



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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## THURSDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2019

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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 Minister


 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. Yesterday afternoon during the government motion on the building and construction industry the Minister for Employment and Small Business stated three times that changes made by the former LNP government prevented the QBCC from requesting financial information from building companies. Those statements are untrue and I believe the minister may have deliberately misled the parliament. I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, and seeking your referral of this matter to the Ethics Committee.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Cooper!


### REPORTS

#### Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 14 of 2018-19 titled *Queensland state government: 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. 14: 2018-19—Queensland state government: 2017-18 results of financial audits [270].


#### Office of the Speaker

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I lay upon the table of the House the *Statement for public disclosure: expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018*.

*Tabled paper:* Statement for Public Disclosure: Expenditure of the Office of the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018, dated 27 February 2019 [271].


### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### Absence of Member

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received a notification from the member for Pine Rivers advising of the imminent birth of her first child and absence until 20 August 2019. I am sure all members will join with me in wishing the member for Pine Rivers well during this very exciting time. The member's notification complies with standing order 263A and I note that a leave of absence will be required under standing order 263B given the duration of the leave.

### PRIVILEGE

#### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 21 November 2018 the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games wrote to me alleging that the member for Burleigh deliberately misled the House during statements made on 30 October,

1 November and 15 November 2018. The matter relates to statements that the member for Burleigh made about the minister, the member for Keppel, the member for Rockhampton and the former member for Rockhampton, the Hon. Robert Swarten, and the involvement of JM Kelly Builders in contracts awarded by the government. In her letter to me, the minister contended that the member for Burleigh's statements alleged corruption on the part of the Hon. Robert Swarten and that the minister was aware of this alleged corruption, and that the statements were deliberately false and misleading.


I sought further information from the member for Burleigh about the allegations made against him in accordance with standing order 269(5). The member for Burleigh advised that the issues he had raised in parliament were based on reports to him by a number of concerned citizens from Central Queensland and that, given the nature and extent of the information received, he felt duty-bound to raise these matters in the House. I note and emphasise that there is insufficient evidence before me to enable an assessment of the veracity of the various allegations. The member has assured me that the allegations are based on information he has received, but I am not in possession of that information. The member—

**Ms Jones** interjected.


**Mr SPEAKER:** That is the second time today, Minister. The member in his various statements has qualified that he is repeating information provided to him. Having considered the claims and counterclaims, I am of the view that there is considerable examination of fact required in order to determine this matter. I wish to emphasise that I have formed no view as to whether there has been a breach of privilege but, rather, that there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. On this basis, I have decided that the matter does warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee, and I therefore refer the member for Burleigh under standing order 269 to the Ethics Committee for allegedly deliberately misleading the House. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies, and members should not refer to these matters in the House.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Hearing Awareness Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, next week, from 3 to 9 March, is Hearing Awareness Week. This event is supported by Deafness Forum of Australia, the Deafness Foundation and locally by the Cochlear Implant Club and Advisory Association Queensland. Hearing loss is the second most prevalent health problem in the Australian population. More than a third of acquired hearing loss is due to excessive noise exposure and this is entirely preventable. Hearing Awareness Week is held to promote awareness of this important cause and what can be done to prevent it. To mark Hearing Awareness Week, Parliament House will be lit up orange next week. I urge all members to visit the website to learn more about this important issue and how they can get involved in this important cause.

### 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 Bremer State High School in the electorate of Ipswich.

## PETITIONS

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

### PA Hospital-Boggo Road Precinct, Cycling Infrastructure

From 45 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure that a cycle connection is provided from the PA Hospital to the Boggo Road precinct as part of the Cross River Rail project. [\[281\]](#)

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

### Longreach and Emerald, Agricultural Colleges

**Mr Knuth**, from 1,483 petitioners, requesting the House to reverse the government's decision to close agricultural colleges in Longreach and Emerald at the end of 2019. [\[282\]](#)

The Clerk presented the following e-petitions, sponsored by the Clerk—

### Livestock, Shelter

From 1,290 petitioners, requesting the House to insert mandatory requirements in the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 for adequate shelter for livestock kept outdoors. [\[283\]](#)

### Planning Laws

From 4,987 petitioners, requesting the House to review and improve planning laws [\[284\]](#).

### Affordable Housing, Downs Housing Co.

From 146 petitioners, requesting the House to support the government's purchase of the 37 affordable housing rental properties owned by the Downs Housing Company to be rented to the existing tenants at existing rents now and into the future [\[285\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy (Hon. Dr Lynham)—

[272](#) Murray-Darling Basin Authority—Annual Report 2017-18

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Energy and Resources Policies

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): My government's energy and resources policies and initiatives are about strength, diversity and balance: a strong economy and a healthy environment; diversity between traditional and renewable sources of energy generation; and a balance between current demands and future needs. Queensland has the newest coal-fired power stations in the country and a modern gas and LNG industry. Balanced with a clear target of 50 per cent of power generation from renewables by 2030, overseas investors have told me that this policy has provided them with the certainty to invest in renewable projects right here in Queensland. That investment certainty has been appreciated by the entire resources sector whilst we have been in government. My government supports the sector and resources firms have confidence in Queensland.

Since we were elected in 2015 more than \$9 billion has been invested or committed by companies supporting over 5,500 jobs in a variety of resources. Today I am delighted to announce even more. I have good news for Queensland. The biggest new resource project in Queensland in eight years, Arrow Energy's \$10 billion Surat Gas Project, has the go-ahead to generate up to 1,000 jobs. The mines minister has confirmed approval of 14 petroleum leases between Dalby and Wandoan that will bring an extra 5,000 petajoules of gas to market over the next 27 years.

The Surat Gas Project will create up to 800 construction jobs and 200 ongoing operational jobs as well as millions of dollars in business opportunities for local suppliers. It is scheduled to supply gas by next year for export and domestic users. This is the biggest resources project since 2011, when the LNG industry started. It is a huge vote of confidence in Queensland as a resource investment destination. My government will continue to foster involvement in our resources industry because that means stable and secure jobs. This major announcement today about the Arrow's Surat Gas Project is further proof of that.

### Floods, Recovery Assistance


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I gave a commitment that we would stand beside our primary producers, our regional cities and towns, local councils and all those affected by the floods, including those still ongoing in the north and the west of the state. That means everyone, including those around Winton and the southern boundaries of the disaster. This afternoon I will meet with representatives of the growers group and industry to sign off on the next stages of our recovery. They include: NAPCO, Teys Australia, Australian Beef and Cattle Holdings, AgForce, Meat & Livestock Australia and the red meat association. This is the third such meeting.

They are coming here at my invitation. The mayors who are busy in their communities will join us via teleconference. I want the people in those communities to know that those representing them are working together. I want them to know that we are in one room with one goal: getting them back on their feet. After the last sittings of this parliament my minister, Mark Furner, and the shadow agriculture

minister flew up north to see what is happening and to hear what is needed for themselves. Other ministers have been on the ground, and so have I. Whatever the problems are, I want them solved. We have to talk about restocking, weed control, fencing and grants. For example, \$5,000 grants have been made available for carcass disposal. The Flinders Highway has re-opened to facilitate faster recovery.


I look forward to the meeting, and I will continue to work with all stakeholders to ensure that we rebuild our communities, which have been so badly impacted by the recent natural disasters.

### **Building and Construction Industry, Task Force**


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.41 am): Today I can announce a special joint task force to examine complaints of underpayment and non-payment in our building industry. It will be headed by retired Supreme Court judge Justice John Byrne. Justice John Byrne was a judge for 28 years and Judge Administrator of the Supreme Court with particular expertise in both commercial and criminal law. Justice Byrne will be joined by Queensland Police Service detectives plus investigators from the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and representatives of the Office of Public Prosecutions. Anyone who has a complaint about dodgy payments is encouraged to come forward now and have their grievances heard. These are mums and dads and small business people who have been left to the whims and mercies of bigger operators, who too often leave their subbies in the lurch.

The non-payment of subbies is not something that stops at the Queensland border, so I have written to the Prime Minister to have this issue added to the national COAG agenda. Minister Mick de Brenni has overseen widespread changes and improvements when it comes to protecting our building industry. The minister and my government established project bank accounts to protect subcontractors on government projects, and we are moving to widen it across the industry. You will hear more about these measures in a moment. Most importantly, through this special joint task force we will hear from our subbies.

### **Red Balloon Day**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): I would like to acknowledge all of our brave firefighters today. Red Balloon Day is a national day to honour and thank our fireys, but given the back-to-back natural disasters of late I think they deserve extra special recognition for everything that they do each and every day to protect our communities.

### **Building and Construction Industry, Task Force**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (9.43 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is, and always has been, committed to ensuring that Queensland subcontractors get paid in full on time, every time. That commitment is further enhanced today thanks to the Premier's ongoing commitment to a fair go in construction with the announcement of the establishment of a special joint task force to be headed by respected retired Supreme Court judge, the Hon. John Byrne AO RFD. The task force will investigate crimes relating to the non-payment of subcontractors in the Queensland building and construction industry. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank both the Attorney-General and the police minister for their cooperation in establishing this important task force.

This task force is just one element of Labor's commitment to construction industry licensees who do the right thing and who should not have to compete with the shonks. In 2016 we commenced a program of work to give the QBCC the tools it needed to protect Queensland jobs. We consulted licensees, both contractors and subcontractors, right across the state. A total of 800 submissions were received, 1,700 surveys, and conference rooms were packed out across the state at each of the 35 sessions held across Queensland. We listened and developed stronger laws to protect subcontractors.

In October 2017 our nation-leading Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act passed this House. New offences and increased penalties in the building industry fairness act came into force in November 2017. On 1 March 2018 phase 1 of project bank accounts came into effect. In June 2018 the independent implementation and evaluation panel established under the act, chaired by Bronwyn Weir, was established to review and report on the delivery of project bank accounts. This panel will report to government at the end of next month. Its finding will be considered in light of the findings and actions of the task force announced today.


Importantly, we have restored minimum financial requirements for licensing and gave the QBCC powers to regulate those requirements. Those new provisions commence on 1 January 2019. Mandatory annual reporting has been reintroduced through the renewal of licences. New heavy



penalties for failure to comply with this regime will commence 1 April 2019. From 1 April 2019 new regulations will come into force that give the commission greater powers to scrutinise the financial positions of these licensees. This outlines the government's clear and longstanding record on this issue.

Builders and licensees who do the right thing and pay on time should not have to compete with those who engage in what some may consider petty white-collar offences. What is true, though, is that in many cases these are serious crimes. The truth is when you get a benefit dishonestly—when you do not pay and you know you should—that is called fraud, and fraud is a criminal act. When someone is refusing to pay you for the work you have done and it feels like you have a gun to your head that is because it is a crime. If you have been ripped off, you deserve justice. The Palaszczuk government is leading the nation with these reforms, and it is going to get tougher for those who try and break the rules.

### International Year of Indigenous Languages

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.47 am): 'Yo-wah. Maroomba bayon'. Good day to you all. 'Ngali ngee-ooba Yuggera, Jagera, Turrbul Goories'. *A language other than English was spoken.* We acknowledge the peoples of this land, the Yuggera, Jagera and Turrbal people, and mother languages of country. I also acknowledge the mother tongue of the Meriam Mer and Kala Lagaw Ya people, particularly in the dialect of Kalaw Kawaw Ya. 'I tok for yupla in Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Meriam Mer and Yumpla Tok'. I speak to you today in the mother tongue languages of Kalaw Kawaw Ya, Meriam Mer, and Torres Strait Creole. 'Esoau nitha mura'. Thank you, everyone. I think I may have to learn to say 'sorry' as well in Indigenous languages after those pronunciations.


While we celebrated International Mother Language Day on 21 February, UNESCO has declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages, promoting the importance of Indigenous languages for sustainable development and reconciliation. Indigenous first languages represent a complex and sophisticated system of knowledge developed over thousands of years, and each Indigenous language represents a unique context for understanding the world. Language connects people to culture, country and each other and is central to transmitting and preserving cultural knowledge and identity.

There were once more than 100 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects spoken in Queensland. Today around 50 of these remain, with fewer than 20 used as a first language. With very few fluent speakers remaining, Australia's Indigenous languages could easily disappear in the next few decades. The loss of language means the loss of cultural heritage that incorporates unique ways of knowing and experiencing the world and the loss of a key feature of the oldest living continuous culture in the world.

In Queensland the Australian Literacy and Numeracy Foundation, First Languages Australia and the Queensland Indigenous Languages Advisory Committee are working with our first nations groups to preserve their languages. I congratulate these organisations and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander first language speakers who are driving this important work. Although ensuring the future of Queensland's Indigenous languages is not just the responsibility of first nations peoples, we can all play our part.

The Queensland government's Reconciliation Action Plan highlights the need for a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages policy. To inform the development of a policy, my department, DATSIP, funded the Queensland Indigenous Languages Advisory Committee to host forums in Rockhampton, Roma and Brisbane. We are now building on this work, with first language experts advising how to best reinvigorate and preserve languages and looking at ways to recognise and value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and languages. Throughout the year I look forward to seeing and hearing some of the innovative work that is happening in our communities to revitalise, promote, preserve and maintain Australia's first languages, especially those spoken across Queensland.

### International Mother Language Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.50 am): 'We ca mouth wedhia'. Good morning to you and my colleagues in the Dinka language of some of our Queenslanders of South Sudanese background. I draw to the attention of the House that last Thursday, 21 February was the United Nations International Mother Language Day, as the Premier has mentioned. International Mother Language Day was

approved in 1999 at the UNESCO General Conference and has been globally observed since 2000. The date of 21 February acknowledges the day in 1952 that several people were killed fighting to have the Bangla language recognised.


International Mother Language Day promotes linguistic diversity as a vehicle for understanding, appreciating difference and preserving cultures. To highlight this point, last Saturday I was a guest, along with the member for Ipswich, at the 2019 Dinka Bor community event, where mother language, dance and food were shared to celebrate their traditions and encourage and include their Queensland born children in their cultural heritage.

There is no greater demonstration of the Queensland government's commitment to fully embracing the cultural make-up of Queensland than the Multicultural Recognition Act 2016. This act acknowledges that a diverse, dynamic and cohesive society will deliver benefits for all Queenslanders—community, government and business sectors alike. I call on members to continue to appreciate the importance and beauty of the many languages spoken by Queenslanders, acknowledging that more than 11 per cent of Queenslanders speak a language other than English at home and 1.6 per cent do not speak English or do not speak it well.

Supporting mother languages is an important part of openly demonstrating respect for Queensland's cultural diversity. This respect must include all Queenslanders and ensure they have fair and equal access to services and opportunities, a principle also embedded in the Multicultural Queensland Charter.

As noted by the Deputy Premier in her ministerial statement, in Queensland over a hundred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander languages and dialects were once spoken. Today around 50 of these remain spoken in varying degrees, with fewer than 20 being used as first languages, predominantly in the north of the state. Let us respect the diversity of our wonderful state by continuing to encourage multilingual communication, a democratic right that people around the world, including in our own country, are working very hard to preserve.

### Oil and Gas Industries

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government continues to lead the way nationally in the gas and oil sector. In Queensland almost 25,000 square kilometres have been released for gas exploration alone since early 2017. In the year to September 2018, petroleum exploration expenditure totalled \$165 million. Statewide the oil and gas industries continue to directly employ about 8,000 people and will contribute an expected \$447 million in royalties in 2018-19.


As the Premier told us this morning, another multibillion dollar job-generating resources project is about to kick off in Queensland. Construction will start later this year on Arrow's Surat Gas Project. It is scheduled to be operational with first gas flow in 2020. Significantly, Arrow will be using nearby existing QGC infrastructure including processing facilities and pipelines. This is significant, because it is a smaller project footprint and it will have reduced potential impact on local communities and the environment.

The Palaszczuk government's challenge has been to pull the right policy levers on gas. We have ensured that we maintain the export commitments that see billions of dollars flow into the state's economy every year and that we open new land for gas, solely for the domestic market. This is where we continue to do the heavy lifting, because almost a third of the land we have released for gas exploration is only for that domestic market.

Our government's progressive policy action is delivering in spades. Jemena now has a licence to build a plant to process gas from Senex Energy's Project Atlas in the Surat Basin. Senex's project is on 58 square kilometres of land that we opened for domestic-only gas production—our first one—in March 2018. This pipeline will create 150 jobs and the gas will stay right here to power local jobs.

While other states close their doors, Queensland continues to rise to the challenge of bringing energy and feedstock to our manufacturers to maintain jobs right here in Queensland. This government has shown time and time again that creating the right balance is the key, be it between coal-fired and renewable energy or oil and gas.

### Aerospace Industry

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.56 am): Queensland is Australia's home of aerospace excellence. In Melbourne this week a contingent of Queensland businesses, supported by Defence Jobs Queensland,


took the annual Avalon air show by storm. Ours is a state that leads today in the capabilities that both the defence and civilian aerospace markets will need tomorrow. We are home to experts in robotics and trusted autonomous systems, as evidenced by the establishment in Queensland of both the Defence Cooperative Research Centre for Trusted Autonomous Systems and Boeing's largest autonomous systems project outside the United States.

Queensland is also taking Australia into space. Last November I had the privilege of being invited by Logan based Black Sky Aerospace to press the launch button on Australia's first commercial suborbital rocket. The Deloitte report into the Queensland space industry which I released last weekend concludes that Queensland's space industry could contribute up to \$6 billion to our economy and add between 4,000 and 6,000 jobs by 2036.

Queensland is a leader in other areas—pilot training, hypersonics and advanced helicopter assembly, testing and maintenance amongst them. It is our aerospace manufacturing and maintenance, repair and overhaul sectors that are the beating heart of the industry here in Queensland. These businesses alone generated around \$1.2 billion in revenue in 2015-16 and employed more than 4,200 people. They continue to expand by securing lucrative contracts. With the first F-35 Joint Strike Fighters now in Australia and with more on the way, Queensland businesses in the JSF supply chain, like Heat Treatment Australia, TAE Aerospace, L3 Micreo and Ferra Engineering, are getting very busy indeed.

Next year the world's aerospace leaders will come to Queensland, with Brisbane hosting the inaugural MRO Australasia event in March 2020. MRO Australasia, secured by our government, is the largest annual conference and exhibition in our region dedicated to the \$28 billion aircraft maintenance, repair and overhaul market. All of this activity is supported by the Queensland Aerospace 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan, the Palaszczuk government's blueprint for growing this important sector of our economy. It is part of our goal to create an economy that is sustainable, diverse and inclusive for all Queenslanders.

### **Gold Coast Commonwealth Games, Legacy**


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.58 am): When we first bid for the Commonwealth Games we made a commitment to ensure that the biggest event in our history left a great legacy for all Queenslanders. That is why it is great news that the data released today shows that the Commonwealth Games created as many as 800 jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. I can also confirm that Queensland Indigenous businesses secured more than \$14 million in contracts and revenue from the 2018 Commonwealth Games. Snap printing at Underwood were awarded several games contracts, enabling them to employ two new staff members and transfer two casuals to full-time apprentices. CivtecQld in Brisbane was awarded a battery supply contract, enabling them to recruit for two significant roles: a commercial manager and an office manager.

Queensland company Hutchinson Builders, which opened a headquarters at Coolangatta prior to the games, partnered with Verifact to train workers on how to be traffic controllers. Initially six Indigenous workers qualified and found full-time work in the industry, and this has now grown to more than 22 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers qualified and working in the industry. Since the games Verifact has promoted the initiative across the state and committed to filling 55 positions across Queensland with Indigenous workers.

Pacific Facility Services, which moved its Queensland base to the Gold Coast for the games, was awarded a cleaning contract during the construction of parklands, enabling it to employ 12 full-time cleaners in the early construction phase and deliver more than 6,000 hours of training and employment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers. This includes employment for workers like Josh Ah Wing. He started with Pacific Facility Services in 2015. He was quickly promoted to supervisor of 10 people during peak construction. Twelve months after the games, Josh is still employed full-time working in the games precinct.

Stories like this would not have happened and would not have been possible without our government's commitment to a Reconciliation Action Plan—a world first for any Commonwealth Games which will set the standard for Commonwealth Games moving forward for first nations peoples. We continue to work closely with the traditional owners because we are committed to ensuring the Commonwealth Games delivers a great legacy for all Queenslanders. The legacy lives on.

### **International Mother Language Day; Principal Wellbeing; National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence**

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.00 am): 'Altoparlante, oggi parlo Italiano la mia lingua madre de famiglia. Buongiorno a tutti per la giornata Internazionale Della Lingua Madre.' Today I speak Italian, my family language. Good morning to all on International Mother Language Day.

The Palaszczuk government respects and strongly supports our state school principals. On Tuesday I joined the Premier to address the Department of Education's biennial principals' conference where we both thanked school leaders from 1,267 schools and centres across the state. They have a challenging job and we are backing them 100 per cent. On Tuesday at the conference I was pleased to launch the government's \$136 million Teaching Queensland's Future strategy. This five-year strategy will commence in early 2020 and will ensure that our school leaders and teachers are supported now and into the future and are best placed to deliver a world-class education.


Included in this package of initiatives is an \$8 million Australian first partnership between the Department of Education and Associate Professor Philip Riley of the Australian Catholic University to develop a Principal Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Professor Riley is a respected researcher in the fields of educational leadership and the wellbeing of school leaders. His research not only highlights the demands and impacts of school leadership but also includes recommendations for improving the occupational health of school leaders, and I am delighted that he has agreed to work with us implementing these recommendations. The partnership with Associate Professor Riley has been welcomed by all school leaders and their representative associations.

I also announced this week a \$10 million investment to develop a comprehensive leadership framework for school leaders and the extension of the department's and principals' associations existing partnership with Headspace, which currently provides mental health and wellbeing support to school leaders. In recognition of the success of this partnership, funding will increase from \$400,000 to \$500,000 and will be made recurrent. The initiatives included the Palaszczuk government investing \$31 million to establish centres for learning and wellbeing across the state that provide on-the-ground support to principals and school staff in rural and remote parts of Queensland. Centres in Mount Isa and Roma commenced work in 2018 and new centres in Emerald and Atherton will be established this year.

In addition, we will continue to run workshops across the state, together with the centres, as well as continuing our mental health first-aid program. A regional network of health, safety and wellbeing consultants are also in place to support principals, teachers and all school staff, which includes the department's excellent Employee Assistance Program offering free confidential counselling. Principals across the state are shaping the global citizens of tomorrow and the Palaszczuk government has their backs. I trust they had a very successful 2019 principals' conference.

Today I note that many members are wearing the orange ribbon to promote the National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence. Queensland is a lead jurisdiction in the Safe and Supportive School Communities Working Group which provides evidence based information and advice on bullying, harassment and violence for Australian teachers, parents and students. Schools across Australia are being called to get involved and take action on the ninth National Day of Action Against Bullying and Violence for Friday, 15 March 2019. I encourage all Queensland schools to sign up to be part of this important day in the fight against bullying.

### **International Mother Language Day; World Science Festival Brisbane**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.04 am): In the spirit of International Mother Language Day, I acknowledge all the first nations peoples in this state who are still piecing together much of their language after many generations of being denied the right to even speak their language. In that spirit, I acknowledge the Jundai language that the Quandamooka people use. I say, 'Yura,' to everybody here. 'Ngali jagijin marumba balga yari gana.' That means let us welcome the good spirits here where we talk, think and understand.


Today I rise to talk about how once again this government is showcasing Queensland as an international destination for scientific ideas and innovation by hosting another World Science Festival Brisbane next month. This festival is one of the world's most engaging, exciting and educational science events and I am thrilled that the Palaszczuk government has played such an integral part in bringing

this event to Australia until 2021. This is the only festival of its kind in the Asia-Pacific region. This year's festival, presented by the Queensland Museum, will take place in Gladstone, Townsville, Ipswich, Brisbane, Toowoomba and Chinchilla throughout March.

World Science Festival invites us to venture into the unknown as world renowned experts explore topics from forensic science to DNA, space, the stars and moving to Mars. This is the festival's fourth big year. From international pioneers and ground breakers to homegrown trailblazers, World Science Festival Brisbane 2019 offers thought-provoking conversation and signature events, brave new ideas and stimulating debate on some of the biggest challenges confronting humankind in the face of the planet's increasing population and escalating climate change.

Each year World Science Festival Brisbane attracts hundreds of national and international science community members to engage with thousands of visitors across the state, along with the millions who connect with the festival online. Last year the festival attracted more than 200,000 visits and delivered more than 100 events across six locations. It also attracted more than 200 enthusiastic volunteers. Here in Queensland more than 15,000 people identify as scientists, which is the third highest in Australia. The festival is truly a statewide celebration of all things science and I look forward to another fantastic event where visitors, young and old, can meet the champions of science and explore the dynamic connection between science and our everyday world.


### Red Balloon Day

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.07 am): Today is National Red Balloon Day—a day dedicated to saying thank you to the men and women who daily fight fires. They keep us safe from fires and they perform duties most of us quite frankly neither have the skills nor the courage to perform. In the past four months our firefighters have been tested in a way that they have never been tested before, and they were not found wanting. For nine days between the end of November and the beginning of December they dealt with more than 1,200 fires across Queensland. At one point there were more than 200 burning at the same time, but yet they fought on. But they do so much more. They save lives. They save homes. They work alongside our police and our paramedics at the scenes of horrific car crashes. They give puppies CPR—and I am sure Raven the puppy will be eternally grateful—and they really do rescue cats from trees.

During our last term in government we delivered 153 new fire appliances and equipment for our crews. Since the end of 2017, another 120 front-line fire appliances and equipment have been delivered, with more than another 100 due by the middle of this year. We promised 100 new firefighters across the state in four years, and we are halfway there. In fact, I am very proud to announce that today in Townsville we have a new recruit course beginning. From today 29 people will now call themselves a firefighter as they go through the Townsville academy, which we have not used for a number of decades. They join the existing 32 recruits who are currently at Whyte Island undertaking their recruit course, so there are around about 60 new firefighters going through their recruit training as we speak.

They join more than 2,500 paid firefighters and support staff, more than 100 rural fire officers and almost 1,500 Rural Fire Service brigades across the state. We have more than 34,000 Rural Fire Service volunteers. Together with the private industry firefighters, aviation firefighters, forestry firefighters and Defence firefighters, each and every one of them is helping to keep Queenslanders safe. On behalf of Queensland, I thank every single one of them.

### Back to Work Program

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.09 am): Since the 2015 election the Palaszczuk government has been delivering on its commitment of jobs, jobs, jobs for Queenslanders. Today, I am proud to announce that the Back to Work Program has achieved a significant milestone by assisting 18,000 jobseekers. This has been made possible because the Palaszczuk government has invested \$369 million into expanding this program—a program that those opposite, in their election costings, wanted to cut.


I am pleased to report that, out of those 18,000 jobseekers, over 12,000 are young Queenslanders, many finding their first jobs, and more than 4,000 are apprentices or trainees. That is a fantastic outcome for local business owners and Queenslanders who have struggled to find a job. This government is proud to support businesses to have the confidence to be able to take on a new employee.

Over the last month we have seen the true Queensland spirit among our small-business community in their response to unprecedented flooding in North Queensland. As we have done through prior natural disaster recovery efforts, my department is prioritising Back to Work applications and claims in affected areas to ensure that local businesses are getting the very best support during this difficult time. Businesses affected will also be given special consideration on a case-by-case basis for late applications and employee hours worked.

Back to Work is providing exciting career and training opportunities for Queenslanders. Gibson Billy found a job through Back to Work at Mamu Health Service in Innisfail as a trainee health worker. With a passion for working in the growing healthcare industry, Gibson undertook a certificate III in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care and it was fantastic to hear that he has been nominated for Trainee of the Year.

The Back to Work program was designed to support our state's local businesses and provide job opportunities for Queenslanders who have struggled to get a job. That is exactly what we are doing. This is a wonderful example of where the Palaszczuk government has made a real difference to support employment in our local communities. I look forward to more people getting a job thanks to this fantastic program that is delivering real job outcomes for Queenslanders.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

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


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 26 March 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## MOTION

### Absence of Member

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

That this House—


1. notes the statement from Mr Speaker this morning that the member for Pine Rivers will be absent from the sittings of the House from its rising this evening until 20 August 2019; and
2. in accordance with standing order 263B grants the member for Pine Rivers a leave of absence from attending sittings until 20 August 2019.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

### Membership

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


That, effective from Monday, 4 March 2019, the members for Kurwongbah and Lytton be discharged from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee and the members for Redlands and Mansfield be appointed to the committee.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## REPORT


### Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of the office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018.

*Tabled paper:* Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2018 to 31 December 2018 [[277](#)].

## STATE DEVELOPMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES AND AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

### Report and Information Papers

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.14 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 23 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee titled *Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry*.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 23, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Inquiry into job creation opportunities in Queensland arising from the establishment of an Australian space industry [273].

The report presents a summary of the committee's inquiry, including consideration of the space supply chain, Queensland's areas of competitive advantage within that supply chain and opportunities for Queensland businesses and workers as well as opportunities for regional Queensland.

During the inquiry, the committee visited rocket manufacturers in Queensland and witnessed the first commercial suborbital launch in Australia. The committee held a hearing at the University of Queensland and met with key researchers in the launch and earth observation sectors and visited the Australian Centre for Robotic Vision at the Queensland University of Technology. The committee also travelled to the Australian Capital Territory and met with government, academics, space scientists and other stakeholders.

This was a significant inquiry for Queensland. It demonstrated that Queensland is remarkably well placed to fill many niches in the space supply chain owing to its geographic advantages, skilled workforce and business and research expertise. Queensland already has companies and individuals that are part of the space industry and there is potential to build on Queensland's existing capabilities to create more opportunities within the space industry across all of Queensland. This report will show that the space industry is a natural fit for Queensland.

Already there are 30 companies in Queensland that are active in the space industry and there are 126 space related organisations with a presence in Queensland. The Deloitte report states that the space industry employs 2,000 Queenslanders and contributes half a billion dollars in value-adding to the Queensland economy. Australia's space industry is worth approximately \$4 billion annually to our national economy and employs about 10,000 Australians. The committee made a number of recommendations in its report in regard to ways in which the Queensland government could encourage further participation in the space industry, create new Queensland jobs and extend space industry opportunities to regional Queensland.

I also lay upon the table of the House the committee's papers Nos 1 and 2.


*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Information Paper No. 1, 56th Parliament, November 2018—What is the Space Industry [274]?

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Information Paper No. 2, 56th Parliament, February 2019—What does the space industry require [275]?

These are information papers prepared during the inquiry that describe the space industry and what it requires. On behalf of the committee I thank those individuals and organisations who made themselves available to meet with the committee, those who attended public hearings and those who made written submissions. I also extend the committee's thanks to the officers of the department for the assistance they gave during the inquiry. I would like to thank the members of this committee for their commitment and approach to this inquiry. I commend the report and papers to the House.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND COMMUNITY SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.16 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 29 of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee titled *Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*.

*Tabled paper:* Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 29, 56th Parliament, February 2019—Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 [276].

This report presents a summary of the committee's examination of the bill, including considering the policy outcomes to be achieved by the legislation and the application of fundamental legislative principles. The committee recommends that the bill be passed. I thank those who made submissions

to the inquiry and appeared before the committee to provide further evidence. I also thank the committee secretariat and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General for their assistance. I commend the report to the House.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

### Youth Detention

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question is to the Minister for Police. Former Childrens Court president His Honour Judge Shanahan said, 'To have children as young as 11 being held in police watch houses is a travesty.' Can the minister guarantee that children are not being held in solitary confinement in watch houses while they are waiting for a spot in Queensland's overcrowded youth justice system?

**Mr RYAN:** It has always been the practice where young people have been held in watch houses for a period of time, in accordance with orders of the court, until they are processed in accordance with the law. It has always been the process. We have a good partnership between the Queensland Police Service and the department of youth justice around providing support to young people who are in watch houses. I commend Minister Farmer and her department for that great cooperation. Those young people are provided with additional supports while they are in watch houses waiting for accommodation in youth detention centres or are subject to the orders of a court.

We make no apologies for ensuring that young people who are subject to a direction of the court are held in custody. That is for the safety of the community and the safety of those young people. Some of those young people are on very serious charges. We will continue to act in accordance with the law when it comes to detaining them in watch houses. As I said, we make no apologies for that.

### Youth Detention

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question without notice is to the Premier. With reference to the growing number of youth detainees held in police watch houses for weeks at a time whilst on remand, can the Premier advise if these children receive any form of education and the number of contact hours per day?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I do not have those exact details with me. It is a very technical question. We are happy to get the information.

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Let me address a couple of issues. The first is that my government took decisive action in terms of making sure that 17-year-olds were not going to be held in adult prisons. That was something that those opposite were never in favour of. Secondly, as the minister said, we are working in collaboration with the department of child safety and with the department of communities in terms of making sure that these young people can go through these watch houses as quickly as possible and be progressed to alternative forms of detention.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Theodore!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** This is a serious issue.

**Mr Watts:** Shame on you. It is.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am glad that the member for Toowoomba North has interjected. What the member for Toowoomba North said last night is almost deliberately misleading the House. The Attorney-General will be referring that matter to the Speaker. The references that he made to eight-year-olds were outrageous comments.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Attorney will be writing to the Speaker about those comments because they were unhelpful, they were misguided and I believe that they were deliberately misleading.



**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118(b). The question was whether education is happening in the watch houses and the number of contact hours per week.

**Mr SPEAKER:** In response to the point of order, there is one minute and 13 seconds remaining on the clock. Premier, do you have anything else you wish to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I do actually.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I would ask that you use your remaining time to respond to the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Our main priority is making sure that these young people are safe. We have allocated some \$200 million to put in place intervention services at a much earlier stage. We want to make sure that young people have the best future and the best future is making sure that they have employment.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I want to hear the response.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Of course we are making sure that support services are provided to the young people during this time.

**Mrs Frecklington:** Education or support?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is very interesting that those opposite vote against removing 17-year-olds out of adult prisons.

**Ms Trad:** Those 17-year-olds weren't getting an education in adult facilities.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. I take that interjection. Under our youth detention, education is provided in the detention centres.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier's time has expired. I will wait for silence.

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Glass House, comments will come through the chair.

### Electricity Prices

**Mrs LAUGA:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on the effectiveness of measures her government has taken to make electricity more affordable for Queenslanders?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Keppel for that question. It is a very important question. In terms of keeping downward pressure on electricity prices in Queensland, my government can do that because we actually own our assets. Those opposite wanted to sell our electricity assets. We own our assets and are continuing to invest in renewables. We have the youngest fleet of coal-fired power stations in Australia. Our energy policies are working.

I have just been advised that the QCA has delivered its draft determination. The draft determination that was released at 10 o'clock today has come out with some very interesting findings in relation to regional energy prices, which I know the member for Keppel and many of our regional members here would be interested in. There will be a 4.1 per cent decrease next year for regional households, on average \$58. For regional small businesses, and I know how important small business is across our state and we know how small businesses were impacted in the recent floods, the draft determination is a 7.2 per cent decrease, which is, on average, \$180.

That is two years in a row of price cuts. That is in complete contrast to those opposite. The QCA determination said that this has happened because of the focus on renewable energy. The QCA says that the price falls reflect decreased volatility in the national energy market because of the expected entry of approximately 5,200 megawatts of renewable investment over 18 months. Clearly we have an energy plan that is working in this state. We own our assets. We are putting downward pressure on prices. Today we announced more gas into the domestic market. Queensland's energy plan is working and it is a great outcome for regional Queensland. This is in stark contrast to the LNP. We all remember Campbell Newman and the LNP's plan.

**A government member:** What did they promise?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They promised that they were going to guarantee cheaper electricity prices and we got a 40 per cent increase. This is great news for regional Queensland.

### Outlaw Motorcycle Gangs

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the police minister. I refer the minister to the media reports of yet another bikie shooting on the Gold Coast. Will the minister guarantee there will not be any more bikie violence on the Gold Coast or are the bikies back under Labor?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I am going to allow the Deputy Leader of the Opposition to repeat his question in silence, as is my expectation which has been clearly set out.

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the police minister. I refer the minister to the recent media reports of yet another bikie shooting on the Gold Coast. Will the minister guarantee there will not be more bikie violence on the Gold Coast or are the bikies back under Labor?

**Mr RYAN:** What I can guarantee is that we have the strongest, toughest, most comprehensive anti-organised crime legislation in the nation. What I can guarantee is, unlike those opposite, bikies cannot wear colours in the street anymore. What I can guarantee is, unlike those opposite, that under our laws police have proactive disruptive powers to stop bikies opening up new clubhouses. What I can guarantee under our strong, tough laws is that our police have the powers to disrupt consorting and other associations that bikies have.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The minister has the call. Member for Theodore, the minister has used the word 'disruptive' a couple of times. Your interjections are clearly designed to be disruptive. I ask you to cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr RYAN:** I can also guarantee that the police are saying that our tough laws—the strongest, toughest and most comprehensive in the nation—are having their desired effect. We are ensuring that the police have the powers to disrupt organised crime activities—

**Ms Trad:** And get convictions.

**Mr RYAN:**—and get convictions; I take that interjection from the Deputy Premier. I can also guarantee that under our tough laws, because of our hardworking police, 55 matters have been referred to the Crime and Corruption Commission for proceeds of crime action; 41 restraining orders have been obtained over property worth \$12.2 million; 77 people have been charged with the circumstance of aggravation for being a participant in criminal organisations; and four people have been charged for recruiting to a criminal organisation. I can also guarantee that under our strong, tough laws drugs worth an estimated \$45 million have been seized; and 107 outlaw motorcycle gang members have formally disassociated. For the wearing of colours, 28 people have been charged with 31 offences; and 11 people have been charged with 11 offences for being in a vehicle or wearing a prohibited item. Under our strong, tough laws, over 1,000 official consorting warnings have been issued; 10 people have been charged for habitual consorting and there have been two successful convictions; and five people are on remand.

Under our strong, tough laws we have given the police the power to disrupt activities when it comes to establishing clubhouses. Last year the police used those powers effectively to disrupt bikie activity to establish a clubhouse. We have seen 104 people charged with serious organised crime with a circumstance of aggravation. Our laws go further than just attacking bikie organised crime; our laws also attack other forms of crime. We know that during their time in power, under their anti-association laws the outcome was zero, but we are already getting them. That is how strong and tough our laws are. We get convictions and we lock them up.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders for repeated and consistent interjections.

### Queensland Economy

**Mr HEALY:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier advise the House how the Palaszczuk government's economic plan is supporting jobs and infrastructure, and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Cairns for the question. I know that, as a tourism business operator from the regions, he is deeply concerned about and interested in ensuring that his community gets the best outcome from this government. We are delivering in Cairns and we are delivering right throughout the state.

Since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected in 2015, more than 4,600 jobs have been created in Cairns. That stands in stark contrast to the 2,300 jobs lost in Cairns under the LNP. I know that for Cairns, job losses mean a slowdown in the economy. Our economic plan is focused on making

sure that we are building the infrastructure that Queenslanders need, that we are diversifying the industries that our regional communities depend upon and that we are driving real economic growth and change throughout Queensland.

I reflect on the QCA's recent determination, about which the Premier advised the House. It is great for regional communities to see that our economic plan is getting on with the job of driving down power prices: four per cent for regional households, 7.2 per cent for small businesses and for large regional businesses it is a 14 per cent decrease. Fundamentally, that means that businesses have the capacity to employ more Queenslanders. That is happening because we kept our power assets in public hands and we have driven a very sensible and ambitious renewable energy program for our state. The QCA lays bare our economic plan as a success for regional communities when it comes to power prices.

The member for Cairns also asked if there was an alternative plan. I would like to be able to tell the House that there is a credible economic plan from those opposite, but there is not. We know that they have opposed all of our modest revenue measures. We know that they have committed more than \$4 billion of expenditure with not a single word of where the money is coming from. The Deputy Leader of the Opposition, the wannabe leader of the opposition, has absolutely failed to detail how they are going to fill the \$6 billion black hole in their costings. There will be no more taxes, big expenditure items and lower debt, but how will they do that? How will they do that magic trick? It all comes back to what the LNP is best at: cutting, sacking, selling. If they had sold our power assets, there would be higher prices for Queenslanders in regional communities today.

*(Time expired)*

### Wigginton, Ms T

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. On 12 February 2019, the Premier undertook to ask the Attorney-General if threatening and intimidating comments made by convicted murderer Tracey Wigginton, also known as the 'vampire killer', breached her parole conditions. It has been 16 days. What advice has the Premier received?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I apologise to the House. I will get a response to that.

### Energy Policy

**Mr BUTCHER:** My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government's energy policies are benefitting Queenslanders and is he aware of any alternatives?

**Dr LYNHAM:** I thank the member for the question. He knows that it is the Palaszczuk government that has the right energy policy settings and that they are putting downward pressure on energy prices. We have the trifecta: the lowest energy prices in the national market, reliable supply and a smooth transition to renewable power. We have heard great news from the Premier that regional power prices are down by \$58 for households and over \$180 for small business. What do we have from the LNP under its cry for regional competition? According to the Queensland Productivity Commission, under their policy, prices would be up by \$400 for every family in regional Queensland.

What is the federal and state LNP policy? It is not the NEG. That barely lasted a week and saw the end of Malcolm Turnbull. It is not the divestment legislation that the ACCC's Rob Sims said he was never consulted on and he labelled an 'extreme measure'. Of that same divestment legislation, experts on the Energy Security Board said—

At a time when investment is needed ... it is not helpful for the Commonwealth government to be threatening powers of divestment, price setting ...

The same divestment legislation that was so urgent and important has now been shelved for the federal election. We have to be clear that divestment legislation is privatisation. It is the same privatisation that inhabits the DNA of those opposite. Privatisation is in their every bone and every pore. It allows the Morrison government to privatise our assets, which is something that those opposite tried but could not do.

However, those opposite have not been completely idle. Members will remember the member for Nanango's policy on renewable energy. It lasted 0.6 milliseconds. Maybe they can rely on the member for Callide. While our farmers are witnessing global warming, the member for Callide is bunkering down for the next ice age. A year ago in this House the member delivered a dire warning:

'Ice, not global warming, is the big killer.' Apparently, and let us be warned, when the great ice sheets spread again, only those who can extract and burn coal, oil and gas will survive! It sounds like another tough winter for the woolly mammoth; it sounds like a tougher winter for the Leader of the Opposition.

### **Schwarten, Hon. R**

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Premier. On 13 February 2019 the Premier said she had not seen the vile and obscene profanity QBCC board member and Labor stalwart Rob Schwarten repeatedly used, including to describe the shadow minister for housing and public works. It has been 15 days. Has the Premier disciplined Mr Schwarten for this disgusting conduct or is it acceptable to the Palaszczuk government?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. Let me make a few comments. The first is that the Speaker has referred a matter regarding this to the Ethics Committee. I am not going to pre-empt that. Secondly, I have read that article. Thirdly, Mr Schwarten has stepped down from that position voluntarily while the matter is being investigated.

Once again I remind those opposite that the Speaker made statements in this House yesterday about making sure they have evidence before they come in here and say things. I said very clearly that I do not accept that language. I said that when I was on my feet. I made that very clear. Everyone knows my views in relation to that.

As the matter is now before the Ethics Committee, I am not going to say anything further. As I said, I actually—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Mander:** On 'no bullying day' you find that acceptable.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not find that acceptable.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Please resume your seat Premier. Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. The level of interjection is too high this morning, members. I would like to see greater respect shown across this chamber.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If you want to talk about bullying, the way in which the member for Everton just spoke to me—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I have an app on my watch which records my stand time. I am happy to stand as long as it takes today to get you to calm down.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** One of the recommendations from the Anti-Cyberbullying Taskforce was that MPs should start setting an example.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I expect those standards from everybody across the chamber.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The member for Kawana asked about a previous answer I gave in the House on 12 February. I said that the Parole Board is independently established and that they set the conditions. I said that I was going to check with the Attorney-General. I stand by my comments. It is a matter for the independent Parole Board. I am also advised that this person remains subject to a parole order for life. Parole conditions are set by the independent board. I believe that I have sufficiently answered that question.

### **Space Industry**

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Will the minister please update the House on the development of Queensland's space industry? Is he aware of any other approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Aspley for his question and acknowledge his support for our state's emerging space industry and the jobs it will support in the future. We are driving a transformation of the Queensland economy—transforming old industries and creating new industries. One of those is

the space industry. I want to thank the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for their work on their report that was tabled today. It sets the path for the future and also demonstrates that there is a bright future for our space industry in Queensland.

As those businesses working in the space industry and as those businesses working in industries across Queensland know, thanks to the good work of this government electricity prices are heading in the right direction. If you are a business in regional Queensland there will be a \$180 decrease next year according to the draft QCA report on electricity prices. As the Treasurer said, for larger businesses there will be a 14 per cent decrease. That is a good thing. We have a long way to go but we are headed in the right direction.

Just as we are heading in the right direction with our space industry, our space industry faces a countdown to a brighter future. It is not the only countdown clock running in Queensland. Time is running down on the future of the Leader of the Opposition. Every time she wants to launch, every time she has the engines firing, there is the member for Everton hitting the self-destruct button and wrecking the flight. How can you blame her?

Each week she is fighting to keep the leadership. She is staring down the Dalek from Everton. She is staring down the Wookiee from Glass House. She is staring down the Klingon from Surfers Paradise. They are all coming after her. There has been a complete failure to launch. All the backbenchers in a mind meld of despair are looking into the sky and all they see is the constellation Newman looking back at them. They are going absolutely nowhere. The rocket will not launch.

How long will the despair phase last? There is the member for Broadwater—the LNP's Yoda—practising for 800 years—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock! Minister, resume your seat. I appreciate there is a lot of feeling. The force is obviously strong here this morning. Member for Broadwater, these are not the interjections you are looking for.

**Mr DICK:** You can thank me later, Mr Speaker. There is the member for Broadwater—the LNP's Yoda—practising for 800 years. 'Waiting I am not,' I hear the member for Broadwater say. It is clear in a galaxy very, very nearby the leader is in more trouble than the Jupiter 2. There is one clear message for the Leader of the Opposition: may the farce be with you.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I remind the Minister for State Development to use members' correct titles in this House.

### **Queensland Government Advertising and Marketing Communication Code of Conduct, Breach**

**Mr BENNETT:** My question is to the Premier. On 13 February 2019 the Premier told the House that she would get back to me about whether she would order Minister de Brenni to repay taxpayers for a message from the minister which breached the government's advertising code of conduct in the same way that Anna Bligh made the member for Inala pay taxpayers back in 2010. It has been 15 days. Has the Premier finally made a decision?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left, the Premier has not even risen to her feet and you are interjecting. It is completely unacceptable.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I said in the House that day, there were no findings against the minister. Those opposite actually had a letter from Mr Dave Stewart that clearly outlined that there were no findings against the minister and came in here and tried to deliberately mislead the House. That matter has been well and truly dealt with. It is the minister's prerogative to refer that matter to the Ethics Committee if he sees fit.

### **Innovation Festival**

**Ms McMILLAN:** 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 progress of Queensland's largest ever innovation festival?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for her question. She is as excited as I am about the fact that over the next three years we are going to be delivering the largest innovation festival in the Southern Hemisphere right here in Brisbane. This builds on the great work that the Minister for Science did in luring the World Science Festival to Brisbane. It will be part of our Curiosity Brisbane symposium that we have partnered with the Brisbane City Council to do through Brisbane Marketing.

I am very pleased to advise the House today that, as part of our consultation with and working in partnership with the Brisbane City Council to build this event over the next three years, this year I can confirm a world-class line-up of international speakers for QODE. This includes Telstra CEO, Andy Penn; Boeing NeXt Senior Director, Egan Greenstein, from the US; Wirelane CEO, Dr Constantin Schwaab, from Germany; futurist and foresight expert Dr Roey Tzezana from Israel; Schaeffler Managing Director, Andre Kluge, from Germany; Palo Alto Networks Threat Intelligence Analyst, Brian Lee, from the US; Everledger CEO and Queensland Chief Entrepreneur, Leanne Kemp; manager, author and lecturer Dr Yuval Dror from Israel; and Ventus Data AG CEO, Gilad Greenbaum, from Switzerland. We are going to have a massive focus at this event on core strengths of blockchain, AI and robotics—all areas where Queensland is leading the charge. I am also very pleased to announce that Energy Queensland CEO, Dr David Smales, will also be attending that function.

Once again, there has been a focus on energy this morning with the Premier's announcement that the Queensland Competition Authority has announced today in its draft report that we are going to see downward pressure on power prices in regional Queensland, ranging from \$58 for ordinary residents right up to \$180 for regional businesses. This is a Labor government delivering on our promise. We know what happened when the LNP—when Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition, was Campbell Newman's assistant treasurer—went to the election promising to reduce electricity prices. Everyone in the gallery knows, as do we, that under the LNP power prices went up by 43 per cent. They promised one thing before the election; they did another thing when in government. In actual fact, they pulled the plug on that policy as soon as they got elected. If it were not so heartless you would think it was a joke.

Mr Speaker, I know you are a *Star Wars* fan, so I had a look at energy price jokes while I was sitting here. What is a Jedi electrician's favourite tool? His lightsaber! It is not a laughing matter. They promised one thing before the election and did another thing after the election—a 43 per cent power price increase when Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition, was working hand in glove with Campbell Newman. We will always fight to get the policy settings right to bring down electricity prices. Once again we have delivered.

*(Time expired)*

### Queensland Rail

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question without notice is to the Premier. With QR's new enterprise agreement for train crews about to come into full effect, can the Premier clearly tell the House and all Queensland commuters when Labor's 'rail fail' will end and the full 472 weekly services will be restored to Queensland Rail?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There were imputations in that question. I ask that you rule it out of order.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The 472 services that were cut is a fact. It is not an imputation; it is a fact.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member. It is not an opportunity to debate the content of the question. I will allow the question. However, I will give the Premier latitude in terms of her answer.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I thank the member for the question. It is great to see that Queensland Rail is working very constructively with both the Minister for Transport and the department oversight body—

**Mr Powell:** What about with the commuters?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Yes, I will take that interjection—and with the community to ensure that we continue to seek improvements on our transport network. Recently in December we saw a 6.5 per cent increase in public transport trips to 15.26 million trips. That is the 15th consecutive month of public transport growth. We have seen increased patronage not just on trains but on buses and on the Gold Coast Light Rail as well.

We now have—and this is good news; there is a lot of good work that has been happening—an additional 69 drivers and 111 guards on the network. That is in stark contrast to those opposite when they failed to do recruitment. It is very clear: they sacked the trainers. That is excellent work from Queensland Rail. I commend the minister for his oversight in terms of ensuring that we have extra drivers and extra guards on the network.

We will continue to strive for the stabilisation of the network. We have seen good improvements. We now have the extra drivers. We now have the extra guards. Over the coming months there will be further announcements in relation to this matter.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Once again, I want to congratulate Minister Bailey for the work that he is doing with Queensland Rail, the CEO and of course the oversight body. At the end of the day, it is about the passengers and the consumers. You cannot go back to the full restoration of the timetable until you have the drivers and you have the guards.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Ms Jones:** You shouldn't have sacked the trainers.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North and member for Cooper.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. The buck stops with those opposite when they cut the trainers. They cut the trainers, so they could not train the train drivers. It is very simple. That is the legacy of those opposite. We are making sure that we have the extra staff to carry out and to improve our train network services in South-East Queensland.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

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

### Small Business

**Mr STEWART:** My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is helping Queensland small businesses and any other approaches she is aware of?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Townsville for the question. I want to commend the member for Townsville, as well as the member for Thuringowa and Minister Coralee O'Rourke, for the fantastic work they have been doing supporting our communities in North Queensland, particularly our small businesses so many of whom have been affected.

This is a government that is delivering for small business in Queensland. We have brought back the Small Business Champion after those opposite axed the small business commissioner. Seventy per cent of the businesses in our Back to Work program are small businesses. We are making it easier for small business to hire more Queenslanders. We have been taking the fight up to resource sector companies to make sure that small businesses are paid within 30 days.

We know that power prices are a huge issue for small businesses. CCIQ's recent pulse survey showed that that was the No. 1 issue for small business. That is why we are partnering with CCIQ in our wonderful ecoBiz program. It was wonderful to see an extra \$4 million for that great program in our budget. Of course, as we have heard today, there is more great news for small business on power prices. The QCA's draft determination will see power prices for small businesses in regional Queensland decrease by 7.2 per cent. That is a \$180 saving for our small businesses. This is great news. It shows that our Affordable Energy Plan is working, and it is working because we kept our assets in our hands. Unlike those opposite who wanted to sell our power assets, we have kept our assets in government hands, and two years in a row we have seen power prices come down for our small businesses.

What is the LNP's plan on energy? Federally their plan, or lack of a plan for the last few years, has destroyed more than one Prime Minister. It is complete chaos in Canberra. There is absolutely no certainty for small businesses or anyone. What about the LNP here in Queensland? What is their plan for energy? Well, the Leader of the Opposition in her budget reply speech said that she was going to mandate investment in renewals. Then a few days later she said that that mandate was not mandatory because of the pressure from her federal colleagues in Canberra.

Once again, the Leader of the Opposition is always prepared to kowtow to the chaos in Canberra rather than stand up for Queenslanders and reduce energy prices. The Palaszczuk government is delivering. We have our power assets in our hands and we have our Affordable Energy Plan that is bringing down power prices for consumers and for business. On that side of the House it is chaos. They have absolutely no plan to reduce power prices. We know their record is a 43 per cent increase. It is the Palaszczuk government that is delivering on power prices for Queensland.

### **Illicit Drugs, Pill Testing**

**Mr BERKMAN:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. I refer to the resounding success of the ACT's pill-testing pilot, which recommends pill testing at festivals and fixed locations and reflects growing recognition in the community that a 'just say no' approach to drugs is costing Queenslanders' lives. Given this success and the growing community support for a harm reduction approach to drug regulation, when will the Queensland government follow suit and introduce pill testing as part of a broader harm reduction strategy in Queensland?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Maiwar for his question. It is an important one, particularly in light of six recent deaths at festivals as a result of poisonous pills, including one young Queensland boy from the member for Cooper's electorate. I know that she recently met with his family to discuss this and other issues.

I have been in constant contact with the ACT health minister, as they have trialled pill testing at Groovin the Moo, a festival held in the ACT and also in Townsville. The member is correct in saying that the initial report of that testing trial was quite positive, although the ACT has determined that it needs to repeat that trial at the next Groovin the Moo festival to be held in April. It is their intention to report on that second trial at the COAG Health Council meeting subsequent to that festival.

It is my view that the best outcome would be a nationally consistent one. Festivals like Groovin the Moo do not occur in just one state or territory; they travel around. Of course, festivalgoers travel around too, evidenced by the fact that it was a young Queensland boy who lost their life at a New South Wales festival. I look forward to seeing the outcome of that second trial and the discussion with other ministers at the COAG Health Council. Our preference would be for there to be a nationally consistent outcome for festivalgoers who travel to other states and festivals which travel to other states.

**Ms Jones** interjected.

**Dr MILES:** I take that interjection from the member for Cooper. Even if it is determined that pill testing is part of the solution, it is only part of the solution. There is a wide range of measures that can and should be considered to keep festivalgoers—our children—safe when they go to festivals. I would like to see the full breadth of measures considered to keep young people safe and to minimise harm. Again, my preference would be that that happen at a national level, but if it cannot happen at a national level then we will certainly have that discussion at a state level once we see how the second phase of the pill testing trial in the ACT proceeds in April.

### **Floods, Recovery Assistance**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Will the minister provide an update on how the government is working with industry in the wake of the devastating floods in North and North-West Queensland?

**Mr FURNER:** I want to commend the member for Ipswich West on his continual involvement in regional Queensland and his interest in this devastating weather event. I am pleased to inform the House that later today both the Premier and I will be having the third high-level meeting with industry regarding the impacts of the monsoonal trough in the north-west earlier this year. Each time we engage with the people from those regions, whether it be industry leaders, people on the ground or the mayors, it comes through time and time again how critical our involvement is. That is why the Premier should be congratulated on her leadership in ensuring that our rural providers and our regions are taken care of.

Industry, producers and processors have been engaged in previous meetings, and today will be another opportunity to understand the impacts to their properties and stock in the north-west and the flow-on effects going forward in respect of the processing sector. The feedback from previous discussions has been harrowing. I know that many ministers on this side of the chamber and some shadows ministers from the other side have travelled to those regions and seen firsthand the devastating effects of this weather event.



Producers have lost valuable stock. There has been a loss of major infrastructure, including roads, rail and fencing infrastructure. Floodwaters have had a significant impact on their homesteads which will take years to recover. Seeing the devastation firsthand on the ground with the Premier—and I was also joined by the member for Gympie—highlighted the scale of the response to come.

The government and my department have reacted quickly to this natural disaster. There are many Queensland public servants still on the ground dealing with this issue. Throughout the response I credit Minister Littleproud for his support. That is why I find surprising the political point-scoring and sniping from the member for Gympie. It has been unhelpful and unbalanced. I table the response from the member for Gympie—a media release which has been posted on social media.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 8 February 2019, from the Twitter account of the member for Gympie, Mr Tony Perrett MP, regarding feed shortages [288].

This release should never have been posted in good conscience. It accuses the state government of authorising an Australian Defence Force flight to be held on the ground. Had the member for Gympie spoken to me, or had some involvement with Defence through C-17s and C-130s, or the member for Macalister, or checked with the member for Southern Downs, it would have clarified his negligence in putting this post up on social media and his politicising this terrible event—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Southern Downs, you will direct your comments through the chair. I remind you that you are already on a warning.

### Mining Industry

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Deputy Premier's answer on Tuesday that nations are turning their back on coal and mining communities need to reskill. What programs are currently underway to reskill Queensland's regional communities from boilermakers to West End barristers—baristas?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not quite sure about the barristers.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I know we like some humour in the House, but I remind members that we should always ensure we are not jumping on members who may have an occasional slip of the tongue. I remind members to tread carefully when it comes to those matters.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you very much, Mr Speaker. I do not think the Deputy Premier is reskilling barristers at all. I think the Attorney-General will always ensure that our barristers have the skills they need to do their job.

I am more than happy to talk about the resources sector when I am on my feet. The \$10 billion of investment in gas in Queensland is the largest investment in the resources sector since the LNG industry. Add that to our \$9 billion and we are up to \$19 billion—\$19 billion worth of investment under my government. I tell you what: there is going to be a whole lot more. Minister Lynham and I cannot wait until next week when we will be in Weipa once again, officially opening the Amrun bauxite mine—

**Mr Powell** interjected.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. Minister for State Development, I will not tolerate quarrelling across the chamber with other members. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There will be a whole lot more resource projects in this state because we back Queensland jobs. As I said in the House today, we have been able to put downward pressure on electricity prices due to the fact that we own our energy assets. They wanted to sell our energy assets; we kept them in public hands. As the QCA determination said, it is because of our investment in renewables. Once again, over \$5 billion is being invested in renewable industries in this state, with \$20 billion worth of renewable investments on the books. They might not like talking about renewables, but we know Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister, has suddenly found the word 'renewables'. It is very hard to say. We find it very easy on this side of the House. We are not quite sure where those on that side of the House stand on renewables.

When we move to a brand-new hydrogen industry, we will need new skills and new training for people to work in the new industry. Just yesterday the Minister for State Development and I looked at the first 100 per cent renewable diesel truck. Where is that being built? At Pinkenba and going to Gladstone. Their aim is to have a brand-new industry in Gladstone of renewable diesel. We will need training and skills for people to undertake those new jobs in a brand-new industry.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Mr Speaker—

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I could keep going.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The standing orders do not allow for that, Premier.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities, Kindergarten Enrolments**

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Minister for Education. Will the minister update the House on efforts to boost the number of kindergarten enrolments within Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Gaven for the question. I know she has a very soft spot for early childhood education and care. The Palaszczuk government is committed to giving all Queensland kids a great start through access to high-quality kindergarten. We know there are benefits when kids go to kindergarten—improved school results, and better health and employment prospects. The benefits are even greater for children from vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.

There is great news in the latest ABS statistics. In the 10-year period since federal Labor introduced universal access to kindergarten enrolment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, enrolments have increased in Queensland from 26 per cent to 94 per cent. This is great news. Even in the last 12 months, we have seen an increase in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and vulnerable children attending kindergarten from 92 per cent to 94 per cent.

We have some great programs right throughout the state. We are investing nearly \$30 million to deliver 35 quality Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community kindergarten programs in areas such as Aurukun and Bamaga and 67 remote state schools, including Laura and Lakeland state schools in the beautiful electorate of Cook. We also have 54 Early Years Places, including 10 dedicated wraparound services in areas like Kamba in Ipswich and the Early Years Place in Mackay. They are delivering great results. We provide subsidies for out-of-pocket expenses for vulnerable and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families worth about \$150 million a year. This is providing great benefits in the state. I love the social media campaign Elders as Storytellers, which is highlighting the benefits of kindy participation.

It concerns me, and I cannot count the number of times that I have called on the Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government to provide long-term funding for early childhood education and care in this state. With the last budget, the money runs out in 2019. We have no further long-term money for this very important area. I despair when I find that an organisation that has a shack on Kangaroo Island gets \$430 million and over a billion dollars is given to two organisations without an application, without anything. Yet here we are, a sovereign state, getting great benefits for kids.

I make a plea to the federal government. Give Queensland a billion dollars for early childhood education and care and I will guarantee that we will spend it wisely and deliver the best outcome for those children throughout Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Local Government, Voting**

**Ms LEAHY:** My question is to the Premier. The hallmarks of the Palaszczuk Labor government are to gag debate in this House, change the voting laws with 18 minutes notice to suit themselves and trash the Fitzgerald principles. It is a fact that Labor's proposed changes to local government voting have nothing to do with voters and everything to do with the Labor Party rigging elections.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am seeking advice from the table. I ask members to remain quiet while I take this advice so I can rule on this question.

Member for Warrego, I believe there are a number of characterisations within the question. I would ask that you ask the question without the preamble.

**Ms LEAHY:** Is it a fact that Labor's proposed changes to local government voting have nothing to do with the voters and everything to do with the Labor Party remaining in power?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you have two minutes to answer the question.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The answer is no. In relation to the council proposal, the Minister for Local Government is currently consulting with councils about a proposal. He will listen in detail to what they have to say before making a decision.

### **Bribie Island Road, Upgrade**

**Mr WHITING:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Bearing in mind the significant investment being made by the Palaszczuk government in the Bruce Highway, will the minister update the House on investments being made to upgrade Bribie Island Road?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have two minutes to answer.

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Bancroft for the question. He is a fierce advocate for his local constituency, and he knows we are spending a record QTRIP budget on rail and road infrastructure this year for the third year out of the last four years. There is \$21.7 billion. I can report to the House that \$10.4 million of that is allocated to upgrade the Bribie Island Road and Old Toorbul Point Road intersection to improve safety and relieve congestion, with construction to start this year.

We have also completed early planning for the future upgrade of the remaining two-lane sections of Bribie Island Road through Ningi, and planning is well advanced on the section between the Hickey Road and Saint Road intersections. We have also delivered: safety improvements at the Lee and Peel roads intersection and Aylward Road intersection at Ningi at a cost of \$3.7 million; a dedicated right-turn lane at the Ningi waste station worth nearly \$800,000; and motorist and pedestrian safety improvements between the Kal Ma Kuta Drive and Bestmann Road intersection worth \$2 million.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in the Bribie Island Road. I wish I could say the same for the federal government. The federal government promised \$20 million in new funding as part of the Longman by-election, but what did we see? Not only did the federal LNP lose that federal by-election, but after months of silence I got a letter from the Deputy Prime Minister late last year saying the \$20 million was coming but it was not additional new funding. It would be scraped together using savings from other projects already funded in Queensland. This is a clear breach of their commitment that they made in the Longman by-election to Queensland—again, just like they are ripping us off on Cross River Rail, on the M1 and on the underfunding of Sunshine Coast rail.

The LNP have got it in for Queensland. What we are seeing again here is that they are short-changing Bribie Island Road. I have written to the Deputy Prime Minister urging the government to allocate \$20 million in new funding as promised for the Bribie Island Road and to work with the Queensland government to identify the parts of the road that actually need upgrading, which they failed to outline during the Longman by-election.

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

## **HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL**

### **Message from Governor**



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.17 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency recommends the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

HEALTH AND WELLBEING QUEENSLAND BILL 2019

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intitled—


A Bill for an Act to establish Health and Wellbeing Queensland to improve the health and wellbeing of the Queensland population, and to amend this Act, the Hospital Foundations Act 2018 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 26 February 2019

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 26 February 2019, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019 [278].

## Introduction

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.18 am): I present a bill for an act to establish Health and Wellbeing Queensland to improve the health and wellbeing of the Queensland population, and to amend this Act, the Hospital Foundations Act 2018 and the Public Service Act 2008 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019 [\[279\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019, explanatory notes [\[280\]](#).

This bill will deliver the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to create a health promotion commission by establishing Health and Wellbeing Queensland as a statutory body. While there is much we disagree about, I hope those opposite will join me in supporting this bill because the obesity crisis facing Queensland should be above politics.

The number of obese and overweight Queenslanders is not just a statistic. It is how 1.26 million Queenslanders live their life: unable to fit in an airline or a bus seat, unable to run with their kids; many spend 3½ days a week strapped to a dialysis machine; some cannot find work; some have trouble finding or maintaining a relationship. We all represent many folk like this. When I visit my local shops, medical centres or schools I am struck by how much harder life is if you are obese, how it impacts every aspect of your day-to-day life, not to mention the number of days you can expect to live.

While the experiences of obesity are individual, the causes are not—or at least not entirely. It is convenient for some to blame individuals for their weight. However, the personal responsibility frame has the benefit of absolving everyone else of responsibility. It leads us to ignore the root causes and, worse still, the intentional actions which drive the obesity epidemic. When we make it about personal choice, we let governments off the hook; we let the fast-food industry off the hook; we let planners and developers off the hook; we let schools, supermarkets, doctors and employers off the hook.

While I accept that every one of us has to take some responsibility for our own health, I have not seen any evidence anywhere that the obesity epidemic in Australia is the result of waves of people waking up and deciding one day that they would prefer to be fat. They do not decide to be fat; our society decides to make them fat. All of the social determinants of overall health apply just as equally to obesity: poverty, poor housing, and insecure and poorly paid work. First nations people are disproportionately affected as they are in just about everything health related. It all makes sense when you think about it. Obesity has much in common with the other big health policy challenges like smoking, skin cancer and drinking. In one's 20s obesity affects their lifestyle. In one's 30s and onwards it affects their health—diabetes, heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, back pain, osteoarthritis and many cancers.

The latest 2018 Chief Health Officer report found that 2.5 million Queensland adults and 224,000 Queensland children are overweight or obese. That is two in three adults. That is one in four children. That is because Queenslanders have a terrible diet, with one-third of their daily energy intake coming from unhealthy foods. It is not because bad food tastes better—some might argue that and say it is all about poor discipline, but it is not. Big fast-food chains such as McDonald's, Hungry Jack's, KFC, Wendy's, Krispy Kreme, Uncle Toby's, Smith's, Nestle and big sugary drink manufacturers such as Coca-Cola and PepsiCo spend hundreds of millions of dollars in advertising, in securing the best product placement to ensure our kids see their products and pester us for them relentlessly, and the worst tactic of all is that they make their products as cheaply as possible with the most amount of sugar and fat to keep people coming back. It is no wonder that this disproportionately affects poorer people the most.

Obesity rates are 49 per cent higher in socioeconomically disadvantaged areas of Queensland compared to advantaged areas. Obesity rates are also higher in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander populations and those living in a rural or remote part of Queensland. We do not need a government agency to tell people to have more control over their own life or their loved ones' life. Most people who are overweight want to be healthier. What we can do as a government is affect the conditions in which people are born, grow up, live, work and age. If these underlying conditions are not addressed, people will keep turning to cheap, sugary, fatty and easily accessible food.

While public health efforts will never rival McDonald's or Coca-Cola for their advertising budget, we can listen to the experts and implement what is proven to work. This is why we have invited the experts in to parliament today to start helping us right away. The AMAQ, the Cancer Council, Diabetes Queensland, the Heart Foundation, IUIH, Apunipima, Griffith University, the Stroke Foundation, Nutrition Australia, Bicycle Queensland, Healthy Harold and many more will all be part of making sure Health and Wellbeing Queensland has what it needs to take on the big guys.

About 15 per cent of hospitalisations in Queensland are associated with preventable risk factors such as obesity. The people of Queensland need a champion against the goliath food companies that will use every trick in the book to keep them coming back to their unhealthy food. This health promotion body will be a champion for change at the individual and local community level, as well as partnering with governments and businesses to advocate for system changes to make communities healthier, especially disadvantaged communities.

The Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill 2019 will establish Health and Wellbeing Queensland as a statutory body that can work across boundaries to promote health and wellbeing by funding and coordinating efforts to address the factors that prevent Queenslanders from being active and healthy. It will do this by reducing the burden of chronic diseases through targeting risk factors for those diseases such as obesity, low physical activity and poor nutrition. It will also contribute to reducing the health inequality that exists in our community. This is the Palaszczuk government's vision for advancing Queensland.

We have set a target that by 2026 there will be a 10 per cent increase in the proportion of Queenslanders with a healthy body weight. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will build on existing initiatives and strategies in the community and government to bring business, industry, community groups and researchers together. By providing grants and developing partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be the spark to change the conditions in which Queenslanders live, work and play and give them a real fighting chance at a happy, healthy life.

Linking in with researchers and academics, it will focus on funding and supporting evidence based and locally supported initiatives that will make a difference to the health of children, families and vulnerable communities. Supported by funding and investment in research, Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be able to promote a cross-sectoral approach to health promotion. Health and Wellbeing Queensland can and will make a positive and sustainable difference.

As a statutory body, Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be a separate legal entity, directly accountable to the Minister for Health for its performance. It will have a board of up to 10 members, a chief executive officer and staff. Up to four of the board members will be chief executives of government departments, which will allow government input and promote alignment with the public sector. The other members will have experience across a range of sectors including law, business, public health, academia, community services and the not-for-profit sector.

The bill also requires at least one person to be an Aboriginal person or a Torres Strait Islander person. The diverse board membership will promote the collaboration across health and non-health sectors necessary to contribute to social change. Board members will be appointed by the Governor in Council for up to four-year terms.

The performance of Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be monitored to ensure it is making progress towards reducing risk factors for chronic disease in the community and reducing health inequality. Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be required to include information in its annual report about functions it has performed during the year and how efficient and effective it has been. It will also be subject to directions by the minister, and the minister may ask Health and Wellbeing Queensland to provide information about its projects and activities.

Amendments are proposed to the Hospital Foundations Act. The amendments will allow for a foundation to be established to support Health and Wellbeing Queensland to achieve its objectives. The CEO of Health and Wellbeing Queensland will be responsible for investigating whether a foundation would be viable and a good source of attracting new revenue.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to making Queenslanders among the healthiest people in the world. We are not going to blame them for the actions of big multinational food and beverage companies that profit from their misery. We are going to give them a fighting chance—a champion for their health and wellbeing. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.29 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

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

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

## PRIVILEGE

### Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by Members

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (11.29 am): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I refer to the private member's motion moved by the member for Kawana last night regarding air conditioning in state schools. I also refer to page 498 of *Hansard*—and I table a copy—which outlines the two questions that were put at the end of that motion.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Record of Proceedings, page 498, dated 27 February 2019 [\[286\]](#).

The first question put was that the amendment be agreed to. The amendment which the Minister for Education moved deleted all words after 'House' and inserted—

calls on the LNP opposition to explain how they intend to fund and implement the LNP's plan to air-condition every Queensland state school classroom.

The question was resolved in the affirmative. The second question put was that the motion, as amended, be agreed to. This was resolved in the affirmative also. At no stage was there a question put in relation to the original motion put forward by the member for Kawana, and as such the government did not vote against any motion last night.

Standing order 266(13) states that it is contempt of parliament to publish a false or misleading account of the proceedings before the House. As such, I will be writing to the Speaker to ask that he consider referring the following members to the Ethics Committee: the Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango; the member for Mudgeeraba; the member for Coomera; the member for Surfers Paradise; the member for Glass House; the member for Toowoomba North; the member for Pumicestone—

**Mr McARDLE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This does not qualify as a matter of privilege. The member is making a speech to the House. She is making a statement clearly articulating what she wants to say in her own patch. This is not a matter of privilege. If she wants to write, she should write; not argue the point—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Thank you, member for Caloundra, I understand your point of order, which is also not an invitation to debate.

**Hon. YM D'ATH:** Mr Deputy Speaker, in relation to the point of order can I say that it is not a point of order; it is a matter of privilege. The member for Keppel is outlining what the issue is that she is writing to the Speaker about. She has the right to outline the issue that she is going to write to the Speaker about. She is not debating the issue.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I find no point of order, but I understand that the member for Keppel is coming to the end of her explanation.

**Mrs LAUGA:**—the member for Kawana, the member for Gympie, the member for Oodgeroo and the member for Burnett for publishing or republishing a false record of proceedings, that being the publication of a social media graphic saying, 'Labor just voted against the LNP's plan to air-condition every state school classroom.' I table copies of the social media post.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of screenshots, undated, from Facebook pages in the name of various members regarding vote on LNP's plan to air-condition state school classrooms [\[287\]](#).


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before we get to the next order of business, I will remind members that these are the members who currently have a warning under the standing orders: Nicklin, Kawana, Theodore, Southern Downs, Everton, Buderim, Nanango, Chatsworth, Woodridge and Glass House. Bear that in mind as we move through the next hour and a half.

## FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 27 February (see p. 506), on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (11.33 am): I rise to speak in support of the bill. The Palaszczuk government takes the maintenance of our fisheries seriously. We need our fisheries to be sustainable, but we also need to be able to prove they are sustainable. We realise that there is a wide variety of groups with an interest in the fishery, whether it is commercial operators, recreational anglers or Queenslanders with a conservation or traditional interest in the maintenance of our marine environment. This strong and diverse public interest was abundantly clear to me and the other members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in its examination of the bill and its provisions.

Queensland's fisheries resources are precious, and the government has an obligation to manage them sustainably so that the industry can keep providing jobs for Queenslanders right across our great state of Queensland—from Bamaga in the north, to the Tweed River in the south. That is the case whether it relates to fishing boats, charter vessels or the numerous downstream industries that support these activities such as marine engineering, tackle and bait shops, tourist ventures and Indigenous enterprises. It is our role as a government to ensure that our fisheries are managed sustainably into the future. This bill provides important new mechanisms to shift how Queensland manages its fisheries in the future. We want to move away from the often slow and fragmented processes that characterise many of our current arrangements.

Queenslanders deserve the best fisheries management system. Our government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy is delivering a real pathway to get us to that point, and this bill is an important step in that direction. One of the key aspects of the bill is the introduction of harvest strategies which complement the government's significant investment of around \$5 million of new money into fisheries stock and social and economic monitoring. This funding forms part of the \$20 million Sustainable Fisheries Strategy funding that was announced in the 2017 state budget.


Queenslanders rightly expect that fish stocks should continue to provide good yields and receive a reprieve from overfishing when indicators suggest that precaution is warranted. That is why harvest strategies are an important way forward. They set clear directions for what will and can happen when certain trigger points are reached. The bill also allows for our fisheries to move towards finer scale management, as does the adoption of new technology such as vessel tracking on commercial vessels. The government has built ongoing consultation mechanisms into the bill and the processes leading up to harvest strategies. We want to ensure that our children and grandchildren can have the pleasure of enjoying recreational fishing and experience buying local sustainable Queensland seafood.

I have a strong personal interest in primary resources as well as our regional and rural industries, and what is clear to me is that we need to address seafood black marketing. This government takes black marketing very seriously and it is deplorable. Seafood black marketing is undermining Queensland's legitimate fishing businesses. It is not only illegal but also unfair. A key component of this bill is to provide stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences such as seafood black marketing. Together with the industry we are working towards faster, clearer decision-making processes that will support Queensland's ability to respond and tackle black marketing and bring us in line with other Australian jurisdictions. Both industry and the Queensland community have made it loud and clear that they want us to tackle this illegal conduct.

The provisions of the bill will not affect the majority of fishers who do the right thing, but it will deter and punish those who let everyone else down. Just yesterday we saw the crushing of a seized vessel which had been operating illegally in Somerset Dam, and not that long ago there was a successful prosecution for the illegal fishing of red claw at Somerset Dam. This bill will provide fishery inspectors with the powers they need to effectively investigate such offences with the aim of successful prosecution. Individuals convicted of trafficking in priority fisheries could face a maximum penalty of

3,000 penalty units or three years imprisonment. These tougher penalties are in line with other Australian states and have proven effective in combating fisheries black marketing. Queenslanders want action, and this bill will provide the penalties needed to deter such corrupt practices.

The bill also provides our fisheries inspectors with the powers they need to do their jobs properly, particularly with regard to investigations. The bill also gives greater assurance to commercial fishers about the protection of their personal data as the government moves towards a comprehensive and evidence based model of fisheries enforcement. The provisions of this bill provide an important update of Queensland's fisheries management framework. The proposed bill operates in close conjunction with the \$20 million Sustainable Fisheries Strategy package, working to improve our data and evidence for decision-making while mitigating the impacts of change on commercial operators. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (11.39 am): I rise to contribute to the debate in relation to the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. As a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee which considered this bill, I would like to recognise the many commercial fishers, departmental staff and industry representatives who appeared before the committee at hearings in Cairns, Scarborough and Brisbane. I would also like to recognise the tireless work of committee secretariat staff Jacqui Dewar and Natasha Mitchenson, who, as always, provided capable support to assist the committee in its work.

I would like to recognise the work of my fellow committee members, the members for Bancroft, Condamine, Bundaberg, Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney. On this bill the committee arrived at some constructive recommendations, which is why it is so disappointing to see that the minister ignored all of those recommendations and the views of his Labor colleagues the members for Bancroft, Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney.

The LNP know how important it is to support our fishers. We know that it is important to get the balance right between sustaining a viable commercial fishing industry, supporting recreational fishers and managing environmental considerations. That is why I was pleased to see that many aspects of this bill are consistent with the recommendations made by the independent *Taking stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland* report which was commissioned by MRAG in December 2014. It is clear that many of the provisions contained within the bill have community and industry support. However, many submitters expressed concerns with regard to the manner in which the provisions in this bill are being implemented.

The main issue that came up time and time again during the committee hearings was around the proposed vessel monitoring system, VMS, compliance requirements. The fishing industry expressed concerns around the cost, suitability and reliability of proposed VMS devices and expressed concerns around the penalties and security associated with their intellectual property.

While I recognise that arguments exist to support the use of VMS, the manner in which the government has gone about its introduction has been nothing short of farcical. We saw the government introduce regulation on Thursday, 8 November which required the VMS to be fitted from 1 January, yet no penalties would apply because they are contained within this legislation. This incompetent minister is so disorganised that he passed regulation without any penalties to enforce it.

I add that the department's approach in relation to VMS during the consultation period was disingenuous, particularly given that they were not forthcoming with the plan to roll out VMS using regulation rather than wait until this piece of legislation had been debated and passed.

I find it somewhat curious that the government will not support the LNP's policy to GPS-track serious sex offenders but it does not have any concerns requiring commercial fishermen to do exactly that. Apparently, the rights of recidivist sex offenders like Robert Fardon come before those of commercial fishermen. That is perverse logic if ever I have heard it.

The entire VMS rollout has been an exhibition in how not to implement public policy. We have heard multiple examples of faulty VMS responders, shonky government authorised suppliers and general mismanagement from the department. The new regulations mean that fishermen are not permitted to earn a living while their VMSs are broken or not in operation. It is a situation that has occurred countless times since their introduction. It is important to note that many of these commercial fishermen are simply mum-and-dad small businesses scraping out a living on small fishing boats, not large-scale trawler operations.

The concerns around intellectual property which were expressed during the consultation period are legitimate, and the value of fishing spots was quantified during the committee hearings. Such intellectual property is built up over many years of fishing experience and represents the competitive



advantage which makes some fishermen more successful than others. We have heard that breaches of the supposedly secure facility used to store VMS data have already occurred, so clearly their concerns are justified. Should such data be mishandled, either deliberately or otherwise, the penalty that applies should be significant enough to reflect the value that resides in the intellectual property. The opposition members of the committee believe that the penalty for releasing such information should match the penalty applied to fishermen who breach the VMS provisions. That the minister has chosen to ignore this considered proposal, which was supported by those fisheries officers we met with when floating around on Moreton Bay, is disappointing. Surely it is reasonable that the same standard should apply to public servants as applies to small-scale commercial fishermen.

Additional concerns were raised in submissions to the committee as to what related to a commercial quantity, which is an important consideration in combating black market activity. Stakeholders raised concerns that the figure of five times the recreational limit or weight equivalent was not adequate, particularly in relation to high-value species such as tropical rock lobster and coral trout. In the case of tropical rock lobster, five times the recreational catch would equate to 25 lobster, worth around \$4½ thousand on current market prices. Opposition members believe that a commercial quantity should be reduced from five times to two times the recreational limit or weight equivalent. Let's be clear: what we are talking about here is a shift from 500 per cent of the legal catch to double the legal catch. If an individual has double the legal catch, it is not an accident. I am disappointed that the minister does not share the view of the committee that the current definition of 'commercial quantity' is too high and that he has not amended the proposed definition. I note the feedback received from fisheries officers we met with on Moreton Bay who indicated they were supportive of lowering this threshold. Those were the same officers that the minister was happy to pose with for a media opportunity on Tuesday, but he clearly does not think their views merit listening to.

During a public hearing the committee heard from a lifetime master fisherman, Mr Reid. Mr Reid expressed significant concerns about this legislation across the day. Although he was not initially on the speaking list, it was right that he had the opportunity to place his concerns on the record. For that decision I acknowledge the discretion exercised by the chair, the member for Bancroft. Unfortunately I do not have time to detail all of Mr Reid's concerns, but *Hansard* makes for illuminating reading. Mr Reid had considerable concerns about the penalties that apply to commercial fishermen in relation to VMS indiscretions. Mr Reid said it best when he said—


The fine does not fit the crime.

People get fined \$700 or \$600 for drink-driving and they are over the bloody limit. They are driving without a licence. You are going to talk about all the new fines for VMS. VMS is a system whereby when it breaks down you have to come home. They are unreliable. They are expensive. You are asking fishermen to pay for it, which is \$47 a month, or whatever it is, for recording it. They should not have to pay at all. Even a paedophile who has to wear a VMS device around his ankle does not pay for that. Why should the bloody fishermen have to pay? All it is is reducing their viability.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Order! Thank you, member for Buderim. I know that you are quoting what a witness said at a hearing, but I caution you on repeating every single word he did say.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I take your caution. I support the considered amendments circulated by the shadow minister for agriculture, fisheries and forestry. I call on the minister to listen to the views of industry stakeholders and his Labor colleagues the members for Bancroft, Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney and support the amendments which were proposed by the committee and the amendments introduced by the shadow minister which aim to implement the committee's recommendations.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I note that we have in the gallery school leaders from Coolum State High School in the electorate of Ninderry.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.48 am): I rise to speak in support of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. Queensland is blessed with an abundance of natural resources. Seafood is just one of them. The worth of our oceans, our marine resources, is on display throughout Lytton. My electorate is bounded by beautiful Moreton Bay, a prime source of seafood and a site for fishing for generations of Queenslanders. We have a proud and rich history of fishing. We know that traditional owners have fished and managed the waters of Quandamooka for thousands of generations. I thank them for their care and custodianship of this important piece of water in my area.

European fishing started as early as the 1890s. There were no marinas so fishermen looked for safe, sheltered moorings. Wynnum Creek was an obvious and popular choice. Since then there have been generations of fishing families, including the Crouch family, who fished continually out of Wynnum Creek from 1890 until recently.

At its peak Wynnum Creek was accounting for 13 per cent of the total of Queensland's catch. The employment and associated industries that were created from fishing meant that over 50 per cent of local residents were dependant on Wynnum Creek. That is how Wynnum Creek grew into the village of Wynnum, and still today the Wynnum fishing industry remains successful. The 2018 Australian Fish and Chips Awards confirmed what we long-term residents and day visitors alike knew to be true—that we in Wynnum have the very best fish and chip shop in Queensland. I am very proud of that fact.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PEASE:** I take that interjection. It was the judges' choice, so I want to congratulate Dimitri and his team at Fish n Chip Co. in Wynnum on this wonderful achievement, and I acknowledge the great work of the Queensland Seafood Marketers Association in promoting this competition. I encourage and invite all members of the House to drop down to the bay to check out Dimitri at Fish n Chip Co. or any one of the many great fish and chip shops in the area, including my friends at Pelican's Nest. You will not beat it for an afternoon out.


The iconic status of our seafood in Queensland means that we have a special obligation to keep it available for the future. Successive Queensland governments have recognised the need to reform Queensland's fisheries management system and large public surveys and ongoing consultation about fisheries reform since 2014 have shown that there is public support for taking action to preserve these benefits. We in this House are in a position to act to keep our fisheries sustainable and well managed, and it is important that we as the current generation of legislators take action now to safeguard the future of our Queensland fisheries.

We want to be in a position to leave the legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children and grandchildren. I cannot wait to take my grandchildren fishing down on Manly wall. There is absolutely no pressure, Callum and Audrey—you can relax—but I look forward to it sometime in the future. I want to be able to share my love of fishing—let us call it casting practice—and to experience the thrill of that nibble and then the bite and the reeling in of tonight's dinner. This bill will help us achieve this legacy. When we know that the state can do better, and be better, then it is incumbent upon us to change how government does its business. The bill will ensure that the public's fisheries resources are sustainable into the future and will ensure our children and our grandchildren can enjoy recreational fishing and local sustainable Queensland seafood.

It is time for a positive and effective change to how we manage our fisheries in Queensland. Queensland's current fisheries management framework is outdated, cumbersome and incapable of appropriately responding to sustainability issues. Decision-making processes are slow and unclear and Queensland's ability to respond to issues such as black marketing lags behind other jurisdictions. This bill will deliver more responsive decision-making through our harvest strategies that set out preagreed and approved rules for each fishery to achieve the agreed ecological, economic and/or social objectives. This approach is recognised as best practice and is used in other states.

The bill also supports the introduction of vessel tracking on commercial vehicles, particularly the priority fisheries of line, reef and crab, from 1 January 2019. A key component of the bill is to provide stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences such as seafood black marketing. During consultation earlier this year, more than 90 per cent of respondents supported the adoption of stronger compliance powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences. I agree with them. Commercial operators work hard to bring in their catch and put it out to market. Having other fishers undercut their work and compromise the health of the fishery is unacceptable.

This bill proposes that individuals convicted of trafficking in priority fish species could face a maximum penalty of up to 3,000 penalty units or three years imprisonment. This fine is significant and sends a strong signal back to would-be black marketers. These penalties are in line with those in place in other Australian states where they have proven effective in combating black marketing. It is clear that Queenslanders want action to stop the black marketing of seafood in this state which undermines legitimate fishing businesses, and this bill delivers on this. It is clear that Queenslanders want action taken and the additional 20 boating patrols that our government has funded and recruited will also support the enforcement of these changes. These changes will support better conservation outcomes, promote local jobs and cut out wrongdoing. We support them and I support this bill.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (11.54 am): I rise as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to make a contribution to the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. I firstly want to thank the members of the committee, including you as chair, Mr Deputy Speaker Whiting, together with the members for Ipswich West and Mount Ommaney from the government side and from this side the members for Condamine

and Buderim. We worked very cooperatively to review this bill. I also thank the hardworking secretariat, Jacqui and Natasha, which, as always, did a fantastic job putting together our report on this bill. Well done to everybody.

The bill seeks to modernise Queensland's Fisheries Act 1994 by implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy released in June last year which had four major objectives. It is no secret that Queensland's commercial fishing industry has been in decline over the past 20 years. It is also no secret that the Queensland Labor Party has been in government for the vast majority of those years. Years of spiteful political and ideologically driven policy and neglect have seen Queensland's once proud commercial fishing industry become a mere shadow of what it once was. For years Labor has overseen an agenda which has not supported the hundreds of family commercial fishing businesses. These are the businesses, including in my electorate of Bundaberg, that supply our state with some of the finest seafood in the world. Instead of working alongside our commercial fishers to modernise the industry, this government continues to tie up the industry in bureaucratic and administratively burdensome red and green tape.

We on this side of the House represent those commercial fishers and the communities they support. We know and understand just how important it is to support our fishers. We also know and understand just how important it is to find the right balance between the fishers, the environment and the recreational fishing industry. That is why it was positive to see so many aspects of this bill consistent with recommendations made by the LNP commissioned independent report titled *Taking stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland* which was undertaken by MRAG in December 2014. Queensland's commercial fishing industry sees this bill as the latest bad decision made by the Labor government. This government's poor decisions are forcing our commercial fishing operators out of business, in particular our small operators.

The most controversial part of this bill is the stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences like seafood black marketing. More than 90 per cent of residents who responded to the review do support the adoption of stronger compliance powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences, and it is clearly an area that industry wants the government to act on. However, the proposed vessel monitoring system, or VMS, compliance requirements have created much angst and concern within the fishing industry. If passed, this bill requires vessel tracking equipment to be fitted on all licensed commercial and charter boats by next year, 2020. These rules changed under existing legislation on 9 November last year, coming into effect on 1 January. However, the minister passed this statute without any penalties and this bill we are debating today contains those penalties.

The rollout of the trackers has been ludicrous. There are numerous examples of faulty VMS responders and general mismanagement. Fishermen are not permitted to go out and fish while their VMS is broken or non-operational. Fishing is how these people make a living, yet they are prohibited from doing so because of a government fault. This is completely unacceptable to them, and so it should be. This disorganised rollout is crippling our small fisheries right along the coast, with safety concerns regarding the appropriateness of the trackers also coming to light. This whole situation requires review. There is no excuse for faulty responders or such poor organisation.

Often commercial fishers consider their intellectual property to be worth more than the actual state issued licence. The industry is concerned that the protection of fishers' intellectual property is insufficient. This intelligence is often built up over years of experience and has a high commercial value. Fishers' knowledge of the ideal spot and the time to make a catch needs to be protected, just like any business interest. The penalties in the bill for illegal distribution and misuse of this knowledge do not fit the crime. The penalties for misusing or sharing the information unlawfully should attract the same significant penalties as a commercial fisher would receive for breaching VMS compliance. Compliance seems to be more important to this government than the protection of the intellectual rights of our hardworking fishers. Why is it that the Labor government wants to track our fishers but refuses to track our paedophiles?

Additionally, ensuring the black market activity in the seafood industry is successfully combatted is another important aspect. It is vital to the long-term sustainability of this industry. The maximum penalty for this offence will vary depending on whether the tracking related to a commercial quantity. If the tracking relates to a commercial quantity, the maximum penalty will be 3,000 penalty units, or three years imprisonment. Otherwise, it will be 1,000 penalty units. Stakeholders raised concerns that the figure of five times the recreational limit or weight equivalent was not adequate, especially given the varying values associated with certain types of priority fish.

Although recommendation 2 from our committee called for a review of the definition of a commercial quantity regarding priority fish, it does not go far enough. It asked for a threshold that is significantly lower than the five-time recreational limit, or weight equivalent. The LNP will move an amendment to ensure that the quantity making it a commercial quantity is reduced from five to two times the recreational limit or weight equivalent. It is great that this side of the House has the backbone to support the industry over this issue and put forward this amendment as this Labor government and minister are so arrogant that they have completely rejected their own Labor committee members' recommendations for that to occur. Not a single committee recommendation has been accepted. That is why it is important to support the LNP's amendments as they implement the committee's recommendations. It will be interesting to see how the three Labor committee members vote on these amendments after their minister rejected their recommendations for these changes.

It is concerning that this state Labor government continues to introduce laws that disregard the principles of individual freedoms and property rights by enabling unreasonable powers of entry and investigation. The Queensland Law Society raised significant concerns regarding the powers this bill grants inspectors to enter a place, including a boat or a vehicle, without a warrant, or consent, or reasonable notice period. The QLS stated—


In our opinion, the drafting could be corrected to protect an individual's rights by ensuring that entry powers are subject to consent, a warrant, a reasonable notice period or, at the very least, a reasonable suspicion that an offence has been or is being committed and that entry without a warrant, consent or notice is necessary to prevent evidence from being destroyed. We urge the committee to recommend these changes ...

That is why the LNP is proposing amendments to remove the power of inspectors to enter premises without a warrant. These powers breach fundamental legislative principles. I have stood in this place and spoken against this increase in powers in relation to the vegetation management laws, and here we are again, under the watch of the same minister, bringing in more of the same. The excuse that we will continue to hear is that they have already been legislated under other acts. These breaches need to stop. I again stand to voice my concerns about continued breaches of fundamental legislative principles by this government.

The objectives of the LNP's amendments are to extend the same maximum penalties that apply to commercial fishers to public servants and others who use the vessel monitoring information in an unauthorised way. This amendment will enforce a maximum penalty of 1,000 penalty units if a public servant or service provider discloses confidential information without permission or knowingly uses information obtained through the vessel tracking system.

A further amendment seeks to ensure that the minister is required to table a report meeting minimum requirements on the first 18 months of implementation of the new vessel monitoring system. The LNP amendments also seek to restrict the new entry powers for fisheries inspectors to enter premises used for trade or commerce, or vehicles, to having the consent of the owner, a five-day notice period, or having a warrant. Lastly, the amendments seek to change the definition of 'commercial quantity' from five times the recreational limit, or weight equivalent, to two times the recreational limit, or weight equivalent.

The lack of any regulatory impact statement from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries regarding the impact of the bill fails any test of good governance. A regulatory impact statement is about proper due diligence, which is yet again being bypassed, just as it was with the vegetation management laws. The trend by this Labor government of only half baking its legislative agenda has to stop. Our fisheries deserve better, the workers and families in the industry deserve better, and Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.03 pm): I rise to speak to this legislation today as a member of the committee and as somebody whose livelihood once relied very heavily upon the seafood industry. I want to begin my contribution by acknowledging yet again the wonderful work of our secretariat in organising the briefings, the hearings and the excursions that we went on. We had the opportunity to go out on Moreton Bay and to visit fisheries in Cairns. I had to wear my bright pink boots to ensure that I met all the workplace health and safety requirements. The committee secretariat does an absolutely sterling job. We have had a very heavy legislative workload. The calibre of the excursions that we have been able to go on to support our legislative agenda deserves acknowledgement and commendation. I am sure that all of my fellow committee members would join me in giving that acknowledgement.

Successive Queensland governments have recognised the need to reform Queensland's fisheries management system. We on this side of the House know that these changes are long overdue. The amendments in this bill will modernise fisheries management in Queensland and give effect to the government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, which was developed by the government following


extensive consultation. Queensland's current fisheries management framework is outdated, it is cumbersome and it is not really capable of responding to the sustainability issues that we know that our fisheries are facing. The decision-making processes are slow, they are unclear and Queensland's ability to respond to issues raised by members of the public, such as black marketing, lags behind that of other Queensland jurisdictions. That is a crying shame, because we all know that the very best seafood in not just Australia but in the whole world is right here in Queensland. We were very proud to sell a lot of it at my former home, Restaurant Two.

This bill will ensure that the public's fisheries resources are sustainable into the future. It will ensure that my children and my grandchildren—God willing—can enjoy recreational fishing and local, sustainable Queensland seafood. I know that the majority of the community is going to support these changes. As custodians of the community's fisheries resource, which belong to each and every one of us, they expect us to take appropriate action now to ensure that it is protected for future generations. It is important to note that this bill is not going to affect the average fisher. The changes are consistent with other legislation and will bring Queensland into line with other Australian fisheries jurisdictions.

A key component of this bill—and something that I am really passionate about—is its ability to provide stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences, such as seafood black marketing. We know that there is big money to be made from seafood black marketing, so it is important that there are penalties to match that activity. During the consultation on this bill, more than 90 per cent of respondents supported the adoption of stronger compliance powers and penalties to address such serious fisheries offences.

It was interesting to hear those opposite talking about the powers of entry being problematic. We cannot have stronger compliance unless we can enforce those stronger measures. I have heard those opposite raise the argument that the powers are too strong and that businesses will be unfairly subjected to searches. I come from a hospitality background and I disagree. Many in this House would be aware that, before I was elected, I was a manager at Restaurant Two. That was my family's restaurant. Restaurant Two, along with every other restaurant in the Brisbane City Council area, was subject to random inspections from food safety and compliance officers under the Brisbane City Council's Scores on Doors program. A compliance officer would show up unannounced at the business. There was absolutely no notice whatsoever. We would be expected to fully comply with a random inspection of our venue. That inspection included inspections of our fridges, or our floors. Anything the inspector wanted to look at would need to be open to the inspector at that time. We did not feel offended by this inspection program. We did not feel like our rights were being impinged. As a venue, we understood that it was impossible to get an accurate rating system unless the compliance officer had an accurate idea of the cleanliness of the facility right then, right there—and not be given five days notice in which we could clean up, fix the floors, or do whatever we needed to do. We welcomed the opportunity to have an independent arbiter verify what we knew to be true, and that is that our venue had the cleanest kitchens in Brisbane.

Like the Scores on Doors program that is operated by our Brisbane City Council, the additional compliance in this bill is surely needed. We need an independent arbiter to make sure that compliance is up to scratch. That means having powers of entry then and there—not giving people five days notice in which to get rid of any of their black market goods. Of course, we are not going to find anything if people get five days notice. When it comes to compliance, the LNP cannot have it both ways. We know that 90 per cent of respondents support tougher compliance. Why suggest that officers need to give five days notice? We know that, five days from then, there will be nothing to find. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018, a bill, I note, that aims to modernise the objectives of the Fisheries Act 1994 to clarify the decision-making process and to strengthen compliant powers and penalties to address black marketing.

I state at the outset that I support the practical and common-sense amendments to this legislation that will be moved by the member for Gympie—amendments that, I might add, were drawn from the recommendations of the parliamentary committee, recommendations that have been completely disregarded by this minister. Does that not send a message to this parliament? Clearly when it comes to fishing the minister knows everything and he does not need to take advice from industry or his own parliamentary colleagues. That should be ringing alarm bells throughout Queensland. What a slap in the face to the members of the agricultural parliamentary committee who travelled throughout Queensland—as we heard from members on both sides of this parliament—consulting with commercial fishers, members of the public and industry to come up with a report that contained a number of important recommendations.

I also put on record my support for the commercial fishing industry and the hardworking operators who are out there day in, day out trying to make a living. It is no secret that in the past Queensland was home to a proud commercial fishing industry that supplied some of the world's highest quality seafood to homes and businesses throughout Australia and around the world. It is also no secret that under those opposite we have seen that industry reduced to a shadow of its former self. The unrelenting persecution and demonising of our commercial fishers under the Labor regime is nothing short of disgraceful. I have witnessed the decline of the industry over a number of years and I know how tough it is for our commercial fishing operators to meet the requirements of increasingly tough and bureaucratic legislation and regulation. There is no question that we need to balance commercial and recreational fishing with sustainability of the fishing resource, but when the pendulum swings too far one way, as we are witnessing now with VMS, something must break. This government's record on fishing is appalling. That is why, during the previous LNP government's tenure, the then minister for agriculture commissioned the MRAG report which contained a number of sensible and practical recommendations that involved consultation with the industry.

The implementation of the vessel monitoring system has been nothing short of a shambles. Just last week one of my commercial operators was ordered off the water because his unit had malfunctioned, costing him an estimated \$5,000 in lost income for the day. It is not good enough. The rollout of these units and associated compliance regime should be suspended until such time as a full and comprehensive review is conducted. Instead of taking the opportunity to work collaboratively to protect our environment, we just see more red tape. Instead of cracking down on illegal activity, we see law-abiding commercial fishers being forced to purchase dodgy equipment. Yes, forced, because this is equipment this government forced them to buy. To add insult to injury many commercial fishers have not even received their units despite ordering and paying for them months ago. If they have received their units they are still at risk. If the unit is safe on their boats, and that is a big if, they have to hope the unit actually works. We do not believe that a law-abiding Queenslander should have their life and their liberties put at risk by a minister who values the rights of zealots more highly than the rights of Queenslanders.


I also want to highlight how important the intellectual property that these units capture is to commercial operators. As members would appreciate, commercial operators have fishing habitats and localities that are extraordinarily valuable to them. That intellectual property is potentially worth a considerable sum of money in certain quarters. In many cases this intellectual property has been built up over several decades and, as a consequence, stringent safeguards should be built into the legislation with this information protected at all costs. There is no question that the penalties for misusing or sharing this information unlawfully should attract the same significant penalties as a commercial fisher would receive for breaching VMS compliance.

Like all Queenslanders, commercial fishers want the seafood black market shut down. I first raised this issue with the previous agriculture minister because I saw what it was doing to the industry. It undermines and undervalues the commercial fishing industry and there is no question it needs to be shut down. Commerce fishers expend vast sums of money on boats, equipment and licences, and they deserve and warrant protection from black market operators who, until now, have operated with relative impunity. I note the amendment being put forward by the shadow minister will change the definition of commercial quantity from five times the recreational limit or weight equivalent to two times that limit and I fully support that amendment.

If I could move on to powers of entry and the blatant breach of an individual's basic rights and freedoms proposed in this bill, again we see this government bypassing the most basic rights to appease green groups. We see inspectors given the right to enter property without a warrant, just as we saw in the disastrous vegetation management laws introduced by this minister. There should be no entry rights to premises used for trade or commerce, or vehicles, without the owner's consent, a reasonable notice period or a warrant, which is exactly what our Queensland police officers do at the present time. To allow inspectors a right of entry without a warrant or reasonable notice is nothing short of an abuse of power and a gross breach of rights and I concur with the comments from the Queensland Law Society that such provisions should not infringe upon fundamental legal rights.

Like I have said many times in this place, those of us on this side of the House understand commercial fishers and the communities they support. Despite asking this government to consult with primary industry and regional Queensland time and time again, we again see key legislation put before this House without a regulatory impact statement. The lack of a RIS fails any test of good governance and goes to the arrogance of this government that it can introduce legislation into this place with no regard for due diligence or the potential impact on our commercial fishing industry.

It is not good enough that this government pays lip-service to real issues while wrapping Queensland's small businesses in red and green tape. It is not good enough that this minister botches the implementation of scheme after scheme, all the while destroying Queensland industries. Without the amendments proposed by the LNP, this legislation is not good enough to achieve the outcomes that Queensland needs while respecting the hard work and rights of our commercial fishers throughout our state. If we do not work with our seafood industry and support our commercial fishers, we will not be able to go down to the local fish and chip shop and buy good quality, locally caught seafood, we will not be able to eat fresh seafood at our favourite restaurant and we will not be throwing a locally caught prawn on the barbie. Instead of regulating our fishing operators out of the industry, why don't we work with them and take on board their knowledge and experience? After all, they are the professionals and it is their livelihoods that are under threat. We can make changes here today that will make the lives of our commercial fishers easier while sustaining our fishing resource. If those opposite, including the minister, were fair dinkum they would adopt the amendments proposed by the member for Gympie.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.17 pm): 'Guten Tag!' That is good afternoon in German, the language of my nana's family and community at the time of her birth in Marburg just west of Ipswich but lost to our family and the broader community during the upheaval of World War I. I am pleased my daughter is studying German at Cavendish Road State High School and taught me how to say that this morning.

'Galab Wanaagsan!' That is good afternoon in Somali, the language of many good people of Holland Park who work hard to preserve their wonderful culture and language. 'Buenas dias a todos los parlamentarios. Espanol no es mi lengua materna, pero es un lenguaje que me gusta mucho y trato de hablar cuando me encuentro personas de America latina en Greenslopes. Hay muchas personas in Greenslopes que hablan espanol.'

I would like to thank the minister for encouraging people to think about language. Language is powerful in so many ways and I commend the efforts of the Indigenous people of this land who continue their quest to maintain and re-establish their languages.

Turning to the bill, I support the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. While the Greenslopes electorate is not bounded by sea it has its fair share of recreational fishers, conservationists, traditional owners and seafood business that have a direct interest in the health and sustainability of our fisheries. In fact, all Queenslanders have an interest in our fisheries, one of the most economically valuable and ecologically diverse natural resources that our state possesses.

Queenslanders expect that the laws, rules and regulations that govern the edges of everyday life should be contemporary, responsive and fit for purpose. That expectation is reasonable and common to voters and residents from right across this state. Those same voters should have reasonable confidence that their elected representatives and departmental officers have the powers and funding that they need to do the job that they are employed to do, which is to promote the public interest. That is the case in all areas of public administration, whether for those in my previous profession as a nurse in the public health system in Brisbane, a teacher aide in Proserpine or an officer on a Boating and Fisheries Patrol boat on the waters off Coolangatta. When legislation starts to fall behind or no longer meets the needs of the public, there is a need to reform it to better serve the public.

Fisheries is one of the areas where reform is needed to keep our legislation up to date and up to the challenges of managing a prominent public resource. Successive Queensland governments have recognised the need to reform Queensland's fisheries management system. I have certainly followed the journey of this legislation from my time as the chair of the agriculture committee. I also followed some of the earlier consultation that went on. I am proud to be part of a government that is addressing these issues and reforming our administration and decision-making systems to meet the needs of the Queensland public, now and into the future.

The amendments in the bill will modernise fisheries management in Queensland and give effect to the government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-27, which was developed by the government following extensive consultation. I was involved in the early phases of that in my role as the chair of the agriculture committee. I commend the minister for continuing that work.


The fisheries strategy is an important demonstration of how our Palaszczuk government works, in contrast to the Newman LNP government which did not listen. It is a strategy based on evidence, following a long pattern of bandaid solutions, temporary fixes and abandoned reform efforts that mean our fisheries system is not well regulated or as informed by evidence as Queenslanders would expect. As a health professional, I value evidence very highly and base my practice on it. I expect that is the same in any other area of professional life. The fisheries strategy incorporates goals and objectives

that reflect wider government and public interests, particularly around the health and sustainability of the Great Barrier Reef, as well as regional economic development and environmental conservation. Those are all interests that the people of the Greenslopes electorate have a strong interest in. On many issues my community's default outlook is to act locally and to think globally.

Critically, this bill is part of a strategy that is appropriately funded. Our government has put \$20 million worth of funding into the strategy. It was one of our key budget commitments. How we have spent that money is a reflection of our priorities and values as a government. Those values are echoed in the provisions and intent of the bill. We have spent money on scientific monitoring, so that we have better data and a better understanding of our marine resources and stock levels. We have spent money on improving engagement with fishers of all stripes, including running extensive consultation processes to develop harvest strategies that will manage our priority fisheries in the future. We have spent money on rebates for vessel tracking devices, helping mitigate the cost of change for private operators who derive a profit and living from our public resources.

The laws we are debating today complement those initiatives. They ramp up fines to deter black marketeers, complementing our investment in additional enforcement. They support legitimate operators in their businesses and formally recognise our first Australians as a legitimate interest holder in fisheries management for the first time.

The \$3 million funding for this initiative was leveraged off investments from our government and the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority. This emphasis on cooperation, evidence gathering and prospective decision-making is what good government is all about. The wing-and-a-prayer approach adopted by the LNP is not good enough to manage our fisheries resources and it is not good enough for the expectations of Queenslanders, particularly those in the electorate of Greenslopes. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (12.23 pm): In rising to make a contribution to the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill, I follow the member for Burdekin, who made an incredible contribution. Fisheries is an industry that means much to his part of the world. The member for Gympie also knows the importance of the industry.


I want to focus on the process that was used to get here today. Something that I believe I am qualified to speak on is the shambolic way that this parliament is operating at the moment. For a regulatory impact statement not to be done on this is not right. Whether or not we call it by its full name or by its abbreviated name, it is what allows us to look at the impacts that the decisions we make in this place have on the everyday lives of Queenslanders. If we cannot be bothered doing that, I question why we come into this place. This is not urgent legislation that is being rushed through the parliament. It went through the committee process, on which I will be commenting shortly, yet the government cannot be bothered to do a regulatory impact statement to look at what the legislation will mean for people who put everything on the line. People such as those represented by the member for Burdekin put everything into their vessels. They mortgage their homes and they live and die by the decisions that are made in this place, yet we do not have the decency to question, probe and ask about the impacts our decisions will have on them. That is not right.

I know that, following the committee process, recommendations can be made that ministers do not adopt. That is the right of the executive of the day. I understand that shadow ministers can put forward amendments, although more often than not they are knocked over. However, when a committee comes together and puts forward the kinds of recommendations that this committee did and then all of those recommendations are scrapped, I question the value of a robust committee process in a unicameral parliament. That is why we have the sort of committee system that we do.

One of the recommendations of the committee is that within 18 months the department reports back on the implementation of the legislation. Given that a regulatory impact statement has not been done, I think that that is one recommendation that the minister could have chosen to accept. Maybe that is the one recommendation on which he could have cut them a bit of slack. I reckon I know what happened. I reckon that the Labor members of the committee were read the riot act for putting forward something that did not pass through the ministerial office. The member for Mount Ommaney stood in this place and condemned one of the amendments put forward by the shadow minister. If the member had ticker, she would stand up and talk about the things that the committee wanted adopted. If she had ticker, she would stand up and talk about those changes that they believed in throughout the committee process: changes such as equity; changes such as the Public Service being held to the same level of accountability for breaches. However, no—the member comes in here and parrots the lines that they have.



I genuinely believe that the minister does want to review this, so why not put it into the legislation? Why wouldn't the minister ensure that the parliament receives a report within 18 months? This minister may no longer be the minister in 18 months. The minister may be given a promotion. He may be moved out of agriculture, because he has done enough damage waging war against milk prices for dairy farmers. Why not adopt that recommendation by the committee? It is a fair and reasonable recommendation. I believe the amendments put forward by the shadow minister are very sensible and should be considered wholeheartedly. At the very least, I ask the minister to consider the recommendation of giving this House the right, before the next election, to review the impacts of this legislation.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of this bill today. In my electorate of Capalaba we have a diverse community with a wideranging interest in our fisheries and waterways. I know this because I grew up in this electorate and Lytton as well. As long as I can remember we have lived by the bay. We have always had a boat in our family and we have always fished. I have known nothing else. It was a great lifestyle to grow up on the bay and fish in our waterways. It brought hours of enjoyment to me and my brother.

I remember the day we received from our parents, very generously, our first tinnie. We pulled it down to Tingalpa Creek to put it into the water. We flogged that boat. We spent many hours crabbing and fishing and utilising our waterways in a responsible way. I am pleased that today we are here updating this important act to ensure my son has the same enjoyment and lifestyle as I did on our bays and waterways.

My electorate is one of many electorates that bounds Moreton Bay—one of Queensland and Australia's most iconic ecosystems. Generations of locals have enjoyed casting a line in the bay and local rivers. Our seafood is known to be some of the best in the world. We are adjacent to Minjerribah and Moorgumpin, also known as Stradbroke and Moreton islands, as well as other locations that have great and ongoing cultural value to our First Australians.

I am proud that our government is working with traditional owners to develop strategies and roll out projects for economic development in these communities in a manner which respects and promotes their unique and living cultural heritage. For the first time in fisheries, this bill will explicitly recognise Indigenous Australians' intrinsic interest in the management and use of our fisheries.


This local knowledge and experience underpins my support for the government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy and its goals of leaving a sustainable legacy for our children and grandchildren. This bill is a critical milestone in that strategy, accompanying the rollout of new funding for fisheries monitoring, 20 new fisheries officers across the state and the commencement of compulsory vessel tracking for commercial fishers in net, crab or line fisheries from 1 January 2019. We are making good on progress, but there is more than we can, and must, be done. This bill helps to achieve these goals. This bill provides a contemporary framework for fisheries management in Queensland, replacing the ad hoc framework that had emerged over recent decades.

In support of this bill, I want to emphasise the value that good data and evidence can make to any form of natural resource management, including fisheries. We do not need to be afraid of technology. Technology, like vessel tracking, is well established in other Australian fisheries and abroad. It is important that our framework provides the right benefits and appropriate penalties, including penalties for the misuse of fishers' private information and disincentives for not using tracking devices.

There are clear benefits for vehicle tracking in our fisheries. It also helps fisheries managers to make more informed decisions. For example, I understand that the new system can provide much more exacting information on catch and activity than currently in the logbook data. We are moving from measuring activities in days and 30 nautical mile grids to much more exact measurements. This kind of information is what Queenslanders expect our authorities to be considering, especially around national maritime treasures. For example, the Great Barrier Reef will benefit from better regulation and better enforcement.

We know that our reef and waterways contain a multitude of unique species. It is important that fishers can demonstrate the ability to operate responsibly within these ecologically diverse areas. There are high standards for operating in World Heritage areas like the Great Barrier Reef. Vessel tracking helps fishers and the department measure and demonstrate sustainable practices.

I urge all members to consider the future of our reef and the future of our fishing industry. Vessel tracking is a technical solution that can help us regulate better with greater access to data, while helping the industry to demonstrate that it can operate sustainably and in line with best practice standards. These benefits are in line with Queensland's expectations of how we manage our fisheries. Queenslanders want to continue to enjoy wetting the line and eating their local seafood, and they expect this to be done in a more sustainable manner. I commend the bill to the House.


 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak against the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. I have a large number of fishers in my electorate from across the industry. Whenever the government announce a new strategy, they trot out the standard line that they have consulted heavily with stakeholders and those in the industry.

Who is this panel of selected experts that the minister referred to in his media release yesterday? How many of these experts come from North Queensland? Who selected the panel? Why does the government state that we need to safeguard our fishing industry for future generations when our current generation is struggling to be allowed to fish and constantly fighting for that right? The government is changing the zones making effort units now zone specific, instead of the current, workable model allowing operators to fish from the New South Wales border to the Torres Strait. Everyone acknowledges that that system is working very well.

These changes also reduce the trawler fleets' mobility, affecting potential sustainability of each zone as vessels cannot move to other areas when the seasons vary—for example, when cyclones or floods hit. Fish stock triggers are already in place for the fishery and for the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park. These fish stock triggers have never been reached, let alone breached so why are we making these changes?

Already some fishers have complained that they do not receive the 'unit is polling' SMS before they leave for work, impacting further on their ability to earn an income. We have seen reports of units blowing up and causing safety concerns for fishers. A number of VMS units have been significantly overheating. They have been a potential fire hazard. The government must engage common sense here and immediately halt the requirement for VMS units until they can 100 per cent guarantee their safety. The government has used safety as an excuse to inflict VMS on Queensland's small business fishers yet the government's actions are creating heightened safety risks.

It is common knowledge that the department's flagship system, FishNet Secure, was breached and left open for anyone to access without a password for 17 days, yet, the government and department say 'trust us'. In all industries there are those who do the wrong thing. I applaud tougher penalties for those involved in the seafood black market, but not massive, sweeping changes that hurt the majority of fishers who do the right thing. This fishing strategy should deliver minimal changes rather than the massive proposed changes that will see chaos and an illegal transfers of wealth in regional economies. I oppose this bill.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (12.38 pm): I rise to support this bill. We are all very aware of the intent of this bill in terms of its four objectives, so I am not going to rehash those. This legislation has been a long time coming—and I do not mean that as a criticism but as a compliment to the consultation that has gone into this bill. In many respects, this exemplifies the consultative nature of the Palaszczuk government. There was engagement across sectors, and this will continue to be recognised in the bill, with each sector identified as having a distinct interest in the regulation and sustainability of our fisheries. It is worth reflecting on this process.

A green paper was developed and opened for consultation. The Sustainable Fisheries Strategy was developed, opened for public comment and taken to an election. Through multiple consultation processes, portside meetings and the committee process, consultation on this bill was absolute. It is disappointing that the LNP limited their involvement on fisheries. Given the public's interest in maintaining our fisheries, I would hope that a bill like this could attract bipartisan support.

We know that we need to protect and sustain our valuable seafood industry and that is why this bill is so important. Most of us love our seafood, especially around Christmas and Easter in particular. My local seafood supplier is Ingham Road Seafood—a family owned business operated by Mark, who proudly states that all his seafood is Australian and mostly caught locally. I believe that my local fish and chip shop Tobin Fish Tales is the best in Queensland. Tobin Fish Tales is owned and operated by Andrew and Renae Tobin, who both have doctorates in fisheries science. With over 40 years combined experience, their shop is a little different to most fish and chip shops. Their end game is to provide consumers with seafood from sustainable, primarily local sources, plus information about their choice. Interested customers will be able to know where their seafood came from and learn about the fishers who caught it, or the farmers who grew it, and about how each species is managed.

My love of fishing started when I was about five years old with my grandad taking me fishing on Rocky Ponds in the Burdekin. In those days there were no bag limits, no size limits and no gender requirements for mud crabs, and barra could be caught all year round—but times have changed. Then it was my turn to teach my kids how to fish—so, complete with my tinnie, down the Haughton River or Morrisseys Creek we would go. While dangling our lines waiting for the nibble of fish, I would spend time talking to my kids about bag limits, size limits and why only 15-centimetre-plus male muddies could come home with us. That became part of our great fishing adventures. The bottom line for my kids was an understanding about sustaining our fishing and seafood.

We have made the investment in our fisheries, with \$20 million in new funding for the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol. This includes new officers in Townsville who do great work alongside our Department of Agriculture and Fisheries staff in looking after the health of our stocks. My kids also got to meet some of those ‘fishos’ waiting at the boat ramp to check our day’s catch or, in most cases, non-catch.

This work will only become more important as we focus our government’s efforts to preserve and enhance relationships with the reef. The black market provisions in this bill have been widely welcomed by the sector. The Queensland Seafood Industry Association noted, ‘Industry will support these fines particularly if they are applied equally across criminals that are targeting the community’s resources.’ There are key provisions within this bill that will crack down on black marketers.


It should also be noted, with current weather meaning that shark control equipment has had to be removed here in the south owing to surf conditions, this bill mandates that shark control apparatus should only be handled by an authorised, trained person. The safety of swimmers and the public must not be placed at risk by those untrained in the use of the equipment.

I would like to talk about vessel tracking. If Queensland wants to have a world-class fishery, we need to have world-class information. Our investment of over \$4 million in new money for monitoring is an important start, and the vessel tracking will help complement this. This bill also includes penalties for failing to comply with the vessel tracking requirements. No-one doing the right thing has anything to fear. Many of the changes in the bill are unlikely to affect most fishers. Instead, it sets the framework for better outcomes and decision-making in the future. This will help us support our goal of the legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children and for our grandchildren. I commend the bill to the House.

Interruption.

## PRIVILEGE

### Parliamentary Procedure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.43 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The member for Keppel in the House a short time ago raised a matter of privilege and advised the House that she had referred various members to the Speaker. I want to draw the attention of the House to the Speaker’s statement issued at the start of this term when the Speaker made some points with respect to matters of privilege. The Speaker said in his statement—

A genuine matter of privilege, suddenly arising, may be raised by a Member at any time under Standing Order ... The reality is that few matters fall within the definition of a matter of privilege suddenly arising.

...

Unfortunately, as with points of order, some Members attempt to use matters of privilege to allegedly correct the record, or allege that another Member is misleading the House, or put the Member’s own position on a matter ... These matters are not matters of privilege suddenly arising and are simply yet another example of abuse of the rules.

If any Member believes another Member has deliberately misled the House, then the appropriate procedure is contained in Standing Order ...

More concerning is that the Speaker said in his statement issued to this House—


I will not allow other Members to simply rise and allege a deliberate misleading of the House during the course of business.

I put to you, Mr Deputy Speaker, that the member for Keppel has deliberately disregarded the Speaker’s statement and the rules of this parliament with the political pointscoring she attempted 20 minutes ago.

## FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 551.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (12.44 pm): I rise to speak on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. I would like to thank the committee for their work on this bill and the recommendations that they put forward.

A thriving seafood industry has always been part of the Queensland lifestyle. Nothing beats eating fish and chips wrapped in butcher's paper. Back in the old days it was wrapped in newspapers and you would end up reading some of the old columns. There was a bit of *deja vu* about it. It was a memory trail back then. Nothing beats eating fish and chips on a Sunday afternoon by the water or taking the good old tinnie out to a special fishing spot to catch the evening meal.

For many Queenslanders, catching the ideal fish is a closely guarded secret as their livelihoods depend on it. Yet it is no secret that Queensland's commercial fishing industry has been in decline over the past 20 years. An industry once proud has become a mere shadow of itself.

On this side of the chamber, we know the importance of supporting our commercial fishers and obtaining the right balance between their rights to make a living and the environment. It is positive to see many aspects of this bill adhere to the recommendations of *Taking stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland*, commissioned by the LNP in 2014.

Unfortunately, for those in the industry, especially the small commercial fishing operators, this new legislation does cause deep concerns. There have been numerous examples of faulty vessel monitoring system responders. This includes concerns about the durability and reliability of these systems in certain conditions.

The livelihood of commercial fishers relies on the known productive fishing grounds that they fish to ensure they get a good catch. The mere idea of big brother looking over their shoulder and recording this information about these locations is unsettling, as it could result in the government using this information to fulfil its left agenda by placing a green zone over these locations or this information also could be leaked and therefore, again, hasten the demise of this once proud industry.

These locations are intellectual property. It potentially takes years of trial and error to find the most productive fishing grounds. A good commercial fisher takes care of these productive fishing grounds to ensure that they are productive for years to come. Yet the penalties in this bill associated with protecting this important recorded information are sadly lacking. Therefore, if an individual's prime fishing location is illegally distributed or misused, it has the potential to destroy that individual's business and livelihood.


The maximum penalty for illegally disclosing vessel tracking data is 50 penalty points, or a mere \$6,527.57. Putting this into perspective, if a commercial fisher is found guilty of breaching the VMS compliance, they will face a maximum penalty of 1,000 penalty points, or \$130,550.

We all agree that it is critically important to combat black market activities in the seafood industry to ensure the viability of the industry for generations to come. Therefore, I agree with recommendation 2 of the committee, which states—

The committee recommends the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries review the definition of 'commercial quantity' as it relates to the offence of trafficking in priority fish to a threshold that is significantly lower than five times the recreational limit or weight equivalent.

I agree with the member for Condamine's comments that three or four times the limit is not a mistake; it is an intentional violation.

Only yesterday members in this chamber debated the Human Rights Bill, yet I find it interesting that when it comes to the powers of the department to investigate unlawful catches it has more powers than a police officer. For example, a police officer is required to obtain a warrant to enter the premises of what they suspect is a drug-manufacturing facility, yet fisheries inspectors do not need a warrant. We need to ensure that our fishing industry remains a key cornerstone of our Queensland lifestyle, but I do wish the minister would listen to the committee's recommendations and implement them.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (12.50 pm): 'Yura' from our magnificent home of the Quandamooka coast. I rise today to speak in support of this bill. Passing the sustainable fisheries bill is an important step towards giving Queenslanders a legacy of a sustainable fishery for our children

and our grandchildren. That is the case on our spectacular Redlands coast as much as anywhere else in our fantastic state. Living on the coast, I know how important a sustainable fisheries strategy is. It is a haven for boaties and those who love to fish.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to making our fisheries sustainable for the future, profitable for the commercial sector and enjoyable for recreational fishers. The overwhelming message from stakeholders to a number of reviews since 2014 is that fisheries management must change. Doing nothing is not an option when the current system is not working. In 2017 the Palaszczuk government released the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, outlining a vision for the future management of the state's fisheries. The modernisation of the Fisheries Act through this bill is a key step in providing legislative foundations needed to support the implementation of this strategy.

The proposed amendments to the Fisheries Act are intended to achieve four outcomes. The first is to modernise the objectives of the Fisheries Act and recognise the interests of key stakeholder groups. It is important that the bill's objectives reflect the general public interest of Queenslanders in their natural resources. It is important too that we accurately define and identify the distinct groups and different uses that our fisheries serve. These groups include recreational fishers, commercial fishers, Indigenous fishing interests and conservationists. We all have an interest in maintaining a sustainable fisheries environment. This bill and our government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy help point towards the different actions that members of these groups can take to promote this objective.


The second objective clarifies the roles of the minister responsible for fisheries and the chief executive in the management of the state's fisheries to allow for more responsive decision-making through the use of harvest strategies. Harvest strategies are an important fishery management tool in other jurisdictions. They put clear measurements and rules around the various fisheries and guide what will happen and when.

The third objective strengthens enforcement powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences such as black marketing. These are critical provisions for our hardworking fisheries staff and boating and patrol officers. I have been very fortunate, along with the minister, to meet many of these officers and staff in my local area on the mighty Moreton Bay. I would like to take this opportunity to give a shout out to Matt Davidson, our district fisheries officer, and our newest recruits Brendan Burmeister and Paul Gibson, who do a wonderful job in our community on the water.

These are critical provisions for Queenslanders who do the right thing and source their seafood sustainably. They will benefit people who are doing the right thing by deterring those who are doing the wrong thing. Together with the industry, the government and the department, we are working toward faster, clear decision-making processes that will support Queensland's ability to respond to and tackle black marketing and bring us into line with other Australian jurisdictions. That principle—effective punishment, strong deterrents and clear rules—supports the majority of recreational fishers who are taking within their bag limits, commercial fishers who are demonstrating a sustainable take and consumers who support businesses that can point to where their fish come from. This provision was well supported in consultation.

Finally, the bill does important work to reduce complexity and remove redundant provisions from the existing Fisheries Act. A comprehensive revision of the act in this way will not affect the ordinary fisher in any great way, but it makes it easier to understand and administer. This is a desirable goal for any piece of legislation.

This bill will help steer Queensland towards an internationally leading system of fisheries management. The bill complements the \$20 million our government has invested in our fisheries and will support our broader government's goals within the Reef 2050 Plan and boost regional and rural job opportunities. The strategy and bill complement our environmental obligations at a state, national and international level. By voting to support this bill, we are supporting effective action now and a legacy of sustainable fisheries for our children and grandchildren. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (12.54 pm): It is interesting that we are here again talking about fishing reforms. A lot of these reforms are welcome. A lot of debate and a lot of years of negotiation have to be acknowledged on all sides of government. We look forward to what should be a sustainable fishing industry for everyone.

We do debate fishing industry agendas and, unfortunately, we sometimes see an agenda involving continuing red tape, particularly on mum and dad businesses. No-one can really recall the number of reports, inquiries and committees that have in some cases systematically torn away the rights of commercial businesses. I cannot think of another industry in Queensland that has had as much

scrutiny and as much legislative change in the short time I have been here—other than perhaps the taxi industry—which when we pass legislation sends the investment of a lot of small mum and dad businesses down the drain.

I have to acknowledge the 2012 work, after all those years of successive Labor governments in malicious and ideologically driven policy direction until 2011. We must acknowledge the MRAG review, which continued the good work that has gone on here today which has allowed a lot of this policy and legislative reforms to go forward. Taking stock and modernising fisheries is nothing new in this state. It continues to be part of an agenda that sometimes sends shivers up the spine of a lot of men and women in small business who for years have just wanted to get on with their jobs.

That said, we do have a responsibility for sustainable fishing and for what that looks like going forward. It is not just the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy, which we are debating here today, but also other policy agendas that continue to confront us when we are dealing with sustainable fishing. I will talk about some unintended consequences and possible perverse actions that might be coming as a result of the Great Sandy zoning survey—a statutory obligation which we have to talk about after 10 or 12 years. We need to ensure that zoning and issues around the Great Sandy biosphere are accurate and are done in consultation.

When I open these strategies and surveys, I start to see leading questions about possible marine park zones in pristine waterways, particularly in my electorate. I see other issues that have not been consulted on. I would argue that the government is not doing the right thing in engaging with those communities. A good example is just recently over Christmas another minister introduced a zoning survey for the people around the Great Sandy, which can be Gympie, Hervey Bay and Burnett electorates. This survey could potentially have severe effects on what fishing, recreational activities and other economic and ecologically sustainable outcomes might be. I will give the House an example. Unless you clicked on every part of the survey, it would not take you to some of the more perverse questions that are allowed in the survey. I suggest that if they were not a Rhodes scholar, a lot of people in my electorate would not have understood the questions. A question asking, 'How do you feel about parts of the Baffle Creek catchment being made into a marine zone?'—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BENNETT:** You would not know what a marine zone is either so do not bag out my constituents.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): Order! The member will speak through the chair and members will cease interjecting.

**Mr BENNETT:** With all due respect to members opposite, the survey was misleading. It was starting to push an agenda that is somewhat perverse. We cannot talk about changing fishing strategies—which impacts on economic outcomes, conservation zones, conservation values, and areas that commercial and recreational fishermen, in particular, will not be able to access—unless we have an explanation.

I say that because when those surveys were put out over Christmas we contacted the minister's office. We asked on numerous occasions for explanations and engagement. Not one person in that catchment was ever approached until we asked the question. With two weeks to go before the survey closed, some departmental people went up. I thank them very much for engaging with those communities. I thank the minister for giving me a briefing on the suggested outcomes. Again, I acknowledge it was a statutory obligation that the survey be done. However, when we debate policy in this place we need to remember that there are a lot of other conflicting pressures on our environments and on our electorates that run parallel to this. The reason I say that is that it has caused a lot of angst and a lot of disruption in our community about what these surveys with potentially loaded questions can mean.

Another example is the reef regulations which were tabled yesterday. Make no mistake; they will also affect—

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I have been quite patient listening to the contribution from the member opposite, but my point of order is on relevance. We are here to debate the sustainable fisheries legislation, not some surveys or other matters that the member is freelancing on.


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! I have been listening to the member's speech and he has been addressing matters relevant to fisheries and fisheries management and zoning. However, I would ask that the member now adjourn the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mr Bennett, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Quota International, Carindale


 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.00 pm): I rise this afternoon to honour an outstanding milestone for an organisation present not only in my electorate of Chatsworth but actually throughout the world. Recently, Quota International celebrated their 100th birthday—yes, 100 years of dedicated service to communities within our electorates and also around the world. What an incredible milestone it is to reach 100. It is amazing to think how far Quota have come since they were started in 1919 by five businesswomen in New York who had a vision—a vision that women needed a special place where a common purpose could grow, and grow they did. From being the first classified international women's service organisation, this not-for-profit group have been helping those in need within 250 local communities.

I am a little biased when I say that my favourite Quota International club was formed in 1987—this being in the wonderful suburb of Carindale. Thirty-two years on, the Quota club of Carindale are a dedicated group who are doing incredible things for our entire community. They are living up to this reputation year after year with their fundraising efforts for many worthwhile causes, including Mummy's Wish, CleffPALS Qld Inc., their Build-a-Bear initiative, Asperger Services Australia, care bears for the Queensland Ambulance Service and also supporting local schools with sponsored prizes for most improved students.

In raising these funds, they do so in style through the organisation and hosting of many incredible events. From trivia nights to sausage sizzle stalls at Bunnings, Quota Carindale do it all. In particular, the annual Brisbane Craft and Gift Fair, held in the great electorate of Chatsworth, is always a standout with many handmade goods showcased during the event. Additionally, they also raise funds for Queensland rural families and they have a trivia night coming up to raise funds for the Queensland Country Women's Association and the North Queensland Rural Family Support Services. I am sure this will be a valued contribution to the rural communities that are doing it tough right now as we all know.

To celebrate Quota's milestone, it was a pleasure to attend their 100th birthday event here at Parliament House a few weeks ago. As a proud sponsor, it was fantastic to see more than 200 Quotarians in attendance, with members travelling from as far as North Queensland. A very special mention must go to Leonie Weir, the event convener for Quota Carindale, who worked tirelessly with our parliamentary function staff for months to help make this massive event the success it was. I also want to make mention of region 13 director, Janette Taylor, who has put in many years of dedicated service to this important cause. Go, Quota International.

### Electric Tilt Train


 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.03 pm): On Tuesday, 6 November last year the electric tilt train service to Rockhampton turned 20. Over the past two decades, the electric tilt train fleet has become part of the fabric of regional Queensland, travelling almost 12 million kilometres and transporting more than 200,000 customers between Rockhampton and Brisbane each year. The tilt train fleet was a real hit when it was introduced. Able to travel at speeds of up to 160 kilometres per hour, the service quickly replaced the lengthy car trips between Central Queensland and the south-east, with easier and more comfortable options.

What made it so special compared to traditional trains was that it used groundbreaking technology from Japan that allowed it to approach curves at speed without making passengers feel like they were going to roll out of their seats. The introduction of the tilt train fleet also provided boosts for many of the communities along the route. Manufactured at what is now Downer's rail facility in Maryborough, the trains were made by Queenslanders to connect Queenslanders. It was also an investment into the Maryborough community and their workforce.

For the Rockhampton area alone, the fleet has injected upwards of \$4 million a year in the local economy—bringing in tourists, connecting locals like never before with health care, family and friends, and giving long-distance workers a new, affordable and quick way to travel. The tilt train remains the most utilised service on the Queensland Rail fleet and is as popular today as when it was introduced 20 years ago. The tilt train offers a 7½-hour journey between Rockhampton and Brisbane, which is comparable to car travel but with the added relaxation of on-board meals and beverages as well as in-seat visual and audio entertainment. Queensland Rail recently invested more than \$28 million to refurbish the entire tilt train fleet, giving the trains a mid-life mechanical overhaul and bringing in up-to-date technology like wi-fi and USB charging ports.

Here are some fast facts about the City of Rockhampton tilt train. It has travelled in excess of six million kilometres to date. Its maximum speed is 170 kilometres per hour. The angle of the car body tilt is five degrees maximum in each direction. The number of carriages is six, the length of the cabs is 23 metres, and the length of the passenger cars is 21.5 metres. I extend a special thanks to all those involved in the delivery of this great service to Queensland.

### Cuthbert, Mrs S

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (2.06 pm): As the sun set over the Sunshine Coast hinterland on Thursday, 27 July 2017, Michael Cuthbert kissed his wife, Sharon, goodbye for the last time. She lay on the road outside their family home lifeless. She was struck and killed by a truck—the driver of which had more than seven full seconds to see her, a driver who had been caught speeding 18 times, a driver who returned a positive roadside test for meth. In the short time I have today, I want to put two things on the record—some heartfelt words about Sharon Cuthbert and a call for justice.


Sharon was 24 when she met Michael Cuthbert and fell in love. Within two short years, Michael proposed on Daydream Island, they were married and soon after welcomed Makayla and Shylah—Mak and Shy. Sharon and Michael lived at Coolum. Sharon worked at Noosa council and Michael worked as a local construction manager. Sharon deeply loved Michael, Mak and Shy. As a family, they loved the beach, camping and travel. The present was sweet and the future bright for the Cuthberts. Sharon loved her team at work and they loved her. They remember her as caring, friendly and radiant. Sharon's maiden name was Angelo—Italian for 'angel'. To those who knew her, that is exactly what she was.

Sharon was 39 when she died. If life begins at 40, hers was just beginning when it was taken away. The man who killed her, Andrew Muirhead, was also 39. He will get to live his life with only one year of it behind bars. Three weeks ago, Michael, Mak and Shy learnt that Muirhead may only serve 12 months in jail. Last week they received a letter informing them that the Attorney-General had refused their pleas for an appeal. The Attorney-General herself did not sign this letter; she had a political staffer do it for her. While the Attorney-General and her staffer may not think this decision should be appealed, I have here a petition with the names of 7,500 others who do—7,500 members of our community who share our anger, 7,500 Queenslanders who are disgusted with this government for not trying harder, 7,500 Queenslanders who want justice for Sharon. I now table this petition.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding justice for Sharon Cuthbert [\[289\]](#).

Michael, Mak and Shy, who are here today, know there is nothing they can do to bring back their angel. The best they can hope for is justice, and a chance for justice rests firmly with the Attorney-General. The appeal period lapses on Monday, and I urge the Attorney-General to do the right thing.

### Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.09 pm): The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service provides an extensive range of health services at more than 30 regional, remote and rural facilities across a geographical area of 143,900 square kilometres, ranging from Cairns to Tully in the south, Cow Bay in the north and Croydon in the west. This area includes some of the most remote communities in Queensland. Each of these communities has its own identity and history and its own needs. These communities experience a range of chronic and complex conditions. This means that it needs to maintain an appropriate balance between providing local access to services and centralising services to ensure their quality and, more importantly, their sustainability.


The majority of inpatient activity in the Cairns and hinterland area is undertaken at Cairns Hospital, which is growing, as we all know, at a very fast rate. Largely, this has been made possible by the \$454 million redevelopment undertaken by the Bligh Labor government in 2015. That is why I was pleased to be at the Cairns Base Hospital last month to welcome 51 junior doctors for the next stage of their medical careers. The 51 junior doctors, who are from Queensland and other parts of Australia as well as some from overseas, are part of a statewide intake of 780 recent graduates. By now they would be halfway through their first of five rotations across a variety of specialised areas which may include general medicine, surgery, orthopaedics, oncology, paediatrics and emergency services. This will give them exposure to as many clinical areas as possible to help them decide where they may wish to specialise. Reflecting the Palaszczuk government's strong commitment to growing our regional health services, this year we have six more junior doctors than last year, increasing our role as a training hospital and potentially expanding our supply of future doctors who want to work and live in the Tropical North. We are the only location in Queensland offering a placement with the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which is a unique opportunity for some of these junior doctors.



The junior doctor program has been very successful since it was first introduced into the health service in 1998, with a majority of interns actually staying after their first 12 months. In addition to this, we also welcome 102 new nursing and midwifery graduates as they kickstart their careers over the coming weeks. Our health service is without any doubt an excellent training ground for junior doctors and nurses, and I know their contribution to our community will be immediately felt whilst they embark on what I am sure will be long and very rewarding careers.

It is also important to mention that the Cairns emergency department has been in the media a fair bit recently. We have seen a significant increase in investment by the state government recently to the tune of over \$2 million to ensure that this very important facility at the Cairns Hospital is well resourced and the people running the hospital have the appropriate funds.

### Animal Activists

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.12 pm): Queensland farmers are under attack and they are being let down by this incompetent Labor government. As animal activists and extremists plaster farmers' personal details, including their locations, on the Aussie Farms website—the same website that encourages members of the public to trespass onto our farms and terrorise farmers and their families for just doing their job and running their businesses—this government sits back and does nothing. As a serial animal activist who illegally trespassed at a piggery and a neighbouring chicken farm on the Sunshine Coast was handed a \$200 fine with no conviction recorded, this government does nothing.


In December last year, a gang of about 30 animal activists stormed the Mount Cotton Golden Cockerel facility, shutting down and compromising production standards. Their ignorant actions actually caused a number of birds to die in the process and cost more than \$50,000 in business losses. Again, this government did nothing. Earlier this week an animal extremist in Western Australia used the Aussie Farms website to find a piggery to trespass and then proceeded to live stream a video straight onto social media. How long will it be before we get copycat activities like this in Queensland?

Our farmers are under siege and this Labor government and its agriculture minister are missing in action. The agriculture minister could amend the biosecurity regulations to include penalties for individuals who illegally enter farms, risking biosecurity contamination, regardless of the trespasser's intent, so what is stopping him? The minister should listen to farmer organisations that have called for stronger trespass laws to protect their members.

Why is it that this incompetent minister is silent? Why is Labor silent when it comes to protecting our farmers from extremists? Is it that this Labor government is captive to the very animal extremists that are terrorising our farmers? Is it captive to the many out-of-touch groups who could not care less about rural and regional Queenslanders? Queensland farmers deserve a minister ready to go in to bat for them, not just someone who will kowtow to Labor's inner-city animal activists. They clearly do not have one in this minister. It is time our farmers were given the protections they deserve from these animal extremists.

Queensland should be leading the way in standing up for our farmers, not missing in action. It is completely unacceptable to see animal extremists terrorising hardworking Queensland farmers while the minister lacks the fortitude to do what is needed to protect them. It is time to strengthen our biosecurity regulations to protect our farmers and their businesses from malicious animal extremists. It is time to strengthen and fix our trespass laws to ensure they actually work and offer a deterrent to these thugs. Only the Liberal National Party stands up for Queensland farmers by protecting them from animal activists.

### Mount Ommaney Electorate, Events

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.15 pm): In honour of International Mother Language Day on 21 February, I would like to sing a little of the Maori anthem. It goes like this—

E Ihowa Atua

O nga iwi matou ra

Translated to English, that means 'God of nations, at thy feet, in the bonds of love we meet'. I have performed it at the Anzac Day services in my community for the last year. It makes me very proud to be able to do so in the traditional Maori language, which is spoken by my father's people in New Zealand.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Ms PUGH:** I take that interjection—I am sure it was good natured in intention—from the member for Mermaid Beach. I am indeed very proud of my entire multicultural community. I have some exciting updates to share with the House about the wonderful events we have coming up.

First, on a sad note, tomorrow the funeral of Dr Nguyen, a much loved member of my Vietnamese community, who sadly passed away at the age of 57, will be held. Tomorrow the entire Vietnamese community will come together in sorrow to share memories of Dr Nguyen. I will certainly be there to support my community.

On a happier note, this week the Holi festival will be held in my electorate for the second time at Rocks Riverside Park. I extend an open invitation to each and every member of this House to celebrate the triumph of light over dark. I know that the member for Jordan, who joined me last year, will be there again this year. Indeed, many cultures from around the world have made their home in Mount Ommaney and I am very proud of my electorate's status of being the fifth most multicultural electorate in the whole of Queensland—and that includes many small business owners.

Almost everyone in Mount Ommaney is familiar with the Jindalee FoodWorks and the horrendous run of bad luck that they have had, first flooding in 2011 and then burning down last year. I was in parliament the night that the FoodWorks burned down, but I stopped by the next day to talk to Gaby, the owner, and his staff. It was clear that no flood or fire was going to stop him from reopening. I have great news for the residents of Mount Ommaney: Gaby and the gang are back in business. I popped in to buy some milk on my way to see the Little Athletics Club. The new fit-out looks fantastic and the new product range is spectacular.


The good news for that little strip of shops on Curragundi Road does not stop there. This week I am writing to the Brisbane City Council, having secured agreement from the transport and main roads department that this busy local street needs a 40 kilometre per hour speed limit, especially in light of recent beautification. I am so proud to be the local member for this wonderful electorate.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Before I call the member for Noosa, member for Mount Ommaney, have you actually forwarded your speech to Hansard so they can get the Maori text?

**Ms PUGH:** No, I have not.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You will need to do that.

### Illicit Drugs, Pill Testing


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (2.18 pm): There are many issues that are of increasing concern to Queenslanders and with every one of them there are many aspects to consider and to debate. One such issue is the use of illicit drugs and whether these should be tested at festivals in order to save lives. As an MP, parent and grandparent with a genuine love and commitment to how best to protect and save lives, I share in the dilemma that we as a society must confront every day.

How do we keep everyone safe from others and, at times, from themselves? The one entity that can create a better environment for our physical and mental self and make decisions about our life is ourselves. I am not including those too young to make informed decisions or those who, for a variety of medical conditions, do not have the capacity to do so. The decision to take a drug, illicit or otherwise, must be made with an understanding that regardless of testing, whether in controlled environments, with assurances or otherwise, there is an inherent risk. Statistics are alarming with regard to drugs that are legal and available by prescription. Benzodiazepines and other opioids—oxycodone and codeine, but not heroin—were responsible for more than two-thirds of the total number of drug induced deaths in Australia in 2016.

That is not to say that safety testing is at fault. Warnings clearly outline the risks of overdosing or mixing with alcohol, illicit drugs or other prescription drugs. The infinite combinations of what substances can be mixed, along with the unique attributes of each individual's biochemistry plus medical and genetic factors coupled with lifestyle choices, cannot be calculated in a laboratory yet. It is up to everyone to comprehend that, when you put a substance in your body, whether to create an artificial high, address an imbalance or treatment an ailment, there is risk. We must take responsibility for that decision. Assurances that it is safe—illegal or otherwise—are never a guarantee.

Do we test illicit drugs in order to keep our kids safer as part of harm minimisation at festivals, or could this create a false sense of security that could lead to a higher percentage of deaths as a result? Or would this, as indicated by a small trial at a New South Wales festival in 2018, provide an opportunity to connect with users to counsel them to reconsider what they are ingesting. It is an important discussion, and one that needs to be had at every dinner table. It tugs at the hearts of mothers, fathers and the loved ones of our youth, our young and not-so-young adults and the MPs that serve them.

### Aspley Electorate, Traffic Congestion

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.21 pm): I wish to provide a brief update on how we are tackling traffic congestion in the Aspley area through a number of connected and coordinated projects. In our community, the Aspley electorate, the Palaszczuk government is delivering not just in response to the transport infrastructure we need but projects that make the area a better place to live and work.


Firstly, the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project is a fantastic project that will revolutionise public transport in South-East Queensland. It will allow more trains to run more often to enable a turn-up-and-go transport system for the whole of South-East Queensland. Remarkably, the LNP still does not back this project. On the same train line we are delivering an upgraded Geebung park-and-ride which includes 70 new car spaces. This benefits those parking at the station to catch the train and locals in Geebung streets, who tell me their concerns about their streets being parked in on weekdays, so we are relieving some of that congestion as well. It was also great to see Anika Wells, the Labor candidate for Lilley, recently announce that a Shorten government would add to this by adding an extra 70 carparks.

This fits in very nicely with the over \$400,000 upgrade to the Geebung Bowls Club, very close by, which I announced at the last budget. I thank Minister Bailey, his office and Queensland Rail for promptly helping the bowls club with a couple of access issues they recently had. It is a great local club that does great things locally.

Further down the road towards the city the Northern Transitway project—a \$53 million congestion-busting project—is progressing. The project will deliver on-road bus priority along Gympie Road between Kedron and Chermside, delivering continuous dedicated bus lanes during peak hours from Chermside to Kedron while retaining all existing lanes. Projects like these help people make those step-change decisions about whether they drive to work or catch public transport. Not all transport modes suit all people, that much is clear, but the easier you make it for people to catch public transport the more people will make that decision to use public transport, which helps all commuters.

I am also very pleased that this month we have seen consultation on what to do with the Beams Road level crossing. At the last election I secured a \$400,000 commitment to look at options to improve congestion at the site, and I thank all locals who have contributed to that process and attended the drop-in session. I am also pleased that the recent SEQ City Deal, which was launched a couple of weeks back, acknowledged open level crossing removals as way of optimising our transport network. Beams Road definitely got a mention in that document. I look forward to seeing these and other projects progress as we continue to plan for the future transport needs of the Aspley electorate.

### Bundaberg Electorate

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (2.24 pm): In my role as Bundy's MP I have had various opportunities to visit schools within my electorate to discuss with students what it means to be a leader. Just last week I visited four schools in Bundaberg and I am booked in to visit another early next week. I rise today to voice how grateful I am for these opportunities to speak to the future leaders of Bundaberg. It is definitely one of the positive aspects of my role.

As I said in my parliamentary maiden speech, we talk about bullying and the damage it is doing to our young ones and we discuss and debate ways to make change, but I believe that change starts with us here in this House. We need to set an example for our leaders of tomorrow and show them what leadership really means. It is quite easy for everyone here to put on lovely orange ribbons like we have today, but we also need to walk the walk and not just talk the talk. I encourage everyone in this House to read the words on the ribbon—'Bullying. No way!'—do what it says and take a stand together.


I would like to say a big congratulations to all Bundy students who have been elected as school leaders for 2019. Well done! I would also like to say thank you to the staff and school leaders from Bundaberg who invited me to take part in their very special leadership events. Being a leader is a big responsibility, but it is also a fantastic opportunity to learn new skills and challenge yourself. I am a firm believer that real leadership means being up-front and honest, no matter how hard it may be. I also believe that true leaders always seek improvement and aspire to encourage others to become the best version of themselves. Once again I congratulate all elected representatives from Bundaberg.

While I am on my feet, I would also like to say a big congratulations to all involved with last week's Auswide Bank Cycle Fest International. For over 70 years the Bundaberg Cycling Club has put on one of Australia's best cycling events. Over the course of the festival—which now covers a full week of activities—some of the world's best cyclists rode the beautiful streets of Bundy and also rode at

blistering speeds around the velodrome. Bundaberg has so much to offer, so it is wonderful that the Bundaberg Cycling Club puts on this event each and every year to showcase not only the sport but our beautiful region as well.

I would like to recognise the passionate committee members and volunteers who work very hard each year to put on this huge event, especially: Scott Davis, chairman and race director; Jason Templeman, executive director, media, marketing and athlete relations; Scott Allison, director; Kerry Devine, corporate branding and pathways manager; and Damian Harris, director, who also did a fantastic job emceeing the events. I would also like to thank the sponsors, including our major sponsor, Auswide Bank, because without them these events do not happen. I would also like to thank our shadow minister for sport, John-Paul Langbroek, the member for Surfers Paradise, who joined me in Bundaberg for this internationally recognised event. Thank you for your time.

### **Townsville Electorate, Australia Day; Cavanagh, Master E**

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise today to recognise that on Australia Day each year for the last four years we have had the official flag-raising ceremony in Queensland in Townsville, and every year the Premier comes up as does the Governor, His Excellency Paul de Jersey. Townsville City Council also has Australia Day awards, and this year they were a little bit special. We heard that the rain started and did not stop for 12 days from that particular day but, more importantly, some of the recipients of these awards were overshadowed. I would like to draw the attention of the House to one particular young man who impressed me to no end. His name is Ethan Cavanagh, and he won the Young Citizen of the Year for Townsville City Council. I would like to spend the next two minutes explaining why.

Ethan's father passed away when he was only three years old, and we all have a number of young people who live in our communities where this is the case. This student, who is now in grade 6 at Townsville Grammar School, decided that he would do something different. Lots of us have children, and if we think back to our early days when we were 11 years old, when it came to our birthday and we had a party we would honestly relish the gifts that you would be given on that particular day.

Ethan is different. At the age of 11, this young man—who thinks like a 40-year-old—said to his mum, 'If you're going to throw me a party, I'm going to tell my friends not to bring presents. They're not to bring gifts for me that day. Instead, they're going to bring things they can put into a shopping basket that we can then give to sick kids and their families at Ronald McDonald House.' This is from an 11-year-old kid. How smart and how compassionate is this young man? This is why Ethan Cavanagh won Young Citizen of the Year. He called his collection campaign SMILE, which stands for 'share a meal in a loving environment'. He said—

It's a great appreciation for sick kids who are in need of having fun instead of just lying in bed.


He also said—

The purpose is for other kids to learn from this and try to accomplish this goal and maybe even make more baskets.

He is inspiring other young people to do what he did: stop thinking about yourselves and start thinking about others.

In her ministerial statement this morning Minister Grace said that principals are shaping the global leaders of the future. We all have a role in celebrating and nurturing the bright young men and women in our community to ensure they become the leaders of the future. I reflect on what the member for Bundaberg said. He said that it is everyone's responsibility to make sure the leaders of the future are encouraged and nurtured.


### **Coomera Electorate, Community Organisations; Ice**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.30 pm): Community spirit is alive and well in the state seat of Coomera. Ormeau Lions is a longstanding community organisation. The brand-new Ormeau-Pimpama Rotary club is still in its infancy and just gathering the numbers needed to be formally made a Rotary club. I mention the Ormeau Business Breakfast. Nicole Hintz has been running that event for 12 or 13 years. It grows every month that it meets. I think there were something like 45 people at the last event. Nicole also runs the carols by candlelight together with Highway Christian Church, the Great Easter Egg Hunt and the My Ormeau Facebook page. Nicole is a real stalwart of the community.

Just the other day Dave Mayo came to my office together with his wife and daughter to enjoy some morning tea to celebrate his 50 years service as a justice of the peace. He told me a very interesting story about how you became a justice of the peace 50 years ago. It was not just a matter of filling out a form; you had to be nominated by a member of parliament, and each member of parliament could nominate only a certain number of people each year.

Amongst all of that, something is undermining our community. Earlier the member for Noosa spoke about pill testing and the dangers of illicit drugs. The scourge of illicit drugs is a major issue across our communities. I am proud to say that I am now a proud ambassador of AAIC, the Australian Anti Ice Campaign. The Australian Anti Ice Campaign is being run by individuals who were addicted to ice. They are fighting—working with our young people, working in our schools—to do all they can to stop the scourge of ice being transmitted to our young people. The son of the principal of one of my schools became addicted to ice. Now he is free from ice, thanks to AAIC. Their catchcry is NEO, 'not even once'. Pill testing does not cut it when it comes to ice. We should support them.

### Springfield Learning Coalition

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.33 pm): In acknowledgement of International Mother Language Day I say 'Σας ευχαριστώ ομιλητής', which means 'Thank you, Speaker' in my mother language of Greek, a heritage I am extremely proud of. Last week I was also very proud to help officially launch the Springfield Learning Coalition. The coalition is a partnership which formalises an agreement by Greater Springfield's 11 local schools—state and private—working together to further Springfield as a learning city. As outlined by the group, a learning city is an aspiration whereby lifelong learning is expected and valued by the whole community, where learning can be seen and felt to flourish, opportunities and choices abound, and curiosity and discovery are championed. I would like to acknowledge Springfield City Group for initiating the development of this important partnership and for its ongoing support of our schools within the region.

The 11 schools have signed an MOU that our education leaders will cooperate and exchange information and best practice on opportunities for collective benefit. The learning coalition will only be involved in higher order matters. They will not intrude into operational things but will only complement the well-loved identities and brands of our individual schools.

The Springfield Learning Coalition has set itself some challenging goals: sharing data and resources; planning for more growth in our region—with the number of students expected to double over the next 15 years this is a challenge for us all; pursuing learning excellence; and working together on jobs and pathways—how we provide opportunities for our students to get training, higher education or qualifications towards a career or employment.


Later this year the learning coalition will take its first step towards furthering the learning city by presenting the inaugural biennial Festival of Learning in Greater Springfield. The Festival of Learning, to be held from 21 to 26 October 2019, will include a wide range of events and activities across the region celebrating learning, with an ambitious aim of 50 events across the week. I am very excited to see such an amazing initiative in the Jordan electorate. I have already been speaking with our principals about the events they are planning to deliver over the week-long celebrations.

We have close to 11,000 students attending schools in the Greater Springfield region. This means that the work of the Springfield Learning Coalition will have an enormous effect on the lives of the many young people who live in my electorate. It reminds me of a quote by Benjamin Franklin—

Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn.

I would like to thank our 11 principals for their teaching but, more importantly, I want to thank them for their deep involvement in our community. I wish the Springfield Learning Coalition every success.

### Crime Stoppers


 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to speak about the 30th anniversary of Crime Stoppers Queensland, a great organisation that over its history has seen over 100,000 charges brought and 39,000 offenders arrested. Tomorrow will be a dark day for Crime Stoppers when the last call will be made to Crime Stoppers in Queensland. Why is that? It is because this Labor government would not support it when it needed extra funding of \$250,000 and has now slashed a million dollars from Crime Stoppers. It will be reduced to one staff here in Queensland. Trevor O'Hara has led the call centre team so successfully.

I will give members a brief history of Crime Stoppers Queensland. For many years from 1989 calls were taken by a small, dedicated number of police. They had an 18 per cent report-to-arrest ratio. Then calls were transferred to the mass call centre, where the report-to-arrest ratio was halved, to nine per cent. In 2014 calls were transferred to a dedicated Crime Stoppers centre, run by 20 paid staff and 40-odd volunteers. The report-to-arrest ratio was increased to 16.5 per cent. It took some 60,000

calls a year, 20,000 of which were intelligence calls. Intelligence calls might take between 20 minutes and an hour and a half. Obviously that led to a great deal of arrests and a reduction in crime in our community.

It is a great shame that the Labor government will not support this great organisation and has gutted the funding out of it. The Crime Stoppers number will now divert to the Policelink call centre. I hope that none of the 60,000 calls a year will be missed and that no crucial pieces of information from the 20,000-odd intelligence calls are missed. When they are missed, crime will go up. We know that the Labor government has slashed the Police budget by \$44.6 million whilst crime is going up. This is just a further example. This change will put a burden on Policelink, which does not have the resources to cope with it. I hope that the million dollars is directly transferred into that budget to try to help, but there is no way it will be able to take the same volume of calls to the same level of detail or achieve a report-to-arrest ratio of 16½ per cent. It is a terrible shame for the people of Queensland when we are facing a crime crisis under this minister.

### Ipswich State High School, Beyond the Broncos Girls Academy


 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.38 pm): Earlier this week I nominated Ipswich State High School, whose school's alumni includes the member for Mansfield, for a 2019 Queensland Reconciliation Award. I work closely with the school's principal, Simon Riley, and his staff and have been impressed by their commitment to Indigenous students as well as to their families and their parents. What prompted me to nominate the school for a Reconciliation Award was the recent launch of the Beyond the Broncos Ipswich Indigenous girls academy based at Ipswich State High. There are about 1,300 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander girls participating in academies right across southern Queensland stretching from Cunnamulla to Brisbane.

The Beyond the Broncos Indigenous girls academy team is led by Gail Stephenson, Broncos Girls Academy program manager; Taneshia Atkinson, Beyond the Broncos workshop coordinator; and Donna Elliott, regional coordinator for Ipswich and Toowoomba. Tammy Weigel and Rugby League great Ali Briggenshaw will share the duties as student support officers at the Ipswich academy. Ali is also the Beyond the Broncos ambassador. The objectives of the program are to support Indigenous students, increase the number of students progressing to year 12 and improve attendance rates. Broncos Chief Executive Officer Paul White also needs to be congratulated for his commitment to the program.

The girls' academy is just one of a number of programs that demonstrate Ipswich State High School's commitment to the school's Indigenous students. The school has an impressive Aboriginal dance group which forms part of the school's dance academy that regularly performs at school events. As well, each year the school appoints two Indigenous school captains as members of the school's leadership team. Indigenous students are included in all aspects of school life. They are made to feel welcome and their culture respected, as is Torres Strait Islander culture at the school.

Ipswich State High School's Indigenous students who have gone on to do great things include Allira Toby, who is a striker with the Brisbane Roar women's football team. In 2017 she was awarded the Golden Boot award. Allira works as a counsellor at Marsden State High School and was the ambassador for the inaugural premier Indigenous football championship. The criteria for the Queensland Reconciliation Awards includes going beyond core business to foster reconciliation and I believe that Ipswich State High School clearly does so. The exceptional efforts of Principal Riley and his staff ensure that not only its Indigenous students but also their parents and families have a better future.

### Mermaid Beach Electorate, Oceanway Proposal


 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.41 pm): I rise to speak on the Oceanway proposal through my electorate of Mermaid Beach. I note that an early green-leaning council candidate is jumping on the 'Build the Oceanway' bandwagon in my electorate already as a platform for a tilt at a council job after she was rejected in her tilt for a state parliamentarian's job at the previous state election. The candidate has alluded to a Gold Coast City Plan that would see a bikeway/walkway constructed on state government owned land along the front of the beachfront houses in Hedges Avenue and Albatross Avenue in the Mermaid Beach electorate. At a cost of approximately \$22 million at a minimum, this fanciful, vote deceiving exercise being delivered by the candidate via a stall set up on the public footpath/bikeway through Kurrawa Park at Broadbeach is an exercise in delusional, inane public grandstanding by a candidate who has no comprehension, understanding or capacity to deliver on her platform even if she was elected.

The practical, cost-effective and immediately doable solution to extending the Kurrawa Park bikeway/footpath to Nobby Beach from Broadbeach is to incorporate the 1950s-built, narrow-width footpath with the high-speed MAMIL bike track currently designated bikes only—albeit against the one-way traffic in Hedges Avenue—into a joint bikeway/footpath that is similar in status to the three-plus-metre-wide pathway through Kurrawa Park. I have proffered this solution to council officers previously, but a lack of political will on the issue has seen no funding, no planning and no resolution to the issue being placed on the council agenda.

The fact that the current designated Oceanway pathway would have to be built outside the A line for flood and cyclone purposes seems lost on the proponents of the fairyland solution and would most likely be lost in a serious cyclone event on the Gold Coast, as was threatened just this last week. With the ever-increasing patronage of foot traffic, jogging, pram-pushing and bike-meandering traffic joining in a chaotic confluence along Hedges Avenue and Albatross, it is time for a sensible, cost-effective solution to be put in place by Gold Coast City Council before a tragic accident occurs, resulting in death or injury to one of the many users of this highly trafficked popular route.

I do understand that there are concerns by some Hedges Avenue residents about widening the footpath in the front of their homes. However, I am sure that they would much rather an upgraded council owned footpath fronting Hedges Avenue as the alternative to a footpath/bikeway impinging on their ocean front views should a green-leaning candidate get their way following the next council election. The state government is committed to the funding of pedestrian cycleway works as part of its policy pertaining to the implementation of stage 3 of the light rail project, so now is the time to fix the Hedges Avenue hot spot for the betterment of all commuters and to save a life-threatening incident waiting to happen in the very near future.

### **Crime Stoppers; Redlands Electorate, Leadership**

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.44 pm): Today I rise to talk about leadership, vision and keeping promises. Before I do, the member for Toowoomba North's contribution was really disappointing. Crime Stoppers is doing an amazing job. That sort of scare campaign is just hurting our community. I give a shout-out to Paul Fitzpatrick in my area. He is doing a great job leading Crime Stoppers.


Over the past few weeks I have attended a number of wonderful leadership ceremonies at my schools. There have been inspiring speeches from principals to our students on the characteristics of leadership, with an emphasis on the need to be respectful, honest and to work cooperatively in developing a shared vision for their school community. I thank all of the principals. Their leadership has been incredible in this process. In the Redlands there has been a lot of talk about leadership, particularly amongst elected representatives. In the Redlands we have had a 'pledge not to sledge' campaign. It is great in its intention, but to some elected representatives signing a pledge and abiding by it are two very different things.

I know that many in my community are sick and tired of the ongoing poor behaviour. They want to see respectful communication, they want to see honesty and they want to see their elected representatives cooperating. Being honest and keeping promises is critical to integrity and I want to reaffirm to my community that, unlike some other elected representatives who have gone before me and indeed many promises made by our current federal member, I will only ever promise what I know I can deliver. I am not in the business of raising community hopes to then dash them with pre-election cheap political stunts.

I also want to talk about vision, and yesterday the member for Broadwater in his contribution touched on the fact that leaders need to have a vision. I agree that it is important to have that, but it has to be shared and it has to be one that is developed in consultation and with input from our communities. Importantly, we have to have a plan to support the vision with access to genuine funding. It is important to listen and consult. We had the Prime Minister and our federal member in Redlands recently, yet they have not done that. On the Prime Minister's recent drop-in he made an underfunded promise to upgrade Wellington Street in Cleveland. The Prime Minister and the federal member are clearly out of touch. They have not listened to the needs of our community nor taken the time to consult properly and authentically. Promising a road upgrade that is premised on putting politics before people is not okay. Our federal member knows that Cleveland Redland Bay Road is the priority. He has talked a big game on Cleveland Redland Bay Road over many years, but when it comes to putting rubber to the road he would prefer to put politics before people.

Last week our federal member also promised dollar-for-dollar funding to upgrade the Redlands Hospital car park. Minister Miles has written to the federal health minister to have this confirmed. If this is a genuine commitment, we will see a minimum \$7.5 million included in this federal budget that is only weeks away. Although I worry that the track record of broken promises by our federal member has been strong, seeing the dollars in this budget will confirm the authenticity of his promise. I really do hope that he is a man of his word. A shared vision is important. Infrastructure is important. Keeping promises and putting people before politics is even more important.


### **Nicklin Electorate, Clean Up Australia Day**

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.47 pm): This Sunday is Clean Up Australia Day and I will be donning the fatigues and joining the volunteers in the Nicklin electorate in the annual community clean-up. If there is one thing that I have come to know over the many years of living and working in the Nicklin area it is that our residents take a great deal of pride in their communities. We have beautiful towns and beautiful natural areas that the whole community works together to look after. Unfortunately though, some people do let us down. Some of the things we find each year during the Clean Up Australia campaign make you wonder what possesses someone to dump their rubbish and litter on the ground or in creeks and bushland or throw shopping trolleys and car tyres into our waterways. It just beggars belief sometimes, but our community pushes on undeterred, and it is because of these community heroes and volunteers who put their hand up each year to give up a Sunday to clean up after others that we maintain the beauty and amenity of our areas.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the community leaders who have volunteered to coordinate the local efforts, particularly Karen Southwell and Stephen Hebbard in Yandina, Claire Evans in Palmwoods, Dianne Fitzgerald in Dulong, Norm Moorwood and Loic Valmy in Nambour with the Reviving Nambour group, Alison Dillon and Ben Kay in Kenilworth and Joe Jurisevic and Allira Shepherd in Federal and Cooroy. Cooroy is where I will be working this year with the volunteer group. I thank all of those coordinators.

Events such as Clean Up Australia Day do not happen without someone in the community willing to take the lead. Those people I mentioned stepped forward and ensured that the day would be a success. Clean Up Australia Day is a great day to do our bit for our local environment. Such days build a community, drive community pride and participation and provide an opportunity for us to connect with one another in a joint effort and purpose. Lastly, I encourage all members to promote and assist with Clean Up Australia Day in their local communities across Queensland this Sunday.

### **Petersen, Mr D**

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.50 pm): It has been a tough week of reflection in Logan Village and Yarrabilba. I have been reflecting on some of the services in those areas—the Yarrabilba Sport and Community Hub, the road upgrade between Logan Village and Yarrabilba and the North Street intersection upgrade. If I connected all of those things into one common thread, it would be the advocacy and passion of former Councillor Don Petersen. I am sad to say that Councillor Petersen died last week. For many years Don struggled with depression and his loss is keenly felt by the Logan community. I know that his wife, Nola, and his children will be devastated. I am joining them to mark and celebrate Don's life tomorrow.

Don was a true community person—a community champion. Even before he became a councillor he was strongly involved in the community. He said it well when he said the community 'is my passion and has become my work'. For Don, service to the community was his vocation. He served 14 years on the Beaudesert shire council and returned to the Logan council after most of the area that he represented was amalgamated into Logan City Council in 2012.

Don worked with the community to bring community banking to Logan Village, serving as the vice-president. He served as the president of the Logan Village Falcons soccer club, Clean Up Australia Day and so many other community activities. Don was determined, pushing me on improving bus services after the LNP cut the requirement for buses for Yarrabilba, building a sports clubhouse for Yarrabilba, fixing the intersections on Waterford-Tamborine Road and many other issues. He simply would not let me off the hook on these or any other issue. Don was always thoughtfully getting all the required information, building a case for action and then simply never letting up.


Don always wanted to be available to the public. Most Sundays he would sit outside the bakery in Logan Village at his little table, a notebook in hand. I would get a coffee or a sausage roll and, if he was not with someone else, I would ask his advice, share information, or simply chat to him. I last saw him when we were rostered together at the Logan Village pub to sell tickets for the Logan Village State



School meat tray raffle. I held the tray and he sold the tickets, greeting so many patrons as old friends, which they were. Afterwards we sat together just chatting about the local area. Don had a great manner. He was quiet, reflective but determined about the issues that mattered to the community.

I will miss Don. After the service, I am going to go back to the Logan Village bakery and sit outside and think of him. I can picture him there quietly and steadily helping the community that he loved so much. We will miss Don. We all know that this job can be a little bit lonely, especially as we sometimes get criticism that is deserved or undeserved. I urge all members to, if they feel depressed, reach out to beyondblue or ring Lifeline on 131114, or reach out to their colleagues to ask, 'Are you okay?'

### Gold Coast, Fare Evasion

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.53 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House an alarming trend that is costing Queensland taxpayers millions of dollars, yet the Palaszczuk government has sat on its hands and done absolutely nothing about it. I speak of rampant fare evasion on Gold Coast Surfside buses. Figures I have obtained over the past three years reveal some startling numbers—numbers that should have this incompetent government scrambling to remedy. Figures for the period from April 2015 to 2016 were reported as 425,354. Since then, fare evasion numbers have skyrocketed at a staggering rate that should anger all Queenslanders. In 2016-17, the numbers blew out to 1,024,261—more than double the figure of the previous year. In 2017-18, the figures exploded further, with a count of 1.67 million fare evades.

I know that the residents of the Currumbin electorate are outraged by the prevalence of fare cheats and also their brazen attitude. I will refer to a few comments of residents who contacted me this month. One said—

School holidays are a joke kids up to 10 at a time just get on, bus drivers can't do anything—kids just say it is against the law you can't leave me behind—parents talk to your children teach them respect!!

Another said—

Every time that we use public transport there are at least 4 that get on and say they are fare evaders which upset the paying commuters. It's not just kids.


Yet another said—

Hi Jann, Your bus fare evasion article concerns me over the extent of it! I see it all the time as I am a frequent bus user. It seems to be one group, that being teenagers. They pile on the bus one after the other and grunt at the driver 'got no money' and the driver pushes the fare evader button ... they now think this means a free ride for all and sundry. It certainly doesn't teach them responsibility. More policing definitely required.

This fare evasion is not just the cost of lost revenue to honest Queenslanders; paying passengers have to cop increased fares and that is just not fair. Fare evasion is escalating at a frightening rate, encouraging other antisocial behaviours such as assaults and vandalism. The culture of not paying is becoming entrenched. So much for the bus safety reforms of this Labor government. Bus drivers are so frightened of being bashed that they just push the fare-evade button.

Recent figures relating to fare evasion on light rail look like they are heading the same way—upwards and rapidly. Cheats are getting away with it because the Palaszczuk government has not supplied anywhere near enough senior network officers to police our public transport, with only 10 or so dedicated to Gold Coast routes across all modes. This Labor government must step up and find a solution to a problem it has allowed to spiral. The residents of the Currumbin electorate ask me, 'Where is the education campaign? Why aren't repeat offenders getting caught? Indeed, why should any of us pay?' It is time for action. It is long overdue.

### Old Cleveland Road

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.56 pm): I rise to talk about Old Cleveland Road. For anyone who is commuting from the Redlands into the city or on to the Gateway Motorway, they predominantly use Old Cleveland Road. For a number of years I have been working with TMR and the minister on Old Cleveland Road. I was proud that, in the last election campaign, the government promised to upgrade five intersections along Old Cleveland Road called the Eastern Transitway project.

There is an issue at the on ramp to the Gateway Motorway, particularly from Old Cleveland Road at Belmont in the morning. It is an issue that is well known. It had been around for years and then it went away. In the morning peak hour, a makeshift third lane is created that stretches up to a kilometre or two past the Belmont rifle range. This makeshift third lane is created by commuters in a courteous way but, unfortunately, it is illegal. If that makeshift third lane was not created, the traffic along that section of Old Cleveland Road would grind to a halt.

We have been working on this issue. A couple of years ago TMR workers looked at the congestion through the traffic cameras and synchronised the lights to let more traffic go through. That relieved the traffic congestion for a period, but it has come back.

In 2016 I was able to secure funding for design work of that on ramp. That design work has now finished and now that section of the road needs to be upgraded. It is a particularly dangerous section for drivers. Their cars have one tyre in the dirt and one tyre on the shoulder, so their cars grip. There are also skinny parts of the road. It is a particularly dangerous section of road for cyclists because they lose their shoulder of the road. When cyclists ride along that section of Old Cleveland Road they are up against stationary cars on the shoulder and cars and trucks doing 80 kilometres an hour beside them. I am an avid cyclist. I am a patron of the Wynnum Redlands Cycling Club. I would not tempt fate on this road.


We have done the design work and we need to fund the upgrade. I have started a petition for the minister and TMR to fund this vital upgrade. There is a particular issue with regard to how motorists merge from Mount Petrie Road into Old Cleveland Road during the morning peak hour. I believe that the design work will fix this issue. I implore people within the Chatsworth, Oodgeroo, Capalaba and Redlands electorates to get on to my Facebook page and sign the petition. Let us get this problem sorted out and get the upgrade done.

## TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note


Resumed from 14 February (see p. 273), on motion of Mr King—

That the House take note of the Transport and Public Works Committee report No. 14 titled *Review of Auditor-General's report No. 4 for 2017-18—Integrated transport planning* tabled on 14 November 2018.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.00 pm), continuing: In the previous debate I was referring to maximising potential corridors. In my electorate there is a great opportunity to increase the capacity of the bridge over Coombabah Creek linking Jabiru Island. The community is calling out for it and I will continue to advocate for it. It is currently not on the forward works for the next 10 years. It has to be. It is important. This report highlights how difficult it will be to fund new projects such as that.

We have a genuine maintenance backlog in this state. It will take many years to ensure that infrastructure that was built in years gone by is brought up to the requisite standard. That impedes the ability to fund new capital works. It is vital that existing assets of the state are looked after because otherwise the day of reckoning will come. The day of reckoning comes when there is crumbling infrastructure without the capacity to meet the growth that comes from a state with a bright future. The key is to maximise what is already there. There needs to be effective planning. It is absolutely vital that we put in place a planning system that enables us to maximise existing infrastructure.

I conclude my remarks by saying that this is indeed a report that should make all of us in this House sit up and take notice. There is a backlog that needs to be addressed. It is serious, it is important and we owe it to the future of our communities to get this right.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (3.01 pm): This committee report outlines for so many residents of my electorate why they cannot get their roads fixed. It outlines that funding for rehabilitation of roads—that is, the digging up of the roads and the resurfacing and making them better again—is at 16 per cent of what is actually required right now. There is a \$2.6 billion backlog, projected to blow out to \$5 billion within the next 10 years. This report is not something that has been dreamed up by the LNP; it is report of the Auditor-General, an independent officer. It lays bare a generation of failure by the members opposite to plan for road maintenance, upgrades and funding of new infrastructure.


The reason the roads in my electorate cannot be fixed is laid out in this report by the Auditor-General. These black holes have not come about in the last two or five years. They have come about over the last 20 to 30 years and they will get worse because there is not enough money in the budget to deal with the road maintenance right now let alone into the future. People are looking for rehabilitation on the Mount Lindesay Highway north and south of Beaudesert; on the Beaudesert-Nerang Road, especially around Wonglepong—they have been waiting since 1989 for their roads to be fixed; on roads through Canungra; the Waterford-Tamborine Road through my electorate and the member for Logan's electorate; Harpers Crossing near Boonah; the Cunningham Highway—especially sections around Willowbank, but there are a whole lot of other sections as well. Kalbar Connection Road; Boonah-Ipswich Road, especially around Peak Crossing to Yamanto; the

Rosewood-Warrill View Road; Rosewood-Laidley Road—it is in the electorate of Ipswich West but it runs into mine—there are some pretty rough areas around Rosewood and I think the member for Ipswich West should get on to that; and the Rosewood-Ipswich Road between the Seven Mile Bridge and Amberley. These are all areas that need rehabilitation works done, but there is only 16 per cent funding to do that rehabilitation because of a generation of failure of the Labor Party to plan for road maintenance let alone road investment. The report is not pretty reading for people who are looking for roadworks to be undertaken in their electorate, but I will keep fighting for the people in my electorate to get their upgrades.

In the report the Auditor-General touches on the links that are needed between urban planning, town planning and road planning. People in my region would like to see that. In the last 10 or 15 years they have had urban growth with residential development but none of the roadworks that go with it. As a result we are facing issues of congestion. Roads around Beaudesert, Jimboomba and other parts of southern Logan simply cannot deal with the residential development that has been allowed to take place, not only by local governments in those areas but driven by state planning policy, largely put in place by the Labor Party. It is just not good enough.

The recommendation to link urban planning with road transport and infrastructure planning is a great idea because it will encourage governments to develop where there is infrastructure already in place. When development is occurring in greenfield areas that are further away from existing road infrastructure, maybe it will encourage governments to save, plan and fund that infrastructure rather than just allowing urban development and forgetting about the road and other infrastructure that is needed. During its time in government that is exactly what the Labor Party has done in my area through the state planning policies, especially since the South East Queensland Regional Plan came into force in 2005.

The numbers set out by the Auditor-General in this report could not be clearer. In rehabilitation there is a \$2.6 billion backlog; in bridges and culverts, which is only 19 per cent funded, a \$1 billion backlog. The people of Wonglepong, who have been writing to the government since 1989 asking for their culvert to be upgraded and for a section of gravel road, which must rate amongst one of the worst state controlled roads in the state, to be upgraded, may have some more waiting to do if this mob gets back into power in 2020.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.06 pm): Recently I was in the Scenic Rim electorate. I sent the member a text message about his local roads being in a state of disrepair and suggested something needed to be done about it. Residents in the seat of Theodore continue to complain about local infrastructure and massive development growth. They feel that road infrastructure is not keeping up with development in the area. There is no better example than the interchanges in the northern section of the Gold Coast. In recent times there has been money allocated to exit 57, but many residents find it quite comical that the department placed solar panels where we need a slip lane. They see it as a massive waste of funds. The minister needs to think about the carbon footprint of all those cars and quarry trucks coming from the Nucrush Quarry stuck at those lights when there could be a slip lane to allow direct access to the motorway.

However, this is only a small part of the problem. There has been massive growth in development in the northern Gold Coast. The Auditor-General's report states only 16 per cent of the maintenance has been funded. It is little wonder so many of our roads are becoming heavily choked. We do not have the money for maintenance of the current road infrastructure. Even more concerning is the lack of backlog maintenance of bridges and culverts. There are multiple bridges on the motorway. I put a question to the library about what type of maintenance is done on these bridges and if are we keeping up with it. My community would have serious concerns about what is contained in the report.


We do not want our infrastructure to deteriorate. Those roads are the very lifeblood of our area. We need to ensure that the bridges are in good repair and that there are no problems with them, especially in my area where we have a lot of heavy vehicle traffic. We need to ensure that our bridges are safe to use.

I will give an example to highlight the lack of maintenance on the northern Gold Coast. During the Commonwealth Games numerous residents said me, 'Mark, when are they going to clean the verges?' We had lots of traffic travelling down from Brisbane as international visitors came to see our beautiful city of the Gold Coast. Everything was supposed to be pristine and clean, but I had to continually pester the department about maintenance that needed to be done. We had Commonwealth Games facilities in very close proximity to graffiti on sound walls along the motorway, which is not a good look when international visitors are coming to our beautiful city.

I can understand that it is very difficult to get the minister to sign off on projects when there are massive backlogs. For example, we need traffic lights at the intersection of Michigan Drive and Tambourine-Oxenford Road, which is a major thoroughfare and is dangerous, especially for vehicles turning right.

**Mr Bailey:** You did nothing. Why didn't you do it when you were in government?

**Mr BOOTHMAN:** I say to the minister that his Labor Party has been in government for over 20 years, bar a less-than-three-year period. That shows that they have been sitting on their hands the whole time.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise to address report No. 14 of the 56th Parliament's Transport and Public Works Committee in relation to a review of the Auditor-General's report No. 4, *Integrated transport planning*. At the outset, I acknowledge the LNP members on the committee: Ted Sorensen, the member for Hervey Bay and Colin Boyce, the member for Callide. They are doing terrific work on that committee. They are also representing their communities very well.

We all know that the Auditor-General performs a very important oversight function in Queensland, not only in relation to financial auditing but also in relation to performance auditing of public sector departments. I note that the committee report states—

The committee is satisfied that DTMR is progressing with the implementation of the audit recommendations, all be it at a slower pace than initially anticipated.

That is no surprise when we are talking about this lazy Palaszczuk Labor government. The reasons for the audit cited in the report include past population and economic growth creating access and mobility challenges across the state, particularly on peak commuting routes in South-East Queensland, as well as the State Infrastructure Plan expecting significant population and travel growth over the next 20 years, intensifying those challenges and representing a significant risk to our state's economic prosperity and livability.

No-one better understands that than the local residents of the electorate of Moggill and, more broadly, the western suburbs of Brisbane. Traffic congestion on Moggill Road is extremely problematic. Other major arterial roads, including the Western Freeway and Centenary Highway, are also struggling to cope with traffic volumes, as well as slow travel times. Various RACQ reports have identified that. In the western suburbs, cyclist safety is a major problem. Pedestrian access must be enhanced or, in many cases, made available on certain state controlled roads, including for the Brisbane Independent School. The maintenance of median strips or weed removal is not occurring frequently enough, particularly on the Kenmore Road roundabout or upon entering suburbs such as Bellbowrie, to name just a few examples. There are also numerous examples of murals on our state controlled roads that are not being maintained. In parts of Queensland, there are significant and serious maintenance backlogs. That needs to be rectified.

Since first being elected as the state member for Moggill in January 2015, I have been consistently advocating and fighting for an integrated road and public transport plan for the electorate of Moggill, as well as infrastructure projects, including a second high school, to meet the requirements of population growth in the western suburbs. I will continue to do that so long as I remain in this place. The implementation of an integrated road and public transport plan requires the cooperation of all levels of government and I am continuing to champion this issue. I call on all federal, state and local government representatives in the western suburbs to support that. Certainly, integrated planning was identified in the committee report that we are talking about.

Appropriately considered and designed engineering solutions with respect to road, bridge and rail access are an important part of regional transport infrastructure planning to ease traffic congestion. Importantly, however, that requires community consultation on locality and functionality to avoid any unintended consequences. At the 2015 and 2017 state elections, the Palaszczuk Labor government promised to progress an integrated road and public transport plan for the electorate of Moggill, but they have failed to do so. In the Queensland parliament I have asked numerous questions about infrastructure planning for the electorate of Moggill on behalf of local residents and, in fact, the entire western suburbs. I have made a number of speeches on the issue as well.

Labor has failed to progress and maintain infrastructure. That has been consistent with their overall mismanagement in government, and it must be remembered that Labor has been in power in Queensland for at least 25 of the past 30 years. In conjunction with other local representatives, I am committed to delivering solutions in a collaborative and coordinated manner.

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Dr ROWAN:** The Minister for Transport does not like to hear this. He is failing to act for the western suburbs of Brisbane, despite being the member for Miller. He is failing to deliver solutions for the people of the western suburbs and he is failing to deliver more public transport and access for local suburbs that have limited or no public transport.

I call on the minister and the Palaszczuk Labor government to step up to the mark and invest in public transport and infrastructure for the western suburbs of Brisbane and the electorate of Moggill. We know that debt in Queensland will be \$83 billion by 2021-22 and that unemployment is well over six per cent. They have no vision and no plans for the western suburbs of Brisbane or for Queensland. We have significant challenges around the maintenance of infrastructure and investing in it into the future. The Minister for Transport does not like hearing this, but I will continue to talk about it in this place, the LNP will continue to talk about it and we will fight for our residents.

**Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.16 pm): With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I acknowledge the contribution of the member for Logan a few short moments ago. The contribution was on the money. Sometimes we tend to forget that this is a very difficult environment in which to work. We should always be cognizant of the fact that there are people who are facing difficulties as members of parliament and we should look after one another. Well done, sir.

I refer to the committee's report and, in particular, page 3 at 2.2, which raises the question of past population and economic growth having created access and mobility challenges right across the state. When one turns to the report of the QOA, chapter 3 is headed 'Integrated land use and transport plans' and deals with a number of matters. It deals with the fact that there is a requirement for clear integrated transport goals and objectives for regional areas. It also states that in those areas we need to identify problems and develop strategies to address them. Importantly, chapter 3 identifies the importance of government departments working in conjunction with local government authorities to ensure that the strategy that is rolled out at the end is endorsed by both levels of government.

At this point I will leave the issue of local government and turn to Caloundra and the questions around transport goals, identifying problems, strategies, past population and economic growth factors. It is well known that the Sunshine Coast is one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland and, indeed, across the nation. In Caloundra, the Aura development by Stockland is now well and truly underway. That development will cater for a population of some 50,000 people. The Harmony development will commit between 14,000 and 17,000 people to the Sunshine Coast in the near future.

In addition to that, the Sunshine Coast, and indeed Caloundra, is becoming more and more popular as a family destination for holidays, whether it be Easter, school or Christmas holidays. We are also quite well aware that the spine from the Bruce Highway into Caloundra is Caloundra Road or, as I call it, the longest car park on the Sunshine Coast. There are pressing issues surrounding Caloundra Road that need attention to alleviate the traffic congestion that occurs there on a daily basis. Some of those are well known to the minister. Some, I am certain, will become well known to the minister.


The first is the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout. There have been intermittent signals placed at that roundabout. I can attest to the minister that that has been a complete failure. What is needed at that roundabout is either slip or exit lanes so that traffic is not on the Caloundra Road-Nicklin Way roundabout. The problem is the roundabout itself. The congestion at that roundabout needs to be alleviated.

The second issue is the Ridgewood Road-Caloundra Road intersection. I acknowledge that the minister has committed that funding will become available. He has agreed to meet the residents of Ridgewood Road estate when cabinet meets on the Sunshine Coast in March.

The other important one is the east-west connection road between Bellvista Boulevard and Pelican Waters Boulevard. Aura Boulevard and Bellvista Boulevard pour out onto Caloundra Road. The proposal is a connection road between Bellvista Boulevard and Pelican Waters Boulevard that bypasses a portion of Caloundra Road. That needs to be addressed in the immediate future.

Finally, there is the Caloundra Road-Kawana Way link road intersection. At this point in time that road has started to become quite congested. My concern is that as time goes by and traffic uses that more and more we will find congestion building up. At some point in time we need to address the necessity for exit or slip lanes off that roundabout. Again, keeping traffic off the roundabout is critical to traffic flow across Caloundra Road.

These issues are a result of what the committee refers to as having 'created access and mobility challenges'. It is critical that we have a coordinated approach along this stretch of road. It cannot happen overnight, but a medium- to long-term plan is essential if we are going to solve the congestion issues.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (3.21 pm): We have heard from other speakers today about the funding of the Mount Lindesay Highway. I feel duty-bound to stand up and correct the record and point out some of the minister's commitments to the Mount Lindesay Highway and what has been done.

I remind those in this House and the community that relies on the Mount Lindesay Highway that in 2011 major works were underway on the Chambers Flat Road overpass and Stoney Camp Road as well as the great separation. At that time some \$182 million in the outyears—the four- to 10-year budgets—was dedicated to the Mount Lindesay Highway.


Then we can look at the first budget of the LNP government. We heard the minister's interjection previously that \$600 million was cut across the state. That amount disappeared from QTRIP in the LNP budget. Member for Albert, that was \$182 million cut from the Mount Lindesay Highway and this growing area. We heard one member say that the government should plan for the growth in that area. They accelerated the growth in the area and cut the budget for the Mount Lindesay Highway. Under Minister Bailey we are seeing that funding restored.

The Logan Enhancement Project is bearing fruit already. The lane from the Gateway Motorway to the Mount Lindesay Highway is already in place. There have been improvements at that intersection as well as to the vital right turn going west to Ipswich that the member for Stretton talked about.

At the moment we are also building the North Maclean safety project as well as the South Maclean safety project. We are improving safety for 14 separate driveways and roads that use that area for right turns. None of this was done under the LNP government. As we know, they cut \$182 million from the budget.

Further, we are four-laning the Mount Lindesay Highway from Rosia Road to Stoney Camp Road and improving the off ramp at Granger Road. This will make it safer because 20 per cent of traffic exits there. We are also lifting the highway at Camp Cable Road—where we have already improved the intersection—and making four lanes all the way through to the beginning of Jimboomba.

It is vital that this House knows that we are getting back to funding the Mount Lindesay Highway. It is vital that the House knows that \$182 million was cut from the Mount Lindesay Highway under the LNP government. The last thing we should do is go back to an LNP government because it would mean less for the Mount Lindesay Highway and other roads in the area.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.24 pm): I rise to add my comments to report No. 4 for 2017-18 of the Queensland Audit Office entitled *Integrated transport planning*. The objective of the audit was to determine whether the state's approach to strategic transport planning enables effective use of transport resources and a transport system that is sustainable over the long term.

Public transport is a big deal in South-East Queensland, in particular with growing populations. Good planning and funding is essential. The Audit Office report assessed whether the Department of Transport and Main Roads provides an effective framework for coordinating transport planning that integrates with other government plans and whether the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, DTMR, and local councils effectively integrate land use.

I refer to report No. 14 of the 56th Parliament for the Transport and Public Works Committee which reviewed the Auditor-General's report. At 1.5 under recommendations and conclusions it says—

The committee is satisfied that DTMR is progressing with the implementation of the audit recommendations, all be it at a slower pace than initially anticipated.

Well, does that not just say it all? This Labor government sets low bars, low standards and is comfortable with underperformance and time lines not met. The conclusions outlined in report No. 4 for 2017-18 of the Queensland Audit Office entitled *Integrated transport planning* state that delays in finalising the Queensland transport policy and publishing the *Transport Coordination Plan 2017-2027* mean there is a lack of certainty over strategic direction.

Magically, the day after this report was issued for comment the Deputy Premier tabled the plan in parliament. I remind honourable members that this was on 13 October 2017—10 months into the year. Surely a plan as important to Queenslanders as transport should have been ready before 2017, not at the end of it. It reminds me of the day I tabled a question on notice about the long overdue Koala Expert Panel report. Within 24 hours the report appeared. Laziness, sloppiness and tardiness are hallmarks of the Palaszczuk government.

The committee's report lists the conclusions of the Auditor-General's *Integrated transport planning* report and noted—

That renewal of the existing network has been, and continues to be, underfunded. Underfunding has resulted in risks to the sustainability of the transport network and the overall condition of the transport network falls well short of DTMR's target standards.

Further, the forecast from DTMR is a bleak one for passengers and travellers, with news that the renewal backlog on the state controlled road network will exceed \$9 billion over the next decade. The report states further—


Without alternative strategies to address the funding issues, DTMR faces a risk that it will not be able to maintain or improve service standards on the transport network to meet future needs.

Unsurprisingly, peak travel times will increase and they need 'new strategies to manage user demand and influence how people travel'. Numerous road implementation programs, or RIPs as they were called, were published during the terms of Labor governments during my 15 years in this House. They have all come and gone with none of them accomplishing their predictions for road upgrades and transport solutions in my part of South-East Queensland in the time frames stated on their covers.

I recall over a decade ago, around 2006-07, extensive planning of transport corridors through the southern section of the M1 and through my electorate of Currumbin. I recall it for a number of reasons. One of them being the fact I commended the Labor government—yes, honourable members that has happened, albeit rarely—for bringing three agencies together—DTMR, Queensland Rail and Energex—to determine the best and most cost-effective corridor for heavy rail to the airport. A lot of time and money went into those studies—I still have the huge maps in my office—but like so many studies and reviews done by Labor they never come to fruition.

This report exposes significant shortcomings that could see existing levels of congestion worsen, if that is possible. We, on the Gold Coast and elsewhere in South-East Queensland, sit in car parks everyday due to Labor's inaction over 20 years. The \$9 billion renewal backlog puts at risk new funding and the time line of extension of upgrades.

I am really pleased that the minister is in the House because I call on him to give an ironclad guarantee that funding for the upgrade to the most southern section of the M1—that is, from Varsity Lakes to Tugun—will be available and the time line of a 2020 start time for construction remains. Failure to do so would see yet another promise broken and even more frustration for the people of Currumbin who remember all too well the fiasco that was the Tugun bypass and the money that we had to waste on maintenance for the tunnel and the building of the bypass itself.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.29 pm): I rise to speak on report No. 14 of the Transport and Public Works Committee published in November 2018. That report relates to the review of Auditor-General's report No. 4 of 2017-18, *Integrated transport planning*. I note that the committee report, under section 2.2 on page 3, states—

The reasons for the audit cited in the report include:

- Past population and economic growth have created access and mobility challenges across the state and particularly on peak commuting routes in South East Queensland. The State Infrastructure Plan expects significant population and travel growth over the next 20 years to intensify these challenges. This represents a significant risk to the state's economic prosperity and liveability.

All of these words could easily be channelled into Pimpama and Coomera. The Pimpama-Coomera region is the fastest growing region in Queensland and the second fastest in Australia on many measures. In that particular area there is a lack of planning and funding in relation to safety issues involving ramping at exits 41, 45 and 49—exits 41 and 49 are particularly bad. I acknowledge the recent funding committed by the federal government of \$50 million as a contribution towards exits 41 and 49. There is absolutely no funding—and I have been told this at many levels from DTMR—for any move forward from the state in relation to that. The committee report, under the audit conclusions on page 5, states—

- DTMR forecasts that the renewal backlog on the state-controlled road network will exceed \$9 billion over the next decade. Without alternative strategies to address the funding issues, DTMR faces a risk that it will not be able to maintain or improve service standards on the transport network ...

That is a despairing statement in relation to where we are at. It talks about a \$9 billion capability gap as at 1 July 2017. We are now in 2019. There is no doubt that the figure of \$9 billion is understating the current figure. There is no money. There is no discussion. Once again, there is absolute confirmation from DTMR. Indeed, the member for Macalister confirmed it the other day in a report in the *Albert and Logan News*. Her statement to the Eagleby community was that there is nothing happening in relation to the second M1, the Coomera Connector, for that community in the short to medium term. There is absolutely nothing happening in that particular community in the short to medium term. There is confirmation once again. The member for Macalister would not have made those statements off her own bat. She would have been told by the minister that there is nothing happening on the Coomera Connector—that there is nothing happening in relation to the second M1.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): The interjections are not being taken.

**Mr CRANDON:** There is nothing happening under this government in relation to the second M1, which is desperately needed to take 60,000 cars off the current M1—

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** I take that interjection—to relieve exits 41, 45 and 49 in particular. There is absolutely nothing happening for the northern Gold Coast. The fastest growing region in Queensland is being ignored by this minister—completely and utterly ignored.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is enough cross-chamber chatter.

**Mr CRANDON:** It is despicable. The treatment of the people of the northern Gold Coast by this minister and the arrogance that he portrays in his responses on Facebook is absolutely disgusting.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (3.34 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee report No. 9 titled *A fair day's pay for a fair day's work? Exposing the true cost of wage theft in Queensland* tabled on 16 November 2018.

A fair day's pay for a fair day's work is an ideal deeply rooted in Australia's labour history and egalitarian values. To most, it is an indisputable right that a worker is fairly and duly remunerated in accordance with their effort and the law. Yet we have seen again and again in recent media high-profile cases of significant worker exploitation including by highly recognised brands 7-Eleven, Domino's, Caltex, Pizza Hut, Myer and Woolworths. These are the cases that have come to light. These are the ones we know about—but just how many cases are going undetected and unanswered in Queensland? How effective are current state and federal regulatory frameworks in dealing with wage theft? How can we eradicate it into the future? This was the job given to our committee.

The committee travelled across Queensland holding 24 hearings and receiving evidence from more than 100 witnesses, 360 survey respondents and 49 written submitters. I wanted to let Queenslanders tell their story.

Our report revealed that wage theft is costing Queensland workers over \$1 billion in lost wages and over \$1 billion in lost superannuation every year. Combined with an estimated \$100 million reduction in consumer spending and \$60 million in lost federal tax revenue, the overall economic loss could amount to almost \$2.5 billion stripped from the Queensland economy every year. Of course, that is not just a number. They are real Queenslanders and Queensland families who are going without what they are duly entitled to, with vulnerable, lower income workers significantly over-represented among those affected by wage theft.

While the state retains responsibility for the Public Service, local governments and long service leave entitlements, the majority of workers nationally—approximately 87 per cent—fall under the federal industrial relations framework, with minimum conditions of work set by the Fair Work Commission and compliance the remit of the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The committee heard that Queensland's Labour Hire Licensing Act introduced by our government in 2017, in addition to work by inspectors on the ground from the Queensland Office of Industrial Relations, is helping to address wage theft in the state industrial relations space. But what the committee heard over and over again is that affected workers in the federal IR system feel powerless to reclaim their lost wages and entitlements, and have been largely left alone to do so by an under-resourced federal regulatory system.

I want to make the point here that what we are talking about and what our report shines a light on is not the case of incorrectly paid entitlements that once identified are rectified by honourable employers. The debate over unintentional and/or honest errors is too often used to distract from the real debate over intentional—deliberate—wage theft.


Let me paint a picture of what the committee heard repeatedly from witnesses in regard to the latter. An individual becomes aware of incorrectly or unpaid entitlements. Maybe it is \$100—in many cases thousands or tens of thousands of dollars. They raise it with management. No or, indeed, punitive



measures result such as working hours being cut, the individual being performance managed or fired. They contact the Fair Work Ombudsman. They are told to take the matter up with management themselves or proceed to mediation. Mediation does not take place or fails because the employer will not participate. The employee may be placed in the unconscionable position of actually having to bargain away their entitlements—that is what they have legally earned—just to recover something. Should mediation fail, the employee is told to pay for a lawyer or proceed to the small claims court which can cost up to \$20,000. They are on their own.

Of the almost 30,000 requests for assistance the Fair Work Ombudsman handled involving a workplace dispute in 2017-18, only four per cent resulted in compliance activities. In 2016-17, the Fair Work Ombudsman conducted 5,645 campaign audits and inquiry activities. That constitutes approximately 0.25 per cent of all actively trading businesses—so there is not even a one per cent chance that your business is going to be audited.

We have our responsibilities at a state level and the federal government has theirs. However, while we are meeting ours and prioritising Queensland workers, workers in the federal system are being left to fend for themselves, many highly vulnerable with no recourse other than to fund expensive legal proceedings—that is, if they can afford it. They deserve better and we can do better. We have been doing the heavy lifting at the state level. It is time that the federal government played their part and protected workers in this country.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.39 pm): In my capacity as deputy chair, I rise to add my comments to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's report No. 9 titled *A fair day's pay for a fair day's work? Exposing the true cost of wage theft in Queensland*. I acknowledge the time invested by the secretariat, Hansard, committee members and others. However, the opportunity was largely wasted. As the LNP's statement of reservations says—

The LNP fundamentally believes that workers deserve to be paid what they are entitled to. No one wants to see workers being ripped off.

However, the motivations behind this inquiry have been spurious to say the least, since the very beginning.

It was obvious from the start that this inquiry had political overtones, undertones and innuendo, with its limited and selective scope that did not extend to the appalling fiasco of the Health payroll which saw thousands of nurses not paid or underpaid. It did not include underpayment of hundreds of security guards and other Commonwealth Games contractors. The Palaszczuk Labor government voted down the LNP's attempts to include these groups. How can those opposite stand there beating their chest for workers to get a fair day's pay for a fair day's work when they discriminate about who deserves it? How can this report bear the title 'exposing the true cost of wage theft in Queensland' when it does not reflect certain groups and has deliberately locked them out?

Further, this inquiry concentrates primarily on federal employment matters. Minister Cameron Dick, as the former industrial minister in the Bligh government, introduced legislation which was passed in 2009 which referred most of our industrial relations jurisdiction. He wanted the feds to take over. The LNP opposed the bill. I know; I was here. Of the 17 recommendations in this report, over half relate to federal matters where the state has no powers.

The state government is only responsible for industrial relations of state public servants and local government workers. The rest is governed by Julia Gillard's Fair Work Act, but as honourable members have just heard even though the state is responsible for public servants this Labor government boycotted nurses from the inquiry. It appears that Labor and the unions are wanting to go down the path of criminalising wage theft when the main problem seems to lie with the complexity of the award system. Penalties are already in place, but there were comments that the Fair Work Ombudsman does not have enough teeth and that there is a lack of compliance.


There was a common theme throughout the hearings from unions and related witnesses who used the term 'a business model'. It seemed to be a contrived term designed to have people believe there was some kind of conspiracy by the business community to cheat workers out of wages. There are many businesses doing the right thing, and we should remember that.

I was staggered to learn that one of the witnesses, Maurice Blackburn Lawyers, was caught for underpayments of \$925,000 over six years, yet here they were representing unions at these hearings. This, according to a representative from Master Electricians, is a classic example of 'unintentional wage theft given the variances in work schedules and hours'. I accept that some employers do the wrong thing, as I have just revealed, but the tone of this inquiry would have us think that they are all rotten and corrupt. Queensland has over 400,000 SMEs, and the majority are passionate about their businesses,

work extraordinarily long hours just to stay afloat and provide jobs for hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders. Many are not of the size and do not have the capacity to have workplace managers and the like.

Unions in regional areas were desperate to get witnesses, as local Labor MPs did not find support for their own inquiry. It was patently clear that some witnesses were totally unprepared and came along at very short notice as a result of urgent emails from their unions. Not only were some unprepared; their recollections were vague and unsupported by evidence or data. As the months progressed, the wage theft inquiry became more exposed for what it was—a recruitment organ for the unions and promotion of a wages exploitation program run by the Young Workers Hub aimed at high school students and delivered by youth under the Queensland Council of Unions banner.

As we said from the outset, the LNP fundamentally believes that workers deserve to be paid what they are entitled to. However, this inquiry was politically motivated and not inclusive of workers. If there is one person who knows all about wage theft, it is Bill Shorten. During his time with the AWU he cheated Cleanevent workers out of fair pay to the tune of \$400 million. Casual cleaners were paid \$18.14 an hour rather than \$50.17 which they were entitled to under the 2010 award—a 176 per cent pay cut.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (3.45 pm): I rise to speak to the report *A fair day's pay for a fair day's work?* I remember that used to be the theme for my father and the many people he employed in his business, and I carried that on with my business. We have just heard from the deputy chair of the committee and we can see why the opposition will be on the opposition benches for many years to come, because they do not care about workers. This inquiry was not set up because of control by the unions; it was set up to find out what was happening to wages in Queensland and what was happening to people in Queensland. What the committee found as we moved through Queensland was an eye-opener. I would like to thank the member for Capalaba. I could not make some hearings because of family commitments and the member for Capalaba filled in for me on committee trips.

Let us have a look at wage theft. A report from the McKell Institute states—

Wage theft can take a number of different forms but generally relates to employers deliberately not paying employees their full entitlements including superannuation, award and penalty rates, leave and other employee entitlements. Wage theft—

That side supports wage theft, as we heard from the deputy chair. She supports wage theft in Queensland. We will not let that be forgotten. That will not be forgotten coming up to the federal election because that side supports wage theft.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at the personal remarks he is making and I ask him to withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order! Member for Maryborough, the member has taken personal offence.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Before you continue, there is too much cross-chamber chatter.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** How does wage theft occur? Again, I quote from the McKell Institute report which states—

The most common type of wage theft tends to be underpayment or non-payment of wages under a federal award ...

We heard during the inquiry that being punched by Fair Work Australia is like being punched in the head with a wet lettuce leaf. Fair dinkum! We have heard that people in Queensland had to talk to someone in Tasmania—

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, you are on the speaking list; you will get your turn.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** This is what happens in the employment arena. How does wage theft occur? This is what happens according to the McKell Institute—

1. Employees needing to "pay an upfront deposit" for a job
2. Employees needing to pay money back in cash to employers after receiving wages
3. Denying approval for paid professional development leave ...
4. Pressuring workers not to record overtime
5. Not paying overtime when it is claimed
6. Not paying or underpaying superannuation
7. Non-provision of meal breaks

I suppose if you worked at Muffin Break that would be okay. You might get free muffins but you do not get paid. The report continues—

8. Incorrectly classifying workers

9. Unpaid redundancies

10. Working for “free” whilst training

We know that has been happening. We know businesses have been calling in people for a week’s training and they have had 52 people come in for the year so they have not had to pay wages for 52 weeks. It continues—

11. Not paying staff to attend mandatory staff meetings

12. Payments in the form of food and beverages, not wages

That must be the Muffin Break business model. Where are the federal member for Hinkler and the federal member for Wide Bay? Crickets! The Labor candidate for Wide Bay was on the streets today in Maryborough. It hurts to say that in my community we have a Labor hire company working for Telstra called Rubicor, and it has been alleged today that they have not been paying superannuation since May last year. They have been paying no superannuation to their workers since May last year. As far as I am concerned, that is theft.

If an employee who worked for Rubicor took one pen, they would be charged with thieving. Why aren’t the directors of Rubicor charged with stealing and thieving from workers? It is time the chaos of this federal government was brought out. I am looking forward to a Shorten government. I am looking forward to Jason Scanes as the Labor member for Wide Bay. He will stand up for workers, he will make sure workers get paid and he will make sure workers get their entitlements—not like that rabble over there. They are thieves. All they do is take—


**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I call the House to order. Member for Maryborough, you have to expect some flak if you keep up that language. I advise you to tone your language down. You have 24 seconds left.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** We are looking forward to a federal Labor government and people who will look after workers’ entitlements. We hear from that side that small businesses are doing it tough. That is because they are pinching the disposable income of workers—that is why. The discretionary income has gone. I urge all Queenslanders to get rid of this chaotic federal government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Maryborough, the word ‘thieves’ is unparliamentary. I ask that you withdraw it please.

**Mr SAUNDERS:** I withdraw.

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee’s report No. 9 of the 56th Parliament titled *A fair day’s pay for a fair day’s work? Exposing the true cost of wage theft in Queensland*. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow committee members, the secretariat and the Hansard reporters who produced this report. From the outset, I wish to draw attention to the statement of reservation in my name and my colleague the member for Currumbin’s name contained in the report.

This was one of those Labor inquiries that had hidden motives written all over it from the get-go. The terms of reference for this inquiry was the first indication of where we were all heading. It was an inquiry that sought to shelter the government from a storm they were trying to whip up, as they were not prepared to include scrutiny of any kind on the plight of workers and contractors under their direct control. We on this side of the House tried to move amendments in the terms of reference to include examination of the government’s own wage handling, but this was quickly voted down.


There was no examination of Queensland’s ongoing Health payroll debacle, and there was no examination of the security guards and other contractors who were underpaid at the Commonwealth Games. Likewise, there was no examination of the use of contractors in the Public Service, despite this being an issue constantly raised by the Together union. Our sensible amendments to address the problems faced by thousands of Queensland workers were simply rejected by the Labor government because they seek to control everything, including scrutiny of themselves. As we stated in our reservations, this inquiry was a wasted opportunity to examine the plight of current and former nurses who are still suffering from Labor’s Health payroll disaster—and I would add to this the plight of all those engaged by the government who have been underpaid.

The LNP fundamentally believes that workers deserve to be paid what they are entitled to. This is their right, and anything but this is unacceptable. What is really going on for Queensland workers is highlighted by the fact that the inquiry only generated 49 submissions. The low turnout of witnesses at public hearings held across Queensland, as well as those who appeared during the inquiry only to later redact their evidence, only highlighted the seeming lack of interest Queenslanders had for this inquiry. As one would expect, there was union representation throughout the hearings, but I note they had nothing to say when we tried to broaden the terms of reference to include scrutiny of the government controlled workers.

How can the Labor government say they are working for all Queenslanders when they limit the scope of an inquiry? That can only be described as a cover-up of their own appalling track record. They will not face scrutiny of their own track record, and this made a mockery of the inquiry. It was certainly a missed opportunity.

During the inquiry, several of the union witnesses made some pretty startling claims about Queensland small businesses—how they had established ‘business models’ to rip off their employees. They tried to tarnish the good reputation that small business owners try so hard to build and maintain in what is such a highly competitive market. Our small businesses are the lifeblood of our communities, employing thousands of people. Without them, our economy would be in shatters. If the unions want to pick a fight with them, as they do, then they had better have evidence to stack up their claims, but of course nothing they said stacked up.

The government members of the committee gave them free range, with avoidance tactics on display as they would not allow the spotlight to be cast on their own failings. If we ever needed to try to understand why business confidence in Queensland is at a four-year low, we need look no further than the fact that the Palaszczuk Labor government is celebrating its fourth anniversary in office. They do not support small businesses. They hang them out to dry by getting the unions to do their dirty work and muddy their good reputations. The LNP will always back small business. We would not be seen using parliamentary processes to bring them down. The LNP fundamentally believes that workers deserve to be paid what they are entitled to, full stop.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (3.55 pm): I rise in very strong support of the 17 recommendations which the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee made in their report No. 9 to the 56th Parliament, and I was very pleased to be a part of that committee. Charged with this responsibility, the committee held 24 hearings and received evidence from over 100 witnesses, 360 survey respondents and 49 written submissions. These were people from all working backgrounds—accommodation, tourism, retail, the building industry, food processing, security and cleaning industries, farming and agriculture. We had parents speaking on behalf of their children, and we had a strong representation of migrant workers. All reported individual stories of financial wrongdoing and injustices involving unpaid hours or underpayment of hours, unpaid penalty rates, unreasonable deductions, unpaid superannuation, withholding of other entitlements and sham contracting and the misuse of ABN numbers.

Even with the three instruments that establish the legislative safety network that sets the price floors to workers as wages and conditions—the combination of modern awards, the national minimum wage and the national employment standard—each one of those complainants shared a deep frustration and anger at their inability to pursue an appropriate outcome due to costs or the fact that it was a timely process and they felt they had been worn down.

Those who are more interested in the financial outcomes rather than the individual stories would be alarmed to hear that it is estimated that over 437,000 Queensland workers are not receiving their full wages. That resulting five per cent loss of income for these individuals would amount to an aggregate figure of \$1.2 billion annually. In terms of superannuation, the annual loss associated with underpayment or nonpayment of superannuation is estimated to be \$1.12 billion. This has a huge impact on our economy. I cannot believe what I am hearing from some of the people on the other side. They obviously have never been in business. In addition to this, annual reductions in consumer spending in Queensland have been estimated to be \$100 million, while the federal tax revenue lost is estimated to be \$60 million. Together, these losses could amount to almost \$2.5 billion being stripped from the Queensland economy every year.

Evidence provided to the committee confirmed that the problem of wage theft is particularly pronounced in certain segments of the labour market. The businesses that want to steal pay from workers will focus on the most vulnerable, those who are most likely to be afraid, those who are most likely to tolerate it or those who are least likely to complain, where the employer has the upper hand and would make it not worthwhile to complain. This employee cohort includes international students,

backpackers, other temporary visa holders, new residents, undocumented workers, migrant workers, visa holders and of course young people. Within these vulnerable cohorts, the Office of Industrial Relations noted that there is an underpinning gender pay gap, with women more likely to be affected by wage theft. Queensland Advocacy Incorporated highlighted the heightened vulnerability and insecurity for people with disabilities who are at the fringes of the labour market and are often subject to employment discrimination. I find it very hard to hide my personal disgust for individuals responsible for these actions who target these people.

Wage theft appears to be widespread across many industries. For a small and particularly vulnerable cohort of the workforce, the extent of the exploitation is so severe that it has been described as bordering on modern slavery. As many of those appearing before our committee acknowledged, it is unfair to those businesses who do the right thing—and there are many of them, and we heard from those businesses—as it creates an unfair work advantage when quoting for business, not to mention the significant financial impact on those exposed to these actions and, as I have highlighted, to the state's revenue. Each one of these recommendations will ensure that we not only protect our workers but also protect the businesses that do the right thing. These parties and individuals who engage in these practices are directly attacking not just those who have been suffering, but also the middle and working class of this state.

I would like to thank each one—most—of my committee members, in particular the chair, for the hard work that has been put into this report. Just as importantly, there is an expectation from the community that we will act on what we found.


Debate, on motion of Mr Healy, adjourned.

## FISHERIES (SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES STRATEGY) AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 554, on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.00 pm), continuing: Before lunch I was talking about sustainable fishing strategies around the regions and in particular, as we all like to do from time to time, I talked about my own electorate. I would like to reiterate some of those concerns about the sustainable fishing policy platforms, as the long title of this bill allows me to do. I remind people that some of the strategies that we are talking about here today in this bill also align with other bills currently being presented. I take this opportunity to speak in support of the minister's desired outcome for a review of the Great Sandy zoning issues. In doing so I encourage people to have their say in government surveys because they are trying to engage. I think it is incumbent on us in this place to remind our constituents of that from time to time.

That said, the community has been very proactive in my part of the world about what sustainable fishing should look like into the future. I thank Tony Bridges and the other residents of Baffle Creek who have formed a committee to take charge of their destiny in terms of what a future policy platform might look like, particularly around protection zones, conservation parks, green zones and other things that will affect sustainable fishing into the future. For the people of Winfield, Baffle Creek and all the other residents who use that pristine catchment it is time we engage with the government in a positive way to make sure the outcomes reflect the community's expectations about the environment and, more importantly, the biosphere and the long-term sustainability of that catchment. I can inform the House that when I leave this place, on Saturday and Sunday I will get to spend two days with my wife on the Baffle Creek catchment. There is nothing better than catching mud crabs and fish. We all know that those stocks have been declining over a long period. We need to do something as a government to make sure that sustainable fishing goes forward.


In the time remaining I want to reiterate some concerns, as I did in the disallowance motion, about the VMS rollout, which have also been clearly articulated by many members in the debate. I note there is an indication that some amendments will be moved. I do encourage the House to consider the committee's recommendations regarding amendments. I think they were sensible amendments, heartfelt and well thought out. Committees in this place are charged and empowered with the job of reviewing legislation and making recommendations, so I would hope that we all take the opportunity to pay respect to those committee members who have the fortitude and the experience to make recommendations. When we talk about the amendments later this afternoon, I hope that we do pay respect to those committee members who put so much into this report.

As has been spoken about widely in this debate, the VMS compliance issue has long caused a lot of angst, particularly around some commercial sectors that have engaged with members from all sides of this House. We are just asking that some of those recommendations be considered. Elaine and Michelle have continued to advocate for some sensible slowing-up reviews. The disallowance motion regarding VMS talked about a botched rollout and other things that people have had time to absorb. Clearly, those commercial fishermen who are now obligated, from 1 January, to have these systems installed are feeling complete stress—financial stress—and more worry as time goes on.

If we as legislators in this House also want to show respect to an industry, can we think about some of the proposals that have been put forward regarding the VMS system? We want to obtain advice from the Office of Best Practice Regulation about an impact analysis of what the VMS might look like. We know that the commercial fishermen have spoken about the exemptions for essential aspects of cost-benefit analysis. We must have a review of disadvantages and advantages and what form the consultation should take. We really want the department to release the commissioned audit from PricewaterhouseCoopers regarding the privacy and safety of the VMS data. Some of the safety concerns that have been raised during the implementation, such as fire and other things, have been quite damning. We need to take that seriously in this place.

We would like the minister to clarify, as per the SDNRAIDC's recommendations, the indemnity provisions contained in the contracts with the VMS providers. We would like a rewrite of the VMS policy in negotiation with fishers and operators. We can create a lot of committees when it comes to commercial and recreational fishing. I applaud all aspects of good consultation and stakeholder engagement. Again, the industry has asked with all due respect that we do consider the VMS. Let's have a round table; let's talk about what we can do to reduce the cost, protect fishers' intellectual property and deal with those small items of consideration about the VMS. I know, as do all of us here, if people are going to do the wrong thing they should be caught. If a VMS system on these smaller boats or on charter boats is the way forward, I would like the industry to have some confidence that what they are advocating is listened to. The issue of polling contract fees has also been raised with the state government, and we seek assurances around that.

In conclusion, the LNP is also proposing amendments that are sensible. As a good, functioning parliament we should accept this. I do not think any of us get anything out of political grandstanding when it comes to commercial fishing, the rights of recreational fishing and, more importantly, the outcome for sustainable fishing in our environment into the future—something that we all want. We all want a good outcome.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.06 pm): I rise to support the bill. Queensland is blessed with an abundance of seafood and it is important that this parliament takes steps to preserve this public resource now and for the future. Queensland deserves the best fisheries management system that is available. That is the case whether someone is a recreational fisher off Mackay or elsewhere up and down the coast of Queensland. Our fisheries are important to our state's tourism image, our regional and rural economic development, our exports abroad and also our plates at home. That is why our government has introduced this bill, which is a key milestone in the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy. While many of these changes will not affect the ordinary fisher, they will allow much greater management of our natural resources.

This bill represents a generational shift in how we manage our fisheries. Instead of being reactive, we are moving to being proactive. Instead of being ad hoc, we are going to be predictable in our decision-making. I know many of my constituents are keen fishers. I know that the minister has been out there on the water with some of those fishers in my electorate and he has listened to their views.


Our government, the Palaszczuk government, has repeatedly shown that we are serious about supporting the sustainable use of fisheries in Queensland. We did that last term when we implemented our net-free zones and committed over \$10 million which was used to buy out licences to support local promotions. I remember the opposition opposed these initiatives. The local net-free zone has been a success with buy-in and support from the Mackay City Council, local anglers and visiting tourists. The Mackay Regional Council has developed a tourist fishing strategy to take advantage of the popular net-free zone at Seaforth. We have found that the net-free zone has increased the number of fish, birdlife and turtles. We have funded fisheries reform with \$20 million in new funding, 20 new officers across the state, a raft of new scientific and other monitoring programs to improve our data and a rebate scheme to introduce vessel tracking.

I acknowledge that not all sections of the fishing community support these reforms, particularly the commercial sector. I have heard many claims about the government's rationale for introducing these reforms. These claims, comments and opinions have been afforded significant consideration by the

government and the department—in some cases, multiple times. This consultation ethos is built into the bill. This bill will bring Queensland into line with Australian and international best practice fisheries management. A key aspect of this bill is vessel tracking. Vessel tracking is normal in Australian fisheries. It is widely used internationally. It has also been used in trawl fisheries in Queensland for the last two decades.

Queenslanders expect that their government uses good data to make evidence based decisions. Vessel tracking provides our fisheries managers with data for good decision-making. It means that we can work smarter to demonstrate the health and sustainability of fisheries, particularly in relation to fishing around sensitive areas like our Great Barrier Reef, and there are federal environmental approvals for exports. Queensland's fisheries resources are precious, and it is our role to ensure that they are managed sustainably into the future so that our children and grandchildren can have the pleasure of enjoying recreational fishing and the experience of buying local sustainable Queensland seafood.

I would like to quickly run through some of the key features of the bill. The bill will address and deliver more responsive decision-making through harvest strategies that set out pre-agreed and approved rules for each fishery to achieve the agreed ecological, economic and/or social objectives. This means that fishers will know in advance what is likely to happen if stocks go up or down, introducing greater predictability into the system. There are clear delineations of administrative authority as well, which will improve efficiency at departmental levels. The minister will be responsible for strategic oversight through the approval of harvest strategies, while the chief executive will be responsible for day-to-day management and making fisheries declarations in accordance with the approved harvest strategy. Again, the changes being made will not impact the majority of recreational, commercial, charter or Indigenous fishers who are doing the right thing. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. As we know, Hervey Bay has always been a fishing village. It was made up of four or five fishing villages along the coast. It has been used for recreational and commercial fishing for as long as I can remember—and even before that. In the old days when I was a young boy running around, the fish market was in Maryborough. Everybody would take their fish into the fish market in Maryborough, and then it would be iced down and sent on to cities around Australia, especially Brisbane. Over the last 20 years I have seen the commercial fishing fleet go backwards. It is a shame to see the fishing industry going backwards. I do not believe there is enough being done for sustainable fisheries in Queensland.

Just the other day I was watching a program about salmon running up the rivers in Scotland. Back in 1880-something one gentleman realised that they could not keep taking fish without putting something back. They had water lagoons around the area so they collected the salmon, put them in there and raised the fingerlings. Then they put all the fingerlings back into the river, and some of the people reckoned they could tell the same fish that came back every year. To me, that is what sustainability is all about. You can make lots of laws and call it sustainability, but it is not like actually doing something such as that to make fishing sustainable.

If you talk to some of the old fishermen in Hervey Bay, especially the Schultz family, the Rileys, the Foxes and the Lewthwaites, who have fished that area for years, they talk about mullet going up the creek. They are the cleaners of the river. We do not look after those types of fish enough in our river systems. If you want sustainable fishing you have to have plenty of baitfish around the place. Years ago we used to have a number of trawlers, but now I do not believe the Labor government even wants trawlers in Hervey Bay because they are not even negotiating the wharf in the harbour at Hervey Bay. The lease is coming up within three years and nobody wants to talk to them. How can you get the trawler fishermen to invest in the industry when nobody wants to talk to them? It is ridiculous. It is a bit like the timber industry: they only have five years left in the industry until they sign. People have to sit down and talk with these people, especially in the fishing industry. It costs millions of dollars to buy a new trawler. Why are we trying to push commercial fishing out of certain areas? It does not make sense to me, especially when you are looking at about 500 jobs in Hervey Bay that rely on those commercial fishermen. They are always worried about what the government is going to do next, whether they wipe them out or put green zones over certain areas. There has to be some certainty in the fishing industry.


Australia has around 6,000 to 7,000 kilometres of coastline. The Australian product only meets about 20 per cent of the demand. The rest of it is imported. Look at what happened back in 1954 when a disease came in and wiped out the oyster industry around Hervey Bay. The more we import, if we are not careful, we are going to bring in other diseases. We have seen it in the prawn industry. Allowing that into the country did not make it very sustainable. We have to look after the industries that we have here. We have to make sure that, the seafood we produce, we produce in this country. We have to look

at what Norway is doing with salmon. I see what they are doing in New Zealand with salmon. Why can't we do it here? It is just ludicrous. That is a sustainable industry. The more we import from overseas, the more we are likely to bring in diseases which are going to affect some of our fisheries.

The vessel monitoring system did not help one of the trawlers that went missing off the top end of Fraser Island. You are supposed to sign in. The department is supposed to say, 'Hey, there's something wrong out there,' or they should have contacted them to say that, 'Your signal is not working anymore,' but they did not. It was seven or eight days later before they realised they had disappeared. The boat must have sunk. Something must have happened. They might have got caught up in the trawler nets. It is pretty dangerous. If they hook up on rocks or you hit a big snag or something, it usually drags the trawler down pretty quick.

Are we going to track these people all the time? No, we are not. What use is most of this tracking? Will recreational fishermen have to put on a tracking device every time they go out so that we can know who is going fishing? That will be next, I bet. If people have a boat they will have to have not only a licence but also a tracking device so that people will know where they are going. At least the bill contains fines for people in departments who disclose that information.


Some fishermen fish certain spots at certain times of the year. They are scared that government will make those areas green zones. That will just ruin some people. It is good to see fines for the illegal disclosure of vessel tracking data of up to 50 penalty units, or \$6,500; however, commercial fishers failing to comply with VMS requirements face fines of up to 1,000 penalty units, or \$130,000. A fine of that magnitude may put people out of the industry. A lot of the small crabbers and so on will not be able to afford a fine like that. They will end up losing their houses and everything else. I think that is pretty tough, at the end of the day.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 as a keen fisherwoman. The Palaszczuk government released the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017-2027 in June 2017, paving the way for a world-class fisheries management system. It sets out the reform agenda for the next 10 years.

Queensland's current fisheries management framework is outdated, cumbersome and incapable of appropriately responding to sustainability issues. Decision-making processes are slow and unclear, and Queensland's ability to respond to issues such as black marketing lags behind other Australian jurisdictions. The black marketing of seafood is a serious problem in Central Queensland, so I am pleased that the bill will combat the illegal trade of seafood with the creation of an indictable offence for the illegal trafficking of priority fisheries resources, for example shark fin, mud crabs and reef fish. A person convicted of such offences could face a penalty of up to 3,000 penalty units, currently \$391,650, or three years imprisonment.

My grandmother taught me to fish and I married a keen fisherman. Fishing is literally in our blood. Our favourite pastime is throwing a line in, either in our amazing Fitzroy River, which is fast becoming the largest wild barramundi fishery in the world, or in our beautiful Keppel Bay, part of the southern Great Barrier Reef. Crabbing in Coorooman is always fun. In fact, we are planning on taking the tinnie out over Easter to hopefully net a few. Home cooked Singapore chilli crab is actually my personal forte. Odette has already been on her first fishing trip, and my family and I hope that fishing becomes a favourite hobby of hers as she grows.

My father-in-law, Rodney, is a passionate advocate for sustainable fishing. He has always said that we should only take what we need. It frustrates me when people do not fish by this rule. If we all work together and only take what we need and abide by bag limits and commercial laws, we will have a much more sustainable fishery. I am proud that this bill will ensure that the public's fisheries resources are sustainable into the future and will ensure our children and grandchildren can enjoy recreational fishing and local sustainable Queensland seafood.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (4.23 pm): 'Selamat Sore. Saya suka makan ikan sangat banyak'. In Bahasa Indonesian, 'Good afternoon. I like eating fish very much.' It has been a privilege in my almost 10 years in the parliament to have the opportunity to speak on fisheries and boating issues in representing the good people of the Cleveland district of the Oodgeroo electorate and the broader Redlands coast. In terms of our waterways, my first concern has always been for the professional and recreational activities in and on those waterways, particularly the waters of North Stradbroke Island and southern Moreton Bay but also Moreton Bay as a whole.

Commercial and recreational fishing, boating, sailing, diving and other marine activities are very popular in the Oodgeroo electorate and Cleveland district. We have one of the highest rates of boat ownership in the state. Fishing is an important industry and leisure activity in our region, as it is in many other parts of coastal Queensland.



Moreton Bay continues to be the state's largest and most important fishery. Commercial fishing, the seafood industry, charter boat operations, recreational fishing and associated industries are worth a great deal to Queensland. Hundreds of millions—perhaps billions—of dollars of investment and thousands of jobs exist in these industries and allied flow-on industries, so it is important that our fisheries are managed in a sustainable way.

The crab, prawn, net and line industries are important in Moreton Bay. The charter boat industry is important too, as is the recreational fishing industry. Local seafood suppliers like Rufus King Seafoods on North Stradbroke Island are important, especially if you want reliable, affordable fresh prawns at Christmas time. Get your order in early! The provision of affordable, locally caught seafood is important.

The stated aims of the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 are to modernise Queensland's Fisheries Act 1994 by implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy released in June last year with four stated objectives: to modernise the objectives of the Fisheries Act 1994 to recognise the interests of key stakeholder groups; to clarify the decision-making process and establish harvest strategies to guide decisions; to strengthen the compliance powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences such as black marketing; and to remove redundant provisions.

What really is taking place in this bill is an attempt to clean up the fisheries mess that almost 30 years of state Labor governments have left us with today. I have to agree with the member for Capalaba—sometimes we do agree—when he described the past management practices as ad hoc. Yes, Labor, which has been in power for most of the past 30 years, has been ad hoc in its fisheries management. That is the problem we have to address. Sadly, Queensland Labor governments have not managed our fisheries well as a whole. They have dillydallied, ordered reviews of industry and then, instead of making decisions, delayed those reviews. They have sat on their hands as fisheries like the live coral trout fishery of North Queensland and the snapper fishery of South-East Queensland have struggled. They have allowed Greens preference deals to override good fisheries policy, and they have politicised science to their own ends. If they continue to get it wrong, the impact can be far worse than it currently is. If Labor cannot manage our fisheries better then we will enter into a crisis across multiple fish stocks. Unsustainable fishing will result in depleted stocks, unviable fishing businesses, job losses, flow-on effects to indirect jobs and expensive seafood.

In January this year I took a little holiday in South Australia and noticed in the fish shops that King George whiting was selling for as much as \$90 a kilo. It cost between \$75 and \$90 to buy whiting fillets. That is incredibly expensive and incredibly out of range for most people. It was lucky for me that, as I was there on holidays, I was able to catch some of my own.

**Mr McDonald:** Did you sell them at the fish shop?

**Dr ROBINSON:** No, I did not sell them at the shop. That would be illegal! I was fortunate to catch up-to-60-centimetre King George whiting—some real snodgers—but not everybody can go fishing and catch their own fish.


Sadly, in South Australia successive Labor governments have mismanaged its fisheries too. I am concerned that if this government continues to do what it has done for most of the last 30 years and does not change its strategies we may end up with the unaffordable seafood like South Australia is beginning to see, so it is important that state governments get fisheries management right. When the LNP came to government we saw the mismanagement and neglect of many fisheries and the signs of unsustainability in some stocks. Instead of more of the same sitting on hands, we supported our commercial fishers and set out to get the balance right between them and the environmental and important recreational fishing industry. We commissioned the independent *Taking stock: modernising fisheries management of Queensland* undertaken by MRAG in late 2014. We were seriously attempting to deal with the legacy of 14 years of Labor doing very little. Then Labor came back into government and, while some of the MRAG initiatives have been taken up, we have once again seen very little progress and action.

In terms of the committee recommendations and amendments, I support the amendments of the shadow minister and the amendments are based on the recommendations of the committee. My concerns about the management of our fisheries by this government are magnified by the indecision and confusion around the government's handling of the committee's recommendations. Firstly, there was no regulatory impact statement by the government—that means that it is probably flying blind to start with—and the process through which the Office of Best Practice Regulation works sometimes is a little curious. Did it just excuse it from having an RIS, as happened with North Stradbroke Island—you just do not need it—when it came to the economic transition because it could see that it would cost much more than the \$20 million for Straddie and now in this bill the \$20 million it is putting up in order

to fix things? It again seems to choose to be flying blind. Secondly, for the government to ignore the recommendation of the parliamentary committee confirms that it is completely disorganised, but this dysfunction and disorganisation is consistent with the handling of fisheries at some stages of the past and is why I have grave concerns for our fisheries under Labor's mismanagement.

There is then the vehicle monitoring systems, and much has been said about that. In my electorate some of the smaller fishermen—the family owned small businesses—are very concerned about the added costs and overheads for them. Some concerns relate to the scale of the equipment that they believe they have to buy. Some of the smaller vessels are not suited for that gear, not to mention the cost of actually putting it in and customising it. There is also the fact that it could be quite easily damaged and they have to maintain it and replace it, so they have some very practical concerns about the workability of that. Some of them are worried about their fishing patterns or the best spots somehow being made public, and that is a reasonable concern if data was to leak to their competitors. I understand those concerns. If you consider business risk as important, that is a risk.

We need to make fisheries and fishing more sustainable in southern Moreton Bay in my area. We need to do things like invest more in artificial reefs and continue to roll out the artificial reefs plan that I have put out there for a number of years. We need an artificial reef at Wellington Point as the next one. We need to do more research so that decisions are based on science, not Greens policies. It needs to be based on real science. In my first degree on marine science I learnt very much the difference between real science and stuff that is politics. Sadly, the government has been leaning very heavily on politics and not real research.

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (4.33 pm): Today I rise to make a contribution on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. As the son of a proud fisher, the father of a fisher and a fisher myself who has noticed over the years that you just do not catch as much anymore, I was pretty happy to be able to speak on this bill today to say that these changes are long overdue. The amendments in the bill will finally modernise fisheries management in Queensland and give effect to the government's Sustainable Fisheries Strategy 2017. The bill will ensure our fisheries resources stay sustainable and will ensure that future generations can enjoy recreational fishing and local Queensland seafood.

The majority of my community will support these changes and the bill will not affect the average fisher. The changes will bring Queensland in line with other Australian fisheries jurisdictions and best practice management. I was fortunate to have the opportunity to sit in on one of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee's public hearings in Scarborough during its consideration of the bill and heard concerns from both commercial and recreational fishers. I got that excited that day that afterwards I had to duck next door to Morgans to get a piece of fish. It was pretty good to hear from everyone on the day, and I did note with irony that the chair was a Whiting.

One of the key components of the bill that we heard about on that day related to the stronger compliance powers and penalties for serious offences such as seafood black marketing. This was heavily supported by the recreational fishers on the day. For the purpose of stamping out black marketing, this bill will provide fisheries inspectors the powers needed to effectively investigate such offences. While fisheries inspectors will have greater powers to inspect commercial premises, these changes do not provide fisheries inspectors with any powers beyond those granted to inspectors under other Queensland legislation. Individuals convicted of trafficking in priority fish species could face a maximum penalty of up to 3,000 penalty units. These penalties are in line with those in place in other Australian states where they have proven effective in combating black marketing.

On the day of the hearing Mr Savage, a commercial fisherman, raised a point about the training of fisheries inspectors when carrying out the proposed powers. He lamented that in his opinion the powers were too hard and that the powers were similar to those that the police have and he wanted to know what training the inspectors would have. In response to these and other concerns raised by stakeholders regarding inspectors' powers, the department advised the committee—

The changes that are to be made to fisheries inspectors powers through the Bill are intended to:

- Re-establish fisheries inspectors powers of entry to commercial premises that were inadvertently removed during the adoption of the Seafood Food Safety Scheme ...

With regard to the training of compliance officers, the department stated—

We have a standard training program that we run every year for our compliance officers, and for new recruits we have a one-year training process. The 20 new recruits that we appointed about 12 months ago have just become fully authorised officers, and they go through a comprehensive training process around that.

Another subject that had strongly opposing views at the hearing was VMS, vessel monitoring systems. While no-one disputed that VMS would help to curb fishing in protected areas, the commercial fishers were concerned about their fishing markers being discovered and potentially being disclosed or even sold off, they said, which would limit future catches in their key fishing spots. They consider their marker spots intellectual property which can take years to develop and they said that there was a high commercial value to them. One witness from a commercial fishing business said—

I cannot speak for all fishermen, but I can tell you that our family is very reluctant to give away our fishing marks to any fisheries organisation, which could then disseminate that information to other agencies for uses that we do not even know.


On the day though I got the feeling that most of the commercial fishers knew each other's marks and it would only be a major concern if these locations were divulged outside the circle of the commercial fishers. That is why I was so happy to see that the bill strengthens protections for individuals' private data, including their vessel location data, with penalties on anyone disclosing that private information, including third parties and public servants. As the department stated—

In terms of intellectual property, we heard a lot about that today. That is part of the reason that the bill has a new penalty in there for anybody disclosing private information. That includes public servants who may disclose information and third parties.

...

If we issued that to the marine park authority, parks and wildlife, the Queensland police or somebody like that, those penalties would apply to them as well.

Commercial fishers can take some comfort from that. I will leave my comments at that, but I will finish as I started: our fish stocks belong to everyone. Recreational fishers deserve to be able to catch fish. This legislation is long overdue and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 and report No. 17 of the 56th Parliament for the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee tabled in November 2018. Having had quite a bit of experience both in the previous parliament and in other parliaments before that, I want to talk about the committee process. In the 55th Parliament the minister was the chair of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. He also knows the committee process and how hard the members of committees and the secretariat work to put together committee reports. I did a bit of a search and I see that, in the last parliament—the 55th Parliament—the minister was responsible for 45 reports from the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee coming to this parliament. Knowing what goes on, and knowing that the minister knows what goes on, I ask: why is he ignoring the evidence? Why would the minister completely ignore the bipartisan recommendations of a committee?

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Mr CRANDON:** Some would say that it was a promotion. The minister knows that, in the last parliament, many times he could not table a report that recommended that a bill be passed but, from time to time, a report tabled by him recommended that the bill be passed. The member knows the work that is involved in a committee report. There is one particularly infamous report—report No. 42 as a matter of fact—that relates to—

**Mr Pegg** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Stretton, if you want to engage in the debate, you will need to be in your own chair.

**Mr CRANDON:** Most of the then chair's forewords to those reports amounted to no more than a quarter to half a page but, in one particular case—the infamous case of report No. 42 relating to organised crime—the then chair's foreword went for a page and a half in which he made a terrible attack on one of the witnesses.

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is on relevance. We are here today talking about the sustainable fisheries bill. The member for Coomera is discussing matters relating to previous reports of the previous parliament. I ask you to draw the member for Coomera back to the content of this bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. I remind the member for Coomera to stay within the long title of the bill.

**Mr CRANDON:** As I said, I am speaking to the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 and referencing report No. 17 of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee of the 56th Parliament. I draw to the attention of the parliament the fact that the minister knows how much work goes into committee reports. Therefore, the

minister would be very aware of how much work has gone into this report. In fact, I commend all members of the committee for their hard work. I also acknowledge the time taken for those who provided evidence to the committee.

The committee made five recommendations. The first recommendation, which is a requirement, is, 'The committee recommends the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018 be passed.' The minister has ignored completely the three other recommendations. This bipartisan committee heard evidence from so many people. Clearly, they have given evidence that supports these recommendations. The fifth recommendation states—


The committee recommends the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries provide the committee with an update on the implementation of Vessel Monitoring Systems 18 months after the Bill is passed.

If the minister accepted that recommendation, it would mean that this parliament would receive an update on this bill. But no, the minister has decided that he is going to push out that review to three years. That is really unacceptable. The committee made five recommendations, of which one has been accepted, which is that the bill be passed. Of the other four recommendations, three have been thrown out completely regardless of the evidence that supports that they should be accepted. An update on this bill will not be considered until the next parliament. I think it is so sad that the minister has decided to go down that road.

I have had contact from fishermen in my electorate—in fact, three generations of commercial fishermen. They are very concerned about the vessel monitoring system compliance requirements—the costs associated with it for each vessel, the potential penalties and the fact that they had to be brought in on 1 January even though we were not really ready for it. They were also concerned about the potential for their intellectual property to be released somehow into the marketplace. We have seen hacking occur across governments. In recent times we saw hacking occur in the federal parliament in Canberra. This data would be kept on a system and it is possible for people to get into that system. How safe is that data? Those fishermen have reasonable grounds for concern.

The member for Greenslopes, who is currently the Deputy Speaker, mentioned in his speech that an evidence based approach should be used in formulating legislation. We have bipartisan support for the need to give consideration to the recommendations of the report that resulted from the evidence that was given to the committee. I note a press report issued by the LNP shadow minister for fisheries, Tony Perrett, which states that 'the amendments were based off advice received from industry stakeholders during the recent committee process'. On that basis I ask the minister to give further consideration to these recommendations from this bipartisan committee, to accept them as they stand in the report and do the right thing by the fishermen of Queensland, the people who came and gave evidence to the committee. That evidence caused the recommendations to be made on a bipartisan basis. The government has a majority on this committee. Therefore, the committee was able to simply say no to those recommendations, but that committee thought it important for those recommendations to be made. I ask the minister to take heed of the recommendations and, in that regard, to please reconsider his position.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, member for Theodore, if you want to engage in the debate you will need to do that from your own seat.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.49 pm): Thank you for the opportunity to speak on what is an important bill, the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. Even though I come from the electorate of Gregory where there is not too much commercial fishing, the commercial fishing industry is an important primary industry for the people of Queensland. It is probably the industry that has been under the most pressure for the last 20 or 30 years.

**Mr Powell:** Maybe the cane industry.

**Mr MILLAR:** The cane industry as well. I take the interjection from the member for Glass House. The commercial fishing industry has been under the pump from environmentalists. It has been under the pump from the Labor Party past and present. We are seeing less and less commercial fishermen wanting to participate in the industry than 30 years ago. The commercial fishing industry, from Karumba down to Coolangatta, is an important industry for Queensland. We get our high-quality seafood from that industry. I have a couple of mates in the commercial fishing industry. Recently we were on a footy trip to Vietnam and one of them said that with the way the industry is going in future we would be getting our fish from a river in Saigon. Commercial fishermen are struggling. They are waking up every morning thinking, 'How the hell am I going to run an operation when I continue to have red tape and government interference? All I want is to be a commercial fisherman and provide fresh seafood for the Australian consumer—especially the Queensland consumer—and be able to do my job, but we continue to get

hammered by green ideology. We continue to be under the pump. We cannot make it work.' Commercial fishermen who were in the industry 10 years ago are glad to be out of the industry because they could not make it work.

The commercial fishing industry plays a significant role in our export dollars and in providing fresh seafood for the people of Queensland. It is just as important as any other primary industry in this state. It provide jobs for young people. We all love our seafood. Our industry continues to be under red tape and green ideology. We are seeing more and more restrictions put on our commercial fishermen, so much so that they are wanting to leave the industry.

**Ms Pease:** This will make it sustainable.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take that interjection, but the problem you have is there are less and less of them around. More and more of them are putting their boats up for sale.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly):** Please direct your comments through the chair.

**Mr MILLAR:** We are seeing more and more of them put their boats up for sale and get out of the industry. We are seeing more and more imports of seafood coming into the country. We do not have to remind this parliament and the people of Queensland about some of the biosecurity issues we face when it comes to importing seafood from overseas. We have a very valuable, clean, green industry. It is a sustainable industry. Commercial fishermen do the right thing. They provide a very important product for our restaurants and our people. They are just as important as any other primary producer in this state. They provide jobs. My concern is that we are starting to see more and more of those in this industry go. We are seeing people say, 'We have had enough. We cannot continue to do this anymore. We are not making enough money to sustain our families or our employees and we are going.' We have to stop putting red tape and restrictions on a sustainable industry. It provides fresh, clean, high-quality seafood up and down the Queensland coast and into the cape. The Labor Party continues to put more pressure on the industry. I would hate to see an industry that has had enough, where its members say, 'We are out. We cannot do this anymore.' We need the industry to survive.

We have all been involved in the parliamentary committee process. It is arduous and different points of view come across. Two members of the committee from the Labor Party are in here today. I think they did a fantastic job in putting this report together. I acknowledge the chair, Chris Whiting, the deputy chair, Pat Weir, and the member for Ipswich West. Those members did a reasonable and fair job. My concern is that the minister has ignored the amendments put forward by the shadow minister for agricultural industry development and fisheries, the honourable Tony Perrett. These are sensible amendments to fit in with the recommendations of the report agreed to by Labor and LNP members, yet they have been thrown out straight away. We have here sensible amendments that the minister and the Labor Party could support to better protect this industry and make it more sustainable and more profitable, yet these amendments have been thrown out. Here we have a committee report agreed to by the Labor Party and the LNP. I thank them for this committee report. I think they have done a great job. I congratulate them. This is how people want us to work. They want us to come up with recommendations that will see an industry grow, especially a commercial industry.


The shadow minister has put forward sensible amendments but the minister and the executive from the Labor Party are refusing these amendments that will make for a profitable industry, an industry which affects many of us in this House. It does not affect me that much as I come from Western Queensland, but I recognise that the fishing industry is important. The fishing industry is incredibly important to those in the member for Cook's electorate. It is an industry that provides jobs and opportunities. It is an industry that is important for Cairns. The electorate of Cairns thrives on a commercial fishing industry.

We have a recommendation from the committee that says we need to amend this bill to make it just that bit better, to make our commercial fishing industry more sustainable and more profitable, and we have amendments from the member for Gympie, who has done a fantastic job, and they have been rejected by the minister. I find that disappointing. We need a commercial fishing industry that will survive and provide us with clean, high-quality seafood not only for Queenslanders but also for the rest of the nation—an industry that employs people and pays its way in taxes and provides a livable community in those areas.

The committee has put forward some pretty good recommendations. We have amendments that reflect those recommendations so the minister can fix those issues up and they have been rejected. Why is that? Is it because of the political situation? Is it because the member for Gympie had these amendments ready to go? Are we rejecting them because it was the member for Gympie? This is about

a fishing industry that is important to all of us, whether you live in Coolangatta, Karumba or Gregory. I see plenty of trucks come out my way delivering fresh, high-quality seafood to the people of Western Queensland that has been caught by hardworking commercial fishermen right throughout Queensland.

I call on the minister and the Labor Party to accept the amendments. These are amendments that suit the recommendations which would make this industry far more sustainable and more profitable so that it is an industry that continues. I would like to see the minister accept the amendments put forward by the member for Gympie.


 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.59 pm): I rise to speak on the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018. It is not surprising that any debate regarding fishing within Queensland is often divided, as seen today and previously in the disallowance motion regarding the tracking of commercial and charter fishing boats as part of the data collection and increased compliance. This bill is no less contentious, even though its aims are admirable to address the problems in achieving a fair, equitable and sustainable future for fishermen and for consumers. By clarifying the roles of those responsible for the management of the state's fisheries, strengthening enforcement powers and increasing penalties to those who disregard the rules, there is a better chance that the future of fishing, both commercial and recreational, will be much better placed.

Some have said that the new and increased penalties for repeat offenders are insufficient and Queenslanders have become less tolerant of repeat offenders, whether that be with dangerous driving or deliberate noncompliance in any realm. However, a number of concerns outlined by members of the opposition are valid. Their amendment Nos 1 and 2 should be considered to address concerns regarding the security of VMS information and the need for a report as outlined on the implementation of this new monitoring system.

Increases in compliances and monitoring increase the costs to taxpayers and operators, which ultimately are passed on to the consumer. As the cost of living is of great concern to Queenslanders, we must always look to ensure that the changes we make minimise those impacts. However, when the minority that created an issue in the first place are diminished, the need for monitoring decreases, as does the flow-on costs that are often not accounted for. When fish or any other edible product becomes scarce, the price explodes, pushing it out of the reach of many households. We must always keep this in mind.

My own electorate is divided on its fishing. However, there is no division when it comes to giving greater powers and amending policy to prevent the abuse of what is considered a privilege. The oceans, rivers and public spaces belong to all and need to be respected by users. As we have seen with the pipi raiding in Noosa, often this is not the case. Such plundering is obscene and the only way to address it is to give greater powers to compliance officers and increase penalties to offenders, especially those who are repeatedly caught.

That is only one example of why I will not only support this bill but also continue to support bills that target those who deliberately and consistently abuse our community and natural assets and that show disrespect to our respected farmers and fishers by making a mockery of those who abide by the frameworks developed to ensure there is some for all, not only in the now but into the future. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.02 pm): Don't we all love our fish and chips? We certainly want to make sure that our wonderful fisheries resource is sustainable and available for all generations to come. It is about getting the balance right. As part of that balance, we recognise that we want Australian seafood. We do not want to see an influx of overseas imports from dodgy producers that are not necessarily environmentally sustainable or, in fact, healthy. We want to see, as much as possible, a good Australian product that is made available through sustainable measures and we want people to be able to keep their businesses sustainable, as well.

On the Sunshine Coast we have wonderful fisheries at Mooloolaba and many operators deliver wonderful products to both locals and our visitors. They make our region a famous place to visit, where people can enjoy local seafood in our restaurants or, if they simply want fish and chips, they can go to The Spit at Mooloolaba and enjoy some of the best tucker you could ever have.

I commend my colleague the member for Gympie for the work that he has done in bringing forward the opposition amendments. We recognise that there are aspects of this bill that we all support as part of a sustainable future for fisheries. However, some concerns have been brought to light through the bipartisan efforts of the parliamentary committee. Not just in the best traditions of the parliamentary committee process but also through best practice, members engaged with a wide range of stakeholders

to understand how this legislation will work, how it can be improved and how it can undergo scrutiny to ensure that any possible flaws can be fixed. The recommendations are manifested in the amendments put forward by the shadow minister for agriculture and fisheries, my colleague the member for Gympie.

I support the opposition amendments, because I believe, as in the spirit and practice of the parliamentary committee, that some aspects of the legislation need to be addressed. Concerns have been raised over implementation. Others in the House have explained concerns raised about incidents of faulty vessel monitoring systems. It is great in theory when things work, but we have heard some most concerning reports about faults that have put people's vessels at risk. Reports of fires and other faults have brought into question the effectiveness of those systems. However, we also need to consider the penalties that apply if people do not have those systems in place. Some providers have had issues around the equipment provided. Operators are genuinely very concerned, but they do not want to get caught in the crossfire of bureaucracy. They will try to do the right thing, but then may find that they have a system that does not stack up in their particular circumstances. People make reasonable efforts not only to comply but also to get on with their business, because they cannot muck around forever with bad systems and bad bureaucracy. In their operations, they too need systems that are clear and transparent.

Concerns have been raised that some of the powers of fishing officers could be greater than those of police. For example, their powers of entry could be stronger than those that the police can apply, even in quite serious criminal matters. We have to talk about these issues, because that is what parliament is about. It is about scrutinising legislation. When powers are granted, a case must be made as to why those powers are needed, and the checks and balances to ensure that those powers are not abused must be outlined.

Stakeholders have raised concerns about the data that is collected from vessel monitoring systems. It is not the intention of the legislation for data to be collected in a way that maps people's resources and may lead to those resources having further restrictions put on them in the future. The concern is that there be controls around the collection of data, so that it is not abused. Today there is a stated intention as to why it is being collected. It seems like a good idea, so the government says, 'Please trust us; this is how it will be'. However, there have to be checks and balances to ensure that that data is not abused. In this day and age, not only with fishing but in many other industries, we have to understand that data is powerful. In this case, when it is abused it can destroy people's lives, particularly if bureaucracy or the executive power of government are not held to account. The appropriate checks and balances have to be placed on that.

I mentioned before that some powers are greater for fisheries officers than they are for police. We need to talk about that. We talk about the rights and responsibilities of citizens; fishers are citizens, as well. On the one hand, we are protecting a sustainable resource; on the other hand, people should not lose their rights to justice and a fair go.

In talking about the future of our fishing industry, I commend the committee for the genuine way in which they entered into their deliberations about these particular matters. We all recognise that across this parliament there is a genuine and shared desire to see a sustainable fishing industry. Queensland probably has among the highest number of people who own tinnies, although I cannot verify that through any source. An awful lot of people fish, whether it be from a tinnie or by taking their bait and tackle down to the local pier or jetty. People have a vested interest in ensuring that there is a sustainable industry going forward.


We know that traditionally there can be tensions between recreational and commercial fishers, but we need both. We cannot have one and not the other. We need both because not everybody can go out and catch their own tucker. They rely on being able to go down to the local fish and chip shop to get, we hope, Australian seafood—Australian seafood that has been sustainably caught.

We need a framework where businesses have some surety and understanding that they are not going to be hung out to dry with changing rules and regulations or burdensome regulations that they cannot chart their way through and which seem to change every few years, making it very difficult for people when it comes to their investment plans. People with a passion for their industry need to have business confidence going forward.

Business confidence is something that we talk about in this state because it has been so low across so many small businesses. When talking to people in the fishing industry I find that confidence is, I hate to say it, not particularly high. A lot of the reason is that they often feel that they are the ones being held to ransom for the sins of those who do the wrong thing. The bureaucratic response sometimes does not recognise that there a lot of small business people out there with a passion for a

sustainable industry. They want to produce a product for those who cannot go out and fish for themselves so that they can go into their local fish and chip shop and have the best tucker they will ever get.

I want to see that, as I am sure other colleagues in this place do. I want to see a sustainable industry that ensures that the best tucker—Australian seafood—is available for a long time to come, and not just for those who can go out and fish for themselves but also for those who rely on those small businesses that are out there with their own investment on the line, their houses backing up their loans, making it possible to run those businesses. We need to ensure they are sustainable and that they have a genuine future that is respected and has the right checks and balances in law.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (5.11 pm): The guillotine looms as we look at the clock. The debates of bills in this House have become a little like ‘pass the bomb’.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Member for Nicklin, I will bring you back to the long title of the bill.


**Mr HUNT:** One of the great things about living on the great Sunshine Coast is having some of the best, freshest seafood in the world. We have some of the best recreational fishing around Australia. Our fisheries do need to be sustainable and do need to be protected. I love fishing and I love seafood. Due to my fishing skills or lack thereof, most of the time I indulge in the best of this seafood I am reliant on those who know what they are doing and provide us with the seafood we enjoy. They are the commercial operators.

There is nothing better than local fish and chips on the beach or local restaurants providing great dishes using our locally caught seafood. It is part of the great lifestyle of the Sunshine Coast. The importance of this industry to our area, our tourism industry and our local economy cannot be understated. Unfortunately, relying on this Labor government to manage it, like most other things they try to manage, puts the industry in danger. Whilst we support legislation and management of our fishing industries, once again Labor has messed up various aspects of it.

This fisheries bill seeks to modernise Queensland’s Fisheries Act by implementing the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy released in June last year. The bill aims to complete the following four objectives: modernise the objectives of the Fisheries Act to recognise the interests of key stakeholder groups; clarify the decision-making process and establish harvest strategies to guide decisions; strengthen the compliance powers and penalties to address serious fisheries offences such as black marketing; and remove redundant provisions.

The commercial fishing industry has struggled with the Palaszczuk Labor government’s botched rollout of the vessel monitoring system, as has been pointed out by other speakers. As other speakers have mentioned, it is ironic that Labor fought so hard against our proposal to put trackers on Queensland’s worst sex offenders, but when it comes to supporting the leftist big green brother against the average small business person just trying to have a go, all bets are off and it is open slather on them. We have searches without warrants, huge penalties and no worries about what the High Court might say about the fishing industry. I only wish they had the same enthusiasm to protect our communities from dangerous criminals, but alas they do not.

In their rush to fulfil their obligations to the green movement they always botch things up. They have done so again here with the shocking rollout of VMS trackers. I would like to say more on this issue, but, once again, with Labor’s shocking abuse of power in this House the guillotine is hovering above us. I would like to give some time of the people of Nicklin in the House to some of my colleagues to represent their seats, which is what people expect of us.


 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.15 pm): I will have to be brief as the debate is being guillotined. It is a problem because there is a lot to get out here. Fishermen in the gulf area are often most forgotten in a lot of these debates. I have spoken to many of them. They are under a lot of pressure already. Why the hell are we going through these things?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, that language is unparliamentary. Could you please withdraw?

**Mr KATTER:** My apologies. Why do we keep inventing problems? There are no problems with the fisheries in the gulf. That has been established. We have to keep worshipping and making sacrifices to the gods of UNESCO. Whenever there is anything that has to do with the reef or water, problems are always invented. We then have to sacrifice industry and business. That is particularly the case in remote areas where we do not have much going for us already. We are already struggling and then we get this sort of thing lumped on us.



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (5.16 pm), in reply: I thank those members who contributed to the debate on this bill. I table the government response to the committee's report which addresses the five recommendations made in relation to the Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 17, 56th Parliament—Fisheries (Sustainable Fisheries Strategy) Amendment Bill 2018, government response [\[290\]](#).

I am pleased that for the majority of the amendments outlined in the bill members rose to support change. Without these changes we cannot set the framework to balance the needs of all sectors, value the important contribution from our commercial fishers and effectively combat illegal fishing in Queensland.

The changes to the Fisheries Act are long overdue and will modernise our approach to fisheries management and bring it up to a standard we can all be proud of as Queenslanders. These changes will leave a long-lasting legacy for our children and our grandchildren so that we can enjoy fishing and Queensland seafood well into the future.

Queensland is lagging behind other jurisdictions in this regard. These provisions bring Queensland into line with other states which have stronger compliance powers and penalties and have already moved to more responsive decision-making through harvest strategies. These are not just changes that we need. They are changes and policies that Queenslanders rightly expect be put in place and have overwhelming supported over a number of years and through extensive consultation.

I want to acknowledge again the work of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee and the chair, the member for Bancroft, for their examination and report on the bill. Fisheries is a complex policy area. I commend the committee for taking the time and effort to travel across the state and accept late submissions. I thank those right across the length and breadth of Queensland who made submissions.

In the course of my time and travel as Minister for Fisheries I have seen and discussed many of these issues with people firsthand. I have spoken to shark control program operators and contractors from around the state at their conference and on the water around the Gold Coast during the early hours of the morning.

I have spoken to commercial fishers on their vessels and on land from Parliament House to Hervey Bay and Maryborough in the north. I have also spoken to processors and marketers, trawlers and charter operators about their concerns and their ideas for where the fisheries could go in the future. I have spoken to recreational fishers and business operators across the state from Noosa to Cairns, Mackay and inland.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge again the hard work and professionalism of our Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers and the department team of scientists, field staff and others who support them. Much of our government's \$20 million commitment goes into boosting their ability to do the good work they perform for Queenslanders, preserving and supporting our fisheries.

Many of the provisions of this bill will not impact directly upon the ordinary fisher. If people are doing the right thing, they will have nothing to worry about. I firmly believe that the majority of fishers are doing the right thing. The changes in this bill will help protect fisheries resources for them and stamp out illegal activities that risk our fish stocks.

I appreciate that many fishers, regardless of their background or interest, have a strong interest in keeping our fisheries sustainable and viable into the future. It is for these fishers, and for everyone in Queensland who shares this important public resource, that this bill is introduced. I am pleased that we are formally recognising each sector's interest in the fisheries including our First Australians.

I appreciate the input that members have made and want to briefly respond to some of the key issues they have raised during the debate. In response to the opposition, I am glad to hear the opposition's interest in fisheries. We heard nothing at our last estimates hearing and little in questions on or without notice since.

I was interested to hear opposition members speak of the MRAG report that they commissioned in 2014. What those opposite failed to point out was that the ALP government had to release this report in 2015. I table that report and relevant sections of the report to assist members opposite in their reflections and recollections.

*Tabled paper:* MRAG Asia Pacific report, dated December 2014, titled 'Taking Stock: modernising fisheries management in Queensland' [\[291\]](#).

As some members identified, the MRAG report recommended expanding vessel tracking including tougher penalties and stronger compliance powers and moving to a more responsive decision-making framework through harvest strategies. I note the commentary from some opposition members about the government's response to the committee. I note that the government has agreed with most of the recommendations and noted others. I will cover these in detail further on.

Members would be aware that there are two estimates hearings in this time where they could consider asking those questions about fisheries. These are worthwhile reforms and I would be pleased to speak to them.

In respect of vessel tracking, the regulation is now in place and we need to ensure that there is an appropriate penalty to ensure compliance with the new rules. Vessel tracking is an important component of the fisheries reform process and something we remain committed to. We should be using modern technology to manage our fisheries. We have been doing this in the trawl industry for over 15 years. I am confident that we can use this information effectively into the future.

While some may oppose vessel tracking in general, it is now a requirement, and we cannot have people deliberately breaking the rules. I do acknowledge the many commercial fishers who have gotten on with the job, accepted the rollout, bought and installed vessel tracking devices, and applied for the rebate. I can advise that as of last week over 1,400 units have been ordered by commercial fishers and around 900 of them are actively polling. I am advised that over \$225,000 in rebates has been paid out for 260 rebates by the Queensland Rural Industry Development Authority. They can now focus on delivering delicious seafood to Queenslanders.

I also note that, per the committee's recommendation, I provided additional information around the administration of vessel tracking in my second reading speech. It is important to provide facts and context in this reply. A number of incorrect statements or assumptions have been put out over the course of this debate. Some members have said that fishermen cannot fish without a vessel tracking unit. That is the general intent of our policy to implement compulsory vessel tracking. This has been government policy since the announcement of the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy in 2017.

I can confirm that under the current arrangements vessel tracking has been compulsory for fishers in priority fisheries of net, line and crab since 1 January 2019 and in existing fisheries like trawl where vessel tracking is established. I would also clarify for members opposite that there are penalties for noncompliance with vessel tracking in the existing fisheries legislation. However, it is important to note that the government has made policies to cover circumstances where units may not work as intended or other circumstances emerge. This is reflected in the guidelines for vessel tracking which have been publically available since mid-last year.

A draft vessel tracking policy and operating guidelines, which describe the responsibilities and rules associated with vessel tracking, were released for industry comment. Officers from Fisheries Queensland have met with over 280 fishers at 22 locations across the state to discuss the policy and guidelines. I encourage members opposite to read the guidelines.

I also note that the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation was amended to include the rebate system for vessel tracking. The rebate scheme is available upon application from 30 August 2018 to 31 December 2020. I can advise that the Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol has adopted an education-first approach to enforcement in recognition that this is a significant change for many commercial fishers. This message has been communicated to fishers.

I am advised that fishers have not been forced off the water, as suggested by the member for Burdekin, and no fines have been issued to date since 1 January 2019. Vessel tracking also allows our fisheries to maintain their Commonwealth export approvals. The Commonwealth coalition government recently endorsed this approval on the basis that vessel tracking continue to occur in these fisheries.

These issues were well and truly ventilated in the last sitting's disallowance motion. The provisions of the amendment regulation have been subjected to this parliament's scrutiny. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for speaking on my behalf during the debate.

I note that some members made comments on the rollout of the units. With any major implementation rollout, we expect a small number of issues and the department is case managing any issues to ensure they are resolved appropriately. While the opposition has talked about the various issues from fishers, I can advise that the number of issues, faults and compliance is less than five per cent of the units that are currently operating.

There are huge benefits from vessel tracking and we are already seeing commercial fishers speaking of the benefits to their businesses. Our compliance officers have indicated how effective it has already been at helping target enforcement activities to those persons doing the wrong thing. The

government has committed to providing a report to the parliamentary committee on the outcomes of the vessel tracking rollout in 18 months time. I welcome the opportunity to talk further about it at estimates to provide an update to members on its implementation.

In respect of the regulatory impact statement, members raised the question why a regulatory impact statement was not prepared for this bill. Prior to answering this, I want to emphasise that a discussion paper covering reforms to this legislation was released in 2018, with 240 responses, with generally strong support for the changes within. This was separate to the parliamentary scrutiny of this bill including its public hearings in Cairns and Scarborough. These processes were preceded by a number of materials—the Sustainable Fisheries Strategy itself, the green paper and others—that led up to this bill.

This legislation and this policy have been heavily scrutinised, well consulted on and actively considered by the government. I want to clarify the processes adopted for the Fisheries Regulation which may assist some of their concerns. They are related to the provisions in the bill.

In line with the process outlined in the *Queensland government guide to better regulation*, my department prepared a preliminary impact assessment for consideration by the Queensland Productivity Commission. This assessment outlined the history of the proposal to implement vessel tracking, the consultation undertaken to that point and the estimated financial impacts upon the Queensland fishery industry.

In considering whether a regulatory impact statement should be prepared on the proposed vessel tracking regulations, the Queensland Productivity Commission determined that further analysis and consultation in the form of a regulatory impact statement would not be beneficial at that point in time. While the financial impacts were acknowledged, this is exactly why \$3 million in rebates has been made available. The reforms will provide long-term benefits to all users of the fisheries including commercial fishers.

In respect of intellectual property, on people's private data we have constantly stated that we will protect people's private information. The penalty set in the bill for inappropriate disclosure of information provides an extra safeguard and sends the clear message to anyone dealing with private data that they cannot share that information. The level of the penalty is appropriate and consistent with other similar legislation.

In respect of the threshold for the trafficking offence, or black marketing, some members have suggested a lower threshold. Given the severity of the penalty associated with trafficking in priority fish, the government is of the opinion that the current threshold is appropriate.

In regard to the issue of warrants, I believe the proposals put forward by the opposition of a five-day head start do not fit the requirements of professionalism of our Queensland Boating and Fisheries Patrol officers.

I table the membership of the expert panel. That is an issue which has been raised during the debate. I note that the panel also takes into consideration North Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Sustainable Fisheries Expert Panel' [\[292\]](#).

In summing up, I want to emphasise that this bill supports our government's aims to build jobs and support commercial fishing alongside other types of fishing. Our fisheries are a public resource and Queenslanders expect that they are regulated appropriately, including using technology like vessel tracking.

In conclusion, I would like to thank everyone for their contributions. I thank the committee for their hard work. I look forward to members supporting this bill and helping to ensure our fish stocks will be sustainable for years to come. I thank my departmental officers and staff who have worked so hard to ensure that this bill and strategy are being implemented.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 7, as read, agreed to.

Clause 8—



**Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.31 pm): I move the following amendments—

**1 Clause 8 (Insertion of new s 145A)**

Page 12, line 25, '(1) An'—  
*omit, insert—*

An

**2 Clause 8 (Insertion of new s 145A)**

Page 13, lines 1 to 7—  
*omit, insert—*

(b) the inspector has given the occupier of the premises at least 5 days notice of the entry;  
and

**3 Clause 8 (Insertion of new s 145A)**

Page 13, lines 15 to 19—  
*omit.*

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

**AYES, 43:**

**LNP, 38**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

**NOES, 48:**

**ALP, 46**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Perrett) negated.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

Question put—That clauses 8 to 71 and the schedule, as read, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 8 to 71 and schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

Division: Question put—That the bill be now read a third time.

**AYES, 48:**

**ALP, 46**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 43:**

**LNP, 38**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

**Long Title**

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

**AYES, 48:**

**ALP, 46**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

**Grn, 1**—Berkman.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 43:**

**LNP, 38**—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.


**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Costigan.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY****Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports, Reporting Dates and Transfer of Responsibilities**


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.43 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, that: the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Natural Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 18 April 2019; the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee report on the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 12 April 2019; and the committee responsible for reporting on the Health and Wellbeing Queensland Bill be varied from the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, and that the committee report on the bill by 18 April 2019.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that: the Auditor-General's report No. 13 for 2018-19 titled *Health: 2017-18 results of financial audits* be referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee; and the Auditor-General's report No. 14 for 2018-19 titled *Queensland state government: 2017-18 results of financial audits* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

**GUARDIANSHIP AND ADMINISTRATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION  
AMENDMENT BILL**

Resumed from 15 February 2018 (see p. 105).

**Second Reading**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (5.44 pm): I move—  
That the bill be now read a second time.

Issues of guardianship will affect most of us in some form or another during our lives. I am sure many members in the House today have a relative or friend who may struggle to make their own decisions because they have a cognitive impairment, such as dementia, an acquired brain injury, an intellectual disability or a mental illness. That is where the Guardianship and Administration and Other Legislation Bill 2018 comes in.

The bill was introduced into the parliament on 15 February 2018 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration. Queensland's guardianship legislation establishes a scheme for substitute decision-making for adults with impaired capacity and provides for the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal to appoint a guardian or administrator to make a personal and financial decision on behalf of an adult with impaired capacity

As I mentioned in my first reading speech, this bill is largely the same as a bill introduced in September 2017 during the previous parliament, with only minor changes made to address drafting issues and a recommendation made by the Queensland Law Society during the then committee's consideration of the 2017 bill. I thank the committee for its consideration of the bill, as well as the committee of the previous parliament for its consideration of the 2017 bill. The committee tabled its report on the bill on 23 March 2018 and recommended the bill be passed. I am pleased that the committee recognised that this bill delivers sensible and practical changes to strengthen safeguards and uphold the rights of adults with impaired decision-making capacity, while also improving the general clarity and efficiency of Queensland's guardianship system.

Queensland's guardianship system is established under the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998 and the Public Guardian Act 2014. These frameworks ensure that, if a person can no longer make decisions about financial or personal arrangements or health care, an appropriate decision-maker is appointed or available to make decisions on that person's behalf.

Stakeholder support overall for the bill was positive, including for many of the amendments that enhance safeguards for adults with impaired capacity in the guardianship system, such as: strengthening eligibility requirements for the appointment of attorneys to safeguard against abuse; clarifying the capacity needed for a person to make an enduring power of attorney or advance health directive; strengthening the prohibitions on attorneys and administrators engaging in conflict transactions—transactions where their interests conflict with those of the adult on behalf of whom they are making financial decisions—improving the availability of financial remedies available against an attorney, guardian or administrator who fails to comply with their obligations; and enhancing the powers of the Public Guardian by providing a discretionary power to continue investigating a complaint that an adult was subject to abuse, neglect or exploitation even after the death of the adult.

The amendments to the general principles and healthcare principle include: relocate the principles to the beginning of the Guardianship and Administration Act and Powers of Attorney Act; and aim to ensure greater consistency with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The relocation of the principles will give them greater prominence and will highlight the new principled approach to decision-making which requires powers and functions to be exercised in a manner that is more consistent with human rights and contemporary practice.

The general principles and the healthcare principle have also been redrafted to closely reflect the language of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to require decision-makers to seek and take account of the views, wishes and preferences of an adult and their support network in exercising their functions. Contemporary language such as 'safeguards' is used rather than 'proper care and protection'. Further, it is the adult's 'rights, interests and opportunities' that are promoted and safeguarded, rather than their 'best interests.'

Capacity is an important threshold concept under guardianship law. The amendments in the bill with respect to the definition and presumption of capacity do not aim to change the current law but rather to clarify it. First, with respect to the application of the presumption of capacity, consistent with the Queensland Law Reform Commission recommendation and case law, clauses 7 and 75 clarify the existing presumption of capacity by: requiring QCAT or the Supreme Court to presume an adult has capacity for a matter, unless the presumption is rebutted; and providing certainty to substitute decision-makers by not requiring a guardian or administrator to apply the presumption after QCAT, or the court, has declared that an adult does not have capacity for a matter or QCAT has appointed the guardian or administrator to make decisions for the matter. This does not remove the requirement for QCAT to apply the presumption each time it is required to make a decision about an adult's capacity or reviews the appointment of a guardian or administrator, but it does provide certainty for substitute decision-makers and third parties who rely on the validity of a QCAT declaration that a person does not have capacity for a particular matter.

With respect to the definition of capacity, it should be noted that there are two tests of capacity in the current guardianship legislation. There is the general test of capacity which applies to financial and personal decisions and which is set out in schedule 4 to the Guardianship and Administration Act and schedule 3 to the Powers of Attorney Act. No substantive change has been made to that test.

Next, with respect to the capacity required to make an enduring document, consistent with the recommendations of the QLRC, the bill in clauses 62 and 63 amends the Powers of Attorney Act in two ways: firstly, to clarify the capacity required to make an enduring document—for example, to make it

clear that not only must the principal understand the nature and effect of an enduring document, but must also be able to make the document freely and voluntarily; and, secondly, to clarify that this specific test applies to the capacity to make an enduring document rather than the general test of capacity.

In recognition of the importance of the concept of capacity, the bill requires the preparation of guidelines to assist in the assessments of capacity. These guidelines will be progressed alongside other reforms being carried out by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, including the review of advance health directive and enduring powers of attorney forms and the preparation of explanatory guides to assist Queenslanders to engage in advance planning. Advance planning is so important in the context of an ageing population and the need for all of us to plan for decision-making for our future in a way that documents and preserves our own wishes and preferences for our future care and support needs. The bill also strengthens the eligibility requirements for the appointment of attorneys under enduring powers of attorney and advance health directives or a statutory health attorney to provide stronger and consistent safeguards to protect against abuse.

In line with recommendations of the QLRC, the bill in clause 57 amends the Powers of Attorney Act to provide that an attorney under an enduring power of attorney must have capacity for the matter and must not be a person who, within the previous three years, has acted as a paid carer for the principal. To provide consistency the bill provides that, as for attorneys under an enduring power of attorney, an attorney under an advance health directive cannot be a service provider for the adult in a residential service where the adult is resident. Similarly, the bill in clause 67 provides that with respect to statutory health attorneys, a person who is a close friend or relation of the adult cannot be a statutory health attorney if that person is a health provider for the adult or a service provider for a residential service where the adult lives.

Collectively, these amendments aim to address growing awareness and concerns of the risk of financial or other abuse to an adult, particularly where a former paid carer or service provider of the adult seeks to be appointed as the adult's attorney. Although this may be seen as too restrictive by some, or not restrictive enough, the bill aims to strike a balance between strengthening safeguards and not having overly onerous eligibility requirements to the point where an adult may have no-one in their life who is eligible to perform the role of an attorney.

With respect to who can be a statutory health attorney, the bill also makes an important clarification to provide that a 'relation' includes a person who is regarded as a relative under Aboriginal tradition or Torres Strait Islander custom. The bill has made some modest but significant steps forward in embracing contemporary approaches and human rights. It does not, however, radically change the nature of the guardianship system in Queensland by, for example, introducing a legislative framework for supported, as opposed to substituted, decision-making. Many stakeholders recognised the positive steps the bill takes towards this approach. Aged and Disability Advocacy Australia submitted that—

If passed through parliament, it is believed that these amendments will provide adults with impaired capacity with more choice and less restrictive options whilst safeguarding their rights. The proposed amendments will also bring Queensland ... closer to achieving our obligations under the UN Conventions on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

I would also like to draw attention to two other significant policy changes which the bill will introduce. Firstly, the bill introduces a statutory exception to the rule of ademption. Ademption occurs where a gift of a particular item of property in a will fails because, for example, the property is sold or otherwise disposed of prior to the will maker's death. The bill will provide that, where an attorney or administrator sells or disposes of property which is the subject matter of a specific gift in a deceased's will, the beneficiary will have the same interest in the proceeds arising from the sale or disposition of the property as the beneficiary would have had if it had not been sold or otherwise dealt with. In this way, the will maker's original intention before they lost capacity is preserved.

Secondly, the bill enables QCAT to appoint an administrator for a missing person where QCAT is satisfied that the person is a missing person and that without an appointment the person's financial interests will be significantly adversely affected. This amendment fills a significant gap in Queensland.

There are other non-guardianship related amendments included in the bill that implement recommendations from two parliamentary committee reports. The amendments to the Integrity Act 2009 will implement recommendations 1 and 2 of the finance and administration committee report No. 19, *Inquiry into the report on the strategic review of the functions of the Integrity Commissioner*. These amendments remove the requirement for senior executives and senior officers to obtain managerial consent before seeking advice from the Integrity Commissioner; and allow former designated persons,

that is, former members of the Legislative Assembly, statutory officer holders, chief executives, senior executives or senior officers and staff members employed in the office of a minister or assistant minister, to access the advice services of the Integrity Commissioner for a period of two years after leaving office.

I thank the committee for their support for these amendments consistent with the Palaszczuk government's commitment to increase transparency and integrity. I also acknowledge the Crime and Corruption Commission's submission on the bill, which recognised that the amendments to the Integrity Act 2009 'have potential to minimise corruption risks that could arise through interactions between current and former public sector employees and office holders'.


The bill also implements recommendation 13 of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee report No. 97, *Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission*, by making amendments to the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010. These amendments will resolve conflicting statutory obligations in state and Commonwealth legislation to ensure an officer or employee of a government owned corporation who discloses information in accordance with the Crime and Corruption Act 2000 is afforded whistleblower protection. Overall, the Crime and Corruption Commission recognised that the amendments to the Integrity Act 2009, the Government Owned Corporations Act 1993 and the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 'will promote integrity across the public sector'.

In conclusion, the amendments in this bill will not only improve the general clarity and efficiency of Queensland's guardianship system, but enhance and safeguard the rights of Queenslanders with impaired capacity. I once again thank the committee, the secretariat and also all stakeholders who made submissions to the committee. I also acknowledge the departmental officers from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General who have worked tirelessly not just on this bill but every piece of legislation from my portfolio that has come before this parliament. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs D'Ath, adjourned.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Minister


 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 23 November 2018, I wrote to the member for Burleigh, seeking further information from him in relation to an allegation of deliberately misleading the House. On 5 December 2018, the member for Burleigh responded to my request for further information. As part of this correspondence, the member for Burleigh asked me to consider whether the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games misled the House in a statement made on 15 November 2018.

In my statement of 6 March 2018 to the House, I set out my expectations concerning allegations of the contempt of deliberately misleading parliament. In his correspondence to me, the member for Burleigh did not present any evidence, particulars or analysis, other than mere assertion, that the statement was incorrect, that the minister was aware at the time of making the statement that it was incorrect, or that the minister intended to mislead the House. In the absence of any substantive detail or evidence from the member for Burleigh supporting the allegation, I consider the matter does not warrant the further attention of the House sufficient to satisfy me under standing order 269(4). I, therefore, will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

Members would be aware that the matter to which the correspondence from the member for Burleigh relates was referred to the Ethics Committee earlier today. I will, therefore, not be tabling any correspondence in relation to this matter and I remind members that standing order 271 applies, and members should not refer to these matters in the House.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Harbour Town, Police Beat

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise tonight to present the government with an offer too good to refuse. We could have a shopfront Police Beat at Harbour Town for a rent of just \$1!

**Mr McDonald:** One dollar?



**Mr O'CONNOR:** One dollar! I am hopeful the police minister can find that in his budget for the Gold Coast—just \$1. On top of providing the shopfront, the centre will even help set it up. Here is that commitment from the major shopping centre in writing, which I table.


*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 8 February 2019, from Centre Manager, Harbour Town, Mr Gary Webb, to the member for Bonney, Mr Sam O'Connor MP, regarding Harbour Town Gold Coast Police Beat [293].

Crime is a big problem in my community. Our police do a fantastic job, but there are not enough of them and that makes it difficult for locals to talk to them. Every day people tell me they have called up the local coppers to report an issue, only for it to be bumped down the queue by more serious concerns. Harbour Town is a major precinct in my electorate. It is a defining feature. It brings people from around the globe. It is Australia's first outlet centre and one of the largest, with over 55,000 square metres and over 240 shops. Nearly 10 million people go through it a year, and 42 per cent of them are tourists. It is both a tourism hub and a favourite for locals with shopping, entertainment and food.

With all of those people comes a lot of crime. The police are called on regularly not just within its boundaries but in the suburbs surrounding it. In the last year there were over 500 offences committed within Harbour Town and its direct surrounds. Only last month there were shots fired in the car park. I would add, Mr Speaker, that that car park can be a scary place on your late-night Macca's run. There currently is a Police Beat in Biggera Waters on Ocean Street. I think that it makes sense to shift this Police Beat to Harbour Town and convert it into a shopfront using the savings.

Harbour Town is a hub for the community, and that is the sort of place where you want police. They should be easily accessible, and having it in a shopping centre gives people better access to report crime and talk to officers. A more visible presence would also serve as a strong deterrent to crime. I have written to the assistant commissioner to ask him to consider the proposal, and I hope that by bringing it to the attention of this House it will help to make it a reality. Our police resources are stretched thin, so we need to use them in the best way possible. We are offering a position that places a Police Beat right where it needs to be which could offer potential savings to the Queensland Police Service. This is a deal that is too good to refuse, and I urge the minister and the Queensland Police Service to jump at this opportunity to help improve safety in my local community.

### **Bancroft Electorate, Solar Energy**


 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.02 pm): I can report to the House that residents in my area love solar rooftops. Local residents are following the Palaszczuk government's lead and investing in the renewable energy economy. They are showing the federal Liberal government just what leadership looks like. As of January 2019, there are over 13,000 systems and over 56 megawatts of total solar PV capacity installed in our area. There are 1,342 solar rooftops systems in Burpengary East, 2,319 in Deception Bay and 249 in North Lakes. Local residents are now starting to really take up the opportunity that we are offering to help fund solar and battery storage in households.

Under the Palaszczuk government, home owners can apply for interest-free loans and grants for a combined solar and battery storage system or to add battery storage to their existing solar system. Under the IFLSS scheme, around 1,000 assistance packages are available for combined solar and battery systems. It offers grants of \$3,000 plus interest-free loans of up to \$10,000, repayable in 10 years. There have been 2,000 applications for this scheme in Queensland already. As of 25 February 2019, 70 applications have been received in my area and 62 applications have been approved: five in Deception Bay, five in Burpengary and 25 in North Lakes-Mango Hill.

Solar rooftops are flourishing in the Bancroft electorate because of the Palaszczuk government plan to support rooftop solar and the renewable energy industry. The Powering Queensland Plan is an integrated energy plan for our state and it will: support the transition to a cleaner energy sector; create new investments and jobs; and guide the state through the challenges facing Australia's energy markets. As part of that plan we have set a target of one million rooftops or 3,000 megawatts of solar photovoltaics in Queensland by 2020. We are over halfway there. With 592,000 households, we have the highest number of installations in Australia.

Our biggest power station in Queensland is our solar rooftop array, with 2,000 megawatts of solar PV capacity. We got there despite the lack of a credible rooftop solar policy from the federal Liberals. In fact, they lack a renewable energy policy of any credibility. They ignore the need to transition to clean energy. They show that they believe the government has no role in supporting investor confidence. We need a national energy policy that recognises the need to decarbonise our energy system and provides investment certainty for industry, but we will not wait for leadership from the feds: we will provide it as the state government in our local communities.

### Delta Cleaners & Laundry


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.05 pm): I rise to inform the House of another amazing achievement by a business in the electorate of Burdekin. As I have said before, the Burdekin is the most diverse in Queensland and a powerhouse of the Queensland economy. One of the reasons that my electorate is a powerhouse is because of the dedication and hard work demonstrated by small business. One such business is Delta Cleaners & Laundry.

I am pleased to inform the House that last week Delta Cleaners & Laundry celebrated 60 years in business. In 1959 Charlie, Frank and Sam Nucifora were talked out of buying a cane farm and into buying a dry-cleaning business, despite having no knowledge of that business. Despite hard times and needing to learn everything from scratch, the Nucifora brothers saw their business grow as the Burdekin district grew. But it was not due to luck: it was due to hard work and their belief that as a family they could achieve more than they could ever achieve on their own. The Nucifora family did not celebrate alone, and neither should they. Their contribution to community groups, service clubs and events in the Burdekin district is legendary, and that contribution and commitment has been passed to the next generation as they play a bigger and bigger part in the business. Whether it is supporting community groups with sponsorships or making and selling burgers for Rotary, the Nucifora family has shown that supporting your community is an important part of having a successful business.

During the recent monsoon event Charlie, Frank and Sam and their families and employees went above and beyond. With many of their competitors unable to service aged care facilities due to flooding, Delta Cleaners & Laundry sprang into action working long days in the heat of a commercial laundry to ensure these important members of our community were cared for. On behalf of those who were helped I say a heartfelt thank you.

In their 60 years in business Delta Cleaners & Laundry have gone from washing 50 sheets a day to thousands. They process laundry from all over North Queensland. The machinery they use got bigger, the area they service grew, and the pride that they took in what they did went from strength to strength. They have evolved through innovation over the past 60 years, but underlying that evolution is an undying loyalty to the Burdekin community and sheer hard work. I am sure all members join me in congratulating the Nucifora family on 60 years in business. As the member for Burdekin, I am proud to provide yet another example of what is achieved in my electorate and the people who live and work in our community.

### Mansfield Electorate, Sporting Organisations

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (6.08 pm): I rise tonight to inform the House of the great sporting groups in my community. Mr Speaker, as you know, exercise is a great way to improve not only our wellbeing and fitness but also to clear our heads and de-stress whether it be after work, after school pick-up or, as we know, after sitting in parliament all week. The Mansfield electorate has a diverse range of organisations that encourage healthy living and wellbeing for all ages. They include: bowls, soccer, hockey, cricket, AFL, basketball, swimming, baseball, karate, Rugby League and softball. I also acknowledge the Mount Gravatt Little Athletics, the Mount Gravatt and District Horse & Pony Club, the Mansfield Magpies Junior Cricket Club, the Easts Mt Gravatt Junior Rugby League Club and the Brisbane Eagles Lacrosse Club. The Mount Gravatt PCYC and Mt Gravatt Youth & Recreation Club are two incredible associations that provide multiple sports and various social activities. Both organisations are utilised by various sporting clubs, schools, community groups and the general community.

The Hawks, Clairvaux and Eagles soccer clubs, along with the Vultures and Rochedale junior AFL clubs, are some of the largest clubs in my electorate that provide great opportunities for young and mature players as well as afford families a great day out supporting their team. These clubs provide not only an avenue for rising stars but also an opportunity for our young people to develop their skills in teamwork, decision-making, conflict resolution and leadership.

I am also fortunate to have legendary former Brisbane Bullets coach Brian Kerle train upcoming basketball players in the electorate as well as run a diverse range of programs and clinics including specialised programs for new mums and Indigenous children.


Another sport that Australia has become increasingly competitive in is baseball. I am proud to support the local Eagles team. With the Brisbane Bandits on a winning streak and based in my esteemed colleague's electorate of Stafford, I am sure we will see some shining stars rise from the Eagles in the future.

The Australian Academy of Martial Arts is going ahead in leaps and bounds due to the investment made by the Palaszczuk government to develop a new centre behind Mount Gravatt Bowls Club. This new location will provide for strategic partnerships with the bowls club, nearby schools, kindergartens and childcare centres.

I would also like to acknowledge the great opportunities that our local swimming clubs provide during the summer season. The Mansfield Muddies, the Southside Rockets, the Rochedale Rays and the Wishart Sharks are great local clubs that nurture lifelong skills and competition opportunities for our young people.

I am proud of the sporting organisations in my electorate of Mansfield. They provide healthy living opportunities and allow wonderful connections between family and friends to be forged.

### **Zonta Club of Caloundra City**


 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (6.11 pm): Last Friday night my wife and I had the great honour of attending the 30th anniversary of Zonta Caloundra. The function was addressed by president Simone Ricketts, district governor Sandy Venn-Brown and foundation member Mary Henzell. All three speakers focused on the history of Zonta, particularly Zonta Caloundra. In addition, three bursaries—the Amelia Earhart Bursary, the university Equity Bursary and the Ford/Henzell business bursary—were awarded to young women to help them with their careers or studies.

Zonta Caloundra is part of a family of women 31,000 in number across 65 countries. Proudly, that body celebrates 100 years on 8 November 2019. Zonta International was founded in New York, and the first club outside the USA was formed in 1927 in Canada. Zonta remains a global organisation of women committed to advancing the status of women, both locally and globally.

In celebrating 30 years, Zonta Caloundra looked back on its many achievements. Last Friday it focused on one: the RISE project. RISE stands for ‘restart in a safe environment’. This project took 10 years to complete and focused on establishing a domestic violence refuge in Caloundra for women and children. It was headed by a lady by the name of Marilyn Holness, a lady devoted to the cause and supported by many women both in the club and in the community at large. Land was donated by Mr Doug Drinnan and fundraising began some years ago. Fundraising concluded with a \$90,000 fundraising activity in a period of 90 days. These women achieved their goal. They obtained the land and built the house. The pride could easily be seen on both Friday night and at the ceremonial opening of the home some time ago.

I congratulate all Zontians, both in Caloundra and throughout the world. They are achieving great things for women and children. I think we can look to organisations of that nature for guidance and inspiration. One thing they do very well is honour the husbands or partners of Zontians. They make them honorary Zontians. That means they are there to assist their wives or partners on a regular basis in their fundraising activities. Again, I salute them for the great work they have done. I wish them all the best for the next 30 years in Caloundra and beyond.

### **Hardwick, Mr B; Real Time Instruments**

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.14 pm): I extend my condolences and those of my community to the family, friends and colleagues of Bradley Hardwick, 47, tragically killed at work at Anglo American’s Moranbah North mine last week. The township of Moranbah is in mourning for one of its own. I also wish his work colleagues injured in the same incident a speedy and full recovery. Workplace health and safety is everyone’s business. We must always remember: life before profit.

Nobody likes a soggy Twistie. It is the innovation of a Mackay based company that ensures the moisture content in Twisties is spot-on. Mackay manufacturer Real Time Instruments, better known locally as RTI, is a global exporter with its head office in Mackay. It exports to 43 countries and is looking for more opportunities. It also engages with international partnerships to install and maintain their instruments and machines.


RTI is an innovator and go-getter, headed up by CEO James Asbury and CFO Jade Horward. I am pleased to inform the House that it was successful in the second round of the Made in Queensland grants program. The \$107,000 matched funding grant will assist RTI to implement planning and manufacturing systems, improving operational performance and export capabilities. Transitioning from a local manufacturer to advanced manufacture is its plan. It currently runs a workforce of 24 and expects that it will require an additional 14 skilled workers—technicians, engineers and designers—to grow its capabilities.

RTI is a leading example of a company that moves and develops to meet market and economic times. It began as a company supplying moisture gauges to the coal industry. During the downturn it diversified its business and modified the technology of its product to be suitable for measuring the composition of bulk materials including coal, minerals, cement, foodstuffs and pharmaceuticals. RTI wants to expand its technology. Currently it has a range of leading-edge analysers, gauges and scales using sophisticated technology to conduct real-time analysis of materials. RTI also has exclusive distribution and service arrangements in Australia for a range of high-performance weighing and detection systems.

RTI is a genuine local company using local supplies and engineering workshops where possible to supply their parts. It is building the business and bringing other local businesses along with it. Businesses in my electorate and the surrounding region know how important it is to cooperate, shop local and buy local.

*(Time expired)*

### **Toowong, Proposed Development**

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (6.17 pm): I rise to speak about a block of land in my electorate—quite a famous block at that. The land is at 600 Coronation Drive, Toowong and was home to the ABC studios for 50 years before a serious cancer cluster scare back in 2006 forced a relocation to the ABC's new home at South Bank.


After some years of investigation, the site was eventually cleared of any contamination or radiation in 2010. Back then, the federal government still owned the land, which is 15,000 square metres in size in a flood-prone area with a 130-metre river frontage, a heritage listed building, mangroves and a number of Moreton Bay figs and large gums. All of these factors made the site a perfect location for a public park. Even back then, the community leapt at this possibility. There were widespread calls from all levels of government to take the property off the market and keep it as a valuable investment in public space. Instead, it was sold off in a fire sale, for \$10 million less than it was worth, to a developer who wanted to build 555 apartments in three skyscrapers—the 'champagne flutes' as they became known.

At the end of last year, in an extraordinary win, the Court of Appeal upheld the local residents' challenge to the development on the basis that its height far exceeded local planning limits, among other concerns. Now that Sunland is back to the drawing board, we have a unique and fleeting opportunity to reignite the conversation about how this site should be used. That is why earlier this week I wrote to the Treasurer, calling on the state government to investigate the opportunity to buy this land back from Sunland and convert the entire lot into a public recreation space designed by the local community. I reiterate that request here today.

Opportunities like this to acquire inner-city riverfront land do not come around often, and Toowong is absolutely crying out for public space. In the last 10 years alone more than 3½ thousand new apartments have been built within 200 metres of the ABC site, yet in the last few decades half the public recreation sites including the Toowong pool, part of Moorlands Park and the original Toowong library and park space have been lost. Densification in an inner-city, well-connected hub such as Toowong is inevitable and makes sense, but all over Brisbane we are seeing our public recreation and green space sold off and lost forever, with hardly any new infrastructure to keep up with the relentless profit driven development.

Cities are more than just apartments and offices built to line the pockets of big business. Our cities shape our lives, and decisions about how they are designed really do matter. They influence how often we see our friends and family, where we work and relax and how we get around. This spot would make an idyllic riverfront park that could be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike. It would also make a perfect landing point for a walking and cycling bridge connecting West End and Toowong. A bridge would do wonders to improve connectivity and access to both these hubs as well as help get cars off the road, which is essential in reducing carbon emissions, congestion and improving livability in Brisbane. The state Labor government should jump at this chance to investigate building the infrastructure our city desperately needs because the opportunity is very unlikely to come knocking again.

### **Woodridge Electorate**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (6.20 pm): Over the past few weeks I have been privileged to share in some incredibly worthy achievements and occasions in the electorate of Woodridge. These moments


have held a light to and really held up high the rich multicultural tapestry that is woven across the entire city of Logan. Tonight I want to take the opportunity to update the House on the selfless work that was being celebrated—work that is helping to improve the lives of all involved. Firstly, I congratulate Metro South Health's Oral Health Services and refugee service. Based at the Logan Central Community Health Centre, the team has been recognised both here in Queensland and overseas, recently receiving an International Hospital Federation award. This innovative service is the first of its kind in Queensland, providing access to timely and appropriate oral health care for newly arrived refugees in our community.

Due to this initiative, service wait times have reduced from 12 months to 28 days, with 1,842 patients treated—65 per cent of all refugee clients in Queensland. Separate to this, during my time as health minister I was very pleased to support the oral health team at the Logan Central Community Health Centre to a \$4.3 million boost, resulting in 15,000 additional dental appointments for local residents each year, 10 additional dental chairs and the introduction of children's appointments in our community. Good oral health leads to better long-term health outcomes and I am delighted at the work of the Oral Health Services team and its contribution to improving oral health outcomes.

I also want to update the House on the efforts of the Hurricane Stars Club which is to be commended for improving water safety in our community. Also supported by Metro South Health through its healthy new communities project, which is proudly backed by our government's \$10 million Logan Community Health Action Plan, the Hurricane Stars Club is doing wonderful work helping to deliver culturally sensitive swim classes for women and children in Logan. Swimming skills help to save lives, but they are also about being comfortable in and around water. Teaching these fundamentals to everyone in our community will ensure that people stay safe, whether in a backyard or down at the beach.

Last week I visited Gould Adams Park Aquatic Centre in Kingston to meet with the swimming group and learn about their progress. I want to particularly thank Woodridge resident and Hurricane Stars Club founder Farah Scott, who told me that classes are in high demand and that the results have been very rewarding. Farah told me that since beginning these swim classes six months ago the Hurricane Stars Club has helped around 70 women gain greater confidence in the water. Fifteen women from the club are also training to become qualified swim instructors and Farah hopes to provide more women-only swim programs for the community. Metro South's Oral Health Services and the Refugee Health Service and the Hurricanes Stars are creating a more inclusive and united Logan.

### **Lockyer Electorate, Water Plan**


 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.22 pm): Water is the lifeblood of the Lockyer Valley, and in October last year the government released the draft water plan amendment plan. This was a dark day. Many of these nominal entitlements resulted in farmers being allocated no water and others not sufficient to grow just one crop per year. If these nominal entitlements are implemented, it will result in a drastic drop in farm values and production, the loss of many jobs and a significant loss of expenditure right across our community. It will have a massive impact, but the personal trauma caused by this news on individuals was soul destroying and caused completely unnecessary stress for many. It soon became apparent that over 50 per cent of the bores used to calculate those entitlements were either not working or inaccurate. This proves that flawed data was used to inform the policy position taken by the department. This was embarrassing.

My community through the leadership of many, including the Lockyer Water Users Forum and the Lockyer Valley Growers Association, pulled together a public meeting, with 285 people attending. That night the community was well informed about the best opportunities to fight these entitlements, and significant money was raised to engage experts to professionally take up the fight. That night a motion of no confidence in the department with an instruction to me to ask the minister for his intervention was unanimously carried without dissent. Since that night, we have been successful in extending the time for some submissions, the expert work has been completed and a joint submission with over 1,200 signatures as well as 123 individual business submissions has been made. I am pleased to say that the minister agreed to a meeting, and together with industry representatives I was able to outline to the minister the flawed policy position and seek his assistance to ensure we fix this mess.

I can confirm that at a meeting in Gatton last Tuesday, 26 February, the department publicly recognised the problems and agreed to continue to work with my irrigators and their representatives to implement a water plan based significantly on the submissions made. I thank the minister for the work so far but stress the importance of getting this plan right for the wellbeing of our whole community. Nearly all involved just simply do not want anything to do with the water plan, but we know it is not going

to go away. We recognise that it is necessary to support any future additional water resources to the Lockyer and the security that that will bring as well as give us the opportunity to clear out our weirs. I am honoured to be able to continue to fight for what is right and to ensure the Lockyer and Brisbane Valley remains a major contributor to the world's food security.

### **Morayfield Electorate, Small Business Network; Further Answer to Question, Youth Detention**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.25 pm): Every second Monday I host a small business networking coffee catch-up at a local cafe in the Caboolture region. Kicking off at 7.30 am, these coffee catch-ups give local small business owners the opportunity to hear about what grants are on offer and other supports that are available from our state government. Most importantly, they give local small business owners a forum to meet, talk and discuss opportunities about working together with each other in our region. From scratch, the small business catch-ups built steadily throughout last year and our first event of 2019, which was held at Revolution Espresso Lounge on Beerburum Road at Caboolture, attracted more than 50 people.

Our success story from the small business network is local mobile mechanic Scott Vanderzalm from V-Mech Automotive. Scott and his wife Kristen successfully applied for a state government Small Business Entrepreneur grant earlier in 2018 and used the funds to engage professional assistance in putting together a strategy to grow their business. Through attending our coffee catch-ups, Scott has built his local clientele and provides a great service to many local small businesses throughout the region. This is just one example of how local businesses are making the most of a grassroots community opportunity provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

I also want to congratulate those local businesses and community organisations that received grants from the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Congratulations to Better Together Association, which received two grants to assist 126 jobseekers in the areas of retail and community service. Congratulations also to Wyatt from Better Together who is a regular attendee of the small business network coffee catch-up and uses the coffee catch-ups to place those graduates from Skilling Queenslanders for Work into volunteer roles and employment opportunities. Congratulations also to SkillCentred Queensland, which received a grant to support 18 women develop skills in the construction sector, and also to Reclink, which received a grant for the second phase of restoration work at Caboolture's Centenary Lakes. The project will employ and train 40 disadvantaged jobseekers over 22 weeks and the stage 1 graduates held their graduation last week. I congratulate them all on successfully completing the program.

Earlier today a question was asked of the Premier about education services provided to juvenile offenders detained in police watch houses. I am advised by the youth justice department that juvenile offenders detained in Brisbane city watch house receive on-site visits from Brisbane Youth Education training staff, including a teacher who is there every day, and are provided with education packs. I am also informed that these young offenders receive daily supervision, safety and wellbeing assessments by Youth Justice staff, along with family visits.

*(Time expired)*

The House adjourned at 6.28 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson