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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 12 June 2019

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WEDNESDAY, 12 JUNE 2019


 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.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that this morning we will be visited in the gallery by students and teachers from St Paul's Lutheran Primary School, Caboolture in the electorate of Morayfield and Durack State School in the electorate of Inala.

MOTIONS

Citizen's Right of Reply

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.31 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 187 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendations of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.


RESPONSE BY MR GEOFF MURPHY, TO STATEMENTS MADE IN THE HOUSE BY THE MINISTER FOR HOUSING AND PUBLIC WORKS AND MEMBER FOR SPRINGWOOD, HON MICHAEL DE BRENNI MP, THE MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH, MR MICHAEL HART MP, THE PREMIER AND MEMBER FOR INALA, HON ANNASTACIA PALASZCZUK MP, THE MEMBER FOR BURDEKIN, MR DALE LAST MP AND THE MEMBER FOR MAROOCHYDORE, MS FIONA SIMPSON MP, BETWEEN 12 FEBRUARY 2019 AND 27 FEBRUARY 2019

Between 12 February 2019 and 27 February 2019 various statements were made in the Legislative Assembly by the Member for Springwood, the Member for Burleigh, the Member for Inala, the Member for Burdekin and the Member for Maroochydores that adversely affected my reputation.

I reject all allegations and imputations that I have in any way acted improperly, incompetently or fraudulently in regard to the operations of JM Kelly Project Builders Pty Ltd and JM Kelly Builders Pty Ltd.

I reject any allegations or imputations that I made any payments, or contributed to any gifts, functions or donations, to former Minister Robert Schwarten. Further, I reject any allegation or imputation that I engaged in inappropriate or illegal dealings with former Minister Robert Schwarten.

Citizen's Right of Reply

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.32 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 188 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendations of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY HON ROBERT SCHWARTEN, TO STATEMENTS MADE IN THE HOUSE BY THE MEMBER FOR BURLEIGH, MR MICHAEL HART MP AND THE MEMBER FOR KAWANA, MR JARROD BLEIJIE MP, ON 30 OCTOBER AND 1 NOVEMBER 2018

On 30 October 2018, the Member for Burleigh made a statement relating to actions and conduct of JM Kelly Builders. On 1 November 2018 the Member for Burleigh made a further statement during Private Members' statements. Also on 1 November 2018, the Member for Kawana made further reference to me in asking a Question Without Notice to the Minister for Innovation.

The statement made by the Member for Burleigh makes claims that I had major renovations done to my properties in Rockhampton and Kinka Beach by JM Kelly. I reject any accusation that JM Kelly carried out any work on those properties or that I received any kind of commission or financial benefit for such work.

The painting work on the Kinka Beach property was carried out by painting contractors, who have sworn a statutory declaration stating that they carried out the work and were duly paid by the builder.


In addition, the residence the Member for Burleigh made reference to, is not known locally as the 'hospital house'.

No health contract was corrupted.

In relation to the statement made by the Member for Kawana, during my 13 years as Minister for Public Works I did not intervene or intrude into the awarding of any contract.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): This is a budget that backs Queenslanders and Queensland jobs, but do not just take our word for it. From industry to economists, stakeholders have had their say.

Mrs Frecklington: They sure have!

Ms PALASZCZUK: They have. Overall—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you. Thank you, member for Kawana. Has everyone got that out of their system? Great.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Overall, economist Nick Behrens said—

This budget indicates that Queensland's economy is performing well. The surplus is very good news for Queenslanders.

Our payroll tax initiative has been labelled 'innovative', 'transformative' and a 'big win for small businesses'. Dr Pradeep Philip of Deloitte Access Economics said—

The \$885 million payroll tax initiative is something that business should welcome, there is an increase in the threshold for all businesses around Queensland and that is good for jobs.

Dan Petrie of the Chamber of Commerce & Industry said—

This will be transformative for a number of small businesses within the state.

On health, our record \$19.2 billion investment has been applauded. AMA Queensland gave it a strong B. Dr Chris Perry said—

We like the fact there are 700 new hospital beds being built around Queensland for the next 4-5 years. That's a very strong commitment, that's another Royal Brisbane Hospital being built in a short period of time.

Beth Mohle, Secretary of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, said—

In particular, we welcome the permanent funding for the 400 nurse navigator positions. These positions are in place now and are already making a significant difference to the community ...

On our transport infrastructure funding, the RACQ has welcomed the investment, particularly in regional Queensland. Rebecca Michael said—

We are also pleased to see the regions have picked up their fair share—\$14.5 billion QTRIP allocations. For projects all the way spreading from Brisbane right up to Cape York on those key corridors, the Bruce Highway, the Pacific Motorway, the Cape York package also the Mackay Ring Road, the Cairns Ring Road, the Cairns Southern Access Road—all key projects that Queensland needs.

Michael Guerin of AgForce welcomed our focus on regional Queensland and our support and assistance with disasters, saying—

All three levels of government have contributed strongly to the recovery of the floods in the north west in this state over the last few months. All three levels have supported drought assistance, given that over 65 per cent of the state remains in drought and the industry acknowledges and appreciates that.

Master Builders Deputy Chief Executive Paul Bidwell said that commercial builders would be happy with the extra spending, saying—


We strongly support the idea of borrowing to build.

The LGAQ said our budget has substantial commitments to help regional communities deal with an uncertain economic outlook and maintain jobs. LGAQ Chief Executive Greg Hallam said—

This is a solid Budget that will go some way to ensuring regional communities in Queensland continue to grow.

The core role of state governments is to build infrastructure, deliver services and fundamentally create jobs. This budget does all of that and so much more. I congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer for the budget that she handed down yesterday on behalf of our Labor government. We are backing Queensland jobs.

Budget

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): We have delivered a budget that is backing Queensland jobs. There are 40,500 jobs supported by our \$49.5 billion infrastructure program building and expanding hospitals, schools and roads, delivering the services Queensland needs. Some \$12.9 billion of this goes out the door in this coming year. We are spending \$777.7 million on capital spending in hospitals alone, expanding Logan, Caboolture, Ipswich, Blackall, Sarina, Maryborough, Townsville and Kingaroy to name a few. It is part of a record \$19.2 billion bigger and better Health budget, adding nearly 800 nurses, 200 doctors, 200 paramedics and 250 health professionals. Some \$77.4 million will be spent delivering 120,000 patient appointments and 13,000 surgical procedures.


We have a record \$14.9 billion Education and Training budget. There are four new schools in addition to eight already being delivered and the new Inner City South State Secondary College. There will be some 240 extra teachers and teacher aides to support children with a disability, so much needed across our state. Every child deserves a great start. Funding for Queensland state schools will increase by \$1.1 billion over four years.

Queenslanders are seeing their taxes returned to them on the goods and services their families need. There is even more for regional Queensland in our jobs for the regions scheme—\$70 million for the popular Building our Regions scheme, \$25 million for the Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, \$74.6 million to boost the drought assistance package, and \$1.3 billion in our rebuilding program after natural disasters.

We do not axe concessions for the most vulnerable; we add to them. An additional \$76 million will provide free spectacles, rebates on rates, rebates on electricity and water bills for pensioners and others to a total of \$5.7 billion for those Queenslanders in need. Police get another \$5 million to fight organised crime and for counterterrorism capabilities.

Queensland taxes remain \$666 lower per person than the average in other states and territories, and our tax competitiveness is also better. We have lifted the payroll tax threshold for small business, cut payroll tax in the regions and provided a discount for businesses taking on more workers and extending support for apprentices and trainees right across Queensland. Businesses taking on another worker will be eligible for a \$20,000 rebate. More than 13,000 small and medium businesses will benefit from these tax cuts—once again, something other governments have promised but only we have delivered.

Budget

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.40 am): At the last two state elections Queenslanders chose a strong, stable Palaszczuk government. Since then, we have delivered more than 199,000 jobs. Our economic plan is working and we are backing Queensland jobs, especially in our regions. Yesterday's state budget is another part of our plan to grow the economy and create jobs. Our economy is certainly growing. The year 2019-20 is expected to be the third consecutive year that Queensland's economic growth outstrips the nation. Our exports in the last 12 months to April are at a record \$85 billion, which is more than Victoria and New South Wales combined. We are continuing our record investment in infrastructure and services while focusing on job creation, especially in the regions.

Our massive \$49.5 billion infrastructure investment is creating 40,500 jobs, with 63 per cent of these jobs outside the greater Brisbane area. Our Health budget is a record \$18.5 billion and is delivering more doctors, more nurses and better hospitals. Our record \$14.9 billion Education budget

means more teachers and teacher aides and new and better schools for our kids. We are doing all of this in the face of weakening national economic conditions, with a hostile federal LNP government. Now is not the time to cut back on our efforts.

The Reserve Bank has warned governments that they must play a role in strengthening the economy by continuing to invest in infrastructure to secure and create jobs. We can continue to invest in infrastructure because our state finances are strong. The ratings agencies overnight have confirmed this. Moody's has said that our borrowings, which we are using to help fund our \$49.5 billion infrastructure program, are manageable, and Standard & Poor's has said—

Queensland's wealthy economy, strong financial management, and exceptional liquidity continue to underpin our rating on the Australian state.

They are right. The general government sector's debt-to-revenue ratio was at its peak under the LNP, at 91 per cent. It has been reduced to 64 per cent in 2019-20—lower than Victoria and lower than Western Australia. With this budget, Labor has delivered five surpluses in a row and we are projecting operating surpluses across every year of the forward estimates totalling \$1.8 billion. This means that our recurrent expenditure remains less than our revenue, which is a key consideration for the ratings agencies. It is because of this strong financial management that we are able—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders, as is the member for Theodore. Member for Maryborough, I do not know who you were sparring with, but you are warned under the standing orders.


Ms TRAD: It is because of this strong financial management, recognised by the ratings agencies, that we are able to deliver on our \$885 million payroll tax cut for small and medium businesses, with a focus on payroll tax relief for regional businesses. Our plan to cut payroll tax will benefit more than 13,000 businesses right across Queensland.

We are maintaining our competitive tax status, with per capita state tax estimated at \$666 less than the average of other states and territories and much more competitive than what we inherited from those opposite when we came to office. This budget delivers on our promise to Queenslanders. It backs Queensland jobs and it backs our regions.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Everton

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.44 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. I apologise to the House for not raising it earlier. Fourteen minutes and 32 seconds into my speech yesterday, the member for Everton and Deputy Leader of the Opposition made an expletive, offensive remark in response to something I was saying which is audible in the recordings Hansard have provided. Mr Speaker, I will write to you to bring this to your attention, but I believe that the member for Everton should apologise to the House and withdraw those offensive remarks.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Order!


Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for State Development! I remind frontbenchers on both sides of the House: your role is not to provide running commentary.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Resumed.

Budget, Infrastructure

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's fifth budget will drive the ongoing development of our state, with more and better jobs across Queensland, particularly regional

Queensland. Our government is supporting regional infrastructure through our Building our Regions program, encouraging private sector investment through the Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund and our Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, and driving innovation in manufacturing with our Made in Queensland program. Most importantly, all of these funds are creating new jobs for Queenslanders. Over 5,000 long-term jobs have been created through these programs so far.

In this budget, Building our Regions round 5 will receive \$70 million over four years. In partnership with regional councils, Building our Regions will continue to fund critical infrastructure projects that have so far championed 223 projects and supported 2,419 jobs.


Our Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund will receive an additional \$45 million, bringing total funding under that program to \$150 million. Incentives that encourage projects to relocate or expand in Queensland have supported 14 projects, resulting in over 1,000 direct jobs and attracting more than \$360 million in private investment over the next five years. With success stories like the Qantas regional pilot training academy and Boeing's autonomous systems development program, this program is delivering on the advantages a Queensland location offers to business.

The Jobs and Regional Growth Fund will be able to assist more job-creating projects, with an additional \$25 million bringing the total fund to \$175 million. The 17 projects supported so far have created almost 1,000 operational jobs and have leveraged \$490 million in capital investment in regional Queensland. A great example is Hawker Pacific in Cairns. Since the member for Cairns and I opened its expanded aircraft maintenance hangar last November, 38 highly skilled jobs and apprenticeships have been created.

Our \$40 million Made in Queensland program will receive an extra \$6 million to continue supporting small and medium sized manufacturers. The first two rounds of Made in Queensland are expected to create more than 1,000 new jobs over the next five years. More than 173,000 Queenslanders work in manufacturing, and our government is proud to support innovative manufacturing enterprises to become more competitive, particularly businesses in regional Queensland.

These programs did not exist under the former Newman LNP government and these programs have not been supported by those opposite. As the budget shows, only Labor will deliver these vital programs and only Labor will create jobs, encourage investment and build a stronger Queensland.

Budget, Tourism


 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games) (9.48 am): As the Treasurer said in the state budget, Queensland is a tourism state. That is why we are investing an extra \$20 million in this state budget, on top of our already record investment, to support hundreds of thousands of workers across the state who rely on this important industry for their job. We are focused on ensuring we are opening up new tourism opportunities through our Great Barrier Reef islands rejuvenation package and a strong focus on new ecotourism projects. Ecotourism remains a strong focus for the government. Because of our investment, tens of millions of dollars of new ecotourism experiences are set to be announced in coming months.

Currently we are in a tender process to finalise construction of new ecotourism walks in Cooloola and on Whitsunday Island. All research shows that now more than ever we are seeing strong demand for authentic experiences, and that is why as part of this budget we will invest \$3.2 million over the next two years to create tourism jobs for Indigenous Queenslanders and position our state as the nation's leader in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism. As part of this strategy we will deliver an Indigenous tourism development service which will be dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tourism businesses. Around \$2 million will be allocated towards the development of the new Indigenous tourism products and experiences, with a focus on providing opportunities for traditional owners to work on country. Our record speaks for itself. Under the Palaszczuk government our tourism industry has now grown by more than 20 per cent and this year—

Mr Healy: Hear, hear!

Ms JONES: Thanks, member for Cairns. This year for the first time in a decade our market share is growing faster than New South Wales and Victoria. That is because we are investing more in tourism than any other government in Queensland's history. This budget is a testament to our commitment to create jobs for Queenslanders right across our state.

Budget, Education

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.50 am): The Palaszczuk government has a proven track record of supporting school students with a disability, and I am proud that the 2019-20 budget continues this support. Last week I was pleased to join the Premier to announce that the budget would include a four-year, \$136.2 million funding boost to provide additional teachers and teacher aides in state school special education services across Queensland.


The number of students with a disability enrolled in Queensland is expected to grow by around four per cent over the next five years compared with around 1.5 per cent in mainstream schooling. Some students with a disability require one-on-one interaction with teachers while other students may be more appropriately taught in small group settings. The additional funding, which equates to a boost of around 150 teachers and 90 teacher aides next year alone, will ensure these students have the specialist support they need. The budget also includes funding for a new special school at Palmview on the Sunshine Coast and to complete construction of a new special school at Caboolture which is due to open next year. For the information of the House, primary schools generally enrol right across from prep to year 6 in both mainstream and special schools.

I am also very pleased to announce today that the budget includes \$63.6 million funding over four years to continue early childhood development programs and services across Queensland. I was pleased to visit an early childhood development program in Caboolture East with the Minister for Police earlier this year to see some of the great work being done by the dedicated teachers, teacher aides, staff and of course parents and carers. I also want to acknowledge the advocacy of the members for Redlands and Keppel as well as the Minister for Disability Services and Seniors for the continuation of this funding.

Early childhood development programs, ECDPs, provide early intervention to children with a disability under five years of age who require intensive, multidisciplinary programs. The programs help these children to develop skills and behaviours to maximise their participation in schooling. This continuation of funding will ensure these services receive tailored support from teachers and teacher aides to help them develop the knowledge and skills they need as they prepare for the important transition to school. ECDPs will remain available to eligible children who have been diagnosed or are suspected of having certain disabilities, including autism spectrum disorder, intellectual disability, hearing impairment, physical impairment, speech language impairment or vision impairment and others as well. There are currently around 1,770 children registered at ECDPs across Queensland. This funding commitment will mean that all 102 ECDPs will remain open for registrations, which are largely driven by local needs and the availability of other supports and services in the community.

I can also announce today that the Department of Education will provide ECDPs with around \$500,000 in funding for professional development of staff. This investment ensures ECDPs will continue to provide high-quality educational support for the young children who access their services. The Palaszczuk government will continue to work hard to ensure that all Queensland kids, including those with special needs, receive a world-class education, giving every child a great start.

Budget, Regional Infrastructure and Jobs


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (9.54 am): The Palaszczuk government's fifth budget was all about jobs, jobs, jobs and, as a regional minister, I am very proud that the focus was on the regions. In my portfolios the budget offered investment, opportunity and jobs for Queensland regions so that we see thriving regional communities. I am pleased that the state budget provided funding of \$4 million over two years for front-line community services for those with disability but not eligible for the NDIS in remote and discrete Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. This means better services for people with disability in these regional communities and, importantly, jobs.

In the 2019-20 budget we have further invested in neighbourhood and community centres across regional Queensland by funding Community Connect workers in high-demand communities. These jobs are in places like Bowen, Chinchilla, Mossman, Townsville, Gympie, Emerald and Cairns. We have also stepped in with funding of \$3.9 million over five years for the expansion of place based approaches in Gladstone and Rockhampton. Place based approaches are the way of the future because they allow for responses that meet the requirements of regional communities.

This year's budget is also about helping our seniors in the regions. Through \$3.5 million in funding, we will continue to support Seniors Legal and Support Services in Toowoomba, Hervey Bay, Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Mackay, Gladstone and Bundaberg. This budget is also about helping cost-of-living pressures in the regions, with more than \$280 million in concessions for Queensland seniors to help with everything from electricity bills to rates, gas and water bills.

I am so pleased that the 2019 state budget committed \$2.9 million this financial year for the construction of the Townsville Women's Centre. This money is in addition to the \$330,000 provided last year for this project. Another key regional project in this year's budget is The Oasis Townsville. It will be a place where former ADF service personnel and their families can get help to support their transition into civilian life. Some \$4.1 million in this year's budget comes after \$200,000 in the 2018-19 budget. With the securing of land, tenders have closed on this important project. The local jobs that will be created during the construction of the Townsville Women's Centre and The Oasis Townsville, the jobs delivering the services and the flow-on effect to the broader community make these projects vital for our region. This budget is about investing in regional jobs today and for the future while delivering regional infrastructure and services for our growing state such as those provided through our vital community centres.

Budget, Fire and Emergency Services

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): It is with no small measure of pride that I stand in this House today to talk about the second consecutive record budget for Queensland Fire and Emergency Services. This is a budget that comes in the wake of unprecedented bushfires, widespread and devastating floods, Townsville's monsoon trough and a series of cyclones that touched just about every community on the state's east coast. This year more than \$740 million has been allocated to QFES to employ more front-line firefighters, put more trucks on the ground and build and upgrade more fire and emergency services stations. That is almost \$24 million more than last year.


With this budget we are continuing to deliver brand-new career firefighters across Queensland, as we committed to at the election. With nearly 50 of the 100 promised recruits already allocated, another 25 will be allocated from this year's training courses because this is a government that backs jobs across this great state. In this budget we are also investing \$50 million in firefighting appliances. That equates to 75 front-line firefighting trucks ready, expertly equipped and waiting to keep Queenslanders safe. Some will be Rural Fire Service; some Fire and Emergency Services. Some will be yellow; some will be red. Some will be our newly arriving aerial firefighting fleet—the largest of our trucks and the flagship of our fleet.

We know that the Palaszczuk government governs for all of Queensland—from the islands of the Torres Strait to the edges of the Simpson Desert and across the glories of the Gold Coast—and that is why there is \$104 million in new capital works expenditure and capital grants for QFES in this budget. That is new stations, station upgrades and continued works in places like Charters Towers, Weipa, Rathdowney, Gracemere, Longreach, Rainbow Beach, Bracken Ridge, West Logan, El Arish, Esk, Yarraman, Kilkivan, Rosewood and Charlton near Toowoomba. This is a government that backs regional Queensland and the organisation that is found in every Queensland community, the State Emergency Service. The SES will receive almost \$5 million for communications, facilities, flood boats and vehicles. We know that when Queenslanders get into trouble it is the sea of orange that signals that the SES is on its way to help get them out.

Let us compare our record with the record of those opposite, particularly that of the Campbell Newman government and his protege, the now Leader of the Opposition. As I have mentioned already, under Labor we are seeing a growth in front-line firefighting staff. In the 2016-17 budget Labor committed \$3 million to our rural fire brigades for fuel and maintenance and that figure has continued to rise. Under the LNP, our brigades in the heartland of the areas represented by those opposite received nothing to put fuel in their tanks or to keep equipment and their trucks serviced and on the roads. They planned to slash around 60 of the Rural Fire Service employees—the bulk of those who were training our volunteer firefighters.

The Palaszczuk government is investing in our people, in our buildings, in our vehicles. That means restoring vital front-line firefighters. That means building stations where populations are growing. That means more front-line firefighting vehicles on the ground. This is a QFES budget that reinforces our commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe. I shudder to think where we would have been in November last year if we did not have these people in our ranks.

Budget, Health and Ambulance Services


 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.01 am): Our ambos have had a difficult time lately in responding to a run of horrific road accidents. Last week, at Caboolture Hospital, I met with the paramedics who were first on the scene to that horrible fatal crash in Rothwell. I thanked them on behalf of all of us. Our ambos are there for us on the worst days of our lives. Those worst days of our lives are every working day of their lives.

Yesterday, I was proud to announce that the Queensland Ambulance Service budget would receive an \$85.4 million boost, bringing its 2019-20 budget to \$885.7 million—a 10.7 per cent increase on last year's QAS budget. That includes budget funding for 200 more paramedics. The budget also includes funding for 122 new and replacement ambulance vehicles with power lift stretchers so that our officers have the best equipment to respond to emergencies.

We are building more and better ambulance stations right across the state. We will invest \$55.7 million in capital infrastructure to build new stations and upgrade existing ones. An allocation of \$10 million of that funding will go towards the construction and planning phases of ambulance stations in our regions—at Urraween and Drayton. In Yarrabilba—and I know this will be welcomed by the member for Logan—we will also plan and construct a new station. I know that the member for Thuringowa is very pleased to see funds to replace Kirwan station, where he himself served. The member for Cook has secured a replacement station at Mareeba. Members representing the Cairns area will see the redevelopment of the Cairns Ambulance Station and Operations Centre and we will refurbish the Rockhampton ambulance station. On the Gold Coast, we will refurbish the operations centre as well as the Southport Ambulance Station. Our hardworking QAS staff do a tremendous job looking after Queenslanders. This budget shows the Palaszczuk government's commitment to them.

On an average day, our hardworking doctors and nurses provide inpatient care to more than 10,700 patients. They provide specialist outpatient services to more than 12,600 people and they provide emergency care to over 5,500 people. To meet this ever-growing demand, the Health budget is up 6.6 per cent on last year's budget. Importantly, this increased funding will also bolster our efforts to keep reducing waiting lists, with another \$77.4 million for the specialist outpatient long wait strategy, which will deliver an extra 120,000 appointments and 13,000 elective surgery procedures. This strategy has been hugely successful in cutting the backlog of patients waiting for outpatient appointments from 104,000 under the LNP despite big increases in demand from patients.

Budget, Transport and Main Roads

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.04 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's previous budgets established the pipeline of major projects that today employ thousands of Queenslanders. From M1 upgrades to the Smithfield bypass north of Cairns, from the Rockhampton northern access upgrade to the sealing being done on Cape York, today people are turning up to work because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in these important and often regional road projects.

This year's Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program outlines the projects to be prioritised for Queenslanders. Once again, we have delivered a record infrastructure program for Queenslanders—\$23 billion over four years that will create more than 21,400 jobs. More than \$14.5 billion of that funding will be spent outside the metropolitan area. This budget will ensure that more than 13,500 jobs are created in regional Queensland.

Our investment will make the Bruce Highway safer and more flood resilient between Cairns and Brisbane. We will continue to seal the peninsula development roads supporting Indigenous employment and training opportunities and, importantly, opening up new economic and tourism opportunities in Cape York. Improvements on the Warrego Highway west of Toowoomba will continue. We will work with the Commonwealth to plan and develop improvements east of Toowoomba, including on the Cunningham Highway.

This budget will pour funding into congestion-busting projects so that people spend less time in their cars and more time with their family and friends. We will continue upgrading the Ipswich Motorway and progress the Sumners Road interchange on the Centenary Highway. Of course, we will keep building a better M1 from Brisbane to the border. We have committed funding to upgrade three M1 interchanges that serve our growing northern Gold Coast communities—exits 41, 49 and 57. Of course, we will see the four major M1 upgrades continue—two are underway now and two will follow straight after—after the lost years of the Newman government. Ring-road projects in Townsville, Rockhampton,

Mackay and Cairns will take traffic, particularly trucks, off local roads and help businesses move their goods to market quicker. These investments boost our economy and provide efficient bypass routes between regional centres to reduce travel times and, importantly, cost to business.

Our road safety budget has been boosted by \$205 million over four years, with more than \$900 million to fix dangerous roads. Billions of dollars have been allocated for rail and passenger transport projects. We will deliver 17 train station upgrades and invest \$250 million to reshape Brisbane's Roma Street station precinct by undergrounding the busway. We will continue to invest in upgraded—


Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: To build on the reported patronage that we are seeing on public transport in South-East Queensland, we will continue to invest in upgraded bus stops, expand park-and-rides and make train stations more accessible to people with disabilities and parents with prams. Under the Transport Infrastructure Development Scheme, which was cut by the Newman government, council controlled regional road networks will be supported by \$280 million over four years. There is also more than \$100 million for boat ramps, pontoons, jetties, floating walkways and dredging activities to support our boaties right across Queensland. There is also \$45 million for the southside veloway and \$17 million for the Northern Brisbane Bikeway.

This year's Transport and Main Roads budget continues our focus on investing in job-creating projects across the state, improving economic productivity and keeping our election promises. This is absolutely a budget for all Queenslanders.

Budget, Regional Infrastructure and Jobs

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.08 am): The Palaszczuk government is continuing its job-creation program for regional Queensland. Our budget sends a strong signal that jobs are at the heart of our government's decision-making. Jobs transform regional economies and communities and a job transforms an individual's life.

In addition to providing a record Police budget this year, our government is delivering massive investment injections to two important regions. Firstly, in the Lockyer Valley the funding is locked and loaded. We are going to deliver stage 2 of the Southern Queensland Correctional Precinct near Gatton. This will involve building a brand-new stand-alone facility at that precinct. This investment will deliver 445 construction jobs over the three-year build. Even better, there will be more than 500 permanent, ongoing jobs created when construction is completed and the facility is commissioned in 2022-23.

Five hundred new permanent jobs in the Lockyer Valley is transformational. On Tuesday I spoke to the mayor of Lockyer Valley. She was very, very excited about the announcement and knows what it means for that entire region: hundreds of extra workers and their families living and working in the region. That will create an enormous opportunity for local businesses to provide the goods and services all those extra people need. It is about investing in regional jobs today and the future, it is about supporting regional Queensland businesses and it is about delivering regional infrastructure and services for our growing state.


The benefits do not end there. The stage 2 correctional facility will deliver over 1,000 beds for male prisoners by 2023. This will help address overcrowding across the correctional system. The planning has already commenced for this prison to be a modern, evidence based correctional facility that will provide enhanced mental health, drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and there will be a focus on addressing the ice epidemic and its link to violence and property crime. This new facility will improve the safety of correctional officers and prisoners by delivering safer, less crowded, more effective prisons. This will help reduce recidivism and keep our communities safer.

The \$241 million expansion of the Capricornia Correctional Centre is also delivering a big jobs bonus for that region. It was originally estimated that the expansion would support 130 new ongoing permanent jobs, but I can now confirm the expansion will actually deliver 232 new ongoing permanent jobs, which is great news for the member for Keppel and the member for Rockhampton.

Queensland is witnessing a once-in-a-generation change that will create jobs, create a safer working environment for correctional staff and officers, greatly ease pressure on the prison system's capacity and provide a significant permanent boost to regional economies. When it comes to jobs, our government delivers.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

Report


 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 18 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 February and 2 April 2019*.

Tabled paper: Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 18, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 February and 2 April 2019 [\[953\]](#).

The report covers the committee's consideration of portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between that period. The committee recommends that the Legislative Assembly notes this report and I commend the report to the House.

INNOVATION, TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE


Report

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (10.12 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 17 of the Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 February 2019 and 30 April 2019*. I commend this report to the House.

Tabled paper: Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee: Report No. 17, 56th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 13 February 2019 and 30 April 2019 [\[954\]](#).


NOTICES OF MOTION

Disallowance of Statutory Instrument

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (10.12 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Waste Levy) Amendment Regulation 2019, Subordinate Legislation No. 33 of 2019, tabled in the House on 26 March 2019 be disallowed.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Federal Election

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 am): I give notice that I shall move—

That this House—

1. notes the re-election of the Morrison coalition government;
2. notes that almost three out of four Queenslanders voted for anyone but Labor in the recent federal election;
3. notes the following commentary after the election—
 - (a) former Labor president Bob Gibbs saying that the Adani issue had become a disgraceful example of incompetence by government;
 - (b) former Labor minister and party stalwart Robert Swarten saying 'I would be dishonest if I said there wasn't ramifications for the state government';
 - (c) the member for Keppel saying the Palaszczuk government needed 'a hard look at themselves in the mirror';
 - (d) the member for Rockhampton saying he was concerned about losing his seat and that 'people were saying that Labor was about getting rid of the mining industry, getting rid of the jobs';
 - (e) the Minister for Communities backing calls from MPs for more regional representation in the ministry;
 - (f) the former Labor candidate Mike Brunner saying if the Premier can't make a captain's call on Adani the party should consider changing leaders;
 - (g) the member for Maryborough pushing for cabinet changes and saying we need a minister for regional communities;
4. notes the media speculation that the member for Woodridge was plotting a coup against the Treasurer with the assistance of the member for Stafford; and—

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Those words are false, untrue and personally offensive and I ask the honourable member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has asked they be withdrawn. Will you withdraw?

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. Further, I move—

That this House—

5. condemns the city-centric Palaszczuk Labor government for being deeply divided, with Labor MPs only caring about their own jobs rather than jobs for Queenslanders.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I am seeking clarification on whether, with the withdrawal of those comments by the member for Everton, he is required to withdraw that wording as part of the motion as well.

Mr SPEAKER: I was going to deal with that. Members, if a claim is made by a member of one side of the House or the other that they find words to be untrue or offensive, if a member saying those words in the first place wishes to continue to have them as part of a motion or they continue to stand as a question those words need to be authenticated. If those words cannot be authenticated those words should be withdrawn. Member for Everton, will you be withdrawing those words from the statement?


Mr MANDER: No, we will not. We were referring to media speculation.

Mr SPEAKER: I have spoken on many occasions in relation to points of view and there are differing points of view based on third parties in this House. I trust that you will be able to provide that as part of the debate. Member for Everton, I believe you may not have those documents with you at the moment, but I will need to see them prior to the motion being moved this afternoon. We can arrange a time to do that.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Resources Industry, Royalties

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. I refer to the Queensland Resources Council which, in response to Labor's budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure, said the Premier had broken a promise by raising royalties and had betrayed the trust of the 315,000 Queenslanders who work in the resources sector, especially in the regions. Doesn't Labor's 25 per cent royalty hike on petroleum and gas prove Labor is anti resources, anti regions and anti jobs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. I have spoken about what stakeholders have had to say about the budget and at the end of my answer I might even talk to the House about what some other people have said about the opposition. Let me start by saying this: the inference in the Leader of the Opposition's question is wrong. For her to stand in this House and say there have been fewer jobs in Queensland is factually incorrect, it is deliberately misleading and I will write to the House about that. We have actually created more jobs in Queensland under this government than those opposite. There have been 199,000 jobs created under this government.

The only government that cut jobs—14,000 of them—was the LNP. Let us talk about resources and coal royalties. The only government in recent history that introduced coal royalties was the LNP. They went to the election saying that they were not going to increase coal royalties, but then they came into this House and coal royalties went up by about \$1.6 billion. Once again it is deliberately misleading for the Leader of the Opposition to come into this place and make those statements when they are incorrect. They are wrong.

There would be no LNG industry in Queensland if it were not for a Labor government. It was a Labor government that had the foresight to actually put in place an LNG industry—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I am having difficulty hearing the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That started a brand-new industry. Queensland's LNG industry is almost overtaking that of Qatar, so we believe that, after 10 years, it is time for the LNG industry to pay a little bit more. If it were not for the Morrison government cutting our GST share and not funding infrastructure projects in Queensland, this government would not have to look there.

Finally, we have talked about what stakeholders have to say and now I want to talk about what Alan Jones has said about the Leader of the Opposition. He said that they are hopeless and that the move to replace Deb Frecklington is on. I thought it was the Deputy Leader of the Opposition who was going, but it looks like the Leader of the Opposition is going.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They do not want to hear it, but Alan Jones very clearly said that they are hopeless and that the move is on.

(Time expired)

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Leader of the Opposition and member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. You have previously ruled with respect to when a member of this House—in this case, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition—is being maligned and attacked in the Premier's response. In fact, he was personally mentioned. How is it not appropriate for the member to respond with those interjections?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I will be very clear. On numerous occasions I have said that there are no acceptable interjections. Provocation does allow for some retort. The opportunity for a member to respond to another member does not exist over the entirety of a three-minute answer to a question. I will allow limited opportunities for members, but I will not allow persistent interjections. I hope that gives you some clarity in terms of your point of order.

Property and Construction Industries, Taxes

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question without notice is to the Premier. The Property Council has stated that it is simply not accurate to suggest these taxes will not be paid by Queenslanders or will not affect job-creating investment in the state. Why does the Premier continue to slug Queensland's property and construction industries with more taxes that destroy jobs and investment in Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As the Treasurer said yesterday, and I am happy to say again in the House, this is for overseas investors and companies. It brings us in line with other states. We would not have to do it if the federal LNP government had not cut our GST funding. We have to make tough decisions and that is exactly what we have done. We know that when the LNP was in office they cut jobs—

Ms Trad: They hiked up taxes.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—they increased taxes, they increased coal royalties and they slowed the economy right down. The unemployment rate was so much higher than it is today and our regions were hurting. If we want to talk about one government that hurt the regions, it was the LNP. Through the hard work of this government and our record spend on infrastructure in Queensland, we are ensuring that front and centre of everything that our government does relates to jobs and growing the economy. The fact is that we are growing the economy when there are national and international pressures and when other international economies are slowing. We are stimulating our economy with infrastructure.

Recently I had the opportunity to speak with the then acting prime minister, Michael McCormack. He talked to us about Queensland projects that we can help accelerate. They did not do it in their budget, but they are looking at doing it now and they want to partner with us.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, your continued interjections are not being taken by the Premier. I believe they are designed to disrupt. Member for Gladstone and member for Caloundra, you are warned for quarrelling across the chamber. I have made myself clear on previous occasions.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You will see no better backer of small business in Queensland than Labor. Through our payroll tax relief and the employment of more apprentices, as well as our Back to Work and Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs, we are getting people into work. Unfortunately, the opposition is all about themselves.

Today Alan Jones said that the opposition in Queensland will get away with it because they are hopeless and Frecklington, the leader, should go. He said that they have to replace her and start getting in the ring, because this is absolutely ridiculous. He also said that the trouble with the opposition leadership in Queensland is that it is economically illiterate.

Ms Trad: I think the member for Broadwater may have been talking to Alan Jones.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let's see, who goes on Sky? We know that the member for Broadwater is a regular on Sky. Is he talking to Alan Jones? Who is talking to Alan Jones? We need to know.

(Time expired)

Floods, Recovery Assistance

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Could the Premier update the House on the flood recovery efforts in North and North-West Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. When I was last in Townsville, along with the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa, I was briefed on how the flood recovery is going. I am very impressed with the work that is happening on the ground. At that briefing we were told that straight after the North and North-West Queensland floods up to 8,400 damage assessments were completed. In May, 3,800 follow-up damage assessments were completed and, with more than 1,400 properties recorded as uninhabitable, work is now underway on more than 1,300 properties. That is good news.

We had the opportunity to go back to Quinn Street. The Minister for Housing and I were very keen to go back there, as we had been there and seen the damage done by the floods. It was wonderful to see the transformation of that street. The people who had had to leave their homes are now living in them again. I acknowledge the huge effort of the trades men and women who made that happen. I spoke with one gentleman who had tears in his eyes as we spoke. That man's own home was flooded, but he cared more about making sure that other people could get back into their homes than his own. That is what it is all about. It is about helping others and making sure that others are taken care of.

I can further update the House that the total damage bill was \$1.3 billion; \$800 million worth of damage was done to public infrastructure; \$147 million has been granted in recovery assistance to primary producers, small businesses and communities, including in the north-west of our state; and more than 148,000 people were assisted with \$32 million in personal hardship assistance, which includes those affected by the bushfires at the end of last year. I recognise that, for the primary producers in the north-west, there is still a lot more work to do.

We have the Townsville to Mount Isa rail line up and running again and have improved the route to deliver a 50-minute time saving. Once again, Minister Bailey if you could pass on our thanks to all of the people who worked on that it would be greatly appreciated. Some \$71 million in category C grants have been approved. Some \$65 million has been provided to assist primary producers. This includes assistance to more than 600 graziers and more than 400 canegrowers.

We are an incredibly big state. We go through natural disasters, but we want to make sure that people get the assistance they need to get back on their feet. That is exactly what this budget does.

Budget, Debt

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. With this budget of higher taxes, more debt, fewer jobs and less infrastructure, a family of four's share of Labor's \$90 billion debt bomb is \$67,000. Why has the Treasurer broken a government commitment and given up on debt?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Everton for the question—the deputy opposition leader; perhaps by the end of the week he will be the opposition leader, that is according to Alan Jones. Let's wait and see. There is no better time than when we are in budget deliberations. We know he cannot read the budget papers. We know he thinks it is a bit crazy to have a debt strategy this far out from the next state election. Maybe he is actually waiting until the late sitting days and nights of budget week before he makes his move. Let's wait and see.

I am so happy that the soon-to-be opposition leader—sorry, the deputy opposition leader—has asked me another question today, and it is on the budget. Isn't that good. It is on the budget. It is excellent. I am very happy to talk about debt.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: I am happy to talk about the fact that today Queensland has a lower debt level than we inherited from those opposite. I am happy to report that under the Palaszczuk Labor government taxes per capita are \$666 less than they are in other jurisdictions around the nation. That is \$100 more in terms of savings for mums and dads in Queensland than they experienced under those opposite.

Let me make it clear that our borrowings are about critical infrastructure for our state. The majority of our debt burden is actually carried—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Surfers Paradise.

Ms Jones interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: We do not apologise for investing in regional Queensland. We do not apologise for investing in economic infrastructure. We do not apologise for supporting small businesses throughout Queensland to create jobs for Queenslanders.

When those opposite had an opportunity to actually support the economy in 2014, the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield, went out with his Strong Choices campaign—he did an expansive survey throughout Queensland—and asked people: how do we fund for the future? What did they come back with? People said that they would prefer increased taxes on gambling, mining and gas projects rather than asset sales. They went out and asked Queenslanders what they thought before the election and Queenslanders said, 'Don't privatise to pay down debt. We want you to increase taxes,' but they went ahead and did it anyway. That is why they are sitting over there.

(Time expired)

Budget, Gold Coast

Ms SCANLON: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on what this week's budget will deliver for the Gold Coast?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Gaven for her question. I know how much she cares about the Gold Coast and how much she acknowledges that the government is continuing to invest in a lot of areas on the Gold Coast. First of all, my government took the decision that we would actually fund The Spit master plan upgrades. We want to transform The Spit into a world-class tourism destination and ocean park. Some \$60 million will be there from the government. Seaworld has put in \$50 million of its own money to upgrade Seaworld. We worked with the Gold Coast City Council—it is great to work in partnership—which will contribute \$35 million. I want to thank the Minister for State Development for his great work in doing the community consultation. All members on the Gold Coast should be appreciative of this funding because it is going to be an international destination.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We will also continue to deliver when it comes to education and transport. On the Gold Coast there is new money for a Coomera secondary college—\$43.5 million out of \$54 million—a new Pimpama primary school, the upgrade of Pimpama State Primary College, the upgrade of Southport State High School and the upgrade of Palm Beach Currumbin State High School, just to name a few.

In relation to transport, there is \$65.5 million for the Mudgeeraba to Varsity Lakes and \$45 million for Varsity Lakes to Tugun upgrades and \$12 million for the Oxenford interchange. Minister Bailey announced in this House yesterday \$48 million for the exit 41 upgrade at Yatala South and \$48 million for the exit 49 upgrade at Pimpama. We know this is a growing area of the coast and one that we are very proud of.

There will also be \$120 million to deliver three new Gold Coast train stations. I know that that was something that Minister Bailey, the Deputy Premier and I talked about at the last election. Those train stations will be at Pimpama, Helensvale North and around Merrimac.

In relation to health there is \$2.6 million for refurbishments and upgrades. Lamington National Park gets \$650,000 for new facilities. At Springbrook there is \$500,000 for new facilities at Natural Arch.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry to interrupt, Premier. Pause the clock. Members to my left, the Premier is not being provocative. I ask you to cease your interjections or you will be warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It has always been Labor governments that have delivered for the Gold Coast. We only have to look at building, transport, light rail, the Gold Coast University Hospital and, not to mention, the delivery of the Commonwealth Games and the legacy that remains from that in terms of infrastructure to support local communities. I thank the member for Gaven for her very strong advocacy.

(Time expired)

State Schools, Air Conditioning

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that the budget has revealed Labor's lukewarm aircon announcement will go towards replacing existing air conditioners in the Cooler Schools Zone, will the Premier adopt the LNP's plan to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland so hardworking P&Cs can fundraise for real resources in schools, like books and computers, rather than air conditioning?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The \$100 million over four years is new money. That is to look at areas outside the Cooler Schools program. That is what Queenslanders want to see. They want to see money in the budget that is planned and responsible and is to look at those schools that are most in need.

I think everyone in this House is going to be listening with very keen interest on Thursday. There is not long to go now. The Leader of the Opposition will have the limelight. It will be the opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition not only to outline her vision for Queensland but also to outline how she will pay for her up to \$5 billion in unfunded promises. I am very keen to know how the Leader of the Opposition is planning to fund her \$1 billion commitment to air conditioners for schools.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, \$2 billion. I take that interjection. It is \$2 billion. On my estimates, if the Leader of the Opposition wants to fund \$5 billion in unfunded promises she would need to look at cutting or axing around 10,000 to 12,000 public servants. That is the advice I have been given. Where is the money coming from?

Ms Trad: What assets are they going to sell?

Ms PALASZCZUK: What assets are they going to sell? We know that we are going into the next election as the underdogs, so there will be increased scrutiny on the Leader of the Opposition, the alternative Premier—that is, of course, if the Leader of the Opposition is still the Leader of the Opposition tomorrow to deliver the budget reply. We know that the member for Broadwater is treading water. As Minister Jones said, the member for Surfers Paradise is getting his portrait done, so he must be getting ready as well. In all seriousness, how is the opposition going to pay for their promises? That is the big question for tomorrow. That is the big question. Thursday is the day. It is not too far away.

Budget, Payroll Tax

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the Deputy Premier outline for the House how the payroll tax changes in this year's budget will boost Queensland's economy and back regional jobs?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. The member for Rockhampton always makes sure that I have time to visit small businesses when I come to Rocky. I want to thank him for his strong advocacy for his community and for the small business sector in his community.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, the Deputy Premier is not being provocative in her statements. I ask you to hear the answer to the question asked.

Ms TRAD: Despite the Leader of the Opposition desperately wanting to be relevant this question time, I think all of us know that the move is on, quite clearly. She is trying to maintain her—

A government member: She's absolutely hopeless.

Ms TRAD: She is, yes. She is absolutely hopeless.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms TRAD: All I can say is that Alan Jones was right about Campbell Newman. He was right about the member for Clayfield.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! I quite often say to my kids, 'If I have to repeat myself.' Members, I ask the House to come to order. You will come to order or I will start sending members outside of the chamber. I could not hear the Deputy Premier.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms TRAD: I am so pleased to report to the House that every single business in Central Queensland will benefit from our payroll tax package—every single one of the 440 businesses in Central Queensland will be provided with some level of payroll tax relief. Whether it is not being required to pay payroll tax anymore, whether it is getting a discount because they are a regional business employing regional Queenslanders or whether it is because of our apprenticeship and traineeship program, we are delivering for small businesses everywhere across Queensland because we know that they are the engine room of the economy. If they can employ more Queenslanders, we can see more economic growth and jobs being created for Queenslanders. We are absolutely unashamed about that. I welcome the comments from the CCIQ, who celebrated our payroll tax plan. They said—

Payroll tax relief for small business in terms of a threshold increase is absolutely crucial in boosting employment whilst the discount for regional areas recognises the need to lift confidence in the private sector.

Nick Behrens, who is very well known to those opposite—he is ex-CCIQ and he tried to come into this place under the LNP banner—said that our payroll tax package was the 'jewel in the crown' and that our plan will drive jobs and growth.

We are unashamed about this. I am very pleased to report to the House that the Bank of America Merrill Lynch and a number of other banks have come out with their analysis of the state budget. Merrill Lynch has reported, 'The Queensland Labor government has delivered an expansive budget to support economic growth and job creation.' We know that, because of the federal LNP, our national economy is flatlining, so we are stepping up to protect jobs for Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member for Chatsworth, members, if I have given instructions to the House to cease interjections and I have brought the House to order and members bring it upon themselves to interject immediately as though there was no interruption by me as Speaker, you will be marched from the chamber. That is the last time I will warn you today.

Budget, Vehicle Registration

Mr MINNIKIN: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's comments in the media on 19 May that 'registration will just be in terms of CPI is my understanding—normal CPI'. Why has the Premier misled Queenslanders and jacked up car registration by 2¼ per cent—almost one per cent higher than actual CPI?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am advised that that is in line with the federal government CPI forecast. Let me be very clear: we understand that registration is important for Queenslanders but also it is competitive with other states across Australia.

Mr Krause: It's the second highest.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry?

Mr Krause: It's the second highest.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. It is competitive with other states. Didn't the LNP increase it by 3.75 per cent?

Ms Trad: I thought it was 3.5 per cent.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The LNP had a government index of 3.5 per cent. In their last budget they increased registration by 3.5 per cent, and we have brought that down.

Hydrogen Industry

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Could the minister please update the House on the government's development of the hydrogen industry? Is the minister aware of any other approaches in the development of new energy industries?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Gladstone for his question and for his strong support for our government's investment in regional Queensland. Two weeks ago I was very proud to be in Gladstone—that great industrial city—with the member for Gladstone and the Premier as we launched our Queensland Hydrogen Industry Strategy and the \$90 million investment backed in in this budget to promote that strategy and to support industrial development in Queensland around hydrogen.

Last week I went to Japan to address the World Hydrogen Technologies Convention on behalf of Queensland. I also announced that Professor Masakazu Sugiyama from the University of Tokyo will be Queensland's first Hydrogen Envoy. Hydrogen has enormous potential for our state to create jobs and to create new energy, not just for Queensland but for the world. Queensland is ideally placed to be the exporter of choice for the world because the industry is expected to be worth US\$155 billion by 2020.

There is another approach to energy. It is not just the Leader of the Opposition's leadership that is radioactive. The LNP have proudly called for the construction of a nuclear power plant in Queensland. In the aftermath of Fukushima, in a world that is crying out for renewable energy, they want a renewable power plant. The leader of this cause is the federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt. One wonders what the member for Bundaberg, the member for Burnett and the member for Hervey Bay think about a nuclear power plant being built in their community. When it comes to energy policy, the LNP have as much cohesion as a One Nation road trip.

I heard Alan Jones on the TV last night talking about energy. He was talking about coal. The oracle of the LNP was talking about coal and the leadership of the LNP and he said the leadership spill is on. They are moving on the member for Nanango. Nuclear power is based on a chain reaction. Who is going to press the button? Who is going to go nuclear first? Will it be the member for Broadwater? Do not rule out renewables: the 'shadow shadow Treasurer', the member for Clayfield—bring that renewable back! Of course the LNP is not the LNP without fossil fuel: the member for Surfers Paradise might make a comeback too! The half-life of plutonium is 14 years, but I do not think the half-life of the Leader of the Opposition is 14 hours. Let us see if she can make it till tomorrow. Let us see what she has to say in the budget reply about how she is going to fund the \$5 billion in promises—but that is if she can last that long.

(Time expired)

Budget, M1 Upgrade

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question without notice is to the Premier. Yesterday's budget only allocated another \$5 million towards the second M1 studies with not a cent for construction. Does the Premier have any plan to build the second M1, or is the Labor member for Macalister right in saying that it could take 40 years just to finalise the plans, let alone build it?

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Transport and Main Roads, you will cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Broadwater for the question. My understanding—and I will confirm this with the minister—is that there is \$10 million towards the planning. When it comes to the M1, it is Labor that is continuing to invest. We went through all of those announcements earlier today.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, and it is Labor that has delivered the alignment. I had a briefing on it. We have done the alignment. We preserved it, and we have it there secure for the future. What I will say—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you will cease your interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Tomorrow the Leader of the Opposition will talk about how she is going to fund her \$5 billion in unfunded commitments. Let us see how the LNP is going to fund the second M1. Let us put it on the table tomorrow. This is the challenge for the Leader of the Opposition: set out very clearly how you are going to—

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Southport and member for Moggill, you are both warned under the standing orders. You will direct your comments through the chair if you indeed have any comments.

Major Events

Ms PUGH: 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 government's commitment to grow Queensland's tourism industry by investing in major events?

Ms JONES: Queensland's major event industry is booming under the Palaszczuk government. We know that by hosting major events not only can we attract more tourists to Queensland but also we can ensure there is money flowing into local economies and small businesses. That is why we are very proud that since we have been in government the event calendar has grown from being valued at around \$350 million a year to the Queensland economy to now being valued at over \$850 million.

In this state budget we are delivering on our election commitment to increase the events budget by \$36 million. The annual allocation in this budget is there in black and white for everyone to see. We know that Queensland will host the largest ever Gold Coast marathon next month. This will be delivered on a brand new route because it has grown so much. Over the next 12 months we will host the second ever Magic Round here in Queensland, which is set to deliver \$60 million over three years, and of course the upcoming Logies will be hosted on the Gold Coast.

Today I am very pleased to announce that what was touted to be held at Christmas during the recess has been brought forward. I can announce to all members that it is on! We have had the 'Battle of Brisbane' and we have had the 'River City Rumble', but in a world exclusive I can confirm that tickets go on sale today for the 'Bull Shark from the Broadwater' versus 'No-Show Nanango'. The member for Clayfield will be ringside selling popcorn and the member for Everton will be in the middle blowing his whistle. In the Shark's corner we have the member for Kawana advising him to go the low blow and, if all else fails, to go for the eye gouge. It is on! You do not have to take this Jonesy's word for it: take Alan Jones's word for it.

We know that they are in absolute disarray. They do not have a position on anything. They have until tomorrow to come clean with the people of Queensland as to how they are going to deliver on all of the empty promises they have made right across Queensland. In total we think there have been up to \$5 billion in unfunded commitments made by the LNP. It is the same old playbook every single year. We call on the member for Nanango, the Leader of the Opposition—we think for another couple of days—to deliver her budget speech and say what she would deliver if she were ever to get control of the treasury benches. Once again, do not take my word for it; take Jonesy's word for it. They are economically incompetent. That is what their mate Alan Jones—

Dr Miles interjected.

Ms JONES: Illiterate. I take that interjection: economically illiterate—

(Time expired)

Budget, Burdekin Falls Dam

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the statement in Budget Paper No. 4, which states that in the event the Burdekin Falls Dam is not progressed another government agency will receive the funds. Will the Premier advise whether she is planning to scrap this desperately needed water infrastructure project?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to look at the detail of the member's question. I do not have the page number with me at the moment. There is absolutely no intention to scrap that proposal. We talked about it very clearly. We made a commitment to undertake that work, and we will continue to work with the federal government and we will continue to deliver it. In fact, what we have seen when it comes to dam security supply in this state is that no new dams have been built by the LNP.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have put on the table our funding for the Rookwood Weir. I know the federal government is matching that. I understand that the final design is with the minister's office at the moment. I know that members in Central Queensland are very keen to see that work underway because—

Mr Lister interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: If the member wants to ask a question and put his name on the list, I am quite sure he is more than happy to do so. Maybe the opposition will not give him the opportunity to ask a question. We know how important that issue is for Central Queensland and how important the Burdekin Falls Dam is for North Queensland.

Budget, Small Business

Mr RUSSO: My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House about how this year's budget is supporting small business and how this compares to the support provided by the previous government?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Toohey for his question and for his ongoing support of small businesses in his electorate of Toohey. Yesterday's budget, which was handed down by the Deputy Premier and Treasurer, delivered a huge win for small business, particularly those businesses in regional Queensland, with 13,000 small and medium businesses set to do better under this government. It is the biggest change to payroll tax in over a decade.

As we have already heard this morning from the Deputy Premier and the Premier, the news has been incredibly well received. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland said they are absolutely delighted with this payroll tax package and that it was absolutely crucial in boosting employment. We have already heard the wonderful analysis from Nick Behrens, who described our payroll tax changes as the 'jewel in the crown' and that it would drive growth and employment.

One business that is set to reap the benefits of this change to the payroll tax is a Mackay business, Kynaston Engineering, which I have been to visit with the member for Mackay. They rang and said that they are now planning to take on an extra two or three apprentices because of this payroll package. This is a government that is backing small business and backing the jobs that they create. I wonder what the response will be from those opposite. Who could forget that back in 2012 Campbell Newman and his assistant treasurer, the member for Nanango, had a contract with Queensland—

Mr SPEAKER: Will you table that, Minister?

Ms FENTIMAN: I table that contract with Queensland.

Tabled paper: Document titled 'Please keep this Contract so you can hold us to account' [\[955\]](#).

One of their promises in that contract with Queensland was to increase the payroll threshold to \$1.6 million. That is what they promised. That was in their contract with Queensland, but how did that go? They failed on that promise dramatically. They got nowhere near that threshold. There was no action for small business. We know that this was just another broken promise, but of course there were plenty of them in that contract with Queensland.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, I ask you to please apologise for that outburst. It came completely out of nowhere.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right! Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders.

Ms FENTIMAN: It is great to see the member for Maroochydore engaged in the small business portfolio. It seems that she has put out more media releases on fare evasion by Sunshine Coast youths than small business in her entire time as the spokesperson for small business.

The contract with Queenslanders from Campbell Newman and his assistant treasurer also had promises like lowering electricity prices. That was a fail. It also had promises about boosting employment. Well, we know their record was an unemployment rate of 6.7 per cent and they sacked 14,000 Queenslanders. The contract asked Queenslanders to keep this to hold them to account. I bet you the member for Broadwater has kept it in his back pocket ready to bring it out for the member for Nanango, because they failed on every promise.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the next question, member for Maroochydore, I found your interjection to be highly disorderly. I ask you to please apologise to the House.

Ms SIMPSON: I apologise.

Tourism, Short-Term Accommodation

Ms BOLTON: My question without notice is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for the Commonwealth Games. With reference to short-term letting, would the minister please advise why the state government has failed to obtain the list of recommendations as promised, due December 2018, from the peer-to-peer short-term letting industry reference group which last met one year ago?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for her question and her genuine advocacy on behalf of her community. I was recently in Noosa with the member for Noosa and the mayor when we were doing the Cooloola walk. I had the opportunity to talk to the mayor in particular about what to do with this problem we are facing nationally. One of the things that is very deeply concerning to me as the tourism minister in Queensland is that we have seen an absolute failure at the national level in looking at how we deal with peer-to-peer accommodation growth.

I have continuously been in discussions with the Local Government Association of Queensland and councils across the state. The councils are saying very clearly that they do not want a one-size-fits-all approach to this issue. There are particular challenges in areas such as Noosa, where we have seen extreme use of peer-to-peer accommodation. In other councils, for example, because we have had peer-to-peer accommodation, particularly in the year of the outback, we have seen new opportunities for accommodation open up to host major events. In actual fact, some of the councils in regional Queensland have said that, when they do have a major event, the peer-to-peer economy has provided them with new opportunities to have more people attach to their events.

We established the working group across government because there are levers that are only available, for example, in the state development department or the local government department. We need to have a holistic approach that does not penalise either mums and dads who have made the decision to gain additional income through an investment property or councils which are not under the same pressures we have seen in areas like that of the honourable member for Noosa.

It is worth noting for the House the discussions and the work I have done with my ministerial colleague, the Minister for Local Government. We have worked really closely with local governments to make them better understand what powers are already available to them under state government legislation. In my discussions, many of them were unaware about the powers they already had under existing legislation. As a consequence of the work we have done in this regard, for example, the Noosa council are already looking at amending their planning scheme to limit the locations where peer-to-peer sharing is allowed, the Whitsundays have already changed their planning scheme and they are now developing a planning guide to support hosts, and the Sunshine Coast council have introduced an accommodation levy which requires Airbnb hosts to register and pay a fee. As I said, we are bringing together a cross-agency working group to identify any further state government policy responses that we can deliver to support councils.

I do note that New South Wales announced in June last year that they would be implementing a code of conduct, a strikes policy and a system of registration. They still have not released this work. Indeed, I have written to the New South Wales minister to see whether, with the lack of federal leadership, there is work we can do in a bipartisan way between Queensland and New South Wales to fill this policy gap.

(Time expired)

Budget, Agriculture and Fisheries

Mr MADDEN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Will the minister—

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. Members will be silent when questions are being asked. Member for Ipswich West, please start your question again.

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Will the minister outline the government's agricultural and fisheries priorities? Have there been any alternative views?

Mr FURNER: Firstly, I thank the member for his question and his ongoing interest in agriculture. Mr Speaker, you would know that the Palaszczuk government supports agriculture, fisheries and the regions, particularly in this budget. Let me recap for the benefit of the House what Labor delivers in this sector in this year's budget.

This budget includes: more than \$74 million over the next four years for continuation of the multiagency drought assistance package; biosecurity is front and centre, with our eradication programs for red imported fire ants, electric ants, exotic fruit flies in the Torres Strait and pest weeds continuing, and an additional \$12.1 million for Panama disease over the next five years; \$10.6 million over two years for ongoing reform of our fisheries; \$7 million over two years to support the transition of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges to a more modern training model; \$17 million in additional funding over the next four years for the Shark Control Program; \$6.4 million for further upgrades of research and operational facilities; \$1.7 million to complete stage 1 of upgrades to Toowoomba facilities; and \$700,000 to begin refurbishing the Wacol Tick Fever Centre.

Overall, that is a \$525 million investment in agriculture and fisheries, compared to the \$408 million budget from the last year of the LNP under the Leader of the Opposition and her job-destroying mate, Campbell Newman. Yet all we hear from the LNP is negativity and talking down this vital and important industry. We have the member for Gympie over there acting like the stinging plant of the same name—that annoyingly stings and is a pain—but no useful contribution at all. He tweeted just before the budget—

As we head into #qldbudget week I won't be holding my breath on new funding for Qld Ag.

His LNP cut biosecurity staff by 26 per cent and fisheries staff by 28 per cent. The LNP's last budget cut funding for the portfolio by \$34 million compared to its first budget. I repeat: a \$34 million cut.

The LNP talks down agriculture in opposition and then guts its funding if it gets the chance in government. Mr Speaker, do not listen to what they say. Look at the miserable record of those opposite and their legacy, whether that be in opposition or in government. Only Labor is the true friend of the regions, the true friend of farmers and the friend of regional Queensland right across-the-board. That is why people love seeing Furner the farmer's friend.

Budget, Water Infrastructure

Mr MILLAR: My question is to the Premier. I refer to Labor's high-tax, high-debt, anti-regions budget not having a single mention of either the Urannah or Nullinga dams. How can regional jobs be created if the Premier continues to turn her back on desperately needed water infrastructure that regional communities have been pleading for?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Under this government, we have been doing the wild dog cluster fencing. That is an initiative of this government delivering for regions in the outback. In fact, it is this Labor government that has instituted this year as the Year of Outback Tourism. I know several ministers have already been travelling out west and I look forward to taking my nephew out to Winton over the September school holidays.

As I said, the federal LNP government has failed to deliver any new dams in Queensland since they were elected.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you can leave the chamber for an hour under standing order 253A. You were under a warning. I have advised members that interjections will not be tolerated from members under warnings.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southern Downs withdrew from the chamber at 11.09 am.

Ms PALASZCZUK: In relation to the two dams that the member mentioned, there are studies underway for those dams. Talking about the outback, it is this government that has put in place the Outback Tourism Infrastructure Fund, and I know that the member has often spoken highly of the investment that this government is making in his own backyard.

Whilst I am on my feet, I want to clarify a question that was asked by the member for Burdekin in relation to the Burdekin Falls Dam and CleanCo. The \$100 million set aside for the Burdekin Falls Dam was always for renewable energy. Now that CleanCo is being established, this funding is being transferred to CleanCo as the GOC that is leading on renewable energy development, especially in terms of hydro. However, this is separate from the works SunWater is undertaking on improvements to safety and maintenance on the Burdekin Falls Dam. I just wanted to clarify that for the House.

In conclusion, we know that families in Western Queensland are hurting when it comes to drought. We know that they have been hurting especially in the north-west with the cattle crisis. I do applaud all governments working together—federal, state and local—when it comes to dealing with issues such as the drought and natural disasters.

We will continue to work in the best interests of people in this state. We will evaluate very closely the money and the feasibility of these dams. As I have said, I have been in meetings in Canberra where the federal government talks up dams, but the proof is in the investment. The first dam that we are finalising is the Rookwood Weir, and I know that the final design is with the minister.

Budget, State Schools

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister advise the House of the government's efforts to renew some of the state's oldest schools?

Ms GRACE: I thank the honourable member for the question. I know that he is very happy with the over \$10 million we are investing in one of the schools that was identified in the Aspley electorate. That is fantastic to see. It is also great that we are now implementing an election commitment we made in 2017 under the \$235 million Renewing Our Schools program as part of our better schools policy. We are undertaking refurbishment and renewal across 17 identified schools. Already some of those schools have had money spent in them such as the Mansfield State High School and other ones in Aspley as well. Over recent months the department has been working with each of the schools to identify their priority projects. We are pleased that the state budget includes funding to start these major projects throughout the 17 identified schools. I want to start with one of the schools that we saved in the electorate of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, Everton Park State High School.

It was this government that saved that high school. We saved it from having the 'for sale' sign go up. While those opposite failed to put any investment into this school, it is a Labor government that is spending the money in that school: nearly \$12 million on a new performing arts complex, new cover over existing multipurpose courts and refurbishment of multiple classrooms. What have we seen? We have seen that true saying, 'If you build it, they will come.' We have seen that Everton Park has come a long way since the Campbell Newman era when student numbers were declining. They were ready to put up the 'for sale' sign. We saved it from being sold. What has happened now? The school has seen an increase in student numbers of 56 per cent and it is up to 410 students. That school was ready to be sold off under Campbell Newman and the local member, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.

Other schools receiving funding include—and I talked about Aspley State High School receiving funding for a multipurpose hall and a music and visual arts centre—Bundaberg State High School, a new secondary learning centre and extension and refurbishment; Cairns State High School; Indooroopilly State High School; Mitchelton State High School; and Toowoomba—and the list goes on.

As well as that, the department has identified other projects under this Renewing Our Schools policy, which is fantastic. We have Woodford State School, which will get \$1 million support. It is fantastic that Murgon State High School in the electorate of the opposition leader is getting a new hall, which is much needed in that area. Toowoomba East State School is getting replacement amenity facilities. We also have a number of projects under the school infrastructure enhancement fund, and details on that will come.

(Time expired)

Budget, North Coast Rail Duplication

Mr HUNT: My question without notice is to the Premier. Why is there still a \$230 million shortfall to fully fund the north coast rail duplication while the government is pouring billions of dollars into one project in the Deputy Premier's backyard?

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members, thank you. Premier, you have two minutes to answer.

Ms PALASZCZUK: My understanding is that the funding there should be 80-20. We have put our funding on the table. The Morrison government is not putting in their fair share. Talk to Scott Morrison. Pick up the phone.

A government member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right; advocate for your community.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: We know it is important. We put our money on the table, so why should it be different in Queensland from everywhere else? We put our money on the table. The member opposite should pick up the phone and ring his mates in Canberra. If he loves Queensland, get him to invest in Queensland—pure and simple.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Pick up the phone. Do some work.

Budget, Fraser Coast Mental Health Services

Mr SAUNDERS: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on how this year's budget will deliver mental health services for the Fraser Coast?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have one minute to provide an answer.


Dr MILES: I would like to thank the member for Maryborough for his important question, which he asked blessedly quickly. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$40 million into mental health services in the Fraser Coast region, including a 22-bed mental health unit at Hervey Bay Hospital and refurbishment of the mental health unit at Maryborough Hospital, which I know is very much welcomed by the member for Maryborough. Thanks to his advocacy, we will deliver a 10-bed subacute unit there for older people, which is much needed in the region. That is on top of the additional \$62 million investment from the Palaszczuk government to tackle suicide statewide. These investments are in stark contrast to the decisions the LNP made in their first budget when they cut \$45 million from mental health funding, the biggest cut in mental health funding by any government anywhere in Australia ever. That is the contrast between those opposite and us.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.17 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. The Deputy Premier made a defamatory comment about me today, claiming I made some comment yesterday during her speech that was highly inappropriate. This is entirely false. It is fabricated. I expect her to withdraw and apologise to the House. I will be writing to you about the matter, Mr Speaker.


Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Thank you members. Order!

Mr Power interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Logan, you are warned under the standing orders.

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.18 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Earlier today in an answer to a question that I asked the honourable the Premier about the \$100 million air conditioner commitment, the Premier said that the \$100 million was outside of the Cooler Schools program. It is actually stated in her own government budget papers that they will be utilising \$100 million for refurbishment of air conditioning. I believe that, based on her own budget papers, the Premier has misled the parliament, and I will be writing to you in that respect, Mr Speaker.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Visitors to Public Gallery

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Leader of the House, I wish to acknowledge that in the gallery are members of the Gold Coast Clay Target Club in the electorate of Coomera.

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.19 am): In accordance with sessional order 2B, I move—


1. That all remaining stages of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill be completed by 6.55 pm on Wednesday, 12 June 2019.
2. If the bill is not completed at the time specified in paragraph 1, Mr Speaker:
 - (a) shall call upon the minister to table any explanatory notes to government amendments to be put;
 - (b) shall then put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

As we all are aware, this week is very much all about the budget, appropriation and revenue bills before the House which will take precedence from tomorrow to Friday until completion. However, there is other important legislation to debate this week. This business motion allows for the continuation of debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill to the end of today. Of course in doing so, if this bill is finalised prior to the end of the day, we will continue to debate other important legislation that appears on the *Notice Paper*.

I am sure that we will hear the same arguments we hear every other week from members opposite about this business motion, what they think of the sitting hours and about having times allotted to bills. Once again, since those changes were made, on average more opposition members spoke to more bills than ever before. In terms of any allegations that somehow they are missing out on their democratic right to be heard, quite honestly there is no evidence of that. I am happy for the other side to show some statistics; I have plenty of them. The evidence is clear.

It is disappointing that members are putting their names on lists to speak for the sake of filling up lists. It does not mean that these bills are not important, because absolutely they are, but we see more members put their names on the debate of these bills not because they genuinely want to contribute to the debate but I believe because they want to prove a point. The fact is that we should be beyond that. This is about ensuring that we act in the best interests of Queenslanders, that we have genuine, robust debate and that we get on with the work of the parliament. That is what this motion is about. That is what the business model is about and that is what we will do by dealing with the disability bill this week. Of course, hopefully, we can deal with other important legislation on the *Notice Paper* and through the remainder of the week deal with the budget bills. On that basis, I ask members to support the motion before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Kawana, I remind the House of members on warnings: the members for Maryborough, Theodore, Burleigh, Chatsworth, Gladstone, Caloundra, Toowoomba South, Cooper, Broadwater, Glass House, Moggill, Southport, Maroochydore, Gregory, Buderim and Logan.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.24 am): There are two things I can say to the Leader of the House. One, never assume what I may or may not get up and do in this place.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Not even he makes that assumption. There might be one day when, to everyone's surprise, the opposition supports this motion.

An honourable member: What?

Mr BLEIJIE: I said 'might'. The only support the government will get from us on this motion will be when we revert to the good old days when members were afforded the appropriate and unlimited opportunity to speak at any given time of the day and at any given time of the early morning. That is what we want to see. Secondly, the Leader of the House keeps saying that members just fill the speaking list for the sake of filling the speaking list.

Mr Mander: That's an insult.

Mr BLEIJIE: That is an insult to members in this House. It is an insult to the members duly elected by their constituency. No electorate in Queensland is the same. The issues for my constituents in Kawana are different to the issues of the constituents of the Leader of the House in Redcliffe. They are different and constituents should be afforded the opportunity to have their issues represented. Isn't that why we are here? We are the representatives of the people. Approximately 40,000 people elect us every term on the basis that we represent them in the state parliament.


The Leader of the House said she has statistics that show that more people get opportunities to speak. That is wrong; it is because they have curtailed debate. It is how she reads the statistics, just like how Labor does budget figures and so forth. She fudges the statistics. Because of the guillotining every day of every debate, our members deliberately cut short their speeches to afford other members the opportunity to speak. I do it on the basis that everyone should have the right to speak to a bill. Not everyone speaks on every bill—and that is the individual right of members. As occurred yesterday with the disability bill—I did not have my name on the original list, but I listened to the debate. Some things are said in debate that trigger a constituent issue in our electorate and so we may feel the need to speak to a bill. On the Sunday before 9.30 Tuesday of a sitting week, we may not necessarily have the whole week planned out in terms of, 'I will speak on this, I will speak on that and I am determined not to speak on that' as things change. These are the real statistics about members not being afforded the opportunity to speak: 22 members of parliament on the list did not get to speak to the blue card bill. I table a copy of that. Fifteen members missed the opportunity to speak to the natural resources bill. Six members missed the opportunity to speak to the electoral bill. I table a copy of that document.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, speaking list titled 'blue card bill' [\[956\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, dated 14 May 2019, speaking list titled 'electoral bill' [\[957\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, undated, speaking list titled 'natural resources' [\[958\]](#).


The Minister for Education interjected earlier at the Leader of the House saying that it is not about the quantity but the quality of speeches. If that is the case, we might as well take every Labor member off the list because the quality of speeches on that side does not live up to expectations. Strangely, the business committee meeting occurred yesterday and not on Monday. The parliament commenced on Tuesday, the budget was handed down and then the government decided to move the business committee motion to decide what would happen retrospectively the day before! Why was the business committee meeting at the end of the day when parliament had been in session for the entire day? The business committee usually sits on a Monday. The reality is that the whole process is a farce. The Leader of the House can fudge, read and dictate the statistics however she likes. The reality is that members are not given the opportunity to speak in this place. In the debate we want to talk about all the big issues, as we will in the debate today, like the leadership of the Labor Party, the rumblings, inner turmoil and chaos. Government members tried to flip it all this morning as if it were not an issue. I cannot wait for the debate this afternoon. 'Nothing to see here,' they say. Members should be afforded the opportunity to speak. That is why we oppose the motion of the Leader of the House.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.27 am): I rise to support the parliamentary business motion moved by the Leader of the House. Of course, it is not every week that I get to follow the broken record of the member for Kawana as he sets the tone for all those opposite, those broken records, who get up in every debate desperately trying to filibuster to ensure that the member for Kawana can accuse us of guillotining debate. In fact, all they are doing is reading, re-reading and reading again the speaking notes given to them by their shadow ministers. The member for Kawana asked how we could get through the first day of a sitting week without a parliamentary business motion. We could do that because it was the budget day. It is a thing we do every year on the Tuesday. After that, we settle how to deal with the rest of the week. The Leader of the House called a meeting of the parliamentary Business Committee to determine how the rest of the week should be handled, as is entirely appropriate.

The budget week is an important week. The Treasurer has delivered a good and important budget. From my perspective, it delivers the health care, ambulance and mental health funding that we need, all of which I had the chance to speak to today. Later in the week in my contribution to the budget debate I look forward to saying more about that and about the important investments being made in other portfolios in my electorate of Murrumba.

Tomorrow we will get to hear from the Leader of the Opposition. We will hear how she intends to fund all of her uncostered promises. Hopefully she is getting some help from the member for Clayfield. We know that he is much 'gooderer' at numbers than the member for Everton. Of course, our

expectations are low. Even their own supporters in the media—people like Alan Jones—say that she is absolutely hopeless and economically illiterate, so we can look forward to a budget reply speech that is equally absolutely hopeless and economically illiterate. Between now and then, we will get the chance to debate another important bill this afternoon before moving on to the budget tomorrow, which of course we are all looking forward to. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (11.30 am): I never thought I would have to rise in this chamber to defend the right of all members to speak. Sadly, each week now we have this motion which guillotines debate as a whole. The member for Murrumba just said, when asked why this motion was not moved yesterday, that it was not moved because it was budget day. The debate of the disability services bill started yesterday. People have already started speaking to that bill. More to the point, we did not have the motion yesterday and the parliament seemed to work all right, so why are we having it moved today? Why did the government not just set the agenda from yesterday and leave this motion out altogether?

I do not know what Queensland has come to, because week in and week out we debate this motion that guillotines debate, stifles members, shuts down parliament and denies members on our side—and members on the government side—the right to speak. The Leader of the House can say all she wants about managing the parliament to make sure we get bills passed and go home at 6.30 or 7.30 every night, but that is the type of management you expect in dictatorship countries—places like China, Venezuela and Russia—where members do not have the right to speak out on behalf of their constituents. It is not the role of the government, with its majority, to dictate to us who speaks and who does not speak. It is not government's role to dictate to its own members who will speak to bills. That is not the role of the government.

I can see that there are limited times when the House may choose to bring a debate to an end or to debate a bill urgently, but, sadly, it has become the norm in this House. It should be the exception. Every week every debate is guillotined.

The LNP will stand up for the right of all members—government and non-government—to have their say on every bill before the House. The government's actions, in taking this right away, speak volumes about its attitude towards the people of Queensland. It does not want to hear their voices. It despises dissenting views and shuts them down. Queenslanders want to hear the truth about the budget. They want to hear the truth about the health system. They want to hear the truth about the taxes this mob is imposing on them. But the Labor Party cannot handle the truth.

Queenslanders will not be silenced. Queenslanders will not be let down by LNP members, who will continue to take the fight to this government, week in and week out, opposing this business program motion until it gets rid of it and lets members speak as they wish to on every bill before this House. Queenslanders will not be silenced. They were not silenced on 18 May, were they? They had their say on 18 May and they spoke volumes about what they think about the Labor Party. How good is Queensland? Barely one in four voted for the Labor Party on 18 May. I can tell you the reasons—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Scenic Rim, I ask you to come back to the motion that is being debated.

Mr KRAUSE: I am coming back to that motion right now, Mr Deputy Speaker. They voted the way they did because they did not cop the former Labor leader, Bill Shorten, refusing to give answers to questions about his policies. They did not cop his nonanswers when it came to policy details, and they do not cop the shutdown of debate in this parliament.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Scenic Rim, I just gave you counsel about coming back to the motion. You continue to ignore my guidance. This will be the last time I guide you back to the motion. If you cannot fulfil that role, I will ask you to resume your seat.

Mr KRAUSE: Queenslanders will not cop the government shutting down debate in this place. I oppose this motion and stand here to defend the right of all members to stand up for their communities. Ultimately, I stand here against this routine gag motion moved by the government to defend the right to be heard and the right to free speech of all Queenslanders. We are their representatives. If we cannot be heard on every bill we choose to be heard on to represent people we are letting Queenslanders down. Queenslanders are being treated with contempt by this arrogant, out-of-touch and, I would say, oppressive government. Let us get rid of the routine gag motion. Let us open up the parliament to give all members the ability to fully debate and speak on all matters they choose to. I oppose this motion.

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

AYES, 46:

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

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 35—Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

Pair: Boyd, Bates.


Resolved in the affirmative.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 11 June (see p. 1846), on motion of Mrs O'Rourke—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (11.40 am): Today I rise to speak in support of the Queensland government's Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. Taking care of vulnerable members of our community is something that the Palaszczuk Labor government does so well. Each of us on this side of the chamber takes our responsibilities seriously and we all work very hard to ensure that each and every member of our community is taken care of. Like my colleagues before me yesterday, I found the speeches given by those opposite ingenuous and may I suggest that given the time of the year perhaps they are all auditioning for the Gold Logie. Look out, Costa! I reckon he might be feeling a bit threatened because he might be bumped by the member for Currumbin after her performance yesterday.


I am extremely fortunate to have amazing organisations in the bayside that provide extraordinary support to the people and families living with a disability. Open Minds is just one project that is supported by volunteers and workers alike, entertaining and engaging with baysiders each and every Wednesday morning at George Clayton Park. If you are free on a Wednesday morning, I encourage everyone to pop down. Darling Point Special School, which just last week hosted its 41st fun run with over 800 participants from special schools across all of Brisbane, is yet another fine example of these excellent services provided in the bayside. Last week at the fun run we all came together as a community, supporting students, parents, carers, teachers and staff. The dedication and support of the staff at Darling Point under the stewardship of Charmaine Driver, the principal—who, I might add, is a force to be reckoned with—are outstanding.

After a busy week organising the fun run, we then saw the students, their parents, carers and teachers join forces again with the mighty Wynnum Manly Seagulls as they thrashed the Ipswich Jets. They entertained the crowd at half-time, showing off their footy skills. This is just a tiny snapshot of a few days in the bayside of those living with a disability in our community and the unbelievable organisations that work in this area. It is a reminder why we as a government must always do our very best to ensure that we support our community in the best way possible.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme represents a fundamental change to how services for these people whom I have been speaking about are funded and how the services are delivered to them. The key aim of the NDIS is to allow participants to have greater choice and control in the pursuit of their goals and in the planning and delivery of their supports. The Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019 is necessary to ensure that Queensland has made all amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019. As

such, the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill amends the Coroners Act 2003, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000, the Public Guardian Act and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 to ensure that the DSA operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework. Further, the bill will ensure that existing DSA quality and safeguards continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the DSA that will be outside of the NDIS. It will also strengthen the operation of Queensland's disability workers screening system and, further, ensure that deaths of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to the State Coroner.

The PGA is amended to guarantee community visitors must continue to visit sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect participants' rights and interests. Further, the bill will enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commissioner to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner's functions under the NDIS Act. I take this time again to acknowledge the parents, carers and workers in this sector and thank each and every one of them for their ongoing dedication and support and the outstanding work that they do each and every day. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.45 am): I rise to make a contribution on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. As speakers before me have said, the opposition will not be opposing this bill. However, the one element that I want to make a contribution about is the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. This is something that I have spoken to the shadow minister in depth about and I am glad he is here today, because he has run a very good campaign to have a very small win in the extension being granted. I want to tell the House about the importance of this scheme on behalf of a constituent of mine, a gentleman by the name of Brad Horrocks, who came to see me several weeks ago before the start of this campaign to make it public.

Brad put forward a reasoned, an articulate and a passionate argument as to why this scheme is so very important, particularly the component of the lift subsidy. Brad is a big supporter of the NDIS. He is someone who works hard. He has carers come in and assist him to be able to continue to make a contribution in the workforce. However, he told me about how the removal of this \$20 lift fee caused such angst. The reason is that when somebody with a disability rings to make a booking for a maxi taxi with disability compliance they know and the drivers know that it takes a longer period of time to get them in the vehicle. Brad knows that and he acknowledges that. The issue is that without that lift fee being paid some drivers who would know that the address of that home belongs to someone with a disability are less likely to take that job. They are less likely to take that job because they know that there is time associated with getting that person into the vehicle that they are not able to be reimbursed for.

Brad's issue was not with the NDIS. Brad's issue was not with the quantum of money available. Rather, his issue was the inability to be able to have that fee. He spoke about the dignity of not having a vehicle turn up because you are seen as a burden on their business, and he was not being critical personally of those taxidivers for making that decision. In fact, he said to me, 'I acknowledge they've got a business to run', but he did speak about how the absence of that lift fee would mean so much for somebody's quality of life and the ability for them to be able to ring up and get a vehicle turn up to pick them up in the same way that each and every one of us in this House has that right. I want to commend both the shadow minister and the Leader of the Opposition for the way they have put forward this case. I understand that there are always squabbles between different levels of government, but this is something that must be funded and it must be funded beyond the 12 months, because it is not just an issue of money.


Dr Rowan interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Indeed, other states have stepped up to the plate for a longer period.

It is not just a financial issue; it is an issue of somebody's dignity and respect and an understanding that the time of someone with a disability who wants to catch such a vehicle to go work, or go to the pub, or do the things that we need to do is as valuable as the time of somebody who is able-bodied who wants to do that. I also place on record my acknowledgement and congratulations to my federal member on his appointment as the federal NDIS minister. I think having a Queenslanders in that role certainly gives Queensland a major opportunity to be able to work well with the Commonwealth government. This is an important scheme and, if it is to be successful, state and federal governments need to work well together. Stuart Robert's portfolio is a very important one for service delivery. There

is no more important service delivery for a government than to look after those who are less fortunate. That is the whole premise of this scheme and that is why we all want it to work. We all want any problems that arise to be ironed out.

I understand the reason that both sides of the House are supportive of this bill. It will deliver a sensible and necessary next step in the process. It is indeed vital that we give this scheme every opportunity to work. The LNP members look forward to seeing the issues that we have raised dealt with. The LNP will not oppose this bill. In fact, it will support this bill as it is an excellent step forward for those with high needs in our communities.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (11.51 am): Today, I rise to speak in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. With this bill Queensland is taking the next step in its transition to the full rollout of the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS is a landmark initiative in this country. It was introduced by a federal Labor government to improve the lives of people living with disabilities. The NDIS has fundamentally changed the way we fund and deliver disability services in this country and has helped people with disabilities achieve greater choice and control over their lives.

People with disabilities deserve nothing less than to live their lives independently and with dignity. They deserve nothing less than to be reassured that they will be safe in the care of others and that they will be given opportunities to achieve their goals in life. I thank the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors, Coralee O'Rourke, for introducing this bill and for the work that she and the department have done in guiding Queensland's transition to the NDIS.

This bill delivers urgent and critical legislative amendments to support the commencement of the NDIS commission in Queensland from 1 July 2019. On that date, the roles and responsibilities of the NDIA, the NDIS commission and the Queensland government will change and Queensland will become a participating jurisdiction. The NDIS commission will assume primary responsibility for overseeing registered NDIS providers while the Queensland government retains the responsibility for limited components of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, including oversight of worker screening, authorising the use of restrictive practices and operating a community visitor function.

The bill will also ensure that the existing quality and safeguards systems that are provided by the Queensland government outside of the NDIS are retained and applied to disability services post July 2019. It is expected that over 50,000 Queenslanders with a disability will have transitioned to the NDIS by 30 June this year. The Palaszczuk government has committed to ensuring the smooth transition to the full scheme so that Queenslanders with a disability continue to receive high-quality services.

Let us face it: the federal coalition government has made a mess of the NDIS rollout and people with disabilities are suffering. I hear it every day in my community. When I was helping to support the minister while she was on leave late last year, I attended on her behalf a number of community consultations and heard firsthand how the NDIS had been beset by massive delays, with people waiting on average for four months for their plans to be approved and some people needing assisted technology supports waiting for over a year. A Commonwealth Ombudsman report found that the NDIS participants were waiting up to nine months to have their plans reviewed owing to the fact that their approved plans were not meeting their needs. The Australian Productivity Commission recommended to the federal coalition government that the NDIA staff cap be abolished to improve service outcomes for NDIS participants, but that recommendation has been ignored.

There is a huge problem in remote areas with many Indigenous NDIS recipients missing out on full support because there is no market for NDIS services in remote communities. The shortfall in disability services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in remote areas entrenches disadvantage and inequality. We often forget that disability is a forgotten target under closing the gap. If we want to prevent further disadvantage in Indigenous communities across Queensland it needs to be recognised as a target.

The importance of delivering disability services that are culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people also cannot be understated. In my electorate of Ipswich, the Institute for Urban Indigenous Health works with local health provider Kambu, which does fantastic work in providing culturally sensitive disability services to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Ipswich.

Another concern about the NDIS is that people with disability in regional areas, in culturally and linguistically diverse communities or in low-income areas are under-utilising the NDIS plans because they struggle to access the services they need owing to a lack of available providers or a lack of

appropriate services that fit their specific needs. Many of those problems have been highlighted already by the federal government's joint Standing Committee on the National Disability Insurance Scheme but, instead of fixing these problems, in this year's federal budget Scott Morrison shamefully short-changed the NDIS by \$1.6 billion, showing that he would rather prioritise the budget bottom line than invest in the long-term needs of people with disabilities.


We have all heard horror stories from constituents who have been left stranded by poor-quality NDIS plans that do not meet their needs or who fall through the cracks owing to NDIS applications being rejected. The Queensland government is picking up the slack to make sure that people with disabilities are still able to stay connected to their communities, live independently and achieve their long-term goals. For instance, the failure of the Morrison government to transition taxi subsidies to the NDIS funding arrangement has meant that the Queensland government has had to step in—as it did recently—to provide an additional \$6 million to continue the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for Queensland NDIS recipients. One of my constituents, who is visually impaired, informed me that his NDIS transport plan was woefully inadequate, providing only \$61.46 a fortnight. Without the additional top-up of Queensland's Taxi Subsidy Scheme, this constituent would struggle getting his son to school every day as he would be able to manage only three or four return trips before the NDIS transport allowance ran out.

Ipswich was one of the first regions to roll out the NDIS—on 1 July 2017—and since then I have heard many war stories from my constituents who have battled NDIS processes. For example, a mother who had a 23-year-old non-verbal daughter with autism was incredibly disheartened to find out that her daughter's new NDIS funding package had been severely slashed compared to last year's plan, even though nothing in her daughter's life or circumstances had changed. One of her daughter's goals was to increase her capacity for independent living, but that goal is now far less attainable owing to the funding cut to her package. There have also been other stories of people forced to navigate the NDIS's complex, bureaucratic system only to find out months later that their application had been rejected or that they had been issued with an extremely limited funding package that falls far short of their needs. We do not want people falling through the cracks, which is why the Queensland government will continue to champion access and inclusion for people with disabilities.

Although the commencement of the NDIS commission in Queensland from 1 July means a reduced role for the Queensland government in terms of funding disability services, the Queensland government will not give up on people in our state who are living with disability regardless of whether they are eligible for NDIS funding. Our government will continue delivering state disability services, including support services for clients ineligible for the NDIS and services to address the increased workloads related to the NDIS rollout. We will also deliver services to ensure that Queenslanders can still access critical supports whilst shortcomings between NDIS and mainstream services are sorted out. While the coalition government has short-changed the NDIS, the Palaszczuk government will put people with disabilities first and will fight on their behalf so that they can access the services they need.

Queensland has one of the strongest quality and safeguards frameworks in Australia for people with disabilities. This bill both maintains and strengthens those safeguards to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable members of our community. Strong safeguards will be retained for the authorisation of restrictive practices in Queensland. Our worker screening system will be strengthened by extending the range of offences disqualifying people from working in the disability services sector. The jurisdiction for our community visitor program and coronial jurisdiction—

(Time expired)


 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (11.59 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. I thank the members of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee who examined the bill. This bill would have been dealt with by the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee. However, owing to that committee's workload it was referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. I thank that committee for taking it on. I note that the committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. Certainly, the LNP will be supporting the bill. One of the objectives of the bill is to ensure that Queensland has made all the urgent and critical amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hunt, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS


Budget, Infrastructure

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.00 pm): Labor claims that this budget is about borrowing to build and borrowing to build in the regions. Put simply, it is not. It is a complete and utter sham and the people of Queensland, especially regional Queensland, know it. As one of my constituents recently commented on a social media post, if we had a budget black hole because of an infrastructure build then that would be okay, that is investment. This is not investment, this is borrowing to pay for Labor's waste and mismanagement. Unbelievably, despite all the rhetoric we are hearing from those opposite, Labor is actually cutting infrastructure spending. That is why Queensland roads are congested and getting worse. That is why Queensland schools are overcrowded and student results are in decline; that is why Queensland's public hospital waiting times are blowing out and ambulance ramping is not only back but increasing; and, as my colleague the member for Toowoomba North often says, that is why crime is on the rise and our prisons are at breaking point.

Labor's idea of delivering infrastructure is delivering a great big bureaucracy in Brisbane. If we look into some of the details about what those opposite claim they are delivering in terms of infrastructure projects around this state, again we will see they are completely and utterly misleading the people of Queensland. When it comes to delivering the second M1, there is nothing in capital measures, only an additional \$10 million in QTRIP for transport project planning which is matched by \$10 million in federal government funding. There is no money to actually build the second M1. In relation to the Mackay Ring Road, I am sure the member for Mackay would have loved to have seen some funding for stage 2 of that ring-road, but, no, there is nothing in capital measures or QTRIP.

As for duplicating the Sunshine Coast rail line, again there is nothing in capital measures. There is no increased funding to match the 50 per cent given by the federal Morrison government and a large proportion of that project funding is in the out years beyond 2022-23. There is nothing for Nullinga Dam and nothing for Urannah Dam. When it comes to raising the Burdekin Falls Dam, in that case CleanCo has been reallocated \$100 million for the proposed Burdekin Falls Dam hydro-electric power station but that is pending further consideration of the project and in the event that the project is not progressed CleanCo will be required to invest this funding in a regional renewable energy project somewhere else so that is not going to happen either. After five years in power, all Labor is delivering is higher taxes, more debt, less jobs and less infrastructure. Queensland, you cannot afford Labor.

Stretton Electorate, Events

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (2.03 pm): As always, there are fantastic things happening in the electorate of Stretton.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr PEGG: Even those opposite seem to be acknowledging that right now. I want to mention three events in particular. On Sunday *Seussical the Musical* was held by Stretton State College. There were over 200 students in the cast from prep to year 12. I know we all like to talk in this place about the schools in our local areas, but I do not think too many schools could top 200 students from prep to year 12 in the one production. It was fantastic. With such a big cast and so much support it is impossible to recognise everyone but I did want to mention Julie Stewart, the overall director of the musical; director Adam Hornagold; producer Leona Dangaard; and executive principal Jan Maresca. I also want to recognise Ryan Chapman, who was the Cat in the Hat, a very important role, and all the students and staff who did a sensational job. The great news is that the next Stretton State College musical in two years time will be held in their new performing arts centre which we are building and we will deliver—a fantastic outcome for the entire community.

Another great event in Stretton was the Karawatha gala concert. I commend Shannon Sowden and all the staff and students from Runcorn State High School for coordinating and hosting the concert and also the workshop prior to the concert. It involves hundreds of students. Students from 13 different local schools come together to produce a wonderful concert. It was literally standing room only at Runcorn State High School with all the parents, carers and supporters there to see the wonderful concert. It involves a huge amount of coordination. I particularly recognise the 10 student tutors from the UQ School of Music who attended the workshops to tutor the students. I also mention Craig Millar who has been a real force of nature behind the Karawatha concerts for a long time. He could not be there this year. He was on leave. I say to Craig, 'I hope you get better soon, mate.'

Finally, I want to mention the new bridge over Illaweena Street. The Minister for Environment and I celebrated World Environment Day by planting the first trees on the Illaweena Street bridge with staff and students from Stretton State College. I commend the members of the Karawatha Forest Protection Society who did great work in advocating for this bridge. They do fantastic work in our community. Paula Ross, Bernice Volz, Corny van Eldick, Jill Fechner and Simone Pfuhl from the society attended and assisted the students. Also in attendance were representatives from Transurban. It was a great occasion. When I got to the top of the Illaweena Street bridge I looked over and saw the traffic flow and it made me wonder why they closed—

(Time expired)

Budget, Regional Queensland


 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.06 pm): The resource industry in Queensland is the saviour of this state and, more importantly, the regions. Yesterday the Treasurer had the gall to suggest that this is a budget for the regions. That claim is an insult to the people who live in regional Queensland and the businesses that call regional Queensland home. With mining making up almost 12 per cent of the economy in 2017-18 and the export of resources accounting for around 60 per cent of exports, one would think the Treasurer would be supporting the resources industry. Let me make that clear: the resource sector will contribute an estimated \$5.3 billion in 2018-19 to the state coffers. That is not enough for this Treasurer.

Yesterday the Treasurer completely blindsided the LNG industry by hiking petroleum royalties from 10 to 12½ per cent which will contribute a dividend return of \$476 million in coming years. Make no mistake, this will make Queensland gas less competitive and will risk jobs and future investment. In short, the government has put the shackles on the LNG industry. Queensland Resources Council chief executive Ian Macfarlane said yesterday that this tax hike risks the gas supply for all Australians. Instead of working to maximise the potential of this booming industry, the Treasurer wants to make us less competitive. Make no mistake, this is a government that has nothing but contempt for the 315,000 Queenslanders who work in the resources sector. This is a government that is happy to break promises to the resources sector while happily taking the royalties and the income from regional Queensland.

The people of regional Queensland are realists. We know that cutting \$127 million from water and vegetation management services will mean less staff and resources to help primary producers deal with draconian vegetation management laws. We know this government has absolutely no intention of building dams in Queensland and no intention of realising the potential that those dams would offer. The budget the Treasurer tabled yesterday provides no extra funding for building the Nullinga or the Urannah Dam. Again the raising of the Burdekin Falls Dam has been put on the backburner with the business case now not completely funded until at least 2019-20.

The wall-to-wall Labor members in regional Queensland have been missing in action and that is proven by this budget. Cuts in this budget will deeply affect regional Queensland's biggest industries. By not funding water projects, this government is placing a millstone around the neck of regional Queensland. This government has proven it has no plan to create much needed jobs in the regions and it is clear it has no intention of re-investing royalties back into the regions in the form of critical infrastructure. The budget handed down yesterday is an insult to some of our biggest industries and it is, without doubt, an insult to regional Queensland.

Distribution of GST

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.09 pm): It was interesting to hear the member for Burdekin talking about royalties in the House today, considering that the federal government is changing the integrity of the arrangements of GST distribution and that they have interfered with the independence of the Commonwealth Grants Commission by instructing the Commonwealth Grants Commission to cease reviewing its mining revenue assessment as part of its 2020 methodology review. Without the commission's proposed changes, Queensland will continue to unfairly lose royalties to Canberra. It is absolutely outrageous that hundreds of millions of dollars of Queensland royalties, which are produced from mining the resources of our state, are now going to Canberra to be spent elsewhere in the country. Those resources are owned by Queenslanders and Queensland royalties should be invested in Queensland.

For years now the Queensland government has been doing all of the heavy lifting when it comes to creating jobs, restoring front-line services, building schools and delivering health services to the people of Queensland. Under Tony Abbott, then Malcolm Turnbull and now Scott Morrison, the LNP have cut billions to our hospitals, our schools, remote Indigenous housing, pensioner concessions,

natural disaster assistance and main roads. Queensland Labor has had to fill the gaps. We have had to find money out of Queensland coffers to pay for basic services that the LNP cut and slashed. Queensland taxpayers should be outraged at the fact that Queensland has had to fill the gaps and cover the shortfall.


Queensland Labor has always said that we will not leave Queenslanders hanging, but the LNP razor gang are at it again. This time the federal LNP are taking our fair share of GST and spending it in other parts of the country. I for one will not stand for it and members on this side of the chamber will not stand for it. Queensland is the only state to receive less GST revenue from the Commonwealth government in 2019-20, despite the GST pool growing. Our GST revenue from the federal government has fallen off a cliff. In 2019-20 alone they are cutting \$360 million from Queensland. In fact Queensland's share of the GST has been slashed by \$866 million as a direct result of interference by the federal government.

Queensland is the most disaster affected state in Australia. Over the past decade natural disasters have cost us \$15 billion. In March this year, the federal LNP also decided to adopt changes to the GST distribution that will rip money out of Queensland just when we need it most. In 2019-20 Queensland is set to lose out on \$268 million in GST, because the federal government has excluded natural disaster payments from GST calculations. I suggest that the member for Burdekin talks to his community about that.

The flooding in Townsville and North Queensland caused \$1.3 billion worth of damage to public assets. The federal LNP no longer thinks the recovery funding we provide to local councils and communities should be classed as necessary. Not only is Queensland the only state to receive less GST revenue—

(Time expired)

Tourism

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.12 pm): When the minister for tourism stands up and says that tourism is booming in this state, it is ashes in the mouths of providers who are struggling and who have seen revenue fall off a cliff. People in cities such as Cairns are looking for certainty and vision to deliver them from the malaise that they are in. Instead, in this year's budget the property industry will be hit with the ninth new tax of the past three years. If we combine that with the mixed messages on the global tourism hub and the cancelling of projects, Queensland is seen as having a sovereign risk for people wanting to invest in tourism. That is a great shame.


What is the LNP's vision for tourism? I will tell the House what we will do. We will remove that sovereign risk. There will be no new taxes. Investors will not wake up year after year to cop a hiding from those opposite. We will set KPIs. Rather than airlines giving over money only to see routes disappear long after the media releases have been issued and the champagne bottles have been popped, we will set KPIs that will deliver funding to airlines and deals will be honoured. We will deliver a clear message, that is, we will be open for business but we will allow individual regions to maintain their individuality.

The Leader of the Opposition has shown great vision in putting together the portfolios of tourism and environment. We will end the war in which the department of environment is hell-bent on stopping any ecotourism projects in this state. If people want to know just how fanciful the opportunity is for ecotourism while we have a department of environment stopping everything, I note that the budget papers show that not a single dollar of income is predicted from the Wangetti Trail until 2023. At a time when the Cairns economy is crying out for a new project, there will not be a single dollar of income until 2023. The department of environment must be reformed.

Under this minister, there has been no certainty in the koala protection strategy. They are even unable to sink a ship the right way up to create a wreck dive site. They cannot deal with problem crocodiles in a timely way, allowing communities certainty so that they can offer tourism and lifestyle experiences. They cannot provide enough points for people to do the right thing and cash in their recycling. I will make one final prediction: in a few weeks time, the disaster that is the implementation of the waste levy will come home to roost in higher prices and a disastrous rollout under this minister.

(Time expired)

Townsville, Small Business Week

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.15 pm): During Small Business Week, Minister Shannon Fentiman, the minister for small business, came to Townsville to announce an extra \$10 million to build small business resilience across North Queensland following the flood event that we have all heard

about in this chamber. That \$10 million will assist businesses to plan for the future and increase resilience by providing assistance in things such as vital flood-proofing measures, resistance business planning and building-plant and equipment repairs, as well as other professional assistance.


The minister visited the Fairfield Central Shopping Centre, which many people would have seen on the news as it was where the tinny flotilla was based. People were picked up from their homes and brought back to the centre, where there was a lot of devastation. It was great to see that a lot of those businesses have reopened. People were able to meet the minister and were very happy to talk about the flood of support they received from the government, which helped them to get their businesses back up and running.

There is one thing that I keep coming back to in relation to the people of Townsville and it is that, no matter what was happening, every time you went to help someone they would say, 'Don't worry about me. There are people worse off than me. Go and help them.' Even people who had the entire contents of their homes laid out on their lawns would say that to us. I attended the Ronald McDonald House charity ball, which about 400 people attended given the dire straits that we had been in with the floods. We listened to a speech by 15-year-old Mackealie Twidale, who has an untreatable disease. Mackealie spoke about the Saturday night of the flooding event.

When the rain was falling and Townsville was starting to drown, Mackealie was in surgery. Twice during that surgery she almost died. Her parents were at the hospital, waiting and praying, as we can all imagine. Their home was inundated with floodwater, so their 18-year-old son had to evacuate their other children aged three, four, and six years old. Those children are Danny and Leonie Twidale's foster kids. Even though their 15-year-old daughter was in surgery and almost died twice, and their 18-year-old son had to evacuate their home, such is the resolve of those people that on the night of the charity ball they said to us, 'You know what, don't worry about us. There are people out there worse off than us.'

Such is the resolve of the people of Townsville. Such is the resolve of our community, which bonds together and works hard to look after one another. It was great to have Minister Fentiman in town, looking after small business.

Youth Detention

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.18 pm): Recently *Four Corners* did an extraordinary report into what is going on in Queensland watch houses. What we saw should horrify every Queenslander. We saw children as young as 10 in watch houses, some of which accommodate up to 70 kids. We saw kids lying on foam mattresses, crying out for their mothers. Some of those kids had been there for long periods. We heard stories of a severed finger and kids living next door to hardened criminals.

Since that horrific report on *Four Corners*, the question has to be asked: what has the Labor government been doing about this? It is truly precious little. What have they done? The first thing they have done is issue media releases. They issued a media release talking about a new department that the Premier said would take a fresh look at this problem. There is no need for a fresh look. There is a need for a decision. It is time to get kids out of watch houses. There is no need for a fresh look.

The second thing they have been doing is talking about money. They talk a lot about money. There is now over \$500 million committed to youth justice in Queensland. I will be watching that like a hawk to make sure it is spent appropriately because I have no confidence—and the budget yesterday proved it again—that that money will be spent appropriately. The numbers they should be concerned about are the numbers Mark Willacy keeps on tweeting. On 30 May there were 69 kids still in watch houses—30 of them had been there for a long period of time.


The third thing they have been doing is wasting time. They have been wasting time in this parliament. They blocked our amendment for a 72-hour time frame to get kids out of watch houses. They have ignored our temporary accommodation idea, blindly following their own ideological pursuits.

Worst of all, they have wasted this parliament's time. Members may recall that in the last sitting week when this issue was crying out for government leadership the former attorney-general, the member for Woodridge, was in this House talking partisan political dross about Jim Chalmers and said not a single word about watch houses. A bit like Jim Chalmers, who did not have the ticker to have a crack at the Labor leadership, we have the member for Woodridge unable to show the ticker to have a go at the Treasurer.

An opposition member: No comment.

Mr JANETZKI: No comment, member for Woodridge. We had the current Attorney-General wax lyrical with partisan political dross about a couple of Labor candidates somewhere. There was not a single word about kids in watch houses in Queensland. There was not a single word about the human rights of these kids in watch houses. Then we had the wannabee attorney-general of Queensland, the member for Waterford, who similarly spoke partisan political dross about Des Hardman in the seat of Forde. There was no talk about human rights and the kids are still in watch houses.

Crime and Corruption Commission

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.21 pm): It is good news week this week for the Maryborough electorate in terms of the budget. I would like to congratulate the Deputy Premier and Treasurer.

I rise today on a serious matter of public interest. Alan MacSporran and the entire team at the CCC have been ensuring local government officials are kept to the same high standards as other state representatives and officials who support us. What worries me is that while the CCC have been doing this hard work on behalf of Queenslanders, they have been criticised publicly. I say to those critics, 'Shut up and let the CCC do their job.' It is in the interests of every Queenslanders that we can trust our local governments.


It was clear from the Belcarra public hearings and the recent convictions of people from the Ipswich City Council that everyone—the government, the parliament, the CCC and the opposition; even the opposition—have a job to do to make sure Queenslanders can trust their councils. I know more deeply concerning stories will arise before this is out.

The CCC have done a good job of looking at the recent past, but I have received complaints from my constituents about deals going back further. So serious are these matters I felt it was appropriate to provide them to the CCC for immediate investigation. These matters relate to a sitting member in this House during their time on council. The complaint that I have received and properly sent to the CCC raises concerns that a former councillor used their position to sell property for which he was the beneficial owner, without declaring the interest and without a transparent sale process. The same council presided over land deals that enriched a local businessman, who was a close personal friend of the council CEO, at the expense of local ratepayers.

As we saw in Ipswich, when the council becomes a property developer ratepayers need to be extra careful. These concerns with regard to Ipswich are not the concerns I raise today in this House. I will not name the member because I think it is for the member to advise the Leader of the Opposition what has occurred. It is a matter for the Leader of the Opposition to show some leadership on this matter.

I am sick of people bagging the CCC for cleaning up local government. It makes me suspicious when the people in positions of power, whom the CCC are supposed to keep honest, start attacking the independent watchdog. That is a risk to our democracy and to our reputation in Queensland.

Local Government

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.25 pm): There are over 550 elected local government representatives who, without fanfare, go about their work every day for their communities. Mayors, councillors and their staff put in blood, sweat and tears to achieve better outcomes for their councils, communities and, ultimately, the state of Queensland. These elected officials are the people whom Labor wants to replace with their own candidates after they have rigged the local government elections to suit their own political agenda. These people in local government in Queensland are being let down by Labor. The so-called Partners in Government agreement between the state and local governments has been absolutely trashed by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The lack of genuine consultation or more like the imposition of requirements on local government in Queensland has frustrated and incensed local government. As a final resort they were obliged to mount their own campaign against the state government because of the arrogant treatment dished out to them by the Palaszczuk Labor government. They effectively told Annastacia Palaszczuk to keep her 'hands off my council'. We had this Labor government proposing changes to the law to force ratepayers' funds to be spent on candidates in local government elections.

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. The member is straying into areas covered by a bill before the House at the moment.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): I had not noticed that the member had mentioned matters in the bill itself. Member, just be careful in terms of anticipating debate of a bill before the House. You can talk about other matters, but not those in relation to a bill before the House.

Ms LEAHY: The Labor government was proposing changes to force ratepayers' funds to be spent on candidates in local government elections, even if the candidate were not elected.

Mr BROWN: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker. That is definitely anticipating debate.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have been advised that the matters are not in the bill. However, I warn the member to please stay away from matters contained in the bill.

An opposition member interjected.

Ms LEAHY: The member for Capalaba does not know what is in the bill. That is not the only example of ratepayers' funds being diverted away for Labor government whims.


The cost to run the local government election in 2020 has more than doubled since 2016. It is ratepayers who will pay for these elections. The ECQ sends the bill to councils. In fact, some councils are saying that their cost has trebled. Indications are that the total cost will increase from \$13 million in 2016 to \$27 million in 2020. Why? It is because the local government voting system is being rigged so the ECQ has factored that in to the additional cost. That is \$14 million that will not be spent on Queensland's parks and gardens and roads, water or sewerage because the state Labor government is putting these imposts onto ratepayer.

This brings me to the essential services of water and sewerage that are delivered by local government in most communities across Queensland. It is no secret that previous Labor governments removed a billion dollars of grants and subsidy programs for Queensland councils. Is it any wonder that we now see that the amount of funds provided is far below demand. The grants and subsidies program is heavily oversubscribed.

The LGAQ warned in their media release yesterday that 'regional communities also facing a looming water infrastructure challenge both in terms of supply and treatment'. We also need to look at Labor's fifth new tax—the waste levy—and its impact on ratepayers and councils. In the *Gympie Times* we read about the rubbish decision where waste fees are headed up. The council lays the blame for the tip price hike at the state government's feet.

(Time expired)

Budget, Mount Ommaney Electorate

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.28 pm): I was chuffed to get my hands on the budget yesterday, and in my short time today I am going to focus on the key infrastructure commitments that we are investing in as a government to get Mount Ommaney locals to work sooner and, more importantly, back home at the end of the day. Firstly, there is the long-awaited Sumner Road overpass. Last week as I drove through I noticed the Telstra crew had just finished removing services from the bridge, work they had started earlier this year. This means that we are closer than ever to awarding the tender for construction. It is not just the bridge that we committed too at the election—oh no, it is better than ever.

The Palaszczuk government's record roads and transport budget will see an additional \$15 million for the Sumners Road interchange upgrade to construct six new lanes to bust congestion in our growing area. I would like to thank the Harding family, local business owners, and the Centenary Stormers soccer club because it is thanks to their advocacy that this new design will also include additional U-turns. This upgrade to the upgrade brings the total project budget to \$80 million. I am excited to see that it will also create 105 construction jobs for the life of the project.

The additional investment in a new four-lane bridge heading westbound will be constructed alongside initial plans for a two-lane eastbound bridge, further cutting congestion for the interchange's 35,000 daily drivers—but there's more! It will also include a brand-new, completely grade separated bicycle underpass for our many centenary cyclists. I know that our local Bicycle User Group, and Chris Cox in particular, are really pleased with this aspect of the upgrade to the plan. Locals know that the Sumners Road overpass is busier than ever—traffic is growing year on year—due to the thriving business hubs of Darra and Sumner Park. We are getting on with the job of building this vital piece of infrastructure.


Now to some news on the Centenary Bridge. I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government will begin design in coming weeks for a new Centenary Bridge at Jindalee. We have \$16 million locked in to fast-track investigations and a business case for the new three-lane bridge over the Brisbane River. With more than 85,000 vehicles a day using this road, I know that for Centenary locals it just cannot come soon enough.

Finally, it was a pleasure to join my good friend the Minister for Transport and Main Roads to formalise the acquisition of the brand-new site for our Darra park-and-ride. This mega popular park-and-ride is full shortly after seven every morning. The \$8 million we are investing will provide an additional 180 car parks, taking the total to more than 440 carparks. This means more Centenary residents will be able to get a park at the park-and-ride and to get to work and back home to their families sooner.

This budget is delivering on what matters to the Mount Ommaney electorate—jobs and less congestion. What that means is more time with our loved ones, and isn't that what it is all about?

(Time expired)

Bajool, Fish Farm

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.31 pm): I rise to speak about the apparently absurd circumstances that have led me to question whose best interests the present state government is advancing because it certainly is not Queensland. To provide some background, at Bajool I have a forward-thinking family who were looking for a way to diversify and avoid relying solely on cattle grazing. The idea to farm fish began to take form. The benefits were appealing. They could use their water twice and develop an extra protein source on their rural block.

The Besches self-funded this enterprise and invested close to \$2 million into their business over the last six years. They now supply approximately two tonne of live barramundi into the Brisbane market every month from a business that runs 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year. Indeed, their system was expensive to set up but they have proved the environmental benefits, the fish health benefits and the benefits to the market in being able to provide premium fish consistently all year round.


The grow-out facility is fully enclosed and able to safely manage biosecurity threats facing the industry such as the white spot outbreak that we had recently with prawns. The facility safeguards against farmed fish being able to reach the natural waterways and cross-contaminate our natural species. The facility does not take any water from the creeks, rivers, dams or oceans, so the farm is protected from water quality issues and only discharges approximately one per cent of water a day which is used to improve the cattle-carrying capacity of the property.

In six years of operation their business has not had a single disease or fungal outbreak. As a matter of fact, they have hardly lost a fish. The Besches have not had to treat their fish with any medications or add chemicals or additives to the system. In effect, their system leads the way for the future of aquaculture. So what does the state government do? Our Premier flies to Abu Dhabi to inspect and discuss the expansion of fish farms in the United Arab Emirates when we have the exact same fish farm in Bajool. I would quite happily stamp her passport to come and have a look at the one in Bajool. How could they get everybody together and go over there to have a look at something that was designed and built here on the Sunshine Coast and exists in my electorate of Mirani?

The UAE imports 90 per cent of its seafood, so that should have been a big clue for the Premier to question why. In my book, it is almost akin to selling the rights to cane harvesters to Brazil and then wondering why a couple of decades later our sugar industry is in a perilous state whilst Brazil is now the biggest global producer of sugar cane. The absurdity does not end there. Digging up the Fitzroy Basin to make—

(Time expired)

Ambulance Service

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.34 pm): As a former paramedic of some 28 years, I know the good job that our ambulance staff do in our communities right across Queensland. We have heard the very good news from the minister in relation to the increased budget for QAS.

QAS has a broad and diverse workforce including from our call takers who provide assistance over the phone—we have all seen reports in the media of babies being born whilst under instruction from our emergency medical dispatchers—to our patient transport officers, LARU officers, advanced care and critical care paramedics, and all QAS support staff. The Queensland Ambulance Service is

there each day providing compassionate, quality patient care to Queenslanders in their time of need. I know that they are each filled with care and compassion. We all recall that infamous picture of the terminally ill patient wanting to view the ocean just one last time.

Last year, the QAS reported that they received more than one million calls for service. They can be responding to calls for service from an acute patient suffering a heart attack to being on standby at major sporting events, responding to calls for service from the rescue helicopter platform, providing advice and care from our low acuity response units, and providing assistance to other emergency services. They also respond to a range of challenging and complex cases where some patients can be affected by drugs or alcohol or certain medical conditions. In some of these cases, sadly we are hearing of our fine men and women of the QAS being assaulted on the job.

We know that our QAS paramedics save lives every day. Sadly, however, we recently saw in Townsville concerning figures about QAS staff coping abuse and being assaulted whilst on the job, and that is simply unacceptable. Across the state there has been a decline generally in paramedic assaults thanks to the work of QAS, the Queensland Police Serve and United Voice ensuring that QAS paramedics were provided with safety and situational awareness training and the government accepting all 15 recommendations from the Queensland Paramedic Safety Taskforce.

However, in Townsville the reported assault numbers on our local paramedics remained stubbornly high, and in January I wrote to the health minister requesting more to be done. I would like to thank the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services for coming up to Townsville on 24 April to launch a local initiative in Townsville aimed at increasing public awareness through social media and billboards that abusing our paramedics will not be tolerated. I thank those paramedics and QAS communications staff who shared their own powerful and thought-evoking stories—advanced care paramedics Naomi O'Callaghan, Belinda Boyle and Sean Cottrell; emergency medical dispatcher Corey Grainger; and operations centre supervisor David Beil. There is no excuse for abuse.

While I am on my feet, I want to acknowledge the minister for our record funding of over \$800 million—an increase of 10 per cent—in the budget handed down yesterday; for the announcement of 200 additional ambulance officers for Queensland who will be dispatched throughout the state; and for the \$1.6 million going towards the \$5 million replacement of the Kirwan Ambulance Station, which is where I worked.

Police Service, Resources; Youth Detention



Mr WATTS (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.37 pm): It is a pleasure to follow the Labor member because we saw in his patch last week what happens when we stretch the thin blue line. We know that in the 2018-19 financial year the police resources have been under extreme pressure. In his patch last Friday night we saw a 24-hour police station close. A 24-hour police station closed because they have not delivered the police officers that were promised at the last election. The member should be ashamed. While he is writing letters congratulating his minister on things, he should write a letter—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence at what the member has just said and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stevens): Member, will you withdraw please?

Mr WATTS: I withdraw. What the member should be doing is writing to his minister and asking him to deliver the police that Townsville was promised at the last election but has been sadly let down by the Labor government.

Today I want to talk about the absolute failure around watch houses and youth justice here in Queensland. I spoke in this place on the Human Rights Bill and I gave fair warning that there were 10-year-olds incarcerated in Brisbane who had been flown from all around the state to get here, that watch houses were being used as a youth detention centre and that it was inappropriate. I have a minister who will not let me in. He will not let me hold the government to account which is the job that the Queensland taxpayers pay me to do—hold him to account for his complete and utter failure. It has been a drain on police resources. The overtime cost is just under \$1 million—\$927,000 in overtime for police to babysit these kids in the watch houses.


That is why the thin blue line is being stretched to the limit, and it needs to change. The minister needs to take responsibility for the drain on police resources this debacle has caused. There has been a complete lack of planning. A completely incompetent plan to take 17-year-olds out of jails has led to this crisis. It is a drain on police resources, a drain on police numbers and a drain on police morale. I

am very concerned about the stress levels of some of the officers who have been serving in the watch house having to babysit 10-year-olds for 30 or more days. They were not trained for this. The watch house was not built for this.

This is a completely inappropriate use of a detention centre and is almost a breach of the government's own human rights bill. Despite their virtual signalling about how they are going to protect people's human rights they are locking up 10-year-olds in cells that were designed to incarcerate murderers. This is not the appropriate place for them and they need to do something about it. I can see no great solutions coming from this budget. A bureaucracy is being created but we are years away from solving the problem. I might add that when the 10-year-olds finally do get out of the watch house they will be the ones saddled with the \$90 billion debt and increased taxes that they will have to pay over an entire lifetime—

(Time expired)


Budget, Rockhampton Electorate

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.40 pm): I recently took the opportunity to reflect on the many achievements of the Palaszczuk government since taking office in 2015. As the local member I have spent every day fighting for jobs and dollars for my region. We have so many fantastic projects on the go. Now we have another great jobs budget. Our government has created more than 199,000 jobs—more than 7,100 new jobs in Central Queensland in the past year alone. Our Local Buy policy has ensured that local industries are the beneficiaries of jobs, for example, the Capricornia Correctional Centre expansion or the courthouse precinct upgrade—over \$255 million with more than 200 construction jobs.

The Palaszczuk government's Works for Queensland program has supported the Rockhampton Regional Council with in excess of \$30 million for projects like Kershaw Gardens, the Cedric Archer water play area, various footpath programs, the North Rockhampton swimming pool, the Mount Morgan streetscape, and on and on. These would not have happened without Labor funding. In fact, for the last 30 years Labor has delivered all of the major infrastructure projects in Rockhampton. Work is about to commence on the art gallery with an investment of \$15 million from the Palaszczuk government which I have fought hard for. It will create 104 construction jobs. More than 800 Rockhampton locals have secured jobs under the Back to Work program, which gives employers the confidence to take on new employees through financial incentives. The \$200 million commitment to the Rockhampton Ring Road will support 780 new jobs.

The Palaszczuk government has invested hundreds and hundreds of millions of dollars in the South Rockhampton flood levee, Rookwood Weir, the rail manufacturing hub and hospitals and schools—the list goes on—creating jobs, jobs and more jobs. Since the Palaszczuk government took office we have facilitated the investment of more than \$20 billion in resource projects, supporting several thousand jobs. In the last month or so we have seen announcements about the \$1 billion Olive Downs coalmine project, which will create 500 jobs in construction and 1,000 operational jobs, and the \$1 billion Winchester South project, which will create another 950 jobs. This is on top of the more than 30,000 existing jobs in the Bowen Basin. I will always fight for the best deal for the people of Rocky and CQ, and I will not settle for anything less than our fair share.

Budget, Electricity

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (2.43 pm): Yesterday we saw a prime example of Labornomics when the Deputy Premier and Treasurer of this state handed down the Queensland budget. What do we see? Taxes are up, debt is up, jobs are down and infrastructure spending is down. Let us have a bit of a look. The people of Queensland have woken up to Labor governments, and that is why we saw only one in four Queenslanders vote for Labor at the federal level. That sent a number of the members opposite into a real panic. They hit the panic button last week and they started making all sorts of accusations about their own ministers. I would like to talk about a couple of the ministers that I shadow.


We all remember a couple of years ago when I spoke about the hidden tax that the Labor Party uses in relation to electricity. In the 2016-17 budget we saw that \$482 million was supposed to be made from generators. That was revised to \$892 million, but it ended up being \$1.24 billion. There was an extra \$759 million in hidden electricity tax foisted onto this state and we are seeing it again. I table extracts from the Budget Strategy and Outlook.

Tabled paper: Documents titled 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2017-18', 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2018-19' and 'Budget Strategy and Outlook 2019-20' [[959](#)].

We have seen a budgeted figure of \$1.9 billion this year for generators, but now we are seeing a revised figure of \$1.442 billion, an increase of \$433 million. This government keeps saying that they are doing something about electricity prices. They should tell the foundry industry in particular about this, because I have been to just about every foundry in Queensland over the last year and they are all struggling. They cannot get a meeting with this minister. He is ignoring any of their attempts to get a meeting with them; however, those industries have been audited. What is the solution that the government is looking for for those industries? They have said, 'The best outcome for you is to go and buy a diesel generator.' They said, 'Go and buy a diesel generator because we will not sell you electricity at an appropriate rate.' They are also telling our farmers and irrigators exactly the same thing. We have irrigators out there who are going back to diesel generators because this government cannot sell them electricity at a reasonable price. Something has to be done about this. This government is completely responsible for the price of electricity in this state. They can crow about a few people getting subsidies and lower prices in some parts of the regions, but they have to do something before they send business in this state broke.

(Time expired)


Food Connect

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.46 pm): During Queensland Small Business Week at the parliamentary reception held by Minister Fentiman on 15 May I was introduced to Camilla Tulley by Fiona from Avid Reader. Fiona has the best bookstore in West End. It is a bookstore that I often visit. During my introduction to Camilla I became aware of a crowdfunding campaign for the purchase of the warehouse in Salisbury from which Food Connect operates. I had been aware of Food Connect for some time, having previously visited the shed at its opening. I have vivid memories of the craft beer stand and enjoying the cold ales that were on display at the shed.

During my conversation with Camilla at the function I was again invited to visit the shed and be reminded of the great work that takes place at this food hub, so I took the opportunity to again visit Food Connect at 8 Textile Crescent, Salisbury. Food Connect is run by the community for the community. During my recent visit I again saw the work that occurs to bring fresh produce from farms to the city. The warehouse is a community hub that connects fresh local farm produce with the city. The community is provided with fresh produce in a sustained, secure way, reducing travel times from the farm gate to the family table. Produce is packaged for wholesalers so they can also avail themselves of safe fresh food produce that is in season and has not had to travel thousands of kilometres to get to the consumer.

The hub packages the fresh produce for individual orders or for larger wholesale orders. As stated by Emma-Kate, one of the co-founders of Food Connect, on Food Connect's web page, 'Local food is the way of the future—connecting farmers to consumers in close proximity to reduce the effects of climate change and to improve prices for farmers and provide good quality affordable food for the community.' Some months ago Emma-Kate Rose and her partner in life, Robert Pekin, decided to buy the warehouse that Food Connect operates from. Their goal was to raise \$2 million by way of an equity crowdfunding campaign, and that is exactly what they did.

Budget, Rural and Regional Queensland

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.49 pm): The Treasurer might try to spin that the budget is 'unashamedly' for regional Queenslanders, but rural and regional Queenslanders are not suckers. They can pick spin a mile off, especially when the government continues to slash and burn our once great Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. The department will lose more than 106 full-time equivalent staff, including staff from Biosecurity Queensland and the Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority. The majority of the cuts come from the government's callous closure of the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges, with no plan for our next generation of farmers. There will also be losses to our front-line biosecurity staff.

At the same time as Brisbane bureaucrats have swelled by more than 25,000 since 2015, the departments that support our rural and regional industries continue to miss out. This is governing from Brisbane for Brisbane. Labor does not care about farmers and the regions they support. Labor does not care about the \$20 billion agricultural industry that is employing more than 300,000 Queenslanders across the supply chain and contributing 15 per cent to the state's total exports. The AgForce CEO, Mike Guerin, said—

It is clear that Government doesn't value agriculture strongly enough nor understand its vital role in the economic, employment and social fabric of rural, regional and remote Australia.

He also said—

This government continues to demonstrate that it has no vision for the ongoing development and sustainability of broadacre agriculture ...

The Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO, Travis Tobin, said—

... agriculture seemed to be missing out on its fair share of stimulus funding needed to address some critical competitiveness and productivity issues and progress growth initiatives.


...

Without more targeted and deliberate action from government, agriculture will not fully capitalise on the exciting opportunities that are unquestionably there.

Canegrowers said that the government had missed a clear opportunity to make significant structural changes to reduce electricity prices. The minister operates under a culture of secrecy. The minister continues to hide the independent drought report he has had since January. Industry and farmers are still frustrated they do not know what the drought support and reform will look like. The government continues to hide the invasive weeds report for more than 2½ years. The minister sat on the report into the agricultural colleges for more than six months, just to release the bad news under the cover of Christmas. The minister's desperation for relevance is why he is now resorting to self-praise.

It is extremely disappointing that there is no extra funding to combat feral pests and weeds that are running rampant across the state—issues that come up as I talk with farmers right across the state. Labor's unfair vegetation laws, anti-dam agenda, underfunding and mismanagement of biosecurity, and closure of the last remaining agricultural colleges means no area is safe. Labor's anti-farmer agenda is hurting rural and regional Queensland and farmers are not buying it.

Greenslopes Electorate, Small Business Week

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.52 pm): A couple of weeks ago we celebrated Small Business Week. As I do every year, I went around and visited some small businesses. This year I particularly targeted health promotion and fitness businesses—yoga studios, gyms and the like. It was great to catch up with Kate from MissFit. The last time I saw her she was breaking a world record for the most number of burpees. I can tell the House that her business is heading in the same direction. She is certainly breaking some records there.

It was also nice to meet Elissia from Studio Pilates, who is not only running a great, successful business that she started but is also giving back to the community by raising money for childhood cancer. It was really nice to drop in and talk to Darren and Justin who have been running Supplement City in Coorparoo for the last 14 years. That is a very successful business. They were really interested in the Palaszczuk Labor government's small business grants—of which nearly \$200,000 has been given out in the electorate of Greenslopes—and what they are for. I recently read an article in the *Brisbane Times* which quoted a recent Productivity Commission report. This really sums up what these grants are all about. It stated—

The share of businesses that are innovators ... is no longer growing. There is also some evidence that investment in performance assessment within business—a key feature of good management—is also declining.


To me, those are the two things that these business grants are trying to deal with—trying to encourage innovation, particularly in the digital space, and also trying to build capacity of businesses, particularly around that measurement of success and effectiveness. When you build capacity in business, you build confidence. When you build confidence, you will necessarily build success and that will lead to jobs in our community and that is something I am very committed to.

I was really pleased to attend the Women in Small Business Luncheon that was organised by Lady Marmalade, which is run by Sonja and Howard Searle, a great Stones Corner business. They received some funding to run this luncheon from the Palaszczuk Labor government, and it was great to see such a large number of women attend that day. In fact we almost could not fit into the restaurant. Those women came together, learnt from one another, supported one another and grew in confidence. One of their guest speakers was Laura from a Stones Corner based business called Snotty Noses. Laura has also received a digital innovation grant and she has used that to grow her business.

While I was pleased to tell them about these grants, I cannot wait to get back out there and talk about the budget that was presented yesterday and what it means for small business because it truly is a small business budget. There are increases in the small business grants and the payroll tax cuts,

and I have already had some calls welcoming those. From my perspective, this is a jobs budget. As someone who is committed to creating jobs in our local community, as someone who is proud to be part of a government that has creating jobs as its No. 1 priority, it is great to see a budget that backs that up. This is a budget for all Queenslanders. Small business is an important part of our community. This budget is a budget for small business.

Child Protection

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.55 pm): After travelling the state and meeting many stakeholders, it is clear and distressing to see our system to protect our kids is in crisis. The sheer lack of action by Labor over the past four years is astonishing. The lives of Queensland children are at risk while urgently needed reforms to the child safety system are delayed year after year. Over a year ago, the Premier refused to release the Child Death Case Review Panel's report on Mason Jett Lee's death. The excuses to keep the report secret are running out. We know that the report, if it is ever revealed, will no doubt be the latest in a long line of failures of this government to protect our most vulnerable.

The latest statistics on child safety are disturbing. Children living away from home skyrocketed to nearly 10,000 by the end of 2018, and that is increasing. In just one quarter, there was an increase of 123 ATSI children living away from home, which was an increase of three per cent. There was also an increase of 24 non-ATSI children for the same quarter.


Children subject to protective orders had jumped to 10,265 by the end of 2018. This was 315 more than just six months earlier and nearly 1,000 more than in 2014-15. The number of notifications—all concerns received that suggest a child is in need of protection—jumped to 25,000 by the end of 2018. That was 1,300 more than just six months earlier and nearly 2,700 more than 2014-15. Only 44 per cent of investigations were completed in the 60-day time period. This means that child safety officers are clearly overburdened.

The rapidly escalating number of deaths are an indictment of the overworked child safety department under the watch of the Premier, Anastacia Palaszczuk. In May this year, the Queensland Audit Office released a report stating that the child safety department had not effectively implemented all of the recommendations the Queensland Audit Office made in their 2014-15 *Managing child safety information* report. The failure to reform child safety data is continuing to put children's information at risk, putting children themselves at risk, and continues to put unnecessary pressure on child safety staff. Queensland needs action now before another life is lost.

Domestic violence continues to plague Queensland's communities under the reckless inaction of this government. In the 12 months to May, there were 28,323 breaches of domestic violence prevention orders. That was almost 30,000 times that victims of domestic violence were put at risk after already trusting the government to protect them. Rather than helping these victims of domestic and family violence, this Labor government supports public servant perpetrators by giving them 10 days of domestic violence leave.

It is clear that Queensland's youth are being impacted by domestic violence and they are missing out as well. Sadly, there have been 281,000 attempts to contact the Kids Helpline, with there being only a 50 per cent success rate. That is 52 per cent of those kids who are not getting action. I also call on the government to take up the federal government's offer of funding GPS trackers and to stop ignoring this important issue.

Gladstone Electorate, Smith Family

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (2.58 pm): I rise this afternoon to share a story of great effort and triumph—other than that of the Deputy Premier and Treasurer's budget speech yesterday. The Smith Family is a children's charity helping disadvantaged children in Australia to get the most out of their education so they can create better futures for themselves. For the past 12 months, they have been helping the children of the Gladstone electorate. The Smith Family have worked tirelessly since they started in Gladstone and have grown to nearly 300 students being supported, and that is projected to grow in the next 12 to 18 months to 600 scholarships by 2020.

We know how valuable a good education is, particularly for our young people, but we also know how many impediments there are to getting an education. It was wonderful to join them recently to mark this amazing milestone in Gladstone. It is even more wonderful to be standing here today in a Toolooa State High School blazer to mark the Smith Family fundraising challenge. I would like to acknowledge Jenny Morris, the guidance officer and P&C president, for helping to get the fundraising going.

The senior leadership team at the school came up with a list of challenges that teachers and admin staff would carry out as they reached different levels of the fundraising challenge they set. These included Mr Thomas wearing a tutu; 'Hicksy' shaving his beard and then, when they reach their next goal, shaving his head; the admin staff having crazy hair day—I do not need to worry about that—and me wearing a red suit in parliament. I went one better today and I am proud to say that I am wearing the Toolooa State High School blazer in the parliamentary chamber.

The school raised an outstanding \$3,216.30 for the Smith Family. Because I like round numbers, I am telling the school while they are watching the live stream that I am going to bump it up to \$4,000 for them, mostly because I want to see Mr Slape wear a Hawaiian shirt for the week and the maths and English departments compete in a dance-off with each other; that should be hysterical for the kids. More importantly, it is because of this great charity doing really great work in our community and helping the kids in need in my electorate.

I have seen firsthand the difference that the Smith Family can make to families and children's lives in Gladstone. I have always seen the generosity from community members and particularly local businesses and industry. I would like to acknowledge today the support of Orica in Gladstone to the tune of a \$500,000 donation they have made up to 2020. That is wonderful support.


While I am on my feet, I would like to acknowledge that the budget that was released yesterday continued funding for this wonderful school at Toolooa with \$4.2 million for the building of new classrooms for those students. That is a well-deserved build. I thank and acknowledge the Minister for Education, who is here with us today. I say congratulations to the school. Keep up the great work. You are doing a good job.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1888, on motion of Mrs O'Rourke—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.01 pm), continuing: I was about a minute into my speech and I was going over the objectives of the bill. They are to: ensure that existing quality and safeguards under the DSA continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the DSA that will be outside of the NDIS; strengthen the operation of Queensland's disability worker screening system, the yellow card system, during the transition to new NDIS worker screening; amend the Coroners Act to ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to the State Coroner; amend the Public Guardian Act 2014 to ensure that community visitors—adult and child—must continue to visit visitable sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect the participants' rights and interests; and, finally, enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commission to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner's functions under the NDIS Act.

I note that under the NDIS QSF, Queensland will retain responsibility for worker screening. The intergovernmental agreement on nationally consistent worker screening for the NDIS—the IGA—was signed by the Premier on 3 May 2018. The IGA sets the national policy framework to support nationally consistent NDIS worker screening. I note that it is necessary to continue to operate the yellow card system beyond 1 July 2019 during transition to full implementation of nationally consistent NDIS worker screening. I also note that the current safeguards for worker screening will continue under the yellow card system for people working with adults with disability and the blue card system for people working with children with disability while Queensland transitions to NDIS worker screening.

This screening is a really important part of this process to ensure we are looking after our most vulnerable people. Predators and those who seek to do harm prey on those who are most vulnerable, a fact I came to know all too well in my work as a detective with the Queensland Police. Good screening is an important way we can protect people. It obviously cannot be relied on entirely and the risk management and other safeguards are important to ensure the safety of our most vulnerable people.

The National Disability Insurance Scheme is an important advancement in how we look after people with disabilities. It provides them with choice and control over their care and it has rightly been supported by all sides of politics. Some of my colleagues have outlined our proud record in the LNP of support for the NDIS. In fact, in May 2013 it was the LNP that signed the agreement with the Gillard government to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland. It was the LNP who proudly committed \$868 million as part of the NDIS implementation. In the 2014-15 budget the LNP

proudly committed \$1.46 billion for disability services in Queensland, which was a record budget at the time. We note that was after inheriting a drastically underfunded disability services budget from the Bligh Labor government.


I was also proud to join my LNP colleagues recently in fighting for the 13 disability organisations that called for a reversal of the cold-hearted decision to scrap the Taxi Subsidy Scheme by the Palaszczuk government. I note that that decision has now been delayed 12 months. A number of my colleagues mentioned constituents who came to their office with concerns about that and, indeed, I had similar experiences with my constituents coming into my office with fears about that. If the scheme was axed, this would have resulted in around 10,000 Queenslanders losing their access to low cab fares for National Disability Insurance Scheme participants on 30 June. It was disgraceful that the Palaszczuk Labor government, as we have become used to in this House, tried to blame the Morrison federal government. Disgraceful! The people of Queensland have spoken and re-elected the Morrison federal government and rejected the Premier's excuses. It is time to get on with the job and work with the federal government to ensure our people living with disabilities—

Ms PEASE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. What relevance does this have to the long title of the bill?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, I am allowing you to get away with this one, but I caution you to stick to the long title of the bill, which is the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill.

Mr HUNT: Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker. It is time to work with the federal government to ensure our people living with disabilities are looked after effectively under this bill. It is about working with the federal government and stopping using it as an excuse for everything that they cannot do.

The bill is a sensible and necessary next step in Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It is important that no Queenslanders living with a disability is worse off as a result of the transition to the NDIS. This bill will help to ensure that Queensland's accountability frameworks remain in place as the transition continues. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.08 pm): In rising to speak to this legislation I acknowledge that there is bipartisan support for this very important scheme. The National Disability Insurance Scheme is one that has been championed by people in this sector for some time. However, it is not an easy transition when there are people who have been under historic arrangements and many others who have been under no substantive arrangements but have been waiting for the care they need to not only live their lives with appropriate support but be able to get out and be part of the broader community.

Too many times people with disabilities and their families can find themselves isolated from the community because of a lack of support. One of the aspects that we particularly welcome is the need to ensure that people have the support they need regardless of their disability so that people do not put a stamp on their lives and say, 'You've got a disability. You have to stay confined to home and that is all that is available.' They would lose the opportunity to live a full life as much as possible but with the appropriate support.

This legislation is about amending some aspects to deal with particularly the transition. I know that other colleagues mentioned some of these aspects, but we all come to these matters with our own local constituents living with disabilities or loved ones with disabilities who are affected not only historically but also by the transition. I was most concerned that it took some lobbying for the state government to recognise that the lack of a taxi subsidy for those who had had it previously but for whom it was being removed because it was not part of the NDIS would have a substantial or detrimental impact. We did take up the fight for our really worried local constituents. When we made initial contact with the minister and the department about the issue they said, 'Get the case worker to discuss these things with the constituent,' but until those constituents had a solution that guaranteed access to that service they were just meaningless consultations with the department. How worried were they.

I welcome the extension of that subsidy, but we need a better arrangement than just a 12-month extension. There must be no disadvantage for people outside certain regional or city hubs who, it is acknowledged, must travel a lot further to access services. Access to affordable transport is essential, as not everyone can get on a bus. They need tailored and appropriate transport. It is great to see the taxi subsidy extended, but it needs to be resolved so that these folks who really worry about being shut in and not being able to get to services have some surety that today and in the long term they will not be disadvantaged.

There are other aspects with the transition of care that are not resolved. I took up one issue with the minister. I will not mention the names of constituents, but it concerned a constituent born with multiple and profound disabilities requiring 24/7 care. They live independently of their parents but with support after many years of those parents caring for that disabled son. I acknowledge that the minister and staff responded to the concerns put forward but, just to explain, where people have complex needs and disabilities they also have health needs. The state still has not put a guarantee in place to ensure that people with such health needs will continue to receive the support they need. While in this constituent's case there was an extension, many others need people to advocate for them as there are still holes in the NDIS, which does not cover some of the health needs.

There is a need for the health department in Queensland to step up and not let these people drop through the cracks. They cannot deal with all of the complexity of the bureaucratic run-around to find that potentially they are losing a service. Still there are others out there, as this occurs only on a case-by-case basis as we take up the issues with the minister and the department, who say, 'These people will not be able to live independently anymore. They will not be able to have the dignity of access to the community with the support that they need for some of the health services they still need.'


In this case I welcome the constituent's issue being dealt with, but there are many others who should not need people advocating on their behalf because there is a hole in the system. We need the hole in the system fixed so that people with complex disabilities who also have health needs are not left in the lurch in terms of having those health supports pulled out from under them in the transition to the NDIS. How hard can it be? There must be a better way so that the distress caused as people are left potentially in limbo is not allowed to continue. There must be a systemic addressing of these issues, not just one by one as the cases emerge, because they must be more easily identified than by people being put into a position of great distress.

I mention stakeholder concerns raised at the committee stage by members in this House. I acknowledge the shadow minister for disabilities, the member for Moggill, who said that stakeholders had real concerns in terms of where the reporting mechanisms for death of a person highlighted loopholes in this legislation. A key change proposed in the bill relates to the definitions of 'visitable site' and 'death in care'—that is, a place where community visitors can visit and a place where the death of a person occurs and is reported to the Queensland Police Service or the State Coroner. There is concern that some amendments in this legislation could narrow that definition so that people living in a private dwelling or in an aged-care facility who receive a type of care but not one that necessarily will be captured automatically by this definition may not have that oversight and required scrutiny. That is a real concern.

Once again speaking as a local member on behalf of constituents for whom we advocate as we become aware of issues, it is distressing if we find it is too late and those people have already suffered great damage. Some of these mechanisms of scrutiny might go into the system after there has been a failure, but we do not want that failure in the first place. The more effective the scrutiny mechanisms are the better.

I know there was mention in the debate about restraints and concerns raised about how that will be overseen. Once again, I bring an example to this House without revealing the name of the constituent. In this day and age, there should be appropriate scrutiny, checks and balances of restraints on people. We acknowledge that there are circumstances where these issues may be warranted, but they need appropriate monitoring and scrutiny. In one situation, a constituent was most distressed when they found that their son was put in a share house. This may not be captured by this legislation as being an in-care situation, but carers were coming into the house. The carers found it more convenient to manage the difficult behaviour of another client in the house by shutting the door and restraining this disabled person in their room. This young person could not speak for themselves and relied on their parents to advocate for them. Fortunately, because the parents came to me, we were able to get that matter resolved. The department stepped in and that matter was resolved. It should not have had to get to that.

My point is that we are dealing with very vulnerable people. There must be appropriate scrutiny not only of the quality of care that people receive but also if a tragedy occurs and there is a death in care, wherever that situation of care is, rather than having a bureaucracy already arguing over what is in and what is out with the transition and then arguing over what is in and what is out in terms of this being a place that deserves that kind of oversight. These loopholes must be fixed. We also must ensure there is appropriate scrutiny so that the most vulnerable are not let down in relation to people arguing after the event where there has been a distressing situation. This must be avoided wherever possible. This is where I believe there is an issue with the legislation not addressing this appropriately.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. The bill aims to ensure that Queensland is prepared for the commencement of the NDIS commission from July next month. The bill also seeks to align existing disability related legislation so it operates in conjunction with Commonwealth legislation, particularly in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening. The bill also amends the Coroners Act to ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants are reported to the State Coroner.

In my brief contribution today I will address some aspects of the bill that are of concern to my constituents. I note that the opposition will not oppose the bill and acknowledge the amendments to be moved by the minister during consideration in detail. I also acknowledge the bipartisan support that the NDIS has at both state and federal levels.

The NDIS is an important initiative. Given the demographic of my electorate of Buderim, the NDIS is often cause for inquiry and at times concern among my constituents. The first obligation of governments at all levels is to protect and support the vulnerable. It is essential that all Queenslanders living with a disability are supported. It is essential that the transition from a state based approach to a national approach is better managed than it has been to date. In May 2018 the Queensland Audit Office reported on how effectively the Queensland government is managing the transition to the NDIS and how well prepared it is to oversee the delivery of services to the disabled. The report noted—

Current gaps in processes for managing and monitoring readiness of state government agencies and the NDIA have increased the risk for Queensland's final stage of transition.

The report further stated—

Despite signing the agreement later than five other jurisdictions ... Queensland agreed to an aggressive rollout schedule to keep the same completion date.


It is clear that Labor is mismanaging the transition to the NDIS, and it is the most vulnerable in our community who are paying the price. Why is Labor disregarding the vulnerable in this case? Why has Queensland Labor abrogated its responsibility to ensure that the NDIS transition is managed and does not result in a lack of support to those who need it most?

Over recent months I have been approached by numerous members of my electorate concerned over proposed changes to the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. An elderly 81-year-old woman, the carer of her disabled daughter, was understandably very upset at being faced with the prospect of her disabled daughter losing access to lower taxi fares. This would have resulted in my elderly constituent having to drive her disabled daughter long distances and to unfamiliar destinations—something that would have impacted her standard of living and that of her family considerably.

I believe that disabled members of our community should be provided with support to access transport. My LNP colleagues and I, along with 13 community organisations, were concerned over this increasing angst in our community and asked the government to extend funding of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. I am pleased that all disabled Queenslanders, including NDIS scheme participants, can continue to access the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for the next year. Unfortunately, the government's delay in making this decision resulted in distress to an estimated 10,000 Queenslanders that could have been avoided.

Under Queensland's bilateral agreement for transition to the NDIS, Queensland is required to continue existing quality and safeguards during the transition. The Queensland Labor government is not upholding its end of the bargain in this regard. During the committee process, concerns were raised in relation to the narrowing of the definition of when a death is considered a death in care, as we have just heard from the member for Maroochydore. All deaths of persons with a disability in aged-care facilities should be covered, particularly having regard to the significant number of young people with a disability who live in aged-care facilities, whose primary disability supports are often overlooked and not met.

This government needs to step up and pull its weight. It is not good enough for the state government to abrogate its responsibility in relation to the provision of support to the disabled. It is vital that Queenslanders living with a disability are supported so that they can live a productive and fulfilling life. This legislation is an important step in ensuring that such Queenslanders are not disadvantaged as a result of the transition to the NDIS.

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.23 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. We on this side of the House do not oppose the bill. That is in line with the committee position in that the committee made one

recommendation: that the bill be passed. The objectives of the bill are, among other things, to: ensure that Queensland has made all urgent and critical amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of NDIS commission from 1 July 2019; ensure that the Disability Services Act 2006 operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, in particular in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening; ensure that existing quality and safeguards under the DSA continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the DSA that will be outside of the NDIS; strengthen the operation of Queensland's disability worker screening system, the yellow card system, during the transition to new NDIS worker screening; amend the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to the State Coroner; amend the Public Guardian Act 2014 to ensure that community visitors, adult and child, must continue to visit visitable sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect the participants' rights and interests; and enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commission to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner's functions under the NDIS Act.

Importantly, to give effect to Queensland becoming a participating jurisdiction from 1 July 2019, it is necessary to ensure that Queensland has the appropriate legislative framework in place to support the operation of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission. It is also important that this bill progresses urgent and critical amendments to reflect the new roles and responsibilities under the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework from 1 July 2019. This includes ensuring a framework for the use of restrictive practices as well as a worker screening system for people working or volunteering with people with disability.

During transition, Queensland's quality and safeguards continue to apply to NDIS registered providers. From 1 July 2019, the jurisdiction of the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will commence. This means that the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission will have the responsibility for the oversight of registered NDIS providers. The NDIS commission will register providers in Queensland and apply its monitoring, enforcement and complaints power to those providers.

Queensland will remain responsible for implementing some components of the NDIS Quality and Safeguarding Framework, including administering a worker screening system, authorising the use of restrictive practices and operating a community visitor function. Queensland will commence operation of the NDIS worker screening check following the finalisation of national negotiations of detailed policy documents referred to under the intergovernmental agreement and the passage of legislative amendments to support the implementation of the IGA. In the meantime, Queensland will retain its screening process under the yellow card system, as prescribed by the Disability Services Act 2006.

The bill progresses changes to expand the range of offences that will automatically disqualify a person from being able to hold a yellow card. Consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, the bill includes the offences of bestiality, kidnapping of a child, kidnapping for ransom of a child, child stealing, and abduction of a child under 16. The offences of abduction, child stealing and kidnapping will only be treated as disqualifying if the context in which the offence was committed was not familial.

The bill amends the term 'visitable site' in the Public Guardian Act 2014 and 'death in care' in the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that both the community visitor program and coronial inquests of deaths in care target the most vulnerable NDIS participants in receipt of support and services from registered NDIS providers providing specific categories of high-intensity support. The bill also amends the Disability Services Act 2016, the Public Guardian Act 2014 and, as I mentioned earlier, the Coroners Act 2003 to ensure that information, including confidential information, may be shared with or requested from the NDIA or the NDIS commissioner. This will enable the commissioner, the Public Guardian and the State Coroner to perform their roles and functions.

As noted earlier, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee recommended that the bill be passed. Six stakeholder submissions were received indicating broad support for the bill; however, issues were raised with changes in the definition of 'visitable site' and how deaths in care are reported. A key change proposed in the amendment relates to the definitions of 'visitable site' and 'death in care'—places where community visitors visit and places where if a death of a person occurs it is reported to the Queensland Police Service or the State Coroner.

Queenslanders with Disability Network and the Public Advocate are concerned that these amendments and the use of these definitions of the relevant class of supports may not cover all of the people intended and that potential issues may arise because of the lack of working operational definitions of these NDIS supports and the interpretation of the class of supports. The Office of the

Public Guardian argues that, while the new definition proposed under the bill is generally supported by the OPG, its placement within the main body of the act rather than within the regulations is not supported as it limits flexibility to change.


Concerns were also raised about the narrowing of the definitions of when a death is a death in care. The exclusion of deaths in private dwellings or aged-care facilities was argued to not be appropriate and that these deaths should remain encompassed in this jurisdiction. I do hope that the minister takes those concerns on board. I note also that there is a statement of reservation by the deputy chair, the member for Southern Downs, and the member for Lockyer in relation to those concerns.

Overall this bill is a sensible and necessary next step in Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It is crucial that no Queenslanders living with a disability is made worse off as a result of the transition to the NDIS, and this bill will help to ensure that Queensland's accountability framework remains in place as the transition continues. Unfortunately, the Palaszczuk Labor government has put Queenslanders living with disabilities at risk time and time again with its incompetence and neglect.

During 2018-19 budget estimates questioning it was revealed that hundreds of NDIS letters had been sent to deceased Queenslanders in December 2017—a gross oversight that led to trauma for the loved ones of the deceased. Estimates also confirmed a two-year gap in cabinet briefings of any NDIS updates. This has led to issues of transition that Labor is not addressing. These include people being at risk of homelessness due to being unable to secure NDIS or state funding in time and services such as the Queensland Narrating Service no longer being funded and being at risk of closure. The Palaszczuk Labor government had also previously decided to cut the Taxi Subsidy Scheme on 30 June, making it the only state to do so at that time.

In May 2013 it was the LNP that signed the agreement with the Gillard government to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland. We announced an \$868 million commitment as part of the NDIS implementation. In 2014-15 there was a \$1.46 billion budget for Disability Services in Queensland, a record budget at that time after inheriting a severely underfunded disability services budget from the Bligh Labor government. The LNP successfully backed a call by 13 disability organisations for the Palaszczuk Labor government to reverse its cold-hearted decision to scrap the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for people with disabilities. That decision has now been delayed by 12 months.

I note that other jurisdictions are continuing their own taxi subsidy schemes beyond the 12 months—in fact, some of them as a permanent feature. An estimated 10,000 Queenslanders would have lost access to low cab fares if the scheme had been axed for Disability Insurance Scheme participants from 30 June. It is disgraceful that the Palaszczuk Labor government tried to play politics with this issue and blamed the Morrison federal government. The NDIS was meant to make people with disabilities more independent, but the Palaszczuk Labor government's threat to axe the Taxi Subsidy Scheme would have done the exact opposite.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to put on the record my support for this legislation before the House, the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. It has been a long time coming. The dialogue for the NDIS began almost a decade ago in principle, but it was not until May 2013 when the states started negotiations with the federal government. There was a lot of apprehension about the change. There were a lot of very nervous families and a lot of concern about what this was going to mean. It is important to state that it has been a very challenging process for many hundreds of community service organisations and providers across the nation—certainly across Queensland—as they have sought to come to terms with the changes and as they have sought to continue providing quality services to some of Queensland's most vulnerable people.

In May 2013 when the LNP signed the agreement with the Gillard government I was fortunate to be the assistant minister to Tracy Davis, the then minister for communities, and on many occasions we would travel together to visit some of the service providers around the state. I have nothing but admiration and deep respect for the many volunteers and individuals who work with vulnerable Queenslanders every day of the week because I have seen firsthand how taxing it is, how challenging it can be and, dare I say it, at times how heartbreaking it can be.

I note that throughout the committee process a number of stakeholder views were sought. Queensland Advocacy Inc., QAI, Queenslanders with Disability Network and People with Disability Australia all raised concerns particularly around state-specific restrictive practices, and with some justification. The concern that these organisations expressed was a deep, heartfelt concern that restrictive practices were not used inappropriately.

While on that subject, I want to take a moment to acknowledge the great work of Vicki Batten whose organisation was, sadly, a victim of the NDIS to some extent and probably a victim of overcaring. For almost a decade Vicki Batten was the chief executive officer of FSG, Family Services Group, on the Gold Coast which unfortunately did not make it to the NDIS and faced significant financial challenges and collapsed as a result of them. It was Vicki Batten who pulled me aside four or five years ago when we were first considering the revised disability services bill and the NDIS just to talk from the heart about some of the challenges of dealing with vulnerable Queenslanders. She spoke very proudly about her organisation's commitment and the commitment of her staff to use restrictive practices as an absolute last resort.

While I understand that the bill currently seeks to uphold the current provisions within Queensland legislation, I note that some of the organisations that presented their views had requested that perhaps there needed to be a more specific national regime and perhaps that is something that will be looked at in the fullness of time. The key issue here is having a consistent framework for those practices and a framework that is not overused, but at the same time I think we all understand that there are certain individuals who do require medication or, sadly, more extreme forms of restraint in fairly challenging circumstances.

I guess that is why the notes to the legislation recommend that the provisions relating to the granting of yellow cards be carried forward from the act to comply in respect of the national framework. That is important. Just like the blue card system is incredibly important, it is critical that those public servants and those people within the police force and other areas of our Public Service who are charged with the responsibility of granting these cards do have the framework that they need to make good decisions and that there are very clear guidelines put in place as to who should and should not receive a yellow card, so I certainly commend the need for this to be dealt with in the context of this legislation.


I want to put on the record that the LNP is not opposing this legislation. Although the LNP has been very frustrated with the transition to the NDIS and some of the unnecessary disruptions or concerns that have been created for people in Queensland, it believes that this bill is a sensible and necessary step forward in Queensland's transition to the NDIS.

At this point, it would be remiss of me to not mention some incredible providers within my own electorate. I particularly want to pay tribute to Cornelia Babbage, the head of Multicultural Families Gold Coast, who last weekend put on an excellent Queensland Day celebration in the Broadwater Parklands. It was great to be there. It was an inclusive day, not just in terms of Queenslanders generally but it was great to see so many people with disability there, to see their carers out with them, to see the smiles on their faces and to see people really enjoy a classic Gold Coast day in the Broadwater Parklands. I take my hat off to Cornelia and her organisation, because they do great work. They are very passionate. It was great to see Cornelia recognised recently with a citizenship award from the local community.

There are a great many other organisations in my electorate that have had very humble beginnings. Able Australia is a not-for-profit provider that is located at Sykes Court, which is just off Smith Street, in the heart of Southport. This organisation started many years ago when a couple of very kind-hearted people cobbled together the money for a bus to provide transport for people with disability and to also transport cancer patients to Brisbane for treatment. At the time, I was privileged to be on the Gold Coast community fund board, which was able to provide them funding in the form of petrol payments to help support them. That was more than 10 or 15 years ago. Today, Able Australia is a significant provider of services to people with a disability the length and breadth of the Gold Coast.

My office did a bit of research because we thought it would be good to find out how many approved NDIS providers there were in my electorate. When we got to about 80 we stopped, because we thought that we would be doing that all day. It was incredible to realise how many people are affected by disability and how many volunteers and workers are engaged in providing services to people on a day-to-day basis. That research highlights why this legislation is so important and why these transitional provisions need to be put in place.

Finally, I want to mention a guy who I met about five years ago who has incredible passion—Professor Harry McConnell. He is a director of the Institute for the Clinical Advancement of Neuroplasticity. Harry is the Clinical Subdean and Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Neurodisability at the Griffith University School of Medicine and the Gold Coast University Hospital. Harry is one of those really passionate individuals who cares about people. He is so excited about the NDIS finally coming into place because it means that his organisation gets to start round 1 of the centre of excellence in neurodiversity on the Gold Coast in the games village complex.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.43 pm): I am pleased to make a contribution to this debate on this important bill. This legislation makes the urgent amendments that are required to ensure the commencement of the NDIS on 1 July 2019. The LNP does not oppose this bill. Indeed, the LNP welcomes the start of the NDIS commission. However, I have learned that it is smart to pay attention to what is happening to my constituents in terms of on-the-ground outcomes.

As a country member, my concerns about a successful transition to the NDIS have been focused on issues of service delivery—capacity for our inland regional communities. This is what will dictate the outcomes. The intention of the NDIS is to give our disabled people agency and choice in how they utilise the support. It is hoped that that will help our disabled Queenslanders live their lives to the fullness of their potential and with the dignity of choice that the able-bodied take for granted.

The problem for disabled Queenslanders in inland communities is that their choices are severely restricted by the range of providers and services that are available. Under the old model of the state department of disabilities, there was at least some guarantee of minimum service delivery, so it is understandable that people and their families in inland regional Queensland have experienced anxiety about the transition to the NDIS. The underlying fear is that they will lose what services they have had under the department and that there will be nothing to replace them.

Then we had the taxi debacle. The Palaszczuk government decided that it would cut the Taxi Subsidy Scheme on 30 June. Of the more than 40 towns and settlements in my seat of Gregory, not one has any form of public transport, except for Emerald and Longreach. These two towns have a taxi service, making it feasible for the disabled and the elderly to have some independence. Without outstanding operators like the Hooper family in Emerald, many disabled people would be imprisoned in their own homes. Cutting the Taxi Subsidy Scheme would have had the same effect.

The Taxi Subsidy Scheme provides half the cost of a taxi up to a maximum subsidy of \$25 per journey as well as a \$20 lift payment for drivers of wheelchair accessible taxis, which is what makes taxi travel a feasible form of transport for our disabled communities. To axe it under the cover of the transition to the NDIS, even though the NDIS does not replicate the subsidy, was disingenuous or incompetent—take your pick. No other state cut its scheme. Maybe it was just an attempt to make savings. After the public outcry by the community, the LNP and disability advocates, the Treasurer extended the scheme for another 12 months. I welcome that. That gives some immediate relief, but it is a short-term bandaid. On behalf of my constituents, I remain concerned. This is a perfect example of the very real grounds for anxiety across the communities in regional Queensland as they wonder what else will be taken from them as part of the transition and how it will be replaced.

How people will fare under this new regime will depend on service capacity, be it transport options, independent living accommodation, day and holiday respite choices, or carers and employment opportunities. A single bowl does not make a buffet, but it is better than an empty bowl. Services for the disabled in regional Queensland are like that. It is not quite an empty bowl, but it is certainly not a buffet. I believe that the Queensland government must accept the ongoing responsibility to develop service capacity across our decentralised state to give our disabled communities secure choices.


The contribution of the Queensland government should not start and end with the state's financial contributions to the scheme. To ensure that our disabled Queenslanders enjoy the full fruits of the NDIS, the Queensland government needs to continue to assist communities to develop their service capacity. I have seen firsthand what is involved. The wonderful not-for-profit organisation Yumba Bimbi Support Services, of which my wife is a board member, was one of the first service providers in Queensland to operate under the NDIS. That was because Charters Towers was a trial site but the lack of service capacity in the bush meant that Yumba Bimbi was delivering services to clients in Charters Towers from its Emerald base. Indeed, Yumba Bimbi delivers services right across the west and it does a fantastic job. While transitioning to the NDIS model has been expensive and even harrowing, the chair of Yumba Bimbi, Gai Sypher; the board; and the CEO, Rachel Freeman, have never faltered in their commitment to make the leap. They want the very best for their clients and their community.

There is a strong feeling that leaving services to be delivered from outside the community will leave the community vulnerable to losing services altogether when times get tough and funding is cut back. Among the things Yumba Bimbi has to do is work with CQUniversity to ensure training programs for the new workforce of carers. Yumba Bimbi has had to figure out how to access accommodation for independent living, as this is a frequent aspiration for disabled people and their parents. As Yumba Bimbi has found its way through myriad issues, it has provided collegial support and leadership to similar organisations transitioning to the NDIS. I commend all the people involved in Yumba Bimbi for their efforts and I ask the state government to observe their example.

Far from signing off when the NDIS commences, the state government has a moral obligation to make sure that disabled Queenslanders receive the full benefit promised by the NDIS. The state government can do this best by assisting organisations such as Yumba Bimbi to develop and thrive under the NDIS. The Longreach community is trying to develop independent living options as well, but it needs the government's help. For the NDIS to truly work in Queensland it will require a community driven approach that is supported by the state government.

The track record of this government in foreseeing and dealing with NDIS related issues does not reassure me. As Queensland reaches its full rollout, fewer than 60 per cent of people eligible to be in the NDIS program are likely to be enrolled when it kicks off. Despite this low coverage, Queensland is locked in to paying its full contribution of \$2 billion a year. There is a real sense of fear that our disabled Queenslanders will be left worse off than those of other states.

There has been a failure to understand the situation in regional and rural settings. There has been a failure to develop a plan to ensure that the NDIS will work for settings right across our decentralised state. When it comes to disability services we need to make sure that we cover the entire state, not just up and down the coast but also inland in places such as Emerald, Longreach, Stonehenge, Boulia and Bedourie. Those places need support to ensure living conditions are acceptable and that people with disability can continue to be part of the community. The NDIS is incredibly important for regional and rural Queensland. We need to make sure that we care for all Queenslanders.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. This is important legislation for those whose lives are touched by disability. In my electorate of Oodgeroo many people in the Cleveland district are directly impacted by a disability and there are many agencies, organisations, carers, volunteers and families who are involved in supporting and assisting those with a disability. This legislation is not only important to those who are directly affected by disability but also important to all of us if we want a caring and inclusive society that cares for the most needy and vulnerable. As we on this side of the House do care, the LNP has contributed to this bill in a bipartisan manner so that the legislation deals with the immediate issues before us in the most effective way and we will not be opposing the bill.

The bill is important because it ensures that Queensland has made all the required critical and urgent amendments to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019. It also provides a strong quality and safeguards framework, particularly in regard to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening, so that the Disability Services Act 2006 operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework. It also ensures that existing quality and safeguards under the Disability Services Act continue to apply to disability services currently regulated under the Disability Services Act that will be outside of the NDIS.

Further, it strengthens the operation of Queensland's disability worker screening system, the yellow card system, during the transition to new NDIS worker screening. The bill is important in that it ensures that the deaths of certain NDIS participants continue to be reported to the State Coroner by amending the Coroners Act 2003. It also ensures that community visitors continue with visitable sites where certain NDIS participants are in order to protect the participant's rights and interests by amending the Public Guardian Act 2014. The bill is important because it assists with the performance of the NDIS commission's functions under the NDIS Act by enabling appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commission.

The Education, Employment and Small Business Committee recommended that the bill be passed. There were six stakeholder submissions received and there was broad support for the bill. Some issues were raised regarding changes to the definition of 'visitable site' and how deaths in care are recorded. The Queensland Disability Network and the Public Advocate raised concerns. Some of those concerns have been well considered in the House so I will not go over that material. The Office of the Public Guardian also argued that the placement of the new definition within the main body of the act may limit flexibility to change. Again, that has been well considered and I will not make any further comment on that. Concerns were also raised about the narrowing of the definition of when a death is a death in care. That has also been well covered in the debate.

This bill is a necessary and sensible next step in our transition to the NDIS. We must ensure that no Queenslanders living with a disability is worse off during this transition to the NDIS. On several occasions in the Redlands service providers have expressed their concerns about the transition. They are concerned that, in cases where they offered many services and were, in essence, in some ways a one-stop shop or provider for many functions, with the freedom to shop around clients may not choose


to use all of their services and they may have to reduce services if they cannot fund them. This is a very real concern and I get it. On numerous occasions individuals with disability or family members on their behalf have raised with me their fear that their package may not go as far under the new system as under the old. Again, I get that very real concern. This bill should help to ensure that Queensland's accountability frameworks remain in place as the transition continues and such issues can be dealt with.

To the best of my ability I will be watching that between the state and federal governments those locals with disabilities and their families are not worse off and that providers are not worse off. It is sad to say that the Palaszczuk Labor government has at times put Queenslanders living with disabilities at risk: reports of hundreds of NDIS letters being sent to deceased Queenslanders; a two-year gap in cabinet briefings of any NDIS updates; people being at risk of homelessness due to being unable to access funding in a timely manner; and services such as the Queensland Narrating Service no longer being funded and being at risk of closure. These issues are concerning and we will continue to provide scrutiny at a state level.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—LNP) (3.56 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Once again a member has made the statement that the Queensland Narrating Service has been not funded. I will be writing to the Speaker about this matter. I believe the member is misleading the House.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Thank you, member for Greenslopes.

Dr ROBINSON: To the best of my understanding that information is accurate, but I will certainly be open to correcting the record if that be the case.


DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (3.57 pm), continuing: The Treasurer also decided to prematurely cut the Taxi Subsidy Scheme making it the only state to do so at that time. She was dragged into reversing her mean-spirited decision last minute and to extend the TSS for 12 months after the LNP and disability organisations embarrassed her into a backflip.

In conclusion, I thank the disability groups that operate in the Redlands coast area, big and small, for the work that they do, groups such as Phoenix Lifestyle, Connect Two Group, Star Community Services with transport and other areas, Myhorizon and Anglicare, just to name a few. There are many more that I could name. I thank them for all that they do to serve the needy and the vulnerable in the Redlands coast.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019 which reflects the changing roles and responsibilities of the National Disability Insurance Agency, NDIA, the National Disability Insurance Scheme commission and the Queensland government once Queensland becomes a participating jurisdiction of the scheme from 1 July 2019. The amendments provide clarity on the Queensland government's reduced role in funding disability services at full scheme and its retention of a limited amount of quality assurance and safeguard functions for registered NDIS providers.

The bill has been well supported by the front liners, including service providers, advocacy groups, disability networks and statutory authorities. That support extended to the continuation of the current safeguards for worker screening under the yellow and blue card systems, and the expansion of the exclusion of persons qualified to hold a yellow card. Within the additional amendments presented, it is positive to see that offences including manslaughter have been added to the serious offences and the elevation of current serious offences to new disqualifying offences, with a transition and new framework to accommodate those.

As we have heard, Queensland will retain its framework in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices designed to safeguard the rights of people with an intellectual or cognitive disability who have challenging behaviour and ensure that the use of restrictive practices are appropriately


regulated and monitored, with a view to eliminating and reducing their use. It is also good to see that the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors has commenced work with other states and territories, the Department of Social Services and the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission to develop nationally consistent minimum standards for behaviour support.

Submitters have raised concerns about the narrowing of the definitions of 'death in care' and 'visitable site' for all people receiving supports under the NDIS in Queensland. It is important to have the flexibility to change a definition if it proves unworkable in practice into the future.

While the role of the Queensland government in funding disability supports will be reduced with the implementation of the NDIS, the concerns of disability service providers and the difficulties they face in accessing funds for operational service provision need to be acknowledged and monitored. From what has been experienced within my own electorate, evidenced by daily calls on numerous shortfalls from parents and carers, we must also acknowledge that, as much as the NDIS seeks to improve the lives of participants, there are unresolved issues. These include the capacity for community organisations and sporting bodies to accommodate special needs; the costs involved for disability providers for audits, infrastructure and transport that are not factored into the support rates or plans; and, ultimately, the potential loss to participants should our organisations falter. For many years that has meant family for many, and if it is lost will be one of the greatest failings of the scheme.

As mentioned by the member for Mount Ommaney, we thank the minister for responding to our concerns regarding the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, with the government making provision for funding for the next 12 months. However, I query what will happen when that ends.

My sincere thanks are extended to Queensland's all-abilities service providers and their volunteers for their tireless work and advocacy on behalf of the people within their care and their families. This has been the most difficult of transitions and their resilience, commitment and ongoing fundraising to deliver the very best to our all-abilities sector is inspirational. My thanks go to the committee and departments for their hard work and to the submitters for their efforts to deliver the best outcomes through these amendments. I support this bill and commend it to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.02 pm): I rise to offer my support to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill and the government's amendments to it. I acknowledge the efforts of our shadow minister in working on this bill and his engagement with the disability and communities sectors. This is a tribute to his efforts.

I am a strong supporter of the NDIS. As legislators and representatives of our communities, our responsibilities lie not simply with physical infrastructure such as roads, bridges, dams; it is also for us to deeply consider and legislate on social infrastructure. I consider the NDIS one of most important pieces of social infrastructure in this nation. It is pleasing to see the bipartisan way in which it is being supported. I know what a difference it makes to many people in my community in Toowoomba. Shortly I will reflect on some of our contributors to the disability sector and relate some of the good news stories from the NDIS in the Toowoomba community. Firstly, I will refer briefly to a couple of points on the bill.

This is an appropriate time for there to be consistency across federal and state jurisdictions to ensure that there are no cracks. We know there have been lots of problems with the implementation of the NDIS and the overlap between the state and federal jurisdictions, problems with service delivery and problems with families seeking to get but falling short in receiving the support they so desperately need. Therefore, it is pleasing that we now have an opportunity to align the state and federal systems. This is a sensible next step in the rollout and delivery of the NDIS across Queensland.

Some members have commented on the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. I think it was the member for Gregory who spoke about the importance of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme to rural communities. He mentioned that he has 40 separate towns and principalities in his electorate. Toowoomba is not endowed with the greatest public transport system, which is one of the things that I continue to fight for. Therefore, it is very important to the people of Toowoomba that the Taxi Subsidy Scheme remains in place. It is pleasing to see that the Treasurer has now committed to that. A number of people came to my office to see me in relation to their concerns about the potential withdrawal of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. It is pleasing that their pleadings have been listened to and that the Taxi Subsidy Scheme has been retained for an additional 12 months.

In this House we talk a lot about the vulnerable and the defenceless. I believe that worker screening checks are vitally important. It is appropriate that the bill and the amendments will align, wherever possible, the yellow card and blue card systems. That is supported by the opposition. I think it was the member for Nicklin who spoke about the vulnerability of many people in our communities. It is important that workers in the sector meet the highest standards, because we know what an

extraordinarily difficult job they have. Across the disability and community services sectors, the volunteers and workers are among the finest people one could ever meet. My own brother works in the sector. I know how challenging and also deeply rewarding it can be to work in a system where you can make a real difference to people's lives. This is true, not just through the work that is done on a day-to-day basis but also through the opportunities that we in this place have to legislate for things such as are before us today.

We hear a lot of stories about the challenges and the difficulties with the NDIS, but I want to relate a couple of the positive stories from my electorate. I pay tribute to federal member for Groom and former member for Toowoomba South, John McVeigh, and acknowledge the coordination between his office and my office. The offices of all members of parliament receive many complaints and we need to work closely with the federal members of parliament. I note that John McVeigh's office has been very helpful in raising concerns with the NDIA locally to assist constituents and in helping me to deliver solutions. I can immediately think of one family in my neighbourhood that has a good outcome as a result of the representations made by the federal member.

I will relate a couple of positive stories, because often we speak about the negatives and I want to speak about some of the positives. We have an extraordinary community in Toowoomba, which I often speak about, and the disability sector is no different. Angus Hopkins, a nine-year-old boy who suffers from cerebral palsy, made the national news because tragically for a number of months his mother had to transport him around in a wheelbarrow as the NDIS had not furnished the family with a new wheelchair. The pleasing result is that the NDIS has come through with \$26,000 and the delivery of a new wheelchair will be made to Angus by July. I understand that Angus has spent some time with his favourite football team—I think it was the Broncos—and received a personal message from Kurt Fearnley. That is a good news story relating to the NDIS.


I reflect on Elise Grandsen from Gowrie Junction, in your electorate, I believe, Mr Deputy Speaker Weir, who was one of the first people in Queensland to use the NDIS to fund a traineeship. We all know how much value a job is to our self-esteem. Those living with a disability are no different. One of the best things we can do for them is to give them opportunities for employment, training and engagement in the community. Elise has now completed her traineeship and is currently working at the USQ cafeteria. She has also been nominated for a Queensland Young Achiever Award. Congratulations to Elise.

Jeffrey Morrish, a Toowoomba man living with muscular dystrophy, has a new electric wheelchair. Again, it was funded by the NDIS. Jeffrey is a very keen soccer player and stands ready to make the Queensland team and potentially the national team. That is courtesy of his new wheelchair which was funded by the NDIS.

I recently had the good fortune to present Rachel Purdon, a Centenary Heights State High School student, with a certificate of completion of a skilling-up program undertaken through the Endeavour Foundation. This course work allowed Rachel to work on her CV, work on her interviewing skills and gain some work experience in a supported employment environment at the Endeavour Foundation, which is in my electorate of Toowoomba South. Rachel is a fine young woman. Given the opportunities through the Endeavour Foundation, Rachel is ready to make a real fist of employment and a real difference to the community in which she is living.

So many people in the Toowoomba community work with the NDIS to deliver great outcomes for people across the disability sector. I refer briefly to Kim Stokes. She is a wonderful advocate amongst the disability sector in Toowoomba. She took a bus load of people to Brisbane on Monday. I was unable to attend because I was here for budget week. She called it the bus ride of a lifetime. Her and a number of community leaders from Toowoomba, including councillors McDonald and Ramia, visited Help Enterprises in Brisbane which employs over 370 people in a supported employment environment. They are a great social enterprise. It goes to show what can be achieved amongst the community when employment services, the NDIS, great companies and great advocates work together.

Finally, I wanted to give a plug to the Toowoomba Business Disability Awards, which has been renamed the Business DisABILITY Awards of Australia, which I have spoken about before. There are so many amazing sponsors. Judy Antonio, the Toowoomba mayor's late wife, was the original patron of these awards. They are on in September. I encourage nominations from across the disability sector in Toowoomba which acknowledges so many of our great advocates and employees.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.12 pm): I rise to address the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. In doing so I want to acknowledge the LNP's proud track record when it comes to supporting not only disability services but also, and more specifically, the NDIS.

I was one of the cabinet ministers sitting around the table when the then LNP government signed an agreement on this—and this goes to show that state governments can work with federal governments of different persuasions—with the Gillard Labor government. Would it not be a change if those opposite stopped throwing their toys out of the cot and actually sat down and worked with the federal government of the day?

We signed an agreement with the Gillard government to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme in Queensland. As part of that, we announced \$868 million as the first commitment to the implementation of the NDIS. In the 2014-15 budget there was funding of \$1.46 billion for disability services in Queensland—a record at that time and well and truly making up for years of underfunding by previous Labor governments.

The LNP got the ball rolling. It is great to see it continue to roll out. As others have said, sadly there have been instances where some of the hiccups that we anticipated have been magnified by the incompetence of those opposite. We have situations where individuals have fallen through the cracks. I will come to those in a moment.

As others have said, this bill is not only sensible, but necessary. It must be passed to allow Queensland to transition fully to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. All of us in this chamber, regardless of our politics, want to make sure this scheme works so that people with a disability actually have better outcomes than they have had after dealing with the state based Disability Services Queensland for many years. This has been proven to be the case in many instances for people across the electorate of Glass House.

I can talk of many instances where individuals are receiving far better service through the NDIS than they ever received through Disability Services Queensland. People who did not receive funding are now receiving funding. The fact that they are able to choose the care or the nature of the care they want is making a significant difference as well. I applaud the individual from the Toowoomba South electorate who has used their package to get a TAFE qualification. I know that that has been replicated in the Glass House electorate and around the state as well.

As we expected, there were some hiccups. Unfortunately, some of them have been quite significant given the state Labor government's inability to work with the Morrison federal government on some of these important issues. I want to spend a bit of time addressing one issue. In so doing, I acknowledge the efforts of the federal LNP members whom I work with in the electorate of Glass House—Andrew Wallace, the member for Fisher; Ted O'Brien, the member for Fairfax; and Senator James McGrath. More recently I have worked with, and I look forward to working with him for many years to come, Terry Young, the new LNP member for Longman. It is great to welcome him and have Longman back in the LNP tent. I know we will get far better service out of Terry Young than that part of the world ever did out of the former member for Longman.

Prior to Terry's election, an individual from the Moreton Bay Regional Council part of the electorate of Glass House, Leif Lindblom, contacted me. This was at Christmas last year. Leif suffers from chronic pain and disability which forced him into early retirement. At the time, he was being told by everyone—Centrelink, Disability Services Queensland and the NDIA—that he was not eligible for anything. In frustration he reached out to my office and provided an extensive diary of his experiences, the pain that he was suffering and what it meant for him. He kept getting told by Centrelink that he was not eligible for the disability pension because he could still work, even if it were reduced hours. Leif's pain and medication meant that the doctors he was seeing were saying otherwise. He absolutely loved his former job. He was a painter. He would have loved to continue to do it, but he simply could not because of the chronic pain he was suffering.

Earlier this year I had a conversation with Senator James McGrath and we got to work. To be blunt, it has taken a bit of time. In May this year Centrelink wrote to Leif to advise him that he had been approved to receive the disability pension and that fortnightly payments would commence immediately. That was a great outcome for him. Even better, tomorrow Leif has an interview with the NDIS to see whether he can also receive funding through them.


Despite some of the challenges that this transition has raised, as members of parliament we have been able to achieve really significant outcomes for individuals like Leif, who not only now has a disability pension but also is sitting down with the NDIS tomorrow to see whether there are opportunities for him through that scheme. That is what this is about. This is about taking those individuals who, for whatever reason, are unable to continue to do or have never been able to do what we here can do, through pain or disability, and receive the funding they need to be able to access the services they require and they want to have a better quality of life.

I look forward to getting an update from Leif after his meeting with NDIS tomorrow, and hopefully that, too, will be a success. It is great and very rewarding as a local member to know that we can work with our constituents and with our federal colleagues to achieve these outcomes. In so doing, I want to again acknowledge the efforts of Senator James McGrath and his staff in assisting us with this one.

In the time remaining I, like others, want to touch on a number of NDIS providers in the electorate of Glass House. I want to start with Glasshouse Country Care based at Beerwah. It is a fantastic service that provides respite and day programs not only for people with a disability but also for our more senior citizens. They have also opened up their grounds to house a men's shed. That men's shed keeps growing and growing, and they work very well with them too. It is a great service based at Beerwah. To Ann and all of her staff, thank you for what you do. It was great at Easter to pop around with some Easter eggs and deliver them to the people who attend the day programs and to see the smiles on their faces from the services they are receiving from Glasshouse Country Care.

We have Lavally Lodge, which is run by Caloundra Catholic Homes Foundation, at the Glass House Mountains. It is a wonderful service. It flew under the radar a bit when the LNP was in government, but I want to acknowledge my former colleague the then member for Aspley, Tracy Davis, who was the then minister for communities and disability services. It was while Tracy was minister that Lavally Lodge received recurrent funding. A service that was fearful they would have to close down because they had been relying on the generosity of individuals on the Sunshine Coast for many years received recurrent funding and now continues to provide its wonderful service for people with disabilities in the Glass House area. It is always a pleasure to visit that place. You get inundated with hugs. They are always telling you jokes—some of them not always appropriate. It is great to see the smiles on their faces and again know that the service they are receiving is exceptional and making a huge difference in their lives.

Then we have Beaumont Care at Wamuran. You would be hard pressed to find a more beautiful setting for a disability service than the rural setting on Ziviani Road at Wamuran, surrounded by strawberry fields, trees and nature. It is a beautiful location, again providing a quality service to people with a disability. I thank each and every one of those services and the many others that provide outreach to the electorate of Glass House for what they do for those who are less fortunate than ourselves in terms of living with disabilities but knowing that through those services and through the work of the NDIS we are able to provide them with a better future.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise in support of the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. From 1 July Queensland officially becomes a participating jurisdiction under the National Disability Insurance Scheme. The NDIS is a great Labor reform. Only a Labor government would have conceived such a visionary program which has transformed the way people with a disability are treated in the Australian community.

While the crux of this bill is the amendments that reflect the changing role that the state government will play in supporting people with a disability post 1 July, the commencement of the NDIS in Queensland symbolises something greater than that. It will mark the beginning of a new chapter for Queenslanders with a disability and their families.

While the vast amount of oversight for the governance of disability support services will shift from being the responsibility of the state to the responsibility of the NDIS commission, Queensland will still retain responsibility over the worker screening process. To improve screening processes further, this bill aligns the disqualifying offences for persons seeking to work with people with a disability with the disqualifying offences for persons seeking to work with children in Queensland. The same standard will apply.

The vision of the NDIS was always for it to be just like Medicare so that every single person in this country could have access to a safety net to catch them when they need support the most. This bill is the final step in the process for Queensland to transition to the NDIS. Queensland has travelled a long and winding road to get to this place where we can finally have a fully functioning disability insurance scheme. We have experienced many roadblocks along the way.

Creating a safety net to support those most vulnerable in our society is a core Labor value and is in stark contrast to those opposite. It is a shame that the LNP, both federally and in Queensland, have been playing politics with the lives of disabled people. At the federal level, the Morrison government has taken \$3 billion away from the NDIS in this year's federal budget alone—I repeat: \$3 billion. This is a decision that has been condemned by disability advocates across Australia.

For the LNP to even try to justify cuts of this magnitude while there are still thousands of people with urgent care needs waiting for the support that they need demonstrates that the priorities of the federal LNP are not directed towards supporting people with a disability. Let us not forget about the


LNP members opposite and their track record when it comes to the NDIS. When they were in government, led by Campbell Newman, the LNP did everything they could to prevent the NDIS being introduced in Queensland. They tried everything they could to stop it and they were dragged kicking and screaming to the table. It took nearly every other state to sign up to the NDIS, bar WA, for Queensland to sign up.

Introducing a program to support people with a disability is something only Labor could do. Ultimately, later on when this bill passes through the House and sets the final foundations for Queensland to officially participate in the NDIS we in Queensland will see yet another historic achievement by the Australian Labor Party.

I want to conclude by thanking the NDIS providers in my local area, especially groups like Myhorizon, who do fantastic work in this area supporting those with a disability but also giving people with a disability a start, a job. They are a participant in the Back to Work program. I have been to many Back to Work graduations at Myhorizon. I also do the right thing, along with the member for Redlands, in regard to giving back to Myhorizon. We often use their fantastic conference room facilities and their cafe. They do a fantastic coffee. I know that many hospitality workers with a disability are fantastic barristers, as they are in that cafe. If members have a chance to head to Capalaba, the cafe next to IndigiScapes is a perfect setting to have a coffee and a scone. I always have a beautiful time there.

We have Multicap as well. I look forward in a couple of weeks time to opening new units at Alexandra Hills. I note that Minister Coralee O'Rourke came out when we turned the sod a year or so ago. It is going to be fantastic in a couple of weeks time to see those units, which have been built to suit people with a disability, opened.

I want to acknowledge the Cerebral Palsy League who are also based in Capalaba. They do fantastic work. I enjoy going there because I get to see the fantastic progress that each of the clients there are making. They have fantastic pottery and beautiful jams that you can buy there. I also like to buy birthday cards and Christmas cards there because they always make fantastic occasion cards such as birthday and Christmas cards. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (4.27 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. I want to limit my comments to the amendment of the Coroners Act. At page 10 of the committee's report these amendments are discussed under the heading duty 'Duty to report a death', referring to clauses 50 and 51 of the bill. The opening paragraph reads—

Clauses 50 and 51 propose to amend the Coroners Act to ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants must continue to be reported to a coroner or a police officer.

...

Clause 50 amends section 7 so a *relevant service provider* has a duty to report a *death in care* regardless of whether someone else has or may report the death.

In 2016, Queensland's Public Advocate released a report titled *Upholding the right to life and health: a review of the deaths in care of people with disability in Queensland*. The review was of 73 people who had passed away and who were disabled and who had died in care between 2009 and 2014. The median age of death for males in that cohort was 53 years and for females it was 49 years. People in the sample were more likely to die in hospital—58 per cent—with 42 per cent dying at their normal place of residence. The Public Advocate was assisted by an advisory panel, which determined that 59 per cent of deaths were unexpected and 53 per cent were considered to be potentially avoidable.

The panel considered a number of risk factors when looking at the leading causes of death. They determined that the key risks related to respiratory failure, epilepsy, heart disease, choking and the use of psychotropic medication. The executive summary to the report contained two comments—

Without a deliberate strategy and considered effort, these issues will not change with the introduction of the NDIS. If anything, there is the risk of a widening divide emerging for health (and other) services in the course of implementing the NDIS.

It further stated—

The current and future challenges in providing effective health care for people ... must be recognised and attended to now.


The executive summary goes on to deal with matters that touch on the role of Queensland Health, and I will return to that shortly.

I am also aware that the Coroner prepared a separate report on the issues raised in the Public Advocate's report. In answer to a question on notice asked on 3 April 2019 in relation to the Coroner's report the Attorney-General said—

I am advised that the matter referred to by the Member will be included in the State Coroner's Annual Report, which will be tabled in accordance with section 77 of the Coroners Act 2003.

The Attorney did not say, however, that the full report will be released. This report could well contain significant findings relevant to the role of the Coroner in relation to the investigation of the death of people in care. The question I have deals with the definition of the phrase 'death in care' and the role of the Coroner in investigating the death of a person in care who is in the public health system.

The report by the Public Advocate raises serious questions about the deaths of people who are disabled in our health system. I ask the Attorney in her reply to address the role that the Coroner has in these situations and whether or not, given the content of the report by the Queensland Public Advocate, that role should be looked at afresh and whether or not steps are now being taken to review the role of the Coroner in relation to deaths in care of people in the public health system.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.31 pm): I also rise this afternoon to speak on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019 which was introduced on 28 March 2019 by the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors and referred to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee.

In 2015 the ABS reported that approximately 18 per cent of Queensland's population were living with a disability. That is almost one in five Queenslanders. It is estimated that over 261,000 Queenslanders across all age groups have a profound and severe disability. People with a profound and severe disability require assistance in everyday activities including self-care, health care, mobility and communication.

The need to support people with disabilities is growing more than ever before. In 2017 Carers Queensland estimated that over the next 10 years the demand for informal and unpaid care will exceed supply, as the rate of people with a severe and profound disability is growing faster than the number of family and friend carers. That is why the delivery of a sound and effective National Disability Insurance Scheme is so important.

As this bill progresses through parliament we will again today provide bipartisan support for these fundamental changes to ensure that the necessary legislative framework is in place for Queensland to become a participating jurisdiction within the national NDIS framework. The national NDIS commission will continue to register NDIS providers and apply its monitoring, enforcement and complaint processes. Queenslanders will remain responsible for some components of the NDIS quality and safeguard framework such as the worker and volunteer screening system, authorising the use of restrictive practices and operating a community visitor function—components which further enhance the safety and security of one of our most vulnerable populations.

This bill progresses changes to include a new range of offences which will automatically disqualify people from holding a yellow card. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutionalised Responses to Child Sex Abuse. The added disqualifying offences for yellow cards will include kidnapping of a child, kidnapping for ransom of a child, child stealing, abduction of a child under 16 and bestiality. The bill includes changes to terminology in order to ensure that the Community Visitor Program and coronial inquests into deaths in care add further protections for people receiving high-level care from NDIS providers. It also amends several other acts which will help ensure that information can be shared for the purpose of enabling the NDIS commissioner, the Public Guardian and the State Coroner to perform their relevant functions.

I again note the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee's interrogation of this bill, and I support their recommendation that the bill be passed. Many people provided valuable input to this committee process. There were six stakeholder submissions received in total which offered broad support for the bill. Some raised issues about the changes to the definition of visitable sites and how deaths in care will be reported. This key change has been included in the bill to ensure that places where community visitors visit and places where a death occurs are reported to the Queensland Police Service and the State Coroner.


While we on both sides support this bill we are disappointed in the implementation and administration of the NDIS transition process by this government. For example, during 2018-19 budget estimates questioning it was revealed that hundreds of NDIS letters were sent to deceased Queenslanders by accident. There has been a two-year gap in cabinet briefings of NDIS updates. We

are also concerned about the reports of transition issues that have resulted in people being at risk of homelessness due to not being able to secure NDIS or state funding in time. As well, some services are no longer being funded.

This government previously decided to axe the Taxi Subsidy Scheme on 30 June, and it was only due to public outcry and pressure from the opposition that they reversed this decision and reinstated it for another 12 months. In the meantime, other states were delaying cuts to their travel subsidy programs in order to provide a smoother transition to NDIS for people with disabilities. Why? Because other states know that helping vulnerable people transition smoothly to a new program is the right thing to do. At least those state governments recognised that people with disabilities often have increased care needs. This means that they may have to regularly travel to medical appointments, and removing such a subsidy would create a financial barrier to health care access. However, this government did not recognise that. They threatened people's independence and created unnecessary worry for many people.

We on this side have a strong history of delivering better outcomes for Queenslanders with disabilities. I would like to see this government take a more proactive approach to the administrative of this bill as well as actions required of them within the NDIS transition process. It is important to create effective legislation; however, if this government cannot implement this legislation effectively and efficiently then they could be causing more harm than good. For many years people with disabilities wanted a system that provides access to services centred on their needs and which enables them to have a better quality of life, more independence, and choice over which supports and services they want to use. We should let them have it.

In closing, I want to give a quick shout-out to a local not-for-profit group in my electorate, Coolum HeARTS, which was started by Clive and Barb Holden many years ago in their own home. They now have a local shed at Coolum where they provide valuable services to those less fortunate in my community with mental and physical disabilities. The services they provide allow vulnerable persons in my community to access the arts. They have singing programs, art classes, clay modelling and a drumming session which I was lucky to attend a Friday or two ago. I was able to give them the good news that they had received \$7,000 as part of the recent gambling fund grants, and that went over well. That is one short example of a group in my electorate which will benefit greatly from this bill.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise to support the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. This bill makes sure Queensland has put in place all the urgent and critical amendments needed to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019. It is the sensible and necessary step in Queensland's transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

I believe that all members of this House would agree that Queenslanders living with disabilities, and of course their carers, are some of the most resilient people in our state. They go through challenges many of us could not imagine, and they contribute to Queensland in unique and substantive ways. The rollout of the NDIS is complex and has not always been perfect, but this legislation is a step towards ensuring Queenslanders have the access they need to this important scheme.

I would like to take the chance to highlight some of the programs caring for those under the NDIS on the Gold Coast. I have had the privilege of meeting just some of these very special constituents of mine and hearing their stories. In April I visited Specialcise at Average Kane's Personal Training, a small gym at the back of Southport named with a fantastic reference to the great film *DodgeBall*. Specialcise is a unique workout program for kids with special needs. Maree, the founder, used to go to her personal training sessions with her daughter, Grace. Grace has Down syndrome and she would sit and watch from the side but that was never enough for Grace. She wanted to get involved herself. It was from this that Maree created Specialcise, a specific program designed to give kids with disabilities the chance to exercise, to interact with each other and to have fun while they are doing it. I believe there are now eight personal trainers operating across the Gold Coast with this program. Like many others, it is NDIS approved. It means parents who have never been able to afford something like this can give it a go.

Another huge issue for people in my area with a disability is transport. I am proud to represent some of the very special drivers who go above and beyond. One of them is Antone Saunders, better known as Colonel. He spends his days driving kids to and from our state's second largest special school at Southport. Apparently, he also plays cricket but I am yet to see evidence of that. I ran into him at the Arundel Tavern, and over a few beers he ran me through some of their issues and invited me along on one of his morning school runs with Metro Coach, which is based in my electorate off Ereton Drive in

Arundel. The service they provide gives much needed support and access for students and their parents. It cuts down on the costs of taxis, provides a tailored and personal approach for the kids and is well suited to ensure that these children get to school in an easy and enjoyable way. It is a very important point with the taxis, because Southport Special School has some serious access issues so the fewer vehicles getting in and out the better.

I rode along in the bus with Colonel and Paula and I saw the difference they made with their very special passengers and it really opened my eyes. They knew the kids, they knew what they needed, they knew what they liked, they knew what made them smile and laugh. It was quite a long bus run going all the way up to Pimpama and Upper Coomera, because Southport is the only special school on that part of the coast all the way up to Beenleigh. It took us three laps to get into the driveway of the school actually, which is further evidence of the need to improve that section of Kumbari Avenue near Smith Street, the Southport Special School and Musgrave Hill State School.


Another great Gold Coast program I would like to bring to the attention of the House is Headway ABI, which my electorate officer, Joe Wilkinson, actually sits on the board of. When I visited this program, I met Scott, a clinical exercise physiologist who helps people with acquired brain injuries and also happens to live in the great suburb of Biggera Waters. He knows what his patients go through probably more than any other health worker they have been treated by because when he was just 17 he suffered three strokes after finding out he had a brain tumour. The whole left side of his body was left paralysed. Scott left hospital after six months and he still could not swallow. He could talk slowly and walk up to about 100 metres, but he had to learn how to do all of those basic things again, undergoing rehabilitation every day for seven years. The experience made him want to go to university himself and to learn how to help others get a better quality of life. Headway ABI is another NDIS approved program which has found an important area for care.

Lastly, I would like to say thank you to those opposite for listening to the concerns of many Queenslanders—which were highlighted by I think 13 disability groups and the Liberal National Party—with their decision to not axe the Taxi Subsidy Scheme. I was approached by a number of constituents who rely on taxis to get to appointments and for crucial contact with their family and friends. The fear in some of them for what they would have lost, their subsequent isolation and their loneliness was very raw. The scheme helps over 10,000 Queenslanders and I commend the government for seeing sense and reversing their initial heartless decision to cut the program.

As I said, our Queenslanders living with disabilities are a tough breed. They deserve every bit of support we can manage, and this bill ensures Queensland is ready to support the rollout of the NDIS from 1 July. I commend the bill to the House. In closing, I would like to wish my local federal MP, Stuart Robert, all the best as he becomes the Minister for the NDIS. He will be held to account by a name that we used to hear very often in this place, Bill Shorten. All the best to Stu. I know he will do an outstanding job as Minister for the NDIS.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Condamine, I remind the member for Theodore that interjections need to be made from your own seat.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (4.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill. The LNP will not be opposing the bill. The committee made only one recommendation and that was that the bill be passed. The major objectives of the bill are: to ensure that Queensland has made all urgent and critical amendments required to support the commencement of the operation of the NDIS commission from 1 July 2019, which is not very far away; to ensure that the Disability Services Act 2006 operates in conjunction with the Commonwealth legislative framework to provide a strong quality and safeguards framework, in particular in relation to the authorisation of restrictive practices and worker screening; to strengthen the operation of Queensland's disability worker screening system—that is, the yellow card system—during the transition to new NDIS worker screening; and to enable appropriate information sharing to occur with the NDIS commission to assist with the performance of the NDIS commissioner's functions under the NDIS Act.

The bill is the necessary next step for Queensland and those with disabilities to transition to the National Disability Insurance Scheme. It is very important that a person with a disability living in Queensland is not made worse off because of the transition to the NDIS, and this legislation will assist in ensuring Queensland's accountability frameworks remain in place as the transition progresses.

It is unfortunate for those individuals with a disability living in Queensland that the Palaszczuk Labor government have put them at risk many times. During last year's budget estimates, it was disclosed that hundreds of NDIS letters had been sent to Queenslanders who had passed away. This


was a traumatic time for the families of the deceased. It was also revealed that there had been two years of updates for the NDIS from cabinet. This led to two issues that have not been addressed by the Labor government during the transitioning period—one, people being at risk of homelessness due to being unable to secure NDIS or state funding in time and, two, services like the Queensland Narrating Service no longer being funded and at serious risk of closure.

On 30 June the Palaszczuk government decided to cut the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, making it the only state in Australia to do so. Other states were waiting until the equivalent of the Taxi Subsidy Scheme was in place and the process of transitioning had been completed successfully. This subsidy is vital for those with a disability which has left them in a wheelchair. At the last minute, the Treasurer extended the Taxi Subsidy Scheme for 12 months. However, this decision was only overturned after the LNP and 13 disability organisations successfully forced her hand and reversed this cold-hearted cut. An estimated 10,000 Queenslanders would have lost access to low taxi fares if the scheme had been axed on 30 June.

The Queensland Audit Office tabled a report in May last year on how effectively the government was managing the transition to NDIS and how its preparation was progressing to oversee services once the transition was completed. The report discovered that fewer than 60 per cent of all those eligible for the National Disability Insurance Scheme are likely to be in the program by the time the full rollout has been finished. Regardless of its preparedness, Queensland is committed to paying the full \$2 billion per year for the NDIS rollout. There was a requirement that the NDIA was to have all local area coordinators in place six months prior to the rollout in different locations around the state. The report found that only one coordinator was in place.

The LNP government signed an agreement in May 2013 to implement the NDIS in Queensland. At this time an \$868 million commitment was made. In the 2014-15 Queensland budget the then LNP government committed \$1.46 billion to Disability Services even after inheriting an exceptionally underfunded Disability Services budget from the former Bligh Labor government.

The Condamine electorate has very few registered service providers, with most providers of the NDIS being located in Toowoomba, which is a considerable distance for many people with a disability in places like Brookstead, Nobby, Cambooya, Felton or Greenmount. Unless a carer has their own transport, which at times is not the case, this is going to be difficult for some. This is one of the reasons why so many people in the seat of Condamine were concerned with the proposed taxi subsidy cut. It would be my hope that many more service providers are found in the electorate to assist people with disabilities and those who care for them and their families as the NDIS is fully rolled out.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (4.50 pm), in reply: I would like to thank all the members for their contribution to the debate on the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019. I am pleased to see that there is bipartisan support for this important piece of legislation to help Queensland meet its obligations and commitment to implement the NDIS in Queensland. However, I must say that I am absolutely stunned by some of the comments by those on the other side of the House claiming the LNP had played an essential role in the implementation of the NDIS in Queensland.

Let me provide the House with some facts about the LNP's record in relation to Disability Services and the commitment to the NDIS. From 2012-13 the LNP cut \$642 million from the Disability Services budget in forward estimates. The number of people on the register of need grew from 5,967 to more than 17,000, and more than 600 positions were cut from Disability Services.

I note that several members opposite have spoken quite fondly of the previous LNP member for Aspley and minister for disability services under the Newman-Nicholls LNP government and of her passion and commitment to laying the foundations for the commencement of the NDIS. However, if I can say to the House these recollections of those opposite are not reflected within the conversations I have had with service providers and the sector as a whole since becoming disability services minister. Although those opposite might be very comfortable in their attempt to rewrite history, I think it very important and timely that I respond to some of their accusations and we take some time to set the record straight.

When speaking to this bill those opposite would like the House to believe that they were committed to signing up to the NDIS because they believed that supporting people with disability was the right thing to do. I would like to remind the House that the only reason those opposite agreed to sign up was that the sector rallied against them in the thousands and shamed them into doing so.

I would also like to remind the House that under the previous LNP Newman-Nicholls government Queensland was the only jurisdiction to not agree to a trial, a trial that would have given Queenslanders the opportunity to test issues and iron out challenges before the commencement of the transition. A \$20 million commitment was all it would have taken to deliver a trial for Queenslanders, a commitment that would have positioned Queensland in a much better situation leading into the transition, just like every other state. The Newman-Nicholls government could not bring themselves to spend \$20 million on people with disability, but they found no problem in spending \$70 million on their Strong Choices campaign to persuade Queenslanders into believing that their only option for a bright future was to sell off everything we own.

Those opposite levelled accusations against the Palaszczuk government and me for not implementing the NDIS appropriately or efficiently and for contributing to the delays in the rollout. This does nothing more than highlight their complete lack of understanding of the roles and responsibilities of both the Queensland government and the NDIA, a federal agency, when it comes to transitioning the operations and structures of the different disability services across all states and territories into one national scheme.

The member for Currumbin tried to highlight issues that her husband, who is a doctor, raised that patients had been experiencing with our hospital and health services across the state. I remind those opposite that the issues we have faced in relation to some of the challenges that we have had to deal with since the implementation of the NDIS began in 2016 started when the previous LNP premier, Campbell Newman, signed the heads of agreement in 2013 and decided then and there to cash out everything. This decision ensured that all funding that was previously allocated to Queenslanders to provide disability services and supports was handed over to the NDIA. This included programs like the Taxi Subsidy Scheme and community nursing. The decision to cash out these programs was made by those opposite, not the Palaszczuk government.

What we have seen since we commenced the transition is a federal government that has cut corners, failed to deliver and ultimately disappointed many Queenslanders with disability. What have we heard from those opposite up until now? Silence! We know just how much this scheme means to people with disability, to their families and to the sector as a whole. It is for this reason that we could not simply sit by and watch as the federal government and the NDIA let everyone down each and every day. Regardless of having an agreement in place that outlined everyone's responsibilities and clearly highlighted what would and would not be covered under reasonable and necessary supports, we still saw and heard stories of people missing out, of people being left waiting and of people having to fight harder than ever before. It was for these reasons that I spoke out and the Palaszczuk government stepped in and reinstated supports and services for those who were being let down.

We reinstated the Taxi Subsidy Scheme, a scheme that we have given the Commonwealth government funding for not once but twice because the NDIA would not pay up for transport in NDIS plans. We reinstated community nursing because the NDIA said, 'That's not our responsibility,' even though we have given the Commonwealth government the funding for it. We have continued ECDPs because the NDIA has not established an equivalent service. We are continuing funding for personal care in schools because, again, the NDIA said, 'It's not our responsibility.' These were all services that those opposite cashed out—decisions originally made by those opposite. We have committed to continuing to deliver in this space, yet those opposite have the hide to say that we do not care and we are not committed?

The member for Gympie spoke of having a lack of local area coordinators on the ground six months ahead of the rollout in all but one location. This part of his comment is correct. However, when he went on to lay that blame squarely at the feet of the Palaszczuk government, he once again demonstrated his lack of understanding in relation to the fact that the appointment and allocation of LACs is wholly and solely an NDIA responsibility.

Queensland has done so much more than its fair share of heavy lifting to assist the NDIA. We have seconded 118 departmental staff to the NDIA to bolster preplanning and planning work to support new and existing clients. We have established a new entrance team in my department to work closely with the NDIA and Queensland's mainstream agencies to identify and support eligible people to apply to enter the scheme. We have invested over \$25 million to assist people with disability, their families and carers, and existing and new service providers to access the support they need in order to be ready for the NDIS. We have done this because we have identified the gaps in the system and we have stepped in to fill those gaps.

The member for Moggill raised the issue of the bill being debated this week and accused the government of leaving it to the last minute to progress this legislation. Yes, the overall purpose of this bill is to make urgent and critical legislative amendments to support Queensland becoming a participating jurisdiction under the NDIS from 1 July 2019. However, I can confirm that I first received correspondence from the Commonwealth minister on 10 February 2019 formally asking Queensland to agree to become a participating jurisdiction and I swiftly introduced this bill into the House the following month, on 28 March. I would hardly say that we have been tardy in acting promptly to introduce legislation into the House.

I note further that this House also recently passed amendments in consideration in detail during the debate of the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Amendment Bill 2019, again a necessity to maintain consistency between the blue and yellow card systems. I note concerns were also raised about the low number of submissions received by the committee and the attached insinuation that this was due to a lack of communication with stakeholders. I can confirm that my department sent emails to key stakeholders advising them of the referral of the bill and the opportunity to make submissions.

Debate, on motion of Mrs O'Rourke, adjourned.

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Federal Election



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

1. notes the re-election of the Morrison coalition government;
2. notes that almost three out of four Queenslanders voted for anyone but Labor in the recent federal election;
3. notes the following commentary after the election—
 - (a) former Labor president Bob Gibbs saying that the Adani issue had become a disgraceful example of incompetence by government;
 - (b) former Labor minister and party stalwart Robert Schwarten saying 'I would be dishonest if I said there wasn't ramifications for the state government';
 - (c) the member for Keppel saying the Palaszczuk government needed 'a hard look at themselves in the mirror';
 - (d) the member for Rockhampton saying he was concerned about losing his seat and that 'people were saying that Labor was about getting rid of the mining industry, getting rid of the jobs';
 - (e) the Minister for Communities backing calls from MPs for more regional representation in the ministry;
 - (f) the former Labor candidate Mike Brunner saying if the Premier can't make a captain's call on Adani the party should consider changing leaders;
 - (g) the member for Maryborough pushing for cabinet changes and saying we need a minister for regional communities;
4. notes the media speculation that the member for Woodridge was plotting a coup against the Treasurer with the assistance of the member for Stafford; and
5. condemns the city-centric Palaszczuk Labor government for being deeply divided, with Labor MPs only caring about their own jobs rather than jobs for Queenslanders.

What a difference a sitting of parliament makes. Who can remember the last sitting day of the previous sitting week? Speaker after speaker, minister after minister, decided to get up and give a paid political announcement about how great a Bill Shorten government would be and how much they would support it. The Premier said, 'We need Bill Shorten as our next prime minister.' The Treasurer said, 'The Palaszczuk Labor government is looking forward to the election of the Bill Shorten Labor government this Saturday.' The member for Woodridge said, 'There is a better way for Australia: a strong, united Shorten Labor government. I urge all Australians to make the right choice for Queenslanders and support a federal Shorten Labor government.'

The member for Cooper said, 'A vote for the Morrison government means a vote for Peter Dutton.' Yes, it does mean a vote for Peter Dutton. The member for Stafford said, 'There is only one answer on Saturday, and that is Labor.' Of course, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads continued his love affair with Bill Shorten by mentioning Bill Shorten six times in his speech, endorsing a Shorten Labor government. What a difference a sitting of parliament makes. The people of Queensland did not listen to this Labor government. The people of Queensland rejected its endorsement. One in four Queenslanders voted for the Labor Party. Three out of four Queenslanders decided to vote for anybody

but the Labor Party. For the first time in decades, the Queensland Labor Party has one Senator. That is what the Queensland public thought about the endorsement of the Australian Labor Party in Queensland.


What has happened since? The Sunday after the election the Premier and the Deputy Premier were asked, 'Did this have any ramifications for Queensland?' 'No, none at all. They are all federal issues.' Then, 48 hours later, after the absolute infighting, the implosion coming from regional Queensland, we heard members who have never spoken a word over the last couple of years—the members for Rockhampton, Keppel and Mackay—coming out of the woodwork. Everybody asks, 'Who are these people?' They heard loud and clear from their constituents in regional Queensland saying, 'We have had a gutful; we are fed up.'

The Premier held one of the most embarrassing press conferences I have heard in my time in parliament and treated Queenslanders like idiots, like they were born yesterday. She said that she was fed up and had a gutful of her own government processes. Then the fighting and leadership speculation started. There is panic in the Labor government as its members start trying to work out what they will do. How will they recover from a 26 per cent primary vote?

We know they hate us, but the factions hate each other more. There was speculation that the member for Woodridge was doing the numbers with the member for Stafford. The member for Stafford, the no numbers man, was ringing around to get that support. The infighting went on and on. One of the great things of this election is that Peter Dutton was returned in the seat of Dickson. He fought the GetUps, the unions and the Labor Party and came back with an increased majority, because he is one of the best ministers in the federal government. Then we had the hapless Treasurer whose budget is so bad she had to find a diversionary tactic. When she got up yesterday she said that she would change the rules of land tax if the federal government changed the GST. I said that it is extortion. That is not an expletive or a swear word: that is a true fact. This Treasurer has the runs on the board with regard to that type of behaviour. Queenslanders will not be fooled. The leadership credibility of the Premier and the Deputy Premier is shot.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member for Stafford has not spoken yet.

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5.05 pm): I rise to speak against the motion and refer to the LNP's abject failure to deliver for the regions. The Palaszczuk government is the most regionally focused government Queensland has ever seen. The difference is stark from the previous LNP government that ripped the guts out of remote and regional communities with its hurtful sack and sell agenda. In 2012 it promised cheaper electricity, more dams and safe jobs. It sounds very familiar. Now they want Queenslanders to trust them again. They want us to trust them on Morrison's privatisation in that they will not put a nuclear power station in our backyard. This party has 'Radioactive Man' in Hinkler and 'Fallout Boy' in the Broadwater trying to get nuclear power here in Queensland and go nuclear on the LNP leadership. It is up and at 'em, boys. The opposition leader is trying to block a coalmine in her own electorate. The previous opposition spokesperson opposed concessions for explorers and exploration in Queensland.

Two weeks ago, I was at the APPEA conference in Brisbane and did not see anyone from that side—not one—at the most important petroleum and gas conference. Two years ago I flew from Hamburg after meeting with Rheinmetall straight to Perth to be at the APPEA conference—48 hours in the air, 20 on the ground—and I made it to that conference.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr WATTS: I rise to a point of order, Mr Speaker. The minister did not look hard enough: I was at the APPEA conference.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, frivolous points of order are not tolerated. You are warned under the standing orders. All of the interjections appear to be coming from one side of the chamber and that includes when opposition members are speaking. I ask that the volume is turned down just a little.


Dr LYNHAM: The only APPEA conference I missed was the one that those opposite blocked me from attending. Last week, I was down here where I spoke in front of a rally of miners, because this government respects the mining industry and the workers in this industry. We are the workers party. Members opposite can never make that claim. As the Deputy Premier pointed out, Labor worked hand in hand to start this state's LNG export industry. We did the hard yards, we stayed the course. As others

will say today, we have worked tirelessly to grow the north-west minerals province, a world-class minerals area. Only this week the Treasurer announced an important package to help with rail freight for the north-west, all to grow and develop regional Queensland.

We have been innovative in getting gas to domestic markets. We have released 43,000 square kilometres for exploration—11,000 square kilometres solely for domestic use, including our recent manufacturing block. Let us contrast that with what the LNP government in Canberra has done. Its major policy response was to threaten to stop gas exports. Let us think long and hard about that. During every debate those opposite drag out the furphy of sovereign risk, but it is the LNP in Canberra that was going to stop gas exports. This is the party that pretends to be friendly to the mining industry, to the gas industry and to the regions, but those opposite never have the courage to stand up to Canberra over this threat to the gas sector. Those opposite just sit there, pretending to care. Every day I work on projects that deliver investment to the regions. This builds jobs, families and communities that are the bedrock of this state.

Mr Speaker, I will tell you about the numbers I care about. I care about the 14,000 jobs—including those of nurses and doctors—that those opposite ripped from desperate Queenslanders. I care about the 199,000 jobs that the Palaszczuk government has created. The last time I counted, we on this side have 48 and those opposite have 38!

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, standing orders have not been suspended. You might be surprised to hear me say that. If you wish to make a contribution, rise to your feet and do so. The level of noise is too high, even for a debate which I know will be of interest to all members of the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (5.11 pm): We have all heard the adage ‘be humble in victory and gracious in defeat’. As the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said, during the last sitting week, on the eve of the 18 May federal election, 10 ministers stood to their feet to make a ministerial statement praising Bill Shorten and the Labor Party. The only one who did not was the Leader of the House. I have a feeling that is because she knew what was happening in Petrie with Luke Howarth, who was returned with an increased majority.

As we have heard, 26.7 per cent of people voted for Labor in the primary vote. Of the 30 federal seats in Queensland, the LNP has 23 and Labor has six. That is because Queenslanders saw the true character of Labor after 4½ years of a state government—a Labor-Greens alliance doing nothing. They are like lions in this chamber but like mice outside. It is a government of reviews, doing absolutely nothing, not caring about the regions. Former member of parliament Rob Schwarten said, ‘We are not selling our message.’ That means that all they are interested in is the message; they are not interested in doing anything. He also said that Labor people ‘think we don’t care about them’. Bob Gibbs is mentioned in paragraph 3(a) of the motion. Parts of his former seat of Bundamba are within the federal seat of Blair, which now has a 1.21 per cent margin after a 6.93 per cent swing against Labor. That shows how Labor has lost touch.

There are so many other seats we can look at. The motion at paragraphs 3(b), (c) and (d) refers to the former member for Rockhampton, the member for Keppel and the current member for Rockhampton. In the seat of Capricornia the Labor primary vote was 22.7 per cent. Four out of five people did not vote for the Labor Party. These members know they are in strife when Michelle Landry now has an 11 per cent margin in the seat of Capricornia! We have Warren Entsch in Leichhardt and George Christensen in Dawson.

I note paragraph 3(e), about the Minister for Communities, the member for Mundingburra, backing calls from MPs for more regional representation in the ministry. If there were more regional representation in the ministry, the member for Mundingburra would be the first one gone! We also have Mike Brunner saying that if the Premier cannot make a captain’s call on Adani then the Labor Party should consider changing leaders.


What about the member for Maryborough, mentioned in paragraph 3(g), pushing for cabinet changes? Talk about turning on your own! This bloke came in here with a 26 per cent primary vote and has had them shovelling money into Maryborough, yet he is looking to make changes. Since the election, in ministerial statements yesterday and today we have heard not a word from the government about the election result. So much for grace in defeat!

The final paragraph of the motion talks about government members only caring about their own jobs. There is another adage: ‘in the race of life, always back the horse named self-interest. It will be the only one trying.’ That is why yesterday we heard the Treasurer 37 times mention the regions of Queensland. For the Treasurer to have the gall to say in her speech yesterday that the Labor government was not counting on a Labor victory at the federal election flies in the face of reality. We

know that that is why we have had 37 mentions of the regions. The Labor-Greens alliance has been killing Queenslanders who care about their jobs now and their families now such that they felt like they had been left behind by Labor.

We have the Treasurer saying, 'Move on from Adani.' We have the health minister saying, 'Move on from the Lady Cilento issue.' Queenslanders want to move on from Labor, and they will do so in October 2020. They know that the LNP has alternative policies and plans. We have a leader who is liked and appreciated by people throughout the state. They understand that we are here to act on behalf of Queenslanders—not as we have seen from this lot opposite, including the member for Woodridge, who was been working with the member for Stafford.

The seat of Lilley is now the second most marginal seat in this country behind Macquarie. Who would have thought the seat of Lilley would nearly come over to our side? The motto of the LNP candidate in Lilley was 'send a worker to Canberra'. Brad Carswell nearly took down Wayne Swan's nominated successor. That shows the attitude of Queenslanders. We have an election and people say, 'Come back in three years and we will mark you down.' In this case, after only 18 months they have taken the chance to mark this government and they have marked it down severely. Labor has six seats out of 30 in Queensland. That is why we have a Morrison government and why, come October 2020, we will have a Frecklington led LNP government.

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.16 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. The federal election results were disappointing. As Leader of the Opposition Anthony Albanese said, we must respect the results. In respecting the results, it is important for our party to reflect. Taking a good, hard look in the mirror is the duty of a political party of progress, not protest. The people of Queensland expect us to respect the results of the federal election, and taking a good, hard look in the mirror, as I said, is part of paying respect to the people of Queensland.

Federal Labor must take stock, recalibrate our federal policies and tune our message. This government must continue its steadfast resolve to always put Queenslanders first. New leader Anthony Albanese, 'Albo', has said as much. Yes, we must take a good, hard look in the mirror. As a result, Labor must rise with courage, imagination and new ideas. We must seek change through the power of parliamentary democracy and the timeless truth of solidarity. We must keep unashamedly investing in all of Queensland's potential, to reverse disadvantage and to care for the most vulnerable in our state. We must continue to drive growth in our regional cities and towns, because our state, more than any other, relies on the prosperity of our regional economies. When our regions do well, all of Queensland does well.

Our party was founded on the important principle that everyone deserves a fair go in life. Our greatest achievements have always come from broadening the meaning of the fair go to include more people in its benefits. A strong minimum wage, a fair day's work and a decent pension were once radical notions, but it was Labor that made them universal rights. Labor believes in the dignity of work. We know how important a good job is to an individual's sense of self and to the stability and health of their family.

For Labor, the choice between prosperity and fairness will always be a false one. We know that economic growth comes from extending opportunity and reducing inequality. We know that building a more prosperous Queensland and nation means making sure no-one is left behind. This is the mission that defines our party and that defines the Palaszczuk Labor government. Labor's new challenge is to honour those achievements by building on them—to bring new meaning to our oldest ideal, to revere it and revitalise it.


This election result will not break Labor. We have 125 years of history which built our party, and over that time we have seen great election victories. Of course, we have also endured devastating defeats, but we are tough. Because our party was built on the principles of equality, fairness and opportunity for all, we will continue to invest in jobs and front-line services to meet the needs of a growing state.

We must continue to support business, particularly small and medium sized businesses, to create jobs. We have chosen to stay the course and not cut, sack and sell. Our vision for Queensland, together with the policies that shape our government with our tireless Premier at the helm, is working. The proof is in the numbers, because since 2015 199,000 jobs have been created. While the fundamental principles that define our party do not change, we are a party that is good at reflecting on our direction and we thrive on governing with tact, insight and consideration.

This is in stark contrast to those opposite, who have never truly learnt from the lessons after their disastrous result at the 2015 Queensland election. In 2012 the then member for Callide came into this place when he was the deputy premier of this state and told the now Deputy Premier, the member for

South Brisbane, that she ought to get comfortable sitting on the opposition benches because Labor would be there for years. It demonstrated just how arrogant and truly lost the LNP had become. It did not learn its lesson. When those opposite spent more than \$70 million of taxpayers' money to try and sell their asset sales plan to the community at a time when the community was not buying it, it demonstrated just how arrogant and truly lost the LNP had become.

The motion moved today by those opposite demonstrates just how arrogant the LNP still is. The principles that underpin the Liberal National Party do not support a fair go at all. The LNP's platform is to encourage and facilitate wealth—in other words, less or no regulation that protects the public from exploitation, anti worker, pro privatisation and open slather for those who seek to maximise profits at the expense of everyday working Queenslanders. I am proud that our party is constantly looking at better ways of running this state and ways to make the lives of all Queenslanders and Australians better.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Deputy Leader of the Opposition's motion before the House today and want to place on record on behalf of my state LNP team our congratulations to Scott Morrison, the Prime Minister of this great country. I want to place on record the LNP state team's congratulations to the entire federal LNP team for getting back into government in Canberra again. In particular, I want to congratulate a couple of members who really have gone above and beyond such as Phillip Thompson in Herbert. How good is Phil Thompson in Herbert, a former Young Australian of the Year? What about Michelle Landry? As the member for Surfers Paradise said, she achieved an unbelievable 11 per cent swing.

Mrs Lauga interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I can hear the interjections from the member for Keppel, and I am more than happy to take those interjections because it was the member for Keppel who started the tirade in the commentary against the Palaszczuk government after the loss of Bill Shorten, and good riddance! This was a member of parliament who found her voice after she realised that the Premier of Queensland and the Deputy Premier of Queensland did not realise that there is a Queensland outside of South Brisbane. The member for Keppel said that—

The Palaszczuk government needed to have a hard look at themselves in the mirror.

This is a government that is deeply divided. Unlike those opposite, it is the LNP team that represents all of Queensland. I have said it in this House on numerous occasions, and I will say it again today: I am from the bush. I am very proud to be a regional member. Each and every day that I come to work in Brisbane I bring a little bit of the bush with me. An LNP government would never, ever forget about the regions like the Palaszczuk government does.

I cannot just repeat the member for Keppel's words, because there are so many to choose from. The member for Mackay, the member for Rockhampton and the member for Mundingburra all lined up to ridicule the Palaszczuk government. The member for Woodridge could not be found for three days. When he was found he was asked for a comment about whether he was going to roll the Deputy Premier and his comment was, 'No comment,' but then three days later the member for Woodridge decided to front up to the media cameras in front of a shark tank. It was a bit opportune. We do not know where the member for Cooper was because she had gone missing completely—in the freezer I think we have heard—completely in—

An opposition member: Quarantine.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, completely in quarantine. The Palaszczuk Labor government is a deeply divided government that has only just worked out that there is a bigger, broader Queensland outside of inner-city Brisbane. We know that it is a city-centric cabinet. We know that. You do not have to trust our words, Mr Speaker, because those words have come from the member for Mundingburra, the member for Keppel, the member for Rockhampton, the member for Mackay and the member for Maryborough. I could go on, but there is simply not enough time left in today's debate. We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government is divided. We know that it has forgotten about the regions. It is only the LNP that will govern for all of Queensland. We know that there is one big Queensland out there, not just the one inner-city seat that is called South Brisbane.

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Maryborough.

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (5.26 pm): Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Southern Downs, for the second time today you are warned under the standing orders. I had called the House to order, members. I appreciate a robust debate. This is going too far. The member for Maryborough had not even spoken before he was being interjected upon. I have given very clear instructions about this previously.

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Speaker, thank you very much. Is this a bit of a joke? Have we just jumped in the TARDIS and gone back to 1 April? I do not know what is going on here. I said this morning that it has been a good news week and then the opposition started its silly games. We know how much those opposite love Queenslanders. What did we see in the *Brisbane Times* today? If those opposite get back into power they will be cutting the Public Service. The Leader of the Opposition said in the *Brisbane Times* that she cannot guarantee further cuts to the Public Service. Remember the 14,000 Queenslanders? How many families did that affect? In my electorate it affected a lot of people.

The LNP has no plan for infrastructure. In fact, it made a virtue of cutting infrastructure for the three years when it was in government. Its Budget Paper No. 3 Capital Statement said that, apart from reconstruction, the capital program will be smaller than in previous years, reflecting the determination of the government to restore the state's financial position. It was there in black and white. It was very proud of cutting infrastructure whereas we build in the regions. I could talk all day about the New Generation Rollingstock. What a great success! Could you imagine them? Could you see them? It was like the Barnum circus saying, 'Have a look at this. Buy this train that doesn't work!' Thank you, LNP! I just got a lecture from the member for Surfers Paradise when he said that I was elected on 25 per cent. I increased my primary vote to 46 per cent. Where did the LNP go? Seventeen per cent! Member for Surfers Paradise, you might be a good dentist, but as a mathematician you are a failure.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, member.

Mr SAUNDERS: Sorry, Mr Speaker. The rolling stock is a fine example of the LNP. If people want to see how good the LNP was in government, they should look at the NGR trains. I see them every day.

Mr Pegg: They were a laughing-stock.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Stretton. They were the laughing-stock of the whole community. That is why the LNP's vote went to 17 per cent.

I want to talk about pathology services and how great the LNP government was. The Leader of the Opposition sat at the table when the LNP cut pathology services from Maryborough Hospital. The other day I was shopping at Aldi and a lady came up to me and said, 'I have been an LNP voter all my life, but I voted for you and I will continue to vote for you.'


Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: That is why Queenslanders dislike the LNP. That is why they will not vote for the LNP. She said to me, 'You saved my life by getting the pathology unit back to Maryborough Hospital.' That is what happened. The Palaszczuk government restored services that that mob cut. They cut, they sacked and they sold.

I can tell members that I believe their vote in the Maryborough electorate will be lower than 17 per cent at the next election. The people of the Maryborough electorate are fantastic. They are good people. I often say that Maryborough is one of best cities in this country, if not the state, but the people of Maryborough do not forget and they do not forgive. They know what the LNP did to them while it was in government. It cut pathology services. In relation to the trains, the LNP sent those jobs overseas. It sold off everything. The LNP was threatening to sell off the electricity—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SAUNDERS: Mr Speaker, listen to them. They are a rabble. They think that Queenslanders are going to vote for them after 16 months of the ScoMo government, but we know they already have the knives out. They are coming after Queenslanders. They are going to cut and there will be more chaos from this mob. I am a punting man. I will say this: after 16 months of ScoMo Queenslanders will detest the LNP more than they do now.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.31 pm): What a load of drivel we have just heard from the member for Maryborough! My word! Talk about amnesia! The member for Maryborough totally ignored the fact that it was a Labor government that flogged off Queensland Rail. It was a Labor government that flogged off the forestry. It was a Labor government that also flogged off Queensland

Motorways and ports. He did not talk about that, but it was Labor that did that. The member for Maryborough also did not talk about the federal election result or the denial that we have from this state Labor government.

How good is Queensland and how terrible is the Palaszczuk-Trad Labor government. On 18 May, the quiet Australians and the quiet Queenslanders roared, because they wanted their voice heard. They wanted their concerns listened to. They wanted governments to understand that their hard earned taxpayer dollars should not be going to a wasteful government. That is one of the reasons they rejected Bill Shorten, who this state Labor government was cosyng up to before 18 May.

It is also a concern that those quiet Queenslanders, who in the most powerful way roared with their vote on 18 May and sent a message about what they did not like about Labor, are still not being heard by this state Labor government. There is still denial. This state Labor government is still not listening. In the recent federal election almost three out of four Queenslanders voted for anyone but Labor. That message has to be heard. State Labor under Anastacia Palaszczuk and Jackie Trad—

Mr SPEAKER: The member will use members' correct titles.

Ms SIMPSON: Treasurer Jackie Trad.

Mr SPEAKER: And there was another member mentioned.

Ms SIMPSON: Immediately after the election Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk and Treasurer Trad did not say sorry to those quiet Queenslanders. They did not say sorry to those people in the regions who are desperate for jobs. They did not say sorry to the people who are waiting for the mining resources and the Adani project to get a fair go and be considered. No, they did not say sorry. They were still in denial. A few days later, we saw the flip-flop from Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk. Suddenly, the Premier was fed up with her own government. What an absolute farce!

Anyone who knows the former Labor president Bob Gibbs, who is also a former member of this parliament, would know that he is no shrinking violet. He talks bluntly. He came out very strongly and said, 'The Adani issue has become a disgraceful example of incompetence by Government.'

Mr Power interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan and Deputy Leader of the Opposition, you are both warned under the standing orders.

Ms SIMPSON: After a Labor heavyweight came out and said that about this state Labor Premier and this government, one would think that this government would start to listen. But no, it is still not listening. Then we heard some of the regional Labor members starting to squeak and squeal as they realised that, if these figures translated into their own voting numbers, they were in trouble. The member for Keppel said that the Palaszczuk government needed to have a 'hard look at themselves in the mirror'. Robert Schwarten, another one who is not known for tact, was very direct in saying, 'I would be dishonest if I said there wasn't ramifications for the State Government.'

We have heard figures from within the Labor Party speaking out publicly. We have seen division like we have never seen played out on the public stage. That is owing to the frustration of those people within their own party, within their own unions, within the community that this state Palaszczuk-Trad Labor government is still not listening to Queenslanders—Queenslanders in our regions, Queenslanders who are not living the latte-sipping lifestyle of the elite. For those Queenslanders, every dollar matters, yet this government is still putting its hand in their pockets.

This government is out of touch with Queenslanders and their aspirations. Queenslanders deserve better and that is what the LNP team, under Deb Frecklington, are determined to give Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Again, I remind members to use people's correct titles in this House.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (5.37 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. I stand with my colleagues on this side of the House and share with them the disappointment with the outcome of the federal election. Our disappointment is simply that we know what we have ahead of us for the next three years.

This state government will continue to work hard to try to get a fair share for Queensland from the LNP Scott Morrison government, but we all know what we probably will get: not much. In my role as minister for disability services I will continue to work with the federal minister on the NDIS, but I remind members that that is the fifth federal minister whom I will be working with. Hopefully, we might be able to get something across the line.

The motion asserts that I backed calls from MPs for more regional representation in the ministry. That is completely false. Mr Speaker, I have today written to you about these false accusations that were made yesterday during question time by the member for Moggill. As I said in my letter to you, I have not made a request for a reshuffle on any occasion in either a public or private setting.

Mr Hart interjected.


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

Mrs O'ROURKE: I can say that, unlike those opposite, we on this side of the House are an incredibly united team. Those opposite claim to care about Queenslanders, but we know that they do not really care about Queenslanders. They care only about political pointscoring and name-calling.

There is not one member on this side of the House who cannot stand proudly and talk in depth about the many visits that they have had to their local electorate from various ministers across this cabinet listening and talking to them about what is important in their electorate. One only needs to look at the budget that the Treasurer handed down yesterday to see that all of the ministers have heard and responded to the voice of the regions. We have seen \$146 million in additional grant funding for businesses and regional councils. The \$885 million payroll tax initiative will make a huge difference to regional businesses. In Townsville we know there are about 500 businesses that will benefit from this. We are spending more than \$14.5 billion on our Queensland Transport and Roads Investment Program outside the Brisbane city, Ipswich city and Redland City Council local government areas.

In my home town alone we are providing \$2.9 million in this financial year for the construction of the women's centre; we are spending \$4.3 million on the Oasis; allocating more than \$5 million for non-government organisations to deliver specialist homelessness services; \$236 million in disaster recovery; \$225 million for water security; as I outlined in the House this morning, \$1.48 billion to the NDIS; \$4 million for two years of front-line community services for those with disability not eligible for the NDIS in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities; \$3.9 million over five years to expand place based responses to Gladstone and Rockhampton; and more than \$280 million in concessions for Queensland seniors to help with everything from electricity, water, rates and gas.

I represent the views of the regions each and every day and I know my colleagues are listening because they have put the money where it is needed the most. The budget speaks for itself. I commend the Treasurer for the budget that she delivered yesterday, a budget that has wholly and solely focused on regional investment and infrastructure delivery. It is for those reasons that I oppose the motion.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.41 pm): I rise to speak in support of the member for Everton's motion. Like many people around the world, I was very disappointed with the final season of *Game of Thrones*, which aired recently. I want to thank our own Littlefinger equivalent, the member for Woodridge, for writing his own script. It is true that he left the TV stage for a three-year non-self-imposed break as his previous seasons' performances were not getting the required ratings in Greenslopes land and he was unceremoniously dumped. Despite some haggling from the leftie actors equity board at the 2014 ALP conference—principally, the Joffrey-like character, the member for South Brisbane, and Arya, some would say akin to the member for Bundamba—he managed to pick up enough support from his new audience in the Woodridge kingdom. Apparently he went missing recently from the stage set for 72 hours and locked himself in his own trailer—you know, the super huge, 'I am the real star of this show' one with lots and lots of mirrors. Apparently he had the locks and pin code to his trailer changed so that only his real sycophants, like fellow cast member Tyrion—some might say member for Stretton-like—could tell him that he was the one to assume the iron throne—sorry, that is made out of a natural resource; I should say the renewable pine throne!

Indeed, the most recent season of *Game of Thrones* being played out here was disappointing on many levels. We had shallow performances from Melisandre—some may say like the member for Keppel—saying that a Cersei—possibly the member for Inala—led government needed a hard look at themselves in the mirror. Who knows, maybe she should go borrow one from the Littlefinger-like equivalent the former member for Greenslopes, before he absconded to become the member for Woodridge because he fancied his chances of getting higher ratings there. Did I mention that he has lots and lots of mirrors in his trailer?

In what can only be described as one of those quirky plot twists in Labor's 'game of thrones', that colourful character Bran, that shadowy figure some might say like the member for Maryborough, was pushing for changes to the cast line-up, saying that we need more cabinet changes around the iron throne, including a minister from a regional kingdom north of the wall. Although he has been up until

this season a minor bit part player, some might say that Stannis-like character the member for Rockhampton contributed to the unusual script line saying he was concerned about losing his spot on the show and that the viewing audience was concerned that the Iron Kingdom was about getting rid of mining and jobs.

Nobody saw this plot development in Labor's 'game of thrones' when one of the characters from the north, Catelyn—possibly like the member for Mundingburra—asked for more representation from the north. We all thought she was written out of the series during that infamous leftie, red wedding episode! What a remarkable comeback!

Sitting in the background getting very frustrated that she is being cut out of the script because, let us face it, she knows she is the real star—just ask her—is Daenerys, similar to the member for Cooper. She used to appear regularly with Joffrey and Sansa, the member for Waterford-like equivalent, but the current season has seen a fallout amongst this trio. Creative differences perhaps? Maybe they all covet the leftie Logie or, more likely, to be queen of the Seven Kingdoms. We have seen from the first season that Joffrey, the member equivalent to the member for South Brisbane, has been eyeing the prize. Speaking of the member for South Brisbane, plenty of people in TV land are speculating that she might be searching for a more favourable kingdom to rule, a lot like Littlefinger, the member for Woodridge. She is a cunning actor and remembered when Birnam Wood came to Dunsinane in an earlier Shakespearian play. Green armies certainly concern her greatly and they have been on the march in her kingdom for many years now. Like the White Walkers, their march is relentless.

Where is this final season heading? The fans are restless because we saw a couple of weeks ago during the awards season in Canberra that the red-hot favourite to win the gold Logie lost and the underdog won. Apparently a lot of scripts needed to be amended and changed as even the bookies got it wrong. One thing is for sure: this real-life Labor 'game of thrones' has plenty to offer the viewers yet. Will Littlefinger-like character the member for Greenslopes have enough mirrors? Will Tyrion, the member similar to the member for Stretton, ever get to join the A-list cast? Who was responsible for that lump of coal being seen next to the coffee cup at the caucus banquet? And what about that much maligned method actor, Daenerys, some would say the equivalent of the member for Cooper? Surely she has a chance of coming up through the middle of all the schemers to take the leftie iron throne in her own right. She has tasted bitter defeat before in the kingdom of Ashgrove but, like many members of this washed out cast, still prefers to play on the political stage.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Lord Varys.



Mr O'ROURKE (Rockhampton—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. It is no secret that I am disappointed by the federal Labor government's performance at the federal election. I am disappointed for a lot of reasons, one being because of the falsehoods about mining. The fact is that Labor is a great friend of the resource industry, in particular at the state level in the Palaszczuk Labor government. Let us look at the facts. In April of this year our government declared Winchester South coalmine to be a coordinated project. That involves a \$1 billion investment, 500 construction jobs and another 500 jobs when operational. Another \$1 billion mine, the Olive Downs mine, was declared a coordinated project in 2017. An EIS was approved on 13 May.

Opposition members interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I will not have any more calls of relevance. It is my role to determine whether a member is being relevant. According to the motion I see before me the member is being relevant. There is a process. If you wish to ask a question about relevance, rise to your feet on a point of order. Otherwise cease the interjections.

Mr O'ROURKE: Both of those mines include significant thermal coal production as well as their main purpose of metallurgical coal. That is just the start. The Amrun bauxite project near Weipa is a \$2.6 billion project, supports 1,200 jobs and was first in production in December 2018. The Byerwen coal project in the Bowen Basin is a \$1.7 billion project that supports 545 jobs and secured mining leases in April 2017. The Charlie gas project in Western Downs is a \$1.7 billion project with 1,600 jobs, approved in November 2015 and completed in late 2017. The Dugald River zinc mine near Cloncurry is a \$1.4 billion project that supports 400 jobs and achieved commercial production in May 2018. The Northern Gas Pipeline, Mount Isa to Tennant Creek, is an \$800 million project that has 431 jobs and opened in late 2018. Daandine and Tipton fields exploration in the Surat Basin is an \$800 million project announced in the 2016-17 financial year. The Roma East gas expansion was a \$750 million project with 400 jobs which was announced in February 2018.

Let us be clear: in the year to March 2019, our gas exports increased by \$4.8 billion, metallurgical coal was up \$3.9 billion, other minerals were up \$1.3 billion and there have been many more. Since the Palaszczuk government took office, we have facilitated better than \$20 billion worth of investment in resource projects, supporting thousands of jobs. My message to those opposite is that you might have got away with some dirty tricks at the federal election, but you can think again—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member, you will put your comments through the chair.

Mr O'ROURKE: They can think again if they think it will work on our government. We have the runs on the board and a better record for creating mining jobs than anything that they have achieved in government. Not for one moment will we stop reminding Queenslanders of that. We have seen in excess of 30,000 resource jobs created in the Bowen Basin. We are supporting the resources industry in Queensland.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.51 pm): From looking at today's list of speakers for Labor, it seems that punishment has been doled out. The member for Stafford—the numbers man—started the debate for Labor. Every one of the Labor members and ministers who have appeared in the newspapers in the past seven days criticising the Palaszczuk Labor government got a gig on today's speaking list. I do not think they got on the speaking list to reinforce their previous messages; it was to create the guise that they did not really mean what they said or what they wrote to the federal Labor Party about not voting for Richard Marles as the deputy leader of the Labor Party because of his anti-region and anti-coal stance. First up we heard from the numbers man and then we heard from the Carmichael crew—the members for Keppel, Maryborough and Mundingburra—and we finished off with robustness provided by the member for Rockhampton. To top off the Labor debate, in comes the challenger. The member for Woodridge will finish off the debate. What a load of rubbish!

With the ructions that are happening within it, the Labor Party is more divided than I have seen in 10 years in this place. This morning the member for Woodridge stood in this place and said, 'What evidence do you have that I'm going to be challenging for some leadership position?' I gave the deputy leader all the assurance in the world that we have plenty of evidence out there. I will go through a few articles, which I will table. Here come the challengers!

A *Courier-Mail* article dated 28 May is headed 'Trad blamed for losses'. There are only two people whom the federal Labor Party blame for the election loss and they are the Premier and the Deputy Premier, because of this left-leaning government. The article states—

"... but I think they're doing a good job of getting that up," one MP said of her detractors. "I do think the Right are using it as a way to dust up Jackie," another said.

I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 28 May 2019, titled 'Trad blamed for losses' [965].

I table another *Courier-Mail* article, headed 'AI not going to plan in Premier's mine game'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 25 May 2019, titled 'AI not going to plan in Premier's mine game' [966].

An article from the *Australian* is headed 'Second chance for Labor's Cameron Dick'. It talks about the member for Woodridge being elevated to cabinet in his first term, and guess what? It states, 'Mr Dick could not be reached for comment.' That was back in 2012. He has a habit of not being able to be reached for comment. That is just like the other night with channel 10 news, when for three days he was silent and would not provide any commentary as to whether he was after the Treasurer's job.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Australian*, dated 25 March 2012, titled 'Second chance for Labor's Cameron Dick' [964].

Let us not forget what the member for Bundamba said about the member for Woodridge when he was flip-flopping about which seat he was going to run for. He was looking at Anna Bligh's old seat. I have here a *Courier-Mail* article that states—

Former MP Cameron Dick—

the member for Woodridge—

who is considered a contender for the parliamentary leadership should he be voted back in ...

At this time the best model for our party going forward is a joint vote ... between individual party members ...

That was years ago when he was against the union movement. The article continues to state that he was slapped down by the member for Bundamba and the member for South Brisbane 'who backed a move to allow unions'. The article states—

"Cameron, we know there's a bit of self interest in this, Ms Miller said before also taking a swipe at former Premier ...

'A little bit of self-interest', says the member for Bundamba. Take a bow, member for Bundamba. We love you, member for Bundamba! I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 11 March 2014, titled 'Former education minister Cameron Dick the front-runner in ALP Woodridge preselection race' [\[962\]](#).

This article from the *Brisbane Times* is headed 'Cameron Dick's plan to return puts Labor leadership in the spotlight'. I table that article, as well as all of this evidence.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 11 March 2014, titled 'Cameron Dick's plan to return puts Labor leadership in the spotlight' [\[963\]](#).


Tabled paper: Article from the *Sunday Mail*, dated 25 August 2014, titled 'Cheers and jeers as ALP debates how to choose its next leader' [\[961\]](#).

Tabled paper: Screenshot, Channel 10 News First Twitter post, dated 28 May 2019, regarding the Palaszczuk government [\[960\]](#).

There is only one person on the Labor Party benches who is destabilising the leadership of the Palaszczuk Labor government and that is the member for Woodridge. The member for Keppel says that Labor Party members ought to look in a mirror. That would not be hard: they can just borrow a mirror from the member for Woodridge, who carries one around with him every day of the week. We know that his leadership ambitions are strong. We know that he wants to be the leader, but before that he wants to be the treasurer. He knows that the Labor Party has gone so far to the radical Left that they will not win the next election with the Premier and the Deputy Premier.

The answer to Labor's problem certainly does not lie with the member for Woodridge, despite the fact that he wants it. Only the LNP will deliver for all Queensland—from the country and the bush to the cities and the coast.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (5.56 pm): I will say this much for the member for Kawana: at least his speech was better than that of the member for Chatsworth. What was that about? I apologise to the member for Greenslopes, who should have risen on a point of order. Am I the member the Greenslopes? Am I a character in *Game of Thrones*? I do not even watch it.

Tonight I am very pleased to rise to oppose this motion. Last night on Sky news Alan Jones called the state LNP opposition economically illiterate. This motion moved by the member for Everton should sit next to that comment marked 'exhibit A'. What an absolute joke! During budget week the response we get from the alternative treasurer of Queensland is an incoherent mishmash of news clippings and Twitter feeds full of gossip, innuendo and falsehoods. That was a lazy and vexatious contribution from a shadow Treasurer who is entirely out of his depth. It is not just hypocrisy; it is arrogance.

Every time this House sits, we are forced to watch as the LNP members pour their moral bankruptcy into their policy vacuum and cook up a toxic brew of dishonest smears. We see that every week. I say to every single member of this House, in the clearest possible terms, that the claim made by the member for Everton this morning—which he withdrew on the floor but kept in his motion—relating to me and the member for Stafford is absolutely false. I make that clear.

What the LNP find most difficult and cannot do is acknowledge the success of the first female government leadership team in Australian history. Everyone on this side of the House—every single one of us—is proud to be led by them. We know what the member for Everton thinks about women. Members will remember the estimates committee when he deliberately complained about the number of women on the Parole Board. It is no wonder that the leadership spill has started, because the member for Everton cannot stand to be led by a woman. It injures his very concept of what it is to be a man. That is the truth.

Why would you deliberately go into the estimates committee, deliberately drafting questions to attack women on the Parole Board if you could not stand women? That is the member for Everton. Being lectured on leadership by the LNP is like being lectured to by Clive Palmer on truth in advertising. There are so many unsheathed knives over there, it is like an audition episode for *MasterChef*.

In the most damning indictment since George Brandis described the member for Clayfield as 'very, very mediocre', Alan Jones last night described the leadership of the coalition in Queensland as 'beyond hopeless'—beyond as in worse than; as in if they work really, really hard one day they may aspire to be merely hopeless. Jones also described the move against Frecklington. He said, 'The move against Frecklington is on.' That hardly comes as a surprise to anyone on this side of the House, but it

may explain why the member for Everton is so excitable. He has sweaty palms, is agitated and ready to go knowing the window of opportunity is open just a little bit. He may soon get the chance to add to his perfect record of failed leadership bids. That is coming.

Unfortunately, the member for Everton failed to listen to Alan Jones last night because he said 'beyond hopeless' referred to the leadership team, as in the leader and the deputy. Very pleasingly for the House, 'Wilson the volleyball' was included in that damning indictment.

Everyone heard this morning the motion moved by the deputy leader. Everyone is now saying, 'How bad is the Deputy Leader of the Opposition? How bad is he?' Meanwhile, the member for Broadwater sits, watches and waits. He goes on Peter Gleeson's show. We know the member for Broadwater is the go-to man for Sky. Who else does he talk to on Sky News? I wonder who else would be talking to Alan Jones about the leadership shift. He is the go-to man for Sky. I have woken him up because he knows what is going on.

This motion says everything possible about the unfitness of the leadership of the LNP. It says everything about their unfitness and should be opposed.

(Time expired)

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

AYES, 38:

LNP, 37—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.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 48:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: Boyd, Bates.


Resolved in the negative.

DISABILITY SERVICES AND OTHER LEGISLATION (NDIS) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1921, on motion of Mrs O'Rourke—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (6.07 pm), continuing in reply: I now go back to issues and concerns raised around stakeholder engagement. I can further assure the House that the sector is well briefed on the transition. My department and I regularly engage with the Queensland NDIS Transition Advisory Group, comprising CEOs of peak, representative and key service provider bodies, and the Queensland Disability Advisory Council. We discuss many aspects of the NDIS and notably the NDIS National Quality and Safeguarding Framework, the NDIS Quality and Safeguards Commission and this bill. QTAG and QDAC members and their networks are well across this work and the implications for Queensland. To say that stakeholders do not receive communication from me or my department is completely incorrect.

The member for Moggill also raised the issue of Queensland's ongoing financial contribution to the NDIS. I want to be very clear that Queensland will have a final full scheme agreement when we have a fair deal on the table from the Commonwealth. The Commonwealth's proposed full scheme bilateral agreement does not recognise Queensland's slow transition of new participants to the NDIS as a result of delays by the NDIA in establishing key positions and by not addressing the identified issues of not lifting the staffing gap of the NDIA. The delay in signing a full scheme agreement is due

to the Commonwealth's proposal being put forward. It would see Queensland funding the majority of package costs—up to 80 per cent—with the Commonwealth benefiting from underspends of over a billion dollars.

I was also asked by the member for Moggill to provide further information about reportable deaths in aged-care facilities, which I am pleased to provide. Firstly, I want to be clear that private dwellings and aged-care facilities have never been captured under the relevant definitions we are amending. Secondly, this does not mean that a death of an NDIS participant in an aged-care facility is not reportable. It could in fact be reportable, depending upon the circumstances, under another category of reportable death—namely, a healthcare related death.

I also want to assure the House that the implementation activities for the bill in relation to the jurisdiction of the coroner and the Community Visitor Program will include communication and education activities through key disability services organisations including National Disability Services and Queenslanders with Disability Network. Both the Office of the Public Guardian and the Coroners Court of Queensland will also update their public-facing material to inform the disability services sector of the new requirements. The State Coroner's Guidelines 2013, for example, will be updated to reflect the new reporting obligations under the Coroners Act. In addition, community visitors play an important role in informing certain disability service providers about their obligations to continue to report deaths to the State Coroner.

There was also a question raised by the member for Caloundra about the recommendations of the Public Advocate report and how they align with this bill. I can confirm that the report released by the Public Advocate in 2016 outlined recommendations to enhance the health care of those with a disability in care. In response to the Public Advocate's report, the Queensland government has developed an action plan outlining actions the Queensland government will undertake to improve the health care for people with a disability in care through new initiatives or enhancing existing initiatives. This has been provided to the Public Advocate.

In response to recommendations 1 to 3, 65, 66 and 68 of the report, the action plan commits the Queensland government to ensuring adequate systems to report on the death of people with a disability in care. The amendments to the definition of 'death in care' under the bill in clause 51(1) will address a specific action allocated to the Department of Justice and Attorney-General, which is to consider whether legislative amendments are required to the current definition of 'death in care' under the Coroners Act in order to reflect the varying individual care arrangements in place under the NDIS. The amended definition will ensure that the deaths of certain NDIS participants will continue to be reported to the coroner as deaths in care. These amendments will also be an opportunity to remind disability service providers and other key agencies about their obligations to report certain deaths to the coroner.

In conclusion, this bill will ensure that the necessary, urgent and critical amendments are made to legislation to reflect roles and responsibilities under the NDIS and to support the operation of the NDIS commission in Queensland from 1 July 2019. Again, I extend my thanks to the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for its examination of the bill and recommendation that it be passed, as well as all of the honourable members who have contributed to the debate of this legislation.

I also thank the six organisations who made submissions to the committee to assist during its consideration of the bill. Each one of these organisations has been and continue to be valued partners during the NDIS transition. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that will continue to meet its commitments to implement the NDIS in Queensland and ensure the NDIS provides a quality service for people with disability in Queensland. This includes the introduction of further legislative amendments to support the implementation of a nationally consistent worker screening system in 2020. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 81—



Mrs O'ROURKE (6.13 pm): I seek leave to move amendments en bloc.

Leave granted.

Mrs O'ROURKE: I move the following amendments—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 8, lines 12 and 13, 'a day to be fixed by proclamation'—
omit, insert—

1 July 2019

2 After clause 17

Page 13, after line 23—

insert—

17A Amendment of s 65 (Starting engagement of certain regular engaged persons other than volunteers)

Section 65(2)(b), after 'the person'—

insert—

and section 69A does not apply in relation to the person

17B Amendment of s 66 (Starting engagement of new engaged persons other than volunteers)

Section 66(2)(b), after 'the person'—

insert—

and section 69A does not apply in relation to the person

17C Amendment of s 67 (Continuing engagement of persons other than volunteers)

Section 67(2), from 'unless' to 'the person.'—

omit, insert—

unless—

(a) the service provider has applied for a prescribed notice or exemption notice, or a further prescribed notice or exemption notice, about the person; and

(b) section 69A does not apply in relation to the person.

17D Insertion of new s 69A

After section 69—

insert—

69A Person in paid regulated engagement convicted of serious offence

(1) This section applies if—

(a) a prescribed notice application or exemption notice application has been made about a person in relation to whom section 65, 66 or 67 applies; and

(b) the application has not been decided or withdrawn; and

(c) the chief executive becomes aware the person was convicted of a serious offence—

(i) if the person held a positive notice or positive exemption notice when the application was made—after the application was made; or

(ii) if the person held a positive notice or positive exemption notice that expired before the application was made—after the person's notice expired; or

(iii) otherwise—before or after the application was made.

(2) The chief executive must give the person a written notice that states—

(a) the person is not allowed to work at a service outlet of a service provider before the person's application is decided; and

(b) it is an offence for the person to continue to work at a service outlet of a service provider, or start in regulated engagement, unless the person is issued a positive notice or positive exemption notice.

(3) If the chief executive gives the person a notice under subsection (2), the person must not, unless the person is issued a positive notice or positive exemption notice—

(a) if the person is engaged at a service outlet of a service provider when given the notice under subsection (2)—work at the service outlet; or

(b) start in other regulated engagement.

Maximum penalty—500 penalty units or 5 years imprisonment.

(4) Subsection (5) applies if—

(a) the chief executive gives the person a notice under subsection (2); and

(b) the person is engaged by a funded non-government service provider or an NDIS non-government service provider.

- (5) The chief executive must give the service provider a written notice that states—
 - (a) the person is not allowed to work at a service outlet of a service provider before the person's application is decided; and
 - (b) it is an offence for a service provider to allow the person to work at a service outlet of the service provider unless the person is issued a positive notice or positive exemption notice; and
 - (c) the service provider must not terminate the person's engagement or continued engagement solely or mainly because the service provider is given the notice.
- (6) A service provider may not terminate the person's engagement or continued engagement solely or mainly because the service provider is given a notice under subsection (5).

17E Amendment of s 70 (Prohibited engagement)

- (1) Section 70(2)(b), before subparagraph (i)—
insert—
 - (ia) a notice under section 69A(5) that the engaged person is not allowed to work at a service outlet of a service provider before the person's application is decided; or
- (2) Section 70(2)(b)(i), after 'section 132(5)'—
insert—
, (6) or (7)
- (3) Section 70(2)(b)(ia) to (ii)—
renumber as section 70(2)(b)(i) to (iii).

17F Amendment of s 86 (Suspension of positive notice if charged with disqualifying offence or subject to temporary or interim order)

- (1) Section 86, heading, before 'disqualifying'—
insert—
serious or
- (2) Section 86(1)(a), after 'charged with a'—
insert—
serious offence or

17G Amendment of s 87 (Ending of suspension and issue of further prescribed notice)

- Section 87(6)(a) and (c), before 'disqualifying offence'—
insert—
serious offence or

17H Amendment of s 132 (Withdrawal of engaged person's consent to screening)

- Section 132(6)(a), after 'charged with a'—
insert—
serious offence or

3 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 27, after line 30—
insert—

new serious offence means an offence that is a serious offence under the amended Act but was not a serious offence under this Act immediately before the commencement.

4 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 28, after line 1—
insert—

345A Effect of pre-commencement charge for serious offence

- (1) This section applies if a person is the subject of a charge for a serious offence that has not been dealt with on the commencement.
- (2) For applying the amended Act in relation to the person, the person is taken to have been charged with the offence on the commencement.

345B Effect of conviction or charge for new serious offence

- (1) For applying the amended Act in relation to a person convicted of a new serious offence, it is immaterial—
 - (a) when the offence was committed; or
 - (b) when the person was convicted of the offence.
- (2) The amended Act applies in relation to a person who is charged with a new serious offence, even if—
 - (a) the person was charged before the commencement; or
 - (b) the acts or omissions constituting the offence happened before the commencement.

5 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 28, after line 22—

insert—

- (3) For applying the amended Act to a current positive notice held by a person immediately before the commencement, a person the subject of a charge for a new disqualifying offence that has not been dealt with on the commencement is taken to have been charged with the offence on the commencement.

346A Effect of conviction for new disqualifying offence on existing positive notice or positive exemption notice

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) a person held a current positive notice or positive exemption notice immediately before the commencement; and
 - (b) the person was convicted of a new disqualifying offence before the commencement.
- (2) For applying the amended Act to the person's positive notice or positive exemption notice, the offence is taken to be, or to continue to be, a serious offence despite the enactment of the amending Act.
- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), if the person applies for another positive exemption notice after the commencement, or section 347, 348 or 349 applies in relation to the person—
- (a) the person's conviction for the offence is taken to be, or to continue to be, a conviction for a serious offence; and
 - (b) the person is taken not to be a disqualified person or relevant disqualified person in relation to the person's conviction for the offence.

6 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 29, lines 18 to 25—

*omit, insert—***348 Existing positive notice held by person convicted of new serious offence or new disqualifying offence**

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) immediately before the commencement, a person held a current positive notice; and
 - (b) before the commencement, the person was convicted of—
 - (i) a new serious offence; or
 - (ii) a new disqualifying offence that is taken to be a serious offence under section 346A(2).
- (1A) Section 74 does not apply to the person in relation to the person's conviction for the offence.
- (1B) The chief executive must—
- (a) consider whether it is appropriate to cancel the person's positive notice under this section because of the person's conviction for the offence; and
 - (b) give the person a notice stating that, because of the enactment of the amending Act, the chief executive is considering under this section whether the person should continue to hold the person's positive notice.
- (1C) If the person is engaged by a funded non-government service provider or an NDIS non-government service provider and is not a sole trader, the chief executive must give the service provider a notice mentioned in subsection (1B)(b).

7 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 30, lines 5 and 6—

omit, insert—

- (3) Section 83(2), (3), (5) and (6) apply to the decision under subsection (2) as if a reference in section 83 to making a decision, or proposing to substitute a negative notice, were a reference to making a decision, or proposing to substitute a negative notice, under subsection (2).
- (4) If the chief executive decides not to cancel the person's positive notice under this section, the chief executive must give the persons mentioned in subsection (5) a notice stating that the chief executive is satisfied, having considered the enactment of the amending Act, the person should continue to hold the person's positive notice.
- (5) For subsection (4), the persons to whom the notice must be given are—
- (a) the person; and
 - (b) each service provider given a notice under subsection (1B).

8 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 30, lines 7 to 15—

*omit, insert—***349 Existing positive exemption notice held by person convicted of new serious offence or new disqualifying offence**

- (1) This section applies if—
- (a) immediately before the commencement, a person held a current positive exemption notice; and
 - (b) before the commencement, the person was convicted of—
 - (i) a new serious offence; or
 - (ii) a new disqualifying offence that is taken to be a serious offence under section 346A(2).
- (1A) Section 74 does not apply to the person in relation to the person's conviction for the offence.
- (1B) The chief executive must—
- (a) consider whether it is appropriate to cancel the person's positive exemption notice under this section because of the person's conviction for the offence; and
 - (b) give the person a notice stating that, because of the enactment of the amending Act, the chief executive is considering under this section whether the person should continue to hold the person's positive exemption notice.
- (1C) If the person is engaged by a funded non-government service provider or an NDIS non-government service provider and is not a sole trader, the chief executive must give the service provider a notice mentioned in subsection (1B)(b).

9 Clause 46 (Insertion of new pt 9, div 12)

Page 30, lines 26 and 27—

omit, insert—

- (3) Section 84(2), (3), (5) and (6) apply to the decision under subsection (2) as if a reference in section 84 to making a decision, or proposing to substitute a negative exemption notice, were a reference to making a decision, or proposing to substitute a negative exemption notice, under subsection (2).
- (4) If the chief executive decides not to cancel the person's positive exemption notice under this section, the chief executive must give the persons mentioned in subsection (5) a notice stating that the chief executive is satisfied, having considered the enactment of the amending Act, the person should continue to hold the person's positive exemption notice.
- (5) For subsection (4), the persons to whom the notice must be given are—
- (a) the person; and
 - (b) each service provider given a notice under subsection (1B).

10 After clause 46

Page 38, after line 14—

*insert—***46A Amendment of sch 2 (Current serious offences)**

- (1) Schedule 2, item 4, entry for the Criminal Code—

insert—

315A

Choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting

- (2) Schedule 2, item 4, entry for the Criminal Code, section 300, all the words in column 3—
omit.
- (3) Schedule 2, item 6, entry for the Criminal Code (Cwlth), section 270.6 Sexual servitude offences—
omit.
- (4) Schedule 2, item 6, entry for the Criminal Code (Cwlth)—
insert—

270.5

Servitude offences

271.4

Offence of trafficking in children

271.7

Offence of domestic trafficking in children

46B Amendment of sch 3 (Repealed or expired serious offences)

Schedule 3—

insert—

3 Criminal Code (Cwlth)

Provision of Act	Relevant heading	Qualification relating to the provision of the Act
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270.6	Sexual servitude offences	only if an offender was or could have been liable as mentioned in section 270.8, as the provisions were in force from time to time before their repeal by the <i>Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Act 2013</i> (Cwlth)
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11 Clause 47 (Amendment of sch 4 (Current disqualifying offences))

Page 38, line 17, after entry for section 211 Bestiality—

insert—

306 Attempt to murder

309 Conspiring to murder

315A Choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting

320A Torture if the offence was committed against a child

12 Clause 47 (Amendment of sch 4 (Current disqualifying offences))

Page 39, before line 1, after entry for section 363A Abduction of child under 16—

insert—

364 Cruelty to children under 16

13 Clause 47 (Amendment of sch 4 (Current disqualifying offences))

Page 39, lines 4 and 5, 'entry for section 349'—

omit, insert—

entries for sections 349, 350 and 351

14 Clause 47 (Amendment of sch 4 (Current disqualifying offences))

Page 39, after line 6—

insert—

(4) Schedule 4, item 5, entry for the Criminal Code (Cwlth), entry for section 270.6 Sexual servitude offences—

omit.

(5) Schedule 4, item 5, entry for the Criminal Code (Cwlth)—

insert—

270.5 Servitude offences if the offence was committed against a child

271.4 Offence of trafficking in children

271.7 Offence of domestic trafficking in children

15 After clause 47

Page 39, before line 7—

*insert—***47A Amendment of sch 5 (Repealed or expired disqualifying offences)**

Schedule 5—

insert—

3 Criminal Code (Cwlth)

Provision of Act	Relevant heading	Qualification relating to the provision of the Act
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270.6	Sexual servitude offences	only if an offender was or could have been liable as mentioned in section 270.8, as the provisions were in force from time to time before their repeal by the <i>Crimes Legislation Amendment (Slavery, Slavery-like Conditions and People Trafficking) Act 2013</i> (Cwlth)
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I table the explanatory notes to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to the Hon. Coralee O'Rourke's amendments [967].

Amendments Nos 1 to 15 will ensure consistency with the recent changes progressed through the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. This will ensure consistency between Queensland's working with children check—blue card system—and the disability screening system—yellow card system—is retained. This is important given the intersection of the two systems through an exemption process that operates to reduce duplication of screening.

These amendments elevate additional offences to the list of serious and disqualifying offences under the Disability Services Act 2006. It will ensure equitable transition arrangements for current yellow card holders at commencement who have a previous conviction for a new serious offence or a new disqualifying offence as a result of the bill and establish a new framework for dealing with cardholders and applicants charged or convicted of a serious offence. In addition, amendment No. 1 ensures that remaining provisions of the bill that do not commence on assent will commence on 1 July 2019.

Dr ROWAN: The Liberal National Party will not be opposing the amendments as moved en bloc by the minister as part of the legislative debate. Ensuring consistency between Queensland's working with children check—blue card system—and the disability screening framework—the yellow card system—is very important, and I certainly acknowledge that on behalf of the Liberal National Party opposition here in Queensland. The Liberal National Party is also of the view that the included additional offences as outlined being elevated to the list of serious and disqualifying offences is also appropriate.


I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the minister's explanation about reportable deaths, particularly with respect to those deaths being captured under health related deaths and hence obligations under the Coroners Act in Queensland. As outlined by the minister, the amendments also ensure that the remaining provisions of the bill that do not commence on assent will commence on 1 July 2019. Given the importance of the implementation of the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the cross-jurisdictional arrangements, as the LNP's shadow minister for disability services, I offer my support for those arrangements as the shadow minister and also on behalf of the LNP opposition in Queensland.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 81, as amended, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (6.17 pm): I move—


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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (6.17 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (6.18 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. This morning I alerted the House to an incident yesterday in which I believed that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition had made an unparliamentary and offensive remark during the budget speech. I have further

reviewed the audio recording of this incident and, despite there being clearly audible interjections, it is not clear from the recording what word or words were used. I withdraw. I apologise to the member and I apologise to the House.

CIVIL LIABILITY AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 November 2018 (see p. 3614).

Second Reading



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.18 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced on 15 November 2018 and referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. I am pleased to inform the House that on 28 February 2019 the committee tabled its report and made just one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its careful consideration of the bill. I also thank the stakeholders who contributed to the committee process through their submissions and the stakeholders who provided feedback during consultation on the provisions in the bill. I note the statement of reservation from the opposition members of the committee, and I will address their issues in my contribution to today's debate of the bill.

The bill implements the government's response to recommendations 91 to 94 of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse in its *Redress and civil litigation report*. The Palaszczuk government has already acted on the recommendations in the commission's report for the removal of the limitation period for actions for personal injury arising from sexual abuse as a child and participation in the National Redress Scheme, which commenced in Queensland in November 2018.

This bill establishes a statutory framework that: allows institutions to satisfy liability arising from child sexual abuse out of the assets of an associated trust that the institution uses to carry out its functions or activities; for unincorporated associations, allows for the nomination of a proper defendant to defend a claim and meet any liability incurred by the institution; provides for continuity of institutions that are liable for historical abuse; and introduces a new statutory duty—applied prospectively—under which an institution must take all reasonable steps to prevent the sexual abuse of a child by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution.

The bill will prevent institutions from avoiding liability by hiding behind unincorporated status or complex trust arrangements and remove legal impediments that prevent responsible institutions from accessing their trust assets. The bill is also about preventing future abuse by making institutions liable where they fail to take all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse from occurring.

I would like to foreshadow that I will be proposing a number of amendments during consideration in detail to strengthen and clarify the bill to be moved. The amendments address issues raised by stakeholders and are designed to achieve greater consistency with equivalent provisions in other jurisdictions while also providing for better outcomes for both survivors and institutions. Before I explain the amendments, I would like to turn to the substantive elements of the bill examined by the committee.

The bill amends the Civil Liability Act 2003 to provide that institutions will be taken to be liable for the sexual abuse of a child that is perpetrated by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution unless the institution can prove that it took all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse. An institution's opportunity to demonstrate that it took all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse has been described as a reverse onus because after sexual abuse of a child has occurred the obligation shifts to the institution to demonstrate what steps it took to prevent the abuse.

The bill includes a list of factors relevant to whether the institution did in fact take all reasonable steps. Ultimately, whether an institution has taken all reasonable steps will be a question of fact that depends on the circumstances. The reverse onus is consistent with the royal commission's recommendation and equivalent provisions that have been legislated in New South Wales and Victoria. There is no one-size-fits-all list of reasonable steps. Going forward, institutions will need to consider the scope of their duty in their particular circumstances in order to consider, adopt and implement practices, policies and procedures to comply with their obligations and in order to be able to document and provide evidence of the steps that have been taken. The reverse onus will apply prospectively only. This means

that for sexual abuse claims where the abuse occurred before the commencement of the provisions in the bill the burden of proof will be on the claimant, as it currently is, to establish that the institution owed a duty of care and that the other elements of the claim are made out.

I am aware that a number of stakeholders submitted to the committee that the new statutory duty should have retrospective application. With respect to those stakeholders, the government does not share that view. The prospective application of the reverse onus is consistent with the commission's recommendation. The commission did not support the retrospective application of the duty on institutions, noting it would mean that institutions would effectively face a new liability for abuse that has already occurred—potentially over many previous decades—and that no institution could now improve its practices or take steps to prevent abuse that has already occurred. At page 476 of the civil litigation report the royal commission also observed that the institution of retrospectivity would be likely to create unrealistic expectations amongst survivors as to their prospects of success.

The definition in the bill of a person associated with an institution is drawn from the commission's recommendation and corresponding legislation in other jurisdictions. The definition is inclusive, applying to specific classes of persons—officer, office holder, representative, leader, owner, member, employee, agent, volunteer, contractor, minister of religion et cetera—but it is not intended to limit persons who may be regarded as associated with that institution according to the ordinary meaning of the term.

The amendments I will introduce during consideration in detail of the bill will address minor changes to the definition of 'associated with' in order to more fully reflect the commission's recommendation and the position in other jurisdictions. Under the provisions of the bill, institutions, whether incorporated or unincorporated, may satisfy liability arising out of the settlement or a judgement in respect of an abuse claim using the assets of the institution and the assets of an associated trust that the institution uses to carry out its functions or activities.

Under the bill, unincorporated institutions may nominate a proper defendant, such as the trustee of an associated trust, to defend a matter and to incur the liability of the institution. If the claim proceeds against the nominee, the liability may be satisfied from the assets of the nominee and the assets of the institution or, if the nominee is a trustee of an associated trust, out of the assets of the institution and the assets of the associated trust. If the unincorporated institution does not appoint a nominee or the nominee does not have sufficient assets to satisfy liability that may arise, the court may, in certain circumstances, order that the trustee of an associated trust is the nominee for the unincorporated institution.

The Queensland Law Society submitted that the definition of 'associated trust' could be narrowed to apply only to trusts which have a charitable purpose that includes, or is the same as, the charitable purposes of the institution. In a stakeholder round table that considered an exposure draft of the bill stakeholders generally did not support narrowing the definition in this way, suggesting that institutions could be expected to be mindful of their diverse responsibilities in deciding which trust assets, if any, to access. The bill is consistent with the Victoria and New South Wales position, neither of which narrow the definition of associated trusts in this way. Similar to the position in Victoria, the bill provides that an associated trust is one that the institution uses to carry out its functions or activities.

I will move amendments to the definition of 'associated trust' to clarify that in all situations an associated trust of an institution is a trust that satisfies the relevant definition, including that the institution uses the trust to carry out its functions or activities. While I appreciate the view that the provisions in the bill may result in some trust property being used in ways that do not correspond with the intentions of the donor of that trust property, it is also important that institutions are able to do the right thing by sexual abuse survivors and satisfy liability that arises.

The bill provides that if an institution does not appoint a nominee or that nominee does not have sufficient assets, the claimant may apply to the court for an order appointing the trustee of an associated trust as the institution's nominee. During consideration in detail I will move amendments to the bill to expand the power of the court in such applications so that the institution will be required to identify for the court any associated trusts of the institution and the financial capacity of those trusts.

I will also move an amendment to expand the range of trustees which the court may appoint as the institution's nominee to include the trustee of a trust that was formerly an associated trust of the institution if the court is satisfied that: the trust ceased to be an associated trust in an effort to avoid the trust property being applied to satisfy a liability that may be found under a decision on an abuse claim; and that the order would be appropriate. These amendments respond to issues identified in the submissions to the committee and have been included in the legislation adopted in New South Wales.

Taken together, the amendments will give the court significant power with respect to associated trusts and formerly associated trusts and will encourage institutions to nominate proper defendants with sufficient assets early in a proceeding.

The bill also provides for a number of consequences upon the appointment of a nominee for an institution, including that the institution must continue to participate in the proceeding and that the nominee may rely on any defence, immunity or right to be indemnified that would be available to the institution.

The Queensland Law Society submitted that the consequences that flow for the institution and the nominee on the appointment of a nominee should also apply in situations where the cause of action proceeds against the current office holder or a current institution on the basis of liability of a former office holder or through the continuity of office provision.

I foreshadow that I will move amendments to address this issue so that: any liability, duty or obligation of a former office holder will be taken to be a liability, duty or obligation of the current office holder or the current institution, as relevant, and any defence, immunity or right to be indemnified, including under a policy of insurance, that would have been available to the former office holder will be available to the current office holder or institution.

The bill currently provides that an institution, an institution's nominee, a current office holder or the trustee of an associated trust of an institution may act to satisfy liability as permitted under the bill—and, in the case of a trustee, may consent to be the institution's nominee—despite: another law; the terms of the associated trust; or a duty, whether as current holder of an office in the institution, or as a trustee or otherwise. The Queensland Law Society submitted that trustees of an associated trust of an institution should have statutory indemnities for reasonable legal costs and for liability for breach of trust for taking actions in accordance with the provisions of the bill. I will move amendments that clarify that a reference to liability under a judgment in or a settlement of an abuse claim includes any costs associated with the proceedings and that a trustee is not liable for a breach of trust only because of doing anything authorised by the bill to satisfy liability of an abuse claim.

The Queensland Law Society also submitted to the committee that unincorporated institutions normally have a management committee comprising the relevant office holders. I will move an amendment to define an 'office of authority' in an institution to include: a position as a member of the management committee; and a position in which the holder is concerned with, or takes part in, the management of the institution.

Furthermore, the bill provides for continuity of institutions and offices of institutions, where the institution has changed its name, structure or incorporated status or where the office within an institution has changed. The continuity provisions address an issue raised in the commission's report that an institution, or a current office holder in an institution, could avoid liability for abuse on the basis that the abuse was perpetrated under the tenure of a former office holder or when the institution was differently structured. On this issue, the Queensland Law Society submitted that the continuity provisions should only apply prospectively after a transition period and should limit the liability of the successor institution to the value of assets that were transferred from the earlier institution.

In stakeholder roundtable consultation on this issue, there was a general view that it may be unfair if, for example, due to the acquisition of assets, an institution became liable for an unknown, and potentially unknowable, liability for historical child sexual abuse that occurred in an institution that has now been wound up. However, it may also be unfair if institutions with a significant historical liability for child sexual abuse could 'phoenix' and leave victims without an avenue to seek compensation. This becomes a question about balancing competing interests—those of the victims of sexual abuse and those of institutions in the sector that provide services. The government's view is that the balance in the bill is right.

The opposition members of the committee noted a concern that the definition of abuse is confined to sexual abuse only and does not include serious physical or other serious abuse. This issue was raised by a number of submissions to the committee. The purpose of the bill is to implement the government's response to the recommendations of the royal commission with respect to civil liability for sexual abuse. Issues concerning physical abuse and associated psychological abuse remain under consideration separately to the issues addressed by the bill. These are subsequent and very significant issues that should not simply form part of this bill and should stand alone.

Recommendations 89 and 90 of the commission's report recommended that state and territory governments implement a non-delegable duty of care making particular high-risk institutions strictly liable for sexual abuse perpetrated against a child by a person associated with the institution while the

child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution, despite it being the deliberate criminal act of a person associated with the institution. As I stated in the explanatory speech for the bill, the government's position is that it would not be appropriate to adopt a strict liability approach where abuse occurs despite an institution having taken all reasonable steps to prevent such abuse. I am advised that, to date, no jurisdiction has legislated for the non-delegable duty. It is noted that the Victorian approach is similar to the approach reflected in this bill. New South Wales has, in addition, adopted a vicarious liability approach for employees and individuals akin to an employee.

The government does not consider it to be necessary to legislate vicarious liability as New South Wales has done. Since the civil litigation report was handed down by the commission, there has been a development in the common law. The High Court in the matter of *Prince Alfred College Inc. v ADC* clarified that an institution can be held vicariously liable for the criminal acts of an employee in certain circumstances. Such a proposition had previously been uncertain since the 2003 case of *Lepore*. It was in the context of that uncertainty that the commission made its recommendations. The common law provides one avenue that a survivor of sexual abuse may pursue, and the reforms in this bill will not limit a person's common law right to seek to hold an institution vicariously liable.

The government's view is that the reverse onus approach adopted in the bill is the appropriate response to improve the capacity of the civil litigation system to provide justice to survivors in a way that also recognises steps that institutions take to prevent child sexual abuse. The government will continue to monitor the operation of the provisions in the bill and legislative developments in other jurisdictions.

I now turn to an issue that has arisen separately from the committee's consideration of the bill. As part of the Palaszczuk government's response to the commission's report, the *Whole-of-government guidelines for responding to civil litigation involving child sexual abuse* were adopted to ensure a compassionate and consistent approach across government and to make civil litigation less traumatic for victims. Guideline 14 provides that the state and all agencies should offer an apology where the state has acted improperly. While an apology or an acknowledgement of regret in civil proceedings can go a long way towards improving the outcome of both applicants and respondents, the general principle at common law is that an apology may be an admission of liability for breach of duty.

The Civil Liability Act 2003 provides an exception to this general rule so that certain apologies cannot be construed or used as an admission of liability. The exception does not extend to civil liability of a person for an unlawful sexual assault or other unlawful sexual misconduct committed by the person. It is made clear by the Civil Liability Act that an apology given by the perpetrator of sexual abuse is not exempt and may be used in a civil proceeding as an admission of liability.

Presently, what is not clear, however, is whether an apology given by an institution in respect of the sexual abuse of a child perpetrated by a person associated with the institution can be used as an admission of liability in a civil proceeding. Today I flag my intention to move amendments to the bill during the consideration in detail to clarify that the exemption in the Civil Liability Act that prevents an apology being used as an admission of liability in a civil proceeding extends to, and includes, apologies given by an institution arising from the civil liability of the institution for child sexual abuse perpetrated by a person associated with the institution. This will ensure that institutions can give genuine apologies to survivors of sexual abuse, which can be incredibly important to survivors seeking to move on from the horror of their abuse.

The bill also includes an amendment to section 64 of the Civil Proceedings Act 2011 to clarify that a person under a legal incapacity may recover the cost of trustee management fees in the award of damages for wrongful death of a member of the person's family. The amendment addresses conflicting Supreme Court decisions regarding whether an award for damages for wrongful death can include trustee management fees for claimants under 18 years. Trustee management fees are fees associated with the investment and management of settlement funds and are deducted from the monies held by the trustee. The trustee management fees can be substantial, and the amendment will ensure that the amount of any award will not be significantly depleted by the cost of managing funds.

My hope is that this bill provides a greater opportunity for survivors' voices to be heard and for justice to be done. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.38 pm): I rise to contribute to the Civil Liability and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2018. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse made 99 recommendations in their 2015 *Redress and civil litigation report* for improving the capacity of the justice system to provide fair access and outcomes to survivors of child sexual abuse wishing to pursue a claim for civil damages for personal injury arising from the abuse.

In Queensland, too many survivors have experienced extreme difficulties in seeking redress or damages through civil litigation. Sadly, the current civil litigation system has not provided justice for many of these survivors. More needs to be done to achieve better outcomes for victims of institutional child abuse and to ensure there are appropriate mechanisms for a victim to seek justice. That is why the opposition will be offering its support for the bill and the amendments as outlined by the Attorney-General, although I note I will be moving a couple of amendments during consideration in detail, and I will detail those general concerns later.

Since the release of the report, Queensland and other Australian jurisdictions have legislated in a staged approach to incorporate some of the recommendations. The first stage of the reforms in Queensland occurred on 8 November 2016 when the Limitation of Actions (Institutional Child Sexual Abuse) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 was passed. I will refer to that bill as the 'limitation of actions bill'. The limitation of actions bill provided for the removal of the limitation periods for when a claim may be made, which is founded on the personal injury of the person resulting from institutional child sexual abuse. It meant that survivors are not limited to when they can make a civil claim.

This bill comprises another stage of the implementation process, which specifically relates to recommendations 91 to 94. I note that the commission recommended, through recommendations 89 and 90, that state and territory governments should introduce legislation to impose a strict non-delegable duty on certain institutions for institutional child sexual abuse despite it being the deliberate criminal act of a person associated with the institution. The commission recommended that the non-delegable duty should apply to institutions that operate certain facilities or provide certain services and that this duty be owed to children who are in the care, supervision or control of the institution. Some of these facilities include residential facilities for children and any facilities operated or provided by religious organisations. The commission, however, noted that the duty should not apply to foster care or kinship care despite these being high-risk environments because of the lack of supervision or control an institution has on a home environment. The government has not sought to act on these recommendations of the commission, despite the action of other jurisdictions, through legislative reform.

The commission recommended, through recommendations 91 and 92, making institutions liable for institutional child sexual abuse by persons associated with the institution unless the institution proves it took all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse, a recommendation supported by the government and which this bill implements. The commission further recommended, through recommendation 94, that states and territories implement legislation to assist in identifying a proper defendant.

The bill provides for two main amendments which implement recommendations of the report. It does so by amending the Civil Liability Act 2003 to introduce a reverse onus of proof, applied prospectively, under which an institution must prove it took reasonable steps to prevent the sexual abuse of a child in its care by a person associated with the institution to avoid legal liability for the abuse. New South Wales and Victoria have adopted this principle. Currently, a survivor can bring a claim to a court for negligence on the basis that an institution has breached its duty of care owed. This was made possible by removing the limitation periods for civil actions, as previously discussed. However, in Australia there are very few cases in which a claim in negligence for child sexual abuse has proceeded to judgement in court. If they have, very few have been successful. This prompted the commission to recommend that legislation be introduced to make institutions liable for institutional child sexual abuse by a person associated with the institution unless the institution proves it took all reasonable steps to prevent the abuse.

The bill inserts a new section 33D into the Civil Liability Act to provide that an institution has a duty to take all reasonable steps to prevent the sexual abuse of a child by a person associated with the institution while the child is under the care, supervision, control or authority of the institution. A person associated with an institution includes an officer, representative, leader, member, employee, agent, volunteer or contractor of the institution, religious leader of the organisation, a delegated entity or delegated individual. If the duty is breached, the onus of proof will be reversed, which would require that an institution prove that it did not breach its duty to prevent child sexual abuse.

The reverse onus of proof addresses the power imbalances and ensures that a survivor does not have to prove the wrongdoing, as the survivor is generally underresourced and at a considerable financial and administrative disadvantage. It also has the effect of encouraging institutions to engage in higher standards of compliance. I note that the commission asserted that, while reversing the onus of proof may lead to increased insurance premiums for institutions, it would create a strong incentive for organisations, including even those that provide foster or kinship care, to take reasonable steps to prevent abuse from occurring. This would also provide greater certainty for victims of abuse to seek compensation through litigation.

The second major amendment establishes a statutory framework for the nomination of a proper defendant by an unincorporated institution to meet any liability incurred by the institution. Specifically, the bill provides for a variety of mechanisms in which defendants may be liable including, among other things, the liability of an incorporated institution that was unincorporated at the time of the abuse, liability of current and former office holders, court discretion in allowing a claim to proceed against trustees and the satisfaction of a judgement from assets of an associated trust. It will assist in identifying a proper defendant to sue in circumstances where an entity is unincorporated or where there is a sufficient link between the alleged damage and, for instance, a property trust associated with a defendant that has sufficient assets to meet any liability from proceedings.

By doing so, it will assist issues victims normally face in identifying a proper defendant to sue, for example, due to the lack of perpetual succession in unincorporated associations. This also overrides the 'Ellis' defence, so known, which organisations have been relying on to protect institutions from being recognised as a legal entity and, therefore, being sued; and I note the Attorney-General's comments in that regard. Bravehearts and the Australian Lawyers Alliance supported these amendments, arguing that they have the effect of removing barriers many victims have faced throughout the years in their pursuit of justice.

There is an argument that the bill does not go far enough—certainly for many survivors and victims. There are two main grounds that support this argument. Firstly, there is the ground of definitional technicalities. Under the bill, an institution only has a duty to take all reasonable steps to prevent the sexual abuse of a child. Notably, the bill narrows the definition of 'abuse' to only sexual, whereas the majority of Australian jurisdictions define 'child abuse' for the purposes of institutional liability to mean either sexual or physical. I note the Attorney-General's remarks in this regard and that the government continues to reflect on these recommendations of the royal commission. My only comment on that is that it has been nearly 18 months since the final report of the royal commission and up to five years since the initial reports of the royal commission. Surely it is time for the government to make decisions in this regard on such an important matter that other states have already legislated upon.

Although the commission did not explicitly recommend 'child abuse' be extended to include physical abuse or, for that matter, psychological abuse, it must be noted that the letters patent issued to it were restricted to the context of considering child sexual abuse that might have occurred in institutional settings. The commission did, however, suggest that governments who impose a strict liability, a non-delegable duty, could apply the duty more broadly to include acts such as criminal physical or psychological abuse that causes damage to a child.

Stakeholders expressed concerns about 'child abuse' being limited to sexual abuse, arguing that its application is too narrow because it excludes non-sexual abuse. For example, knowmore and the Australian Lawyers Alliance submitted that the proposed duty should extend to physical and psychological abuse in order to recognise the experiences of survivors to ensure proper access to justice and to promote consistency with reform in other jurisdictions.

I note that when the limitation of actions bill was debated in 2016 the LNP raised concerns with broadening the definition of 'child abuse' to include physical abuse. That position, which has now changed, focused specifically on the limitation of actions, arguing that it is generally offenders who have suffered from sexual abuse who would benefit from the removal of the limitation period. The then shadow attorney-general, the former member for Mansfield, articulated this position, although he did note that there were valid points for discussion and room for further debate.

My personal view and change of mind on the need to broaden the definition of 'child abuse' to include physical abuse was drawn from a number of meetings with stakeholders and survivors including Mr Allan Allaway. His suffering and those of many survivors with whom I have met may not have constituted sexual abuse but it was physically violent, horrific and life changing. Mr Allaway was in fact mentioned by the Premier as a friend whose stories had touched her life when she introduced the limitation of actions bill in 2016.

I struggle to understand why the Premier would cite Mr Allaway as an inspiration for that legislation and yet ignore his calls and the calls of other survivors by not considering the broadening of the definition of child abuse to include 'physical abuse' in this particular bill. Essentially, the law proposed by the Attorney-General and the Labor government does not go anywhere near the needs of the people the Premier met and referred to in her first reading speech for the limitations of actions bill—not just Mr Allaway but others referred to including Micah and the Brisbane Grammar network. A person

at the Brisbane Grammar network meeting referred to by the Premier in 2016 was severely beaten for having a physical disability. As foreshadowed, I will move amendments in this regard during consideration in detail.

The second ground supporting the argument that this bill does not go far enough relates to the introduction of a strict non-delegable duty, namely strict liability. Again, I note the comments of the Attorney-General in her second reading contribution. As I already discussed, the commission recommended that state and territory governments should enact legislation to impose a strict non-delegable duty on certain institutions for institutional child sexual abuse despite it being the deliberate criminal act of a person associated with the institution. The Labor government has not adopted this recommendation. A non-delegable duty is a duty born by the institution. It cannot be delegated. Generally, the defendant will be said to owe a non-delegable duty where a defendant has a higher degree of control over the risk and there is either a special dependence or special vulnerability on the part of the plaintiff. The commission found that certain institutions have a higher degree of control and, as such, these institutions should owe a non-delegable duty.

The commission proposed that the non-delegable duty apply to institutions that operate the following facilities or provide the following services and be owed to children in the care, supervision or control of the institution in relation to the relevant facility or service. A relevant facility means a day school or a boarding school; a detention centre under the Youth Justice Act 1992; a residential facility; a facility operated by an entity for profit that provides services for children and involves the entity having the care, supervision, control or authority over the children; and, for an institution that is a religious organisation, a facility operated by the organisation at which a service or activity is provided by a participant of the organisation. However, 'relevant facility' will not mean a facility at which foster care or kinship care is provided. A relevant service means an approved education and care service under the Education and Care Services National Law (Queensland); a Queensland education and care service under the Education and Care Services Act 2013; a disability service; a health service; for an institution that is a religious organisation, a service or activity provided by the organisation including a service or activity provided by a participant of the organisation but, again similarly to the relevant facility, will not include a service for or to arrange foster care or kinship care.

I note that the commission recommended that liability not be extended to not-for-profit or volunteer institutions as to do so may discourage members of the community from coming together to provide or create facilities that offer opportunities for children to engage in valuable cultural, social and sporting activities. The strict non-delegable duty was recommended to be prospective only, meaning it will apply to child abuse that occurs after the commencement of the legislation. It is appropriate to consider the concept of retrospectivity further.

I note that the commission recommended that state and territory governments should ensure that the non-delegable duty and the statutory duty of institutions apply prospectively and not retrospectively. The commission provided several reasons for why retrospective application was not favoured. Retrospective liability would impose a significant insurance related burden on institutions by substantially expanding their liabilities and setting a near impossible task for them to identify documents and witnesses about past practices in a reverse onus of proof environment.

I note that a survivor will still however have a retrospective cause of action available against the individual perpetrator or perpetrators of the abuse and the intentional tort of battery which includes sexual assault or negligence based on the institution's breach of duty of care. This right was protected through the government's 2016 amendments. While this may increase cost for certain institutions, the imposition of strict non-delegable duty on a prospective basis serves the policy ends of providing an adequate remedy to people harmed by an employee and of promoting deterrence.

The commission asserted that, by legislating strict liability, it would avoid a non-delegable duty being created through common law development as it did in the United Kingdom. Common law development carried great risk as it would likely result ultimately in retrospectivity being applied. As affirmed by the commission if the liability was left to the development of the common law, and applied retrospectively, relevant institutions would face potentially large and effectively new liability for abuse that had already occurred potentially over many decades.

An argument sometimes raised against imposing strict liability on a party is that it removes any incentive for the party that might be liable to prevent the event occurring. The effectiveness of its practices will ensure that this liability is considerably lower than it would be if the institution took no steps to reduce abuse. There is no doubt that institutions would respond to this statutory duty by

implementing rigorous procedural safeguards around recruitment, training and supervision of staff. Any insurer that provides insurance in respect of a strict liability is also likely to require that the institution take all reasonable steps to prevent abuse.

The commission applied an appropriate rationale, that being if a court makes a solicitor liable for the criminal act of his clerk and the dry cleaner liable for the criminal act of his or her employee, could it be argued that it is not appropriate for institutions to be liable for the criminal abuse of a child when in their care? If the protection of an individual's property is an important priority of the common law, the protection of children should at least have the same priority. In the opposition's opinion, the community would today expect that the care of children ought to attract the highest standard of protection from the law.

As such I will move amendments which broadly follow the approach of New South Wales, which has legislated strict liability through the creation of vicarious liability which is extended to employees and those akin to employees who perpetrate child abuse. I am thankful to many survivors, advocates and friends who have offered input during the consideration of these most serious matters. They include, among others, Kelvin Johnston and Allan Allaway. I trust that the amendments, together with the government's bill, go some way to standing with the victims.

Frankly, I am staggered that the Labor government could be so dismissive of the royal commission recommendation, a royal commission that was the result of five years of detailed evidence and analysis. I am surprised that the Labor government would deny equality of access to justice to survivors of horrific physical abuse in institutions. I am surprised that the Labor government would make Queensland children second-class citizens compared with abused children in other Australian jurisdictions. I am determined and driven to stand with the defenceless, vulnerable and broken and will not walk away from this responsibility. There is more to be done, and the survivors of sexual and physical abuse in Queensland have waited far too long for justice. It is time they received it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Member for Coomera, Correction to *Record of Proceedings*



Mr CRANDON (Coomera—LNP) (6.59 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. I wish to correct the record. In my speech to the Disability Services and Other Legislation (NDIS) Amendment Bill I incorrectly referenced a statement of reservation by the members for Lockyer and Southern Downs. In fact, there was no statement of reservation in the report on that bill.

ADJOURNMENT

Regional Queensland, Waste Levy and Electricity Prices



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (6.59 pm): I have listened to government members pat themselves on the back and bleat about creating 200,000 jobs in Queensland. Where are these jobs going? The reality is that regional Queensland is losing jobs faster than they are being created because of poor government legislation. This is forcing small to medium sized businesses to close their doors, costing regional jobs. The state government continues to stick its head in the sand. It quotes inflated jobs figures in South-East Queensland while regional Queensland has up to 25 per cent unemployment.

We need look no further than the foundry industry in Queensland for a stark example of how poor government legislation can destroy businesses and jobs. The foundry industry could be gone within a year, taking with it 700 jobs, because of the introduction of the state government's waste levy and the proposed removal of the electricity tariff scheme by July 2020.

The Northern Iron & Brass Foundry at Wangan near Innisfail started in 1934 and is a well-established and extremely well managed business with a total output of 30 tonnes per day of iron, bronze and aluminium that supports nation-building infrastructure. This business currently employs 80 local people, providing massive flow-on effects to the region.

Regional centres are being punished by incredibly high electricity charges, which have nearly doubled over the past eight years. Businesses like the northern foundry are only just surviving in our local communities. However, the northern foundry may be forced to close its business within 12 months—and it is not because of a downturn in business but solely because of bad state government policy. I table a spreadsheet which shows the impact the waste levy will have on this particular business.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Waste Levy—NIBF' [\[969\]](#).

From 1 July 2019, foundry waste charges will increase from \$64,000 to \$144,000 for the next 12 months—an increase of \$80,000 per year. I table an article from the *Innisfail Advocate* of last week.

Tabled paper: Media article from the *Innisfail Advocate*, dated 1 June 2019, titled 'Price hikes unbearable' [968].


In the article the Foundry Institute national secretary states that the state government 'has decided to remove tariff 37 from July 1, 2020'. He states further—

This will force Queensland foundries onto higher cost tariffs, increasing prices a further 40 per cent ...

Foundry owners, operators and employees are extremely concerned that these massive increased costs will decimate the Queensland foundry industry. It is government legislation and policy that is creating this mess. I call on the government to step in and fix both of these issues to save this vital industry and the 700 associated jobs in Queensland and North Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, there is too much audible conversation in the chamber.

Climate Week

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algera—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.02 pm): Last week history was made in this state and in Australia when Queensland hosted the very first Climate Week. More than 30 events were held from Brisbane to Cairns as part of Climate Week and World Environment Day, bringing action on climate change to the forefront and facilitating important discussions about how we can all work together towards a sustainable future.

More than 10,000 people from across Queensland were engaged in Climate Week activities, which ranged from the inaugural First Nations Climate Summit, which brought together traditional owners to discuss how we can use ancient knowledge in addressing climate change, to the Natural Capital Summit, which brought together farmers, researchers and finance representatives in a discussion about how the industry can best transition to a low-carbon, sustainable future.

In addition, thousands more were engaged in regional activities like Ecofest in Gladstone, which is Central Queensland's largest free environmental event; an outdoor climate concert in Townsville; a catchments community breakfast in Yeppoon; Ecofiesta in Cairns; and even a tree planting in Mount Isa. Here in Brisbane we hosted leaders from across the Asia-Pacific region who made a commitment to foster ongoing Asia-Pacific dialogue on climate action. Brisbane also hosted the Climate Reality leadership training, led by Nobel Peace Prize recipient Al Gore, which included more than 500 people who had travelled from interstate and overseas and injected \$1.6 million into the local economy.

There is no doubt that the Palaszczuk government is leading the way to address climate change as both an environmental and an economic issue. It has been heartening to hear from people who participated in the events, saying Climate Week was a vital step in working together towards a better future. The Hon. Taefu Lemi, Samoa's associate minister from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, spoke about how climate change was impacting on the islands of Samoa and said that an initiative like Climate Week 'comes from leaders that have foresight and have a heart for the region and for the country'. First nations climate leadership group member Leann Wilson, who was part of the First Nations Climate Summit, said—


This week was an opportunity to come together, to listen and learn from each other's stories ... It was very exciting to be a part of.

Similarly, Melbourne councillor Cathy Oke, chair of the environment portfolio, said that Climate Week was 'an opportunity to forefront traditional knowledge as well as the impact of climate change on our first nations people and their culture'.

One of the key events during Queensland's first Climate Week was the Minister's Climate Challenge, with more than 5,000 Queensland students submitting an entry into the challenge and offering their ideas to solve local climate problems. It is clear that our young people are passionate about taking action in order to protect our environment. It shows that we are never too young to innovate and play a role in global action.

When it comes to climate change, we are at a tipping point. It was clear from last Friday's meeting of treasurers and the CEDA lunch that people recognise that climate change is also a core economic issue. We know that urgent action is needed, and the Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to climate change action.

Beachmere, Fish Kill; Bribie Island Bridge, Pelicans

 **Mrs WILSON** (Pumicestone—LNP) (7.05 pm): In late March an environmental disaster occurred at Beachmere lake, where an estimated 55,000 fish of various species and size were killed. I immediately wrote to the environment minister, asking her for urgent intervention and for her department to be involved in investigating this kill. The minister's reply raised significant concerns.

It is my understanding that a major fish kill is classified as an aquatic animal health emergency in state environmental legislation and requires proper investigation, but all the minister said in her reply was that she was happy with local council's advice that an algal bloom was responsible and she concluded that council, not her department of experts, was the appropriate entity to respond to this matter.


Dr Ben Diggles is a renowned marine scientist who lives in my electorate, and he is an authority on these matters. He wrote to me, saying—

Over the last two decades the ability of our Queensland State authorities to investigate fish kills properly has been severely eroded.

Dr Diggles is baffled how a minister who has a department full of experts on tap can sit back and expect local council to report and investigate properly on fish kills. If fish kills of this magnitude at Beachmere and two weeks earlier in Caboolture River are not properly investigated, there is no way this government can determine whether any breaches of the Fisheries Act or the EPA have occurred. It is clear that the only thing this state government is succeeding in is failing to enforce its own environmental regulations. I want some assurances from the minister that Moreton Bay Regional Council has not breached any laws. If I have to write to the minister again about this, I will.

It is disappointing that, despite 1,000 people marching across Bribie Island Bridge to save our pelicans, which are prevented by steel spikes from using their roosts; despite 2,000 people signing a petition, which I tabled in May, to return the pelican roosts; and despite my continued representation, the Minister for Transport and Main Roads has still not rectified this problem. The only response my community has had from the minister is a media release that is more focused on excuses for his department's actions than on the damage caused to the pelicans of Bribie bridge. The minister needs to sign off on his department's brief, which was given to him weeks ago, and return the pelicans to Bribie Island Bridge.

Deagon Community Race Day

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.08 pm): There is something quite special about having the country come to the bayside for a day at the races. As the member for Sandgate and the Minister for Racing, I am excited that the Deagon Community Race Day will once again be held in my electorate on Sunday, 7 July. Having initiated the conversations—long before taking on this portfolio—

Ms Grace: Yes.


Mr HINCHLIFFE:—the former minister can attest to that—which led to the Deagon race day becoming a reality once again, I am so proud to see this popular event become ensconced in our local calendar after its success in 2018.

The day is set to feature a promising card of thoroughbred racing at the Deagon Racecourse and is a tribute to the sponsors and organisers for pulling this quality fixture together. In particular, it would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the dedication of Walter Kuhn and Ben White from the Deagon Racing Club for making this event possible again. Whether it is the thrill of being trackside enjoying the horses or immersing yourself in the many events on the day like fashions on the field, there is something for everyone. It really is the only way to experience a country race day within Brisbane city's boundaries. It will be my pleasure to again sponsor the children's footrace and I know that many—young and old—are excited to see the mini trotters back again this year. Once again many local community organisations will fundraise through a variety of activities on the day. For well over a century, Deagon has been strongly associated with the racing community. To this day locals live with the sounds of the horses heading to track work early in the morning, their neighbours are trainers or someone who was, or a retired jockey, and you certainly can visit a stable in one of the backyards.

On this race day I know that many in the local Deagon community and in the industry more generally will be paying tribute to the late Norm 'Whopper' Stephens—a Deagon institution in his own right who established his fame early with his triumphant effort as a 16-year-old apprentice winning the

1948 Stradbroke Handicap aboard Ballyvista at eight to one. What better way to acknowledge Whopper than to run, for the first time, the Deagon Race Day perpetual Apprentice Cup acknowledging the track's significant contribution to, tradition in and continued dedication as a training facility for young jockeys. The Deagon Community Race Day is a tremendous day out for everyone. I invite honourable members of the House and encourage all northsiders to join our community for a day at the races in Deagon on Sunday, 7 July.

Russell, Ms J

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.11 pm): A couple of weeks ago we lost a great champion in Western Queensland. Jenny Russell was truly a product of this country and spent her life working for regional Australia and the beef industry. Born and raised in Blackall, Jenny was educated by correspondence at the family property renowned for its Santa Gertrudis stud nation-wide, Swan Hill, before leaving for boarding school at Stuartholme in Brisbane. It was this upbringing and being a part of a family of six children that shaped Jenny into the practical, astute and formidable woman that she became. Not only was the beef industry her passion; she also advocated for the bush.


In 1995 Jenny was elected vice-president to the National Party here in Queensland. Jenny was smart, approachable and hard working. By taking on this position, Jenny became a ground breaker. Decades before the fashionable discussion on gender equity, Jenny was simply leading by example. Her training, experience and practical nature made her a leader. This leadership resulted in subsequent generations asking themselves if they were up to the job and the standard that she had set.

Jenny's experiences as a teacher first in Blackall and later in the Brisbane bayside suburb of Sandgate no doubt contributed to her ability to manage meetings of the independent minds that make up our industry and our party. Jenny continued her studies to add another skill set with a bachelor of business in corporate communications. Jenny was also a Beef Australia board member where we saw her business approach and practical nature in action. It was during this period that Jenny accepted that her health was limiting her involvement. While she stepped down from the board, she enjoyed attending and continued to take a keen interest in Beef 2018 and beyond.

Jenny quietly mentored a number of people across the state, including me. She encouraged and promoted people into roles and enjoyed the political discussions of the day. A close friend of hers is Senator-elect Susan McDonald, who said to me at the memorial service last Friday in Blackall that she was so pleased that Jenny was able to enjoy the success of the recent federal election and that her last message to Susan on that topic was that it was so good that the opinion polls had failed again.

Most importantly, Jenny was a fierce supporter of her family. Whether it was keeping her father Terry in line, appreciating the support of her brothers and sisters or enjoying watching her nieces and nephews grow into their own lives, Jenny encouraged the next generation. Jenny Russell has been someone who was regarded as an inspiration. The road to success as she signposted it was marked by acquiring skills, working hard, being practical and being as direct as possible. She encouraged people like Susan McDonald and myself to take on roles. Senator McGrath described her as formidable, but I and Susan McDonald considered that she was made of the black soil and the buffel, the droughts and the good seasons in the district. She was unfailing, unwavering, consistent and honest. Jenny, we will miss you.

Ipswich Electorate, Small Business Week

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (7.14 pm): Small businesses are at the core of Queensland's economy. They play a key role in driving job growth and keeping our economy strong. Two weeks ago I was pleased to represent Minister Shannon Fentiman at the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce's Regional Business Expo during Small Business Week. At that expo I had the opportunity to connect with local small business operators and sample their innovative products and services. Communities like Ipswich need people with entrepreneurial spirit to breathe fresh life into the business community and I applaud their efforts. I am proud to be a part of a government that supports Queensland's small business community through initiatives such as Small Business Week. It gives businesses the chance to build capacity, develop new skills and access the tools and resources they need to succeed.


Small Business Week is a celebration of Queensland's small business sector—a sector that contributes around \$113 billion to our economy each year and employs around 44 per cent of the private sector workforce in Queensland. Small Business Week offers grant funding to individuals and organisations to run events and workshops such as the Regional Business Expo in Ipswich that I

attended and the innovative masterclass on the circular economy hosted by the Ipswich City Council. I want to take a moment to thank the Ipswich Chamber of Commerce and the Ipswich City Council for offering local businesses these opportunities to network, learn and grow.

I have long been a proud supporter of small business in Ipswich and I want them to thrive. Businesses in Ipswich such as 4 Hearts Brewing Co., the Prince Alfred Hotel, Terry White chemist in the mall, Heisenberg Haus, Strictly Coffee and Rafter & Rose are not just business ventures; they are part of the Ipswich community. Going to these businesses is like catching up with an old friend. The owners and workers know you, they take time to chat with you, ask about your family, your pets and they provide you with personalised service that you just do not get with big-name franchises in Ipswich. Furthermore, these businesses are resilient and have weathered some particularly tough economic conditions in Ipswich. The Ipswich CBD has suffered a protracted downturn over the last two years due to significant construction delays with the Nicholas Street mall. Unfortunately, those delays have caused some small businesses to close down. In a town like Ipswich, a business closure can feel like a personal loss. However, I know that we are resilient enough to bounce back. We are a town of budding entrepreneurs, with small businesses making up 98 per cent of all businesses in Ipswich.

The Palaszczuk government is making it easier for small businesses by removing barriers that hinder entrepreneurialism and success. To this end, I want to congratulate the Treasurer, the Premier and Minister Fentiman on their announcement in yesterday's budget on changes to payroll tax. Businesses will welcome the payroll tax exemption threshold increasing to \$1.3 million and the rebate for adding more full-time employees. These incentives will reduce costs for small businesses, boost productivity and grow local jobs. Our government is committed to creating the right conditions for small businesses to invest in themselves and succeed, and by doing so we are investing in Queensland's economic success.

Gold Coast, Infrastructure and Resources

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (7.17 pm): Last month we saw Premier Palaszczuk drive down to the Gold Coast to tell us, 'Gold Coast, you've won,' along with the Deputy Premier and Treasurer and minister for infrastructure. I do not know what game the Premier thinks she is playing, but I can tell her this: Gold Coasters do not feel as though they have won. No matter which way one looks at it—whether it is Labor's state budget, which delivers a grand total of zero dollars for the light rail extension, or the announcement of M1 ramp upgrades that are ongoing and have already been announced—Gold Coasters are not winning under this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Labor is insulting the intelligence of Gold Coasters. We do not need recycled announcements; we need infrastructure including a second M1, police resources and we need jobs. Instead, Labor has allocated \$900 million to infrastructure on the Gold Coast compared to \$3.6 billion for Brisbane as well as billions for other regions across the state. There are no plans for any court enhancements and we are facing cuts to vital police resources. A couple of weeks ago we saw Labor announce that it had cobbled together Village Roadshow at Sea World and the City of Gold Coast to add to Labor's \$60 million plan for The Spit over four years when the LNP had a \$3 billion project and thousands of jobs in the pipeline. This is in place of the ASF's \$3 billion Gold Coast tourism investment which Labor bungled. They not only cost us jobs but also they lumped the taxpayer with a \$9.1 million compensation bill.

Since 2015 I have been calling for a community-driven Spit master plan—and I table a copy of an article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin* from that year written by Andrew Potts—with momentum picking up after a fire sparked an evacuation and traffic was banked up along the bottleneck of Waterways Drive at Main Beach for several hours.

Tabled paper: Media article, dated 23 November 2015, titled 'Surfers Paradise MP Jon-Paul Langbroek calls for Gold Coast Council to begin Spit planning' [[970](#)].

Since Vision 2020, which was a series of meetings held in 2001 about what would happen to The Spit by 2020, my main concern has always been safety issues related to development and traffic issues.


Although I welcome Labor taking the idea for a Spit master plan, its plan has completely missed the point: safety. There was no mention of the increased support, planning provisions and space that our surf lifesavers will need. If we are going to attract thousands more people to an ocean park where there is up to five kilometres of beach, we need to make sure that we consult with Surf Life Saving Queensland and the local clubs. They will need increased storage capacity for more inflatable rescue boats and training opportunities for our nippers. At the latest Friends of Federation Walk AGM, which I

attended, members noted that there has been no planning for enhanced police and fire services, which will also be needed in an improved ocean park that attracts more visitors. In the past, Federation Walk has been hard hit by fires.

Labor has no idea about issues on the Gold Coast, let alone The Spit. Gold Coasters are not fools. The Gold Coast is Australia's sixth biggest city. The people of the Gold Coast deserve better than this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Before I call the member for Nudgee, I remind the member for Gaven that she needs to be in her correct seat if she makes any interjections, even if they were not taken.

Nudgee Electorate, School Leaders; Queensland Day; Queensland Greats

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (7.21 pm): Recently, I welcomed to parliament school leaders from Mary MacKillop College along with Deputy Principal Narelle Dobson for a school leaders lunch. As the local member, it is always a great privilege to invite young leaders from my community to share their ideas, values and reflections on leadership, on youth and on politics in this place. College captains Grace and Aoife were intelligent, engaging and mature beyond their years. I know they will lead and serve the proud Mary MacKillop College community with distinction this year. Likewise, earlier this year it was a pleasure to host the captains of Earnshaw State College, one of three high schools in my electorate, and I look forward to welcoming student leaders and Principal Peter Fullagar from Nudgee College in the coming sitting weeks.


From senior school leaders to primary school students, yesterday I had the pleasure of welcoming year 6 students from St Pius, Banyo to the parliament. As well as spending time in the gallery, the students received a tour of the precinct and asked wonderful questions about the building, the mace and other Westminster traditions followed by a big group photo and hug, which is always my favourite part of the visit. I hope they had a wonderful time and I look forward to seeing them back at St Pius again soon.

Last week, we celebrated Queensland Day and our 160th birthday as an independent colony. Each year in my local community the Banyo District Community Group organises a citizenship ceremony and community fair to celebrate Queensland Day and what makes Australia unique as a nation and Queensland the best state in our nation. This year, 25 excited northsiders took their pledge and became Australian citizens. I believe that Australians take citizenship very seriously, because it is very precious. Although we may have our moments and, unfortunately, a few divisive public figures, our country is, in the most, a tolerant and welcoming country only enriched by the diversity of its people.

Saturday's citizenship ceremony was followed by a community celebration of Queensland Day, complete with entertainment by local musicians and school string, stage and big bands from St Pius primary school, Earnshaw State College and Nudgee College. Community groups, which are so often the heart of our local communities, baked, crocheted and barbecued up a storm to make sure that the community had an array of craft and food items to purchase. I want to give a special thankyou to Banyo District Community Group president, James Sparkes—who undoubtedly would want no thanks but heartily deserves it—for organising a fantastic community day. I also thank the volunteers of the Banyo District Community Group, including Reg Neil, Robyn Morris and Shane Warhurst, who all lent a hand on the day. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Banyo RSL, Meals on Wheels, Virginia Golf Club, Earnshaw State College, St Pius primary school, the Northgate Local Ambulance Committee and the Nundah Lions, which all had a presence on the day.

In the time remaining to me I would like to make mention of the eight recipients of the 2019 Queensland Greats award. I think that is a wonderful tradition. My recollection is that it is now in its 19th year. I would like to make special mention of a dear friend of mine Bob Atkinson, a former Queensland police commissioner, who was rightly acknowledged as one of those eight recipients. I think Bob Atkinson is a man of incredible integrity and generosity of spirit. He is someone whom I admire tremendously. He could not have been more worthy.

Domestic and Family Violence


 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (7.24 pm): I rise to shine a light on a dark subject. Domestic violence happens behind closed doors, out of sight and has happened for too long. Recently, the Hinchinbrook electorate came together at multiple community events to make a stand against domestic violence.

Domestic violence has no boundaries. It affects couples, siblings and even the elderly. Domestic violence has no social or economic constraints. As a community, our attitude towards domestic violence needs to change. We would not put up with this kind of behaviour if it happened in the street. People should feel safe in their house and should not be fearful of going home.

Domestic violence orders are tools that magistrates can use to help protect at-risk persons from violent offenders who may cause them harm. Unfortunately, the system is failing. I take this opportunity to call on the state government to address some of the shortfalls of domestic violence orders. I am seeing an increase in the number of people approaching my office presenting two scenarios. Firstly, DVOs are doing absolutely nothing to deter repeat offenders from breaching those DVOs and committing more violent offences. In the words of one victim, a DVO is not worth the paper it is printed on. Secondly, people are presenting to my office with the disturbing story of false domestic violence claims being made against them. Both cases make me sick. Our system is broken and we need to fix it. For me, marching down the street to raise awareness against domestic violence seems hypocritical when I have a victim in my office who I am struggling to help. When people reach a point where they no longer feel that reporting a breach of a DVO to police will help, there is a major problem.

On the other side of the coin, I have had broken men coming into my office and swear on their children's lives that they would never be violent towards anyone, especially their partner. I ask members to imagine having the police show up out of the blue after a break-up to slap you with a DVO with no evidence to prove that an offence has even taken place, except the victim's statement or a statutory declaration. To think that a court order that is designed to protect our state's most vulnerable against violence is being used as a weapon by others to keep ex-partners from seeing their children, or to have them arrested on alleged DVO breaches, or even to have their firearms removed without evidence that a crime has even occurred infuriates me. We need to amend this legislation. In its current form, males and females in our society are being victimised by a clunky system of loopholes that open up opportunities for people to make false claims without consequences.

Redcliffe Electorate, Queen's Birthday Honours, KiteFest

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (7.27 pm): I wish to congratulate two local legends who serve my community daily and have been named in the Queen's Birthday 2019 honours list. Sean Gordon, from Clontarf, was awarded an OAM for his community projects in the region, including SchoolAid and Tukkr, which aims to provide schools with a profitable tuckshop whereby quality food is delivered to schools from Johnson caterers. I understand that Sean is hoping to scale his new business to a national level. For 18 years Sean was a principal in four schools across Queensland and New South Wales and was involved in the SES as a team leader during the Thredbo landslide.

Teresa Powell was awarded an Ambulance Service medal for more than 30 years of service to my community. Currently, Teresa is the officer in charge at the Redcliffe station. Teresa started her career with the Queensland Ambulance Service as a paramedic in 1989 at the Sandgate station. I say well done and thank you to Sean and Teresa for their service to my community.

I have listened to the member for Sandgate talking about wonderful events that are coming up in his community, but I want to say to everyone that, if they have no plans for this weekend—or even if they do, ditch them—because the Redcliffe KiteFest is on. This is a very big event that attracts tens of thousands of people.

Mr Hinchliffe: I might even cross the bridge for that.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. The member for Sandgate may even cross the bridge. He will be joined by thousands of families from across South-East Queensland this weekend to KiteFest and to welcome a very special guest. People gather at KiteFest to look at the incredible kites. Usually, there are also international stunt flyers and everything else. There are food trucks, amusement rides and live music. This year, a global sensation will join KiteFest, Baby Shark. For those who do not have young children or grandchildren and are not familiar with Baby Shark, the children's song has reached—

An honourable member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: No, I would not do that. I would do a lot of things but not that. The children's song has reached just under three billion viewings on YouTube.

This year, at the Redcliffe peninsula we expect KiteFest to attract a bumper crowd. This is great for the local economy of Redcliffe. It is great for tourism for the region. I encourage people to go along. I am pleased to say that this year it will be safer to attend KiteFest as well, because the Palaszczuk

government has funded a new pedestrian signal crossing on Hornibrook Esplanade across from the Drowned Rat Espresso Bar. That is going to make crossing that road so much safer. I have watched mums with prams and young kids standing in the middle of four lanes trying to dodge traffic to get to KiteFest. Now, this signal crossing making will make crossing that road so much safer. The Palaszczuk government listened to the community and delivered this wonderful infrastructure. I say to members to please come along to the KiteFest and enjoy the Redcliffe peninsula this weekend.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, 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