



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au

Phone (07) 3553 6344

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Thursday, 5 September 2019

Subject	Page
SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS	2717
Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Townsville.....	2717
School Group Tours.....	2717
PETITION	2717
TABLED PAPERS	2718
MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS	2718
Bushfires	2718
Regional Communities Program	2718
Aquaculture Industry	2719
Crosby, Ms M.....	2719
Townsville City Deal.....	2719
North Queensland, Volunteering.....	2720
North Queensland, Defence Industry Jobs	2720
Townsville Hospital, Upgrades.....	2721
Aquaculture Industry	2721
Works for Queensland	2722
Ports, Infrastructure.....	2722
Mines and Quarries, Safety	2723
Electricity Prices	2723
Teacher Aides; School Support Staff	2723
Containers for Change.....	2724
Townsville, Child and Family Services and Youth Justice.....	2724
NOTICE OF MOTION	2725
Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan.....	2725

Table of Contents – Thursday, 5 September 2019

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE	2726
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	2726
Ministerial Handbook	2726
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Document, dated 9 May 2019, titled 'Department of the Premier and Cabinet: 3.4 Declaration of Interests'	2726
Communities, Women's Participation.....	2726
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	2727
Remote Area Tax Concessions	2728
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	2729
North Queensland, Marine Industry	2729
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	2730
Regional Queensland, Internet Services.....	2730
Member for Keppel	2731
Townsville, Women	2731
New Acland Mine, Approvals.....	2731
Biosecurity.....	2732
QFleet, E10 Fuel	2733
Regional Queensland, Health Services.....	2734
<i>Margaret Olley: A Generous Life Exhibition</i>	2734
Regional Queensland, Schools	2735
Australian Security Intelligence Organisation.....	2736
TAFE.....	2736
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Extract, dated 27 March, from the Facebook page of the member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP, in relation to health.....	2736
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	2736
North Queensland, Flood Recovery	2737
MOTION	2738
Order of Business	2738
Speaker's Ruling, Motion Out of Order	2738
LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION.....	2738
Division: Question put—That leave be granted.	2738
Resolved in the negative.....	2738
SPEAKER'S RULING.....	2739
Motion Out of Order	2739
MOTION	2739
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders.....	2739
Newman LNP Government, Performance	2739
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 2 May 2019, titled 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job: We pay the Member for Thuringowa Aaron Harper a base salary of \$159,122 a year. Now, he needs to do his job'	2748
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Document, undated, titled 'The truth about who sold Queensland's assets'	2749
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Answer to question on notice No. 35 of 2003, asked on 25 February 2003.....	2749
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 9 November 2017, titled 'Aaron Harper sorry for blunder on teacher aide nude photo scandal: MP Aaron Harper has apologised to the parents of children after a major blunder related to a Townsville teacher aide's alleged nude photo scandal'	2750
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 21 May 2019, titled 'Disastrous Federal Labor outcome a warning for Townsville MPs: The disastrous election outcome for Labor in North Queensland should be seen as a "warning" to Townsville's three state MPs to stop towing the party line'	2750
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to	2752
Resolved in the affirmative.....	2752
MOTION	2752
Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders.....	2752
Dairy Industry, Milk Prices	2753
PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS.....	2757
Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships	2757
Townsville, Project Booyah	2758
Member for Broadwater	2758
Dog Baiting; Ferries and CityCats, Pet Dogs.....	2759
Child Protection.....	2760
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Compact disc, undated, titled 'ABC Wide Bay 2019'	2760
Telehealth	2760
Health System.....	2761
Health Services.....	2762
Emergency Services, Helicopters	2762
Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville.....	2764
Crocodiles.....	2765
Mayes, Ms J	2766
New Acland Mine.....	2767
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Article from the <i>Oakey Champion</i> , dated 4 September 2019 (with redactions).....	2767
Newman LNP Government, Performance	2767
<i>Tabled paper.</i> Extract of transcript, dated 3 September, of 4BC radio interview with the member for Currumbin, Mrs Jann Stuckey MP.....	2767

Table of Contents – Thursday, 5 September 2019

Warrego Highway.....	2768
North Queensland.....	2768
MOTION.....	2769
Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan.....	2769
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 2 September 2019, titled ‘Extra Cops Locked Down’.....	2778
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 3 September 2019, titled ‘Lobster on menu for North’.....	2778
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 4 September 2019, titled ‘Powering Jobs’.....	2778
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Article from the <i>Townsville Bulletin</i> , dated 3 September 2019, titled ‘Hydrogen Hotspot’.....	2778
Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.....	2780
Resolved in the negative.....	2780
COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.....	2781
Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates.....	2781
SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT.....	2781
ADJOURNMENT.....	2781
Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville.....	2781
Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville.....	2782
Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville.....	2782
Speaker’s Ruling, Tabling of Document.....	2783
Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville.....	2783
Nambour Police Station.....	2784
Palaszczuk Labor Government, North Queensland, Achievements.....	2784
Hervey Bay Electorate, Health Services.....	2785
Mareeba Multicultural Festival.....	2785
Moreton Bay Marine Park.....	2786
Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements.....	2786
National Stroke Week.....	2787
ATTENDANCE.....	2788

THURSDAY, 5 SEPTEMBER 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 STATEMENTS

Regional Sitzings of Parliament, Townsville



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, as you are aware, we have had many students from the Townsville region participate in the parliamentary education program which has accompanied this regional parliament sitting. As part of the program students have been asked to write on a piece of paper what they would do if they were a member of parliament. These pieces of paper have been pinned to a wall here at the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre, and I would like to share with members some of the thoughts of the students.

A number of children advocated for a greater voice for Indigenous Australians in our parliament. There are many thoughtful responses, with students advocating for women's rights, the environment, the protection of children and a general desire to improve our society. There are a number of responses that suggested changes to the education system. Some of these were thoughtful; quite a few, however, were simply wishful. In response to the medicines bill debate one student said she would make it mandatory that medicine be made chocolate flavoured. There were many students who expressed a desire to be the Speaker 'because you can make everyone be quiet.'

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Also 'because you get to yell "Order!"' and, of course, 'because you get the fanciest chair'. There were a couple of students who wanted to be the Sergeant-at-Arms to get their hands on the mace, and one lone student wanted to be the Clerk! There was one that stood out to me. One student wrote, 'If I were a member of parliament I would make everyone stop talking when someone else is talking and give Charters Towers a water park.'

School Group Tours



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on that same line of thinking I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery today by students from a range of different schools around the region. From the Burdekin electorate we will have students from Osborne State School, Giru State School and Home Hill State High School. From the Hinchinbrook electorate we will have students from Ingham State High School and Northern Beaches State High School. From the Thuringowa electorate we will have students from Kirwan State High School and Thuringowa State High School. From the Townsville electorate we will have students from Belgian Gardens State School, Townsville State High School and Hermit Park State High School. Finally, from the Traeger electorate we will have students from Richmond Hill State School.

PETITION

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

South Burnett, Paediatrician

Mrs Frecklington, from 1830 petitioners, requesting the House to look at providing a full time paediatric Doctor within the South Burnett to ensure all children's health needs are met and families are not disadvantaged by having to wait and travel out of their rural home towns [1441].

Petition received.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Superannuation (Public Employees Portability) Act 1985:

[1438](#) Superannuation (Public Employees Portability) Notice 2019, No. 183

[1439](#) Superannuation (Public Employees Portability) Notice 2019, No. 183, explanatory notes

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Nanango (Mrs Frecklington)—

[1440](#) Nonconforming petition, untitled, from South Burnett Under 4's Network (principal petitioner)

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Bushfires

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): Mr Speaker, Queensland's bushfire season has arrived. Today QFES is monitoring 29 active bushfires across the state. I received a briefing from my director-general this morning. This is a changing situation, and we will have a further meeting with directors-general, ministers and emergency services tomorrow morning. I am advised that we can expect conditions to ease slightly today, but tomorrow the Bureau of Meteorology has predicted that conditions will deteriorate significantly in southern Queensland as a trough approaches from the west. Extreme to locally catastrophic fire dangers are forecast for the Darling Downs and Granite Belt and the Maranoa and Warrego. A severe fire danger is forecast for the south-east coast, Wide Bay and Central Highlands and coalfields. The bureau is monitoring the situation very closely and is issuing a fire weather warning today.

Since the official beginning of this year's season on 1 August there has been significant activity. I can also advise that the state operations centre has been stood up with increased staffing. Now is the time to begin conversations with your family, your neighbours and at your workplace about what you are going to do if a fire comes your way. Queensland's Fire and Emergency Services has been working diligently ahead of the fire season. At the end of August Operation Cool Burn saw hazard reduction burns across 13,000 hectares up and down the coast and hinterlands of Queensland. I would urge Queenslanders to listen to local media to ensure they have access to the latest information from emergency services. The most important thing is the safety of you and your loved ones. I would like to conclude by thanking QFES staff and volunteers who, without a second thought, always roll up their sleeves.

Regional Communities Program

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): My government is committed to strong communities, to involving communities in the workings of their government and to listening to regional and rural communities. Today I am proud to announce that my government will establish the Regional Communities Program, including quarterly community regional forums, and a new Office of Rural and Regional Queensland.

Since 2015 we have kept our commitment to govern for all Queenslanders. We have restored the frontline services axed by the LNP. We have ensured that Queenslanders, no matter where they live, have access to world-class health and education services. We are building the infrastructure for tomorrow. We have also grown and diversified our economy, boosted exports and created new long-term skilled jobs right across our regions. In a state that is as vast as it is diverse, that is never an easy feat. That is why we want to strengthen our focus on the regions and responsive government to underpin our commitment to create jobs and a strong economy.

The Regional Communities Program will hold quarterly regional community forums in Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Mackay-Whitsunday, Central Queensland, Western Queensland, Wide Bay and Darling Downs/south-west. These forums will give community members the opportunity to put forward their ideas for tackling key priorities and issues facing their region. The forums will give

our regional communities a more direct and stronger voice in government, provide better informed and more regionally responsive government programs and increase coordination and integration of state agency activities in regional communities.

My ministers will also be in the regions for the forums to listen to communities. The forums will be chaired by regional government members of parliament and will be looking for community members to play an active role. It is crucial that community members are involved, because as part of our commitment to strong regional economies and communities my cabinet and all of our MPs recognise that each is unique with its own advantages, challenges and priorities.

Aquaculture Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): In great news for North Queensland and Queensland's ever-growing aquaculture industry, the world's only tropical rock lobster farm will be established right here. That means economic growth and a jobs bonanza for the region. Aquaculture company Ornatus is planning to commercially grow and harvest rock lobsters that until now have only been able to be caught in the wild. Last night Minister Furner, the member for Townsville and I met with Dr Scott Parkinson and executive director Martin Rees to discuss this exciting new venture. A scientific breakthrough has allowed rock lobsters to be grown just north of Townsville. This puts North Queensland in prime position to create a \$500 million tropical rock lobster industry within the next 10 years, employing up to 1,000 people in this region. It is another sign of the strength of Queensland's aquaculture industry.

Just a couple of weeks ago the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries visited Tassal's prawn farm near Proserpine. They have announced plans for another major new aquaculture development to deliver up to 1,000 jobs to the Mackay and Whitsunday region. We aim to make Queensland the aquaculture capital of the world because that will create even more jobs in our regions. Having a strong aquaculture sector also helps us have a sustainable commercial fishing industry because it will help take pressure off wild populations of lobster. This is big news for industry in North Queensland, good news for regional jobs and amazing news for our reputation as the country's premier producer of seafood.

Crosby, Ms M

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): I would like to give a great big happy birthday shout out to a very special Queenslander. Mabel Crosby is our state's oldest Queenslander and this Saturday she will be celebrating her 110th birthday. Born on 7 September 1909 in England, Mabel moved to Australia when she was just four, but it would not be until 1971 when she finally made the move to Queensland from New South Wales and she has not looked back since.

Mabel has raised four children and now has 10 grandchildren, 20 great-grandchildren and six great-great-grandchildren, who I am sure are all so very proud of her. I am told the TriCare Sunnybank Hills Aged Care Residence will be putting on a wonderful celebration this weekend. My grandmother, Beryl, is also a resident there and knows Mabel very well. I had the pleasure of hosting Mabel at a Christmas lunch for our wonderful centenarians last year and I just love Mabel's outlook on life. Her advice to others for a long and happy life is to always be active, enjoy a wine or two and have adventures and travel. Her last trip was a cruise to New Caledonia when she was 107. I am sure that all members of this House, all Queenslanders and especially our students in the public gallery will join with me in wishing Mabel a very happy birthday. I look forward to joining with her on Saturday to celebrate this milestone event. I understand the Governor will also be attending.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Mr SPEAKER: That is wonderful.

Townsville City Deal

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.42 am): Townsville is a city of firsts. It was the first capital of Tropical North Queensland. It is home to the first port in Australia to ship our exports to Asian markets. It was the first city in Queensland to open a public library. It was the first city in Queensland to host regional parliament.

In December 2016, Townsville notched up another first when it became the first city in Australia to negotiate and sign a city deal giving people even more reasons to visit and do business in this great city. Nearly three years later, the Townsville City Deal is continuing to deliver jobs and transformative

infrastructure projects for Townsville. So far, Townsville and the broader region are benefiting from key projects under the City Deal, such as building the North Queensland Stadium, investing more than \$200 million in water security measures and upgrading the channel capacity at the Port of Townsville.

In honouring its commitment to the Townsville City Deal, the Palaszczuk government is honouring its commitment to the people of Townsville by making sure that the jobs we create are local jobs. So far, local subcontractors have accounted for 91 per cent of the construction work hours on the North Queensland Stadium. Our channel capacity upgrade at the Port of Townsville will create 120 full-time jobs during construction. These construction jobs are just a fraction of the estimated 3,200 jobs that will be supported in Townsville and the region as a result of the investment we are making in the Palaszczuk government's 2019-20 budget. Overall, we are investing \$930 million in productivity-enhancing infrastructure and capital works in the region in this year alone.

Later this year, all three levels of government will begin a review of the Townsville City Deal to ensure it continues to deliver jobs and prosperity for the north. The Palaszczuk government will ensure that the review engages with the Townsville community so that Australia's first city deal continues to set the standard, delivering jobs, infrastructure and ongoing economic benefits for the Townsville community and beyond.

North Queensland, Volunteering



Hon. CJ O'ROURKE (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (9.44 am): Townsville is a city that has many dedicated volunteers. In fact, the ABS statistics tell us that more than 18 per cent of residents here in Townsville do some sort of voluntary work. These volunteers make an invaluable contribution to North Queensland's thriving communities. This was made very apparent during the monsoon trough flooding event in Townsville earlier this year when an army of volunteers descended on flood affected suburbs to lend a hand.

Volunteering Queensland's Emergency Volunteering Community Response to Extreme Weather system was inundated with offers to help. Of the 669 registrations received, 389 were Townsville based volunteers. Volunteering Queensland referred more than 200 volunteers to a number of organisations, including the department of small business and GIVIT. These volunteers gave more than 2,800 hours of their time, which was valued at approximately \$119,000.

Yesterday, I had the privilege of meeting and passing on my thanks to many of Townsville's hardworking volunteers at the community afternoon reception. I met many hardworking, generous people who demonstrated that incredible spirit and strength of character North Queensland is renowned for. From our hardworking SES volunteers who helped to evacuate people from their flooded homes to those lending a hand to help residents clean up after the floodwaters receded, North Queensland volunteers are always on hand to roll up their sleeves and help those who need it most. That is why the Queensland government is giving back to volunteers.

In 2020, North Queensland will play host to a volunteering conference. We are pitching in \$50,000 funding to Volunteering North Queensland to host the North Queensland Volunteering Conference here in Townsville in May next year. This three-day conference will give volunteers an opportunity to participate in workshops and sessions that include presentations from guest speakers. It will bring together volunteers and volunteer groups from across North Queensland to help build community connections and discuss the challenges and opportunities that volunteers face in their communities. At the conference, volunteers will gain a range of practical techniques to assist in dealing effectively with changes in their communities. Volunteering North Queensland president, Margie Ryder, tells me that the conference will have a strong emphasis on volunteers in rural and remote areas of the north. I would like to thank Margie and her team for advocating for this conference to be held right here in Townsville.

The Queensland government is committed to supporting volunteers, particularly volunteers in rural and regional parts of the state. By supporting volunteers, we can create thriving communities where Queenslanders, regardless of their personal circumstances, are able to participate and be included in their communities, be resilient and enjoy social and economic wellbeing.

North Queensland, Defence Industry Jobs



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.47 am): As the people of Townsville and the north of our state know, defence means jobs. Townsville is the greatest garrison city in the Commonwealth and the Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to make sure even more North Queenslanders benefit from the defence industry opportunities this presents.

At the same time, we also want to help renew the Townsville CBD to build our new knowledge precinct here to drive higher wages and better jobs. That is why on Tuesday our government was proud to sign on to the Smart Precinct North Queensland initiative where we will establish our government's new \$5 million defence industry hub in this innovative new industry precinct in the Townsville CBD. Our new defence hub will operate as a one-stop shop for advice and expertise to help local companies and businesses get into the regional supply chain for defence industry logistics, maintenance and sustainment.

What is more, the defence hub will be the anchor tenant for the smart precinct, leading the way to transform the old Townsville Transit Centre into a new centre for knowledge jobs in North Queensland. It is a new future for North Queensland where we will work with the Townsville City Council, the Burdekin Shire Council, the Hinchinbrook Shire Council, James Cook University, CQUniversity, Developer North Queensland and CoderDojo.

I can inform the House that a Defence Jobs Queensland staff member is already based in Townsville to work with hub staff and more broadly on the delivery in this region of our government's defence and aerospace 10-year road maps, working hand in hand with our dedicated North Queensland Defence Advisory Board. It is another example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government is determined to make sure North Queensland gets its fair share of the jobs of the future.

Townsville Hospital, Upgrades

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.49 am): Yesterday I visited the new endoscopy unit at Townsville Hospital due to open its doors to patients next month. Last financial year over 4,300 North Queenslanders required an endoscopy. That number is set to increase by 1,500 in 2019-20, a 35 per cent increase in demand. It is a good thing the new \$5.9 million unit will double the size and capacity for endoscopy services in North Queensland. The new unit takes the hospital from two procedure rooms to four which will help Townsville Hospital meet this huge surge in demand not just now but well into the future. Once opened, close to 6,000 North Queenslanders will have a colonoscopy or endoscopy at the new unit. Not only are we delivering better health care for Queenslanders; we are also creating jobs. During construction of the \$5.9 million endoscopy unit we created 280 jobs, with almost all of them local. Some 10,000 training hours have happened on this project so far. A local, Wesley, contacted the hospital this week. He said—

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the staff at the endoscopy unit for their professionalism and impeccable care during my recent procedure, nurse Ally in particular for taking the time to make me feel comfortable.

As members can see, the unit staff are already doing a wonderful job. Thanks to specialist Dr Rose Karamatic and nurse unit manager Virginia Carter for showing me around yesterday. The Palaszczuk government is committed to improving health care for North Queenslanders like Wesley, not just for right now but also into the future.

Aquaculture Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (9.51 am): Nearly one year ago here in Townsville at James Cook University I said, 'I want to make Queensland the aquaculture capital of the world.' In 2016-17 aquaculture was a \$120 million industry employing more than 530 Queenslanders full-time. Just two weeks ago I had the pleasure, along with the member for Mackay, of visiting the Tassal aquaculture facility just three hours away from here in Proserpine.

Australia's leading seafood producer, Tassal, plans to start immediately stages 3 and 4 of its development. What is more, it has announced the purchase of a property near Mackay which will be developed into a black tiger king prawn facility. The development is expected to create 1,000 construction and operational jobs for Mackay and the Whitsundays, a great result for Mackay and the Whitsundays region, the local economy and Queensland. The government is all about jobs. That is why we do what we do. We do the hard yards with companies like Tassal to make their investment possible and get on the front foot to facilitate strong, sustainable industries that mean jobs for all Queenslanders.

I know that Tassal's development is one of the six aquaculture development areas the Palaszczuk government created at the start of the year to grow aquaculture. As reported in the *Townsville Bulletin* this morning, another Tasmanian company is coming to Queensland. Ornatas has chosen land at Toomulla Beach, just north of here, to set up a world-leading first lobster farm. We want to attract investors to develop and build aquaculture projects in these areas and across Queensland, because we want to give communities more employment opportunities.

Aquaculture is the fastest growing food industry globally, so it is important we as a government do everything we can to tap into the potential. A booming aquaculture sector has the added value of taking the pressure off our wild caught fisheries. Wild caught product cannot keep up with the growing demand for seafood protein which is why aquaculture is the fastest growing food industry globally. This government's support for the sector means jobs for regional communities, a stronger Queensland economy and the chance to make this state the aquaculture capital of the world.

Works for Queensland

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government's signature local government program Works for Queensland is delivering for North Queensland as well as the rest of our regions. By the end of the next financial year, the \$600 million Works for Queensland program will have supported or created more than 21,000 jobs. Already in the first two rounds of the program more than 16,500 jobs have been supported or created in regional Queensland. One of the great things about my job is that I get to travel and talk with local government authorities right across the state. Councils across regional Queensland love this program. It is providing economic security and stability for thousands of families across regional Queensland. In North Queensland alone, councils tell me that 2,324 jobs have been created across a range of projects since the program started in 2016.

At the TEL breakfast this week, the Premier talked about the importance of Works for Queensland in the wake of the collapse of Queensland Nickel. To that we can add the works that are ongoing in the wake of this year's flood events. All up, more than \$114 million has been invested in the North Queensland region since 2016. In the Townsville City Council area alone, there was \$21 million for dozens of job-creating projects including shade covers, fencing, car park works and streetscaping. We see the impact and results right across this beautiful city. This week I will officially open upgrades to Charles Maroney and Heatley parks right here in Townsville. I very much look forward to that and to joining the local members and Mayor Jenny Hill. There is a combined \$7.5 million from Works for Queensland and 60 jobs on these projects alone.

That is what the Palaszczuk government is about: jobs for regional Queensland. Works for Queensland's impact stretches across the 65 eligible local government areas from the Torres Strait to our southern border, including the former Allora Shire Hall, a piece of Southern Downs history restored and reopened thanks to \$695,000 from the Palaszczuk government. I could go on all day about the effects of Works for Queensland, but the message for everyone to take away is that Works for Queensland means jobs for regional Queensland.

Ports, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.56 am): Queensland's publicly owned ports are a critical part of our state's economy. Freight in Queensland is expected to increase more than 20 per cent over the next decade. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in Queensland's ports to promote a freight boom. There is no better example of that investment at work than at the Port of Townsville, which I visited yesterday. The \$193 million channel upgrade project will mean large ships destined for Brisbane will dock at Townsville instead. The newly containerised berth 4 will benefit from a new cargo terminal area capable of handling around two million tonnes of cargo each year. Yesterday morning I met with Wally Newton from local construction company Formset.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite might not want to hear from Townsville workers.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please continue your ministerial statement.

Mr BAILEY: Wally Newton spoke proudly about the fact that Formset has been a Townsville building company for three generations and was thrilled that the company was doing one of its biggest jobs in its history. The project means jobs for plumbers, electricians and builders. Up to 60 Townsville people are onsite at work every day thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in the Townsville port. Not far from berth 4 we will build a \$48 million rail intermodal terminal to take trucks off Townsville roads—on top of the port expansion driven by the channel-widening project created by this government. These projects, paired with the \$20 million in annual discounts on rail access charges on the Mount Isa line, make it more competitive for exporters and the North West Minerals Province. The rail line has been kept in public hands by this government. The Palaszczuk Labor government is investing and growing the North Queensland economy and jobs. It is only Labor that can be trusted to keep our Queensland ports in public hands.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

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

Mines and Quarries, Safety

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (9.59 am): This is a government that is wholly focused on protecting the health and safety of our workers. In the past year we have lost six mine and quarry workers. In July this government, workers' representatives and industry committed to work together and conduct safety reset sessions at every work site attended by every worker by the end of August. Today I can advise the House that more than 49,400 workers have joined management and union representatives to take part in 1,115 safety resets at more than 219 mines and quarries. This represents 96 per cent of the Queenslanders who work in our mines and quarries.

Rio Tinto have advised that they are yet to complete their safety resets at their Weipa operation. They have more than a thousand workers in 88 crews at three operations across 4,000 square kilometres. I acknowledge that it is a huge task. They expect to finish by the end of this month. I am advised that the remaining small percentage of the industry who have not attended resets are itinerant or campaign based quarry workers or people employed on alluvial and small-scale mines across several hundred sites. I encourage companies to examine attendance records to ascertain which employees, if any, have not attended a reset so that catch-up sessions can be organised if required in the coming weeks. However, if any worker at any site has not had a reasonable opportunity to participate in a reset, they should raise this immediately with their union or employer.

I am pleased that the safety resets have been embraced, but this is not the end. It is just the beginning, as every shift should be when it comes to safety. There is no day, no opportunity, that should be lost when it comes to improving safety. Workers, unions, industry and government must all continue to work tirelessly so that every worker returns home safely after every shift. The most important thing to come off site is Queensland's workers.

Electricity Prices

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.01 am): Yesterday Queensland experienced a very low average spot price in the wholesale market, of negative \$48.82 per megawatt hour, with trading as low as negative \$1,000 per megawatt hour at times. This is compared to southern states such as Victoria, which experienced average spot prices of almost \$140 per megawatt hour. Large generators generally hedge risk through futures and over-the-counter contracts with counterparties to minimise their exposure on the spot market. This is how Queensland government owned generators manage their exposure to negative or zero spot prices. For example, today's ASX price for a 2020 base load contract in Queensland is \$70.71 per megawatt hour, which is the lowest in the National Electricity Market. Generators could lock in a futures contract today at this price for sales next year; however, the winners for Queensland having the lowest 2020 base load futures and lowest average spot prices in the NEM are Queensland customers, Queensland families. It is Queenslanders who benefit from lower wholesale prices flowing through to their power bills.

The recent Queensland Competition Authority determination saw a decrease in electricity prices of around 4.4 per cent for regional customers. These outcomes are primarily due to this government's decisive actions: firstly, maintaining our generators in public hands and, secondly, making Queensland as attractive as possible for new generation investment. This government has facilitated more than \$5 billion worth of investment in renewable energy since December 2016. North and Far North Queensland currently have 1,700 megawatts of operational renewable energy generation capacity and another 60 megawatts to begin exporting at Kennedy Energy Park near Hughenden.

Our strong Queensland electricity market brings economic benefits to our state by ensuring a reliable supply to homes and businesses here and enabling us to export it interstate. Only through government action and public ownership have we been able to set the right balance in the electricity system to ensure that Queensland has the lowest average prices on the eastern seaboard.

Teacher Aides; School Support Staff

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.04 am): Tomorrow is Teacher Aide Day, held annually on the first Friday in September. It is a day to recognise the enormous contribution our teacher aides make in our schools right across Queensland each and every day. The Palaszczuk government backs our teacher aides 100 per cent. There are

more than 19,000 teacher aides employed in our state schools, helping Queensland students get the very best from their education. Teacher aides work closely with teachers to provide a wide range of educational support for all students such as aiding with reading and writing and delivering learning activities with the classroom teacher.

The Palaszczuk government has delivered on its commitment to boost teacher aide hours, providing an extra 4,000 teacher aide hours per week, allowing all state schools to have a teacher aide in every prep class for the first time. Every day teacher aides provide valuable support for teachers and parents, especially in those early days of prep when students are transitioning to the school environment for the first time. We welcome our new agreement with teacher aides which provides improved opportunities for career progression and increased allowances for those working with vulnerable students. I look forward to celebrating Teacher Aide Day tomorrow morning with Minister O'Rourke and the member for Townsville at Mundingburra State School, where teacher aides from around Townsville have been invited for a special breakfast.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that last week was School Support Staff Recognition Week—a time to celebrate and acknowledge the significant contribution all support staff make in our schools. Our cleaners, admin officers, ground staff, therapists and guidance officers, just to name a few, are the unsung heroes and backbone of our school communities. I also thank them for their efforts. I was delighted yesterday to host a great lunch event for support staff from 33 Townsville schools with the member for Thuringowa that saw around 150 in attendance. I was delighted to present 20 certificates of recognition to staff who had done over 25 years of service—such as Heather Chapman from Kirwan State High School, Sue Dilger from Bohlevale State School and Lynda Ross from Wulguru State School, who have a combined service of over 130 years. Our schools are able to achieve great outcomes thanks to the tireless efforts of teacher aides and support staff. I congratulate them. Teacher aides, enjoy your day.

Containers for Change

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algerie—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (10.07 am): In the 10 months that Containers for Change has been operating I have regularly updated the House on its success both in creating jobs for Queenslanders and in the incredible rate of containers being returned. More than 780 million containers have now been returned through a statewide network of container refund points. While parliament is sitting here in Townsville this week, I am delighted to inform the House that the Townsville region has returned over 57 million containers through the scheme, meaning that over \$5.7 million has been returned to the Townsville community. There are some 18 container refund points in the community, and this scheme has helped create jobs for the Townsville region, which we expect will continue to grow.

Earlier this week I visited Reef Logistics and saw the amazing set-up they have at their depot. It is quite remarkable and the results are incredible. They count on average more than 130,000 containers a day through their one depot. They have more than 60 people employed on their books at their depot, including some who have been previously long-term unemployed. Their number of staff has increased by nearly 50 per cent since the beginning of the scheme, as more and more Townsville residents have been embracing the scheme and returning their containers. In fact, we can all be involved right here from the convention centre precinct. I encourage members and staff to recycle containers through the scheme by putting their used eligible beverage containers in any of the eight blue recycling bins scattered throughout the precinct. All of the containers collected here at the convention centre go to Reef Logistics for recycling and proceeds go back to the convention centre, so let's get recycling.

Across Queensland nearly three million containers per day are being returned through the scheme. That is an outstanding result. At this rate, Queensland is on track to reach one billion containers by the end of the year. This is an amazing effort, and Queenslanders should be congratulated for the positive and enthusiastic way they are embracing the scheme.

Townsville, Child and Family Services and Youth Justice

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.09 am): It is such a pleasure to be in Townsville to meet the many local residents here and people who are working in child safety, youth and women and the prevention of domestic and family violence and to see firsthand the results of our investments and our initiatives to improve the safety and wellbeing of local residents and to create a brighter future for vulnerable young people and children. The Palaszczuk government is investing heavily in service

delivery to this city in the areas of youth justice and child safety. Family is the foundation of our community—families of all kinds, all shapes and sizes—and strengthening families is the foundation for improving outcomes for children and young people.

To make sure these children and young people and their families and carers have the support they need, we are investing more than \$36 million into child and family services in Townsville. We are funding a range of programs including family and wellbeing services, women's health and wellbeing services, family participation programs, Intensive Family Support services, Breakthrough for Families for ice and other drug education programs, and women's healing services. For children who cannot live safely with their parents, our amazing foster and kinship-carers provide supportive homes and a whole lot of love. We have committed to providing further financial support to all our carers, both here in Townsville and across the state, so they can continue to support the young people in their care up to the age of 19. This vital local funding will make sure children in care in Townsville can continue to receive the support they need. In this 2019 Child Protection Week, I thank the many carers, staff members, people working for our non-government organisations and the many other people who are supporting our children and families for the wonderful meetings I have had with them this week.

Also, our almost \$20 million youth justice investment into the Townsville community is about changing the story for the city's young people and keeping the local community safe. Initiatives are aimed at cutting offending and reoffending rates and addressing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system. They include new and continued initiatives and will see us start to implement key elements of Queensland's first Youth Justice Strategy. Our investment is funding a specialist high-risk youth court, the Lighthouse after-hours diversion service, a cultural mentoring program, integrated case management and the Burrakah flexischooling to re-engage Townsville youth in education. It also includes the new community based board established from Retired Major-General Stuart's recommendations to assist in the successful implementation of young people giving back to benefit the community through various reparative tasks.

Transition 2 Success will continue, as will our bail support and legal advocacy services. Townsville's best response to youth crime is collaborative and community led, and that is what the Community Youth Response is doing. This is paying off for the city, with a recent evaluation of the program showing that the overall number of reported youth offences for 10- to 16-year-olds in Townsville has reduced since the response started in February 2017. We are making a real difference in Townsville and I am proud to be part of a government tackling these issues head-on.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.13 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to support the LNP's plan to—

- (a) introduce retail competition, allowing regional Queenslanders to shop around and save \$300 a year on their electricity bills;
- (b) open up the Galilee Basin and create a Queensland Infrastructure Fund;
- (c) attract resource investment, with more jobs and better job security for the resources industry with a 10-year freeze on royalty rates;
- (d) increase business investment and create more local jobs by guaranteeing no new taxes;
- (e) fight crime with a dedicated police helicopter based in Townsville;
- (f) establish a Townsville based Queensland dam company to plan, design and build more dams;
- (g) deliver water security by getting the Burdekin Falls Dam project shovel ready;
- (h) reintroduce breach of bail as an offence to hold repeat young offenders accountable for their crimes and scrap Labor's failed bail houses;
- (i) help parents protect their kids with a public sex offender register and tougher sentences for child killers;
- (j) introduce a royal commission into the building industry and subcontractor payments;
- (k) tackle the ice epidemic with a new drug rehabilitation and detox facility in Townsville to help those struggling with addiction;
- (l) back heavy engineering and manufacturing jobs with a \$20 million Built in Queensland Fund;
- (m) create a Queensland Industry Skills Council with regional skills boards to provide training that leads to jobs; and
- (n) supercharge the North West Minerals Province by boosting mineral exploration and reducing crippling energy costs with an energy audit.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.15 am): My first question is to the Premier. Queenslanders want the Deputy Premier sacked. Unions want the Deputy Premier sacked. When will the Premier respond to the integrity crisis, do the right thing and sack the Deputy Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I have said very clearly in this House, the CCC has publicly said that it will hand down its findings tomorrow and I will be responding following that. We know that the LNP on the other side of this House knows very clearly about sacking, because Townsville was ground zero for sacking in this state.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on 118 relating to relevance. The Premier has answered the question and she is now straying into matters that were not asked of her.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The point of order is valid. I ask the Premier to add anything further to the direct question asked or otherwise—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The question did raise the issue with regard to the word 'sack' and I said that the LNP knows very clearly how to sack Townsville workers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier, the question was specifically related to matters, not a general conversation. Do you have anything further to add? If not, thank you, Premier.

Ministerial Handbook

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. I table section 3.4.1 of the Ministerial Handbook, which states—

Ministers must comply with the requirements of the Register of Members' Interests ... held by the Clerk of the Parliament.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 9 May 2019, titled 'Department of the Premier and Cabinet: 3.4 Declaration of Interests' [[1442](#)].

Earlier this week the Premier claimed it was not her responsibility. Does the Premier purposely choose not to enforce the Ministerial Handbook or is the Ministerial Handbook meaningless?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said very clearly, the CCC will be handing down its findings tomorrow and every single member knows—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Sorry, Premier. I would ask to pause the clock, but it had not started. Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question asked. I ask you to listen to that response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The register of interests is held by the parliament. It is the responsibility of every member to ensure that that register of interest is up to date and I am sure that those matters have all been—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said—

Mr Hart interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said, I will look very clearly at what the CCC says tomorrow and I will respond.

Communities, Women's Participation

Mr STEWART: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Yesterday, the Premier announced a major boost for women's participation in this region with important funding for the Townsville Fire. What further actions is the government taking to increase women's involvement in their communities?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville for that question. We on this side of the House support women. We support women's participation in government, we support women's participation in gaining access to boards and we also support women's sport. That is why we put funding into the Female Facilities Program. We want to encourage more women and young girls to do STEM.

Yesterday, the Minister for Education and I met with some young girls who are being prioritised in STEM. They are going out to universities and businesses to meet adults who are involved in other endeavours so that they can be what they see. It is always very important that we give young women and girls role models so that they can pursue their dreams.

I am very pleased that my government has a policy of getting 50 per cent of women on boards by 2020. I can update the House that we have reached 49 per cent and we want to make sure that we get to 50 per cent. I will host a Women on Boards event for Townsville tomorrow. I want to see more regional representation on Queensland government boards. That is why we will hold this great event here in Townsville. Already, there are 137 RSVPs. I think it is very important that we mentor women and give them the opportunity to participate in key government decision-making.

An opposition member: You didn't make any.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. We know the decisions that are made by the opposition. The decisions made by those opposite were to have the cruellest effect on communities such as Townsville in this state. Very clearly, when the opposition members were in government they did not care. The community made a very clear decision at that election in 2015 when they voted every LNP member out of this city. In fact, not only did they vote out every LNP member, one of those members fled to the deep south. He fled as far away as possible. He almost crossed the border into New South Wales. It is good to see the member for Broadwater here in Townsville. Welcome back, member for Broadwater.

I look forward to the event tomorrow. I am quite sure that we are going to get some great female representation from Townsville.

(Time expired)

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Deputy Premier. Labor's Robert Swarten, after his self-referred allegations of corruption to the CCC, stepped aside voluntarily and cut off all contact with the minister saying, 'I know right from wrong.' Can the Deputy Premier tell the House why she chose not to follow Mr Swarten's example and choose right over wrong?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for the question. Clearly, three question times is too many for the LNP to think about what the people of Townsville need, what they are interested in to paint their vision for creating a strong economy in the north. Clearly, three hours one day following the next over three days is too much for the LNP members to keep their focus on Townsville.

Mr Powell interjected.

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

Ms TRAD: One would have thought that after yesterday's release of the national accounts figures, which clearly demonstrate that in a state such as Queensland—

Mr Watts: So integrity is not important.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Toowoomba North, the Deputy Premier has the call.

Ms TRAD: I will take that interjection from the member for Toowoomba North. He did not have a problem throwing away his integrity when he increased the level at which political donations had to be disclosed from \$1,000 to \$13,000. He did not have any integrity qualms when he sacked the PCCC at 11 o'clock at night. One would have thought that, after yesterday's release of the national accounts figures, those opposite would be interested in the fact that the Commonwealth is reducing its investment in Queensland. Over the year—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118 on relevance. We may be interested, but we did not ask about it. Mr Speaker, I ask that you bring the Deputy Premier back to the question about right from wrong and former member Robert Swarten.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, if you could come back to the question asked. Do you have anything further to add?

Ms TRAD: I am getting to my answer to that question—

Mr SPEAKER: No, Deputy Premier—

Ms TRAD: I still have a minute on the clock.

Mr SPEAKER: No, Deputy Premier, I am asking you to come directly to the question asked.

Ms TRAD: I think what is right is to keep our focus on Queensland and Townsville. I think what is right is to understand that the Morrison LNP government has reduced its investment in our state by about 1.2 per cent over the year. In the June quarter, half a per cent of their investment went backwards. Meanwhile, state and local governments have increased their investment over the year by 15.5 per cent.

If members opposite want to know who is doing the heavy lifting, if members opposite want to know who is doing the right thing by the people of Townsville and the people of Queensland, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government. We are singularly focused on making sure that there are jobs in our economy, that big projects get off the ground. We are focused on doing the right thing by Queensland and those opposite are merely focused on gutter politics.

Remote Area Tax Concessions

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the potential impact to Townsville and other parts of regional Queensland from the Productivity Commission's proposed changes to remote area tax concessions?

Ms TRAD: I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question. I notice that was missing from the motion that was discussed earlier today. This is very disturbing news. Clearly, the cost of living is an issue for all Australians. It is particularly a—

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southern Downs, you are warned under the standing orders. I have repeated my request to members to put their comments through the chair.

Ms TRAD: Cost of living is an issue for all Australians and it is particularly an issue in regional Queensland. That is why it was very disturbing to hear of the Productivity Commission's recommendation about getting rid of the zone tax offset.

This measure has been in the tax statute for more than 70 years. It is about making sure that people in regional, isolated, remote locations get a tax benefit. Unfortunately, the Productivity Commission has made a recommendation to remove it. It said, 'There is no general role for the Australian Government to subsidise people's choices.' There is an enduring role for the Commonwealth government to subsidise people's choices—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, you may believe that you are assisting but you are also not putting your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms TRAD: The Commonwealth government collects taxes and uses those taxes to subsidise people's choices, whether that is through a universal education system, a universal health system, making sure that our veterans are looked after or making sure that people with a disability are looked after. This recommendation from the Productivity Commission is, quite frankly, outrageous. What would we expect from an organisation that had Senator Matt Canavan at its chief economic analyst?

I will put this issue into perspective. There are some 288,000 people in Queensland who get this tax benefit. It is an average of \$193 per annum for Queenslanders and about \$113 per annum for Townsville people.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, you are warned under the standing orders. I will soon move to not issuing warnings and ask members to leave the chamber if they cannot follow a simple request. Comments will come through the chair.

Ms TRAD: For those in the gallery who are quite quizzical about this behaviour, I can absolutely confirm that those opposite are like this every single question time. This is about a \$100 to \$200 tax offset for people living in Townsville or Queensland. When one compares that to a \$12,000 tax cut that was introduced this year by the Commonwealth government that puts it in perspective. This is not a big offset. What else would one expect from a political party that thinks this way.

I do wonder whether or not the Leader of the Opposition has been responding to Sam Cox's letter to the editor today. I know that Sam is very close to the member for Broadwater. In fact, he wants him to be the opposition leader, and the sooner he does it the better.

(Time expired)

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. The chair of the Crime and Corruption Commission said of the ministerial code of conduct that there should be consequences depending on the seriousness of the breach; otherwise it is meaningless. What consequences will the Deputy Premier face for failing to declare her interest in a \$700,000 investment property that will increase in value substantially because of decisions made by the Palaszczuk government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: As I said earlier, and let me restate this, the CCC is handing down its findings tomorrow and I will respond appropriately.

North Queensland, Marine Industry

Mrs LAUGA (Keppel—ALP): My question is to the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. As a coastal member with island communities and resorts, I understand the importance of reliable marine transport. Will the minister please advise how the minister's portfolio is helping to drive forward the potential for new jobs in Townsville's marine industry and whether he is aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I was very pleased that yesterday the Minister for Tourism Industry Development made a very important announcement in relation to future tourism jobs in the north; that is, our government will invest \$3.5 million in the Townsville Marine Tourism Precinct development. That is an important contribution to a project currently under facilitation by my department, which is the SeaLink Townsville Regional Marine Transport Solution. If approved, this project will deliver tourism infrastructure, public open space, a new ferry terminal and the construction of two high-speed ferry passenger vessels for Magnetic and Palm islands. We are working closely with the proponents to bring this to conclusion. The only reason this project is on the table for the government is because the government owns the Port of Townsville. This is one of the great ports of Australia.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 10.33 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Members on warnings will cease all interjections. That is my final warning for today.

Mr DICK: If honourable members would like to look out the front door they will see that great port. That port, one of the great Australian ports, exports agricultural products, processed beef, cattle, minerals and processed metals from the city of Townsville to the world.

The only thing that the LNP ever exported from Townsville was, of course, the member for Broadwater. It was only the election of the Palaszczuk Labor government that meant that port out the front door was kept in public ownership. The threat is not over, because the Leader of the Opposition has made \$7 billion in unfunded promises to the people of Queensland. How do you pay for \$7 billion worth of promises?

Mr Perrett interjected.

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

Mr DICK: You sell public assets. Those opposite have form with what they did in Townsville: 670 public sector workers were sacked when the Leader of the Opposition was the assistant Treasurer; 400 nurses, doctors and other health workers were thrown on the unemployment scrap heap; and 80 Ergon workers were told to find another job.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Mr DICK: There the Leader of the Opposition was with a clipboard putting a line through the names and giving them a pink slip as they went out the door. Cutting, sacking and selling is in their DNA.

Today is the final day of the parliament in Townsville and today is the day the Leader of the Opposition needs to come clean. She has a chance to do the right thing and tell the truth to the people of Townsville: tell them where the money is coming from, what assets she will sell and what workers she will sack across Queensland.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to the former Labor premier Peter Beattie's comment that honesty in government matters. When will the Premier enforce the ministerial handbook over which the CCC has no jurisdiction and take action against the Deputy Premier to give Queenslanders confidence that integrity and honesty remain in government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. In fact, I think Townsville agrees with the member for Kawana. He seems to be a lot calmer up here in Townsville than he usually is down in Brisbane. As I said very clearly, the CCC will bring down its finding tomorrow. As Mr MacSporran, the chair of the CCC, said in the public hearing, it would not prevent them from making recommendations or commenting on the breach. I will be looking at those findings. As I said, I will be taking action.

Regional Queensland, Internet Services

Ms LUI: 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 plan to deliver better internet for thousands of people in regional Queensland?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. Having been in her electorate, I know that this is one of the issues that her community faces on a daily basis. As the economy changes, having access to good quality, reliable broadband will become increasingly important, particularly in regional and remote parts of Queensland. That is why as a government we have announced that, through FibreCo, we will utilise the spare capacity in our electricity network and make it available to businesses and regional communities right across Queensland.

We are unlocking the capacity that lies in our electricity assets. We can do this because we have kept these assets in government hands. The Premier made it very clear that a Palaszczuk government will keep our electricity assets in government hands so that we can unlock and use the optical fibre network of our government owned electricity assets for the people of regional Queensland.

We are doing this because we know that this will create jobs. People in regional Queensland deserve to have access to the same quality broadband that people in the south-east corner have. Everyone in this room knows that the NBN has been an abject failure. The nasty, cheap option that the federal government took has held back regional communities.

Mr Dick: Ruined by Malcolm Turnbull.

Ms JONES: I will take that interjection. The Labor government had a plan. Then Malcolm Turnbull came in and cut it by half, and we ended up with a terrible hybrid that is doing nothing. Fortunately, under Premier Palaszczuk this state government is not sitting on its hands. We are using the public assets that the people of Townsville own to unlock this capacity. We will continue to stand up for the people of Townsville.

There has been a lot of comment about my good mate the member for Broadwater, who cut and run from Townsville. He is right: he still does have some mates here in Townsville. His best mate is Sam Cox. Sam Cox is out there saying that the LNP leader, Deb Frecklington, is just not cutting through. Sam Cox says that she is even worse than Tim Nicholls and Lawrence Springborg. He wrote, 'Sam Cox, former LNP member for Thuringowa'—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Ms JONES: I was not there; you know that. He is saying that the LNP is not cutting through, that they have to roll their leader by the end of the year. This is in the *Townsville Bulletin* today. It does seem that the member for Broadwater, although he cut and ran on the people of Mundingburra to go down to his safe seat—rolling a young woman on the Gold Coast to do that—still has one mate in Townsville that has forgiven him for cutting and running on the people of this great city.

Member for Keppel

Mr JANETZKI: My question without notice is to the Premier. With regard to delays in registering interests, the chair of the CCC said that the whole purpose of it being in existence is to enable people to understand what those interests are and that is why they have time limits, otherwise it is meaningless. I ask: what consequences will there be for the member for Keppel accepting free luxury accommodation from a Chinese billionaire property developer and failing to properly declare it?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Keppel has explained that issue. As I said, every member has the obligation to comply with their register of interests through the Clerk of the Parliament.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Townsville, Women

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. Will the minister please provide an update on how the government is supporting women across Queensland and here in Townsville?

Mrs O'ROURKE: I thank the member for the question and for her advocacy for women in her electorate. The Women's Centre in Townsville provides vital health, social and support services to the local women who need it most. We know the demand for such a vital service is continuing to increase and that the service has outgrown its current outdated location. That is why the Palaszczuk government has stepped in to partner with the North Queensland Combined Women's Service to deliver a new women's centre here in Townsville. We are providing \$2.87 million in funding this financial year for the construction of this vital centre, in addition to the \$330,000 provided last financial year, which totals more than \$3 million. This is a significant investment in the Townsville community and the services delivered by the Townsville Women's Centre.

It took a Labor government to reinvest in the Townsville Women's Centre. We know what those opposite did to community organisations whilst they were in government. They cut funding to community organisations that provided vital services. Before those opposite were elected, the previous Labor government gave a commitment to build a new women's centre, but when the LNP came to power do members remember what happened? That is right: cut, cut, cut!

We know what those opposite prioritise when it comes to supporting services. Their priorities are cutting, sacking and selling. The federal LNP government will not commit one single cent. What does that say about their commitment to women in Townsville? There is no sign of support from the new member for Herbert, which I am extremely disappointed about. I do urge him to stand up for the women of Townsville and support this extremely important service.

Earlier this year I was pleased to announce that the government has secured land on the corner of Charles and Nathan streets in Aitkenvale for the new centre. Today I am pleased to announce that we have secured another 1,000 square metres, so that the Women's Centre can have a secure outdoor area for women and children accessing the centre. The construction of the new Townsville Women's Centre will create around 11 jobs, with construction starting onsite by the end of the year. The service should be operating out of the new building by the middle of next year. I look forward to keeping the House updated on this important project moving forward.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Ms Jones interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Southport and member for Cooper, you were quarrelling across the chamber. You are both warned under the standing orders.

New Acland Mine, Approvals

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. Today workers from New Hope's New Acland coalmine have travelled to Townsville to plead for the jobs of 150 of their mates. Will the Premier meet with the workers from New Hope today and explain why, after 12 years, her government refuses to grant the final approvals for New Acland stage 3?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am very pleased to address that issue. I am very pleased to have the opportunity to put some of the facts on the table. I went to the last election with a clear position that the New Acland project was under judicial review and I would absolutely accept the decision from that judicial review. Prior to the election of November 2017 I said that, whatever the judicial review says, if

we are elected we will accept it. My government is waiting on the finalisation of proceedings in the Court of Appeal. I urge New Hope to do all they can to protect jobs while that process is underway. Every party knows the process and that it is before the Court of Appeal.

I am doing what I said I would do before the last election. I contrast that with what the member for Nanango said. Prior to the 2012 election, on 20 February she said—

After months of lobbying by myself, Ray Hopper and Jeff Seeney, the LNP has made it clear that it will not support the proposal for Acland Stage 3 that would see the expansion of the open cut coal mine digging up strategic cropping land.

That is the record of the member for Nanango. However, after the election and \$700,000 worth of donations to the LNP at state and federal levels, there was a change of heart and they decided to support the mine.

It is a pity that the member for Glass House did not ask me the question because, alongside the member for Toowoomba North, he as environment minister sat in the New Hope corporate box when the environmental authority was being considered. The former LNP member for Mansfield was caught out accepting a donation from New Hope at the same time that the department of science was overseeing and working on an air pollution study involving trains to the Port of Brisbane that New Hope uses. I am also advised that at the same time the daughter of the former LNP member for Mansfield, Ian Walker, was also working for New Hope.

The member for Nanango is selective when it comes to supporting coal jobs. In her own electorate she says 'no' to the Kingaroy coalmine. There is a process in place. It is called the Court of Appeal. We will await the Court of Appeal decision and all parties know that that decision is imminent.

Mr Batt interjected.

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

Biosecurity

Mr MADDEN: My question is to the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. As we know, all Queenslanders have a role to play in keeping the Queensland community free of invasive pests, weeds and disease.

Mr Millar interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt, member. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked for silence when questions are being asked, not commentary.

Mr MADDEN: I ask: will the minister outline the Palaszczuk government's approach to biosecurity and any alternatives?

Mr FURNER: The work of Biosecurity Queensland is broad, ongoing and incredibly important in preserving Queensland's agriculture and fisheries sector. As the House is no doubt aware, Queensland has twice the number of incursion rates than any other state or territory in Australia. All Queenslanders have a role to play in keeping the Queensland community free of invasive pests, weeds and disease. Talking about pests and disease, the LNP is still infected with a cut, suck and sell disease. The last time the LNP infection hit the north—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Minister, you may have to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr FURNER: I withdraw. The last time the LNP infection hit the north, a biosecurity lab was closed and 26 per cent of Queensland's biosecurity staff were cut. The LNP's legacy was a decimation of Biosecurity Queensland. It was a real shame that they decimated full-time-equivalent staff from that essential service, which had a major impact on the workload of the remaining staff who were left to deal with ongoing biosecurity issues, day after day. What was said at that time in 2013—

Mr Healy interjected.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Cairns and member for Scenic Rim, you are both warned under the standing orders. You will cease your crossfire across the chamber.

Mr FURNER: In 2013 the funding cuts to Biosecurity Queensland were so severe that the then managing director complained 'we are feeling it operationally' and that they were beyond the agency's ability to absorb. The cuts proposed would cause 'considerable pain' and the agency was already down

to its 'bare bones'. This is the legacy of the LNP on biosecurity. It is a legacy of failure and a legacy of cuts. Those opposite want to cut, sack and sell again. We want to back the north. That is one thing the Palaszczuk Labor government always does for the regions right throughout Queensland.

A top priority of the Palaszczuk government is to continue to develop and maintain the integrity of Queensland's biosecurity system. We recognised that action was needed. That is why, working closely with the leaders of Queensland's \$18.5 billion agriculture industry, we developed the five-year Queensland Biosecurity Strategy 2018-2023. This shared vision demonstrates how government, industry and the community are successfully working together to strengthen Queensland's world-class biosecurity measures. The recent spate of unlawful trespass incidents—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr FURNER: This mob over here is so immature, Speaker! That is why this government is the farmers' friend. Every time we go into the regions, no doubt with our rapport I hear them say, 'Here comes Furner, the farmers' friend!'

QFleet, E10 Fuel

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. From 2001 to 2005 to establish an ethanol industry in Queensland Premier Peter Beattie committed to using E10 fuel in the Queensland government's QFleet. Will the Premier make the House aware of the percentage of state government vehicles that currently use E10 exclusively, and will the Premier make the same commitment as Peter Beattie did to ensure this once sunrise industry is not a sunset failure?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member of Hinchinbrook for the question. I am happy to get the final details for you—

CHAIR: Through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, Mr Speaker. My understanding is that the majority of vehicles would be able to use ethanol. I might take this opportunity to update the House. We are in the process of making sure that we have some vehicles in the Queensland fleet that will also run on hydrogen.

Mr DICK: Five cars.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are five cars, Mr Speaker. That flows on from the fact that the Minister for State Development and I recently hosted a hydrogen forum in Brisbane—which was packed—in terms of developing this new industry. At the Townsville Industry Breakfast, which was held here in Townsville on Monday morning, I made a further commitment to host a hydrogen round table event here in Townsville. There has been a lot of focus on Gladstone's potential for hydrogen. There is going to be a very strong focus on Townsville as another key hub for hydrogen in this state. We know that in the future it is going to be a billion dollar industry. It is going to mean more jobs. It is going to be something that not just Queensland but Australia has the ability to be a world leader in, just as we have proven to be a world leader when it comes to LNG.

For the school students here with us today, Queensland is a very resource-rich state. We have strength in our traditional industries such as coal, tourism and agriculture. My government backs these strong industries right across Queensland. We also know that we have a strong sense of renewables, but we are also looking at—

Dr Rowan interjected.

CHAIR: The member for Moggill is warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—new industries such as hydrogen. There is a very bright future for Townsville. It is disappointing that the LNP today do not want to speak about—

Mr DAMETTO: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The question was about E10 and ethanol and helping the ethanol industry.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, can I just clarify whether you were taking that question on notice under standing order 113?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can update the House. From 2018-19, E10 represented approximately 21 per cent of the purchased fuel for QFleet vehicles. We are trying to drive up that purchase, and it has increased from 17 per cent to 21 per cent.

Regional Queensland, Health Services

Mr BUTCHER: My question is of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Health services are critically important for all Queenslanders, especially those of us living in regional cities. Will the minister please update the House on what the Palaszczuk government has done to improve regional health services, including here in Townsville?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Gladstone for his question. I know how focused he is on health services in regional Queensland, whether that is in Gladstone, Rocky or here in Townsville. It is also great to get a question about Townsville. The opposition may not have noticed, but we are actually in Townsville. They have asked nine questions this morning but they have not managed to come up with one yet about Townsville. Even the member for Burdekin, the closest they have to a Townsville member, could not come up with a question about Townsville.

For the benefit of the member, let me update the House. For the first time this financial year we will invest more than a billion dollars into the Townsville Hospital and Health Service—an increase of \$54.5 million—because we support our doctors, nurses, midwives, health professionals and ambos. Earlier I announced the new endoscopy unit at the hospital, which will be fantastic. Last year the Premier was here with Minister Dick and me to open the new paediatric ward at the hospital. This is a \$6.6 million investment with seven new beds with double the space and more single rooms. We are delivering new cancer treatments here at the Townsville Hospital, including the Southern Hemisphere's first Elekta MRI linear accelerator, to provide treatments to people right across Queensland. I know that the member for Townsville was very pleased to open the new Palm Island community health clinic with me, which is fantastic.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba.

Dr MILES: There is a new BreastScreen facility at Domain Central. I know the member for Thuringowa is very excited about our \$5 million investment in the Kirwan Ambulance Station. It turns out the member for Thuringowa used to be a paramedic himself, so he is very excited to see that investment at Kirwan. On this side of the House we back our health workers. Since coming to office, after those opposite sacked 397 health workers here in Townsville we have employed 119 more doctors, 147 more nurses and midwives and 59 more health professionals. They have no plan for health infrastructure. They have never had a plan for health infrastructure. They do not support our investments in health infrastructure. The member for Mundingburra, the member for Thuringowa and the member for Townsville are passionate advocates for health services in this region and they are delivering.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, you are warned under the standing orders. I gave you some clear guidance during that question.

Margaret Olley: A Generous Life Exhibition

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for the Arts and I ask—

Mr Butcher interjected.

CHAIR: Member for Gladstone, cease your interjections during a question. You are warned under the standing orders. Please begin again, member for Moggill.

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for the Arts and I ask: with respect to a question asked during estimates in relation to works displayed by Australian paedophile artist Donald Friend, can the minister provide an update on the amount of proceeds of the *Margaret Olley: A Generous Life* exhibition that will be given to child victim support groups?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Following the member's question at estimates, I did write to the chair of the board asking for information regarding that. What has been returned to me is that certainly there is not any profit that comes from materials that are sold in the first place, so there would not be any profit to hand on to those sorts of organisations.

The Palaszczuk government has absolutely supported the arts in Queensland. We are supporting a new performing arts centre in QPAC which will make QPAC the largest performing arts centre in Australia, with some \$125 million towards a \$150 million building. On top of that, in the regions we have seen support for infrastructure with regard to the arts, including in Rockhampton with a new art gallery, and of course what we have seen in Cairns—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I go to standing order 118 and relevance. The minister has answered the question with respect to the proceeds of an art gallery exhibition from an Australian paedophile. I say that she is straying now in terms of other art exhibitions which we did not ask about.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. Minister, can you either round out your answer or come back directly to the question asked.

Ms ENOCH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The reason that I articulate the broader support for the arts in Queensland is that we want to support great arts being displayed in Queensland right across the state.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, I have just responded to the point of order that was raised. I am listening to the minister's response and I believe she is being responsive.

Ms ENOCH: We do that because we want Queenslanders to engage in art—sometimes controversial, sometimes pushing on issues. These are the issues—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the minister has the call.

Ms ENOCH: We want to see arts being celebrated right across the state.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Ms ENOCH: In terms of curatorial discretion, that is a matter for the art gallery. They have responded to my request for information which I have just shared with the House.

Regional Queensland, Schools

Mr WHITING: My question is to the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is investing in schools in regional Queensland? Is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. I know he loves the facilities that we are building in his electorate and the facilities that we are building right around Queensland. How proud am I to be the Minister for Education with a Premier and Treasurer who give me \$1.5 billion to spend on school infrastructure in regional Queensland and throughout Queensland. That is an increase in the amount of money that we are spending and it is a record infrastructure spend this financial year. Who is benefiting from this? The schools right here in Townsville. In the four financial years that the Palaszczuk government have been in power, we have spent around \$200 million just here in school infrastructure.

Nothing was more pleasing than when the member for Hinchinbrook got the benefit of the North Shore school in 2018, but it was the member for Thuringowa who actually advocated strongly and was on the public reference group that looked at this school after it got distributed out of his electorate. He hung around though. When we opened the school at North Shore, he was there with the member for Hinchinbrook. It is a \$54 million new stage 1 school, with stage 2 ready to be opened on time and on target in 2020. He did not cut and run like the member for Broadwater. He stayed around, even though it got distributed out of his electorate, and together we all joined in the opening of that fantastic new school here in Townsville.

There are other schools right around Townsville that have benefited, including Aitkenvale State School with \$3 million and William Ross State High School with \$1.4 million. Heatley state college is just about to have a \$10 million investment out of \$14 million in total that we have spent in that school alone. I could go on, such as Bwgcolman Community School with nearly \$3 million and Townsville State High School. Premier, how good was it when we visited Townsville State High School this week and we saw that new hall refurbished and ready to go. It looked fantastic. The school was so proud to be celebrating what we are delivering in education in this state.

I contrast that to the LNP. What did they do in the just three years they were in government? They closed the Stuart State School up here in Townsville. They closed and sold the Toowoomba South State School. They had the Valley school up for sale. We had to save the Everton Park school from being closed and sold. They tried to sell the land at Calliope where we are building a new high school. If we gave them any more time, they could not be trusted with education because all they do is cut, sack and sell.

(Time expired)

Australian Security Intelligence Organisation

Mr WATTS: My question is to the Premier. Does the Premier take responsibility for the disclosure of the identity of an Australian security intelligence officer, breaching the law and jeopardising national security?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. We have apologised in relation to that issue.

TAFE

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Police, you are warned under the standing orders. I have asked for silence during questions, not commentary. Please restart your question, member for Mansfield.

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on the government's commitment to rebuilding TAFE and whether there are any other approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. I know she is a huge supporter of her local TAFE campus, the Mount Gravatt campus. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to rebuilding TAFE after the LNP sold off the campuses, sacked thousands of teachers, discontinued courses and of course left TAFE in an absolute state of ruin.

On this side of the House, we are very proudly rebuilding TAFE. I am very much looking forward to visiting the Pimlico campus later today where there has been \$43 million spent in construction. That is the biggest capital works project in my department and it is happening here in Townsville because we know that young people here in Townsville deserve first-class training facilities for the jobs of the future. I can confirm that the new building is absolutely on track to be completed by the end of this year for the semester 1 student intake in 2020. This is fantastic news for Townsville.

As I said, the record of those opposite when it comes to TAFE is cutting—cutting the courses, cutting the students, cutting the teachers. There was one member of the government who did not just cut; he cut and ran. He ran all the way from Townsville to Broadwater. He cut and ran. Today we have seen one of the member for Broadwater's very good friends kick off the member for Broadwater's campaign to be the next Leader of the Opposition. It seems that Sam Cox is very good friends with the member for Broadwater because on the member for Broadwater's Facebook page there are many supportive comments from Sam Cox. We have one here from 27 March. David Crisafulli made a comment on Facebook, and then Sam Cox was the first person to comment with, 'On the money as always David. The sooner the LNP make you opposition leader the better to take the current Premier and Deputy head on.' I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 27 March, from the Facebook page of the member for Broadwater, Mr David Crisafulli MP, in relation to health [\[1443\]](#).

But there is more—there is so much more. The next comment from 17 April on the member for Broadwater's Facebook page says, 'Well David if you ever quit politics, which I and many more of us hope you don't'. That goes on and it is very supportive. Another comment from 7 March states, 'Great to see you in Townsville today David supporting the Cowboys.' It seems he has used his homecoming to Townsville to kick off the campaign with his campaign manager, Sam Cox. Those opposite have a record. They cut and run, but they also cut and they sack and they sell.

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. The Premier just informed the House that she will take action against the Deputy Premier's failure to declare her \$700,000 investment property. As the Premier has already decided that she will take action, will she now advise the House exactly what action will be taken?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I have said in this House time and again, they only have to wait until tomorrow when the CCC brings down its findings. As I said, I will look at that report and will comment after that. I find it absolutely ironic that we come to Townsville and there

is not one question about Townsville from the opposition today in all of question time. The only thing we have seen is the member for Broadwater chair dancing over here and not taking any issues seriously.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not know what you are doing. I thought you were digging a hole for yourself.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. I remind the member for Broadwater that, whilst I appreciate he is the subject of some commentary by the Premier, he is under a warning. I will show him some leniency on that basis. I warn all members who are warned under the standing orders that there will be no interjections from those members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not mind the member for Broadwater; he seems quite nice every now and again, unlike some opposite. Here we are in Townsville—we have students from Townsville schools coming here to hear about Townsville—but only the government is talking about Townsville. It is absolutely disgraceful and shameful that during this entire question time members opposite have not asked one single question that I can recall about anything to do with Townsville.

Why would those opposite want to raise the subject of Townsville when their record is absolutely atrocious? I refer to the savage cuts to the communities here in Townsville. The Leader of the Opposition can sit here and smile like a Cheshire cat, because the Leader of the Opposition was part of the decision-making when it came to the cuts in Townsville. You only have to walk outside to see the port that the LNP wanted to sell off. There is also the railway line they wanted to sell off and the power assets they wanted to sell off.

I am absolutely proud of the three members on my side of the House who love Townsville. The members for Mundingburra, Thuringowa and Townsville are strong community champions of this great region. They will stand up for Townsville every day of the week, unlike those opposite. The member for Currumbin is very quiet over there, because she was dragged up to Townsville. We will always stand up for Townsville and jobs, and we will keep delivering for this great city.

North Queensland, Flood Recovery

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's responsive approach to the North Queensland flood recovery effort?

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, you have two minutes to respond to the question.

Mr de BRENNI: As we know, the north of Queensland is no stranger to natural disasters. I am sensitive to the fact that many families, some of whom may be here in the gallery today, are still working through recovery. When disaster strikes, we witness the best of communities like Townsville. We stand together, support each other and work together to recover and rebuild. Before the floodwaters had even started to recede here in Townsville, the Department of Housing and Public Works had deployed field staff from South-East Queensland. We deployed staff from Cairns to Townsville to start work on recovery. We worked on over 1,000 government assets to get our schools back up and running, to get over 508 public housing damage assessments up and running. In record time we restored 164 social houses that were otherwise unlivable.

As I said yesterday, this reinforces the critical role of our frontline government building workers—local people, Townsville people like Harrison Clarke. The Premier and I met Harrison Clarke in one of the worst flood-affected areas of Townsville—Quinn Street in Rosslea—on 8 February this year. Harrison was there repairing other people's homes before he had even started on his own. He is one of six apprentices we have put on already. Townsville is lucky to have people like Harrison. I will explain why. Those opposite when in government sacked 1,654 young Queenslanders like Harrison from QBuild. What they did was insidious. They targeted their approach to sacking on the regions of this state—places like Townsville. Even worse, they targeted apprentices. They sacked the apprentices and, even worse than that, the majority of those sacked were from the female workforce.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MOTION

Order of Business

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.15 am): Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Member and minister, please resume your seats. Members, I will have to make a ruling. I can see that two members wish to seek the call. We are in an unusual environment. One member sought the call by seeking the call verbally and rising in their seat, and the other member sought the call by moving to the despatch box. The member for Kawana moved to the despatch box before the Leader of the House had risen. I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you, Mr Speaker.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Without reflecting on your ruling and appreciating the position you have just taken, I make the point that the member moved to the despatch box before you had even indicated that question time was over. I did not do that, because I believed it inappropriate to move to the despatch box to ask for the call when question time had not finished.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. I think the point you make is valid. That being said, the time had expired and the minister was still delivering a response as that was occurring. In my line of sight, I believe that the time had expired as the member rose. I think your point is a valid one, but I believe on my recounting of this—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members to my left! I call the member for Kawana.

Mr BLEIJIE: In accordance with standing order 76, I move—

That government business order of the day No. 7, Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, be disposed of first.

Speaker's Ruling, Motion Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I will need to take some advice from the table regarding the motion moved by the Manager of Opposition Business. Please remain quiet while I am taking that advice.

Thank you, members, for being patient. Based on the advice I have received, the standing order that is referred to by the Manager of Opposition Business is essentially indicated by that chapter to be by and large for the use of the government. There have been previous Speaker's rulings which have indicated that those postponements need to be moved by a minister or a member of the government.

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

Mr SPEAKER: I am still giving my ruling, so I will ask you both to please take a seat. On that basis, I think the motion is not one that can be accepted and I rule it out of order.

LEAVE TO MOVE MOTION

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.19 am): Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I respect that ruling; therefore, I seek leave to move a motion without notice.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 43:

LNP, 36—Bates, Batt, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, 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, 2—Bolton, Costigan.

NOES, 47:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahan, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Resolved in the negative.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Motion Out of Order

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, to provide further clarification regarding my earlier ruling, I refer to a ruling by former Speaker Nicholson that a postponement of government business can only be moved by a minister—from 11 June 1971 at page 3741. I appreciate that standing orders have been significantly amended since that ruling. Whilst nothing in standing order 76 on its face limits the exercise of the power to the government—unlike, for example, standing order 81—standing order 76 must be read in conjunction with other standing orders in chapters 14 and 16 and in the context of well-established parliamentary law. That is, whilst generally the fate of an order of the day is within the remit of the House, the House respects the rights of the member who is in charge of the order of the day and Speakers allow no interposers without the consent of the member in charge of the order of the day. I refer to Erskine May 23rd edition at page 371.

For clarity, as ministers can act for each other in respect of government business under standing order 60, there is authority for any minister to move motions with respect to government business. There is, however, no authority for a private member to move a postponement or reordering of government business.

Mrs D'ATH: On that point, Mr Speaker, I ask that you also consider whether the member for Kawana and Manager of Opposition Business should have been required to, at the very least, seek leave to move a motion without notice and consider whether there should be a ruling in relation to that matter as standing order 76 does refer to a motion without notice but, of course, to move a motion without notice under standing order 63 leave should be sought.

Mr SPEAKER: In terms of the ruling I have given and the further clarification, the standing order does not require leave, as it is read; however, hopefully the clarification I have given will ensure that in future that standing order is utilised only by ministers of the Crown and not private members.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.27 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors be permitted to immediately move a motion with the following time limits to apply—

- 3 minutes for all members;
- Total debate time before question put—60 minutes

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (11.27 am): I move—

That this House:

1. Notes that the former Newman LNP government:
 - (a) sacked over 670 government workers from the Townsville region;
 - (b) sacked 398 health workers including 156 nurses and midwives;
 - (c) sacked seven QBuild workers in Townsville;
 - (d) closed the Townsville WorkCover office;
 - (e) sold off TAFE land in Townsville;
 - (f) axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work including \$2.51 million in the Townsville region;
 - (g) tried to sell off the Townsville Port, the Townsville-Mount Isa rail line and the electricity network;
 - (h) closed Stuart State School;
 - (i) closed down the biosecurity lab in Townsville;
 - (j) closed the North Queensland office of the Department of Premier and Cabinet;

- (k) sacked 110 senior commissioned police officers and cut another 212 police non-commissioned officers across Queensland;
 - (l) cut police training at the Townsville police academy, reduced firearms training, and cut funding to police helicopters;
 - (m) cut \$300,000 from Centacare in Townsville;
 - (n) cut over \$20,000 from Burdekin Area Youth Watch responding to youth crime; and
 - (o) cut over \$51,000 from family emergency accommodation in Townsville.
2. Notes that these cuts were replicated around Queensland.
 3. Calls on the Morrison government to keep the \$57 zone tax offset in Townsville and Cairns.
 4. Notes that 12 members of the opposition frontbench were members of the Newman LNP government and eight served as ministers or assistant ministers including the Leader of the Opposition.
 5. Calls on the Leader of the Opposition to apologise to the people of Townsville and North Queensland.

All we have heard this week from those opposite is talking down Townsville. People will not hear that from this side of the House. Townsville residents remember what the LNP did when it was in government. I still speak to people today who remember the trauma they experienced. Those opposite have made \$7 billion worth of unfunded promises. Townsville residents know exactly how they will pay for those unfunded promises—that is, by cutting, sacking and selling.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.31 am): Do we have a copy of this motion? Is there a copy of the motion that has been distributed by the government? If it has had all week—

Ms Palaszczuk: Where's the Leader of the Opposition?

Mr BLEIJIE: The Leader of the Opposition is right here and I assure members—

Mrs Frecklington: I'm right here!

Mr BLEIJIE: Why did the Premier not move the motion then? If the Premier is so concerned about Townsville—if the Premier is so concerned about regional Queensland—where has the Premier been on this issue? I tell members what—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—because we have members in Townsville!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Hold on, Premier. Members, I could not hear what the Premier's point of order was. Premier, I will ask you to repeat your point of order.

Ms Palaszczuk: I've finished, Mr Speaker.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier has just misused and abused the standing orders to make a debate point while someone was on their feet and I ask that she be disciplined pursuant to the standing orders.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member. I could not hear what the Premier had said. Premier, will you withdraw your comments?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Mr BLEIJIE: I will tell the members in this House what happened when the LNP was in government: crime went down in Townsville and crime went down in Queensland. The economy was up; crime was down. We have heard the three North Queensland members speak more this week than we have heard in five years. The reason they have not spoken is because they are ashamed of the record of the Palaszczuk government over the last five years. They are ashamed about their record in government with regard to regional Queensland—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—particularly when they know that their leader spends more time overseas than she does in regional Queensland. The gallery would be very interested to know—

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE:—that the Premier will finish here and then fly to Switzerland.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Minister for State Development, you will put your comments through the chair and I ask you to withdraw that last statement.

Ms Palaszczuk: This is not relevant.

Mr DICK: I withdraw, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Minister.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the Premier's interjection relating to relevance. It is a pretty broad motion and she does not like what she is hearing because she knows—and the ministers over there know—that the Premier will be at the nose end of the plane on her way to Switzerland in two days time, leaving the integrity crisis behind.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The motion is about cuts to Townsville. It is not about the member for Kawana and his relevance deprivation.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: Please resume your seat, member. In response to the point of order, the motion is a broad motion. It does pertain to a number of elements related to the Townsville region. I do ask the member to come back to that point, but in doing so I will say that there is also a counter position which can be put because this is a motion being debated in the House.

Mr BLEIJIE: It would help if members of this House had a copy of the motion from the government, but I will tell the residents of Townsville what I am speaking about.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Minister for Small Business will put her comments through the chair. It may be timely to remind members who are under warnings that there will be no interjections from those members.

Ms Palaszczuk: Can't mention the word 'Townsville'.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection from the Premier about mentioning Townsville. I think the residents of Townsville are very concerned that the leader of the state spends more time overseas than she does in Townsville and regional Queensland, because when she is overseas jetsetting around at the front end of the plane she is not thinking about regional Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I find the member's comments offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Kawana, the Premier has found your comments offensive and asks that they be withdrawn. Will you withdraw?

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The LNP will look after regional Queensland. We backed the Carmichael mine well before 18 May. The day 18 May was the dropped ball in Queensland when all of a sudden this Premier—the weakest Premier in Queensland's history—found regional Queensland. Only the LNP will make Townsville and regional Queensland the first priority for our government, not the Labor Party.

(Time expired)

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (11.36 am): I rise to speak in support of this motion. This inept LNP opposition has a poor track record when it comes to police and police resources no matter how much those opposite attempt to speak it up, because under the LNP it was the same story for police—sack, sell and cut. During the Newman years those opposite sacked 110 senior commissioned officers from the Queensland Police Service and a further 212 non-commissioned police officers.

In their first budget in 2012-13 here in Townsville police were told to tighten their belts and funding for new operational equipment for police was slashed by almost \$24 million. At that time Townsville's senior police were warned that vital equipment like cars and computers was not going to be purchased

for the new police recruits graduating. That particular LNP budget for new and upgraded equipment was the lowest in three years, with cuts to equipment for recruits graduating from the police academy. This is the same police academy the LNP wanted to sell where our northern recruits are trained and deployed from right here in their own backyards. Do not get me started on the safe night out precinct here as well.

There was \$20 million for extra police and police training. The LNP did not deliver. It was even the Police Union President, Ian Leavers, who said at the time that Campbell Newman looked him in the eye and lied to him. As Ian Leavers said, 'If you're going to lie to a police officer, you'll lie to anyone.' The headlines in the *Courier-Mail* at the time showed that car thefts were on the rise as the dedicated police squad was cut. It was reported that that squad was going to be slashed from 18 members to three. At the same time the LNP axed a \$205,000 grant to the National Motor Vehicle Theft Reduction Council. The Insurance Council of Australia chief wrote to the LNP's then attorney-general, Jarrod Bleijie, warning that Queensland was the only state to baulk at the modest funding commitment and that this risked the future of a body that was actually saving millions of dollars.

The LNP today is cut from the same cloth. This Palaszczuk government is delivering more police for Townsville—more police and ahead of time, with 53 more officers. We are delivering body worn video cameras to every uniformed first-responding officer here in Townsville, with the rollout starting just this week. We have delivered two new helicopters to North Queensland—not one but two, a \$43 million investment. Unlike the LNP's pie in the sky promise, our helicopters will be in the air for more than an hour or so a day. This government is delivering more for police in Townsville and in Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the Leader of the Opposition, I remind members to please use members' correct titles. I thought there was a quote being provided but, obviously, I misheard that. Member, in future, could you please do so.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.39 am): It is pretty obvious that there is only one side of the chamber in Townsville today that is interested in Townsville and that is the LNP, because we on this side of the parliament love Townsville.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We love North Queensland and we love Townsville. The Palaszczuk government's motion is only relevant because it can talk only about the past as its own record is so abysmal. It has done nothing for the last five years. No matter where we look—

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Deputy Premier, you will call members by their correct title. That is the last reminder to members during this debate.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The Deputy Premier is just enjoying her last day in that role. Yesterday, I met with representatives of the Queensland nurses union. They said that they would have loved to meet with the Premier, but they did not have the chance. The Premier started this week in Townsville on ABC Radio saying words to the effect, 'We have come to Townsville and our doors are going to be open,' but then when we talked to the Queensland nurses union, there was no meeting. When we talked to the canegrowers, there was no meeting.

An opposition member: They couldn't find the door.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. That is exactly what those interest groups said—they could not find the door. Yesterday, the Queensland nurses union talked about why there are so many agency nurses here in Townsville, why there are so many issues for patients turning up right now—

Ms Enoch interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON:—not back in 2012 but this year—and why the health system is again a basket case. Let us look at the crime rates and wonder why there are so many police officers on this side of the chamber. They know that the crime rate in Townsville is out of control. In Townsville, car theft has increased by 52 per cent and assaults are up 35 per cent. Yet the Premier sits here and talks about extra police. When will those extra police be delivered? Well into the never-never. It was an election commitment that this Premier decided not to deliver to the people of Townsville.

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries is warned under the standing orders.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Again, I say that the Palaszczuk government can only talk about previous governments, because it cannot stand on its—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.43 am): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. On this side of the House, we value Townsville and we value our regions. We believe that strong communities are fostered by making sure that we create the best environment in which to create jobs in this state. That is why my government has helped create over 216,000 jobs right across the length and breadth of Queensland.

I only need to remind members that, when the Newman government was in office, it had one thing in mind and that was to cut—and savage cuts were made in Townsville. Townsville was ground zero. People do not have to just take my word for it, I will give a little history lesson. On 4 June 2014, after the state budget the headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* states, 'Throw us a bone.' People said that they will find it hard to keep in work. On 3 September, the headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* states, 'Local jobs lost despite Newman Government assurances. Public sector cuts hit 550.' Five hundred and fifty jobs were axed here in Townsville. On 6 August 2012, the headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* states, '450 jobs axed. Newman's cost-cutting toll on Townsville revealed.'

Townsville was ground zero for the savage cuts that were done by the Newman government. The Newman government had the largest majority ever in Queensland's political history—78 members, including Sam Cox who today has called for an overhaul of the Leader of the Opposition.

When it comes to police, my government backs our police. At the last election, the Leader of the Opposition promised zero police for Townsville. We are making sure that we have over 100 and we are fast-tracking the 53.

I will again go back in history. On 28 September in 2012, what did the Newman government do? The headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* states, 'Police work hamstrung by cutbacks.'

Mr Purdie interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* of 23 June 2012 states, 'Doctors threaten to leave Townsville.' The LNP did not care about the doctors, it did not care about the nurses and it did not care about the most vulnerable. On 1 August 2012, the headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* states, 'Closure to hurt most vulnerable.' The LNP axed the tenant advisory service. It closed its doors. It did not stop there. On 13 December 2012 the headline in the *Townsville Bulletin* states, 'Palm cuts.' The LNP was cutting Palm Island as well. On 14 December 2012—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.46 am): I rise to speak against the government's motion. I ask the question: why was the LNP government brought into power in 2012? Because the Bligh government sold assets without telling the people. Some of those ministers who made that decision are sitting in this room and have a very short memory. At that time, the member for Sandgate sat around the cabinet table. The member for Cooper, the member for Woodridge, the member for McConnel—all ministers—and, of course, the Premier herself all sat around the Bligh cabinet table and made that decision—

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. What is your point of order?

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I think there was an error. I was not a minister in the Bligh government. I will give the opportunity to the member for Everton to withdraw and correct the record.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw, but she was an enthusiastic backbencher.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Order! Member for Everton, you will withdraw unreservedly.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw unreservedly, but—

Mr SPEAKER: No, member for Everton.

Mr MANDER: Sorry, no buts. Okay.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my right, I do not need your assistance. There will be no buts or ifs after I ask you to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. And—no ands? Okay.

Mr SPEAKER: You are treading a fine line, member.

Mr MANDER: This government is full of hypocrisy. Week after week, sitting after sitting, the members opposite get up and talk about asset sales. Not one member on this side of the House in the LNP sold one asset in this state. Who sold the assets? It was the government.

The members opposite talk about cutting and running. The member for Woodridge cut and run from the electorate of Greenslopes—to go to that working class seat that he can relate to so well. The member for Sandgate cut and run from the electorate of Stafford. Of course, we have the member for Murrumba who cut and run from the electorate of Maiwar.

Mrs Frecklington: The Deputy Premier is about to cut and run.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection. The Deputy Premier is tipped to cut and run very shortly.

Those opposite sold assets: they sold the forest; they sold the Port of Brisbane; they sold the Port of Abbot Point; they sold QR National. They laugh about it. We still have record levels of debt. Is it any wonder that hard decisions have to be made by government.

Mr Langbroek: They sold Townsville Airport.

Mr MANDER: I will take that interjection from the member for Surfers Paradise. They sold Townsville Airport. That is a very good point. The members of the gallery should not be sucked in by this mob. If you want to use the word 'suck', I will use the word 'suck'.

Mr SPEAKER: No. Through the chair.

Mr MANDER: The people of Townsville will not be fooled by this government. This government comes up here with fake promises, reannouncements, things that will happen in 20 or 30 years time—maybe. The people of Townsville will tell us what they think in October 2020.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.50 am): Let us start with the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. One of the first things those opposite did when they came to government was cut the hugely successful Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. Despite there being a Deloitte report that says for every dollar invested in that program \$8 comes back to the Queensland economy, they slashed the program. How many of those community groups here in Townsville that were doing wonderful things, getting young people the training they needed and into jobs, were then left in the cold because those opposite cut the program? There was \$2.5 million in Townsville slashed because of this program. People like Kylie, a single mum trying to get back into the workforce after she had a baby—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections.

Ms FENTIMAN: She was struggling to find work here in Townsville and Access Community Services gave her a traineeship for business administration. She is now working part-time for Ergon Energy and doing her hairdressing apprenticeship. It is people like Kylie who were left behind when those opposite were in government and slashed wonderful programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Has the Leader of the opposition explained to the thousands of businesses and local community groups that use that program? Has she apologised to those community groups and those Queenslanders who need that training to get back into work? Has she apologised to the people of Townsville who need these programs?

Let us talk about TAFE. The LNP sacked 2,100 TAFE teachers. Hundreds of TAFE teachers and staff who worked here in Townsville were sacked because of those opposite. They sold off TAFE land in Townsville without reinvesting the proceeds back into TAFE. They did what they always do, of course: they cut, sack and sell. They slashed more than \$20 million from the User Choice budget which pays for apprenticeships and traineeships. Yesterday we hit 20,000 jobs in Back to Work, a program that those opposite wanted to cut. That is 20,000 jobs that would not be there if those opposite were in government. They cut, they sack and they sell.

It is a heartless government that would cut programs like Skilling Queenslanders for Work that actually delivers the skills people need to get a job in the future. I absolutely believe that the Leader of the Opposition needs to stand up today, the last day of this sitting of parliament in Townsville, and apologise to the people of Townsville.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (11.53 am): It is a great pleasure to stand up to oppose this motion moved by those opposite. It is clear that this government came to Townsville this week thinking that the red carpet was going to be rolled out for them in this community and it has not happened. They have been forced to come in here at the last minute and drop a motion into this parliament to try to claw back some credibility, but we know that they have been copping stick all week.

Ms Trad interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Deputy Premier is warned under the standing orders.

Mr LAST: The Deputy Premier has plenty to say. They have been copping stick all week about their performance in this community. Those on this side know the difference between what they have delivered—which is absolutely nothing—and what we have delivered and will deliver going into the future.

Let us talk about the Adani Carmichael mine. Those opposite do not want to talk about coal and the mine, but this community will not forget that those opposite had to be dragged kicking and screaming. The three local Labor members—there is the headline—were slammed for failing to support the Galilee Basin. It was not until the federal election result that all of a sudden, miraculously, what happened? ‘We will approve it now. We will give it the tick because we might need the jobs for this community.’ It is absolutely right that we need the jobs in this community. It has the highest youth unemployment rate in Queensland. That is a damning indictment on this Labor government. They come into this place and tell this community and those young people sitting in our gallery that they are creating jobs in this community. This community has the highest youth unemployment rate in the state. That is a shame. Those opposite talk about plans. For two years we have been waiting for the regional plan and finally they come up this week and say we might have some discussion and open up items for a regional plan in North Queensland and Townsville. Where was it for the last two years if you are so concerned? We were calling for it. We want to know.

Mr SPEAKER: The member will put his comments through the chair.

Mr LAST: This community wants to know. Probably the most damning indictment is the fact that the minister who moved this motion, the minister representing the Premier in North Queensland, had her head chopped off. That position does not exist anymore. We have a shadow minister representing North Queensland. They do not even place enough stock in that to retain that position. They do not have anyone. Then the Premier comes in here today and says they are going to establish Rural and Regional Queensland.

Ms Palaszczuk: We are!

Mr LAST: Yes. I wonder why the Premier might be doing that. That says it all. They have heard loud and clear from this community this week that they are not being represented properly.

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (11.56 am): How great it is to have our future leaders sitting in the gallery. I was talking to some of the students from town high, my old high school. I was talking to Telisha Scott, one of our great students, who is here in the gallery. Telisha’s former school was Stuart State School. Telisha told me that her school was closed under the LNP government. Telisha told me that she had to change schools and find new friends because her school was closed under the LNP government. That is the track record of those opposite when it comes to education. Telisha has never forgotten that. Those opposite close schools here in North Queensland and build them in Brisbane. All they care about is the south-east corner. Close schools in the north, build them in the south, that is it. They come in here talking about regional Queensland.

Mr Boothman interjected.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Theodore, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Scenic Rim, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Scenic Rim withdrew from the chamber at 11.57 am.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members under warnings there will be no interjections.

Mr STEWART: There is irony in what the member for Burdekin says. He talks about jobs. Let us compare those jobs figures: under the LNP 670 government workers were sacked here in Townsville. What was the impact of that on our community? More people left our city, taking kids out of our schools, taking money out of our economy. We know that when we have people living and working in our city—and the Palaszczuk government has great plans for thousands and thousands of jobs through its infrastructure spend—we see the money stay local. When the money stays here it creates jobs for these young people sitting in our gallery today. I can tell our young kids in the gallery that we are creating a future for you. The LNP will not do it for you.

Mr SPEAKER: The member will put his comments through the chair.

Mr STEWART: The LNP will not create a future for our youth. All they want to do is close schools and sack our workers. Shame on them!

When it comes to our assets, who had Strong Choices? The LNP! How strong were those choices? They sold the North Queensland port, the greatest port in north Australia. It is the largest port, with the best exports, right here in Townsville. There are 8,000 direct and indirect jobs through that port and they wanted to sell it. What about our electricity network? That was up for sale, too. They were ready to sell off Ergon. By how much did they increase the cost of electricity? It was increased by 43 per cent! How do you think that impacted upon the people of Townsville? You talk about regional Queensland; hang your heads!

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.00 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. I do that because when it comes to North Queensland we have seen a change in attitude from the Labor Party only because of the federal election. It was the federal election that changed their attitude. The federal election is why we are here in Townsville today. The Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament had 10 weeks to get this organised. Normally it takes a year to organise a regional parliament and you have had this one organised in 10 weeks.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Gregory will put his comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: Absolutely, Mr Speaker. Prior to the federal election, where did the members for Townsville, Mundingburra and Thuringowa stand on the issue of Adani? Where was their support for the jobs that Adani would create? Were they standing up to demand the approval of the Adani project, which should have been approved a long time ago? They were missing. Were you getting behind Adani and making sure that we have jobs for Townsville? Where was the member for Rockhampton?

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr Saunders interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Maryborough is warned under the standing orders. Member for Ninderry, you were interjecting and you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 12.01 pm.

Mr MILLAR: Those members suddenly found an interest in Adani only after the federal election. In fact, we saw what happened. Straight after the federal election there were phone calls going everywhere. The backbenchers were going to revolt. There was a hook-up. The member for Stafford started to do the numbers, to see if Minister Dick could become the premier. The problem is that you have shown an interest in Townsville only after—

Mr SPEAKER: The member will put his comments through the chair.

Mr MILLAR: You have found an interest in Townsville only—

Mr SPEAKER: Order, member! Pause the clock. For your guidance, member, I will give examples: 'those opposite' or 'the government', not 'you'. That is my last warning to members.

Mr MILLAR: The Labor Party found an interest in Adani only after the federal election. In their motion they talk about 'other parts of Queensland'. Where is the \$5 million to fight prickly acacia in Western Queensland? The minister for agriculture issued a press release with the federal Minister for Agriculture, promising \$5 million, matching the federal government's \$5 million, so that we can stop prickly acacia getting into the Channel Country. Around Christmas time last year, the state minister for agriculture rolled up to Longreach and announced that the agriculture college in Emerald and the pastoral college in Longreach would close.

Mr Batt: Closing schools.

Mr MILLAR: They are closing down schools and education in Western Queensland. We need an LNP government for Townsville and for regional Queensland. We need to back jobs in regional Queensland. We do not need to be closing down regional Queensland by closing down the agriculture colleges.

They talk about asset sales, but the only assets sold were sold by the Labor Party. One of those assets was Queensland Rail, which has had a devastating effect on Western Queensland freight services. We have not seen a decent rail service in Western Queensland since the Labor Party sold Queensland Rail and destroyed regional jobs in places such as Winton, Alpha and Barcaldine.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (12.03 pm): I back this motion and I can tell the House what else I back: I back nurses. I am proud to be part of a government that backs nurses and backs midwives. We have ministers and a Premier who back nurses and midwives. What the Premier does not do is sack nurses and midwives. We have put the nurses back to work and we have gone further. Queensland is only the fourth place in the world to introduce ratios. I am extremely proud to have been a nurse who voted for that. I am sad to say that not every nurse in this House voted for ratios. In the run-up to the next election, I will be reminding every nurse in this state that if they support the member for Mudgeeraba because they think that she has the solution for nursing, the LNP will get rid of ratios and then they will get rid of nurses. They will do it all over again.

It is great to be in Townsville. It is great to come back to the town where I received my education and where my family lived. This is the place where my nursing journey started. After I did work experience and volunteer work with St Vincent's de Paul, my father said, 'What do you want to do with your life?'

Mr Batt: Leave Townsville.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bundaberg, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Bundaberg withdrew from the chamber at 12.04 pm.

Mr SPEAKER: I hope the message is becoming clear for members. My tolerance is low for people flouting the standing orders today.

Mr KELLY: My father had a huge look of relief on his face when I told him that I wanted to be a nurse, because it meant that I did not have to go to university and I was off his hands. Straight after that, he said to me, 'That's a great job. You're going to be doing something that really matters to people. You know what? It's also a job that you will have for life. It's a secure job. You are never going to have to think about your future.'

Fast-forward to 2012 and we saw the unthinkable happen: nurses and midwives were chucked out. I was there at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital when the clipboard carriers came in. They did not come in and do a review, work out an intelligent plan or sit down and think through all the issues. They walked in and said, 'Here's a number and we're getting rid of that number. We don't care what it means for the people lying in the beds, the people you are caring for.'

I can give the House a great example. What did the 'champions of the bush' sitting opposite do? In my area, the first group to be sacked was the stroke outreach team, which was a group of nurses and allied health professionals who supported stroke patients we were discharging to regional and remote Queensland. They got rid of them. They cut jobs. During that time, nine friends and colleagues lost their jobs in a whole range of areas. I can tell the House that some of those people are still rebuilding their lives.

I am proud to be back here in Townsville, because this is a government that creates jobs in Townsville. It creates jobs in Greenslopes. It is a government that creates jobs everywhere. We do not sack and we certainly do not sack nurses.

(Time expired)

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.06 pm): I too rise to oppose this motion. We are only debating this motion because, let's face it, this week has not quite worked out the way that the government planned. They planned to come to Townsville to reset how they are being perceived in the regions. As my colleague the member for Burdekin said, they are only debating this motion because

they have been copping stick all week. In fact, they have been copping stick all year. If those opposite need a little reminder, I refer them to the editorial in the *Townsville Bulletin* on 2 May this year. The headline reads, 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job'. The article states—

We pay the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, a base salary of \$159,122 a year. Now, he needs to do his job.

...

When Mr Harper stood up in Queensland parliament on Tuesday and berated his local newspaper and peak economic development organisation Townsville Enterprise, he did precisely the opposite of his job.

This publication and Townsville Enterprise have asked him to sign a pledge saying he supported mining in the Galilee Basin. He refused and instead spat the dummy accusing us all of being biased towards the LNP.

The truth is, this is nothing about the left or the right side of politics. It's about who is willing to stand by our side and fight for North Queensland.

Sadly, I say to the members in the gallery that that is not the member for Thuringowa, neither is it the member for Townsville or the member for Mundingburra. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 2 May 2019, titled 'Thuringowa MP Aaron Harper needs refresher on his job: We pay the Member for Thuringowa Aaron Harper a base salary of \$159,122 a year. Now, he needs to do his job' [1444].

We need only ask the people of Aitkenvale how they feel about the member for Mundingburra. When the government proposed to stick a five-storey youth foyer development in their neighbourhood, they rebelled. They went to the member for help, but she refused to help. The member brought in the minister under the cover of darkness, but they refused to meet the residents. Instead, it was the LNP that stood up, worked with the Aitkenvale community and delivered the outcome that they wanted. That youth foyer has now moved to Pimlico.

If those in the gallery, particularly students, want a history lesson—we heard the member for Townsville talking before about school closures—what is Labor's record on school closures? Seven schools were closed each year for 20 years—140 schools were closed. There are two schools being built this year. Where are they? One in the minister's electorate and the other in the member for South Brisbane's electorate. The people of Townsville do not need to wonder where their taxpayers' dollars are going. They are going to the member for South Brisbane's electorate—a school, a railway line, a museum, a theatre—all going in to prop up the Deputy Premier and her property investments. If the members opposite need a history lesson, we are happy to provide it.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.09 pm): I rise to support the motion because it is a history lesson. It takes us through exactly what happened in the short three years of the Campbell Newman government. They had one of the biggest majorities in Queensland's history and it was gone after three years—and we know why. It was because of the litany of things outlined in this motion. That is why I support the motion.

During the Campbell Newman government, the Leader of the Opposition was on the CBRC. She must have been on the CBRC when nurses were sacked here in Townsville, which is where they started. They started right here in Townsville. I remember it. I was working at the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union of Employees. When we got the call it was unbelievable. The nurses were so distressed. They could not believe it, particularly with the workload that they had. I know that the Leader of the Opposition saw them yesterday, and they reminded her about the sacking that happened up here in Townsville. I know because they came and told me exactly what they told the Leader of the Opposition. She sat around the CBRC table and she made that decision right here in Townsville. We will never let them forget it. She was proud that there was not a worker that they did not want to sack. There was not an entitlement, a service or a program that they did not want to cut.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Southport, you have used a member's incorrect title. You have interjected while you are under a warning. You can leave the chamber for one hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Southport withdrew from the chamber at 12.12 pm.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Gladstone, you can also leave the chamber. You are under a warning. I do not appreciate your laughter during a ruling. You can leave the chamber for one hour as well under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Gladstone withdrew from the chamber at 12.12 pm.

Ms GRACE: There was not an entitlement, a program or a service that they did not want to cut. There was not a public asset that they did not want to sell. They had to be dragged up here to North Queensland. No wonder they hang their heads in shame like a fox in sheep's clothing, thinking that people are going to forget exactly what happened.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: A wolf in sheep's clothing—whatever you want to be. They closed the schools. They closed the services that were required here in Townsville. Yet the Leader of the Opposition is saying that she was proud of her record while she was in the Campbell Newman government. I would hang my head in shame. That is what I would be doing.

When it came to schooling, in 2013, in just three short years, we had the biggest increase in student numbers in Queensland in recent history. That required 519 teachers just to keep up with the level of students in that year. How many teachers did they put on? They put on none—not one. They were under—they cut 519 teachers that would have been required in this region and throughout Queensland to teach the good students of this state.

They cut entitlements in industrial relations. They sacked industrial health and safety inspectors. They sacked the Electrical Safety Office. Yet here they come crying crocodile tears about coal workers' pneumoconiosis when those workers would not have had common law rights.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (12.13 pm): Labor is in full flight here. It is the art of distraction. That is what this government is moving forward with.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Dr Miles interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bancroft and Minister for Health, you are warned under the standing orders. You will direct your comments through the chair.

Mr HART: Instead of talking about important issues like integrity, the government has come in here and moved a motion without notice to go back seven years to try to reinvent history. Let us have a talk about the facts here rather than the story that the Labor Party would like you to believe.

As far as selling assets is concerned, the Labor Party sold Queensland Motorways for \$3 billion. They sold Abbot Point for \$1.8 billion. They sold QR National—in fact, the Premier was heavily involved in that—for \$4 billion. While talking about selling ports, it was not the LNP who sold the Port of Brisbane for \$2.1 billion. Who was it?

Opposition members: Labor!

Mr HART: It was Labor. It was Labor who sold the Port of Brisbane. They sold Forestry Plantations for \$600 million. They sold Cairns and Mackay airports for \$289 million.

When it comes to energy assets, the Labor Party sold the wind energy assets for \$460 million. They sold the Golden Casket for \$530 million. They sold PowerDirect for \$1.2 billion, Sun Gas for \$75 million, Sun Retail for \$1.2 billion and Allgas for \$435 million. They sold \$16 billion worth of Queenslanders' assets, yet they come in here and try to reinvent history. They mentioned the closure of schools. I will table those assets sales for the benefit of members.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'The truth about who sold Queensland's assets' [1445].

There was a question on notice No. 35 that was asked of the minister for education at the time, Anna Bligh, about schools that were closed by the Labor Party—not the LNP, but the Labor Party. There were 26 schools closed including in Townsville and all over the state. There was the Oxley Secondary College in Corinda, the West Moreton Centre for Continuing Secondary Education in Corinda, Ogmores State School in Mackay, Gunpowder State School in Mount Isa, Yellowbank Junction State School in Roma and Yuleba Creek State School in Roma. They are the only ones who sold assets and closed schools.

Tabled paper: Answer to question on notice No. 35 of 2003, asked on 25 February 2003 [1446].

(Time expired)

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.16 pm): What an underwhelming contribution from the member for Burleigh. I am very proud to be the member for Thuringowa delivering jobs and generating infrastructure for our city—the North Queensland Stadium, the Haughton pipeline, Riverway Drive, the Townsville Ring Road. We are building infrastructure that will deliver jobs for the people of Townsville, and I am proud to be a part of the Labor government that is doing it.

We should remember that it was the LNP who sacked 670 workers in Townsville when they were last in government. People in Townsville have a long memory. Of those, 398 were health workers and I knew many of them—156 nurses and midwives. They attempted to flog off the Townsville port and I will tell you why. The former member for Thuringowa, Sam Cox, went to the trouble of putting up a billboard saying, 'We'll deliver it if you sell off the Port of Townsville.' The people of Thuringowa saw through him, as they did time and time again including in the Burdekin when he took off to One Nation.

The LNP is disgraceful. I will not have the LNP come to our city and talk down our city. It is disgraceful. They are misleading the people of Townsville. Their promise in 2017 of zero police is a disgrace. They tried to sell off the North Queensland police academy. They abolished 330 police positions in this state. When it comes to their promise of a police helicopter—what a laugh. \$300 million a year would not even buy a rotor, let alone a forward-looking infra-red camera system that we have fitted to two—not one, but two—police helicopters in our city, and they do a great job. They may as well put their plan up on a bunch of balloons. It does nothing for the people of Townsville. They are misleading the people of Townsville.

I joined the Labor Party after I saw people in our Ambulance Service in Townsville lose their jobs. Our community first aid people lost their jobs. Dennis Osmond was a baby capsule fitter who fitted thousands of baby capsules for people in Townsville. In 2014 they sacked him. He came into my office and he was crying and upset. Guess who else was upset? Johnathan Thurston was when he came in to get his baby capsule fitted. I received a threat because I opposed it on social media. Dennis was so upset. Seven hundred mothers quickly petitioned the former member for Mundingburra, David Crisafulli, who is here in the House. He should hang his head in shame. My assistant commissioner said he wanted my head on a chopping block. That member should hang his head in shame for cutting, sacking and selling jobs in Townsville.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (12.19 pm): Following the member for Thuringowa I will table a *Townsville Bulletin* headline where he had to apologise for misleading his community, so people should not believe everything the member has to say. I will also table an article from Madura McCormack in the *Townsville Bulletin*.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 9 November 2017, titled 'Aaron Harper sorry for blunder on teacher aide nude photo scandal: MP Aaron Harper has apologised to the parents of children after a major blunder related to a Townsville teacher aide's alleged nude photo scandal' [[1447](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 21 May 2019, titled 'Disastrous Federal Labor outcome a warning for Townsville MPs: The disastrous election outcome for Labor in North Queensland should be seen as a "warning" to Townsville's three state MPs to stop towing the party line' [[1448](#)].

The headline states 'Disastrous federal Labor outcome a warning for Townsville MPs'. The article states—

The disastrous election outcome for Labor in North Queensland should be seen as a 'warning' to Townsville's three state MPs to stop towing the party line.

We all know how many weeks it takes to put on a regional parliament. It was just shortly after that headline that the regional parliament was announced for Townsville, so we all know why that is happening. Others have spoken about asset sales, and I might come back to that. For those who were looking for the names of the schools that were closed in Townsville, it was Dalbeg State School and Mingela State School. They were the two schools closed by the Labor Party here in Townsville.

I want to talk about why on earth these three members will not support law enforcement in the Townsville community. Ask anybody in Townsville if they think crime is out of control. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 113 per cent increase in robberies. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 52 per cent increase in unlawful use of a motor vehicle offences. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 33 per cent increase in serious assaults. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government there has been a 35 per cent increase in assaults. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government burglary is up 42 per cent. Those are the statistics.

The percentage of the Queensland budget allocated shows the priority of this government because the percentage that has been allocated has dropped. In dollar terms that equates to \$1,173,000 since Anastacia Palaszczuk became the Premier of Queensland. That is what has happened: there is \$1 billion less. The number of police officers per 100,000 people in Queensland used to be 244. Under Anastacia Palaszczuk what do we see? We see—

CHAIR: The member will use members' correct titles in the chamber.

Mr WATTS: Under this Labor Premier what do we see? It is 233. The difference is 610 officers across Queensland. The reason crime is up all over Townsville is because it is not a priority. The three local members need to stand up for their communities and demand an increase in the police budget, demand those officers are delivered here—not sometime in the distant future—straightaway, because when people wake up to see people at the end of their bed looking them in the face, they are terrified. They cannot sleep at night. These three Labor members are not taking crime seriously. If it were serious the budget would be up, and it is not.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion, and in particular part 1(b) of the motion, which notes that the former Newman LNP government sacked 398 health workers, including 156 nurses and midwives. It was not just nurses and midwives: it was doctors, radiographers, sonographers, dieticians, occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech pathologists, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health practitioners, councillors, psychologists and paramedics.

There was not a health worker immune to the cuts of the LNP, nor were the NGOs that delivered services here in Townsville such as Diabetes Queensland, Drug-Arm, Eating Disorders Queensland, the Kidney Support Network—the Kidney Support Network—Mission Australia, Lupus Australia, the National Heart Foundation, the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the Lung Foundation Australia. They had a secret plan to rip funds from community self-care organisations like Alzheimer's Queensland, the Amputees and Families Support Group Qld, Arthritis Queensland and the Stillbirth and Neonatal Death Support Group. Nowhere was immune to their health cuts. They wanted to close or sell every single one of our state owned aged-care facilities. That was their plan, and sadly they succeeded in the case of some of them.

Ms Pease interjected.

Dr MILES: I take that interjection from the member for Lytton. All this motion does is ask the Leader of the Opposition to do the simplest thing: apologise and say to the people of Townsville, 'I am sorry. I am sorry I cut your health workers. I am sorry I cut your health services. I am sorry I cut funding to important community organisations delivering services here,' because until she does, Queenslanders will know what the LNP's plans are.

Ms Leahy interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Warrego.

Dr MILES: Queenslanders will know that they will return to type, that they will sack nurses and midwives again—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Dr MILES:—that they will start right here in Townsville again, and a government like ours—

Ms Leahy interjected.

Dr MILES:—will need to come in and rebuild those health services by employing more nurses, midwives and doctors and re-funding our community organisations, as we have done.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Warrego is warned under the standing orders after I asked you to cease your interjections.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.26 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors. It is unbelievable that the Labor government members come up to North Queensland, when they cannot even talk about their record and they are trying to go back in time seven years. They obviously have nothing to talk about in relation to their record over the last five years. They cannot even talk about the future.

It is a pleasure to follow the member for Murrumba because, when we are talking about who should apologise, it is this government that should be apologising to people in the gallery for Labor's debt, which will be \$90 billion by 2022-23. That will be \$16,500 for every man, woman and child in Queensland. The intergenerational debt this Labor government is leaving for those Queenslanders is an absolute disgrace. There will be an interest bill of \$10 million a day. Think of what \$10 million could buy in relation to infrastructure in North Queensland when it comes to services such as investing in roads, hospitals or schools in North Queensland.

Seasonally adjusted, unemployment here in Queensland is 6.4 per cent. At various times we have seen Queensland at either the bottom or second bottom of the league table when it comes to unemployment. Regional youth unemployment has been well and truly over 20 per cent. Unemployment in outback Queensland has been at 50 per cent. Over the last two years Queenslanders have been slugged with \$3.5 billion in extra taxes, fees and charges. When I go around Queensland talking to community and legal centres they talk about fair indexed funding. They consistently say that those community and legal centres are not getting the required funding under the Palaszczuk Labor government. That is before we get to the Ombudsman's report in relation to Forensic Disability Services. What an absolute disgrace when it comes to corporate and clinical governance failure under this minister's watch. There will certainly be more said about that in the not-too-distant future.

When it comes to health, what about Labor's PPP program going back to the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments? There was the fake Tahitian prince episode, the \$1.2 billion payroll fiasco and the Jayant Patel debacle as well. This government is anti mining, anti resources and anti regions. We have seen their duplicity when it comes to resource projects. It is only the Labor government that sold assets here in Queensland. There has been a litany of sales under former Labor governments: Queensland Motorways, Queensland Rail, Brisbane Airport, Forestry Plantations, Port of Brisbane and the list goes on and on. Crime in Townsville is out of control.

Mrs Frecklington: Labor sells assets!

Dr ROWAN: Labor sells assets. This government has clearly failed Queenslanders, and it is the Palaszczuk Labor government that should be apologising to Queenslanders.

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

AYES, 50:

ALP, 46—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, 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.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NOES, 35:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Hart, Hunt, Janetzki, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stuckey, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.34 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the member for Hill be permitted to immediately move general notice of motion No. 1 standing in the member's name, with the following time limits to apply—

- 5 minutes for all members; and
- question to be put by 1 pm.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Dairy Industry, Milk Prices

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (12.34 pm): I move—

That this House—

- (a) supports the immediate introduction of a 10 cent per litre levy on the price of all milk sold in all supermarkets to be passed back to dairy farmers that produced the milk in support of Queensland's dairy industry; and
- (b) calls on all supermarkets to immediately pass on all of any recent additional price increases and future price increases to all milk product sold, distributed evenly to dairy farmers, processors and supermarkets in Queensland.

I have put forward this motion because the Queensland dairy industry is in dire straits. If something is not done, this once proud and booming industry will cease to completely exist in the year 2028. On the Atherton Tablelands alone, prior to the previous federal Liberal National deregulation of the industry as part of its competition policy, there were more than 270 dairy farmers. Now only 53 are left. In the year 2000 there were more than 1,500 dairy farmers in Queensland. Now there are a mere 340.

Sadly, nothing tangible has been put into the House at all by the government or opposition to help the industry. This is why the KAP introduced the fair milk mark bill in 2012 and the fair milk logo bill in 2016. Out of that desperation, dairy farmers have continued to lobby. They even marched down at parliament in 2016 to express their desperation—and dairy farmers do not march. Taking part in that march was the member for Burdekin. He was with them, marching hand in hand, telling them that he would do something for them: 'Trust me. I'll fight for your cause. I'm going to tell Woolworths and Coles how tough I am and how we've got to do something to help the dairy farmers.' Then he walked back into the House and opposed my fair milk bill.

Ten years ago Queensland had a 50 per cent surplus supply of milk; now we have a 50 per cent deficit and are importing milk from interstate. I put forward this motion because deregulation and the \$1-a-litre price wars have almost destroyed the industry. Last year, stories emerged of dairy farmers struggling to survive with plummeting farmgate prices. This was triggered by a petition by the Queensland dairy organisation calling on Coles and Woolworths to increase the price of all milk by 10 cents per litre and that the full 10 cents should go back to the dairy farmers. The petition was signed by more than 130,000 people.

We all saw the backslapping by the federal government and the major supermarkets when they announced they were supporting the industry with a 10-cent increase on the major supermarkets \$1 branded milk—not all the milk, just branded milk. This was highly misleading. The simple fact is that the recent 10-cents-per-litre increase was only applied on the \$1 supermarket brand, not all the milk brands as it should have been. Further to this, eight cents out of the 10-cent increase in North Queensland goes to the milk processors, with only two cents going back to the farmer. You heard it: two cents per litre went back to the farmer, not 10 cents per litre. To make matters worse, in July this year after all the media fanfare from the federal government, the major supermarkets quietly slipped through another 10 cent price increase on the same milk and nothing again went back to the dairy farmer. Out of a 20-cents-per-litre rise, only two cents has gone back to the farmers.

The price of milk is set under the national pricing structure by the major supermarkets which the industry in Queensland cannot continue to operate under. We must set our own pricing structure relative to Queensland taking into account additional costs involved in production because of the size of the state. There was some hope, however, when earlier this year the federal opposition put forward a motion for a minimum farmgate price, but to our dismay the federal government not only voted it down but vehemently spoke against it. Yet every farmer I talked to had said the minimum farmgate floor price set by each state would go a long way to saving the industry.

I do acknowledge that the minister for agriculture took time in the last parliament to sit down and listen to the concerns of dairy farmers in my region and hear their stories, such as prominent farmers having to take out loans just to pay bills and survive in this industry. I encourage this House to support this motion.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (12.40 pm): I rise to support this motion moved by the member for Hill. This government has always been supportive of hardworking primary producers. This is especially so for those in the dairy industry. The dairy industry has been facing tough times in the last few years, with the impact of drought and the flow-on effects to grain prices having increased costs to our intensive livestock industries. It is

important to remember that this House has examined our dairy industry in the past. Concerns were raised and the government acted. The Palaszczuk government acted when required to assist the industry and to highlight to the community how to support the local farmers.

On 9 August 2017 the Palaszczuk government announced a funding package of \$960,000 for marketing strategies to help consumers make better informed decisions when they buy milk. The funding will support farmers and assist them and the small, local milk producers and processors to improve their marketing and labelling campaigns. The funding announcement was welcomed by the QDO at the time. As part of the funding package, the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation was provided with \$550,000 over three years to design and implement a pilot fair milk logo scheme.

We have backed in our support of our farmers through our #eatqld campaign. I encourage those opposite and everyone in the chamber to join this campaign to support our farmers. It is not that hard. Rather than texting backroom deals to bring down the member for Nanango, all members need to do is snap a picture of a Queensland brand of milk or a meal and put it online or on social media. It is so easy, even the member for Gympie could do it! Those opposite have past form in terms of playing politics on this issue and saying the government should do something, yet they are the party of the free market. Are they really calling for market intervention without intervening, or is this more media bites on the run without substance or belief?

The LNP has always been the party of all talk but no action. As a government, we put cash on the table to assist the QDO to develop a logo. Where was the opposition's plan at the time? The LNP has no agricultural policy and no plan for milk. No doubt those opposite will wheel out John Howard at the next election to try and sell the unsellable, the state LNP. When they wheel out the ex-prime minister, they should remember what Howard said about the dairy deregulation at the time. He said—

Do you all want deregulation to happen in a chaotic fashion?

Well, do they? Further, he said—

I understand the pain that is being experienced by people. My comment is that deregulation was going to happen whether we liked it or not.

What has happened is in the past, and no state government can re-regulate as we do not have the constitutional authority. That is why we should assist where we can, as we already have done. By promoting #eatqld we help Queenslanders choose milk and produce that supports Queenslanders and promotes the good work that supermarkets did in the past in terms of price increases to farmers. Not all milk produced on farms ends up as fresh milk. Some ends up as cheese, yoghurt, cream and other produce, so pricing can be opaque. Pricing and profitability need to be taken into account by the entire sector—farmers, producers, supermarkets and consumers. I put on record my thanks to the supermarkets that assisted producers through difficult times—especially the actions of Woolworths, which showed strong leadership in supporting Queensland producers.

The choice of where people shop and how supermarkets treat our primary producers is in the hands of consumers. I say to those Queenslanders listening to this important debate and those people in the public gallery: make sure you spend your hard-earned dollars at the supermarkets that support our farmers and make sure you get behind the government's social media platform by hashtagging #eatqld, whether it be Queensland milk or food, and support our farmers wherever you are throughout our wonderful state.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Traeger, I take this opportunity to read out the list of members on a warning. I remind all members that these warnings are valid until lunchtime and that any further interjections from members on a warning will result in their being ejected for the remaining time. They are the members for Chatsworth, Burleigh, Southern Downs, Broadwater, Nicklin, Gympie, Everton, Buderim, Cooper, Southport, Gregory, Cairns, Moggill, Gladstone, Kawana, Morayfield, Algester, Ferny Grove, South Brisbane, Maryborough, Bancroft, Murrumba, Theodore and Warrego.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (12.45 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate of the motion. This motion asks a fundamental question of the House: finally, do we want to take some action, if only moderate, to try to save the dairy industry? That is a pretty fair question to ask people, regardless of their economic ideologies. It is fair to say that the industry is on its knees. There were 1,500 dairy farms when deregulation occurred in 2000. Now we are down to 340. The 340 that are left are not high-fiving themselves and counting their riches. It is a struggling industry.

I object to a lot of conversation in the House that says, 'Stop talking down the industry.' That does not stop us from painting it how it is, giving the facts and addressing the situation when there is a problem. There certainly is a problem here. I spoke to a dairy farmer last week and said, 'I heard the prices have come back. Are they any good?' He said that it was 60 cents with deregulation and asked whether we are patting ourselves on the back now with good prices at 59 cents some 29 years later. Think of all the costs that have increased in 20 years. Fifty-nine cents is nothing to be too excited about.

Earlier the member for Hill explained quite well the 10-cent-a-litre price rises. There were politicians saying in the media that we had done a wonderful job and that farmers were saved. Then I found out that only two cents is going back to the farmers. These things are not working. In terms of the market approach, it is market failure in this case. We will face a time in the future when we in this state may not access fresh milk. From 2006-07, the level of production in Queensland went from 537 million litres a year to 400 million litres. Some 138 million litres a year is a big amount. That trend is not increasing and there is no reason to think it will. More to the point, 20 years ago Queensland was the third biggest milk producer and now we are the smallest.

We need to get serious about action and not attend these rallies if we are prepared to say, 'No, we are not willing to do anything material to help you.' I was at the rally that the member for Hill referred to. I followed the member for Hill through this process, because when the fair milk price bill was first debated in parliament I thought everyone would agree. Why wouldn't they? Everyone was talking about helping dairy farmers. The bill was voted down. There was all this conversation about it being an immature response, about how we would handle this like adults and fix it. Nothing was done after that bill again came back in the House. Everyone who was back at rallies saying 'we support you' voted against the bill again.

I note that the member for Burdekin was there saying that he would fix this. We had to sit through that and through the ridicule when our bill returned to the House. It was voted down. We are now proposing a motion that supports that intent. People need to face those ideologies that are killing industry and recognise the price paid. We need to ask the questions: do we value having fresh milk and do we value having farmers? A lot of those farms have been converted in use. A lot of economists say it is good that they find alternative uses for that land. Unfortunately for us, the Queensland government and taxpayers, when beef production is put back on a dairy it does not have the same economic benefit. A farmer can make a lot more out of that parcel of land than if it is converted for beef cattle production.

There has been a loss to the taxpayer. There is a fundamental loss to our industry base. The rest of the world seems to value these sorts of things and protects these industries. The approach of saying, 'Let the market handle all this,' when clearly it is not handling it, is suspiciously closely aligned with an action of doing nothing. Perhaps we are acting under false pretences if we take a do-nothing approach with industries like the dairy industry and then celebrate when the large supermarket chains say, 'We have given a 10-cent-a-litre price increase to farmers.' Like everyone else, I was fooled that that was of benefit to farmers. It is not. There are solutions to this. The motion captures quite well a step in the right direction. I commend the member for Hill and I appeal to the House to support this motion.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (12.50 pm): The motion moved by the member for Hill deals with two separate aspects that I will address in my contribution. Firstly, the member for Hill has called for a 10-cent levy on milk. This parliament does not have the power to set a levy that would withstand constitutional challenge. If the Commonwealth parliament wanted to consider setting such a levy, it would be a matter for its consideration. It would not be the first time a milk levy had been imposed by the Commonwealth to apply to the dairy industry.

Dairy Australia has a very interesting history on the deregulation of the industry and the introduction of a levy. Dairy Australia reports that in early 1999 the industry's peak policy body, the Australian Dairy Industry Council, approached the federal government with a plan for an orderly national approach to the deregulation of the drinking milk sector, in conjunction with the end of manufacturing milk price support.

On 28 September 1999 the federal government announced that it would implement the dairy structural adjustment program. This program included the imposition of a retail dairy adjustment levy of 11 cents per litre on consumers of products marketed as dairy beverages. This levy funded quarterly structural payments over eight years to Australian dairy farmers to assist them to make the necessary adjustments to a deregulated environment with minimal social and economic disruption.

Finally, all states repealed legislation governing the sourcing and pricing of drinking milk. The state milk authorities that administered these controls were wound up from 1 July 2000. Queensland therefore no longer has a Queensland dairy authority. It was noted at the time that Queensland had in

effect a tax of up to 25 cents per litre. In proportionate terms, this tax on milk consumption was the highest in Australia at the time. Any levy discussion, therefore, should be considered at the national level to ensure equity and fairness for the entirety of the supply chain.

I turn to the second part of the motion. I think it is important that the supermarkets, and through them the consumers of dairy products, support the industry here in Queensland. I will use Woolworths as an example and quote from their September 2018 press release. It states—

Woolworths Director of Fresh Food Paul Harker said, 'There's no doubt many dairy farmers are doing it tough in the face of the drought and we're keen to support them through this difficult time.

'Many of our customers have told us they want to help and are willing to pay more for their milk to do so.

'This new range of drought relief milk will provide customers with that choice, safe in the knowledge the extra money will flow through to dairy farmers in drought affected areas.'

That release also noted that the new drought relief range would offer customers additional Woolworths full-cream and Woolworths lite milk varieties at \$2.20 for two litres and \$3.20 for three litres, with the extra 10 cents per litre to go to dairy farmers in the drought-affected areas. Let's not forget that the other supermarkets also acted in response to assist our farmers.

Further, when the ACCC considered the \$1-per-litre milk and analysed the relationship between retail, wholesale and farmgate milk prices the ACCC did not see any evidence of supermarkets seeking to influence farmgate prices. Be that as it may, I have the greatest confidence that Queensland consumers will be monitoring supermarkets to ensure suppliers are receiving a fair deal for their produce.

On the matter of supporting the Queensland dairy industry, I commend the minister for agriculture, who is promoting the food produced in Queensland through the #eatqld campaign. I know that he highlighted that in detail during estimates. We all want to support the Queensland dairy industry and Queensland dairy products, especially through the #eatqld campaign. That includes newer entrants to the industry—businesses like Little White Goat Cheese based at Wamuran. They are featured today in the Moreton Bay Food and Wine Festival. They produce a handcrafted goat, buffalo, camel and cow cheese, including an incredible feta. I know that we have a resilient dairy industry in the face of what have been some very tough times. They produce amazing products, and Queenslanders are prepared to make their choices to support them.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the member for Hill calling for the immediate introduction of a levy of 10 cents per litre on all milk products and for any future increases to price to be distributed evenly to the processor, the supermarket and the farmer. Deregulation has ruined not only the dairy industry but also multiple agricultural industries. With the world sugar price failing, canefarmers are not able to fertilise and irrigate because the price is so low. No-one out there is making any money. Farmers are going to the wall. The bigger farmers and corporations are buying up all of the little farms.

In 2010, when the dairy industry was deregulated, Queensland had 1,500 dairy farmers. There are now 340 dairy farmers. That means there are fewer people living in rural and regional Queensland. People have given up and decided that whatever they have done for generations is not good enough anymore, because of the market price set not by the consumer but by the purchaser of their milk who then markets it.

People today sell cups of coffee for between \$4.50 and \$6.50. They have decided that they can produce and sell that cup of coffee for that price. We do not dictate to them the price of a cup of coffee; they tell us the price they are going to sell it for. The dairy farmer is being told how much he has to sell his milk for. This represents market failure.

Deregulation has seen the collapse of this industry. It is currently on its knees and screaming for help. The supermarkets have said, 'We have responded.' Some 130,000 people signed a petition. The supermarkets have said, 'We have done the wrong thing by farmers who are struggling. We will up the price by 10 per cent.' We see that only two per cent of that price increase was fed back to farming communities.

Earlier today I read in *Queensland Country Life* that a farmer said it costs him a dollar to produce a litre of milk. That milk must be thinned out by the time it gets into the milk bottle that people take home, because he is getting only 65 cents per litre. How is he supposed to survive on that, even with a two per cent increase? It is like spitting in the guy's face. It is disgusting, if you ask me. Major corporations and saying that they are doing the right thing, but they are not.

Ten years ago there was a 50 per cent surplus of milk being produced in Queensland. Now we have a 50 per cent deficit. If we do not do something soon, there will be a major impact. There are only 340 dairy farmers left. On current trends, in 10 years time there are likely to be zero dairy farmers in Queensland.

You would be hard-pressed to find a dairy cow in the Hinchinbrook electorate. There are no dairy farms there. On behalf of my constituents I support this motion because it is the right thing to do—for agriculture and for the dairy-farming sector. If this motion is passed by the House it will send a clear message to the state and federal governments that farmers need a hand. Farmers do not need a pat on the back at election time, with people saying, 'We will fight for you when we win government. We will put this bill through the House when we win government. Just get us over the line.' Farmers need people who will come into the House, put forward motions for debate and introduce bills that will make a difference to the farmgate price—not tell them BS to make sure they turn up to the next branch meeting. We need members of parliament who will stick up for farmers. The KAP will continue to introduce bills like the fair milk price bill to find tangible ways to get better outcomes for our dairy farmers and farmers in general.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hinchinbrook, I ask you to withdraw the unparliamentary remark.

Mr DAMETTO: I withdraw.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (2.30 pm): Never before have I seen an integrity crisis drag on for so long and no-one take responsibility in government. Never have I seen a Premier so powerless to act against her Deputy Premier. Never have I seen the infighting within Queensland Labor ranks that we have seen since the federal election on 18 May and since it was revealed that the Deputy Premier might not be the working-class politician she would have had us all believe. Never have I seen a Premier set such a low standard for her ministers but take such a high moral ground.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I hear the Minister for Main Roads interjecting, and who could forget what the CCC called him—'foolish'! We have a 'foolish' minister. The CCC chair said that the Deputy Premier was 'unwise' to ring him on a Sunday morning. The Premier promised openness and transparency, yet we have seen nothing of that in the last 10 weeks. It is clear that this Premier is the weakest Premier in Queensland's history, powerless to stop the activist green Deputy Premier.

The Deputy Premier said that there is a void in the story. There have been nine weeks in which she could have explained it and she has not, and I suspect she did not because every time she gets up and opens her mouth the story changes. First she did not buy the house; it was her husband. Then she found out by text message her husband bought the house for \$700,000. The house just happens to be in walking distance to the Cross River Rail Dutton Park station that nobody wanted. It happens to be in walking distance from the new inner-city school the Deputy Premier has been personally championing. Now we know why. There are 88,640 houses for sale in Queensland today. Why did the Deputy Premier's family company buy that one house? We wonder why! She failed to declare the purchase to her cabinet colleagues. She failed to declare it to the Premier. She failed to disclose it to her Cabinet Budget Review Committee colleagues. She failed to disclose it to parliament. She failed to disclose it to Queenslanders. She has failed, failed, failed.

There is nothing right about this. There has been a stench over this whole sordid affair over the last nine weeks. Even if the CCC comes back tomorrow and says that there is no threshold of corruption, there is only one possible outcome from all of this: the Deputy Premier must resign. The Premier must resign for failing to sack her Deputy Premier. I agree with the member for Logan, who in the last sitting week sang the words, 'Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's time for Trad to go.' The member for Logan sang it—'Heigh-ho, heigh-ho, it's time for Trad to go.' This Premier is the weakest Premier in Queensland's history. The Deputy Premier is the weakest link in this government and she should say goodbye—

Mr POWER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and he was misleading the House. There was a small protester with a pocket square.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Logan, you do not need to explain. Member for Kawana, the member for Logan has taken offence. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. The Deputy Premier is the weakest link in this government. She should be saying, 'Goodbye; see ya later.' She must resign tomorrow!

Townsville, Project Booyah

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (2.34 pm): When young people get in trouble with the law, it does not have to come with a life sentence of criminal activity. It does not have to become an endless cycle of offending, arrest, court appearance and incarceration. With young people there is a window of opportunity; there is an opportunity to turn things around. There is a chance to change lives, and that is what Project Booyah is all about.

The police-led, award-winning program changes young people's lives. Project Booyah leads troubled youths away from crime and back to productive lives. Project Booyah is doing that right here in Townsville. Project Booyah in Townsville utilises adventure based learning, decision-making, problem solving, resilience training, policing strategies and family-inclusive principles to help young people aged 14 to 17 make better life choices. A cohort of recent Project Booyah graduates in Townsville said that participation in the project had so completely changed their outlook on life that they now had ambitions to join the Australian Defence Force and the Queensland Police Service.

This program is, in short, better focused to prevent crime than deal with the consequences of crime. We have more police than ever before in Queensland and police arrest those who commit crime, but programs like Project Booyah get in first. These programs help prevent further offending and this government is investing in crime prevention. In the state budget, \$1.8 million was allocated to the highly successful Project Booyah Framing the Future initiative to provide community based youth support and mentorship across nine locations throughout Queensland, including Townsville. On top of this Framing the Future investment amount, a further \$3.2 million has been allocated to support Project Booyah's life-changing work. Project Booyah gives those who embrace the opportunity renewed self-confidence, vastly altered future prospects and the ability to make good life decisions.

Today—right now—outside this building members can see Project Booyah at work. It has set up its coffee cart called the Booyah Bean cart here in the parliamentary precinct and I invite everyone here—those in the gallery, those in the chamber, everyone on the precinct—to come along and have a coffee with the Project Booyah team, listen to the young people's stories for whom this project has changed their lives and speak with some of our talented staff who support this project. I can give members one assurance: just like Project Booyah, the coffee is good and strong as well.

Member for Broadwater

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.37 pm): Seventeen years ago I sat in this building as a young journalist as parliament came here for the first time and I listened to Premier Peter Beattie on day one talk about a future for the sugar industry. He outlined a package to make it more resilient. The irony is that this week not only are we not prepared to debate laws that will threaten the future of that industry but also the Premier has used question time to refer to newspaper clippings from seven years ago rather than paint a vision for this state and minister after minister has stood up in question time and all they have wanted to talk about is me rather than a vision for this city.

I will cop a blast for losing every day, but what I will not cop is the tourism minister coming in here and saying that I am scared to see friends and family. I will tell members about scared: I had coffee with my mother-in-law this morning and her beautiful little street in Heatley has gone to the pack. They have had a group of absolute filth move in. The police are there every second day, with the same offenders back out time and time again. I will tell members about scared: my gym partner whose property value is not worth what it was seven years ago when he bought the house. I will tell members about scared: my brother-in-law who had to close his business and leave town because the government would not approve a mine for political reasons. I will tell members about scared: electricity prices where people cannot have competition because of this government.

I am delighted that parliament is back here because this city did so much for me—my first job, our kids, elected as a young councillor to a suburb called Cranbrook to which I owe so much, deputy mayor, a state member of parliament. However, it gave me the greatest lesson of my life. I was a young man in a hurry and I needed a lesson and I received it.

On 1 February, I had to wake up and tell my family that I could not provide for them. It was a great lesson. When the grubby comments about facing the music were raised, I left this community with my head held high. With a primary vote of 41 per cent, it was preferences from One Nation and the Greens that ended my political career in a city where I marched in the pouring rain to change the Youth Justice Act. Now I sit in parliament and see it reversed. Three members who could not get 100 per cent of the vote between them will sit in parliament and reverse the bail conditions in this state when this city is under siege.

(Time expired)

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order, member for Miller!

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Miller!

Mr POWELL: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, despite your constant requirement for the minister to cease his interjections—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

Mr POWELL: He continued to use the word 'you'. I ask for your guidance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Glass House. I am sure the Deputy Speaker can perform his role without guidance from you.

Mr POWELL: I was seeking your guidance.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.

Dog Baiting; Ferries and CityCats, Pet Dogs

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (2.40 pm): The residents of the McConnel electorate have been shocked by recent reports of dog baiting in their community. The deliberate poisoning of beloved family pets is simply unacceptable and, as a community, we need to work together to protect our canine friends from this heinous behaviour.

In response to this dog baiting, I have organised a community meeting this Sunday where officers from Fortitude Valley Police Station and local veterinarian, Dr Nic, will be on hand to talk about the issue and answer any questions that people may have. The meeting will take place this Sunday, 8 September—and, by the way, it is my wedding anniversary; 34 years of marriage—from 9 am to 10 am at Waterfront Park in Newstead. I urge residents to come along. This is an opportunity for dog lovers to come together and support each other and be made aware of what can be done to prevent dog baiting in their community and what to do should such baits be found.

While I am on the topic of human's best friend, I want to encourage residents in Brisbane's inner-city suburbs to have their say about an upcoming trial to allow pet dogs on ferries and City Cats. TransLink's customer survey is now open until 30 September, asking for feedback on how the trial should run. I have listened to many people in my community at the Teneriffe Festival, which had its 10th anniversary in July, who want to take their dogs with them when they hop on the ferry or the CityCat. They really want to do this. This is their chance to contribute to the trial.

I would particularly like to acknowledge the advocacy of Paul Liddy, Annie Boxall and Michael Hawke of the *Village News* who support dogs on ferries and have advocated strongly for us to trial this in Brisbane. Minister Farmer and member for Bulimba and I got together, because I want the Bulimba people to come over to Teneriffe and the Teneriffe people want to go over to Bulimba. We lobbied the transport minister, Mark Bailey, and to his credit he listened and he is going to give this a go. I am glad that we will get to trial the idea and see how it is received by the travelling public.

Options being considered are that pet dogs will be allowed on ferries and CityCats on the condition that they travel only during off-peak times; be in a carrier, or on a lead and wear a muzzle; and remain under the control of their handler at all times. Obviously, there are other options that the travelling public may wish to trial, or have their say on, and I encourage them to do so because I appreciate that there will be different views on this issue. That is why we are asking customers about the rules and boundaries of this trial.

The survey is now available. It is open until 30 September. We want to see dogs on ferries. I urge all the dog lovers to come to Waterfront Park and to have their say.

Child Protection

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.43 pm): This week is National Child Protection Week. We all have a role to play in keeping our children safe from harm. Child abuse and neglect is preventable and we can all work together as a community to create an Australia and Queensland where children can grow up safe and well. The aim of this week is to engage all members of the community in supporting families and protecting our most vulnerable children. This year, National Child Protection Week focuses on introducing a child development communication framework to promote two important messages. Those messages are that kids do well when parents are supported and, to raise thriving kids, parents need support to navigate life's choppy waters. It is worrying to see the increase in the number of child concern reports in over just 12 months. We have to remember that these are not just numbers on paper; they represent children in our regions, in our towns, and on our streets. We need to do more to stop child abuse and neglect.

I want to talk about a project in the Burnett electorate. Promo Plugs is based on Let Their Voices Be Heard, which was a project run by the Bundaberg Child Protection Week Action Group about 10 years ago. YMCA Bundaberg resurrected the project with Youth Services and ABC Wide Bay. They partnered to do a project where the young people of Bundaberg had the opportunity to have their voices heard. YMCA youth services manager, Tricia Cross, drew together a diverse range of young people, including young Indigenous people, young people with language issues, South Sea islanders and young people with disabilities to participate in the program. Some of the parents of these young people have little or no English. The young people were asked three questions. What makes you feel safe? What makes you feel happy? Who is your hero?

After a group session those young people were taken into the recording studio where Scott Lamond and Brad Marsellos, both from ABC Radio, recorded their responses and then sent the information to Brisbane to be edited and recorded onto a CD. Last week, these promos were played to the young people in the ABC studio with their parents and me. It was a very rewarding experience. Each young person was given a Child Protection Week T-shirt and a copy of the CD. This CD will be played at the Bundaberg Child Protection Dinner at Bundaberg tomorrow night. I table a copy of this CD for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Compact disc, undated, titled 'ABC Wide Bay 2019' [[1449](#)].

In May this year the Queensland Audit Office released a report stating that the Child Safety department has not effectively implemented all of the recommendations that the Queensland Audit Office had made in its 2014-15 reported titled *Managing child safety information*. I believe that this failure to reform child safety data is continuing to put children's information at risk, put children themselves at risk and is continuing to put unnecessary pressure on Child Safety staff. We want to make sure that the minister is providing—

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr BENNETT: The minister may be incapable of delivering the services and the reforms needed, but the people in our communities need these reforms. Queensland needs action now for these most vulnerable children. We want to make sure that kids are treated with respect. Although we can all help to keep children safe in Queensland, we must give the Child Safety department the resources and make sure that this minister gets on with the job.

Telehealth

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.47 pm): Telehealth is a game changer for Central Queensland and a key part of the Palaszczuk government's \$361 million Specialist Outpatient Strategy. It is helping people access specialist services sooner, reducing waiting times and travel for patients, families and carers. It is also helping us to close the gap for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in remote communities.

Central Queensland is a key hub for telehealth services. The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service has developed a telehealth strategy and telehealth road map to support increased services. Every Central Queensland facility that delivers acute and outpatient services now has access to telehealth services, with approximately 60 different disciplines now available across the region.

I think when people hear the word 'telehealth', they think of a teleconference—a medical consultation by Skype. It is so much more than that. People can do a cardiac stress test via telehealth from Longreach in Central West Queensland and have a clinician at the Royal Brisbane and Women's

Hospital controlling the speed of the treadmill and checking the readout. It is amazing technology that leaves the NBN for dead and delivers real quality-of-life improvements for people in regional Queensland.

People can now have a tele-stress test straightaway at the Rockhampton emergency department. Rockhampton Hospital also runs the biggest telehealth orthopaedics service in Queensland, with 2,800 consultations provided in 2018-19 so far.

Almost half of the telehealth orthopaedic consultations that have been provided throughout Queensland have happened in Rockhampton. Before telehealth, Central Queenslanders had to travel to Rockhampton, Gladstone or even Brisbane for testing. Cancer patients living in Emerald, Gladstone and Biloela can now access a remote chemotherapy telehealth service without travelling to Rockhampton. People on the Capricorn Coast who have life-limiting illnesses can now get their palliative care in their own communities via telehealth.

The Palaszczuk government has always understood that regional Queenslanders deserve the same quality of health care that people receive in the south-east. Telehealth is one of the incredible tools that we are using to make sure that every Queenslanders gets world-class services.

Health System

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.50 pm): Over the last week we have seen our public health system failures on full display in the media for all the wrong reasons and the embattled Minister for Health has once again been missing in action. Queenslanders deserve a world-class public health system that the Palaszczuk Labor government is not delivering. Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk promised better local health services at the last election, but has failed to deliver.

As a nurse I know that our hardworking nurses, doctors, midwives and paramedics need more help on the front line to improve patient care. They are struggling to cope with IT failures, code yellows, emergency departments packed to the rafters, skyrocketing ambulance ramping and the sterilisation debacle at the PA Hospital. I speak with nurses, doctors and paramedics every single day and I will stand up for them and the patients of Queensland every day of the week. In fact, our hardworking health staff are at their wits' end. It is only the LNP that will put patient care ahead of playing petty political games. It is only the LNP that will listen to real doctors over spin doctors. We will spend money on frontline health services and reducing waiting lists not changing the names of hospitals.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Order! Member for Bulimba!

Ms BATES: The sterilisation crisis at the PA Hospital is yet another debacle.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Bulimba!

Ms BATES: It was supposed to be fixed in one day and then it was one week and now we are hearing it will be several months. We have also heard that morale amongst surgeons is at an all-time low. The health minister needs to come out of hiding today and tell the people of Queensland when will the PA Hospital sterilisation crisis be over.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Bulimba, I have pulled you up several times. You are now warned under the standing orders.

Ms BATES: When will the latest health bungle be fixed? How much will it cost and how long has this issue been going on for? The latest ambulance ramping data for July also shows the policy failures under this government. Patients are being kept on ambulance stretchers instead of receiving care in hospital beds as ramping rates surge under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Queensland Health data for July revealed the statewide ambulance ramping rate has jumped to 31 per cent, the worst monthly performance results of Labor's current term. At Logan Hospital it is 48 per cent; at the Gold Coast University Hospital it is 43 per cent; at Caboolture Hospital and Sunshine Coast University Hospital it is 42 per cent. In Rockhampton ambulance ramping has increased by 24 per cent since the last state election. In Cairns ambulance ramping has increased by 17 per cent since the last state election and at the PA Hospital ambulance ramping has increased by 18 per cent since the last state election.

Mr Harper: What about Townsville?

Ms BATES: I am glad you asked me about Townsville because that has increased by five per cent.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Through the chair, please.

Ms BATES: These are not just numbers on a spreadsheet; these are real people with real health issues. Meanwhile, despite the code yellow crises, despite skyrocketing ambulance ramping, Labor's hospital building budget has been cut by \$203 million in this year alone. The LNP will stand up for frontline health staff and fight for better patient care. It is only the LNP that will deliver a world-class health system. On that point I acknowledge in the gallery today Sandy, who has driven for seven hours from Clermont. She is fighting for better local health services in her regional community.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind members they need to be in their correct seats when interjecting.

Health Services

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.53 pm): When I was travelling to Townsville from Brisbane late Sunday evening I had the wonderful opportunity to meet a fine young man. His name was Noah. Noah is originally from rural New South Wales and is in his first year of medicine at James Cook University. Noah had the choice of studying anywhere in Australia after finishing high school but he chose James Cook University here in Townsville. I am sure his decision was not just reflective of the wonderful North Queensland lifestyle and hospitality that this region offers. Approximately 11,500 students, including 1,500 international students, study at James Cook University. Noah is studying a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery which is a six-year full-time undergraduate degree. It is the only full medical course offered in Northern Australia.

Noah has a particular passion for better understanding the social determinants of health in rural settings. Whilst we travelled together he shared his knowledge of foetal alcohol syndrome, which affects five per cent of the Australian population. I admired Noah's genuine care and concern for the population affected and his understanding of the broader socio-economic circumstances, access and opportunity as contributing factors. When Noah finishes medicine he longs to live and work in outback Queensland. His own research suggests that there could be a position in rural medicine with Queensland Health when he graduates.

Noah's story is not unique. When governments invest in health services, provide outstanding schools in every corner of our state, invest in adequate housing for our health workers, teachers and police officers, when good governments pay our professionals adequately—like the recent EBA agreement for police of 2½ per cent each year for the next three years—and better recognition for Torres Strait Islander police support officers, and when governments invest in industries like hydrogen in the North West Minerals Province and the Haughton pipeline, they inspire hope in our rural and remote communities. Good governments and good governing encourages our people to live, work and serve in regional Queensland.

Noah is an inspirational young man who will work hard, serve our rural communities proudly and deliver compassionate medical services to our most vulnerable people. I know that you will do well, Noah, and my commitment to you during your course of study is to ensure that our Palaszczuk Queensland Labor government further prepares the environment needed to ensure that you fulfil your dream because, Noah, this is what good governments do.

Emergency Services, Helicopters

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (2.56 pm): I rise to talk about a dedicated police helicopter. The member for Thuringowa would do well to listen because the people of Townsville need to know that when you need a police car or a police four-wheel drive it should be a suitable vehicle and when you need an ambulance it should be a suitable vehicle so when you get a medical helicopter and you put an old and lower resolution FLIR on the front of it—that is, a forward looking infra-red—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Toowoomba North is misleading the House. It is a \$1 million FLIR system on the front of the AW139s.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Thuringowa, there is no point of order, thank you. If you have issues with misleading then I invite you to write to the Speaker.

Mr WATTS: Townsville has a QG fleet medical helicopter. It is a great helicopter. It is an AW139.

Ms JONES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The conversation that the honourable member is having is anticipating the debate of their own motion that they put this morning in the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I ask you to resume your speech, I caution you that that topic is one of the topics in the motion for debate later this afternoon. If you persist down this line I will ask you to move on to another topic.

Mr WATTS: Let us discuss the capabilities of the AW139 helicopter, which is the medical helicopter that is available here in Townsville. They are specifically tasked for medical purposes.

Mr HARPER: I rise to a point of order. I will be writing to you, Mr Deputy Speaker. He is misleading the House. It is not a medical helicopter; it is a multiplatform helicopter for police, ambulance and fire.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is deliberately disrupting the House. He knows that that is a frivolous point of order. I ask you to rule.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Thuringowa, I have previously given you advice around writing to the Speaker. You do not need to continue to interject. I invite you to write to the Speaker if you have issues with what the member for Toowoomba North is saying.

Mr WATTS: The medical helicopter that I am talking about is a 6½-tonne helicopter, as opposed to other helicopters that are used for different purposes around the state, which are more likely to weigh 3½ tonnes. One would think that a member who might have worked on that helicopter for some time would know that a medical helicopter has priority when it is called for a medical emergency, as it should. It is most important that the people of North Queensland have a decent medical fleet to support them when they find themselves in difficulty. What we are seeing here is a little bit of manipulation of the media. We put a helicopter in front of the media and we try to tell them that the helicopter can do one thing versus another. We know that an ambulance—

Ms JONES: I rise to a point of order. Mr Deputy Speaker, you have just warned the honourable member. Very kindly, you gave him a bit of latitude. It is about time that he respects the motion that the LNP has put before the parliament today.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Cooper. Member for Toowoomba North, I allowed you to go down the road with the medical helicopter. The moment you start referring to police helicopters, which—

Mr WATTS: I never said 'police', Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! I am warning you that, if you go down that road, you will be pre-empting this afternoon's debate on the motion.

Mr WATTS: An AW139 is a 6½-tonne helicopter. A Bell 429 is a 3½-tonne helicopter and costs about half the amount to run on a per-hour basis. It is a much cheaper and more efficient helicopter. Obviously, that helicopter can perform specific tasks, as can the AW139, which does a great job as a medical helicopter here in North Queensland. It does not have all of the equipment that might be used for other purposes when other service agencies are looking for—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba North, again you are sailing very close to the breeze. I caution you. I accepted your comparisons between helicopters, but when you start referring to other uses I imagine that that will come up during this afternoon's debate on the motion. You have 30 seconds remaining. I invite you to continue. However, you have had three goes now. I might have to ask you to resume your seat.

Mr WATTS: Thank you very much, Mr Deputy Speaker, for your guidance. It is clear and it should be clear to the people of Townsville that an ambulance is a vehicle that can be used for a specific purpose. It comes under the control of the health authority and it can be tasked specifically to deal with health related issues. A police vehicle is a vehicle that can be tasked by the police specifically for police purposes. If someone has stolen your car and the police are trying to set up a barricade, they need police vehicles and not ambulances.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Members, I do not need to continue to restate 'order'. The conventions in this House, whether in Townsville or Brisbane, are the same.

Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.04 pm): It is great to be in Townsville for the regional sitting of parliament. I was born in the great city of Townsville. Three of my brothers were born in this great city. The member for Mansfield just mentioned James Cook University and, in fact, my parents met at James Cook University in Townsville.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take all of those interjections from the member for Thuringowa. Given my ties to this great city, I thought it would be important to place on the record for the good people of Townsville some of the differences between the sittings that happen in Brisbane and the one that is happening in Townsville. I will start with the similarities. The member for Kawana hyperventilating over the business program motion normally happens in Brisbane. The people from Townsville should know that. That is fairly standard.

Ms McMillan interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take that interjection from the member for Mansfield. The member for Burdekin does not often get a go in the debate on the business program motion.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr PEGG: I take the interjection from the member for Pine Rivers. He finally got a chance this time, but that does not normally happen. The tepid contributions from the member for Nanango normally happen in Brisbane, too. The people of Townsville should know that. The other thing that often happens in Brisbane—and I know that the member for Thuringowa was objecting to this earlier—is Big Trev coming in and fudging the facts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock.

Mr PEGG: Big Trev is always fudging the facts.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am going to pre-empt you, if I may. Member for Stretton, you will refer to members by their correct title, otherwise I will ask you to sit down.

Mr PEGG: The member for Toowoomba North does that out my way, too. He comes in and fudges the facts. The member for Thuringowa should know that people out my way do not take him very seriously. I know the good people of Townsville will not do that, either.

I have talked about some of the similarities and now I want to talk about some of the differences between these Townsville sittings and those in Brisbane. Firstly, the member for Burleigh actually turning up to parliament does not always happen in Brisbane. The good people of Townsville should know that.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member should be aware that it is a convention of this parliament not to refer to members when they are absent from the chamber.

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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Just wait, member for Stretton. Member for Maroochydore, I do not believe that the member for Stretton was referring to a member being out of the chamber or not being here.

Ms SIMPSON: With respect, Mr Deputy Speaker, it is still a convention of the parliament.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, the convention of the parliament also says that when the Speaker gets to his feet, whether it be the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker or any of the acting speakers, you resume your seat regardless. Thank you, member for Maroochydore. I know that sometimes it can be a bit contentious, but I am quite happy with the ruling that I have made and I will not be changing it. If you have a problem with that, I invite you to write to the Speaker and take it from there.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, can I ask you to clarify specifically what your ruling is in regard to members when they are absent from the House?

Honourable members interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: I rise to a point of order. We have members arguing across the chamber.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, I think it is a bit hard for you to miss me standing on my feet. I was on my feet. You saw me standing on my feet, but you continued to talk. Next time you do that, member for Maroochydore, you will be warned. With reference to your point of order, I have made my decision. I gave you guidance. If you are not happy with that decision, you can write to Mr Speaker. I will not be overturning that ruling.

Mr PEGG: One thing that does not often happen in Brisbane is the member for Maroochydore getting to call the shots. After that performance, we can see why. Earlier we heard from the member for Broadwater, who got all hairy-chested about how much he loves Townsville. We never hear that in Brisbane. We never hear that, at all. I have not heard it a single time.

My favourite for this sitting—and this is someone I do admire, although I do not agree with this comment—is the member for Currumbin, who said she had to be dragged here. I totally disagree with that. It has been a fantastic sitting. I have to hand it to the member for Currumbin on this occasion because she told us what the LNP really think about Townsville. If you want to know what the LNP really think about Townsville, the member for Currumbin summed it up: she had to be dragged here. Let's face it: as we have heard from members opposite—

Mrs STUCKEY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the member's words offensive and I ask him to withdraw.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): No. There is no need to debate.

Mr PEGG: She finds her own words offensive. How can I withdraw someone's own words? So you want me to withdraw your own words?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, member for Stretton!

Ms JONES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The comments directly made by the member for Currumbin on ABC Radio were tabled as part of the *Record of Proceedings* this week.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is not just convention but it is well understood that it is a breach of the standing orders if the member does not withdraw a comment that has been found personally offensive by a member. I ask for you to rule.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. Order! Member for Currumbin, did you take personal offence to those comments?

Mrs STUCKEY: I took personal offence to the comments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you. Member for Stretton, I ask you to withdraw.

Mr PEGG: Mr Deputy Speaker, if the member—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no, no. Do not debate. I just need you to withdraw.

Mr PEGG: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hang on, member for Stretton. While I am dealing with one point of order, I remind members not to raise other points of order. We will deal with them as we go. Member for Stretton, you have three seconds remaining. Your time starts now.

Mr PEGG: It has been wonderful to be in Townsville.

Crocodiles

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.12 pm): Again I highlight the serious danger that crocodiles are posing to human life and the tourist industry in North Queensland. Despite numerous letters, speeches, a committee inquiry, regional consultation tours and evidence of an alarming increase in sightings, nothing has changed. Sadly, we are told by members that we do not have a crocodile problem and that it is all a mass illusion. I have experienced firsthand and keep hearing stories of crocodiles endangering lives, affecting people's lifestyle, and hurting businesses and the tourism industry.

When asked if their sightings or encounters are reported to the Crocwise website, the overwhelming response is that they do not bother anymore because nothing is done. In 2010 there were 176 sightings, which jumped to 795 sightings in 2018. Already in 2019 to the end of August there were 414 sightings reported. However, that is far under the real figure as most people are not reporting sightings anymore.

The committee overseeing our Safer Waterways Bill received submissions from two peak tourism bodies in North Queensland supporting the bill and outlining how crocodiles are having a serious, negative impact on the tourism industry. Despite all of this, we are still told we do not have a crocodile problem. We heard recently that a survey was completed along a major river in Far North Queensland and on average there was only one crocodile per kilometre stretch of water. I ask: was the survey done by a one-eyed, rum-drunk pirate?

I ask any MP here: would they want to jump into the Barron or the Johnstone and swim to the other side to test that survey? The government's idea of action is to observe or to put up a crocodile warning sign. This has a massive impact on our tourism industry and on locals who are too scared to swim in fear of getting ripped to pieces.

Today we heard about the closure of the Stuart State School. I attended that school and it was a shame that the LNP closed that school. All of us kids used to jump into the creek beside the school, but now if you jumped in you would get ripped to pieces. Locals used to enjoy skiing at the Tully and the Johnstone rivers. This does not happen anymore. You cannot even sit on the sand beside many of our freshwater creeks and rivers, which we were once able to swim in and swim in regularly. At Lake Placid in Cairns kids used to swim out to the middle of the lake and somersault off the pontoon. Now you would be somersaulting into a crocodile's jaws.

I have introduced my crocodile bill into the House to take action. I now call on the government and the opposition to do something positive so we can claim back our waterways.

Mayes, Ms J

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.15 pm): Today I want to pay tribute to one of the most remarkable people I have ever met—a true Townsville local whom we farewelled on Tuesday. I am talking about Janice Mayes—barrister, union leader, friend, colleague and mentor to many of us in Labor and also the law—taken from us by cancer.

Janice went to St Joseph's here on The Strand, St Patrick's College and Mount Carmel at Charters Towers. She became president of the students' union at Griffith University while studying for an arts degree. This is when I first saw her—speaking to a crowd at a technically illegal street rally in the last days of the National Party regime and standing, as is her wont, completely unafraid.

I first met Janice when she rose to become the leader of the clerks branch of the Australian Services Union—an amazing feat for a woman still in her 20s and 30s. She employed me as the first communications officer of that union. She was the most incredible, indefatigable and inspiring union leader for all of the young idealists in our ranks. She was truly indomitable. No-one could intimidate her. She pushed us to be our best and she gave us her undying loyalty in return. As Mike Reynolds said, she had a courageous intellect and her reputation as a fearless advocate is legendary and she was held in such high regard.

Janice moved to Townsville in 2000 to be with the love of her life—the former Speaker and mayor of Townsville, Mike Reynolds. Janice completed her law degree at James Cook University and went on to work as a family law solicitor. She moved to the bar to practise as a family law barrister. Janice was a leader in the legal community here in Townsville. She was an executive member of the North Queensland Bar Association and lectured law students at James Cook University. Mike said she was devoted to the law, her legal colleagues and her clients. On 8 August this year, Janice was awarded life membership of the Labor Party, and that meant so much to her.

All the women she mentored and befriended and led have kept the praise, and the tears, flowing for her. My fulsome condolences go to Mike, her mother Marie, Cathy, Meredith, Michael, Chris and their extended families. I will leave members with these words that were spoken by Terri Butler, who was also employed by Janice. She said—

Janice, herself, was a giant.

Fierce, formidable, sometimes terrifying, and yet when she pulled us together she was capable of being so inspiring. It was almost as if she had the power to spin willing, strong and binding solidarity out of thin air.

She was a tough woman and for most of us the toughest boss we would ever have.

Her toughness helped prepare us for the struggle we are always in.

Janice Mayes, you are always with us.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Thank you, member for Bancroft. Janice Mayes will be sorely missed in the Townsville community.

New Acland Mine

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.18 pm): I rise today to stand up for the people of New Hope Acland coalmine and for the people of Oakey. As of Monday, some 150 directly employed workers at New Hope's Acland coalmine were told that their services were no longer required. That does not take into account the indirect job losses, including those of contractors and small business owners in the towns around Acland, especially in Oakey.

These difficult conversations with workers began Monday morning as the approvals were not granted by the state government for the stage 3 expansion of the Acland coalmine. This is a result of the continued dithering by this Palaszczuk Labor government. When seats in North Queensland were on the line after a coalition win in the federal election, this government could not have moved any faster to approve Adani. The government has the same capacity here and it has let the people of Condamine down to appease the Greens voters in inner-city Brisbane.

Is the current drought or the continuing issues surrounding water contamination in the town of Oakey not enough for the people of Condamine to deal with? The people of the Condamine electorate are resilient, but just how many more times can they be knocked down before enough is enough? Yesterday's cover story in the *Oakey Champion*, which I table now, might just demonstrate how the people of Oakey are completely fed up.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Oakey Champion*, dated 4 September 2019 (with redactions) [\[1455\]](#).

These 150 redundancies are unnecessary. These members of the local community did not have to lose their jobs. This is just the local Labor government playing political games. The effect of job cuts will be widespread. Schools and small businesses in Oakey and the surrounding district will be hit the hardest. These 150 jobs are just the beginning, as many contractors who have contracts with the mine will also be forced into redundancies.

Earlier today the opposition leader, Deb Frecklington, shadow minister Dale Last, and I met with representatives of the Acland coalmine who had flown all the way to Townsville looking for answers. Not only will local economies take a hit but also the viability of the western rail line, with 60 per cent of all rail freight along this corridor coming out of the Acland mine. This will have a direct impact on all other freight, as the western line is heavily subsidised by the New Hope group. Recently, nearly every news outlet had quotes from Minister Lynham saying how quickly and diligently the government was working on the approvals for this project. Were these just words? Did the minister ever have any intention of approving this project? This government does not understand the enormity of its actions. Once again, the people of the Condamine electorate will be forced to fend for themselves without any support from this Palaszczuk government—just like the rest of regional Queensland has become accustomed to.

Newman LNP Government, Performance

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.31 pm): It is great to be here in Townsville. Being here has given us all an opportunity to see firsthand and reflect on what the Palaszczuk government is doing in Townsville and all of regional Queensland. I know that I speak for everyone on this side when I say that we are all very happy to be here in Townsville. None of us were dragged here or felt that we were dragged here. On 4BC on 3 September the member for Currumbin said, 'I have been dragged up to Townsville for parliament in the regions.' I table that.

Tabled paper: Extract of transcript, dated 3 September, of 4BC radio interview with the member for Currumbin, Mrs Jann Stuckey MP [\[1450\]](#).

As I said earlier, it has given us an opportunity to hear about what the last LNP state government did to this town. It sacked 670 government workers, closed down the 122-year-old Stuart State School, sold off land owned by Townsville TAFE and closed down Townsville's biosecurity lab. Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, you and other Townsville members do not need to be told what a disgrace that was. It just goes to show what the LNP does when it get into government. Its only agenda is to sack local workers, slash investment in public schools and infrastructure and then call it governing.

We saw the same thing in my electorate of Ipswich when the LNP was last in. When I was a candidate leading up to the 2015 election I had people running across the road and really going out of their way to tell me they could not wait to vote for me. They could not wait to vote for this government. They lost their jobs and they wanted to do the same to the LNP. They took away our tenant advice and advocacy service, IRASI, which supported so many vulnerable people in our community. They slashed \$21 million from the local health budget and sacked 84 staff. A number of public servants who lived in Ipswich lost their jobs as a result of the LNP sacking 14,000 public servants statewide. When the LNP

scrapped the Skilling Queenslanders for Work program it robbed countless unemployed people in Ipswich of vital pathways to work. The LNP also has form in neglecting Ipswich when it comes to investing in much needed infrastructure to futureproof our growing city. I can guarantee that Ipswich will not see any investment in infrastructure if the LNP gets back into government.

I want to touch on the Ipswich Hospital redevelopment, which is another example of investment in our area. It will cost 500 extra hospital beds and cause wait times for elective surgery to blow out if the LNP gets in. We need to keep this infrastructure happening in our community. Work has started on the 50-bed mental health unit. I am very excited to see that. It will be completed by 2022.

Warrego Highway

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.24 pm): John, 79; Margaret, 75; Dianne, 70; Martin, 57; Sheila, 67; Imogen, 18; and Samerin, 33. These are not just names; they are husbands, wives, mothers, daughters, brothers, sisters and friends of many. These dear people are some of the 53 who have lost their lives on the Warrego Highway since 2001. The Warrego Highway runs through my electorate. I offer my sincere condolences to the friends and families of the victims. I want to assure them that I will not stop fighting for a safer Warrego Highway.

An analysis of the crashes that have occurred during this time shows that 21 fatalities and 14 serious hospitalisations could have been avoided through the construction of overpasses at these intersections. According to statistics gathered from the Department of Transport and Main Roads, daily traffic along the Warrego Highway has increased by 25.6 per cent over the last seven years. That is an average of 3.65 per cent, well above the growth of population. These statistics alone demonstrate how this section of road should be made a priority.

People make mistakes. We must build roads so that when somebody makes a mistake those persons or others do not lose their lives. Recently the safety of the Warrego Highway again came into focus with the upgrade of Neimeyer Road at substantial cost to the developer. What is disappointing is that the department could not get its act or planning together. Even after two years of representations Labor did not deliver acceleration or deceleration lanes at this location while the developer had the road closed and he got on with the job.

What is even more distressing is that even with the great work of our federal member, Scott Buchholz, who successfully secured \$60 million in federal funding—80 per cent of a \$75 million package for Warrego Highway safety upgrades between Walloon and Withcott—Labor put politics over the safety of people. All we needed was 20 per cent from the state government to see Neimeyer Road upgraded while the road was closed. I call on the minister to stop playing politics. Work with me and my community. Let's get the Warrego Highway intersections upgraded, and let's start with Neimeyer Road, Summerholm Road, Fairway Drive, Heise Road and Habban Road. Let's get the job done.

North Queensland

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.27 pm): Having been born in Townsville and growing up in Ingham, I have a great affection for the north. I have fond memories of growing up in Ingham. My father was a barber. My uncles and aunties were canefarmers who toiled hard in the hot North Queensland climate to make a better life for themselves and their families. I was also educated in North Queensland. I went to Lourdes Convent until year 4, then Cardinal Gilroy College until year 10. During my time at Lourdes Convent I went to St Mary's at West End, Townsville, for a short time when mum went to hospital to have another sibling. We were a good Catholic family. I finished my senior education at St Teresa's agricultural college just outside of Ingham, where I first played Rugby League. I was hooked.

At St Teresa's we used to have an excursion called 'scrub leave'. On Saturdays after our jobs were done we would fill in a leave form indicating which part of the Herbert River we were going to. Normally it was the gorge. We would then collect a hessian bag from the office which had fresh steak, a tin of baked beans, a tin of spaghetti, a loaf of bread, and the necessary utensils to enable the feast to be consumed. With a couple of blankets, we were off.

A camp fire and camping on the ground did not make for a good night's sleep but it did make for heaps of fun. A small coke bottle, a small amount of fishing line, a small hook and a little raw meat and black bream were to be had, which we cooked over the open fire and happily consumed. We always had to be home by Sunday morning so we did not miss mass. Those were the carefree days enjoying the beauty that the Herbert River and its surrounds had to offer. I do not believe camping on the banks of the Herbert River these days would be advisable.

Living approximately 70 kilometres north of Townsville meant that Townsville became a big part of my life growing up. Earlier this week I went to dinner at the Capitol restaurant at Cannon Park in Kirwan with a mate of mine and his wife from the days when I worked in the Bowen Courthouse. The cab took me through West End where I spent a lot of my childhood holidays visiting my grandmother and grandfather who lived in a flat at West End. The flat is still there today.

When I used to visit, there were railway yards across the flats that were home to a number of decommissioned coal trains, which provided ample opportunity for an inquisitive young fellow to explore for hours. By the time I got back to my grandparents' flat from these adventures, it was very obvious from my appearance where I had been. I recommend that everyone should visit this great region.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): The time for private members' statements has expired.

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, LNP Plan



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (3.30 pm): I move—

That this House calls on the Palaszczuk Labor government to support the LNP's plan to—

- (a) introduce retail competition, allowing regional Queenslanders to shop around and save \$300 a year on their electricity bills;
- (b) open up the Galilee Basin and create a Queensland Infrastructure Fund;
- (c) attract resource investment, with more jobs and better job security for the resources industry with a 10-year freeze on royalty rates;
- (d) increase business investment and create more local jobs by guaranteeing no new taxes;
- (e) fight crime with a dedicated police helicopter based in Townsville;
- (f) establish a Townsville based Queensland dam company to plan, design and build more dams;
- (g) deliver water security by getting the Burdekin Falls Dam project shovel ready;
- (h) reintroduce breach of bail as an offence to hold repeat young offenders accountable for their crimes and scrap Labor's failed bail houses;
- (i) help parents protect their kids with a public sex offender register and tougher sentences for child killers;
- (j) introduce a royal commission into the building industry and subcontractor payments;
- (k) tackle the ice epidemic with a new drug rehabilitation and detox facility in Townsville to help those struggling with addiction;
- (l) back heavy engineering and manufacturing jobs with a \$20 million Built in Queensland Fund;
- (m) create a Queensland Industry Skills Council with regional skills boards to provide training that leads to jobs; and
- (n) supercharge the North West Minerals Province by boosting mineral exploration and reducing crippling energy costs with an energy audit.

The decision to hold parliament in Townsville cannot paper over the Palaszczuk government's dire record in North Queensland. No amount of spin, no amount of promises and no amount of reannouncements that we have seen again and again this week can fool the people of North Queensland.

We know that the Palaszczuk Labor government has failed North Queensland on all fronts. Crime has spiralled out of control. We know that Townsville now has the highest crime rate of any city in Queensland. How many homes have been burgled because of this soft-on-crime Labor government? How many people have been assaulted? How many cars have been stolen?

Labor's economic record in North Queensland is just as bad. Thousands of jobs have been lost under Labor, 8,000 people are out of work and more than 500 businesses went broke last year. House prices have completely collapsed in Townsville and, unfortunately, there is no—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, I am the Deputy Speaker. I will issue the orders and directions in this chamber and there will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We know that, unfortunately, for the people of Townsville and North Queensland there is no mega infrastructure project like Cross River Rail here in Townsville to boost the housing market. There are no get-rich-quick investment opportunities for the Treasurer up here. Labor has been—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Leader of the Opposition is misleading the House. There is—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is not a point of order. Resume your seat. Members, there will be no frivolous points of order.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Unlike the member for Thuringowa, the LNP does have a plan for North Queensland. We have listened to the people and we have adopted policies that will make this region safer and boost the economy. Our plan will cut crime in Queensland, our plan will cut unemployment in North Queensland and our plan will cut the electricity bills in North Queensland.

We will end Labor's crime wave up here in Townsville. We will give North Queensland people more police back on the beat. We will make stronger laws so that people feel safer and the police have the levers they have been screaming out for. One of those is to bring back breach of bail as an offence in an effort to tackle the crime and the scourge of the youth crime crisis that is happening right here in Townsville right now. We will give the people of Townsville an eye in the sky, like the two that are already on the Gold Coast. They work for them. Here in Townsville the people deserve to have that eye in the sky to bring down the crime rate and make sure the police have those levers to pull so they can do something about the out-of-control youth crime crisis that is happening right here in Townsville.

We have heard numerous stories time and time again from those on this side of the chamber who have been out listening to the community in relation to the crime rate. The member for Thuringowa in particular is an embarrassment to his community because his soft-on-crime approach in relation to not keeping the community safe—

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr HARPER:—and I ask that that be withdrawn.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! While the member is making a point of order, I expect silence. Member, could you please repeat your point of order.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have just asked for that to be done in silence.

Mr HARPER: My point of order is that I take personal offence and I ask the member to withdraw.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. I ask that you withdraw.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. It is only the LNP that will introduce tougher sentences for offenders who kill children. We will let parents know if a sex offender is living in their street. We will tackle the scourge of ice in this region by opening a new drug rehabilitation and detox centre right here in Townsville. I have been to Townsville with many of my colleagues and we have listened to the issues around the scourge of ice all across regional Queensland and particularly here.

The LNP's plan will also kickstart the economy. We know the economy here in Townsville is stagnant after five years of the incompetent Palaszczuk Labor government. We know that for the last five years the people on that side of the chamber have completely ignored the regions. The only time they woke up to the regions was after the federal election when only one out of four people voted for the Labor Party here in Queensland. Only the LNP will stand up for the north.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (3.37 pm): I rise to oppose the motion. The Palaszczuk government's fundamental driver is generating jobs for Queenslanders, especially in regional Queensland. Access to a job is the best social policy and the best economic policy. Under this government, we have seen \$20 billion worth of investment in resources creating more than 7,000 jobs. That is a proud economic record indeed.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition ask what we have done for Townsville and the north. Let me start with this: \$193 million for the port channel widening, \$85 million for berth 4 at the Townsville port, \$514 million for the Bruce Highway and Haughton River upgrade, \$250 million for the Townsville stadium, \$225 million for water security, \$182 million for power infrastructure for the Genex plan that was just announced yesterday, and \$43 million for Riverway Drive.

What have those opposites done for Townsville? There is 1 William Street, but I could not say how far away that is, and there is no support for water infrastructure. The closest thing they got for water infrastructure for the north was knocking off the Connors River Dam—a dam they cancelled in North Queensland. We are pressing ahead with energy solutions for the north-west, including the

CopperString project that aims to provide reliable electricity to communities and mines in the north-west. The Palaszczuk government's Royalty Deferral and Repayment Agreement is also designed to unlock frontier basins in this state. The program aims to create common user infrastructure for more regional jobs. Already, one of these agreements has supported the ramp-up of Century zinc mine's \$150 million project, supporting more than 260 construction jobs and 240 operational jobs in the north.

Do not forget what it has done to reinvigorate the port of Karumba as well. The Palaszczuk government knows that reducing costs for business helps grow and create jobs. We committed to Queenslanders that for two years we would freeze power bills to inflation. We have more than delivered on that commitment, compared to the LNP freeze on power bills which saw the 43 per cent increase. In fact, over those two years of this government's consistent energy policies, a typical Queensland—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Leader of the Opposition, I will not have quarrelling across the chamber.

Dr LYNHAM: A typical Queensland regional small business has seen their power bills fall by \$230. For a typical household, that is an \$82 fall over two years. We all know what those opposite did. We have extrapolated further. We looked at the dire situation had we not been elected in 2015 and at what their power bill increase would have been. If members opposite were elected in 2015 and were still in power, there would have been a 114 per cent increase in power bills for Queensland families—hundreds and hundreds of dollars on people's power bills—all over this state. The regional competition policy members opposite spruik is the same policy the Queensland Productivity Commission thoroughly examined and set out as a warning—\$400 on power bills for regional Queensland families or \$700 million in additional tax for Queensland families. This is yet another unfunded LNP policy that costs taxpayers money. If they paid the \$700 million, that money would go into the hands of private businesses, praying and begging that would be passed on to consumers.

Opposition members interjected.

Dr LYNHAM: As a human service obligation, I can explain how competition policy works in Queensland. It would be like explaining how an electricity generator works in this state. For those opposite, it is a spend-a-thon for Queensland. The LNP's promises come to more than \$2.5 billion. That is for the water infrastructure. There is no irrigator that will pay for that. All they will do is cut, sack and sell. We know that. This is the government that is building the north. This is the government looking after regional Queenslanders.

(Time expired)

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will have silence before I call the next speaker.

Mr Purdie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member for Ninderry is on a warning.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (3.42 pm): That was 'Labornomics' in full flight. This from a minister who yesterday thought the sun shines for 24 hours a day! Let us look at what they in fact did with electricity bills. Even some government members were complaining about electricity bills. At the moment, I understand the member for Mount Ommaney is very upset with her bill.

Ms PUGH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is misrepresenting what I said about my little sister having hot showers.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! I will have silence while the point of order is being taken. Can the member please restart the point of order?

Ms PUGH: Yes. I am offended by the member's comments because I was speaking about—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, I do not want an explanation. Is the member offended by the comments?

Ms PUGH: Absolutely.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would you like them to be withdrawn?

Ms PUGH: Absolutely.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay. The member is offended by your comments.

Mr HART: I withdraw, Mr Deputy Speaker. I walked straight into that one, didn't I?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, I do not need your commentary while we are dealing with a point of order.

Mr HART: We saw that the government's big plan two years ago in terms of future electricity was a clean energy hub. We saw nothing much happen about that until Townsville this week. Yesterday we heard that they will spend \$132 million building a transmission line to a generator—because a generator will be there, but if there were no transmission line they were going to have a little problem getting that electricity away and back to the NEM. That could have been a big problem for—

Mrs Frecklington: Oops!

Mr HART: Yes, I take that interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. Then we had the Renewables 400 reverse auction that sat for two years. Hundreds of companies came forward saying they would like to get involved. The government did not respond to those people, and those people moved on. Luckily, they found a few still able to get involved with the Renewables 400 reverse auction. Surprisingly, that is now moving ahead 12 months out from—what is it?—an election.

Then of course we have transitional electricity prices for our irrigators, due after 10 years of being in transition, becoming obsolete on 30 June next year—a massive increase for our farmers. The government thought they had fixed that. How did they fix it? They deferred it for 12 months. They kicked it into the long grass for 12 months so it would be past election time. I put to members that there is nothing suss about that whatsoever!

I move to other broken promises. The Minister for Housing and Public Works told our subbies that they would be paid on time every time, but that just has not happened. There was the announcement of project bank accounts. We had a trial period. A report was provided to the minister, but it has disappeared into the long grass as well. Those project bank accounts were supposed to move to private jobs on 1 January this year. Then it was pushed back to 1 March this year, then to sometime later in 2019. We do not now know when it will be, but subbies still are not being paid. This government has completely failed them. The joint task force looked at building fraud. That has been given to the minister. He is sitting on that report as well. It would be very interesting to see what comes out of that with regard to some of the builders in Queensland. I hope that the minister will eventually report to parliament about what will happen in that respect. Over four years the minister failed to fix plumbing laws that cost 5,000 plumbers their licences.

I remind members that the Labor Party has been in government now for five years. It is no good trying to blame us anymore. They have to move on. These are all issues that they created. In Townsville in terms of the Aitkenvale youth foyer, a five-storey building in the middle of town, the minister arrived in the middle of the night, snuck around the place and did not bother talking to the locals. The locals were very upset about it. The member for Glass House and I went out there. We talked to 30 or 40 locals. What happened? It has moved. We need a royal commission into the building industry. There is no doubt about that. In the near future, certifiers insurance will cause a massive issue in the building industry. Presently, certifiers cannot get insurance. If they can get insurance, its cost has gone through the roof. That means that builders cannot get in that person to certify their work. This will be a major issue.

Let us talk quickly about helicopters, because we do not need a Tiger gunship as a police helicopter. We just need a platform that a police officer can sit in and operate from.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.48 pm): We have just seen an example of how they like to talk the big game but their words are hollow. They are crowing about their plan for Townsville. This week we have seen how their plan is already in tatters and has been discredited.

Mrs Frecklington: By who?

Mr RYAN: I take the interjection from the member for Nanango. We on this side of the House listen to the experts; we listen to the police. The police are the experts when it comes to policing matters. This happens every time the police provide advice. Members opposite ignore the advice; they yell over the advice. The Leader of the Opposition just asked about who provided that advice. The Queensland Police Union say they do not need a dedicated police helicopter here in Townsville. The assistant commissioner for the region and the chief superintendent say that they do not need a dedicated police helicopter.

Why do they say that? It is because there are already helicopter resources here in Townsville. In fact, there are two of them available 24/7 and used by the police when they need them. They support the police and our other emergency services.

Those opposite are saying that when it comes to policing matters they will ignore the advice of the experts—the police, the assistant commissioner, the chief superintendent, the Queensland Police Union. Heaven help us if those opposite are ever returned to the treasury benches because, when it comes to policing matters, they will not listen to the experts; they will just do what they think. That will have disastrous consequences not only for policing but also for community safety.

Let us look at what those opposite did to Townsville when they were last in government. Let us look at what happened when they did not listen to the experts. I am pleased that we are talking about helicopters, because there is one member on the other side of the House who used to like helicopters—that is, the member for Kawana. He used taxpayers' money to fly helicopters out to those discredited boot camps, which never worked, which people escaped from and which the Auditor-General said were a waste of money. That is what happens when you do not listen to the experts: you waste taxpayers' money and do things that do not work.

What else happened when they did not listen to the experts? They cut youth justice conferencing and diversion programs.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order, members! Pause the clock. Member for Nicklin, you are warned.

Mr RYAN: When you do not listen to experts—like those opposite—you come up with plans that do not work. You come up with plans that are quickly in tatters and discredited. Their plan for Townsville is already in tatters and discredited. Let us look at what those opposite inflicted on Townsville when they were in government. Just this week I was reflecting on reporting from 2012 that said that they cut resourcing to police in Townsville.

Mrs Frecklington: 2012?

Mr RYAN: We have to look at the record of those opposite. This is what happens when those on the other side win only one election in the past 30 years: there are not too many examples to point to. When those opposite are in government they inflict cuts on our essential services. They cut \$24 million from police resources. What did they tell senior police in Townsville when they were in government? They said, 'Tighten your belts. We cannot afford cars, computers and equipment for our police. Just get police out there without all that essential equipment.' We support our police and we fund them.

Let us look at the plan the LNP put out at the last election: 'Our real plan'. I have said that maybe it should have been called the 'Really, Really Real Plan'. Maybe that is what this plan is. At the last election, in their plan for North Queensland they committed zero police for Townsville—they made no reference to police in Townsville—but they committed 20 police for Cairns. At the last election we said that we would deliver 53 police to Townsville. We are going to deliver them and we are going to deliver them early.

Mr Last interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members. Pause the clock. Member for Burdekin, you are warned.

Mr RYAN: It is this side of the House that has a plan for Townsville that is informed by the experts. It is a plan that is properly resourced and that we will deliver. In fact, our plan will deliver early. It will work, because we resource it properly. We listen to the experts, unlike those opposite.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.53 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I am glad to speak following the police minister. I bet that if I walked outside this place the police officers would be hanging their heads and talking amongst themselves, saying, 'What a disgrace the police minister's contribution was.' I bet if I went out there and asked, 'What do you think about bail houses in Townsville?' they would say, 'Gee, they were a success!' If I asked, 'What do you think about breach of curfew and breach of bail?' they would say, 'That didn't work too well either.'

The police minister stands in this place and claims that he is delivering for this community. I beg to differ. We went to a crime forum on Monday. The Leader of the Opposition and I went to Garbutt shopping centre on Tuesday. We spoke to business owners who were having to put their hands into their pockets to fund private security.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Morayfield, order!

Mr LAST: Business owners are now having to put their hands in their pockets to fund private security in order to protect their businesses and to attract customers into their shops, because they no longer have the confidence that people can come and shop safely. There would not be a person sitting in the gallery today who would not have a comment about crime in Townsville. Every single resident of this community has the right to walk down the street and go about their business knowing that they will be safe, but that is no longer the case in this community. Every single day there is a story about crime in this community.

Mr de Brenni interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Springwood, you will be in your allocated chair if you want to participate in the debate.

Mr LAST: The minister wants to gloss over that and say that there is no issue, that crime is under control. To see that for what it is, you only need to look at the figures. Those figures are an absolute disgrace. Robbery alone has increased by 113 per cent, but apparently there is no problem with crime in Townsville: 'Nothing to see here!'

We will deliver when it comes to law and order in this community. Our track record shows that we can deliver when it comes to law and order. If people do not believe me, they should talk to opposition members about law and order and see the depth of knowledge and experience that exists on this side of the House as opposed to the other side of the House.

Mr Whiting interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Bancroft, you are warned.

Mr LAST: Crime is the No. 1 issue in this community. It has not gone off the boil for three years. Those opposite can bury their heads in the sand. I see the member for Thuringowa having plenty to say, as usual, trying to talk the big talk that there are no issues in Townsville, but we know. If those opposite went out and talked to the residents of this community and to the business operators in Flinders Street—if they can find a shop that is open because of all of the businesses that have gone bankrupt—they would find out about the crime situation in this community.

I also want to talk about our plans for critical infrastructure—our plans to develop the Galilee Basin, the thousands of jobs that will bring to Townsville and communities throughout Central Queensland and the royalties that will flow from those mines. Some \$5½ billion in royalties flowed into government coffers last year. All we in North Queensland want is our fair share of the pie to go to roads, hospitals and schools. I do not think that is asking for too much.

More importantly when it comes to critical infrastructure, we will build the dams this state needs. If you have water you have opportunities. Those on this side of the House know all about water and what it means when you have water.

Ms Leahy: Water means wealth.

Mr LAST: I take that interjection. In this state, if you have water you have wealth. That is exactly what we plan to provide. We will build the dams. We will have the Queensland Dam Company based here in Townsville to create jobs and we will build dams from one end of this state to the other. Won't it be great for this state when we can do that? Contrast that with those on the other side, who are looking for every excuse under the sun to delay these dam projects. What about Rookwood Weir? 'Let's put that back a couple of years and let's take a couple of metres off the top.'

An opposition member: Nullinga.

Mr LAST: Nullinga? 'Let's kick that into the long grass.' They do not want to talk about that either. If people want North Queensland to prosper—if you want this area and these people to be looked after—you need to back in this side of the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (3.58 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. What we see time and time again is the LNP putting up plans—you would certainly not call them policies—that have no evidence, no research and no backing of proper consultation with stakeholders.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection: 'We just go and talk to the people.' No, those opposite go out and talk down to and mislead the people in communities right across Queensland. Those opposite say that they are tough on crime, but the fact is that the opposition in government could not produce a shred of evidence that any of their policies around youth crime actually reduced offending and recidivism.

Mrs Frecklington: Youth crime was down.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection from the member for Nanango. With regard to their level of recidivism, they had kids in their boot camps coming back two or three times. They enjoyed it so much, they kept reoffending so they could come back again! It did not reduce recidivism at all. There is zero evidence whatsoever—

Mr Bleijje: I was the toughest Attorney in the world. Take that interjection!

Mrs D'ATH: You were also the most disliked Attorney-General in the world, but—

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Attorney-General, you will put your comments through the chair. I do not believe it is becoming to ask for people to take interjections in that manner, member for Kawana.

Mrs D'ATH: The claim of the opposition that it will bring back breach of bail for youth offenders is not supported by any stakeholders and is not supported by any evidence whatsoever. There is no evidence whatsoever, other than tying up police resources and courts for more charges that do not prove that it reduces recidivism at all.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nicklin, you are already under a warning.

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to the issue of public sex offender registers, the member for Nanango continues to go out there and seek to convince the people of Queensland that a public sex offender register would make them safer. She ignores completely the sort of evidence being put forward in research by the Australian Institute of Criminology of the Australian government which talks about—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Ninderry, you are already under a warning. You can leave the chamber under standing order 253A for half an hour.

Whereupon the honourable member for Ninderry withdrew from the chamber at 4.01 pm.

Mrs D'ATH: This is a serious issue. There has been research done around the world on this issue that shows there is no evidence that it reduces offending against children but it can in fact increase recidivism. Have a look at the research. I encourage those on the other side to stop misleading the public that it will make them safer. Some examples I have heard, including from Commonwealth ministers, is they want to know that if their child is going for a sleepover they can look up that parent's name and know that their kids are safe. Would they do the same for someone they know well in their church or for a family member?

Ms Bates interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: I hear those opposite. The fact is that simply because someone's name is not on the public register does not mean they will not offend against children, so it gives people false hope. In fact, most children are offended against by a family member or a parent.

Mrs Frecklington: Please keep speaking—please. You're helping us out.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: The member for Nanango is treating this chamber like a circus and playing with people's lives by putting up ideas that do not make the public any safer. With regard to the idea of establishing a new drug rehabilitation and detox facility, that is great. It is wonderful to think that the opposition supports rehabilitation when it scrapped all of the diversionary courts. It scrapped the Drug Court, the Murri Courts, the youth justice conferencing. It has today in this debate bragged that it claims a youth bail accommodation was shifted because the residents did not want it anywhere near them. My question to the Leader of the Opposition is this: when residents do not want your drug rehabilitation facility near them, where are you going to put it?

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, Leader of the House.

Mrs D'ATH: Where are those opposite going to put it? They are misleading the public. There is no evidence to support these policies. They are a shonk, they are scams and they have history.

(Time expired)

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.04 pm): With 10 new or increased taxes in Queensland, where there is more than \$3 billion extra in taxes being ripped out of the pockets—

Mrs Frecklington: 3.5.

Ms SIMPSON: I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. When \$3.5 billion is being ripped out of the pockets of Queenslanders, is it any wonder that small businesses here in Queensland have voted to say what poor confidence they have in this state Labor government? Is it any wonder that, quite tragically, in this great city we have seen a number of bankruptcies? We have driven the streets of this city and we have walked the streets—

An opposition member: 'For lease' signs everywhere!

Ms SIMPSON: Yes, the 'for lease' signs are everywhere. Behind every 'for lease' sign—every closed business—is heartbreak and people who have lost their homes in some circumstances, lost their businesses and a whole tyranny of devastation that occurs. The tragedy is that over 500 Townsville small businesses and residents were declared bankrupt last year—the highest number in all regional Queensland. What is this Labor government's response? Ten new and increased taxes! Those opposite are living in la la land if they think that they can tax their way to growth and that they can tax their way to supporting business, because the figures do not lie: this great city has the unenviable title—thanks to the economic mismanagement of the Palaszczuk Labor government—of having the highest number of bankruptcies in the state outside of South-East Queensland.

The Premier and her government have neglected this city, this region and other regions of Queensland. In contrast, the LNP has a plan to support small businesses, to support people not only in their aspirations but in seeing that those aspirations to own their own business and to get ahead and have a go are not ripped off at the knees with new taxes. That is why I support the plan that we have under the Leader of the Opposition, Deb Frecklington, and the LNP team. We will have a guarantee of no new taxes. We will also address the issue of the skills crisis. Under this Labor government we have seen an absolute nosedive in terms of the number of completions of young people in their apprenticeships and traineeships. There has been a significant downturn since the LNP was in government which has seen about a 30 per cent reduction in the number of people finishing their apprenticeships and traineeships.

We need small businesses to thrive in order to employ people. We need to see them able to take those young people on and know that they are going to be able to see them employed beyond the first sugar hit of an incentive to be in a job. We acknowledge that there are some sugar hits with some of the programs, but a record amount of about \$20 million has been spent on employing people for only about four weeks worth of employment. We want to see people employed for not just four weeks of employment under a government sponsored program; we want to see them employed long term—more than four weeks—12 months and beyond. That is why we need small businesses—the real jobs growth arena—to thrive in this state to get ahead.

The LNP has announced the Queensland Industry Skills Council with regional skills boards to provide training that leads to jobs by ensuring that the training is focused on the jobs that are required in that local area. It is a tragedy that we see high youth unemployment in this city in that more than 16½ per cent of young people are struggling to get a sustainable job. That is why it is not enough just to have short-term programs; we need to support real jobs growth in the community through supporting small businesses. That is why our plan to reduce electricity prices in the regions through competition that will drive down electricity prices is so important. That is why hitting out at the crime rate is important, because everybody who has to pay increased insurance premiums because of the record high crime in these areas is paying for it through their insurance policies. We want to see Queensland get a fair go and get ahead.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak against the motion. We have been here for three days and there has not been a positive remark about this city from those opposite. In respect of this motion, the Leader of the Opposition wants a royal commission into the building industry. I would like to advise the Leader of the Opposition that there has been a review, commissioned by the states, the territories and the Commonwealth, into subcontractor payments. It has already happened. It was announced in December 2016. The report was released in May 2018.

If the Leader of the Opposition had a functioning shadow minister, she would have been advised. It is called the Murray review. Members opposite can find it on www.jobs.gov.au/review-security-payment-laws. Let me tell those opposite what it says. If they really

cared at all about tradies and subbies, they would have read it. Clearly, they have not. Let me save them the time. This Commonwealth commissioned report says, 'Do what the Palaszczuk Labor government is doing.'

The shadow minister may have forgotten his responsibilities, but people of North Queensland have a good memory. When they go to the ballot box next year they will remember the cuts of the Newman government and they will remember that the LNP took Labor's developer donation ban to the High Court. They will remember that, this year, the opposition leader sold out subbies and sold out tradies to line her election campaign coffers with developer donations—the very people in the construction industry who are responsible for driving a relentless race to the bottom. Those opposite want to wine and dine with the big end of town so that they can take control of the treasury benches and sell off the assets owned by the people of Townsville.

The so-called 'diamond club' is all about building a war chest for this lot so that they can destroy frontline services, so that they can sack more young apprentices, like the QBuild apprentices here in Townsville. Of course, all the LNP members know how to do is cut, sack and sell. Those opposite do not care about well-paid jobs. They care only about their developer mates at the top end of town. It would be nice if tradies working on that stadium could afford the membership fees for the so-called 'diamond club', but I can assure the members opposite that they cannot. We know that the LNP members do not care about the 230,000 building and construction jobs in Queensland. The LNP could have backed in the special task force conducted by retired judge John Byrne when it looked at historical claims of fraud.

Rather than creating a jobs policy for Queensland, the LNP members were more concerned about challenging our bans on developer donations. That comes as no surprise given that the former LNP president is now the director of a civil engineering and development firm. Now, the member for Nanango is trying to simply pay lip-service to the tradies and apprentices in this city while she remains firmly in the pocket of the big end of town. Queenslanders will not buy it.

I want to address the issue of project bank accounts. We have successfully established 156 project bank accounts, with over half a billion dollars guaranteed to those subbies. That is guaranteed funds. When we debated those laws in parliament, those opposite did not even show up and they did not vote. The LNP members were too embarrassed to back our security of payment reforms because the member for Everton smashed the regulation of the building and construction industry. The member for Everton has never explained to the people of Queensland his role in the collapse of Walton Construction. The member for Everton needs to come clean on what he knew, what he did and when he knew it. The member for Everton should also show up to the special purpose liquidator hearing appointed by the Federal Court to look into the involvement of the National Australia Bank in that collapse.

It was the member for Everton who cut minimum financial requirements laws. It was the member for Everton who cut the requirement for some of the state's largest developers to provide financial reports. Under the watch of the deputy opposition leader, the LNP took \$1.4 million in rent from Waltons, \$430,000 in the year that company collapsed, while subbies went without pay, losing their homes and losing their businesses. The member for Everton needs to front up and say what he knew, what he did, and when he knew about it. Labor's reforms for subbies are working. We are delivering. This afternoon, the opposition needs to apologise for trashing the reputation of the tradies on the North Queensland stadium site.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. If there has been one thing that I have learned this week while in Townsville, and particularly after the other night at the crime forum, and as was put articulately by the member for Burdekin, the people of North Queensland and Townsville have been voiceless for far too long. But for the member for Burdekin and the LNP here in North Queensland, victims of crime and community members simply would not be heard. It is important for the people of Townsville to understand that the members representing Townsville and its surrounds coming in and asking a few Dorothy Dixers of the Premier does not qualify as a voice for Townsville. The members representing Townsville and its surrounds coming in and yelling 'Hear, hear!' to every statement from a minister does not qualify as being a voice for North Queensland.

I am not exactly sure when the Leader of the House and the former invisible member for Mundingburra started thinking about the topic of the motion that was moved earlier today, but I do not think it went as they expected as speaker after speaker on the LNP side of the House proceeded to show what a vacuous and visionless government is currently in Queensland. Apart from the member

for Burdekin and the LNP here in North Queensland, there has been one voice for the people of Townsville and it has been the *Townsville Bulletin*. During the debate on that motion moved earlier there were a number of articles tabled from the *Townsville Bulletin* referring to various issues related to the member for Thuringowa. The particular article that I want to go to is the *Townsville Bulletin*'s editorial of 7 June that has the headline, 'Premier clueless on justice'.

Mrs Frecklington: Is that this year?

Mr JANETZKI: I take that interjection.

Mrs Frecklington: In 2019?

Mr JANETZKI: In 2019. The first line of the editorial in the *Townsville Bulletin* titled, 'Premier clueless on justice' states, 'The State Government has lost control of youth justice.' How has this government and the members for Townsville and its surrounds lost control of youth justice and crime in Townsville? I refer firstly to bail houses. The other night at the crime forum when bail houses were mentioned the first comment from the people there—victims of crime, people in the community who the government is not listening to—was that they were a joke. They are a joke and that is why an LNP government will get rid of them. There will be \$70 million spent on these bail houses by 2022-23. There have been over 539 critical incidents in bail houses throughout Queensland. Two of those bail houses are here in Townsville. They are simply not working.

There is another reason Labor MPs representing Townsville and its surrounds are letting down their people and are not listening to them. Two weeks ago in parliament, back in Brisbane—and it is important for the people of Townsville to know this—those Labor Party members representing Townsville and its surrounds voted against reintroducing the offence of breach of bail. As all police officers know—and those on this side of the House know—when the offence of breach of bail was introduced in 2014, 400 offenders had committed over 7,000 offences. People understand that the reintroduction of the offence of breach of bail will make a difference.

What else have the Labor MPs representing Townsville and its surrounds voted against? They have voted against child killer laws that would have seen the mandatory sentencing of people convicted of child manslaughter for 15 years. In the gallery this week we have had John and Sue Sandeman, who are wonderful advocates. Their grandchild was murdered. They have stood with victims of crime and have lobbied these Labor members of the Palaszczuk government here in north Queensland to stand with them and to promote this law, but the Labor government will not listen to them.

I say to the people of Townsville that if they want someone to listen to them they should think about the LNP. The Labor Party is not listening, but the LNP will. If people want someone to act, change laws and make their community safer, they should come and see the LNP. If people want someone to act in their best interests, they should come to the LNP. Whether it is bail houses, watch houses, or Woolloongabba houses, the Labor government has failed, failed and failed. Only an LNP government, led by the member for Nanango, will solve the Townsville crime crisis.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (4.19 pm): Let us call this motion for what it is. This motion would be humorous if it was not so embarrassing. I am very happy to start where the member for Toowoomba South finished, with the *Townsville Bulletin*: 'Extra Cops Locked Down', 'Hydrogen Hotspot', 'Powering jobs: \$132 million boost for Kidston project' and 'Lobster on Menu for North', a \$500 million aquaculture industry that the Palaszczuk Labor government will unlock for North Queensland. I table those.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 2 September 2019, titled 'Extra Cops Locked Down' [[1451](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 3 September 2019, titled 'Lobster on menu for North' [[1454](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 4 September 2019, titled 'Powering Jobs' [[1452](#)].

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 3 September 2019, titled 'Hydrogen Hotspot' [[1453](#)].

When it comes to my portfolio, this motion calls on the House to do a number of things. Firstly, it calls on the House to support the LNP's half-baked tokenistic Built in Queensland program. I say to the Leader of the Opposition that I will never, ever support a plan that would reduce funding for manufacturing in Queensland by \$26 million and spend the rest on advertising. The government will stick to the plan that Queenslanders back, and that is the \$46 million Made in Queensland program which is all about helping manufacturers buy equipment and support jobs.

Next up we see the LNP calling on the House to support the LNP's plan to open up the Galilee Basin. The Leader of the Opposition does not have to waste an hour of the House's time on a half-baked motion.

Mr Molhoek interjected.

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

Mr DICK: All she has to do is ring the federal coalition minister for the environment who has had the approval for the China Stone coalmine on his desk opening up the Galilee Basin for 280 days. That is what the LNP thinks about opening coalmines. After 280 days there is still no approval for that mine.

The Leader of the Opposition abdicates all responsibility when it comes to revenue measures in the state, but she does want to spend \$7 billion of public money on unfunded promises. The people of Townsville will be absolutely delighted to know that the Leader of the Opposition wants to build a new freeway on the Gold Coast, a railway to the Sunshine Coast, and at least for a while she wanted to fund air conditioning in every private school in Brisbane. There is one question the people of Townsville and Queensland have to ask and that is: where is the money coming from? The Deputy Leader of the Opposition answered that this morning. He talked about debt. It is possibly the first time he has talked about debt since it became irresponsible and irrelevant for him to do that. Remember when he said that it was irresponsible and irrelevant to talk about debt? This morning the Deputy Leader of the Opposition said it was no wonder that hard decisions had to be made.

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Scenic Rim, you will use correct titles.

Mr DICK: Hard decisions means Strong Choices and the people of Townsville know what those words mean. Strong Choices means cut, sack and sell. The LNP just do not get it. They have gone from Campbell Newman to Campbell Newman's Treasurer to Campbell Newman's assistant Treasurer as leader of the LNP. We find Strong Choices dead, buried and resurrected when the Leader of the Opposition talks about competition in the energy sector. Privatisation is in their DNA. Do not take my word for it, take the word of Sam Cox, the former LNP member for Thuringowa. He said he was going to fire one straight into the wheelhouse of the Queensland LNP—right into the LNP ship.

Mr Boothman interjected.

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

Mr DICK: The end of that letter to the editor was touching, was it not? He said, 'Please, LNP, with an election due next year give us a captain and a squad that will win the premiership.' What is the problem with the LNP and Townsville? We know the member for Currumbin's view. She had to be dragged to Townsville. We know the member for Broadwater's view. He could not wait to get to the Gold Coast. We know the former member for Thuringowa's view. He believes the LNP's commitment was so good to Townsville, so great to this city, that he defected to One Nation. That is the view of the former LNP member for Thuringowa.

When he was premier, Campbell Newman's brand of howitzer economics absolutely flattened confidence in Townsville. That was the legacy of those opposite: job cuts, economic growth down, flattening confidence in this city.

Mr Batt interjected.

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

Mr DICK: That has been rebuilt under the Premier and the Palaszczuk Labor government. I say to honourable members that this motion should be opposed. Only Labor will back in Townsville and back in the north.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.24 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the opposition leader's motion. There is one thing that the LNP can bring to Townsville that Labor cannot and that is unity. We are united to make sure that we can deliver not only for Townsville but also for the whole state.

This week it has been a fascinating experience to watch the Labor front bench as the Deputy Premier has struggled day after day with integrity issues. The Deputy Premier goes from stony-faced to being angry to being stern and sitting there like an Easter Island statue with no emotion. Is there any wonder why? In contrast, next to the Deputy Premier we have the smiling face of the member for Woodridge, who is as happy as Larry about the demise of the Deputy Premier. The contrast could not be greater.

Next to the member for Woodridge we have the member for Cooper, who is just as pleased. The member for Cooper and the member for Woodridge are fighting to be the next Right candidate for either the leadership, the deputy leadership or to be Treasurer. The member for Cooper went to Schwarto to

get him to throw a few bombs this week. 'I cannot throw them', she would have said to him, 'but can you please throw those bombs in.' The Treasurer and the member for Cooper have not had any eye contact at all this week. In fact, they are back-to-back with no engagement whatsoever.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I ask you to come back to the motion. Your Cowboys tie will not save you.

Mrs Frecklington: That is not even a Cowboys tie.

Mr MANDER: No, it is not, but I will take it. I will say it is.

Mr SPEAKER: That is all you have at the moment.

Mr MANDER: Not only will we bring unity but we will bring integrity. We will be a government that can be trusted. There will be nobody on our side of the House who will buy a property when there is a real or perceived conflict of interest, there will be nobody on our side of the House who will take five months to declare that perceived or real conflict of interest, and there will be nobody on our side of the House that will ring up the CCC chair on the weekend and interrupt the poor bloke when he is trying to put his Ikea furniture together because none of us have his phone number.

Let me now turn to the three state members who represent Townsville. It is fascinating that the government has given the three state members more profile this week—we have heard from the member for Mundingburra I think once in five years and probably five times this week—and once the public have heard these people they have come out of the woodwork wanting to be candidates. We have people knocking our doors down saying, 'Are these the people who represent us?'

Mr DICK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I draw the honourable member back to the motion that he is seeking the House to support.

Mr SPEAKER: The motion is a broad motion about Townsville and matters relevant to it, but I do direct the member to come back to items contained in the motion.

Mr MANDER: The people of Townsville are crying out for representation. They are crying out for people who have a bit of grunt in government, for people who have some influence in government. The three members from Townsville—Thuringowa, Townsville and Mundingburra—most definitely do not have that. We know the contempt the Palaszczuk government has for the people of Townsville and North Queensland by its removal of the portfolio it once had but was so poorly carried out by the member for Mundingburra.

The people of Townsville want representation from members who actually have influence. What local member would reject a police helicopter? What local member would say that they do not want cheaper electricity prices through competition in the retail market? What local member does not want dams built? That is what is happening with these three members. These three members reject policies that would benefit North Queenslanders and the people of Townsville. It is simply beyond belief that any sitting member would come here and not back policies that would benefit the people. There are less than 14 months until 31 October 2020. On that date, the people of Townsville will vote with their feet and they will vote for LNP representation for this city.

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

AYES, 41:

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

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

Ind, 1—Costigan.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Miller, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Resolved in the negative.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.35 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136(3), that the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee report on the Resources Safety and Health Queensland Bill by 18 October 2019; and the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee report on the Health Transparency Bill by 18 October 2019.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.36 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 17 September 2019 at Parliament House, Brisbane.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (4.36 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

Regional Sitings of Parliament, Townsville

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (4.36 pm): I think we can all agree that this has been a phenomenal and successful week for the first sitting in 17 years of the state parliament in the magnificent city of Townsville. As Premier, I have been proud to bring my government to Townsville so that northern Queenslanders can see firsthand their parliament in action. From the outset I thank the community of Townsville for their wonderfully warm welcome.

My government is an inclusive government, it is a listening government and it is a government that wants and encourages community involvement, which is a large part of our motivation in bringing the parliament to the people. I thank all North Queenslanders, especially the hundreds of schoolchildren, who took the time to come here and watch. I thank all of my ministers and all of the members of parliament who travelled to the north this week to join with our hardworking local members: the members for Mundingburra, Townsville and Thuringowa. We have loved being here.

It takes a small platoon of people to move the parliament from Brisbane to Townsville. It is a major logistical exercise and it cannot happen without many people working tirelessly to make it a success. I thank the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, the Hon. Curtis Pitt, for his efforts in ensuring that this regional sittings ran like clockwork. I thank the Clerk of the Parliament, Neil Laurie, along with the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries, for ensuring that the move to Townsville and the sittings ran smoothly.

I also give thanks to the Director of Corporate Services and Electorate Office Liaison, Craig Atkinson; the Director of Property and Precinct Services, Stewart Johnson; the First Clerk Assistant and Manager of Chamber and Education Services, Amanda Honeyman; the Regional Sitting Parliament Project Officer, Karl Holden; the Sergeant-at-Arms, Michael Watkin; the IT manager, Allan Nelson; and the parliament's education team leader, Roylene Mills. It was lovely to join Roylene and some schoolchildren out the front of the convention centre. I think they were surprised when I popped in to say hello. I also thank all of the attendants and parliamentary staff, all the ministerial staff and opposition staff. It takes a huge effort, with everyone working together. I honestly and graciously thank everyone for their hard work.

I give a special thanks to all the members of the Queensland Police Service who have been on hand this past week to keep everyone safe. I thank the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Regional Parliament Executive Committee, which was instrumental in rolling out this regional parliament. I give my deepest thanks to all of the staff of the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre and venue manager Tim Pow for their huge efforts in transforming this venue into the people's parliament.

Thank you, Townsville, for being such a welcoming city. Rest assured that members of my government will be back regularly. I formally invite all members of this House to our state reception, which will commence next door at 6 pm.

Regional Sitings of Parliament, Townsville

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.39 pm): On behalf of those on the LNP side of the House, I thank Townsville. We have had such an amazing week having regional parliament right here in the north. Along with the Premier I thank everyone, and particularly the people of Townsville, for being so welcoming to the Queensland parliament. Some 15 hours away from Brisbane, we have been able to transform this amazing building into the Queensland parliament. I thank you, Mr Speaker, and your staff. I thank the Clerk, Neil Laurie, and the Deputy Clerk, Michael Ries. I thank all of the attendants and parliamentary staff who have been so wonderful to us this week. This week it was wonderful to share my birthday with two parliamentary attendants, Mark and Chris, who were working to keep the parliament going.

I acknowledge all the schoolchildren who came and enjoyed the Queensland parliament. Like the Premier, we spoke to as many schoolchildren as possible. I had a lovely chat with students from Giru State School, in the electorate of the member for Burdekin. They had some wonderful suggestions to add to those that you mentioned this morning, Mr Speaker; however, I cannot repeat some of them. I do not think it would help either side of the House!

I would like to thank all of the Townsville locals and North Queenslanders who travelled so far to come and visit Queensland parliament here in Townsville. I would like to give a special acknowledgement to Sandy Frost, who is sitting in the gallery. She has travelled all the way from Clermont to come and enjoy the parliament and have a conversation with some of our shadow ministers and MPs here in Townsville.

I would like to thank the Queensland Police Service who have kept us safe this week. It is a massive job. There are 93 members of parliament, and we are all individuals at best, I can say. To have the police looking out for all of us it has been absolutely wonderful.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I am not going to take that interjection, Premier. We would like to thank them all very, very much. They have kept us safe. Even though there have not been a huge number of protesters, the police have done a wonderful job.

I would also like to thank all of the staff from both sides of the House, all of the MPs and all of the shadow ministers and ministers. Thank you all very much for making us so welcome to Townsville. We look forward to coming back.

Regional Sitings of Parliament, Townsville

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next member, I want to take this opportunity to make a brief Speaker's statement and say thank you to all members for what has occurred here in Townsville this week. We will shortly be adjourning, but I think everyone would agree that it has been a memorable sitting week. I thank all members for their support of this sitting.

I thank, like the Leader of the Opposition and the Premier, the people of Townsville and the surrounding regions who have come together to really embrace this parliament and the various forums that have occurred outside of the parliament. I want to put my thanks on record for those who have helped deliver the parliamentary functions which were part of our community outreach program: the opening ceremony and the traditional welcome, the barbecue breakfast at NRL Cowboys House and the community afternoon tea celebrating our volunteers which was held yesterday.

As I said at the opening with the traditional welcome two days ago, it is a big logistical exercise to take this sitting away from Brisbane. A very, very large amount of work has been done by all of the parliamentary staff, people at this entertainment centre, as well as members of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and others who have assisted in the organising and planning.

I want to place on record and acknowledge some people in particular. I want to thank the electorate officers from this region who have been working at the regional sitting to sign in guests and the media. I want to thank David Cooper and Julie Lawrie from the Burdekin electorate office, Shari Fabbro from the Mundingburra electorate office, Roslyn Mellon from the Thuringowa electorate office, and Gwen Casey and John McCarthy from the Townsville electorate office.

I also thank the Queensland Police Service who have done an outstanding job not only in the protection they provided us but also with all of the pre-planning that went along with that. My thanks also to the Townsville Entertainment and Convention Centre staff, led by venue manager Tim Pow, for the support they provided for the sitting, as well as the Department of the Premier and Cabinet and the

efforts of the Parliamentary Service in delivering this sitting. However, I want to again confirm how proud I am as the Speaker of the Queensland parliament to have such professional people delivering the services we need not just for this sitting but for all of our sittings and activities of the parliament.

There are too many people to thank, but I will single out a few people: Stewart Johnson and his property team for preparing the venue for parliament; Karl Holden for his work as the parliament project officer for the regional sitting; Allan Nelson and his IT team for ensuring that we all had access to the internet here, with quite fast speeds I might add; and Roylene Mills and her education team for delivering the Junior Indigenous Youth Parliament last Friday, the Youth Parliament on Monday and the school visitation program running parallel to this week's sitting.

Finally, I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to both Michael Ries and Neil Laurie, the Clerk of the Parliament—particularly to you, Neil, who as the Clerk of the Parliament, unlike in other jurisdictions, is not only the CEO but also the chief legal counsel of the parliament all rolled into one. It is a difficult job, along with the logistics and planning that have gone along with this sitting, so thank you very much for your hard work. The Queensland parliament has always been the people's house, and that is true no matter where in this big state of ours it sits.

Speaker's Ruling, Tabling of Document

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I also need to let members know that earlier this afternoon the member for Condamine tabled a document which contained unparliamentary language. The member attempted to redact the material unsuccessfully. Table officers have redacted the offending material in a new document. In accordance with previous precedents, I have directed that the document be returned to the member and that the document be substituted by that redacted by table officers.

Regional Sittings of Parliament, Townsville

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (4.46 pm): At the beginning of this sitting week I welcomed all members to God's country and now it is time to say farewell. Farewell from God's country, the home of the Cowboys and the home of the Townsville Fire—the three-time championship winners. Premier, it was great to announce yesterday that \$1 million sponsorship. Those girls were absolutely ecstatic.

Thank you, Premier, for trusting Townsville in bringing parliament to Townsville. It was absolutely brilliant. I have been able to talk with many of the students who have come through and a lot of the visitors as well. As a member of government, it was great to reinforce our existing infrastructure build that we are investing in, whether it be the stadium, the pipeline or the port channel widening—those big projects. It was also great to retell our stories about local job creation, where more teachers, doctors and nurses are being employed to provide the great services they do in and around and through our communities. It was great to talk about the 50 extra police we have already and another 53 by the end of 2020. It was also great to hear about the two helicopters that are ready for the police to use whenever they need them.

The students who came through heard a real plan for their future. They heard about more jobs. They heard about the infrastructure builds that we have on the horizon, on the radar and rapidly approaching. They also heard about the \$1 million for the Townsville Fire which was absolutely brilliant. Our students know that the future in Townsville looks bright. There is a hydrogen future for them. There is a clear jobs pathway for them. This is about keeping our kids in this city because they know they have a real career path and they know that they can get good, long-term, sustainable jobs right here in their community.

I also take this opportunity to thank all members who came to Townsville and any staff you might have brought. Thank you. You have spent a week away from your families doing the great work in this House over the last week. I thank everyone on both sides of the House and the crossbenchers for everything you have done.

I also thank our parliamentary support staff. Mr Clerk, thank you again for all of your work in setting this up. I thank the police, the EOs, our caterers—even Booyah who came in to do the coffee—Hansard, IT services and all of our parliamentary support staff. I thank the Townsville community who came along at various times and have supported this all the way through. I do not think they quite knew what they were in for until we arrived here. I think they have a much better understanding now.

The best thing is that I was able to show off my great city. We turned on the great weather. We have been doing it tough, and every cup of coffee and every meal you bought this week helps my community recover.

Nambour Police Station

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (4.49 pm): The Nambour police are under the pump. They continue to swim valiantly against the tide of a generation of Labor neglect. They are short of staff, with those on leave or those with long-term injuries or illnesses inadequately backfilled. To add insult to injury, I sat here all week and listened to the government talk up all the resources they are pouring into Townsville. They are suddenly showing an interest because they copped an absolute shellacking in the recent federal election. They are up here desperately trying to save their marginal Townsville seats. The member for Thuringowa showed his frustration by literally screaming into the microphone during his speeches. Who can blame him? He is embarrassed. His patch is in the grip of a youth crime crisis of this government's own making.

The people of Nicklin and the police from Nambour who police the region are frustrated too. They are frustrated at an incompetent minister who promised them a new station in early 2017. Over two years and nearly half a million dollars later they have not even produced a plan, so I can tell the people of Townsville that they cannot trust this government to fulfil the promises they are so fond of making. They are all hot air and spin. They only start showing an interest when their own jobs are under threat. They talk about jobs, but I can assure you that the only jobs those opposite care about are their own.

In an ABC Radio interview on 12 June—three long months ago—after I put pressure on the minister via the media to let us know why he is two years late on doing anything about his promise of a new police station, the police minister gave a nothing answer.

Mr Ryan interjected.

Mr HUNT: He said that he was committed to providing a new police facility for Nambour and that announcement would be made in the very near future. Here we are more than three months later. What do we hear? Crickets. Nothing. Zilch. Silence. The minister cannot keep dragging his heels and leaving the police and the people of Nicklin in the dark about this station. Crime is up, police are down and Nicklin is being neglected.

I have now mentioned this several times in this House and in representations to the minister. The minister may be sick of hearing from me on this issue, but the people of Nicklin are sick of waiting for action. The police minister needs to do his job so the police can do theirs. I call on the minister to come clean to the people of Nicklin and the police of Nambour. Tell the truth and tell them now.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister for Police, you may well have been the subject of some of the commentary; however, you will still use members' correct titles.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, North Queensland, Achievements

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.52 pm): Mr Speaker, I would like to thank you, the Premier and every single member who wanted to be here. We have loved having you here in Townsville. The member is correct: I did have to yell because they just do not understand what we have delivered for Townsville. We have delivered a lot. For the member for Toowoomba North and the member for Everton can I just clarify that we have not one but two helicopters. They are multi-tasked helicopters. Please go out to the base and look at the police logo, the ambulance logo, the QFES logo and the million dollar forward-looking infrared camera. I can assure you that \$3 million is not going to buy you a police helicopter. You do not know the capability of our machines. Go out and speak to the crew. Finally, they have about one dozen calls for service by police, of which 70 per cent are for water searches, so get your facts right—

Mr SPEAKER: The member's comments will come through the chair.

Mr HARPER: I would ask the member for Toowoomba North to get his facts right. He comes up here and pretends to know. I think the member called it a Bell 429. It is actually a Bell 412. We now have two Augusta Westland 139s. We are very proud to have those. Thank you, police minister. We will get on with tackling the issues around youth crime.

I want you to take in the hot air balloon they have left over. It is their option for a police helicopter. Join me as we fly over Thuringowa. We are going to start at Heatley, where we will look at the \$3 million Works for Queensland program we are proudly going to open tomorrow. Thank you, Minister. Then we will go past Heatley high, where there is \$10 million invested for a new security fence. Thank you, ministers. We will pass Heatley primary, where there is a new security fence that the member for Broadwater, the former member, could not deliver. Then we are going to go over to Thuringowa Drive to look at the new \$5 million ambulance station that is going to be built there. There is \$10 million invested in the new Kirwan State High School hall—we were there, Premier.

Then we will go past the Riverway precinct and the \$4 million Works for Queensland for the Riverway Splash Park. We are going to look over the road at the rapid action patrol hub that now has 40 police officers, not 20. Then we are going to keep going up to—yes, you know it—Riverway Drive. We are going to look at the new police facility that is being built—thank you again, Minister—10 officers, not two, in the Upper Ross. We are going to keep going and we will look at all the new Works for Queensland pathways. Tomorrow we will be joined at the Charles Maroney Park, which is a \$4 million investment getting local people into work. These small projects are great—people love them—but our investment is investing in people's futures and their jobs through major infrastructure. I thank the Premier for backing Townsville after the floods. We have loved having you here. Thank you, Townsville.

Hervey Bay Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (4.56 pm): I would like to thank all of the people of Townsville for their hospitality, for a start. I think it has been great for all those people to give us their hospitality. When I came in here the other day a lady was telling me they had bull riding here. I think there is still a bit of bull left in here today too, may I say.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Hervey Bay, will you withdraw the comment, please.

Mr SORENSEN: I withdraw the comment.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member—for the dignity of the House.

Mr SORENSEN: With some of the rhetoric that has been going on this week, especially with the hospital situation, I hope the children of Townsville do not have to put up with what I have put up with this week.

A young footballer who broke his collarbone on Saturday, 31 August went to the emergency department at the public hospital and was seen straightaway. The doctor was very good, but he was unable to do anything other than take X-rays to confirm the break. He put his arm in a sling, gave him a Panadol and sent him home. He was told that the fracture clinic does not open on a weekend and he would have to wait until Monday. On Monday, 2 September, he called the fracture clinic at 8.30, only to be told that they would need to receive the information from the hospital. They would then forward it to the GP. On Tuesday, 3 September, he was still in pain, as you can imagine with a broken collarbone. I was talking to a colleague from Buderim who had a broken collarbone, and he said it was one of the most painful things you can have.

On 3 September, still in pain, he attended the hospital at 6.30 in the morning. The triage nurse gave him strong painkillers. He managed to see the doctor at 7.30, only to be told that he needed to wait for the fracture clinic to contact him. The doctor sympathised with him and said there was nothing they could do, but they would try to escalate his case by flagging it as urgent. He was given a prescription for stronger painkillers. On Wednesday, 4 September, the fracture clinic called and gave him a booking for the following Wednesday, 11 September. This is 12 days after the event. I think that Queensland can do a lot better than that, and the LNP will do a lot better than that.

Mareeba Multicultural Festival

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.59 pm): I would first of all like to thank the people of Townsville for such a wonderful week. I would also like to acknowledge the three wonderful members from this region. I thank them for their hospitality and for making us all feel welcome in this wonderful city.

Today I would like to talk about the Mareeba Multicultural Festival. The Mareeba Multicultural Festival is a major annual calendar event and this year Mareeba delivered another vibrant and colourful multicultural festival. On Saturday, 31 August, I had the pleasure of representing the Premier, the Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, at the official opening of the Mareeba Multicultural Festival. I also want to congratulate everyone who took Australian citizenship on the day. As the local member, it was humbling to join the Mareeba Shire Council mayor, Councillor Tom Gilmore, to welcome our new citizens to beautiful Mareeba. The Mareeba shire is home to some 64 different nationalities and we should be proud that people from all over the world have chosen to make Queensland their home.

I would like to acknowledge Giuliano Cordenos. When I first met Giuliano, he told me how he came to Australia as a young man from Italy because he wanted to start a life in Australia. Giuliano landed in Melbourne and found a job as a kitchen hand for a family business. English was a foreign language, but let me tell the House that he did not let that stop him from wanting to succeed and he was determined to learn English. With the little he received in wages, he paid for shelter and food and saved the rest to bring his young bride from Italy to Australia.

Giuliano eventually made his way to Mareeba where he cut cane. He told me the only time he had to rest was when he was asleep and he tells me that no-one can argue with him about what hard work really is. With the love of his life on his mind, Giuliano worked hard to succeed and his hard work eventually paid off when he was finally reunited with his one true love. Giuliano is a well-known member of the Mareeba community who owns several businesses in the shire. He speaks passionately about supporting and building the local community and region. Giuliano was one of the pioneers of the Mareeba Multicultural Festival and served 20 years as the chair of the festival committee. After 20 years, it was not surprising to see Giuliano back again on Saturday proudly wearing his committee shirt. Giuliano reassured me that he was not working on committee business but was merely back to make sure things ran well.

With August being Multicultural Queensland Month, there are many others like Giuliano who are valuable members of our community who proudly call Queensland home. We have seen 100 events being celebrated and showcasing Queensland's unique cultural diversity and acknowledging that we all belong. I give a shout-out to the new chair of the Mareeba Multicultural Festival, Jennifer Murat, and committee members for their valuable contribution in pulling together another successful event. It was wonderful to see Mareeba and the surrounding community come out in force to celebrate cultural diversity in Mareeba and send a strong message of a strong and unified Queensland.

Moreton Bay Marine Park

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.02 pm): I would like to acknowledge the wonderful people of Townsville. I always feel at home here because for 13 years Townsville was my home. I studied marine science at James Cook University in the early 1980s and I greatly enjoyed boating, diving, fishing and researching on the Great Barrier Reef. Whether it is the Great Barrier Reef or Moreton Bay, where I live now, we need to protect the reef's systems and the marine life that rely on them but without the current abuse of science and the farmers. We need to balance the protection of our marine environment with opportunities to access the waters and to continue to sustainably fish in these waters. We need to get this right with the Moreton Bay Marine Park Zoning Plan 10-year review already under way from 1 September.

In terms of boating access to Moreton Bay, the Boating Industry Association issued a warning to the Labor government in their winter 2019 Logbook under the 'Queensland update'. I quote from page 12—

Members in Queensland may be aware of publicity suggesting the zoning plan aims to prohibit individual boats entering the marine park on more than 120 days per year; this requirement has been in the plan since 2009 but would appear to have been unenforced or certainly not properly communicated to the boating community. BIA will be making a submission with a request to revoke this draconian regulation when the full review consultation commences.

I share the concerns of the Boating Industry Association that with the Moreton Bay Marine Park review there should not be restricted access to Moreton Bay. Boaties and fishers of the Redlands' coast will not take kindly to being told by local Labor MPs that they cannot freely access their bay. In terms of fishing restrictions in Moreton Bay, I have always stood up for the rights of the boaties and fishers of Moreton Bay, particularly in the Cleveland district, and their rights to fish sustainably. It concerns me greatly that, before the 10-year review of the marine park, the fisheries minister had already announced restrictions upon professional and recreational fishers without presenting solid scientific fish stock data to prove that they are fishing unsustainably. Fishermen are angry to hear that Labor are once more considering imposing even greater fishing restrictions as part of the review. To have further fishing restrictions by way of no-take green zones, surely Labor must prove that the fish stocks are being irreparably depleted.

Sadly, Labor's confusing anti-fishing policies are more about Green preference politics at election time and less about science and sustainable fishing. As we head into the Moreton Bay Marine Park 10-year review, the government should know that the local recreational fishers, professional fishers and seafood consumers will hold them responsible at election time for any further radicalising of the fishing policy within the marine park.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors) (5.05 pm): I would like to take this opportunity to finish the week on an absolute positive note. This week has been a fantastic week. We have seen several key announcements that are continuing to demonstrate that the Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering jobs and seeing every corner of our state thrive. From the Gold Coast to Cape York, from Birdsville to the Carpentaria, we know that we cannot have a thriving state without thriving regions.

What a week it has been. It kicked off with the installation of the first of 25,000 seats in our brand-new North Queensland Stadium. This \$290 million infrastructure project really is a local stadium for the north in every sense—built by locals, with materials supplied by locals and delivered by this government for locals.

This week we have also put a spotlight on how we are delivering vital water security for the future of North Queensland. I was proud to join the Premier and my fellow Townsville MPs for the announcement of \$16 million for the detailed business case for raising the Burdekin Dam wall, in addition to the \$225 million the Palaszczuk government has provided to build the new Haughton pipeline project. We also announced that the new Kidston hydro project is about to commence construction at the end of the year. This will deliver 500 jobs for Townsville during construction and a further 400 jobs for the construction of the transmission lines.

These announcements are on top of other announcements: the 53 extra police to be delivered by 2020, which is 18 months ahead of schedule; \$3.5 million for the Townsville Marine Tourism Precinct development; the signed memorandum of understanding with Smart Precinct NQ to establish a defence hub supply chain; and \$1 million sponsorship of the JCU Townsville Fire. The Palaszczuk government is committed to our regions and committed to creating jobs, delivering services and ensuring that our state continues to thrive.

I have been so proud to sit in this chamber this week as part of the Palaszczuk government as we have outlined our commitment to North Queensland and our achievements right here in Townsville. I want to take the time to thank everyone—all the volunteers and all the staff, both parliamentary staff and ministerial staff. I want to thank everyone who has played a part in putting this parliament together. We would not have done it without you, and it has been such a success. I hope that all MPs have enjoyed the visit to our great region and leave this place with an appreciation as to why I am so proud to call this part of North Queensland my home.

National Stroke Week

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.08 pm): I want to start by thanking all those members of the government who have hung around so long just to hear me speak.

Government members interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Some things never change, and my love of having the government here to listen to what I have to say has not changed in any way, shape or form—although I feel I am on the last plane out of Saigon here as the last speaker today. It has been a delightful week up here in Townsville, as it always is. I came up here I think almost 24 times in the 20 months that I was opposition leader.

I do want to touch on a serious matter. Monday, 2 September to Sunday, 8 September is National Stroke Week. I raise a particular issue not because I nearly felt like I was having a few of them as the history of the LNP government was read out here and I was unable to respond, nor because I would rather be on the golf course, which I would not—I would rather be here—but because National Stroke Week affects a very dear friend and constituent of mine, a young lady called Emily Benham.

Every year, Emily hosts a Stroke Week event for young people. We normally think of stroke as something that happens to people over 55, but in fact it is a great tragedy when it happens to people much younger. Emily is one of those. She woke up on a Friday in 2015 feeling like it was any other day but, at about 11.30 am, while walking into the Flowers in the Field shop in Clayfield she suffered a stroke and discovered her aorta was dissecting. She now has fought her way back and, with help and care is obviously still going—and going strong—seeking to spread the word for young people who suffer from stroke. I encourage everyone to go to the Stroke Week site and see what can be done about it. There are a couple of stroke prevention tips—regular exercise, going for a stroll, eating fish a couple of times a week. One that will of course be taken up very strongly by members here, if they do drink, make red wine their first choice, because it contains Resveratrol. I did not know about it, but it is thought to protect the heart and brain. I expect to be going to at least 100, much to the chagrin of many people!

Let me conclude by saying that in government the LNP delivered for Townsville an average unemployment rate of 6.2 per cent as opposed to Labor's nine per cent—more young people employed, fewer young people unemployed. We love Townsville, and we will be back under Deb in 2020.

Mr SPEAKER: I thank the member for Clayfield. Ron Burgundy would like his jacket back!

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.12 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, 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