspectors Act 2014, the provisions which touch on the privilege against self-incrimination are sufficiently limited in their scope and supported by safeguards about the use of information obtained by authorised officers in the exercise of their powers.

The legislative safeguards include: limitation of the scope of documents to those issued to a person under the Land Act or required to be kept under the act and such documents or information would be within the possession or knowledge of the person and would otherwise be difficult to obtain or establish; the inadmissibility of documents as evidence against the person, or expose a person to penalty, except for proceedings about the false or misleading nature of the information; and any other evidence directly or indirectly derived from such a document is also inadmissible.

The department will ensure that authorised officers are appropriately trained and skilled in the exercise of powers under the act and in the collection and appropriate use of information obtained as a result of the exercise of those powers. The exercise of powers and collection of information will be supported by policies, procedures and guidelines which ensure accountability and departmental oversight. The proposed new sections provide an appropriate balance between the necessity for information gathering for compliance and enforcement of the act and the preservation of the privilege against self-incrimination with necessary mitigation where that privilege is affected.

I propose to move a number of minor amendments to the bill unrelated to the committee's recommendations. Clause 51 will be omitted to address possible unintended consequences in relation to the administration of government magazines, also known as government explosives reserves. Clauses 92, 113 and 135 will be amended to address minor drafting errors and update cross-referencing in the explosives legislation.

The Queensland Law Society, in its submission to the committee on the amendments to the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988, identified the potential burden of the requirement for foreign corporations and foreign trusts to notify the registrar of the impact of the daily buying and selling of shares and units on the level of foreign ownership of the corporation or unit trust. The amendments in committee to clause 163 deal with this concern through amending the requirement to notify the registrar to be a once-a-year requirement instead of a day-to-day requirement, and only where the level of foreign ownership as of 30 June represents a change compared to the most recent notification to the registrar.

I am also proposing to extend the commencement date of the amendments to the Land Title Act 1994 included in the bill to remove the legal effect of paper certificates of title. This is to give industry additional time to adapt to the change and to put in place alternative arrangements where they have been using paper certificates of title as a form of security.


In addition, emerging changes to a national safety standard called up under the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act require a change to the proposed policy position in the act for approving gas flares as type B devices. Schedule 1 in the bill includes an amendment to confirm gas flares are not type B devices. However, the growing take-up of biogas production by industries producing significant organic waste has raised concern about design standards for gas flares.

Inadequate design standards for biogas flares could expose workers to potentially harmful contaminants. Other jurisdictions are in the process of adopting requirements which will require biogas flares to be approved as a type B device. Therefore, I am proposing to change the amendment in the bill so that the petroleum and gas act can also require this standard of safety for biogas flares.

Finally, I am proposing to prevent automatic commencement of the prescribed terms framework included in the Land and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2017 to allow time for amendments to be made. I now table the explanatory notes to the amendments that will be moved during the consideration in detail stage.

*Tabled paper:* Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham's amendments [1917].

The Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 covers a wide range of amendments that will streamline and improve the effectiveness of certain key legislative frameworks within the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.42 pm): I rise to speak to the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This is an omnibus bill which has the following key policy objectives: to streamline and ensure the effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks within the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio; enhance worker and community safety and security in the explosives and gas sectors; and support the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values of Cape York Peninsula.

I note that the bill will amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to provide the option of granting land to a registered native title body corporate outside of their determined native title area and to allow the setting by agreement of sale prices for social housing on Indigenous land. It will protect the cultural and natural values of the Shelburne and Bromley properties on Cape York Peninsula. It will improve security, safety and transportation requirements under the Explosives Act 1999. It will amend the definitions of who meets the criteria for notifying the state under the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 so that those definitions are consistent with other state legislation.

The bill will provide for contemporary compliance powers in the Land Act 1994. It will enhance rolling term lease provisions on regulated islands by enabling marine term leases to become rolling term leases where they are tied by covenant to, and provide infrastructure which supports a rolling term, or perpetual, tourism lease. It will enable the state to deal with buildings and other structures on state land that pose a risk to public safety or that are otherwise inappropriate or unwanted. The bill will further facilitate the take-up of online conveyancing by amending the Land Title Act 1994 to eliminate the need for remaining duplicate paper certificates of title and by updating and clarifying certain titling provisions. It will address minor issues associated with the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas.

The bill will amend the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to resolve operational deficiencies in the act, streamline regulatory requirements and make the overall gas safety legislation more contemporary. These amendments clarify and improve operational safety outcomes for workers in the gas sector and users of gas plant and appliances by revising safety reporting requirements for operating plant so they are real time and support effective gas safety regulation; confirming an operator of operating plant can be a corporation or an individual; establishing a transparent process for appointing approving authorities for gas devices; rationalising safety requirements for all fuel gas delivery networks; and aligning other safety provisions with Queensland's mining safety legislation and general workplace laws. The bill will introduce a framework to manage abandoned operating plant. Finally, the bill will make minor amendments to correct errors and omissions in the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991.

I say at the outset that the LNP will not be opposing this bill. However, there are a number of issues associated with this bill that I wish to speak to here today. Having regard to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 regarding Indigenous land and housing, I note that the bill enhances opportunities for Indigenous people to achieve home ownership by providing an option to set a price for social housing by agreement between trustees and the government. This is achieved by allowing the state and trustees to respond to the unique circumstances in discrete communities and to recognise existing interests in property. The amendments will also allow for adjustments to be made in those communities where there is limited or no active housing sales market. The committee noted the concern among some non-registered native title body corporate groups that they will be disadvantaged in further negotiations in regard to the granting of land with shared boundaries.

I have some concerns with this particular provision that I would like the minister to address in his summing-up. The minister is well aware that there are registered native title body corporates in Queensland in serious financial trouble, with one particular body currently in administration. My question to the minister is: what probity checks will be conducted to ensure the viability of these registered native title body corporates before granting them land? I also ask: will there be a time frame invoked when an entity is appointed as a trustee of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander freehold land?

As you would appreciate, if one of those bodies is in administration, everything that flows from that particular decision has a significant impact going forward in terms of the decision-making process. As a consequence, some procedures need to be put in place regarding registered native title body

corporates in Queensland to ensure that they are viable at the time that decision is made and that ongoing they remain financial and operate in accordance with the processes, procedures and conditions imposed upon them.

The issue of social housing in Indigenous communities has been problematic for many decades. During the last sittings of parliament I met with a group of far northern mayors who raised this as a significant issue in their respective communities. In particular, the mayor of Yarrabah indicated chronic overcrowding in his community. Mayor Andrews indicated a need for an additional 256 houses in his community. That is right—256 are required to address the overcrowding issue that exists today at Yarrabah, and that is only one community. Before I was elected I worked on Palm Island and similar issues exist at that locality. It is important that we have a process in place to set the sale price for social housing on Indigenous land which will allow a pathway forward for home ownership. There are many residents living in Indigenous communities who would like nothing more than to own their own home. I fully support this initiative contained within the bill.

Having regard to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007, I note that bill inserts a new section into that act providing for the prohibition and dealing with applications for the grant of mining interests over specific land parcels of protected land. There were requests to have two additional land parcels included in the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act as protected land and the significant reasons that each give to support their claim for inclusion. The protected land is Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 with the prohibition relating to two land parcels: Shelburne Bay and the Bromley Aboriginal Corporation registered native title body corporate.

I know these two areas very well. In fact, I knew the Bromley family—Ted, Daphne and Tony—after whom that station was named. Ted was passionate about the wildlife and the need to protect this area and would often recount stories relating to how he took up that station when it was a genuine wilderness area. After visiting that area, one certainly gains an appreciation for the value in preserving those two parcels of land. The committee recommended that the minister consider the request of these organisations and a possible formal mechanism or process that allows Aboriginal corporations to nominate Aboriginal land, at the request of the traditional owners, for protection from mining interests. I note that the committee has recommended that the minister provide advice on these matters in his second reading speech.

Having regard to the Explosives Act 1999, I note that the bill regulates the manufacture, sale, handling, storage, transportation and use of explosives in Queensland and provides for the safety of person and property from misuse of explosives. Queensland is the largest user of explosives in Australia, predominantly in the mining industry, using approximately one-third of the three million tonnes consumed annually. I can attest to that when I visit all the mines in my area and see the explosives set up and the transportation of explosives on the road networks in those particular areas. It reinforces how important it is that we have the necessary safeguard measures in place regarding the handling and the transportation of explosives. It is critical to the resources industry and for the protection of Queenslanders. We live in a different world, and the transportation and handling of explosives needs to be conducted within the ambit of community safety. I note that the bill amends explosives legislation to reflect the government's *Not now, not ever* policy by prohibiting persons subject to domestic violence orders from holding an explosives licence.

Having regard to the Land Act 1994, the bill provides compliance powers to stop inappropriate behaviour on state land where the department has direct land management responsibilities. The powers seek to stop inappropriate behaviour from motorbikes and vehicles causing destruction not only on state land but also causing nuisance to properties which border state land. I would have given anything as a former police officer to have been able to invoke that power. That has been an issue across Queensland for decades. There has been no power, authority or ability to deal with issues regarding vehicles or motorbikes operating on state land. It is problematic. It was a never-ending source of complaints to both local and state government authorities. I welcome this amendment for officers who need to go on to state land and ensure that safeguards are being enforced. It will allow our officers to carry out their duties with due regard to the rights of landholders.

Having regard to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and gas safety and abandoned operating plants, I note that the bill introduces a framework to deal with abandoned gas and petroleum sites. The section also provides that an authorised activity can be any other thing prescribed by regulation that is or was an operating plant. Queensland Farmers' Federation submitted it was essential that landowners were not left to carry out remediation activities, and I support that. In response to this concern I note that the department has confirmed that the state is responsible for carrying out remediation activities not limited to the decommissioning of an abandoned operating plant.

There were 11 submissions to the bill. I note the majority of those submissions were generally supportive of the bill and its overall intentions. There were a number of recommendations, and I take on board the minister's response to those recommendations here today.

The amendments to the Explosives Act 1999 are supported by the Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group and the Firearms Dealers Association of Queensland. The Queensland Law Society and AgForce expressed in-principle support for the amendments to the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988.


I will not go through all of the submissions. I will speak to just a couple of them. The Queensland Resources Council did not support the proposed amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 as they were principally opposed to calling out specific areas in legislation that cannot be used for resource activities as poor legislative practice. They believe that level of specificity in legislation—that is, calling out one particular location or locations—is not good practice in terms of legislative drafting.

The Queensland Law Society again expressed its frustration with the inadequate time frames to consult on this legislation. Is it not ironic given that this piece of legislation has taken all year to come before this parliament and on the very last day of the last sitting week we are here debating this particular bill? They raised several concerns in relation to proposed changes to the Land Act 1994, particularly in relation to the entry powers granted to authorised officers and the impact that this will have on occupiers of the land. This continues a very worrying trend by this government to introduce legislation or amendments to this place granting extensive powers to departmental officers over and above those powers possessed by the Queensland Police Service. Here is another example where these extensive entry powers are being granted to departmental officers.

The Queensland Farmers' Federation supported the provision for contemporary compliance powers in the Land Act 1994. They were cautious of any cost impost to landowners from structures, particularly those which they may have inherited or which pose no threat to the community. Any unintended consequences from those provisions may not have been immediately identifiable.

AgForce Queensland in principle supported the amendments to the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988. However, they raised concerns regarding the applicability of repair, removal and remediation of buildings and structures requirements to rural leases. They were concerned about the inability to get appropriate tradespeople to fix the sheer number of noncompliant structures likely to be present across the large number of rural leases. I would again ask the minister to confirm that rural leases are not the intended target for this amendment. I note that the minister has tabled a number of minor amendments relating to this bill, and I can indicate that the LNP has no issue or concerns with these amendments.

In summing up, there are 13 pieces of legislation or regulation incorporated in this bill. It covers legislation from land title to resources to the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation. To call this bill a dog's breakfast would be an understatement. It is a bill for everything that needs to be fixed. That being said, there are some provisions contained within the bill that do have genuine merit, and for that reason we will not be opposing this bill today.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill before the House. I want to start by adding to a couple of issues which the member for Burdekin had addressed. He touched on the viability of the Aboriginal land-holding corporations in the cape. When we were in Cairns for our hearings we met a lot of the office holders from these corporations. I was very impressed with the professionalism of these office holders and these corporations. They were professional, they were well aware of their responsibilities and they had a range of staff with them as well. I was quite impressed with their level of professionalism. They would be a model in many ways to many volunteer organisations throughout the state.

In touching on the issue of not putting a burden on these volunteer organisations, I point out that this bill lessens the burden on those organisations. We want to avoid extra bureaucracy and extra duplication being put on to these organisations, having to create new bodies to be responsible for land that does come under their ownership. I think this bill lessens the burden on those organisations which are still essentially volunteer organisations.

The issue of Indigenous housing was touched on by the shadow minister. Once again, the provisions in this bill will help provide a greater degree of social housing throughout the area. One of the provisions talks about how we can make flexible the process to negotiate the sale of social housing between the trustees and the state government. That can only lead to better outcomes and help provide more secure housing outcomes for residents in this area as well.


This was one of the first bills that our committee looked at. As I said, it gave us the opportunity to travel up to Cairns and that was great. I found listening to a lot of the traditional owners was quite instructive and illuminating, and I think we all learnt a lot from those public hearings as well. In the hearings in Cairns there were two major issues that we needed to deal with in respect of this bill. One was in regard to mining on the land that is transferred through to the land-holding organisations.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): This parliamentary year has ended how it began—with a government whose integrity is simply in tatters. What we have seen today is that the government has no openness, no accountability and obviously no trust from the people of Queensland. We heard during question time this morning that the Treasurer of Queensland, who is handling a government contract worth billions of dollars, has decided not to use the probity auditor for her meetings with members in the consortia. This is unacceptable, and there are many questions that need to be answered. Where is the Premier on this issue? Where is the Treasurer on this issue today? They have serious questions to answer—


**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I take the interjection. They are running for cover. They are scared and they are avoiding scrutiny. How can people trust this government? We have seen that the Treasurer of Queensland certainly cannot be trusted. We have seen that the trains do not run on time. How can you trust that your train is going to turn up on time when you are standing at a station? They have the worst on-time running, when we left them with the best on-time running of any state.

How can people trust this government when the health system is in a mess? The health minister cannot even front up when there are problems. He calls legionella I think exciting. The health system is in a mess because they are shutting down maternity services, ambulance ramping is going back up through the roof and emergency wait lists are blowing out and out. The education system is in a mess. How can people trust this education minister when she is the puppet for the union movement? Do not worry about the children, do not worry about the parents or the community members.

How can people trust this government when crime is going through the roof? We have seen the budget go down and crime go up. How can people trust this minister who refuses to stand up for regional communities? How can people trust this government in our proud regions in agriculture when they have ripped the guts out of the stability of all regional landholders? Why do they hate the bush? How can people trust this minister who simply does not understand the bush? Only the LNP is capable of looking after Queensland.

### Gambling Community Benefit Fund

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.04 pm): I rise today to talk to the House about the very important Gambling Community Benefit Fund grants that are available to not-for-profit organisations right throughout my community and indeed throughout Queensland. Grants of up to \$35,000 are available. The centenary grants are just around the corner for round 100, and that is very exciting.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Members, I am having difficulty hearing the member for Pine Rivers.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Who said that?

**Mr Hunt:** Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Ms BOYD:** There will be ten \$100,000 grants and one \$250,000 grant, and those special commemorative grants are well underway at the moment, which is really exciting. Since I was elected as the member for Pine Rivers, over \$1½ million in funding has gone to our not-for-profit organisations and I want to take a moment to reflect on some of that community contribution today.

The RSL at Dayboro has received over \$45,000 for upgrades and to purchase a barbecue trailer. The Dayboro Pony Club has received \$11,000 to purchase a new jump trailer to replace an old hay cart, which is a great resource for the pony club. DARE Formal Wear, which support domestic abuse recovery and education in my community, have recently got a home in Strathpine and they were given \$31,000 to upgrade that facility.


Bray Park State School have recently got a brand-new fan in their hall. The other one was too big and was not actually circulating the air correctly, so that has been funded. Bray Park State High School have had their courts resurfaced and they have also recently purchased gym equipment. A Brave Life, which support teen mums with education and mentoring in my community, have received \$35,000 to purchase a motor vehicle for their work, which is absolutely tremendous.

The Samford Netball Club are repairing their court surface with \$35,000. The Pine Rivers Rapids Baseball Club are purchasing a mower and upgrading their facility for just under \$26,000. Broken to Brilliant are producing a domestic violence book and they ran a workshop for participants, and they received a little under \$12,000 worth of funding. The CWA at Samford have installed solar so they could run an air-conditioning system and they received \$16,000.

The Samford Tennis Club has shade sails going in. The rural fire brigade at Mount Nebo has a water tank and equipment. The Samford Farmers Hall that just turned 100 has got a paint job and a new kitchen. The Samford RDA, which I am a proud supporter of, has just installed lighting and power, which is really exciting.

I encourage all community groups right throughout the electorate of Pine Rivers to continue to apply for these great community grants. It is a wonderful way to put revenue back into the community. Round 99 is now open, so please get involved and apply today.


### Unemployment

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.07 pm): The once mighty Queensland economy today has gone from bad to worse. The latest statistics that have come out today state that, when it comes to unemployment, Queensland is now dead last in this country. We are the only state whose unemployment rate in the last month has got worse. We are the only state whose unemployment rate begins with a '6'. This is a sad indictment on the economic management of this government.

Let us look at some of the statistics. The seasonally adjusted unemployment rates are as follows: in New South Wales, 4.4 per cent; in Victoria, 4.5 per cent; in South Australia, 5.4 per cent; in Western Australia, 5.7 per cent; and in that economic powerhouse of Tasmania, 5.3 per cent. Coming in sixth and dead last is Queensland at 6.3 per cent. This is when the national unemployment rate under the coalition government has gone down and is at a five-year low at five per cent.

There are now 165,291 unemployed Queenslanders on trend terms in this state. In the last month, there has been an increase of 1,227. In the last month, 546 jobs were cut in this state. The incredibly ironic thing about this is that this is despite this government employing an extra 25,000 public servants—and we still have the worst unemployment rate. This is just another statistic. When it comes to the state of the economy in Queensland, the Premier and the Deputy Premier have their heads in the sand like ostriches. They are ignoring every indicator, every lobby group, every peak group that says that Queensland is flatlining and going backwards with regard to every economic indicator. As the Leader of the Opposition said, we have finished the year as we began. We are a laughing-stock in this state economically. Queensland has one only hope when it comes to economic management, and that is the LNP.

### Neighbourhood Watch

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.11 pm): Crime is an issue that affects everyone in the community and no single group or government can work alone to solve that. That is why in a minute I will talk about Neighbourhood Watch and its importance. Before I do, I want to touch on one point. The Leader of the Opposition just stood in this chamber and tried her best. However, sometimes her best is just not good enough. What she failed to acknowledge is that the member for Whitsunday has just held a press conference outside. Did he express faith in the LNP being led by the member for Nanango? I suspect not. It is going to be a very cool Christmas. The member for Whitsunday did not do that. We know his speech last night was full of praise for the member for Broadwater. A backbench only act when they are not happy, and the LNP backbench are not happy.

Returning to the Neighbourhood Watch issue—



**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order, members. Member for Nanango, you have had your go.

**Mr HEALY:** It was a very disappointing go at that. The year 2018 is the 30th year of Neighbourhood Watch—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Cairns, you did not need to make comment after that.

**Mr HEALY:** I am sorry, Sir.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr HEALY:** You are a good man, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, members.

**Mr HEALY:** It is remarkable what entertains small minds. Moving on if I could—two ears, one mouth, here we go. The year 2018 is the 30th year of Neighbourhood Watch operating in Queensland and it remains one of the most important crime prevention initiatives in the state by focusing attention on home security and the reporting of suspicious activity to police. Earlier this year the Palaszczuk government came to the rescue of Neighbourhood Watch by delivering the annual funding that this vital community organisation needs to continue its work. I would like to remind the chamber that the Newman government promised to fund Neighbourhood Watch but did not even bother including it in the—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Thank you, member for Cairns. Members to my left, I am having difficulty hearing anything from the member for Cairns, and I do not need comments.

**Mr Lister:** How much did your dog weigh?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mr HEALY:** I must say it is very rare that anybody says they have not heard me, so thank you for that. I will take that interjection from my learned colleague. Dogs—it is about growth, money, business, and I am going to teach the member opposite more about that if he listens. Where were we? We were talking about the Manunda Neighbourhood Watch meeting. I want to touch on the fact that we have some fantastic people in the community of Manunda. I would like to congratulate Amanda and Jo, the founding members. They have done a fantastic job. I would also like to acknowledge Drew, who also makes a significant contribution. The integrity of these people and the goals they have for their community are extensive. If it was reflected by some of the other members in this chamber—their care and their honesty—it would be a little bit tight. At the end of the day, these people need to be commended—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nanango. Minister for Education.

**Mr HEALY:** As we move into the Christmas period I would like to acknowledge the hard work of these people in our community and also the police who work with them. I would like to wish everybody in this chamber a special and a very happy Christmas, particularly the member for Nanango.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** One moment, member for Noosa. Members, there is far too much noise in the chamber while members are on their feet making their speeches. Minister for Education and member for Nanango, you do not quarrel across the floor, as the Speaker has elaborated on many times. Next time you will be warned.

### Community Organisations, Funding

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.15 pm): Regardless of increased health services, policing and monitoring, and managing our rubbish and our environment to accommodate our behaviours, we are seeing an increase in poor health choices, dangerous driving, waste and domestic violence. Seeking long-term solutions for prevention has never been more important. However, there is also a vital need for our essential community driven prevention and 'stretcher bearer' services to be adequately funded.

I have spoken previously on this and also of our volunteer emergency services. There are fantastic programs and pilots that are proven to work and cost less to deliver than traditional models, yet they are trying to do so while relying solely on fundraising and the support of local communities. With the cost to provide these services being substantially less than comparative services delivered by government agencies due to their volunteerism component, it is vital that these services have adequate and secure funding to ensure their continuation. There are many examples in our communities.


Neighbourhood centres provide essential front-line services in regional areas where there are no alternatives. They deal with major trauma such as homelessness, domestic violence, mental health and drug related issues. Although there has recently been improvement in equity of the funding models, they still miss out on the supplemental funding available to government recognised service providers.

Palliative care hospices such as Katie Rose Cottage provide needed choice for end-of-life care at a much lower cost per day than our hospital system and yet they receive no secure financial support for their in-demand services. Daliya House was a highly successful trial providing accommodation and support to homeless people living with non-acute mental illness. The support it provided to individuals in a safe and supported environment cost much less to deliver per day than if they were admitted and readmitted to hospitals.

Ensuring adequate funding is available for our 'first instance' organisations, such as community legal centres, is part of our early intervention and prevention. Quick, economical and effective independent advice and decisions through entities such as QCAT can avoid lengthy and expensive court cases, and we need to extend these services to family law matters. Prevention is a whole other speech. However, I would like to give one example for consideration. Organisations that run women's refuges are only eligible for funding to assist the woman in crisis. However, up to 75 per cent of those in women's refuges are children, and funding is not made available to assist them and break the cycle.

As MPs, we have a responsibility for the budget with which we are entrusted by the taxpayers. As such, we have a responsibility to consider and support funding models and organisations that leverage community activism and intent to deliver good value as well as meet community expectation.

### **Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service**


 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.18 pm): I have read the Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service's annual report for 2017-18 and I wanted to acknowledge the great work of the Central Queensland Health staff. I will also include some of the comments made by the CEO, Steve Williamson.

The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service's district has a service footprint that is almost twice the size of Victoria, stretching from west of Emerald to the Gladstone coastline and from Theodore to the Capricorn Coast. The 3,700 CQ Health staff deliver truly great service, covering all parts of Central Queensland, improving the lives of hundreds of thousands of Central Queenslanders every year. CQ Health staff delivered more surgery and more outpatient appointments; treated more people in emergency departments; delivered more telehealth appointments and more BreastScreens; and additional services were also delivered on time.

On 30 June 2018 no patient was waiting longer than clinically recommended for surgery, outpatient appointments, scope procedures or oral health appointments, and the emergency department achieved the benchmark of 80 per cent for patients treated and discharged within four hours. Innovation has also delivered more sustainable care closer to home, such as the ability for patients to receive chemotherapy at a rural facility whilst being supervised by a specialist clinician via videoconference without the need to travel to Rockhampton and the introduction of a rural generalist training model at Biloela to improve the sustainability of birthing services there.

Mr Speaker, 2017-18 was a benchmark year for CQ Health, as highlighted by the significant improvements delivered through improved staff, consumer and community engagement. As they move into another exciting year, with their ongoing desire to do the best they possibly can for Central Queenslanders it is the management and staff of CQ Hospital and Health Service to whom I pay my greatest respect. It is the staff who deliver services and create the experience for patients and consumers: those who make the gardens inviting and relaxing; those who keep the ward clean and the facilities safe; those who provide therapy and support; and the great allied health nurses, midwives and medical clinicians. Their commitment to the Central Queensland community is outstanding. Once again I place on record my thanks to CQ Health staff for the great work they do for the people of Central Queensland.

### Minister for Education

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.21 pm): It is time for the education minister to resign. With all of her bungles this year, what a year it has been in the education space. Before I get to the education minister let me turn to the vice-regal appointment. I congratulate His Excellency the Governor, Paul de Jersey, who has had his appointment extended for two years. I heard that the only other nominee on the list was the Premier herself, but cabinet decided to give the extension to His Excellency, which I think is tremendous.

As I said this week, where is the Premier? No-one knows where she is, where she goes, where she hides. We only ever see her when there is a royal visitor on Fraser Island, a boxer or a tennis player. The tennis player only lasted one tweet and then he was out. There is no leadership by the Premier because she is Premier in name only. The opposition's chosen tactic this morning was to ask questions of the real Premier of the state of Queensland, and of course that is the member for South Brisbane. Doesn't she have probity issues to address! Making a ministerial statement will not address those probity issues. There are many more questions.


Turning to the education minister, the reason she should resign is because of the union influence on her and her office. It is too great, and the people who are suffering are the kids in our schools. We have seen the abolition of independent public schools from 2020. They will have secret meetings with the steering committee, and we have been advised that the union is telling people the transfer system for independent public schools will start back in the old system in January next year. They say they support independent public schools by 2020, but they are tearing it up.

In relation to air conditioning schools, they cannot bring themselves to air condition every state school in Queensland. Good luck coming into summer! The LNP will do that. This week we saw the education minister stand to endorse an illegal strike about Nauru. With Indigenous kids on average having the worst NAPLAN results in the state, the minister has her priorities all wrong. She should be looking at our NAPLAN results, not what is happening in Nauru. The minister gets up because the teachers union said that teachers should do this. This minister will not do anything against the union movement because we know that she cannot.

This year she said that the Queensland Council of Unions had nothing to do with her, but her office drafted the program. 'I see nothing. I hear nothing. I do nothing.' Only the LNP will treat kids in Queensland with the respect they deserve and—

*(Time expired)*

### Stretton Electorate

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.24 pm): It is the last day of parliament for 2018 and it certainly has been an incredible year in Stretton.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order that was not an invitation for debate across the chamber.

**Mr PEGG:** I am glad the opposition is excited, because there have been a lot of exciting events in Stretton this year. I cannot mention them all in the time available, but I will do my best.

On 15 January I announced the re-opening of Illaweena Street, and it re-opened the following week. It was a fantastic outcome for the community. On 5 February both the Premier and Deputy Premier came to Stretton to welcome 48 new apprentices at Hastings Deering. It was fantastic. We also celebrated new flashing lights at Sunnybank Hills State School and Runcorn high, and of course there was Chinese Lunar New Year with fantastic cultural celebrations. We also had the opening of a new community hall at the Korean Society of Queensland and Clean Up Australia Day at Stretton Community Park. In March we had the Brisbane International Arts Festival, the annual Kuraby State School Harmony Day, and the Runcorn Indians baseball club celebrated their 35th anniversary, which is a very significant milestone.

I have spoken about this before, but in April people from Stretton made a huge contribution to the Commonwealth Games. The Karawatha District Marching Band performed during the Commonwealth Games, and Sunnybank Rotary Club volunteers helped clean up the athletes' village. It was fantastic work. We had the Kuraby markets' fifth birthday celebrations, work officially started on the left-hand turn from Macquarie Way onto Wembley Road and—this is my personal favourite—the 'king of swing' Wasim Akram attended a great charity event in my local area.

In May we had the no-parking signs on Illaweena Street removed immediately by the Lord Mayor. He did not want to take on the Stretton P&C mums again. We also had a wonderful Stretton State College under 8s day. In June we had the Stretton Queensland Day awards. It was fantastic.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I can see why the opposition is excited. There are so many great things happening. We had a wonderful state budget with new school funding and upgrades to Beaudesert Road. We had the wonderful Eid Down Under event, and I hosted a PPP parent forum. In July we had the Rackley Runcorn A grade short course swim meet and the Stretton State College band tour. In August we had a family fun fair at the Calamvale Shopping Centre—


**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra, your interjections are not being taken. If you persist you will be warned under the standing orders.

**Mr PEGG:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I cannot blame them for losing control because there are so many great things in Stretton. We also had the Stretton Multicultural Awards. We had the container refund community forum and the Kyabra free family fun day in September. They were great events. In October we had the Taiwan festival back in Stretton, we had the Sunnybank Hills State School Multifest and we had a wonderful Chinese community fundraiser for drought relief. At the beginning of November I had my mobile office, I was in a community futsal challenge and we had some wonderful school graduations and awards nights. Congratulations to all students and teachers.

Finally, I would like to thank the Stretton community for its support this year. It has been great working with you. Merry Christmas and happy New Year!

### **Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning**

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.28 pm): As the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition have said, 2018 has been a year of going backwards. Whilst the blame needs to sit fairly and squarely at the feet of the Premier and Deputy Premier, there is another very inspiring member of the so-called Labor economic development team who has contributed, and that is the member for Woodridge. It is not often that I quote a Labor politician, but given that it is the last sitting day of the year I hope the House allows me this indulgence.

For those who do not recall, the former Labor deputy mayor of the Brisbane City Council once described the member for Woodridge, now Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, as a 'gormless show pony'. I truly cannot think of a better description for the honourable member for Woodridge. 'Gormless', of course, means lacking in vitality or intelligence, stupid, dull or clumsy.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Glass House, you have used unparliamentary language and I ask you to withdraw. Regardless of whether it is a quote, it is still regarded as unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr POWELL:** For the benefit of my subsequent speech—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do not argue with the chair, please.

**Mr POWELL:** I withdraw. That may seem a little harsh, but after the year the minister has had it is probably, if anything, a bit favourable. An ANZ/Property Council report now ranks the Palaszczuk Labor government as the worst state government in Australia for planning and managing growth. The infrastructure investor and developer survey this year revealed that four in every five investors say that a lack of opportunities and the amount of regulation under Labor were challenging investment. The same report outlined that over a third of respondents ranked Queensland as either the worst in the nation or below average for ease of doing business. That is certainly not a glowing endorsement of the minister's capability or capacity—but wait, there's more.


In another report released this year by the national infrastructure body, Queensland suffered the largest drop in investor confidence in the entire nation—the worst in the nation. That shows a considerable effort, or lack thereof, by the minister to achieve the worst position in the whole nation. As we have heard from previous speakers, it is not that exciting given that we now have the worst unemployment rate in the nation. New South Wales and Victoria ranked as nearly three times more attractive than Queensland to those wanting to invest in infrastructure.

Unfortunately for Queensland, the consequences of the member for Woodridge living up to the description afforded to him by his former colleague are grave. We have seen it across the length and breadth of his portfolio. It is almost laughable that the honourable member is seen as a future leader of

those opposite. His own colleagues certainly do not share that opinion of him, because they have taken everything he had off him. Cross River Rail went to the Treasurer. Transport and ports went to the member for Miller. Water and energy infrastructure went to the member for Stafford. He has not even been able to manage the QPAC investment, which went to the member for Algester. Worst of all, he lost responsibility for Stradbroke Island—

*(Time expired)*

### Member for Whitsunday

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.31 pm): Wasn't that full of sound and fury signifying nothing? I do not want to speak negatively today; I want to speak of a little known Christmas tradition of the LNP. That is, each of them gets to choose a Secret Santa. On Monday they picked names out of a hat. The member for Whitsunday drew the member for Broadwater and he thought, 'What can I give to a member who has practically nothing? I'll make speech. I'll make a razing attack on my own party and its leadership. That's what I can give to the member for Broadwater as a Secret Santa gift.'

In her speech the opposition leader failed to mention what the member for Whitsunday is doing—the special Christmas gift he is giving to the member for Broadwater. She fails to acknowledge that the member for Whitsunday just held a press conference that was an indirect attack on the leadership of the member for Nanango. He could not bring himself to express any faith in the leadership of the member for Nanango. That is his little gift to the member for Broadwater.

Last night he was full of praise for the member for Broadwater. We know that the opposition backbench only have to be geed up this way when they are not happy about the leadership. They all wish they had picked the member for Broadwater in the Secret Santa. If they had, they would be saying the same things. Last night the member for Whitsunday said—

... I especially want to thank the member for Broadwater, the first shadow minister to come to the Whitsunday electorate after the election ...

There were no thankyou for the leadership—for the members for Everton and Nanango.

**Ms Boyd** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Pause the clock. Member for Pine Rivers, you are not in your allocated seat. You will not be making interjections. You are now warned under the standing orders.

**Mr POWER:** The member for Whitsunday went on with his Secret Santa gift. He said—

I might add that the member for Broadwater is the same member of parliament who was responsible for bringing me back to Queensland more than a decade ago ...

He cannot stop going on about the member for Broadwater! How much did he mention the member for Nanango? Not at all. He said—

The member for Broadwater truly recognises the importance of tourism in my part of the world.


What we know about the member for Broadwater, and what the member for Whitsunday could not mention—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Members.

**Mr POWER:** The member for Broadwater, just like the member for Nanango, turned his back on North Queensland and abandoned it. That is why the LNP has such little presence in North Queensland. The member for Whitsunday is right to attack the entire leadership. He should just add the member for Broadwater to the list.

### Child Protection, Law Reform; Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.34 pm): There is nothing more evil than the killing of a child. As legislators we have to do everything in our power to protect our kids and lock away the animals who commit these heinous crimes. The safety of our kids should be the priority of every government. That is why the LNP has announced that, if we are elected at the next state election, we will introduce the toughest laws in the nation when it comes to dealing with child killers. Penalties need to meet community expectations, and the kinds of sentences we have seen lately certainly do not. If laws are not working it is the parliament's role to change them, and that is our role in this place.

Under the LNP's plan we will introduce a new offence of child manslaughter that will ensure similar crimes are punished with a mandatory 15-year jail penalty. We will also increase the minimum non-parole period for the murder of a child under 18 from 20 to 25 years.

We have all seen and read the tragic cases. What happened to Mason Jet Lee was absolutely appalling. As a mother it breaks my heart to think about what Mason suffered and the end of that poor little boy's life. The average sentence for child manslaughter in Queensland is just 6.8 years, compared to 8.5 years for adult manslaughter. I am proud to be part of a team that will always put community safety first. We need to send a message that killing a child will involve lengthy jail sentences so that we set a tougher deterrent. Today I am tabling a petition on behalf of Act for Mason—on behalf of the 38,030 who want tougher penalties for child killers after what happened to Mason.


*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding Act for Mason [1918].

Public outrage forced the review of the sentence handed down to William Andrew O'Sullivan after he pleaded guilty to the manslaughter of and cruelty against Mason Jet Lee. We also need to change the law, which is why the LNP under Deb Frecklington has announced the toughest penalties in Australia for child killers.

I also want to talk about a public health system that lurches from crisis to crisis. Even this week we have seen reports about legionella found at several Queensland hospitals and concerns raised about patient safety, and the Queensland obesity crisis shows no signs of stopping. This is at a time when the health minister has cut the budget this year for the preventative health branch of Queensland Health. Yet again we see the health minister floundering, seriously out of his depth, peddling his dog-ate-my-homework excuses. At the same time ambulance ramping is skyrocketing, emergency departments are overcrowded and elective surgery wait times are blowing out. Our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics need more help on the front line. They need a health minister who will stop wasting taxpayers' money renaming our hospitals. It is time for the Premier to show some leadership and sack her incompetent health minister. Our public health system is too important to risk with a bumbling fool who is seriously out of touch.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Member for Mudgeeraba, you need to refer to the Leader of the Opposition by her correct title.

### Maryborough Hospital

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.38 pm): I rise to give some really good news. All we have heard from those opposite is negativity. If they were as good as they say they are then they would be in government, but the election held less than 12 months ago sees them back on the opposition benches. They had better get used to it, because they are going to be there for a long time.

The good news is that under a Palaszczuk government the Maryborough Hospital is going ahead by leaps and bounds. As of last Friday there are 790 front-line staff working at Maryborough Hospital. Maryborough Hospital was brought to its knees by those opposite. They took away services. Under the LNP, the only thing you could get at Maryborough Hospital was a bandaid. Sometimes you were lucky to get that!


Since the Palaszczuk government came to power we have invested in front-line services with more treatment services for patients. Some 137,200 people went through the Maryborough Hospital last year. I will repeat that for those on the other side: 137,000. There were 34,300 outpatients, 20,390 emergency presentations, 21,000 dental visits, 21,000 mental health patient contacts, 6,000 allied health outpatients and 2,626 operations at the Maryborough Hospital, and that is because the Palaszczuk Labor government has really got the hospital firing. I want to thank the chair of the board, Peta Jamieson, other members of the board from the Maryborough electorate—Simone Xouris and Trevor Dixon, two great people on the board—CEO Adrian Pennington and the executive staff but also all of the staff of the Maryborough Hospital and the WBHHS.

They are achieving. We are doing things that those opposite dream about. They could not get the hospital going, but under the former health minister and the current health minister the Maryborough Hospital is moving forward. There is a massive redevelopment happening at the E&A thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government. We invest in regional Queensland. They talk the talk, but they cannot walk the walk. I lived in regional Queensland under the Bjelke-Petersen National Party era and we got nothing. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a traditional Labor government and we are delivering in education and health. We are delivering in spades—absolute spades.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** Listen to the rabble coming from those opposite. No wonder they are on the opposition benches. They will stay there—they will be superglued there—because the Queensland people have had enough of them. They have had enough of this rabble.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.41 pm): The Palaszczuk government was elected on Greens preferences, it survives on Greens preferences and, as a result, rather than being about true environmental outcomes, like the Greens political party it is about virtue signalling. Let us go through what environmental stewardship we have had from this government.


We have an implementation of a waste levy which has been completely at sea and which I predict will not be able to come into effect on 4 March as the government has signalled because the implementation has been poor. We have a container deposit scheme—a great scheme that should be great for the environment—so poorly implemented that people are at their wits' end. It is so poorly implemented and there has been such poor attention to detail that whole swathes of Queenslanders will not have access to these sites because the attention to detail and the genuine desire to do things right is not there.

There is another one coming, and that is the end of waste code for our biosolids. It is supposed to come in from 1 January. We have had no attention to detail. Watch this one for another one that is on its way: the scuttling of the *Tobruk*, which was so brilliantly articulated by my friend the member for Burnett. I ask this question: it is interesting the government has not pursued with vigour the company which sunk the *Tobruk*. Is it because that a set of guidelines were put in place that made scuttling that vessel the right way almost impossible? Will we find out in 2019 that it was an environmental deal done to appease the people who support those opposite that has seen the scuttling of the *Tobruk* be so poor?

In North Queensland we have a KPI where problem crocodiles will be removed swiftly in three months, and yet somehow the minister will defend that as being a great thing for regional Queensland. I take this as an opportunity to segue through environment into tourism, and it is at this point that I point out that on this side the member for Nanango has put the two portfolios together, and it makes sense. Why? Because we have not had a single ecotourism project in this state up and running because those in the radical environmental movement will do everything in their power to stop it from occurring.

I say to the Minister for Tourism: will she stand up in 2019 and see the jobs created, the environmental legacy created, that puts real outcomes above political expediency? Will the minister step in and ensure the people of Whitsundays will be protected and the circuit breaker they yearn for will be in place so they can get their tourism industry back on its feet? Will the minister finally set KPIs when giving out money to airlines to actually fulfil what it is about—not a ribbon-cutting exercise but long-term tourism outcome? This government survives on Greens preferences.

### Ausmusic T-Shirt Day

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.44 pm): Ausmusic T-Shirt Day is an initiative of Support Act and is on tomorrow, 16 November. Support Act is a registered charity founded in 1997 by the music industry for the music industry. It was established in recognition that a career in music brings its own unique rewards and challenges. Since it was founded in 1997, Support Act has helped many people working in the music industry with a variety of issues. As it describes it, it has supported people in the industry in paying rent, kept the power on, repaired instruments, provided petrol, bought school uniforms and brought comfort and dignity to many people in their final stages of life.

The music industry can be very tough. For 99 per cent of people working in it, it is a constant slog of touring, travel, cheap and nasty accommodation and long periods away from home. It would have to be one of the least stable and most stressful industries out there despite the stereotypical sex, drugs and roll and rock image that many people may have. Support Act has helped get artists and music workers back on their feet when they have hit a rough patch. Tomorrow, Ausmusic T-Shirt Day, is the culmination of one of its major annual fundraising activities run in conjunction with Triple J and ARIA. Tomorrow is a nationwide celebration of Australian music that reminds us how lucky we are to have such a strong local music scene with some of the world's best artists coming out of our own backyard, and particularly out of Brisbane of course.


The idea of the day is to show your support by wearing your favourite Australian music T-shirt. There are also specially commissioned music T-shirts being sold by Levi's stores, with all proceeds going to benefit Support Act. Over 60 companies in the Australian music industry have pledged support for Ausmusic T-Shirt Day and are helping to raise funds. Last year I think I wore either a Frenzal Rhomb

or a Violent Soho shirt. I have plenty to choose from, but I reckon tomorrow I will be wearing one of my WAAX T-shirts—a great Brisbane band, a hardworking band on the up and up who are also great people.

The Australian music scene is going from strength to strength, particularly the Brisbane music scene. The recent focus on the Brisbane music scene from the *Guardian* website was a timely recognition and chance to reflect on the scene and how it has grown and changed since the seventies and eighties when the underground music scene was largely catalysed as a protest to the Bjelke-Petersen government of the day.

Tonight live music venue The Triffid will also announce the latest winner of its Brisbane Album of the Year Award, earning a permanent place on its wall, which is fast becoming a Brisbane landmark. Melbourne can keep its Instagram friendly laneways and terrible weather and Sydney can keep its soulless CBD and overcompensating inner west. For me the Brisbane music scene is the most collegiate, organic, unique, and just the most fun in Australia. In 1985 Paul Kelly famously caught a 13-hour bus from St Kilda to Kings Cross and then somewhat regretted it later. I think his real mistake was not staying on the bus until it got to Brisbane. In closing, I encourage everyone to get involved in Ausmusic T-shirt Day tomorrow in support of our vibrant local music industry.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.47 pm): Unemployment is up in Queensland, and is it any surprise that the small business sector has a correlation with a lack of confidence in this government—the worst unemployment figures in Australia. This is not a prize that any Queenslanders should be proud of—that is, to see Queensland coming last when others are getting ahead. Even Tasmania is doing better than Queensland. That is a disgrace! Let us talk about the why factor, and it is those extra taxes this government is loading on to the real job creators—small business—and their confidence has taken a nosedive. When we look at all of the key indicators about small business, one of their key concerns has been about tax and this government's connection with the union movement, which is out of whack and out of balance.


I also want to talk about the issue of late payment by this government to small business. It is a bit rich when we have an employment minister who tries to lecture businesses to pay on time and then says not a peep about this Labor government failing to pay Queensland small businesses on time. In the September quarter Treasury paid 160 small and large businesses late, with the bill totalling \$1.45 million. When other Queenslanders are stuck with fees for late payments to the state government, such as the \$63.85 fee for renewing car registration after the due date, they have to pay their fines but this government has another standard for itself.

I also want to talk about that mysterious situation with agricultural colleges in the state and the poor answer from the Minister for Agriculture where we learnt that a report was received over six months ago but no decision has been released, yet I suspect it will be one of those sneaky little jobs in that the government will put out a release over the Christmas-new year period to let people know whether or not it is going to keep Queensland agricultural training campuses open, and that is just not good enough.

I also want to talk about the fall in the number of apprentices and trainees in this state while this Labor government has disgracefully knocked back \$245 million in desperately needed federal funds for vocational education and training. That is a disgraceful move when there is a need for certainty in industry. Industry is saying that they need those trainees and apprentices. They cannot understand why they should suffer and why potential apprentices and trainees should suffer while this government refuses to sign up to that funding. Last year, under this Labor Palaszczuk government, 20,000 students pulled out of training.

I also want to talk about Straddie, which has been sold the lies of this government. The people of Straddie were promised hundreds of jobs, yet only two out of 23 projects have been delivered, with only a net three new jobs delivered through those projects.

### Gateway Upgrade North Project

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (2.50 pm): As we head towards the end of 2018, I am keen to address the House on the progress of the Gateway Upgrade North project, which is located largely in my electorate but also in the electorate of the member for Nudgee. That project is not only delivering great benefits for the road network on the north side of Brisbane but also delivering work for people on the north side of Brisbane.




I am very proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government has been so strongly committed to this project, with a contribution of \$228.54 million. When the federal member for Lilley, Wayne Swan, was treasurer, he committed the then Gillard government to this billion-dollar project to address one of the worst bottlenecks in Brisbane's road network. Over the life of this project, 1,004 direct jobs have been created.

This project is coming to a close and that is a good outcome, because it will deliver an improvement to the road network. I trust that, by the end of the year—depending on the weather—that will happen. I thank the community for coping with the impact of this project. Although most of the new road network is in place, it is not operating to its full capacity. When new lanes open fully, that will alleviate congestion and also the congestion that people have been experiencing over the past few years owing to the roadworks. I am going to stay in contact and work with my local community to ensure that the Department of Transport and Main Roads and the Brisbane City Council address any further impacts that arise out of this project.

Speaking of consultation, I think it is really important that we consult with communities, stakeholders and the business community. That is why I was so surprised when I looked at the Leader of the Opposition's diary for the month of September and saw that 90 per cent of her meetings have been with her colleagues. That is a sign of someone who does not need to consult with the community but instead has to make sure she keeps the numbers as she is under threat from the member for Broadwater.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Law and Order

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.53 pm): Let me be clear: under this Palaszczuk-Trad government, the Queensland Police budget is down and crime is up.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Toowoomba North, you will need to refer to the government by its correct title.

**Mr WATTS:** Let me be clear: under this Palaszczuk government, the Queensland Police budget is down and, unfortunately for the people of Queensland, crime is up. I will give members some crime statistics that relate to areas throughout this state. On the Gold Coast, common assault has skyrocketed 126 per cent. In the Wide Bay-Burnett police district, robbery is up 100 per cent. In the South-East Queensland region, breach of domestic violence orders is up 76.5 per cent. In South Brisbane, rape and attempted rape is up 47 per cent. In north Brisbane, vehicle theft is up 30 per cent. On the Sunshine Coast, offences against the person is up 157 per cent. In Rockhampton, assault is up 62 per cent. In Mackay, robbery is up 216 per cent. In Townsville, unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 52 per cent. In the Capricornia police district, unlawful entry is up 36 per cent. In the Far North, unlawful use of a motor car is up 52 per cent. In Mount Isa, rape is up 128 per cent. In Ipswich, armed robbery is up 75.5 per cent. This is what happens when the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk, appoints a weak minister to the Police portfolio. He has lost out at the cabinet table. Clearly, crime is not a priority for the Palaszczuk government in Queensland.

The priority is *Dora the Explorer*. The Premier should go with Dora the Explorer and the honourable police minister to see if they can find their broken promises. They could take a trip down to the Gold Coast and find the 40-something officers who are missing from that area. They could head up to Townsville to see if they can find the 53 officers who are missing from that area. They could pop in to Cairns. The member for Cairns was spruiking the slashing of the budget for Neighbourhood Watch. His area is missing 47 officers. He should ask if Dora the Explorer can join him in trying to find them. In my region, the southern region, 45 officers are missing.

This Palaszczuk Labor government is soft on crime. It is not a priority for this government. The figures do not lie. Police numbers are not keeping pace with population growth. The Police budget is down \$44.6 million on its budget last year, which had a \$36 million underspend. If we do not resource the police, the incidence of crime goes up. The people of Queensland know that, because their insurance policies are going up and they are double locking their doors in fear.

### Kurwongbah Electorate

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.56 pm): A few weeks ago at the Narangba Community Centre my wife and I hosted a pink ribbon event to help support research into breast cancer. I would like to once again thank all who supported us and, in particular, our Premier, who came along to speak and share in the event with us. That afternoon I said to the people in the room, and I will say it again here, that I do not think there is a person who has not been affected by cancer in some way.


A few years ago, my wife and I were hit hard when a dear young friend of ours had a double mastectomy and chemotherapy. She had been given the all clear. Then she developed a secondary cancer and lost her life, leaving behind a distraught husband, two young boys and other family. I lost my mum at an early age to cancer and just a few weeks ago her sister, my only aunt, died of breast cancer. My mother-in-law has just been diagnosed with a very nasty malignant tumour and another mate of mine is in the final stage. Also, our good friend Coralee O'Rourke, the member for Mundingburra, has had terrible news. I am sure all of us in this place hope that she knocks that on the head very quickly.

But there is some good news. Thankfully, my father is a survivor, as is an amazing woman from Narangba named Chelle Oakey, who I met last year when she was just doing what she does: working her heart out for the community. Like of all of us that afternoon, the Premier was very impressed with Chelle's story of her successful fight that she shared with us as well as the impressive way in which she stepped up as a community champion. Chelle is involved in several community groups as well as having started—something that is topical today—a Neighbourhood Watch in Narangba Valley. People like Chelle are an inspiration to others who are struggling with this disease. Chelle knows that the way to beat it is to fund research into a cure and events like we held certainly help do that. I will be holding more of these fundraisers over time and support others with theirs.

Also, I attended a moving Remembrance Day service in Burpengary. I thank my wife, Angie, and my electorate officer, Leanne, for attending the other two services that I was invited to. Burpengary turned it on, with over 10,000 crocheted poppies placed around the memorial in Buchanan Park. The roar of about 30 bikes as the Patriots motorcycle club turned up to join in the commemoration and the exceptional bugling from Aiden, a graduating student from Narangba Valley State High School, made the event special. The service was exceptionally well run by the Burpengary Community War Memorial Committee. I would like to thank Natalie Elliot, Dave Bennett, Larry Hamilton, Trevor Rackley and Moreton Bay Division 2 Councillor Peter Flannery. It was certainly a great event and it was a fitting tribute to the centenary of the Armistice.

I also attended an emotional service at Burpengary State School where we unveiled an amazing new memorial designed and built by Chris Hayes, the school groundskeeper, himself a veteran. This memorial was a labour of love and the final result is breathtaking. The school has had 47 students over its long history who made the ultimate sacrifice and this is a fitting tribute to them. Lest we forget.

### JM Kelly Builders

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.00 pm): Continuing on the JM Kelly Builders saga, the collapse of these companies left a long trail of outstanding debts, a host of unpaid subcontractors and suppliers and many government building contracts in limbo. According to the liquidators these include the Rockhampton Base Hospital, Mackay Hospital, Stanthorpe Hospital, Mount Morgan State High School and Eimeo Road State School. Important questions about the suitability of JM Kelly office bearers to hold management positions, the transparency of its licensing arrangements, the financial assurances given, the extent of the due diligence undertaken by government agencies all remain unanswered.

From an accountability perspective, what action has been taken by the responsible minister? When were the concerns about the company first known by him? What was raised at meetings the minister attended in Rockhampton? And what is he doing to secure the lost payments for subcontractors and suppliers? Questions also arise about the extent of the knowledge of the involvement of the member for Keppel in this debacle. What is the nature of the loan she has received for her home from a building company her husband was forced to resign from and where does this sit with Labor's developer donation laws? Furthermore, what is the extent of the involvement of the former member for Rockhampton with the JM Kelly group of companies? Were there any private dealings and what were the circumstances leading to the appointment to the QBCC? Was this just another example of jobs for Labor mates or something far more sinister?

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Logan, I heard that unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.


**Mr POWER:** I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

**Mr HART:** The former member responded with a statutory declaration that did not correspond with the questions outlined in my speeches from the last sitting. The years he provided information on were different. I point out the former member has a number of houses that have had major renovations. The question remains how were those renovations paid for and ultimately by whom?

When I first raised these matters in the parliament it was on the basis of information that had been provided to me by concerned citizens in Central Queensland. As part of my legislative responsibilities I felt duty-bound to raise these concerns so that these matters could be appropriately examined. Those members opposite howled me down and were quick to deny any wrongdoing. This has an Ipswich City Council feel to it, with Labor members insisting for so long there was nothing to see there.

Over the past week I have been contacted by more than a dozen people and have received a continuing stream of emails providing further information about the goings on in Rockhampton. The Queensland Police Service is reportedly investigating statutory declarations lodged by JM Kelly Builders, ASIC has become involved and the QBCC is apparently examining its position. The trouble is everyone's responsibility is apparently no-one's responsibility. There are a whole lot of questions here, but there are not too many answers.

### Mount Ommaney Electorate

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (3.03 pm): Ho, ho, ho, Mr Deputy Speaker. The residents of Mount Ommaney are on the nice list this year and they have a few goodies coming their way from Santa. First off the rank is the Sumner Road upgrade. I was so excited to drive over the Sumner Road overpass on Monday on my way to parliament and see that the vegetation clearing to get this project started is well and truly underway. What looked like about 10 workers were there in hi-vis. It is fantastic to see this work underway after my community has waited so very long to see this project come to fruition. The bonus is that the new design has been recently released and it features four new lanes and two new bridges. It will triple the capacity of the existing Sumner Road overpass which is fantastic news. The existing bridge will eventually be demolished with a new two-lane bridge to be constructed by late 2020 and the second four-lane bridge to be opened in 2021. Cyclists also have reason to share in the Christmas cheer with a new grade separated cycleway meaning no more beg buttons, keeping traffic moving faster and cyclists safer.

Secondly, land acquisition is progressing well for the Darra park-and-ride, with the final outcome due to be delivered with an extra 181 car parks in roughly 2020. More car parks means fewer cars on the road. It is good news for all.

Finally there is a fire station upgrade at Mount Ommaney. This million dollar project is rapidly nearing completion, with the upgraded and revamped station due to open very early in the New Year. In the interim our wonderful fireys have been operating from the temporary station at Seventeen Mile Rocks. I also take this opportunity to pass on my most sincere thank you to those lovely men and women. We have had a lot of house fires in Mount Ommaney over the last few years and the fireys really have done a wonderful job.

That is what Santa is delivering for Mount Ommaney, but what are we, the residents of Mount Ommaney, getting for each other? I am launching the 12 Days of Christmas campaign to continue to advocate for small business and encourage locals to buy local and think outside the box. What I mean by that is to make sure we are not just buying things for the sake of it. This year I am challenging myself to only buy things that people need.

My mum and dad have a little ant problem so for them I am calling in the experts. Gavin Shill from All Year Pest Solutions will sort them out. My partner is getting a photo—a beautifully printed image from Brilliant Prints in Seventeen Mile Rocks. It is likely that from my parents he will be the lucky recipient of more silly socks from Millie Jones Corinda. They are silly, but he wears them with pride and I love him for it. My beautiful children, Heath and Allegra, are getting the best gift of all—some good books and some quality time with mum as I enjoy reading with them. A Page Or Two secondhand book store at Corinda has some lovely titles and I will be dropping by to grab them a few classics and curl up for a cuddle. But what will I be getting? Christmas has come early for me because I have four awesome postcodes.

*(Time expired)*


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** A reminder that the members for Nicklin, Southern Downs and Pine Rivers have been warned. They will stay on that list until the House rises this evening.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 18 October (see p. 3029), on motion of Mr Russo—

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.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (3.06 pm): As we know, the purpose and function of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, which was established in July 2014, is to promote the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and improve child protection services. In reviewing the annual report of 2016-2017 the Principal Commissioner noted the commission had increased its focus on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families. The commissioner stated they had done a great amount of work in breaking down barriers to employment, the development of community based approaches and working with partners on initiatives aimed at helping and making changes for vulnerable children and families. The commission's annual report also provided details of delays in implementation of 2013 reforms and referred to 10 recommendations from the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry that still are not delivered.

The committee reports that system reviews highlight disturbing facts around delays in implementation of actions to protect those who are most vulnerable. A report released in July 2016 following the death of Tiahleigh Palmer identified a number of inadequacies and made 29 recommendations. We all wait for the findings of the review now due. We do know, however, that in a supplementary review tabled 18 months ago containing 17 recommendations only two have been completed with the remainder yet to be finalised. There is more bad news in that a prepared report requested by the Premier following the death of Mason Jet Lee 19 months ago made only one recommendation which is still being considered.

The commission was asked over two years ago to lead an examination of the blue card and foster care systems in Queensland to identify any gaps. Of the 42 recommendations, half have finally resulted in legislation being introduced into this place. It was disturbing to read in the annual report that the rate of substantiated child protection cases involving Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children has been declining. However, there is conflicting evidence from the Smallbone and the Jones reports that would paint a very different picture in Queensland. New figures show Queensland's child safety system is continuing to go backwards under this government. They do not have a road map. Child safety notifications have now reached their highest level in five years, some 24,000, with response times in almost half of all cases, nearly 12,000, taking five to 10 days. We all agree that is not good enough.


Department of child safety statistics also showed that intakes have hit their highest level at nearly 120,000 since the Carmody reforms were introduced almost five years ago. There are now 9,600 children living away from home, which is almost 1,000 more than in 2013-14. The data also shows that in 2017-18 the number of children subjected to substantiated sexual harm was up by nearly 400, which was a jump of 70 from 2016-17 alone and the highest level in three years.

The Palaszczuk government is failing the most vulnerable children in our society. This committee report should sound alarms bells across our state. It is clear that our kids need help. It is absolutely disgraceful that the Palaszczuk government has claimed that its child safety system has shown improvements when the data says exactly the opposite. We are seeing more children subjected to harm or risk of harm, more children living away from home and more children subjected to sexual harm.

Last month was Sexual Violence Awareness Month and we are still to see a single dollar of the supposed \$12 million promised by the Palaszczuk government to combat youth sexual violence. No matter how the minister may cherrypick data to sell her story, the fact remains that, instead of the system improving, unfortunately more kids are being put at risk under Labor. Tomorrow, 25 child safety work sites will go on strike, throwing the child protection system into chaos. The Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to complete negotiations with the Together union on child safety worker wages and children will be put at risk as a result.

As the shadow minister, I continue to raise these issues in this place. The committee report tabled today gives us more damning insights into the problems for children at risk. Child Safety and Youth Justice workers have put up with this crisis. The two departments are trying to work hard, but it is hard under Labor. We always talk about bipartisanship. I pray and hope that the Palaszczuk Labor government can give the early LNP reforms a real go. The Carmody inquiry produced a good report that was all about vulnerable kids.

Our youth justice system is in crisis again. Why do we continue to play political games around what is happening in youth detention? With ongoing riots, assaults on staff, a failed bail house experiment and youth detention centres where kids are packed in like sardines, we can only guess what the results will be. This is just the latest example of the Palaszczuk Labor government putting Queensland children in harm's way.


 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.12 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 16 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. The committee has oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. It tabled the report in July this year, following a public hearing on 11 June 2018. I thank the other members of the committee and the committee secretariat. The report had one recommendation, that the House notes the content of the report.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the work of the staff of the Queensland Family and Child Commission and, in particular, the Principal Commissioner, who briefed us. The QFCC has the task of promoting the safety, wellbeing and best interests of children and young people and to improve the child protection system, which is a responsibility of some significance. The report acknowledged the work that the commission had undertaken over the period 2016-17. I note the significant work done in the developing area of cyber safety. The committee was provided with an update on a number of inquiries, including the Queensland Child Protection Commission of Inquiry and the Changing Tracks action plan for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.

Given the remit to improve child protection systems, the report *When a child is missing* was a key document released during the oversight period. The report contained 29 recommendations. The Principal Commissioner was able to report to the committee that all 29 recommendations have been delivered. The commission is currently in the process of evaluating the implementation of the recommendations, including *Recommendation 28 supplementary review* and we await that.

The QFCC has also provided reports to the government on systems reviews on blue cards, foster caring and strengthening capacity across Queensland's child protection system. Following those reviews, the QFCC now sits with other stakeholders on a Department of Justice and Attorney-General reference group with respect to the blue card recommendation implementation. The commission also led a system and practice review of the Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect or SCAN team system. I note that the review affirmed the existing model and departmental responsibility.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission has a great responsibility and plays a key role in contributing to improving systems that keep our kids safe. I congratulate them on the work done over the period. It was a substantial and very significant body of work. I wish them all the best for their continuing work, particularly in overviewing and evaluating some of the recommendations following the *When a child is missing* report.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.14 pm): I rise to address the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report with respect to its oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, report No. 16 of the 56th Parliament. The purpose and functions of the Queensland Family and Child Commission are very important. This very important commission was established in 2014, with a strategic purpose to promote the safety and wellbeing of Queensland children, and also to ensure their best interests are served. Its other purpose is obviously to ensure child protection processes are enhanced and further developed in Queensland. It is very important that we protect our most vulnerable.

We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has a woeful track record when it comes to child protection. Certainly the former minister for child safety, the member for Waterford, had a significant number of issues and problems in relation to managing the department. There were delays with data and report releases during the last term of the 55th Parliament. There were many serious and significant instances of failures that occurred under her watch.


This is not the first time that Labor has failed with respect to its management of child safety. We only need to look back to 7 February 2014 when the then premier, Peter Beattie, called a snap election. At the time, his government was rocked by the report of the then Crime and Misconduct Commission that found that Labor had failed to adequately protect children in foster care from abuse. Labor always fails when it comes to transparent and accountable government in Queensland, not only in relation to child safety but also in terms of what we are seeing in the health system, the rail fail debacle, the economic problems that have been clearly articulated today and crime spiralling out of control in many parts of Queensland.

There are some very sobering statistics in the annual report, particularly with respect to sexual harm to children. That is very confronting and very disturbing for myself as the shadow minister for communities and state member for Moggill. It is extraordinary that the current Labor minister for child

safety, the member for Bulimba, continues to claim that the child safety system is improving when the data says the exact opposite. Tomorrow we could see many of our child safety work sites go on strike. In fact, as the shadow minister, the member for Burnett, has indicated, potentially 25 work sites will go on strike from tomorrow.

It is simply not acceptable that in Queensland we see such harms continuing to occur to vulnerable children. There needs to be a cultural change. As the LNP shadow minister for communities, from reading this report and looking at the work that the committee has done, I would say that we need our community leaders and political representatives from all levels of government to work together, in collaboration with a range of organisations, to ensure that our children are protected. That needs to occur in each and every community across Queensland in a comprehensive and collaborative manner. I encourage those members of the House who have not read the report to read it, because many things contained in the report will be applicable to their communities.

I acknowledge the staff and the work of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. Certainly they are doing some terrific work in relation to cyber safety. There have been recommendations in relation to blue cards and what needs to occur in our foster system in Queensland. I think all of the work that the commission has done to date has been very important. Certainly much more needs to occur into the future. Protecting our most vulnerable children and those who are in care in each and every community across Queensland is very important. I commend the report to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee's report No. 16 of the 56th Parliament into its oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. I am a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, which oversees administering the QFCC. I note that a number of speakers have focused on the details of and expressed various political points of view about the commission. For the benefit of my constituents who might be watching, I would like to give a bit of an overview of what the Family and Child Commission does.

The QFCC's role is: oversight of the child protection system; promotion and advocacy regarding the responsibilities of families to protect and care for, and the safety and wellbeing of, children and young people, particularly those in the child protection or youth justice system; to provide research, assistance, capacity building and leadership for agencies involved in the child protection system in Queensland; to review, analyse and evaluate systemic policies and practices relevant to the child protection system; to inform and educate the community; and to report to the minister about matters relating to its functions.

The act under which it operates, the Family and Child Commission Act 2014, sets out ways in which the commissioners are to perform their functions, such as: engaging with, and taking into consideration, the views of children, young people and their families; ensuring the interests of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islanders are adequately and appropriately represented; respecting and promoting the role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander service providers in supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and communities to protect and care for their children and young people; being sensitive to the ethnic or cultural identity and values of children, young people and their families; consulting with relevant agencies and advocacy entities; and working cooperatively with relevant agencies and helping build their capacity to meet the needs of children, young people and their families.

I acknowledge the staff of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, some of whom have been good enough to appear before the committee and provide briefings to us. They include the CEO and Principal Commissioner, Cheryl Vardon, and commissioners Phillip Brooks, Cheryl Leavy, Leanne Gill and Natalie Conner.

I am proud to say that it was an LNP government that established the Queensland Family and Child Commission. We are all aware that the Carmody inquiry was established by the government in 2012 to look into child protection in Queensland. There was a lot of low-hanging fruit, I think. We saw that the system was looking after the system particularly well and it was quite involved, but for one reason or another it was failing the people on the ground and the clients.

The Carmody inquiry came up with a number of recommendations around the establishment of a body like the QFCC. Its recommendations were that that body would need to: monitor, review and report on the performance of the child protection system in line with the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-20; provide cross-sectoral leadership and advice for the protection and care of children and young people to drive achievement of the child protection system; provide an authoritative view and advice on current research and child protection practice to support the delivery

of services and the performance of Queensland's child protection system; and build the capacity of the non-government sector and the child protection workforce. I think that that is what the QFCC has been doing.

We heard at the time of the budget this year that the QFCC has suffered funding cuts under the current government. We would like to see that reversed of course. I also wanted to make some observations on the matter of blue cards, but I will not be doing so in observance of the standing orders given there is a bill before the House on that matter.

I commend the work of the QFCC. I think they have a very important job to do. They have come a long way and have done a lot of good work since their inception. I commend this report to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.23 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee report No. 6 titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 1: 2017-18—Follow-up of report 15: 2013-14 environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries* tabled on 3 September 2018.

I want to thank my fellow members of the committee, particularly noting that this is the last sitting day of the year. I thank the deputy chair and member for Scenic Rim, the member for Jordan, the member for Cook, the member for Noosa and the member for Whitsunday for the work they did not only on this particular report but also throughout the year. I thank the committee secretariat—Kate, Greg and all the team—for all the hard work they have done this year. While we have not been able to speak on all of our committee reports it has certainly been a very hardworking committee that has done a lot of work during this parliamentary year. I look forward to working with everybody in 2019 and continuing the fantastic work we did not only in relation to this report but also in relation to our other work.

The committee's report on the Auditor-General's reports demonstrate the significant progress that has been made by the department on the majority of the recommendations on the effectiveness of the department in environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries. I note that, of the nine recommendations the department is responsible for, seven have already been fully implemented. I congratulate the minister for all the work that has been done in relation to that.

These completed recommendations relate to improving the exchange of and accessibility of information to allow enhanced planning and risk management, establishing clear guidelines for the care and maintenance of sites, pursuing enforcement to address long-term debts, better utilising information from annual returns, cost recovery for investigations and prosecutions and improving performance measurement to demonstrate the effectiveness of activities in achieving environmental outcomes. I commend the department and the minister for their work in completing those particular recommendations. The two remaining recommendations which have not yet been fully implemented include: the department assuming responsibility for administering all financial assurance including those currently collected and held by the department of natural resources and mines; and the department ensuring the financial assurance it calculates and collects reflects the estimated cost of environmental rehabilitation.

It is important to note when debating these reports that the Queensland government's policy on financial assurance has progressed significantly since 2013-14 through the proposed financial assurance and rehabilitation reforms that have been introduced to the Queensland parliament through the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill 2018. We know that the Palaszczuk government is working to ensure that reform of the current financial assurance arrangements for the resource sector protects the state's finances while achieving the best balance between a viable resources sector and the environment.


I am very keen to hear what the member for Broadwater has to say in relation to this report and other issues. I really hope he makes a contribution in relation to this report because we have not heard a lot from him this year in relation to environmental issues.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr PEGG:** I note the member for Broadwater is singing out over there. Whenever I hear from the member for Broadwater it reminds me of that famous Proclaimers song *I'm Gonna Be*—I note the Proclaimers are coming to Brisbane in May next year—and its lyrics, 'But I would walk 500 miles and I would walk 500 more.' He walked 500 miles and 500 more from Townsville to the Gold Coast 'just to be the man who walks a thousand miles to fall down at your door'.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The member needs to be relevant to the question. I bring the member back to the debate on the report.

**Mr PEGG:** In relation to this report, when the member for Broadwater went a thousand miles from Townsville to the Gold Coast and he came to Verity Barton's door, she was not very happy to see him. Do not worry, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member for Broadwater still believes in a place called hope—Hope Island.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.29 pm): The committee's report on the Auditor-General's follow-up report was good work by the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee. I thank the chairman of that committee, the member for Stretton, for his kind words about the cooperation of the committee. I agree that we have done some good work this year and surely we will do some more next year as well.

Some of the issues raised in this report were dealt with by the bill that was passed in this place yesterday in relation to financial provisioning for the rehabilitation of mines. I want to touch briefly on one of the issues that was raised in the public hearing when we were examining this Auditor-General's report, and that is the issue of financial assurance for mine rehabilitation in Queensland and the current reported shortfall of financial assurance to cover the estimated costs of rehabilitation.

The bill that was passed yesterday, as we all know, does not address retrospectively that issue of voids and the rehabilitation of voids in existing mine sites. It is a real issue in circumstances where mining leases have passed from mining companies presently operating to other entities that may not be operating mines anywhere in this state or, indeed, other entities that are not operating mines at all and have very few assets to speak of. There is very little leverage for the state to compel people to rehabilitate mines when they do not have many assets and they are not in the business of mining.


In that situation there is definitely an issue with non-rehabilitated mines. Taxpayers face the prospect if they want those mine voids to be remedied of having to pay for it themselves. That is a real issue that we are facing in many places. The community pays the cost of this as well—the communities that have those voids. It is a hot topic in my electorate at the moment when it comes to mine voids around Ebenezer and Willowbank—one of which is presently a landfill facility and is being filled up with rubbish. There is another mine void that has an application before Ipswich City Council to establish a landfill facility in that area. We have heard in the community just in the last couple of weeks of a third proposal for a mine void to be filled with rubbish at Ebenezer.

This is the result of a system where there is not enough financial assurance held by the government to fully rehabilitate those mine sites. Communities bear costs in that regard that are not just financial costs. They are not just financial costs to the taxpayer either. They are costs that come from the inconvenience and the disruption to their lives of not just having to go through 30 years or more of having a mining industry in their backyard but now having to face 20, 30 or 40 years potentially of having not one, not two but perhaps three or more landfill facilities in their backyard and all the truck movements that they bring day in and day out. We are up to approximately 200 extra truck movements a day along the Cunningham Highway at Willowbank to service the existing and proposed waste facilities.

We urgently need investment in that infrastructure—the Cunningham Highway at Amberley—to deal with these issues. Under the present framework, there is every chance that each of those facilities will be approved by the Ipswich City Council, with all the truck movements that they bring. The federal government has put \$170 million on the table in the forward estimates to fix the Cunningham Highway at Amberley. If the state is going to stand back and not do anything and allow these facilities to be approved, it needs to come up with its share of funding as well to upgrade the Amberley interchange on the Cunningham Highway to fix this big issue for the community I represent there.

It is not just about landfill either; it is about the RAAF Amberley and the growth in the defence industry in that part of the world which started during the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd years and is continuing and will continue for many years to come. I call on the state to deal with this issue of non-rehabilitated mines and fix the infrastructure on the Cunningham Highway at Amberley.



 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.34 pm): I am pleased to speak on the actual audit report that is before us today. The follow-up report on environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries undertaken by the Queensland Audit Office has seen great strides in the environmental regulation. The previous report undertaken in the 2013-14 financial year found that the then department of environment and heritage protection's planning risk assessments were hindered by poor data and inadequate systems. It was clear from the original audit that there were also a number of issues that arose as a result of the responsible departments—the department of environment and heritage and the department of natural resources and mines—not coordinating and sharing information.


That 2013-14 report concluded that the department of environment and heritage protection was not 'fully effective' in its supervision, monitoring and enforcement of environmental conditions and that the two departments were not effectively managing financial assurance or mines that were in care and maintenance—that is, mines not in operation—and this unnecessarily exposed the state to liability and the environment to harm. The QAO made nine recommendations at the time which both departments accepted.

The follow-up report by the Queensland Audit Office in 2017-18 shows that the departments have fully implemented seven of the nine recommendations. The remaining two recommendations which have not been implemented have been overtaken by the government's implementation of the new financial assurance framework in Queensland. The QAO has found that the department of environment is now 'better placed' to target its strategies, operations and resources to maximise compliance and effectively detect noncompliance.

New systems and processes in place will also allow the two relevant departments to improve the way they collect, share and store data. We have seen a change from a reactive compliance activity program, mainly responding to complaints and incidents, to more proactively targeting high-risk sites for inspection.

The department has also increased the amount of financial assurance held by the state, addressed data issues, improved compliance and reduced outstanding debts. It is good to also note that the QAO has proposed conducting a performance audit, monitoring environmental conditions for mining activities in 2019-20, where the Audit Office expects many of the changes implemented by the department will have matured and their effectiveness should be more evident.

I would like to thank the Queensland Audit Office, the committee secretariat and fellow committee members for their work on this follow-up report and, importantly, the departments that have implemented the recommendations of the original audit.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.37 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 1: 2017-18—Follow-up of report 15: 2013-14 environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries*. I start by thanking the committee for their work on this. I should place on the record my thanks to the member for Stretton, who has allowed me to address this committee in the past at some of its roadshows—

**Mr Lister:** He wants to be in one.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** No, he is here—albeit not related to this, but this is my first opportunity in this forum to thank him for that. I will not thank him for his previous contribution. It was probably a little bit confusing. I will thank him very much for his great assistance to me at that time. I also thank the deputy chair, who I think has raised a valid concern when it comes to waste in that part of the world that he ably represents.

In terms of the report, I acknowledge the comments of the Auditor-General and welcome the positive nature across many of the recommendations. I will make a brief observation about those superseded recommendations that we discussed yesterday as part of the passing of the bill that we discussed. The LNP proudly supported that legislation. We were very happy to do that. We spoke out when we saw shortcomings in it. What I will say in relation to these recommendations, as I did yesterday, is that all the recommendations in the world and all of the legislation in the world are not worth the paper they are written on if the intent is not there to do something about it. I use this opportunity again to talk about the Baal Gammon Mine in Watsonville near Herberton which is—

**Ms Enoch** interjected.


**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Minister, I appreciate your interest in dealing with the problem and if you do I will—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The member needs to speak through the chair.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** If the minister deals with it, I will be the first to stand up and congratulate the minister because I am certain the minister, as someone who has a genuine interest in the environment, wants to see that rehabilitated. The issue is that the minister has to give firm and clear leadership to the department to make sure that occurs. That is what good governance is about.

I will continue to say that we have an issue in this state when it comes to holding people to account for their actions in terms of rehabilitation. We have an issue in this state when it comes to making an assessment on fit and proper people to whom we give licences to operate mines. We know the due diligence process is not working when we cannot list the times that we find somebody not to be a suitable operator. More has to be done on that, because otherwise we will continue to have to pick up the pieces. All of the legislation will not be able to fix that unless there is genuine intent and a laser-like focus in making sure that the right people are operating in the state.

In closing, I again thank the committee for its work on this. I thank the Auditor-General for looking into it. It is, indeed, an important issue. Those of us on this side of the House want to see thriving resources and waste industries, but we want to see it on a long-term basis that is sustainable, that is efficient and that makes sure the jobs people rightly rely on in both of these two vital industries do not come at the expense of a thriving and healthy environment. I do believe that balance can be struck, but that balance can only be struck with the right legislation, the right regulation and the right attitude from those who are tasked with the very special honour of ensuring that the balance between environmental regulation and resource and waste jobs can be met.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.42 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a contribution to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's report titled *Consideration of the Auditor-General's report 1: 2017-18—Follow-up of report 15: 2013-14 environmental regulation of the resources and waste industries*. I would like to thank the chair of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee, the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg MP, and the other committee members. I would also like to thank the committee secretariat for their ongoing contribution and support throughout this year. It has been a very valuable experience as a first-time MP and I would like to give them that acknowledgement.

I would also like to acknowledge the Minister for Environment, the Hon. Leeanne Enoch, for all of her hard work and commitment to making Queensland a better place for everyone to live. I think this year, coming in as a first-term MP, I have experienced a lot of strong policies that the Palaszczuk government has stood behind. For me, this is just one of the many strong, progressive policies that we want to see that will make a positive influence in the society in which we live today.

The role of the Auditor-General is to provide parliament with independent assurance of public sector accountability and performance, and I have taken on board all of the different contributions this afternoon. The member for Broadwater mentioned having a balance. This is exactly what this legislation is about. It is about having a positive and good balance for all Queenslanders. It is about protecting the environment.

I would like to make special mention of Rio Tinto, which I have visited twice this year, which has good land rehabilitation practices in place. What it means for the local community is that it creates jobs, and it gives people living in that part of the world the opportunity to take care of the environment. How I see it working is that there is a mining industry which has the potential to provide an opportunity for local people in the community to be part of the rehabilitation of the land. What this means long term is that, when we take care of the land, the land will take care of us. That is something that I stand passionately behind.

The performance audit evaluates whether an agency or government program is achieving its objectives effectively, economically and efficiently and is compliant with relevant legislation. To again use Rio Tinto as an example, it is about making sure that industries are kept accountable. When we use the resources that are available for economic gain, we will be protecting our long-term and future interest as well.

There are a number of things to consider. I note that resources activities can also cause environmental harm that may be irreversible or take years to rectify. In the western cape I have seen huge areas of landscape being cleared for the sake of mining, but at the same time we have to consider the natural habitat of that region. It means looking after biodiversity. It means looking after nature. It

means looking after the people in that community and, in return, it will give back to the state and the economy. I am grateful for the opportunity to stand up and make my contribution in the House. I hope to see positive things come out of this legislation.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (3.47 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee report No. 10 titled *Inquiry into the operations of toll roads in Queensland* tabled on 13 September 2018.

This report presented a summary of the Transport and Public Works Committee's examination of the inquiry into the operations of toll roads in Queensland. Our committee made five recommendations, and these were based on evidence from a large volume of submissions and a public hearing. There was an expectation from certain media outlets and submitters that this inquiry would lead to recommendations demanding that the operator lower tolls. We have no power to demand that a private operator lower their fees. If we look at the facts that we heard during the inquiry, we heard that the operator had incurred substantial debt when they bought the tolling rights during the term of the Newman government. An article from 2014 in the *Australian Financial Review* which I will table states—

The Queensland government has sold more than \$10 billion of assets since elected in 2012, despite claiming it would wait for a privatisation mandated at next year's election.

That is just to clear up a bit of asset sales talk that goes on from those opposite. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Media article from the *Australian Financial Review*, dated 14 October 2014, titled 'Despite assurances, Queensland on asset selloff binge' [[1919](#)].

In my case, I have never been happy with any government asset sale, but the rhetoric that comes from those opposite is sometimes a bit overwhelming.

The loans that the company took out were based on rates of return and maintenance costs, and the tolling fee rates were set during the term of the Newman government. Because of this, our committee agreed that, if a government were to intervene in the business decisions of a private operator by asking them to lower tolls, the effect could be that we as a government would have to subsidise tolls for commuters, which would remove transport funding from the rest of the state for the benefit of South-East Queensland commuters. I do not think the regional MPs on the committee or any regional members in this place would be really happy about that. The other effect could be that the operator would not remain viable due to lower revenue and potentially close up, and that is not something we want to see.


There was a school of thought out there that, if the operator reduced toll rates, they would get more custom and more money. I must admit I was of that opinion before the inquiry. However, during the inquiry we looked at the operator's modelling and lots of things, and the operator showed us that that would not work as thought. Our recommendations, therefore, were around improving systems to make it easier for customers to pay their tolls, to be notified of tolling debts and to have access to a more streamlined complaints procedure.

These tolls do go towards maintenance and improvements. We heard from Transurban that, since purchasing Queensland Motorways in 2014 during the Newman term, Transurban Queensland has invested almost \$580 million to progress two upgrade projects—the Logan enhancement project and the Inner City Bypass upgrade—without the need for a government contribution.

We heard stories of customers who had some tolling debts with the State Penalties Enforcement Registry, fondly known as SPER, while other debts were with a debt collector and some were still with the operator. This caused confusion and we made a recommendation in relation to that. We were informed that, when a debt is handed to SPER, the operator forgoes all that debt and consequently it is not in their interest to refer to SPER as they lose that revenue. Our recommendation 5 seeks to ask the government and the operator to work towards fixing those issues. Finally, they basically said that

there is a choice for commuters: pay a toll and get a smooth, quicker transit with the security of camera monitoring, or travel the ground roads at no cost. The evidence showed us that because there is a financial impost the toll roads do remain clearer.

I would like to thank our committee and secretariat staff as we worked collaboratively on this report. I was quite surprised to see the statement of reservation come through. I think it was written by someone who did not go through the process with us. It showed little understanding of the evidence we reported on. I know that our excellent deputy chair would not have written it, although his name was there. I think he might have been a bit embarrassed by it because he is excellent and we work together well. I think it was a great result.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (3.52 pm): I too rise to make a brief contribution on the inquiry into the operations of toll roads in Queensland as the shadow minister. I will state from the outset that I too was very disappointed with the overall outcome and the actual findings. I absolutely stand by the statement of reservation, and I will articulate some of the reasons why in my contribution.

There was absolutely no surprise when we read the capex statements in the last couple of budgets that have been presented. There is the evidence; it is pretty straightforward. The Labor government has struggled—in fact, struggled supremely—to find the funding required to source infrastructure for this fast-growing state, particularly the South-East Queensland corner. As a consequence, urban congestion in particular is a major problem. I would challenge anyone in this chamber to counter that argument. It is becoming chock-a-block in South-East Queensland when it comes to transport on the roads, and this obviously results in a substantial economic loss.


Under our plan on this side of the chamber, congestion is probably our No. 1 priority to try to fix. We have identified that the greater use of toll roads could form part of an overall network solution—not be a complete solution—where better alignment of demand with the existing toll capacity would have a material effect on overall traffic volumes. Effectively, what we were looking to do was to sweat the asset on a balance sheet. At the end of the day, I too can play the game of ‘who sold what’, and I may indeed come back to that, but the rationale for calling for this toll road inquiry was to indeed try to sweat that asset better on behalf of not the government and not the opposition but the good burghers of Queensland to try to get better efficiency through that particular system.

There was another issue as well. We were also concerned about the overall level of customer complaints that the monopoly toll road operator was experiencing. We found out that Queensland had by far the highest number of complaints in the nation. With toll roads being a valuable yet underutilised piece of infrastructure, the LNP indeed called for, and had a compelling case for, an inquiry to look into toll roads in this state. I am very pleased that the government supported our call for that. I will make a call-out to the committee chair. I attended the first of the public open sessions. I have said this in the past, but I think the member chairs a well-run committee meeting. I also pay my respect to the members on my side of the chamber—the members for Callide and Hervey Bay—who contributed towards the work.

The Transport and Public Works Committee undertook the inquiry, which involved public hearings and an examination of 199 submissions. Many individuals and organisations contributed to the inquiry by bringing to light their concerns about the toll roads as well as providing very useful suggestions for the committee to consider. On 13 September this year the Transport and Public Works Committee tabled its report which included, as has been said by the previous speaker, five recommendations designed to address the issues identified by the inquiry.

I think it is fair to say that the report’s recommendations do go some way to offering a potential solution for certain issues such as monitoring technological advances with a view to reducing fees and charges, introducing better customer complaint resolution measures and establishing a Queensland based toll road ombudsman. All of these are supported by the LNP. It was quite extraordinary that on the day I was at the toll road inquiry we heard, amongst many things, that the ombudsman was actually based somewhere in Victoria. I believe it was established that it was a facsimile machine based in a post office in Hawthorn, Victoria. That is absolutely outrageous.

Given the fact that I have limited time, I will say that the reality is that the recommendations fell well short of what was required to deliver a better deal for motorists and help take the pressure off the rest of the network. In view of these shortcomings, the LNP members of the committee did indeed submit a statement of reservation, which amongst other things did not accept the toll operator’s position that there is no discretion to provide incentives for motorists to encourage greater use of these facilities. We absolutely urge the government to continue to work with Transurban and other stakeholders to again try and sweat this very valuable asset in order to bust congestion.

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (3.58 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the toll roads inquiry undertaken by the Transport and Public Works Committee. I take the opportunity to acknowledge my fellow committee members and once again thank the committee secretariat for their work preparing our papers and reports. The committee made five recommendations which are stated in the report.

There are some points I would like to raise in relation to toll roads. The tolling of roads was originally put in place by governments to recover the cost of infrastructure and, in this case, motorways. The Labor government sold Queensland Motorways in 2011 for \$3 billion—for the information of the member for Kurwongbah. Transurban has since invested in further road infrastructure to the tune of approximately \$8 billion. The government has now recovered that original cost by selling the asset.

Transurban is a publicly listed company and has an obligation to return a profit to shareholders. The government sets the maximum toll road fee payable. Given this, it is unlikely that Transurban will charge users less due to its obligations to shareholders. Transurban is also responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of toll roads. The toll road system works well for the vast majority of users. The problems lie with people who will not pay, cannot pay or have a dispute of some kind.

Ongoing administration fees are the major factor in accumulating a large toll debt. With regard to toll debt, if Transurban hands debt recovery to the government—in this case SPER—it effectively writes off that debt. All debt then recovered by SPER goes to the government, to general revenue. Transurban could offer user packages—the more people use it, the less they pay—to encourage greater use and, therefore, earn more money. This is outlined in our statement of reservation at the end of the report.

The toll road ombudsman based in Melbourne needs to be disbanded in favour of a Queensland based ombudsman to resolve disputes. Customer service phone and email numbers could be further advertised and made easily accessible so people can have better one-on-one experiences in resolving issues and accessing information. This is also outlined in our statement of reservation. I would again point out that the Labor government sold this state owned asset when the honourable Premier was the then transport minister.

In closing, I would like to take the opportunity to make a comment on my observations as a first-year parliamentarian. It has been a learning curve for me. One thing that has struck me that I continually hear from those opposite is consternation about the LNP selling state assets. This is not the case. The fact is Labor governments have continually sold state assets, including Queensland Motorways. I would like to table a document listing those sales for the information of the House.


*Tabled paper:* Poster, undated, titled 'The Truth about who sold Queensland's Assets' [[1920](#)].

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (4.01 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Mr Deputy Speaker, I wish to draw your attention to comments made about me by the member for Maiwar yesterday during debate on the Mineral and Energy Resources (Financial Provisioning) Bill. During the member's contribution he said—

Months ago I had made inquiries with the Minister for Environment about how many voids there are in Queensland as a consequence of past and current mining operations. Surely having this information to hand is essential for us as legislators when we are considering changes like those proposed in the bill. Minister Enoch replied to me advising that she would not and could not provide this information even after the bill had been introduced. Just today we find out, based on independent analysis, that 218 final voids will be unaffected by this reform.

These comments were incorrect and I am concerned that the member has deliberately misled the House. On Tuesday, 6 March 2018 the member lodged question on notice No. 83 in which he requested to know the number of final voids that have been approved as part of final landforms for coalmining activities. My tabled response to that question clearly states that 'approximately 218 final voids are approved as part of final landforms'.


I am concerned that the member for Maiwar has deliberately misled the House in saying that I would not and could not provide the information, given that my answer to his question on notice clearly responded to his question. I will be writing to the Speaker about this issue.

## LAND, EXPLOSIVES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3625, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.03 pm), continuing: As I was saying previously, when the committee travelled north to listen to submitters on this particular bill we heard from the traditional owners, particularly Mr Ross from the Olkola people, about the businesses they are conducting on the land that will be transferred to them. It was quite enlightening to hear about the tourism business that is based on the land there and also the carbon farming business. He emphasised that if mining or mining exploration takes place on these sensitive parcels of land it can be disruptive. The tourism operations are based on the golden-shouldered parrot. It is an endangered species, an iconic species, and many people travel there to see them. Some of the areas he talked about were dreaming sites—sites associated with the creation stories, the kangaroo rat and the golden-shouldered parrot. It is very important that these lands with high cultural values are protected.

With mining exploration comes more roads, bringing people onto the land. People in four-wheel drives come onto the land shooting, camping, leaving their rubbish around and disturbing the birds as well, which is quite disruptive to their business. One of the issues was ensuring that the prohibition on mining on the land that is returned to them continues. That is one of the reasons we have been asked by many corporations about the possibility of keeping some mining prohibitions, and that is being addressed through the minister.

One of the other issues we faced in this particular bill that was talked about at great length was the process of land transfer. Until now when land is transferred to an Aboriginal landholding entity the corporations had to set up another corporation, essentially another body of office holders, even if the land that was coming under their jurisdiction was attached to a lot next to them. As I said before, that can be quite onerous; there is a lot of bureaucracy in that. It makes sense that if there is a body that can hold the land and title there, it should go to them. There was some concern, clearly. Some bodies had concerns about that land being transferred to a body they did not feel comfortable with. It was very clear from the briefings we had that there was enough oversight to meet the concerns of these particular office holders.

There is a three-level process to ensure oversight. Firstly, in relation to the land to be transferred, the minister must be satisfied that there are no other interests in that land and that it can be transferrable state land. Secondly, a process of public consultation must be conducted. Thirdly, there is an anthropological authentication which involves Commonwealth processes as well. Hearing all of those things gave us confidence that there are enough oversights in the bill to ensure that land that is transferred goes to an appropriate body. At the end of the day that meant we were satisfied with what the bill was proposing with regard to the transfer of Aboriginal land.

We had a couple of other issues, and I will quickly touch on those. For example, once this bill is passed a modern compliance regime will be attached to the department whereby officers can stop or remove vehicles or motorbikes causing nuisance or damage on state land. The departmental officers will be able to deal with inappropriate structures on state land, for example, retaining walls or abandoned buildings that have asbestos. Another excellent part of this bill provides for marine leases to be turned into rolling or perpetual leases if they are supporting infrastructure on island resorts such as a pier or a jetty—very important pieces of infrastructure.


We have touched on the electronic conveyancing reforms we are seeing. We started the move to electronic conveyancing in 1994 and the provisions in this bill continue those reforms to make it quicker, easier and more accurate when title is being transferred.

I have talked about the improvements to Indigenous housing we will see. I thank the member for Burdekin for his concerns. However, if we are concerned about this, we really need everyone on board to talk to the federal government about supporting the national partnership on remote housing. We all need to go down to Canberra and make sure our voices are heard. We need to make sure the federal government is hearing what needs to be done in this area. I invite the LNP to jump on that bandwagon as well.

One of the other things we have touched on is the explosive part—literally—of this bill. It is quite gratifying to see that we are implementing one of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations, probably one of the last ones to be done. That means a person who has been convicted of a domestic violence offence cannot hold an explosives licence. That is really gratifying to see as well.

Finally, in the case of abandoned operating plants on state mining leases, the state will now be authorised to remove that particular plant. This happened in the case of Linc Energy where the liquidators abandoned title to all equipment on those leases.

We have a range of measures that will help us better regulate and manage state land. This bill will also help Indigenous communities with housing issues on the cape achieve better outcomes in relation to their land. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. The Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 was introduced into the House on 15 February 2018 with a committee reporting date of 9 April 2018—six months ago. This bill was referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee of the 55th Parliament on 10 October 2017. The committee was unable to complete its inquiry on the 2017 bill, as on 28 October the Premier announced that the Queensland election was to be held on 25 November and parliament was dissolved.

Prior to parliament being dissolved the committee did call for submissions—three submissions were received—and held a public briefing by the then department of natural resources and mines. The current committee reopened submissions. Eleven were received, and a public briefing was held with the department in Brisbane. Given the evidence that was received by the inquiry, the committee wrote to the Committee of the Legislative Assembly and sought an extension to the inquiry reporting date. The CLA resolved that the committee report on the bill on 19 April 2018. This was due to the large number of amendments in this very broad-ranging omnibus bill.

After reading the submissions and the departmental briefing, all members of the committee realised the sensitivities surrounding the amendments which would affect the traditional owners in the far north of the state. Although the explanatory notes advise that consultation took place in relation to the amendments, some submitters expressed concern that there was insufficient consultation. The Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation submitted that they were not satisfactorily consulted and that the consultation which did take place focused on organisations such as the Cape York Land Council instead. The CAC submitted—

Again, with the current call for submissions, only 12 days were allowed, which is completely inadequate. Further, the invitation to make submissions was not widely communicated, and we only heard of the bill by word-of-mouth. We know of a number of other Indigenous organisations on Cape York who are in a similar situation.

It is disappointing that this bill was allowed such a short reporting time frame given that it has remained on the table since 19 April. The Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy advised in his introductory speech—

This will provide flexibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owner groups to nominate an existing registered native title body corporate to be grantee of land which is not subject to a native title determination provided the land is adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, a relevant native title determination area and the traditional owner groups are the same or similar.

The amendments seek to enhance opportunities for home ownership by Indigenous persons by providing an option to set a price for social housing via an agreement between a trustee and the state. Clause 8 amendments would allow the minister to appoint a corporation, such as the registered native title body corporate, as the grantee of land that does not hold native title and where the minister is satisfied that it is appropriate to do so. In circumstances where no native title determination has been made, the explanatory notes state—

... an Indigenous Land Use Agreement (ILUA) is made with the people claiming to hold native title and goes through a more extensive notification and objection period prior to the National Native Title Tribunal registering the ILUA to ensure that the right people have had an opportunity to comment on the agreement.

The onus is placed on the parties seeking a grant to the registered native title body corporate to provide evidence that it is appropriate that the grant be made. Mr Burns from the Cape York Land Council said—

The proposed amendment allows land outside of that determined area, which is still within the traditional boundaries of the people on the registered native title body corporate, for that land to be transferred to Aboriginal freehold and held and managed by the registered native title body corporate in its capacity as a land trust.

The committee sought clarification as to why areas of land were excluded or left out of native title claims and therefore the determined area. The committee was informed of the following—

The issue has arisen sometimes because the claims have followed property boundaries, or local government boundaries; they have not followed traditional boundaries.

In their submission to the committee the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation, based within the Mangkkuma Land Trust, also expressed concern that granting land to a registered native title body corporate would be at the expense of traditional custodians. The committee acknowledged the concerns expressed; however, it is satisfied with the department's response, which states—

The act provides that the trustee must apply for the land to be transferred. Where there is an existing land trust and they hold land, the only way that land could go on to a registered native title body corporate is if that land trust applied for that to occur. The state cannot come in and say, 'We want that to go there' and the registered native title body corporate cannot ask for it. The act is quite specific that it is the trustee who applies.

The changes are simply about reducing regulatory burden for Native Title groups by removing the requirement for them to establish new corporations to handle additional parcels of land.

This was supported by submitters, as the cost of building in remote areas is quite high and can mean that prices are greater than what they should realistically be.

Clause 19 inserts a new section 27A into the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act providing for the prohibition and dealing with applications for the granting of mining interests over specific land parcels of protected land. The protected land is Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, with the prohibition relating to two land parcels held by the Shelburne Bay Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate and one parcel held by the Bromley Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate.

The Olkola Aboriginal Corporation and the Batavia Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation both submitted that land parcels under their management should be included under the act due to cultural and environmental concerns. The committee recommends that the minister consider the request of these organisations and a possible formal mechanism or process that allows Aboriginal corporations to nominate Aboriginal land at the request of the traditional owners.

The bill amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act by introducing a framework to deal with abandoned gas and petroleum sites. These remediation activities include: capping a wellhead; maintaining an abandoned operating plant operation plant; decommissioning an abandoned operation plant; repairing erosion; and cleaning up pollution. At the committee's public briefing the department advised that the disclaiming of gas and petroleum sites by Linc Energy created the need to introduce a similar framework to that which currently exists for abandoned mines under the Mineral Resources Act.


The bill proposes to amend the Explosives Act 1999 to regulate the manufacture, sale, handling, storage, transportation and use of explosives in Queensland and provides for the safety of people and property resulting from the misuse of explosives. Whilst there has been some concern that this will unfairly impact legitimate licence holders and retailers, the department was asked about this during the hearings. The department stated—

Assuming you have a weapons licence, obviously you are entitled to have all of those ingredients that we are talking about. There is no impost on that particular use of propellant powders if you load your own ammunition associated with security.

There are exemptions in various parts of the act, in the schedules, that allow people who have a legitimate need, such as a weapons licence or a shotfirer licence, to go about their business without excessive burden.

There are a lot of other aspects to this bill, but I do not have time to go through all of them. We will support the legislation.

Before I finish, I would like to thank Jacqui Dewar, our research director, Natasha, Gregory and all those who have assisted throughout the year. I would like to wish Margaret all the best in her retirement. Thank you for looking after us! I would also like to acknowledge the member for Buderim and the member for Burdekin for their first year assisting me as deputy chair. They have both done very well and I am proud of them. All the best to everyone for the coming year!

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.19 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. This bill was introduced to the parliament on 15 February 2018 by the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. He nominated the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

I begin by thanking my fellow members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: the chair and member for Bancroft, Chris Whiting; the deputy chair and member for Condamine, Pat Weir; the member for Mount Ommaney, Jessica Pugh; the member for Bundaberg, David Batt; and the member for Buderim, Brent Mickelberg. We have fun. They are a good group of people to knock about with. I am very pleased to have meetings and to travel



with them—particularly when I celebrate my 60th birthday in Cairns and they provide me with good cheer! I also thank the committee secretariat. As the member for Condamine said, they are a wonderful hardworking group. Hansard cannot go unmentioned. They do a great job. I also thank the submitters to this inquiry.

The committee tabled its report in April 2018. The report represents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill. The committee's task was to consider the policy to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles—that is, to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee was aided in this undertaking by the work of our predecessor committee—the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee of the 55th Parliament—which considered an early version of the bill.

The scope of this omnibus bill is very broad. The committee acknowledges that such bills are vehicles to allow minor technical amendments to multiple bills to be considered and managed in an efficient manner. Some aspects of the bill required particular attention. The committee required additional time to examine the proposed amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 and the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007. The committee held regional hearings in Cairns and greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk with stakeholders from Cape York Peninsula.

In its report the committee made three recommendations. Firstly, the committee recommended that the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 be passed. Secondly, the committee recommended that the minister provide advice in his second reading speech as to the request by the Olkola Aboriginal Corporation, the Batavia Traditional Owners Aboriginal Corporation and the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation to have additional parcels of land included in proposed new section 27A of the bill as protected land. To facilitate this, the committee suggested a possible mechanism or process that allows Aboriginal corporations to nominate Aboriginal land, at the request of the traditional owners, for protection from mining interests. Thirdly, the committee recommended that the minister in his second reading speech respond to the matters identified in the report in relation to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, clauses 265, 270 and 286 on the issue of onus of proof; and the Explosives Act 1999, clauses 57, 58, 63, 64 and 203 on the issue of protection against self-incrimination.

The policy objectives of the bill are to streamline and ensure the effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks within the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio; enhance worker and community safety and security in the explosives and gas sectors; and support the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values of Cape York Peninsula.

The bill amends the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to enhance Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's ability to access and utilise their land by reducing compliance and administrative burden on Indigenous communities in the granting of land. It also includes amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act to ensure that existing arrangements are retained on the Shelburne and Bromley properties, which are held as Aboriginal freehold land.

The explanatory notes state that the Cape York Land Council and Queensland South Native Title Services were consulted and supported the amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act and Torres Strait Islander Land Act providing for the grant of land to a registered native title body corporate. Aboriginal shire councils were consulted and offered no objections.

The amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 were 'actively pursued' by the traditional owners of Shelburne and Bromley properties, the conservation sector, Cape York Land Council Aboriginal Corporation and Balkanu Cape York Development Corporation. However, although the explanatory notes advise that consultation took place in relation to these amendments, some submitters expressed concern that they were not sufficiently consulted. The Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation submitted that it was not sufficiently consulted and that the consultation that did take place focused on organisations such as the Cape York Land Council.

In the preparation of its report the committee paid particular attention to consultation with stakeholders and it required additional time to examine the proposed amendments to the Aboriginal Land Act, the Torres Strait Islander Land Act and the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007. The committee held a regional hearing in Cairns and greatly appreciated the opportunity to meet and talk with stakeholders from right across Cape York Peninsula.

As well as the native title amendments, the bill also makes amendments to the Explosives Act 1999 and the Explosives Regulation 2017 to align with the national harmonisation process and place Queensland at the forefront for influencing the process going forward. The provisions of the bill will also improve community safety by strengthening safety and security provisions for explosives. As well, the bill amends explosives legislation to reflect the Queensland government's *Not now, not ever* policy by prohibiting persons subject to domestic violence orders from holding an explosives licence.

The bill also makes amendments to improve the administration of the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988. As well, the bill amends the Land Title Act 1994 to enhance titling legislation to achieve operational improvements which will streamline and clarify titling processes and allow for the contemporary conveyancing environment by further facilitating electronic conveyancing.

The bill amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to improve its efficiency and responds to matters raised by the industry and government stakeholders. The bill also amends the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014 to rectify minor and technical issues identified in the framework.

I again thank my fellow committee members, the committee secretariat, Hansard and the submitters for their wonderful contributions to the report prepared by the committee. I also thank Margaret for her excellent service in looking after this motley crew in the chamber. I acknowledge all of the attendants. I think we can all agree that they do a wonderful job and we greatly appreciate them. I wish all of my fellow parliamentarians a wonderful Christmas. I look forward to catching up with them all in the new year.

In conclusion, I commend the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 to the House.



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.28 pm): I rise to speak on the Land, Explosives 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, as has been done by other committee members previously, I want to recognise the work of the committee secretariat led by Dr Jacqui Dewar. I also want 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 after being introduced on 15 February this year, so it is with some disappointment that we are only now debating this legislation, particularly given the fact that the government saw fit to only allow eight weeks for scrutiny of the bill after consideration by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly. This is a bill, I might add, that caused considerable angst in some of the Indigenous communities in Cape York. A longer time frame would have allowed the committee to more fully hear their concerns and investigate alternatives. It is a familiar refrain, however, given the consistent failures of this government in managing the business of running the state.

As mentioned by previous speakers to the bill, this bill is an omnibus bill with the objective of streamlining matters related to Natural Resources and Mines and to enhance worker and community safety in the explosives and gas sectors. The bill also supports the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values in Cape York. One of the most significant concerns raised during the committee hearings was in relation to the powers of entry conferred on public servants which are arguably greater than the powers of entry of police.

This bill is one of nine bills that have been introduced over the past two years which continue the worrying trend of curtailing Queenslanders' property and legal rights. The Queensland Law Society raised significant concerns in relation to the powers that this bill grants on inspectors so that they can enter premises without warrant or consent or a reasonable notice period. While there may be some cases where such powers of entry associated with the regulation of explosives could be justified, the concern expressed on the overreach of this approach is justified.

Through amendments to the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007, this bill also provides for the prohibition and dealing with applications for the grant of mining interests over specific land parcels of protected land. The protected land is Aboriginal land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, with the prohibition relating to two specific parcels of land held in the Shelburne Bay and Bromley areas. Essentially in those areas this bill will mean that a mining interest cannot be applied for or granted. If one has already been granted, it is taken to have been withdrawn and can no longer be dealt with.

Submissions from Indigenous stakeholders were supportive of these provisions and highlighted the importance of the relevant parcels of land from an environmental and cultural heritage perspective. The Queensland Resources Council, however, did not support the amendments, stating—

QRC appreciates that the area specified in the Bill is already a restricted area and has been for many years, and the environmental values of the area are beyond repute. However, as a general principle QRC believes that level of specificity in legislation (i.e. calling out one particular location or locations) is not good practice legislative drafting.

It continued—


Additionally, there are already established and comprehensive existing process to identify significant environmental values and assess development applications. As such, QRC believes that the environmental assessment process in Queensland should be used, if and when an application was to arise over the areas mentioned in several of the submissions. Again, the addition of particular locations into legislation in an ad hoc manner would not be good practice legislation.

The QRC's comments make sense to me and I note that such an approach would be problematic over time as the level of currency in relation to this piece of legislation becomes eroded. Further, I am concerned that this kind of approach may be used to make political problems disappear rather than to deal with issues in a holistic manner and such an approach should be discouraged. This bill provides flexibility for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups to nominate a registered native title body corporate to be grantee of land which is not subject to an existing native title body. The bill also provides greater scope for Indigenous people to achieve home ownership as it allows the government to respond to the unique circumstances that exist in remote Indigenous communities where there is a limited or no active housing market.

Concerns in relation to the arrangements concerning the granting of land to registered native title bodies corporate were expressed by stakeholders in public hearings during the short consultation period. These concerns highlighted the potential for weaker groups such as non-registered native title body corporate entities to be disadvantaged in relation to this process compared to larger groups across the state. An example of this was outlined at the Cairns public hearing where concerns were expressed about a situation that could see land owned by one community granted to its associated registered native title body corporate without appropriate consideration while other groups may have a legitimate but not yet tested native title claim over the same land. I understand the intent of the bill is to reduce the regulatory burden for native title groups. However, I still hold concerns that these amendments contained within the legislation could be applied in such a manner that results in disadvantage to certain groups.

The last area that I want to address in my contribution today is in relation to the amendments to the Explosives Act. While not at the forefront of every Queenslanders' mind, explosives are an important tool utilised in a number of different industries across the state. The most obvious use is within the mining industry, where approximately one million tonnes of explosives are consumed every year. The bill seeks to regulate the manufacture, sale, handling, storage and, importantly, the transportation of explosives in Queensland. It is clear that robust procedures need to be in place to ensure the safety of Queenslanders while providing ready access for those entities and individuals that have a genuine requirement for the use of explosives. Concerns have been expressed by some stakeholders in relation to the potential cost imposition which would likely result as a consequence of the increased regulatory burden introduced with this bill.

I note that the LNP will not be opposing the bill, but I call on the government to deal with legislation like this in a more timely fashion rather than let matters sit for months and, in some cases, years at a time. Surely with the resources of 224 staff, the government can manage the business of this House and the legislative agenda in a more timely fashion. Before I conclude I want to thank my fellow committee members for working constructively and in a relatively bipartisan manner across the year. It has been a pleasure to work with them on controversial matters including the vegetation management legislation and I look forward to doing so in the future.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.36 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I will be speaking specifically to the aspects of the legislation that meet the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. The Explosives Act regulates the safe handling of explosives in Queensland and this includes possessing, manufacturing, selling, storing, transporting and of course using explosives. The definition of 'explosives' includes blasting explosives, fireworks, ammunition and marine safety flares. As it stands, the Explosives Act does not contain adequate protection for security related matters and the legislation seeks to remedy that. Unsecured explosives and inadequate security practices have the potential to impact community and

workplace safety. In Queensland, duties and obligations relating to the security of explosives are applied through conditions of licences and policies. This is not sufficient to ensure enforcement, compliance and safety or to deter misuse.

I have been advised that Queensland is participating in a process to develop nationally consistent explosives legislation which will include a significant focus on security of explosives. This bill amends the Explosives Act 1999 and the Explosives Regulation 2017 to align with the national harmonisation process and place Queensland at the front of the pack to lead the process going forward. It is essential that Queensland's explosives legislation is kept up to date with contemporary safety and security standards and meets both community and industry expectations. We know that community expectations are changing, so the amendments proposed in this bill achieve that. The bill improves community safety by strengthening safety and security provisions for explosives, including by requiring a security sensitive explosives plan to identify security risks and adopt processes to manage these risks.

It also improves community safety by requiring all people who have access to certain types of security-sensitive explosives to hold a security clearance. This ensures that access to high-risk explosives is further restricted in line with community and industry expectations. In addition, the bill includes amendments to prohibit a person who is the subject of a domestic violence order from holding a security clearance, or explosives authority, or licence. This change contributes to the Queensland government's strategy to end domestic violence and family violence in Queensland through its *Not now, not ever* report. I note the bipartisan support for that wonderful report.

Applications for a security clearance are proposed to be made to the chief inspector, who decides if the clearance will be granted or refused. Previously, applications were undertaken by employers and each time a person moved between employers, a new security check was undertaken. As members can see, there was a lot of room for error in that space if people could simply move between employers and every time the licence would need to be rechecked. Of course, this amendment will mean that one body will check them and it will be easy to determine if the person making the application has that relevant licence.

An explosives security access card—an ESAC—will be introduced to ensure that only people who are security cleared have unsupervised access to explosives. The chief inspector will consider criminal history, including domestic violence orders, other police protection notices, or release conditions. If there is a current domestic violence order, or a current police protection notice, or a release condition—if they are in effect—the security clearance will be refused.

The amendments clarify current practice and align with explosives legislation in other states and territories and Queensland legislation, such as the Weapons Act 1990 and the Security Providers Act 1993. A person who is subject to a domestic violence order will not be granted an explosives licence. A current licence holder will have the licence immediately suspended for the term of the order. This is really important. It is absolutely vital that we close this loophole. We simply cannot have members of the community with these kinds of charges on their record having access to explosives.

The term of any order is determined by a court. The government will rely on the court and the information that it has presented to it to determine the duration of any order. It is really important to note the importance of having the chief inspector overseeing the entire process when it is a procedure that is undertaken by an independent third party. It is not being undertaken by an employer; it is being undertaken by that third party. That means that we have oversight, some independence and some real rigour around the process. We know that, as a government, victims of domestic violence need every protection that we can afford them. I am sure all members of the House would agree with me on that.

The amendments in this bill are absolutely crucial to ensuring safer workplaces and communities. I know that all of us in this chamber are here to achieve that. I also want to note that each and every one of us has a responsibility to call out family and the domestic violence as we see it, or as we suspect it.

In joining a committee that deals with agriculture, space, mining, energy, development, natural resources—just to name a few things—I never thought that I would have the opportunity to implement a recommendation—

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** Just to name a few things, member for Buderim—of the *Not now, not ever* report. The committee that I am a member of has such wideranging responsibilities and interests, including the wonderful opportunity to play its part in stamping out domestic violence.

While I am touching on the *Not now, not ever* report, I would like to commend the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence on the complementary campaign that the government has run this year—the ‘Do something about domestic and family violence’ Bystander campaign—that is centred on people intervening when they see domestic violence. In my humble opinion, this campaign was an absolute game changer in terms of government campaigns to stamp out domestic violence. It brought domestic violence out of the shadows and into the glaring ugly light of day where it belongs so that it can be stamped out once and for all.

I would also like to take the time remaining to me to say some thank-yous. As I said earlier, this year the committee has looked into a wideranging set of issues. I have had the pleasure of being the only female—and I know the member for Buderim hates it when I point that out—on this committee. I have had some very interesting road trips this year with—


**Mr Mickelberg:** We looked after you.

**Ms PUGH:** Yes, member for Buderim, you did indeed look after me. There were some very interesting late-night flights. I thank the member for Bundaberg for lending me a phone charger when I have needed it. As a committee, this year we have done a lot of travel for some really important issues. I have had a very enjoyable time travelling as part of the committee and I have learned a lot of things.

**Mr Mickelberg:** Chickens.

**Ms PUGH:** Yes, the chickens were certainly a highlight for me. I have learned a lot this year. I have learned from each and every member of the committee. I have certainly learned from the ministers. I have also relished the opportunity to be able to learn from so many wonderful witnesses as well. This year, the committee has heard from hundreds of witnesses on issues such as fisheries and land clearing. Our nation’s First People have come to speak with us. I think the member for Buderim would agree that we have also heard from some great environmental groups. In our year as a committee, we have seen the full spectrum of Queensland. We really are lucky to have been able to speak to those people.

I want to thank our super fantastic secretariat. I simply do not know how they kept up with the workload this year. Jacqui and her team did a wonderful job. Finally, I would like to thank the people of Mount Ommaney for giving me the opportunity to do all of this fantastic work.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (4.46 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Land, Explosives 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, as the other members of the committee have, I would like to thank the secretariat staff, especially Jacqui Dewar, the Hansard staff, as well as my fellow committee members. As members have heard, the committee travelled to Cairns for a regional hearing. Mr Deputy Speaker, you were a part of that. It takes quite a bit of work to hold those regional hearings. It was also good to be able to share a birthday celebration with the member for Ipswich West.

Consultation on this bill was undertaken with native title representative bodies and Indigenous local governments as they were the organisations that are most likely to be impacted by the proposed changes to the legislation. During the committee’s examination of this bill, the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy was also consulted. There were 11 submissions to the bill and I thank all of those submitters for taking the time to make those submissions. The majority of those submissions were generally supportive of the bill and its intentions.

Submitters raised some concerns, which have been addressed, and various recommendations have also been made. There were noteworthy submissions from the Australian Explosives Industry and Safety Group, the Queensland Resources Council, the Queensland Law Society, the Cape York Land Council, the Queensland Farmers’ Federation, AgForce Queensland and the Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation.

The bill has two key policy objectives: to streamline key regulations within the Natural Resources, Mines and Energy portfolio, enhance worker and community safety and security in the explosives and gas sections and to support the protection and cooperative management of the cultural and natural values of Cape York Peninsula. In order to achieve those objectives, the bill will amend the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Land Act 1991 to provide the option of granting land to a registered native title body corporate outside their determined native title area and to allow the setting by agreement of sale prices for social housing on Indigenous land. We heard from people in those communities that that will be well accepted.

The bill will improve security, safety and transportation requirements under the Explosives Act 1999. The bill will also amend the definitions of who meets the criteria for notifying the state under the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 so that those definitions are consistent with other state legislation. It addresses minor issues associated with the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. It amends the Petroleum and Gas Act 2004 to resolve operational deficiencies, streamline regulatory requirements and make the overall gas safety legislation more modern.

The bill will introduce a framework to manage abandoned operating plant, protect the cultural and natural values of the Shelburne and Bromley properties on Cape York Peninsula and, finally, enable the state to deal with buildings and other structures on state land that pose a risk to public safety or are inappropriate or unwanted. The amendments also enable the state to recover any removal and remedy costs if necessary.

The bill enhances opportunities for Indigenous people to achieve home ownership by providing an option to set a price for social housing by agreement between trustees and the government. This allows the state and trustees to respond to unique circumstances in discrete communities and to recognise existing interests in property. The amendments will also allow for adjustments to be made in communities when there is limited or no active housing sales markets.


The committee noted concerns among some non-registered native title body corporate groups who claimed that they would be disadvantaged in further negotiations in regard to the granting of land with shared boundaries, however the committee is satisfied with the department's response that there are existing mechanisms in place to ensure appropriate consultation in granting the lands. It was good to hear firsthand from those affected about what their issues were.

Additionally, the bill inserts a new section in the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 that provides for the prohibition and dealing with applications for the grant of mining interests over specific land parcels of protected land. The protected land is Aboriginal freehold land under the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 with the exclusion relating to two land parcels. These parcels are Shelburne Bay, the Wuthathi Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate and the Bromley Aboriginal Corporation Registered Native Title Body Corporate. There were requests to have two additional land parcels included in the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act 2007 as protected land and significant reasons to support their claim for inclusion. The committee recommended that the minister consider the request of these organisations and a possible formal mechanism or process that allows Aboriginal corporations to nominate Aboriginal lands at the request of the traditional owners for protection from mining interests. The committee recommended the minister provide advice on these matters in his second reading speech, which I believe the minister has done.

The bill also regulates the manufacture, sale, handling, storage, transportation and use of explosives in Queensland and provides for the safety of persons and property from misuse of explosives. It also provides compliance powers to stop inappropriate behaviour on state land where the department has direct land management responsibilities. The powers seek to stop inappropriate behaviour from motorbikes and vehicles causing destruction not only to state land but also causing nuisance to properties which border state land. The committee noted the concerns of the QLS regarding the entry powers for authorised officers. Extending entry powers without warrant appears to have been a constant theme for this government this year. The LNP will continue to fight against it.

The bill also introduces a framework to deal with abandoned gas and petroleum sites. This section also provides an authorised activity can be any other thing prescribed by regulation that is or was an operating plant. The Queensland Farmers' Federation submitted it was essential that landholders were not left to carry out remediation activities. In response to this concern, the department confirmed that the state is responsible for carrying out remediation activity not limited to the decommissioning of an abandoned operating plant. The committee considered the framework established does provide a comprehensive response to all abandoned mining sites in Queensland. All concerns have been addressed and therefore we will be supporting the passing of the bill.

Being the last few minutes before we break for Christmas, it having been my first year as an MP and my first time on a committee, I would like to thank committee members from both sides of the House. I think we have worked collaboratively as much as we can on several bills that have gone through. Hopefully everyone has a good Christmas break and we will see everybody in this House again in February.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.54 pm): I rise in support of the omnibus bill, the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. I congratulate the committee on such a fine report. It is good work. I congratulate the member for Bancroft, the chair of the committee; the deputy

chair, the member for Condamine; the member for Bundaberg—it sounded like he had a great time on the committee throughout the first year; the member for Ipswich West, who does fine work all the time; the member for Buderim, who does fine work interjecting during question time; and I congratulate the member for Mount Ommaney on her fine work as well.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! A little bit of quiet in the House, please.

**Mr BROWN:** I was trying to listen to some of the tips on filibustering. Thank you for your protection, Mr Deputy Speaker.

The policy objectives of the bill in the explanatory notes are to streamline and ensure the effectiveness of key regulatory frameworks within the natural resources and mines portfolio, enhance worker and community safety and security in the explosives and gas sectors and support the protection and cooperative management of cultural and natural values of Cape York Peninsula.

The specific objectives of the bill include amending the Aboriginal Land Act 1991 and the Torres Strait Islander Act 1991 to provide power to the minister to grant land to a registered native title body corporate outside of their determined native title area and to allow the trustee and the CEO of the Department of Housing and Public Works to set, by agreement, a sale price for social housing on Indigenous land. The bill also protects the cultural and natural values of the Shelburne and Bromley properties on Cape York Peninsula and improves security, safety and transportation requirements under the Explosives Act 1999. The bill amends the definitions of who meets the criteria for notifying the state under the Foreign Ownership of Land Register Act 1988 so that those definitions are consistent with other state legislation such as the Duties Act 2001.

The bill provides for contemporary compliance powers in the Land Act 1994. It further enhances rolling term lease provisions on regulated islands by enabling marine term leases to become rolling term leases where they are tied by covenant to, and provide infrastructure which supports a rolling term, or perpetual, tourism lease.

The bill amends the Land Title Act 1994 to eliminate the need for remaining duplicate paper certificates of title and facilitates the take-up of online conveyancing. The bill also enables the state to deal with buildings and other structures on state land that pose a risk to public safety or that are otherwise inappropriate or unwanted. These amendments also enable the state to recover any removal and remediation costs if necessary.

The bill addresses the minor issues associated with the overlapping tenure framework for coal and coal seam gas. It amends the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 to resolve operational deficiencies in the act. It streamlines the regulatory requirement to make the overall gas safety legislation more contemporary, to clarify and improve the operational safety for workers in the gas sector and the users of gas plant and appliances by: revising safety reporting requirements for operating plants, so that they are real time and support effective gas safety regulation; confirming an operator of operating plant can be a corporation or an individual; establishing a transparent process for appointing approving authorities for gas devices; rationalising safety requirements for all fuel gas delivery methods; and aligning other safety provisions with Queensland's mine safety legislation and general workplace laws.

The bill introduces a framework to manage abandoned operating plant and makes minor amendments to correct errors and omissions to the Aboriginal Land Act 1991, the Land Act 1994, the Land Title Act 1994, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Torres Strait Land Act 1991.


I note that the committee made three recommendations, one of which was that the bill be passed. It made a couple of recommendations asking the minister, in his second reading speech, to provide some clarification about land use in regards to Cape York. The committee also recommended that the minister, in his second reading speech, respond to matters identified in the report in relation to the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 and the Explosives Act 1999.

I want to touch in particular on the amendment to the Explosives Act 1999. The bill proposes to amend the Explosives Act to regulate the manufacture, sale, handling, storage, transportation and use of explosives in Queensland to provide for the safety of persons and property from misuse of explosives. I have touched and handled explosives only one time in my life. I still have 10 fingers. I was in my 20s. As you do when you are in your 20s, I went backpacking for three months across South and Central America.

During that time, I went to a place in Bolivia called Potosi, where there is a silver mine. I thought it would be a great idea to do the silver mine tour, although I started to get a bit worried when I had to sign a waiver to go on the tour. On the way to the silver mine, I got kitted out. I was in my wellies and overalls, and I put on a hardhat. They give you only a bandana to put over your mouth before you go into the mine. On the way up—it is at quite a high altitude—you buy supplies as gifts for the miners, so I bought coca leaves, alcohol and cigarettes. You also buy explosives.

When we arrived at the mine, I thought that we would just see the outside of it and maybe the entrance. However, we went right into the middle of the mine itself. There was a point where we had to get down on our hands and knees to get through the crevices. We reached the miners themselves who had pretty primitive tools to chip out the rock to put the explosives in. We gave the miners cigarettes, coca leaves and explosives. We did not return the way we had gone in. Instead, we went into the heart of the mountain where we met El Tio, the devil god of the mountain to whom you had to give supplies to make sure that we got out safely. We gave alcohol, cigarettes and coca leaves to the god to ensure our safety.

I am glad that that is not the process in Queensland. I am glad that we do not have to pay a god for mine safety. We do not have to give gifts to a god. When I got out of that mine I took the best breath of air that I have ever taken in my whole life. Once outside, our reward was to let off explosives, which would break every rule in the act that is in front of us. I am glad that this legislation will make our mines a lot safer. I am glad that we do not have to pray to a mountain devil god to make sure that our mines and explosives are safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (5.04 pm): There may well be a devil god at Capalaba and I think, when it comes to explosives, there is probably one on the Angellala Rail Bridge. I rise to contribute to the debate on the Land, Explosives and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. When this bill first came before the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee, it was a fairly small omnibus bill. Now it has grown into a very large omnibus bill. I think one of the members referred to it earlier as a bit of a dog's breakfast.

The Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee was unable to complete its inquiry into this legislation due to the election and the dissolution of parliament. The latest committee report states that both bills cover substantially the same issues, but I think that is a little debatable. I think the government is being a little sneaky in trying to say that both bills cover the same issues. There is a considerable expansion of the topics covered in this second bill.

Although the explanatory notes advise that consultation took place in relation to the amendments, some submitters expressed concern that they were not sufficiently consulted. The Chuulangun Aboriginal Corporation submitted that they were not sufficiently consulted and that the consultation that did take place focused on organisations such as the Cape York Land Council. The Aboriginal corporation said that the current call for submissions again allowed only 12 days, which was really inadequate. Further, they said that the invitation to make submissions was not widely communicated and that they only heard about the bill by word of mouth. We know that a number of other Indigenous organisations in Cape York are in a similar situation. There is a noticeable lack of consultation and transparency that ignores the Legislative Standards Act 1992.

I was also a member of the families and communities committee and it seems that this Labor government has a very poor track record. It continues to make changes to legislation that directly impact on Indigenous people living in North Queensland, but again and again we see that the government cannot be bothered going and talking to them directly about what it is proposing. That is a very disappointing precedent that we see continuously from this government.

I turn to the specifics of the bill, one of which is about improving security, safety and transportation requirements under the Explosives Act 1999. In my electorate we have had a bit of experience with explosives and, in particular, the transport of explosives. We had the most powerful explosion in Australian transport history.

On the night of 5 September 2014, a road train transporting 52 tonnes of ammonium nitrate crashed next to the Angellala Creek Bridge. That incident destroyed the road bridge and the adjacent rail bridge. The rail bridge is insured by the state government. Over the past four years, I have asked three questions on notice of the Palaszczuk Labor government about this. I have asked this lazy Labor government to complete the insurance claim on the bridge and return those funds to the region. This is about a substantial amount of funds. There would be millions of dollars involved. That money should be returned to the south-west region, but this lazy Labor government has done absolutely nothing. It could not even chase up an insurance claim. The incident happened four years ago.



It is really insulting to hear the Labor government rabbit on about transportation requirements under the Explosives Act, when it cannot even do an insurance claim. It is absolutely disgraceful. A heritage listed rail bridge was destroyed, but absolutely nothing has happened with the insurance claim. Yes, the road bridge has been rebuilt. A lot of work was done by the LNP in government at that time to make sure that that happened. However, there has been absolutely nothing done when it comes to fixing the rail bridge and nothing done in relation to dealing with the insurance claim. There are three questions on notice about this. I have followed through this matter with the previous Palaszczuk government and this Palaszczuk government. They have done absolutely nothing.

Other parts of the bill deal with providing for contemporary compliance powers in the Land Act 1994. The bill amends the Land Act 1994 to provide compliance powers to stop inappropriate behaviour on state land where the department has direct land management responsibilities. This includes powers of entry for authorised officers in providing greater compliance powers in circumstances in which an authorised officer may enter a place pursuant to the Land Act or the Vegetation Management Act.

That this Labor government wants more powers of compliance under the Vegetation Management Act beggars belief. Authorised officers already have more power than police officers under the Vegetation Management Act. Not only that, they also have the eye in the sky. They have a satellite that passes over every 16 days tracking anyone who clears vegetation. It is very disappointing that they want more compliance powers for those authorised officers. Why do they need that amount of power? It is ridiculous. They do not give that power to police officers, but they are very happy to go out and chase farmers when it comes to vegetation management. It is absolutely disgraceful.

The bill also deals with enabling the state to deal with buildings and other structures on state land that pose a risk to public safety or are otherwise inappropriate or unwanted. These amendments also enable the state to recover the removal and remediation costs if necessary.

AgForce has raised some very serious concerns regarding the applicability of repair, removal and remediation of building and structure requirements on rural leases. It probably comes as a bit of a surprise to many members of this House that approximately 70 per cent of the state is leasehold land. A lot of that leasehold land is in my electorate.

It might not sound like a big issue, but this lazy government will frustrate and prevent the freeholding of leasehold land by insisting on taking large tracts of land for stock routes that have not been used for 40 years. Make no mistake, this provision will be used to frustrate and prevent rural leaseholders from freeholding. It will be used to increase the costs on those people who wish to freehold their land. The Labor government has an absolute distaste for anyone who wants to have freehold land.

AgForce said from its reading of bill that, whilst new section 156 processes will only take effect upon lease expiration, cancellation or forfeiture, the amended section 199B conditions are effectively retrospective and will apply during the term of any lease and failure to comply with the remedial notice can result in lease forfeiture. That means that 70 per cent of the state could be in a situation whereby retrospectively they could be deemed to be failing to comply because they have a couple of old fences that have been there for a hundred years.

We know with the satellite that they can see the clearing of vegetation. Are they now going to use the satellite to find old fences and things that they might want to see cleared or removed before a lease is deemed able to be freeholded?


**Mr Costigan:** Big Brother.

**Ms LEAHY:** Absolutely. I take that interjection. This is absolutely Big Brother stuff.

While these provisions could arguably be for sensible public safety and the protection of the state's assets, there really is a need for further investigation and an in-depth understanding of how rural leases will be impacted. Despite the assurances from the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, we would like an assurance from the minister in this parliament.

Given the renewed legislative interest by the government in the safety or remediation costs of leasehold structures and structures on leasehold land, it seems to be a very regressive step. After AgForce's reading of the amendment to section 199B, it is very disappointing that the minister has now put a retrospective condition on leases to carry out repairs on buildings or structures. Lease forfeiture is potentially a huge penalty for noncompliance with the remedial action notice. AgForce stated that a family home could be lost and it seems a very excessive penalty for a rural lease condition.

The minister should categorically rule out his department using these provisions on rural lands and using these provisions to frustrate people and increase costs in relation to freeholding applications. We should not underestimate the number of people out there who are freeholding their land. We should not be retrospectively putting additional compliance measures upon them. I think that is a very sad part of this legislation.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.14 pm): It is curious that there was an attack there on the members of the committee and the consultation they undertook. The member is attacking Mr David Batt, the member for Bundaberg; Mr Brent Mickelberg, the member for Buderim; and the deputy chair, the member for Condamine, by saying that they failed in their duty to consult. We heard that they got on so well and worked so well together. I also note that this committee and the previous committee travelled to Cairns to do consultation on this legislation. I wonder who the member for Warrego did her consultation with? Was it Jake Smith who advised her with regard to the consultation of the committee?

It is disappointing that we cannot have a reasonable conversation without those opposite trotting out the same failed lines about a lack of consultation. We can see in relation to this omnibus bill that there was extensive consultation. The bill was also introduced into the last parliament. I believe the process of consultation started then.

This bill amends the Aboriginal Land Act, the Cape York Peninsula Heritage Act and the Explosives Act. These acts are very much acts that affect regional areas, the north of our state particularly. That leads me to another issue they raised. Those opposite said that there is very little representation and consultation with members of the LNP in the north. I have a quote here which reads—

It is dead set embarrassing in this House that I am just one of two LNP members north of Bundaberg. Let us not beat around the bush. We—

meaning the LNP—

only have ourselves to blame.

We see a lack of consultation from the LNP. They only have themselves to blame in failing to consult in North Queensland. That is why they do not get representation in those areas.

**Mr Watts:** When you filibuster try to be relevant—just a little bit.

**Mr POWER:** It is absolutely relevant. I note the member for Toowoomba North questions relevance. We know that he came into this House to speak in a consideration in detail debate but he was so uncertain of what he was speaking about he spoke to the wrong clause. He gave us an entire three-minute speech when he was uncertain which clause he was speaking to.

**Mr Watts:** Not true at all.

**Mr POWER:** He says it is not true. It was possibly not true because his speech was so bad and misdirected that we did not know that he was trying to address the clauses.

**Ms Boyd:** He's still confused.

**Mr POWER:** He is still confused to this day. He does not know which clause we were talking about.

I go back to the amendments to the Explosives Act. We saw the power of explosions with the Angellala Creek bridge truck explosion which devastated a low-lying bridge. It also devastated the nearby rail line. I note that both of those have been repaired. I see the Minister for Main Roads in the House. He was vitally involved in the actions to repair that bridge promptly for the people in that area. Next time rains come to that area people will have a better bridge to travel across. When we were discussing this legislation the member for Cairns talked about the enormous explosion in Halifax, Nova Scotia, in 1917. This underpins how dangerous it is to transport large amounts of explosives—or even small amounts—without serious regulations and plans.

This bill achieves the policy objectives by amending the explosives legislation to: improve community safety and security by strengthening security provisions for explosives; improve the transport of explosives to save time and money for the industry and to improve safety and security on public roads; and streamline administration including processes around application for, and transfer of,

explosives licences. It is important that we sell this. It is important that we go out to Queenslanders and communicate exactly what these provisions mean so that they can understand them and it is clear for everyone.

We know that this is not a strength of the LNP. I quote from a recent commentary, 'I famously declared: "We could not sell ice to an Afghani camel driver."' Forgetting the colourful language, this is exactly why we need a Labor government. We go through the correct procedures and processes to inform people. We know that the LNP under their current leadership cannot communicate what this bill is about.

Further, we need to improve the consistency of safety regulator provisions to improve information provided to the Explosives Inspectorate around notification and the investigation of explosives incidents. I think that it is vital if there is an incident that we get the full information and that we have consistent safety regulator provisions to improve that.

I express my thanks to this committee but also to my own committee. We have had a very productive year. I think we in committees have been focused on Queenslanders and the needs they have. We have been focused on legislation—I understand that there has been record legislation—and we have been listening to Queenslanders through that process.


**Mr Mickelberg:** On the *Notice Paper* maybe.

**Mr POWER:** We have seen how shy Brent is. The chair of the committee has tried to bring him out of his shell and get him to express himself. I wish them both a very merry Christmas and hope that they enjoy themselves over the holidays.

Debate, on motion of Mr Power, adjourned.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates, Transfer of Responsibilities and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.20 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136(3), that the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee report on the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 14 February 2019; the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report on the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 28 February 2019 and the Justice Legislation (Links to Terrorist Activity) Amendment Bill by 7 March 2019; the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 14 February 2019; and the Transport and Public Works Committee report on the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 14 February 2019.

In addition, the committee resolved, pursuant to standing order 136(4), to vary the committee responsible for the Working with Children Legislation (Indigenous Communities) Amendment Bill from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee and, pursuant to standing order 136(3), to vary the time for the committee to report on that bill to 14 February 2019.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's report No. 7 of 2018-19 titled *Conserving threatened species* be referred to the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee and that the Auditor-General's report No. 8 of 2018-19 titled *Water: 2017-18 results of financial audits* be referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 16 October 2018, the member for Pine Rivers wrote to me alleging that the secretary of the LNP Pine Rivers SEC deliberately committed a contempt of the parliament by assaulting, threatening, intimidating or disadvantaging a member in an email to LNP

members. I wrote to the secretary of the Pine Rivers SEC seeking a response to the allegation. The secretary, Mr Patrick Collins, responded on 9 November 2018. In his response Mr Collins tendered an apology and provided some explanation for the basis for his conduct. Standing order 269(4) requires—

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

Honourable members, in my view, this is a very important matter and in no way can be considered technical or trivial. I did not find Mr Collins' explanation adequate and, while acknowledging his apology, on balance, I have determined that there are sufficient questions of fact to be determined against the evidence such that it would be prudent to refer the question as to whether there has been a contempt to the Ethics Committee.

I wish to emphasise that my role is not to determine whether there has been proven fault—a breach of privilege—but, rather, whether there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. In relation to the potential contempts, it is right for the committee to consider whether the conduct complained of could be considered an improper interference with the free performance of members' duties as members of parliament. The Ethics Committee will also, no doubt, take into account Mr Collins' apology in its deliberations.

I remind members that standing order 271 now applies, and members should not refer to these matters in the House. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

#### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

MR SPEAKER: Honourable members,

On 16 October 2018, the Member for Pine Rivers wrote to me alleging that the Secretary of the LNP Pine Rivers SEC deliberately committed a contempt of the Parliament by assaulting, threatening, intimidating or disadvantaging a member in an email to LNP Members.

On 16 October 2018, the Secretary of the Pine Rivers SEC sent the following email to all LNP Members of the Queensland Parliament:

... At last night's meeting of the Pine Rivers SEC the following motion was debated and passed unanimously:

"Like all LNP members we believe our elected representatives must abide by our party's values at all times. The Pine Rivers SEC calls on State Council to dis-endorse elected members of the LNP who support the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018.

In her letter to me, the Member for Pine Rivers alleged that Mr Collins had attempted to intimidate LNP Members of the Legislative Assembly as well as to disadvantage those members because of their conduct in the House.

I wrote to the Secretary of the Pine Rivers SEC seeking a response to the allegation. The Secretary, Mr Patrick Collins, responded on 9 November 2018.

In his response, Mr Collins made a formal apology to the House for his email.

Additionally, Mr Collins argued that his email was not an attempt to assault, threaten, intimidate or disadvantage any member. Mr Collins noted that the purpose of his email was to inform LNP Members of Parliament of the passing of the motion by the SEC and to and to request a debate at the next State Council.

Mr Collins also noted that neither the SEC nor the State Council has the power to remove a members' endorsement and that even if the motion were debated and passed by the State Council, it would be of no practical effect.

Mr Collins went on to argue that as LNP Members of Parliament are aware of the procedure of the LNP in this regard, it was clear that the motion and accordingly the email, was not a threat, intimidation or disadvantage.

Accepting Mr Collins' advice that that the resolution of the SEC was only a step in the process towards potential dis-endorsement, in my view, the conduct of forwarding the e-mail regarding the resolution could conceivably still be viewed as an attempt to influence LNP Members considering their vote in the House by way of a threat or intimidation of a future disadvantage.

Standing Order 269(4) requires:

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


In my view, this is a very important matter and in no way can be considered technical or trivial. I did not find Mr Collins explanation adequate, and while acknowledging his apology, on balance, I have determined that there are sufficient questions of fact to be determined against the evidence such that it would be prudent to refer the question as to whether there has been a contempt to the Ethics Committee.

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In relation to the potential contempts, it is right for the committee to consider whether the conduct complained of could be considered an improper interference with the free performance of members' duties as Members of Parliament. The Ethics Committee, will also, no doubt, take into account Mr Collins apology in its deliberations.

I remind members that Standing Order 271 now applies, and members should not refer to these matters in the House.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.25 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 12 February 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.25 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

## Valedictory

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (5.25 pm): As we reach the end of this first parliamentary year of my government's second term, it is an appropriate time to reflect on what has happened in Queensland this year: keeping our promises to Queenslanders, celebrating our achievements and learning from our challenges. Tradition has it that this event occurs at the close of each parliamentary year. I note in passing that we missed that opportunity last year because at this time we were in the middle of an election campaign. It is hard to believe that 12 months have passed, but so much has happened in that time.

It is hard to start that reflection anywhere but the Gold Coast—home to the most successful Commonwealth Games ever, which saw billions of eyes focused on Queensland. They saw our athletes, they saw our beaches and they saw our world-class infrastructure that will be a legacy for generations to come. It has been a year of milestones—one in which we saw the birth of the five millionth Queensland and the 25 millionth Australian. We also saw this parliament in which we sit celebrate its 150th birthday. Last weekend we commemorated the centenary of the Armistice, when the guns fell silent after what was thought to be the war to end all wars.

Sadly, we marked Queensland's sixth year of continuous drought. Across much of our state, communities are continuing to fight the economic, mental and social battles that drought brings. We are investing an additional \$6 million in our highly successful wild dog program, which will deliver about an extra 2,000 kilometres of fencing across the state. I thank everyone involved in the Queensland Drought Appeal and other fundraising efforts right across the state, and especially the commitment of former Country Women's Association president Joy Coulson and her team in helping us get the money to those most in need.

On the Gold Coast, here in Brisbane and at some of our stunning locations across the state, our screen production industry has gone from strength to strength, with the latest behind-the-scenes trailer for *Aquaman* showcasing so much of our state. Our production industry for screen and stream is now a permanent industry with a steady supply of highly skilled jobs.

Momentum is building for the Future of Work—Skills and Industry Summit in just under two weeks where industry, small business, higher education, unions and government will all come together as one to discuss how we can meet Queensland's future labour force needs. It is that drive to build the skilled industries of the future that sees Queensland as the hub for Australia's defence industries. Tomorrow we will turn the sod on Rheinmetall's new Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence.

Our aviation sector goes from strength to strength. We see more international airlines flying in from overseas to our five international airports, and with Boeing we are developing the company's largest drone program outside the United States. We are not only home to half Qantas's fleet of 787 Dreamliners but also home to their first pilot training academy in Toowoomba—and we hope to snare the second for Mackay as well.

We have seen international visitor spending in our \$25 billion tourism industry grow by over eight per cent in the last year, compared to a national average of under five per cent. A great example of our overseas tourism success is our 'Where is Fraser Island?' campaign, which exceeded its target and reached over 8.5 million people in the United Kingdom in just three weeks.

That campaign followed last month's visit to Fraser Island by the Duke and Duchess of Sussex—a visit that highlighted not just Fraser Island but our fabulous Tambo Teddies. The royal visit was also a chance to honour the compassion of two of our Hervey Bay paramedics, Danielle and Graeme, who were able to grant the wish of a dying woman to touch and see the sea one last time on her way to palliative care.

It is also one year today since Australians voted for marriage equality. I remember I was lucky enough to be flying over Heart Reef in the Whitsundays when the news broke. In the 12 months since my government has continued our important social reforms, we have given women control over their reproductive rights and put the fight against cyberbullying clearly on the national agenda. We have also referred the issues of end-of-life care to a parliamentary committee. I know this is an issue so deeply felt by so many people across Queensland.

We have stood up for vulnerable workers through our strong licensing laws for labour hire firms, and we have conducted an inquiry into wage theft. We are making strong progress on our path towards a target of 50 per cent renewable energy generation by 2030. Renewables offer enormous opportunities for Queensland in the industries and jobs of the future, as do projects like the Queen's Wharf development, the new cruise ship terminal and the new parallel runway at Brisbane Airport.

In the most decentralised state in the nation, our big regional cities and small remote communities are a vital part of Queensland. It is a privilege of being Premier that I get the opportunity to travel to so many of these communities, and I firmly believe that our regional economy is more important than in any other state in Australia. That is why our strength in renewables and projects like building Townsville stadium are so important. That is why we are investing heavily in upgrading the Bruce Highway. It is why we recognise the importance of protecting the Great Barrier Reef and why we on this side accept the science of climate change.

It has been a year to farewell one of our sporting greats, with Johnathan Thurston playing his last game for the mighty Cowboys. I am glad to say that he has now joined the board of Tourism and Events Queensland. I would especially like to thank JT for his service as Queenslander of the Year and congratulate his very worthy successor, Detective Inspector Jon Rous from Task Force Argos. We also saw Sam Thaiday and Laura Geitz play their last games for the Broncos and Firebirds, just to name a few. Our women's teams continued their extraordinary success. The Sunshine Coast Lightning won back-to-back Super Netball titles, and the Broncos women won the inaugural NRLW competition.

It is particularly encouraging to see that success in women's sports, because it speaks to the issues of equality and fairness which go to the heart of what my Labor majority government stands for. We want Queenslanders to have the opportunity to get the very best for their families—the best jobs, the best education and the best health care—and we want all Queenslanders to know that our strength is when we all stand together.

I would like to thank each and every public servant across our state no matter where they work. It is only through the hard work and dedication of all our public servants that government can continue to deliver the services, facilities and infrastructure that Queenslanders rely on each and every day. We do this through our Advancing Queensland Priorities: creating jobs in a strong economy; giving our children a great start; keeping Queenslanders healthy; keeping communities safe; protecting the Great Barrier Reef; and being a responsive government. I wish all the public servants and their families a merry Christmas. I would also like to thank my director-general, the mighty Dave Stewart, his deputies and all the hardworking staff in the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. Thanks to Shelley Francis, the Acting Senior Director of Cabinet and Parliamentary Services, for the amazing work she does each sitting week with all the legislation.

To Deputy Premier and Treasurer Jackie Trad, thank you very much for your diligence, your compassion and your commitment to Queensland. It has been an absolute pleasure to work with you each and every day. To ministers Cameron Dick and Kate Jones, thank you so much for your continuing contribution, inspiration and support. To the Leader of the House, you have also done a mighty fine job. Thank you to all of my cabinet colleagues. You are a great team, you are competent and you are diligent. Individually and collectively you have worked tirelessly in your respective portfolio areas. To our respected friend and colleague Coralee O'Rourke, we send our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery, and we look forward to welcoming you back here next year.

To all the members of my caucus, thank you so much for all the work that you do every day in your communities—for never giving up the fight to deliver better services and infrastructure for the people you so warmly work for. Your hard work for Queenslanders through the election campaign a year ago has given us the foundation to provide what people want most from their government—good, decent, stable government as opposed to the cuts and chaos that were on offer.

I would also like to thank the team in my office led by David, Denise and Shane. It is a privilege to work with all of the members of my office, and I know that at times it keeps them away from their family and friends. I thank them for their good sense and at times very wicked sense of humour. To everyone in my office I say thank you. I also want to do a shout out to a long-serving staff member of mine. I wish Donna O'Donoghue a speedy recovery after spending the last six weeks in hospital. We know that she would very much have loved to have been here today. We wish her a merry Christmas and hope to see her back here next year.

Thank you to all the ministerial officers and all the staff who do the work behind the scenes. I am honoured to be Premier of this state, but it is an honour that means I do not spend as much time in my electorate of Inala as I would like to. I am fortunate to have a great team out there working for me. I thank Susan, Daniel, Nayda and all the volunteers.

Perhaps the greatest virtue of our parliamentary democracy is that it gives us the ability to disagree passionately but respectfully on important issues that affect the lives of Queenslanders. For their part in that important and robust debate, I would like to pay tribute to the opposition and the crossbench. To Deb and Tim and your entire team, I wish you and your families a very merry Christmas—even you, member for Kawana. To the members of the crossbench, I wish each and every one of you a very safe Christmas. Thank you very much for all the hard work that you do as well serving your communities.

It has also been a year of much upheaval and change in the Queensland parliamentary media gallery.

**An opposition member:** You've already thanked your office!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I cannot help it if they want to come and work for me: I am a nice person. To the seasoned veterans of the gallery and the new faces, thank you for the part you play in informing Queenslanders about the important matters that affect their day-to-day lives.

Mr Speaker, with regard to the parliament much has changed in the last 12 months, in particular your ascension to the high office of Speaker in February following the retirement of Peter Wellington. I thank you for the studious approach you have taken to presiding over the chamber, especially given that you are required to manage the conduct of more members than any Speaker who has preceded you. I wish you and your young family all the joy and happiness that comes with Christmas especially in your community of Gordonvale this year. My thanks go to the Deputy Speaker, who was also new to the role this year, as well as the panel of temporary speakers across the chamber.

I give special thanks to the staff of the parliament for all their efforts this year, especially the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie, who continues to provide advice and support to members of this House. I would especially like to congratulate Neil and everyone involved in the parliament's 150th anniversary celebrations. What an amazing success! I would like to thank the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries; the First Clerk Assistant, Amanda Honeyman, together with all of the other clerks at the table who helped to keep the processes of the House on track—boy do we need it!

I also acknowledge the Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison, Craig Atkinson; the Director of Property and Facility Services, Stewart Johnson; and all of the officers within their divisions including the gardeners, the cleaners and all of the maintenance staff for the tremendous and outstanding work they do to keep the parliamentary precinct in such an impressive state and for taking care of the chooks and the bees. This is especially true given the additional public interest in the parliamentary precinct in its 150th anniversary.

I would like to thank the Director of Information Services and Parliamentary Librarian, Janet Prowse, together with all of the staff in her division including in the Parliamentary Library. I also send a big thanks to all of Parliamentary Reporting and Broadcasting Service staff under the leadership of the Chief Hansard Reporter, Jo Mathers, for the highly proficient way they continue to broadcast and record for posterity the debates and proceedings in this chamber, as well the hearings conducted by committees. I also thank Sergeant-at-Arms and Manager of Security and Attendant Services, Michael Watkin, and all of the parliamentary attendants and security officers for the way that they undertake their important duties.

Thank you to all of those in the Catering Services team, led by Simon Neale, for the outstanding job that they do. I think I can speak for all members when I say the standard of catering in parliament has soared to new heights this year, especially through some of this year's commemorative events. I may also be speaking for all members when I say that catering has added a few extra kilos—that was a joke! They have been simply outstanding and it has been wonderful to see the wide range of quality Queensland produce that is now being served. I would also like to pay tribute to the innovative approach parliamentary catering took to get strawberries into an amazing array of dishes as, with all Queenslanders, we worked to support that industry.

I also understand that Colleen Lutzke from Catering Services has announced her retirement and will be finishing up with us at Christmas after 25 years of service. We will all miss Colleen around the precinct, and I wish her all the very best for her retirement. We will also farewell a number of distinguished parliamentary officers who will commence well-earned retirements before we sit again: Lyn Whelan retires after 12 years of service; parliamentary attendant Margaret Curran retires after 19 years of service; Monica Pearce from the Parliamentary Library retires after 26 years of service; and Dave Newman from parliamentary security retires after an extraordinary 32 years of service.

I also want to pay tribute to the work done by Lynne Armstrong, Paul Boreland, Daniel Buchanan, Robyn Moore, Peter Morris, Mark Richardson, James Robertson, Peta Sweeney, Bernice Watson and all of the staff in their sections—from the Committee Office to Human Resources, IT, Finance and Administrative Services and beyond for all of the work that they do. In summary, I thank all of the staff of the parliament for the outstanding job they do in what truly is a wide and diverse workforce.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the officers of the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel for the significant work they do under the leadership of the Parliamentary Counsel, Tony Keyes, in preparing legislation for the parliament to consider.


I would like to thank all our police and emergency services workers for what they do. In particular, I thank those who will be working over the Christmas and new year period. It is a credit to all of you that you put the safety of your fellow Queenslanders ahead of precious time with your family. For that, we thank you.

Like every other Queenslanders, I rely on my family and friends for support. To my mum and dad, my nanna, my sisters, nieces and nephew, I say thank you for your love and support.

I am inspired by the Queenslanders I meet every day. From Mer Island in the Torres Strait to Coolangatta, Blackall and Longreach, Queenslanders are resilient, they are resourceful and they are relentlessly optimistic. Thank you to everyone I have had the chance to meet for your opinions and your ideas. You are my inspiration. To those I am yet to meet, here is to next year and beyond.

It is an enormous honour to be elected Premier. It is the people of this great state who teach me that life has its ups and downs, its rewards and challenges, its joy and heartache, but through it all we will come out stronger and more determined to turn Queensland into an even better place. I am thankful that everyone I meet has a story to tell. Everyone has a unique story. It is all those stories that join together to become the story of Queensland—a fabric that makes all our lives so rich and rewarding.

Christmas holidays are a time of happiness but in Queensland they are also one of caution. On our roads, beaches and waterways, I ask all Queenslanders to take care and look out for one another. We will see you all again in the new year.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.44 pm): We are approaching the end of another memorable year in Queensland. We have witnessed wonderful events and we have been confronted by terrible tragedies too. It is a fact that sadness and happiness mark all of our lives. They were certainly the emotions that I felt at the start of 2018 at the funeral of Lady Florence Bjelke-Petersen. Lady Flo was an amazing and inspirational woman, and the response to her passing was a testament to the love and respect Queenslanders felt for her. Thousands attended her funeral in Kingaroy. It was heartwarming to see the then prime minister, then deputy prime minister and Premier pay tribute to Lady Flo's remarkable legacy. She was a rock of my community, and I will always be grateful for Lady Flo's support and guidance that she showed me.

In 2018 we also lost another outstanding political figure in Terry Mackenroth. He was a giant of the Queensland Labor Party. He served in this parliament for 28 years. Many of our present members were not even born when he was first elected. I know he was much loved by the Premier and others in the Labor Party, and he was a fine servant of this state.



Lady Flo and Terry Mackenroth had very different politics but they were both quintessential Queenslanders. The people of this state are a special breed, and we saw that time and time again this year. There is nowhere like our beautiful state, but Queensland and its weather can be cruel at times. In February and March, we saw severe flooding across regional communities in the Far North. I was grateful to the Mayor of Hinchinbrook, Ramon Jayo, for showing me around his community, including where the crocs had just wandered through his backyard. As always, I was amazed by the resilience and humour shown by North Queenslanders.

Wild weather struck again in our state in October when a supercell—or, in actual fact, two supercells—tore through my own electorate of Nanango. The supercell struck just 10 months after the South Burnett was battered by a savage storm on Boxing Day last year. Miraculously, no lives were lost during either storm. We will never forget the bravery of young Fiona Simpson and her grandma who both suffered appalling injuries from hailstones as Fiona sheltered her four-month-old baby. We will not forget the Kumbia State School kids who sheltered under the tables and protected each other from not only hail but flying glass. In Kumbia I was joined by the federal agriculture minister to survey the devastation caused at the fruit farms. Their crops were destroyed but the spirit of those farmers was not broken. You have to be tough to work on the land in Queensland.

In August, Australia finally woke up to the fact that there was a drought going on in Queensland. This crisis was not news to me or the colleagues of the Liberal National Party, but it was news to most Australians, including many here in South-East Queensland, but their response was remarkable. Millions of dollars poured in to help rural families. The drought has been dreadful for farmers, but it has united Queenslanders everywhere with their willingness to help.

That same spirit was shown again in September when Queenslanders came together to support our strawberry farmers. More than 14,000 strawberry sundaes were served in King George Square to raise funds for farmers—thanks in part to the efforts of my deputy, Tim Mander, the member for Everton. He was overwhelmed by the public response that day, as was I.

The support shown for farmers throughout 2018 proves that Queenslanders everywhere back the bush. They know our land is special and they respect those who grow the food we feed our families. Sadly, farmers have been stretched this year. Their passionate opposition to legislation has been dismissed out of hand, but I promise our farmers and the regional producers of this great state that I will continue to fight for them and they will always have a voice in parliament with the LNP.

I was proud to represent the LNP and regional Queenslanders with the Premier at a much happier occasion in April at the opening of the new Waltzing Matilda Centre in Winton. I was in Winton on the very day that the old centre burnt down in 2015, so I was really pleased to be back in Winton to join the thousands of others in—

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** No, I did not help burn it down. I did not want to take that interjection, but I thought I should. The new centre is fabulous, as the Premier and I got to experience. It is a fabulous new centre. I was thrilled to join the thousands of others from all over Australia who were celebrating the history of the outback and its most iconic song.

Queenslanders came together in a host of other ways, too, this year. The Gold Coast hosted the Commonwealth Games, which made us all proud. Of course, both the LNP government and the Labor government worked hard to deliver the world-class infrastructure that made the games possible. We welcomed athletes and visitors from 71 nations, but it was our athletes who stole the show. The Aussies won 83 gold and provided unforgettable sporting moments for spectators on the Gold Coast and for millions watching TV around the world.

The special guests at the games, of course, were Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall. They were greeted warmly across Queensland, although they could not match the media frenzy that greeted Prince Harry and the Duchess of Sussex on a visit to Fraser Island. Whilst they are a glamorous couple, it is their work for others that impresses me most, like most Queenslanders. Of course, Prince Harry founded the Invictus Games, which has done so much to honour and empower military veterans who have been wounded, both physically and psychologically. As we mark the 100th anniversary of the 1918 armistice, I recognise the sacrifice and the service of the men and women who have helped defend our nation and its values.

I also want to recognise Queensland's emergency services, who quietly protect Queenslanders each and every day. Our police, our fireys, our ambos and our SES volunteers are all prepared to put themselves in harm's way to protect others. That is the most notable public service of all. The danger

they face was brought home in September when a young police officer, Peter McAulay, was run down while trying to stop a stolen vehicle at Booval. Peter, who is only 24, suffered horrific injuries and his life was hanging by a thread when he was admitted to the PA Hospital. Thankfully, after receiving outstanding medical care, Peter pulled through. His bravery and strength are an example to us all.

Just days ago, we saw Victorian police officers show the same courage when they confronted terror on the streets of Melbourne. Like Peter, they did not hesitate to perform their duty. Australians will never bow to terrorism. Extremism and violence have no place in our society and all political parties in Australia stand as one against such despicable acts.

Politicians disagree much of the time—probably most of the time—in this chamber. However, the din of political debate does not mean we are always divided. Both sides share fundamental values which enable us to come together for the public good. One example of this bipartisan support was for the national redress scheme for the victims of institutional child sexual abuse. Nothing can ever repair the damage that has been done to so many young people or to compensate them for the trauma they have suffered. We must do what we can and both Labor and the LNP were united in this decision. We were also united in our support of the drought appeal. I applaud everyone who has given whatever they can to ease the strain on our farming families.

Politicians on both sides of the House also came together this year to work on the Queensland Anti-cyberbullying Taskforce. I thank Madonna King for her work as chair of the task force and I recognise the role that the member for Coomera played as the LNP's representative on that body. Technology has brought society many benefits, but it has also created new pressures for young people. As a mum of three beautiful daughters, I support all measures, like everyone does in Queensland, to reduce the growing problem of online bullying.

While the Liberal National Party united with the Palaszczuk government on so many issues in 2018, we have also been very active as an opposition. Indeed, this has been an historic year for the LNP. This year we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the party's foundation. With that we farewelled, at the last election, one of the LNP's architects, Lawrence Springborg. Lawrence's intelligence, integrity and commitment to Queensland was unrivalled, but he also helped to inspire me to enter politics. He is missed by all on this side of the House, and we wish him well for the future.

There have been some other big changes in the LNP because this year is the first year that we have seen a female lead the LNP. I am incredibly proud to lead this party and I was humbled to win the support of my parliamentary colleagues. It does not matter whether you are a man or a woman; there is no greater privilege and responsibility than being chosen to lead your party. When I became leader I got to work straightaway. As a regional member, I know, as we all do, of the suffering that the ice epidemic is causing and we immediately began campaigning to highlight the need for action. The government responded by releasing its own ice strategy, but I believe there is still more to be done in relation to this scourge.

The new LNP leadership team also backed the campaign for the introduction of free swimming lessons—in fact, it was a policy we took to the last state election—so I welcomed the government's positive response to the campaign. I hope that together we can protect more Queensland kids from drowning.

The very first policy endorsed by my shadow cabinet was introducing real-time fuel price monitoring for Queensland. We backed this policy because we understand the financial pressure that fuel prices are putting on all Queenslanders. I was relieved when the Palaszczuk government eventually opted to introduce real-time fuel price monitoring and I look forward to its implementation.

The LNP continued to fight for drivers against congestion all year long. We were the first to pledge 50 per cent of the funding for the M1's urgently needed upgrades and we were the first to call for an inquiry into our toll roads. The new team that I lead has no shortage of energy or ideas and, like me, they want to make Queensland an economic powerhouse again.

Whenever I have faced a challenge in my life, I have rolled up my sleeves and tackled it head-on. I said I would provide solutions for Queensland and that is precisely what I and my team are doing. I am delighted to report that the Palaszczuk government is getting on board with some of our plan's key components. Labor have now said they will get behind Rookwood Weir. They have said they are going to back the Sunshine Coast rail line duplication. I was encouraged by the government's words but we will be watching to see real action, particularly in relation to the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line in 2019.

In recent weeks we have also seen the Palaszczuk government respond to the LNP's campaign on the racing tax and the blue card loopholes. I welcome the measures that have been announced, but I believe there is still more work to be done in this state to protect our children. I urge the government to consider the legislation proposed by my team to increase mandatory minimum punishments for murder and manslaughter of children. There are issues of serious public concern and at some point they just have to be addressed. The LNP will continue to make the case for action in 2019. I promise the House that the opposition will continue to hold the government to account on all fronts. We will continue to lay out our plan to ensure Queensland's best days are ahead of us.

Mr Speaker, on these occasions, it is customary to pay tribute to the people of the parliament and I would like to start by thanking you for your work throughout this year. You have performed your role fairly and honourably and you have demonstrated great patience. I thank you personally very much for your great patience—

**Mr Watts:** In your role.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:**—in your role. You have demonstrated great patience with those on this side of the House and that side of the House and the crossbenches. I extend my thanks to the Deputy Speaker and the temporary chairs who contribute to the smooth running of the House.

I also express my thanks to the many fine men and women who enable our parliament to function as well as it does. Of course, I thank Neil Laurie for his sage guidance and facial movements during parliament. There are many others who keep the wheels of democracy turning: of course, Deputy Clerk Michael Ries, who quietly ensures the smooth operation of the chamber; First Clerk Assistants, Amanda Honeyman and Bernice Watson, for their procedural guidance and professionalism both in this chamber and in committees; Chief Hansard Reporter, Jo Mathers, for the high standard she has to uphold because of what comes out of some of our mouths; and Director of Information Services, Parliamentary Library, Janet Prowse, whose small team helps all MPs with accurate and timely research briefs. On behalf of the opposition, I say that the Library saves us so many times.

The Director of Corporate and Electorate Services, Craig Atkinson, and his team provide so much to our MPs and our electorate officers. The Director of Property and Facility Services, Stewart Johnson, has been so busy in the last couple of months. He and his team have worked tirelessly to deal with what has been put before him in the last month or so in terms of this ever-aging building and limited resources. I acknowledge the members in this House who separately had pretty stressful evenings. I appreciate what you guys went through. The people in this chamber who spend their nights in this building know exactly what I am talking about, Minister for Fire and Emergency Services.

Of course there are many, many more parliamentary staff who work across all of the parliamentary departments so we cannot name them all, but I must make special mention of the team of our Sergeant-at-Arms, Mike Watkin—thank you, Michael. How could we get through sittings weeks without Simon Neale and the superb catering team? They ensure that the entire parliamentary precinct is well nourished. I would also like to thank the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel for the work they do in drafting amendments and private member's bills. I especially want to thank the cleaners, maintenance staff and gardeners, the people who look after the chooks and the bees, but particularly the amazing cleaning staff who look after the regional members when we stay here in Brisbane.

Several members of the Parliamentary Service staff are retiring at the end of this year, and they will be much missed by members and colleagues. Along with you, Mr Speaker, and the Premier, I would also like to acknowledge: Lyn Whelan, who is retiring from the committee office after 12 years; parliamentary attendant Margaret Curran, who is retiring after 19 years; Monica Pearce, from the parliamentary library who is retiring after 26 years; and Dave Newman from parliamentary security, who is retiring after an incredible 32 years service. I would like to thank Dave personally on behalf of one of my daughters, who buzzed him at about one o'clock one morning and he came to her service. I say thank you to Dave; we will miss you. The catering team will never be the same again without Colleen, who retires after 25 years of service. We all know that no-one makes a good roast sandwich like Colleen. Parliament will miss her very much.

Naturally, I also want to acknowledge the work of the entire opposition team. There are not many staff in the opposition office, but they are professional, hardworking and they always go the extra mile. Thank you to Matt, Shaun, Steph and the team.

My shadow ministers and my team here have been a huge support this year. I feel privileged to lead such an excellent and talented team. These men and women come from all walks of life, but they are united in their commitment to create a better Queensland. A special mention must go to my steadfast deputy, Tim Mander. We have built a great partnership, so thank you for your support. I also

want to say thank you to Jarrod, our Manager of Opposition Business, for his ready wit and unwavering eye for detail and, until today, the wearer of probably the most tasteless jackets. The LNP benches welcomed many new members this year, and I have been so impressed by the experience and energy that they have brought to this parliament.


I also want to thank our Governor, the Hon. Paul de Jersey and his wife Kaye, and I congratulate him on the extension to his term that was announced this morning.

I extend my good wishes to all members of all parties in this House. We may not always agree, but it is important to recognise that all of us have a vital role to play in our democratic system. I believe that we should uphold the traditions of our parliament well.

Members of the Parliamentary Press Gallery also play a role in our democratic system, and I want to thank them for their contribution. They are fearless, hardworking and professional, and thanks to them 'fake news' is not a problem in Queensland.

The people who deserve my thanks are rarely in the precincts of parliament. I am so grateful to my Nanango electorate staff, Lenny and Belinda. They work hard, they laugh often, and I could not manage without them. Most of all I want to thank Isabella, Lucy, Elke and my husband, Jason. I thank the families of everyone in this House. As you well know, Mr Speaker, politics places a huge burden on our families, especially when you have to stay down here to do your job. It is not easy being away from the ones you love, and when you are together it is hard to push politics aside and be a normal family once again. I know that my family is with me every step of the way. Their love and support fills me with strength and brightens every day. Like all of us, I cannot wait to spend some time with our families and friends over this break. To our Premier Anastacia and her team I say merry Christmas and, although it is very early, I say to each and every one of you in this great House, 'Enjoy your holiday if you get one.'

Traditionally, this is a time for reflection and a time to be thankful. We are all naturally biased in favour of Queensland, but let us be honest: we live in the greatest state in the most amazing nation in the whole of the world. We are blessed to be here, and we should never forget it. Wherever your home is, wherever you are from, I wish you all a very merry Christmas and I look forward to getting back into it next year.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.06 pm): It is with great pleasure that I represent the crossbench, and I join them in giving thanks for the year just passed. For those of us in our first year, it has been a very interesting introduction to the parliament and its processes and protocols. Even though the crossbench members differ greatly in their focus and representation, they do so with authenticity and genuine intent to better their diverse communities and present diverse viewpoints.

Representation is one of the greatest of honours and especially vibrant and challenging, given the changing landscape of Queenslanders. Residents' expectation trends lean to 'my backyard' and location versus ideology, with ideology becoming defined by communities' shared unique attributes, commonalities and vision. Ideologies, political or otherwise, can be the creator of division, and we must always work to lessen these divisions through finding special common ground. Regardless of which colour is in government the same issues exist for both. A lack of resources to meet expectations combined with an increasing lack of self-responsibility within our people is contributing to the inability to resolve our greatest concerns easily.

It is impossible to promise better outcomes without acknowledging that to move forward takes change not only from a political realm but from the people of Queensland. This is essential in acknowledging the work that we need to do going forward and in honouring those who have gone before us and sacrificed so much for the life we enjoy, whether that be during war or peacetime. We need to move away from the blaming of others, including which government is in power, and acknowledge the role that we as individuals and communities play every day in the outcomes that we see.


We have been deeply appreciative of the assistance, friendship and advice from both sides of chamber whilst listening and learning from relevant debate about other communities across Queensland. Hearing about the needs, concerns and aspirations of areas we are unfamiliar with is invaluable, and the development of greater empathy and knowledge leads to a focus on collaborative versus adversarial based decisions. It is what connects us, not what separates us that is most important.

The professionalism, knowledge and desire to deliver the best for Queenslanders of parliamentary, department and agency staff is often little known to those in our communities. We take this opportunity to express our deep thanks to them. We have so many good Queenslanders doing a fabulous but hard job.

I thank our Clerk, Neil, who has both wisdom and patience and shares these with all. We are unsure how he deals with the volume of inductions and eager MPs ready to be unleashed in the chamber; however, he does so without even raising an eyebrow.

Efforts to improve the content and intent of debate and chamber behaviour by MPs under the guidance of Speaker Curtis Pitt have been appreciated by all, demonstrating that there is both a will and opportunity to meet the growing expectations by communities of their elected representatives. There is no shame in striving for considered, respectful and deliberate debate, nor weakness in agreeing with those who may not agree with you.

The year has delivered much for all in this chamber and their communities. We look forward to next year, giving food for thought in deliberations and continuing to promote the concept that it is important and okay to bring forward many different viewpoints and seek solutions through negotiation and understanding, not negativity and anger. We wish all MPs and their families, the hardworking electorate office and parliamentary staff, and all their communities the very, very best for the Christmas season and a safe, happy, healthy 2019 full of compassion and care for one another. I speak on behalf of the whole crossbench when I thank our own families, staff and communities for their enduring support and incredible hard work. We look forward to spending some really precious time with them over the holidays. Merry Christmas everyone, and thank you again.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, the parliamentary year is now about to end. This week has been somewhat like muck-up week at the end of a school year. They say that a week is a long time in politics. A week in parliament can sometimes be even longer, so a parliamentary year can seem like an absolute eternity! This special adjournment does provide us an opportunity to reflect on the year that was.

Members may note that, after my election as Speaker, I recognised how each of the members who preceded me in the role of Speaker had contributed to our parliamentary democracy through their stewardship of this House. At the time I singled out the very first Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Gilbert Elliott. In what I believe to be perhaps the best piece of advice ever offered in this House to new members, he urged members to display mutual forbearance and self-control during debates. The jury is still out on whether we have achieved that during the 56th Parliament so far.

As part of the PH150 anniversary celebrations the parliament was privileged to regain a refurbished version of Speaker Elliott's robes for permanent display on the precinct. While the garb of the Speaker may have changed significantly over the years, in practical terms the role remains the same. The uniform has changed but the job is the same. When Ted Hanson, the former member for Buranda, became Speaker in 1939 he was the first Speaker of the Queensland parliament to not wear a wig. He apparently told his daughter, 'I'm not wearing a sheepskin on my head.' Although many would argue that if anyone in this parliament could use a wig it is me, I have chosen not to continue that tradition.

Whilst it is my job, of course, to bring the House to order, there are many moments that have made me smile and hopefully have made some of you smile as well. There are too many to mention but I want to highlight a couple. There was the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services for his lengthy build-up in telling a dad joke on International Talk Like a Pirate Day. There was the member for Currumbin, who receives the award for the best and worst timing of the year when asking a question about the impact of students from south of the border when students from New South Wales were in the public gallery. There was, just this week, the Minister for State Development taking my consistent advice about talking about members in the third person too far and applying this to talking about himself. He agrees with the Minister for State Development entirely: he is a very learned gentlemen!

As Speaker of the Parliament I can categorically say that, whilst we have a diversity of voices in the green chamber, quite often they are not in harmony. It has been said that when it comes to certain issues our members can sometimes make too much of a song and dance. At other times members are asked to lift the tone. This year we made sure we could say that all of those things could be fixed, with the presentation of opera in the upper house in June this year. I want to thank the Brisbane City Opera, the University of Queensland and the Former Parliamentary Members' Association of Queensland for that wonderful event.

On another note, the running of our parliament and the management of our precinct does not happen without a lot of hard work and goodwill. As the year closes I would like to express my gratitude to those who have assisted in this task. I thank the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition and their respective leadership teams for their constructive approach to the parliamentary process. Specifically,

the smooth running of our parliament relies very heavily on the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business reaching agreement on many matters—some in the chamber, some outside the chamber. I thank them both for their efforts.

I thank the Committee of the Legislative Assembly for its counsel and support for the operation of the chamber and management of the precinct. Those people contributing include the Leader of the House and the Manager of Opposition Business but also the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the member for Logan, the member for Capalaba, the member for Condamine and the member for Hill—or sometimes the member for Traeger or sometimes the member for Hinchinbrook. I think we actually had all three at our meeting today. Thank you to you all.

I thank the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie. While Neil can only speak in a limited formal capacity in this chamber, he is always heard by all members. The parliament cannot run without his guidance, which has been honed in this place over decades. While as Speaker I work very closely with Neil, his experience is, I believe, invaluable to all members. He makes himself available to all members. He is counsel and confidante to all members. That work is greatly valued and appreciated. The Clerk, of course, not does work alone. He is well assisted by Deputy Clerk Michael Ries, First Clerk Assistant Amanda Honeyman and the other clerks at the table. I thank them all for their support and assistance this year.

I thank the Deputy Speaker, the member for Townsville, and all the members of the temporary Speakers panel for helping me with Speaker's duties. Keeping the House in order is no easy feat. Sometimes you have to make decisions that are unpopular. I think most people now know how the Deputy Leader of the Opposition felt when he was a Rugby League referee.

**Mr Mander:** That was easy compared to what you got!

**Mr SPEAKER:** I take that interjection!

I of course thank our Hansard staff, who hang on our every word but also record it for posterity. There can be no parliament without Hansard. I thank them for their dedication to this important task. The staff and management of the Parliamentary Service generally deserve our thanks, and I want to place that on the record. We have heard from the Premier, the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Noosa about individual members of staff. I will name some but not all. I ask all members to take the opportunity this evening to say thank you in person. Go and spend some time and have those conversations that you do not have the time to have throughout the rest of the parliamentary year. I think one of the most important aspects of Speaker's drinks is taking the opportunity to say thank you.

I give a general thanks to the staff of the functions and catering team. As the Premier highlighted, it has been a very big year—particularly with the seven-course degustation menu that was put on as part of the Parliament House 150 celebrations. I am not allowed to be too biased, but I will say that it was probably one of the best dining experiences I have had anywhere over the past couple of years. It is a real credit to the entire team—an amazing outcome.

Our committee staff do such an amazing work supporting the very valuable work of our committees. As a unicameral parliament, we are very reliant on our committees to ensure we have a check and balance of legislation—to ensure we understand it and to ensure the public can contribute to its formation. I acknowledge the work of all members of committees but particularly the support staff behind the scenes. It is a very important part of our parliamentary democracy.

I thank the staff who work in old Parliament House and provide services to the Assembly. I thank the parliamentary education team for the range of things they do around Queensland, particularly focusing on youth parliaments. I always say to our young parliamentarians that our democracy is a participation sport: you have to use it or lose it. Their strong engagement can only happen with our parliamentary education team.

It is also worth noting that we had our first junior Indigenous Youth Parliament in Cairns only last month. It was an amazing experience and I thank the members who came to that parliament as temporary Speakers as well as all of those members who have contributed to the Legal Studies Youth Parliament, the Indigenous Youth Parliament here in Brisbane or the YMCA Youth Parliament. They are all very important and it really gives me great hope to see just what sort of young people we will see coming forward into the future as representatives in our state, whether they are in elected positions or otherwise.

I want to express my appreciation for the service of the heads of respective divisions of the Parliamentary Service—Craig Atkinson, Stewart Johnson and Janet Prowse. As I said, members, I am a very brave Speaker to be standing between you and drinks and so I will try to limit my contribution. I want to say thank you to the parliamentary press gallery for its reporting of the proceedings in this

House. Of course, it provides a very important service to the people of Queensland and I thank it again for its cooperation on a number of matters this year, particularly with its sensible reporting and sometimes nonreporting of issues that affect this parliament. I think it is important to acknowledge that as we go forward.

I thank members in this House for the way you have conducted yourselves. I might seem grumpy sometimes. I may sometimes pull you up or try to correct something you have said or try to ensure you are sticking to the standing orders, but I say thank you for the way you have conducted yourselves and it is my enduring hope that we will continue to lift the standards in this place and make it a place where people can be very proud of the contributions made by all members in the House.

It was a very big year with the 150th anniversary of old Parliament House. For those members like me who are fortunate enough to work in this place, I am sure you would all agree that this is essentially a living museum and it is an amazing place to work and we all create history every day just by coming to work. It is of course held in sacred trust by the Parliamentary Service, which operates the legislative arm of government in Queensland. I am but the current Speaker. There have been Speakers before me. There will be Speakers after me, but it is the members of the Queensland Parliamentary Service who are those entrusted with this place and the importance of it as part of our parliamentary democracy. Of course, it is about ensuring that what goes on here in parliament is not just as a legislature but as the beating heart of our democracy in Queensland. Members should always remember how important a job it is that we all have but also how fortunate we are to be here representing all people across Queensland.

I want to acknowledge that we have a number of groups that come to Parliament House to utilise this place. The Parliament House 150 celebrations have made it very clear to me that this is the people's house and we must ensure that it is available and as accessible as possible to members of the public, and that includes the parliamentary friends groups we have here—whether it be MPs getting a chance to try their arm and have a hit of tennis or play a bit of football. I will say congratulations again to Country for winning the touch football challenge for the sixth straight year.

Members, there are cultural groups that utilise the parliament. There are a number of community and charity groups that use this place as a particular important opportunity to have their voice heard. I am always very heartened to see how many members come together to support these initiatives either through direct membership of those parliamentary friends associations or as attendees at events. Last night Foodbank was here and it is an amazing organisation, and I thank the members who attended that event. If you were able to hear the presentation given, you would know why it is such an important organisation and it is just one of the many groups that we have had through the Queensland parliament this year.

I want to thank my Mulgrave electorate officers, Coral and Bec, for stepping up to some new challenges that have arisen as a result of my election as Speaker. I want to thank my Speaker's office staff—George, Shane and Elly. They do great work and, again, they are hopefully always available for people who need them. I want to thank my wife, Kerry, for her unwavering support and importantly for helping me raise—but mainly doing it on her own—our wonderful children, Tristan, Layla and Kobi.

As we know, as part of a longstanding tradition, I want to invite all members to the end-of-session function. In terms of the House and this place that we are in right now and going forward to the next sitting in February, members, I am hitting the reset button. Just like your warnings only last until 1 pm at this point, I am hitting the reset button and I hope that we are able to come here next year with a clean slate. Don't blow it!

Members, we have to do something a bit new for the function this year, however. As we are not having a December sitting, we are going to be lighting the Christmas tree in November. It is just like when you go to Big W and everything is on sale in October. We have had a few members saying, 'It's a bit early, isn't it?' However, we will light the Christmas tree and have a refreshment on the President's Verandah and then we will move to the Green Deck. As I said, members, please take the opportunity to talk to the parliamentary staff to convey your thanks for the great work that they do supporting all of us in this job that we are very fortunate to have in this place.

Members, I want to wish all of you a safe and merry Christmas and a happy new year and I trust that you will come back refreshed next year and debate the important issues that matter to Queenslanders.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 6.25 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, 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, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson