



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

### Wednesday, 5 February 2020

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## WEDNESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2020

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 The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### PETITIONS

The Clerk presented the following paper and e-petitions, lodged and sponsored by the honourable members indicated—

#### Captain Creek Rural Fire Brigade

**Mr Bennett**, from 811 petitioners, requesting the House to reregister the Captain Creek Rural Fire Brigade, along with all of its members, to provide assurance to the community that it is safely protected during this year's bushfire season [[171](#), [172](#)].

#### Volunteer Firefighters, Blue Cards

**Mr Costigan**, from 1,179 petitioners, requesting the House to scrap the proposed introduction of 'blue cards' for volunteer rural firefighters [[173](#), [174](#)].

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

#### Coomera Connector

From 182 petitioners, requesting the House to cancel the Coomera Connector project exiting or cutting through Oakey Creek Road in the Coomera Foreshores estate [[175](#)].

Petitions received.

### MOTIONS

#### Citizen's Right of Reply

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

1. That this House notes report No. 195 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the *Record of Proceedings*; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the *Record of Proceedings*.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

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RESPONSE BY MR JASON SCANES, TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR KAWANA, MR JARROD BLEIJIE MP, ON 30 APRIL 2019

On 30 April 2019 the Member for Kawana specifically named and implicated myself in a matter, in which in my position at the time (as CEO for Maryborough RSL), I had acted within the law and fully co-operated with police in their investigation into allegations against a staff member of the Member for Maryborough.

These statements by the Member for Kawana I believe have invaded my right to privacy, tarnished my reputation and adversely impacted both myself, my wife and family, including in a pecuniary sense.

I would like the Parliamentary record to reflect an accurate account of my professional conduct during this event (involving Ms Packer), as follows:

- As the former CEO of the Maryborough RSL, I note that members are monitored by CCTV whilst on Club premises.
- Out of obvious respect for privacy, these CCTV recordings are not made available on request by members of the public.

- The police may request the CCTV footage if they believe it will assist in their investigation to a matter that has been reported.
- In every instance during my tenure as the CEO, the Maryborough RSL, always, fully co-operated with police and provided any CCTV footage requested.
- This included the investigation police were undertaking into the allegations from Ms Packer.

I served this Country (Australia) both as a Soldier and an Officer for 19 years in the Australian Regular Army and have a distinguished Military record, including several commendations from the United States, for my service in Afghanistan. I will always stand up against violence against women or any other person. I stand by my reputation, community work, professional memberships and distinguished service to my country and I am deeply offended by these comments from the Member for Kawana.

### Citizen's Right of Reply



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (9.33 am), by leave, without notice:  
I move—

1. That this House notes report No. 196 of the Ethics Committee and the recommendation of the committee that a right of reply be incorporated into the record of proceedings; and
2. That the House adopt the committee's recommendation and incorporate the right of reply into the record of proceedings.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

RESPONSE BY MS VANDA WIECZORKOWSKI, TO STATEMENTS MADE BY THE MEMBER FOR MUNDINGBURRA, HON. CORALEE O'ROURKE MP, ON 25 JULY 2019

On 25 July 2019 in Estimates Hearings, Minister O'Rourke made comments relating to my time as Director of Forensic Disability. I was the Director of Forensic Disability from October 2015 until June 2019. These comments have had a detrimental impact on my reputation and future career prospects.

I underwent a recruitment process for the role of director and was employed as a Senior Officer.

I reject any imputations that I was not suitably qualified for the role of director. My experience in forensic practice in Australia and the United Kingdom spans some 22 years. I have held numerous senior positions in that time and brought significant experience to the role of Director of Forensic Disability.

During my time as Director of Forensic Disability I have introduced processes to ensure compliance with the purpose of the Forensic Disability Act 2011 ('the Act'). These processes have greatly enhanced the quality of care provided to clients at the Forensic Disability Service, significantly increased public safety and will ensure ongoing compliance with the Act generally.

During my tenure as the Director of Forensic Disability my staff and I also worked tirelessly to ensure that clients of the Forensic Disability Service transition from the service. It was the work undertaken by my office and staff from the forensic Disability Service that led to the successful transition of six clients.

## TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors (Hon. O'Rourke)—

[176](#) Response from the Minister for Communities and Minister for Disability Services and Seniors (Hon. O'Rourke), to a paper petition (3239-19) presented by the member for Coomera, Mr Crandon, from 1,939 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the construction of a Youth Centre in Pimpama-Ormeau

MEMBER'S PAPER

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

Member for Pumicestone (Mrs Wilson)—

[177](#) Nonconforming petition regarding an all access tidal jetty at Sandstone Point

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): Overnight an eight-year-old boy was diagnosed with coronavirus. He is the third member of a group from Wuhan isolated and receiving excellent care in the Gold Coast University Hospital. He is Australia's

13th confirmed case. Yesterday I informed this House that there were over 17,000 cases worldwide and over 350 deaths. This morning that number has climbed to 20,704 cases and 427 deaths. China continues to build new hospitals at a rapid rate.

We do not fully understand this virus. Hundreds of Australians have been evacuated from Wuhan to Christmas Island to prevent the spread of the virus. Our borders have been closed. Our tourism industry is already suffering enormous losses because of cancelled bookings. The fishing industry, higher education and farming businesses are all naturally concerned. I wrote to the Prime Minister urging him to enact the same funding arrangements used to face any natural disaster under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Our industries and businesses need help and support now. The Prime Minister has replied to my letter. My request has been turned down.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**An honourable member:** So you laugh!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, it is not funny; it is a serious issue.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** As I told this House yesterday, Queensland is combating this virus the same way we fight floods, cyclones and fires. This is a time for the federal government to step up and support us the way they do in any other natural disaster. Later today I will conduct a round table with industry representatives to help map our way through to recovery. In the midst of a global health emergency Queensland should not be expected to face it alone.

Last night I attended a function hosted by the Australia China Business Council. I thank the Minister for Multicultural Affairs and the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development for also attending that very significant function. Its theme was 'friends stick together'. That is the way to treat this virus. It is a hurdle to be overcome, and the sooner the better for everyone. Through all of the adversities faced by our tourism and export industries, there has not been one where my government has left them to face it alone. This is no different. Friends stick together.

### Water Infrastructure

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): Pegs are in the ground and surveyors are at work planning the extension of the SEQ Water Grid to Warwick. This drought busting measure, announced in November, is well advanced and was my first priority to visit in January. My government has committed more than \$848 million upgrading water infrastructure across Queensland. I note yesterday I said between \$700 million and \$800 million. Today I confirm it is \$848 million. The only government building new water storage infrastructure in Queensland is this government. We are building the Rookwood Weir in Rockhampton.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Those opposite do not like it.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Premier is not being provocative with her statements. I ask that you hear the ministerial statement.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are spending \$215 million for the pipeline connecting Burdekin Falls Dam with Townsville, \$170 million securing the future of Fairbairn Dam near Emerald, \$100 million for the Burdekin Falls Dam improvement project and \$13.6 million for Emu Swamp Dam, member for Southern Downs. We will continue to work with everyone.

### TAFE and Training

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Education, training and skills are building blocks to employment in Queensland where 235,000 jobs have been created since 2015. Backed by my government's funding programs, training and skills funding is worth close to \$1 billion a year. As the employment minister revealed, 16,500 young Queenslanders have taken up free TAFE courses and apprenticeships. We are reinvigorating QBuild, boosting QBuild staff by 300 over the next three years, both tradies and apprentices. The Minister for Public Works will have an update shortly on the first intake of workers starting their new careers. Tens of thousands of people across the state have benefited from our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program which is worth \$420 million over six years. It is helping them into new jobs, different careers or further training but most importantly it is changing lives.

Last week in my electorate of Inala I met trainees who had finished their classroom training for a certificate III in individual support and are getting ready for vocational placement for practical experience in aged care. We all know that aged care is a growing sector here in Queensland. Our program means a new chance for individuals and new opportunities for employment. Just last week I met students who will soon be going to the new Toowoomba Rural Centre of Excellence, part of a \$7 million TAFE redevelopment and one that I am incredibly proud of. They will get valuable skills and training for a job in our expanding agricultural sector.

Minister Fentiman and I turned the sod less than 18 months ago, so to see it ready to open next week was very impressive. Again, what gives this meaning and what makes it personal is to talk to the students and hear directly from them about what the numbers actually mean—they mean changed lives.

### **Qantas Group Pilot Academy**

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Last week, with the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning, I was proud to help open the Qantas Group Pilot Academy at Wellcamp Airport in Toowoomba. The Qantas academy is a momentous achievement and provides a massive boom for the Toowoomba region, with construction of the facility alone creating 100 direct jobs and 300 jobs in the wider construction industry. At full operation, the academy will have the capacity to train up to 250 pilots a year and support up to 160 jobs in training and support.

The minister and I took great delight in meeting with the trainees. They are very excited. They are happy to be learning in Queensland. It was wonderful to see the intake contain a large number of female recruits. It is also wonderful that that is happening at Wellcamp.

A big thank you goes to the Wagner family for the amazing job that they are doing. That that facility was built in such a short period is a testament to everyone. A big congratulations goes to Qantas and also to the officers of our departments who worked very closely with Qantas and the Wagners to bring that training academy to Queensland.

### **Coronavirus**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.40 am): I rise to update the House on developments overnight with the novel coronavirus. Australia now has its 13th novel coronavirus case. An eight-year-old boy was diagnosed at the Gold Coast University Hospital last night. Forty-nine other patients who were tested yesterday were negative. I understand that this is the first case of a child with the virus in Australia.

Globally, 20,704 people now have the virus and 427 people have died. We are doing everything we can to keep Queenslanders safe and to limit its spread. The boy had been travelling with the man and woman who were diagnosed with the virus last week, so he was already in quarantine. He will continue to be well looked after at the Gold Coast University Hospital. Contact tracing for anyone else on the same Tiger Airways flight TT566 from Melbourne has already been completed and advice to those passengers remains current.

Today I can also advise the House that we are ramping up coronavirus testing by expanding it to private pathology collection sites to make sure Queenslanders can access testing throughout Queensland. QML and Sullivan Nicolades Pathology are now equipped to collect samples from travellers who have been in China or anyone who might have been in contact with an infected patient. Samples will continue to be tested at Coppers Plains.

Expanding collection points also gives GPs more options: they can choose to collect samples themselves or refer to a collection point. That means that most towns and suburbs in Queensland have somewhere that can take a sample to test for coronavirus. It makes testing more accessible and should allay concerns from GPs. It also means that, if the virus does begin to spread more widely in Queensland or if our health officials decide to expand the cohort to be tested, we will have the collection capability. I want to thank QML and SNP for their cooperation.

Current testing is only effective once a patient has symptoms. There is no current test for those without symptoms. Anyone who has health concerns should call their GP or 13HEALTH. Health officials now advise that anyone who has been in China in the past 14 days and feels unwell should seek medical advice. Again, I want to thank our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, for her tireless efforts to ensure the protection of Queenslanders.

## Payroll Tax Relief

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (9.43 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to delivering jobs for Queenslanders: more jobs in more industries; jobs in traditional industries and emerging industries; jobs in welding and jobs in caring; jobs in different communities and different sectors right across our state.

Today I am pleased to update the House on the benefits that Queensland businesses are receiving as part of the payroll tax relief measures I announced in the 2019-20 state budget—the biggest in a decade. The House will recall that the state budget delivered a payroll tax relief package worth \$885 million over four years. That package aims to assist small to medium sized businesses to grow, to drive employment and to boost the Queensland economy. I am pleased to say that the evidence is in and our payroll tax initiative is delivering.

The two-year extension of the 50 per cent payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees has seen over 2,300 Queensland businesses save over \$7.5 million this financial year. The rebate is enabling businesses to take on more apprentices and more trainees. Oakey Beef Exports, in the electorate of Condamine, employs over 750 people. Michael Hassett from Oakey Beef Exports says that the rebate has helped his business take on new trainees to increase their skill base and to retain them. Jasmine Quinn from Evolution Traffic Control at Eagle Farm, in the electorate of Clayfield, agrees that the rebate is an incentive to take on more trainees. Andrew Sinclair from Osmac Apprenticeships at Brendale, in the electorate of Pine Rivers, says that the rebate is essential to growth in Queensland, allowing group training organisations such as his to keep their charge-out rates lower and to increase their apprentice intake.

It is great to hear how those rebates have encouraged and enabled businesses to take on new apprentices and trainees. Combined with our new employer growth rebate of up to \$20,000 per year, the increase to the payroll tax threshold from \$1.1 million to \$1.3 million and the regional rate discount of one per cent for businesses outside of South-East Queensland, the Palaszczuk Labor government has delivered one of the most competitive payroll tax environments in our nation, helping Queensland businesses to grow and driving employment right across our state.

## Coronavirus, Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (9.45 am): This week our state recalls with a heavy heart the terrible flooding that North and North-West Queensland endured from the monsoon trough flooding event one year ago. Today our state faces a disaster of a different kind. The coronavirus international health crisis poses a threat to our health and, in many ways, an even greater threat to our economy. Thousands of Queenslanders face deep financial distress as tourism, fishing, aquaculture, education and agriculture face a threat as big as drought, flood and bushfire.

Today, in our hour of need, the Prime Minister has a message to those Queenslanders staring down the barrel of economic catastrophe. The Prime Minister's message to Queenslanders is this: you are on your own; there will be no help to Queensland from the federal government through Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. The Prime Minister has refused our very reasonable request to activate cost sharing—that is right: cost sharing—through DRFA for our state.

Later today the Premier will address the leaders of business, industry, education and aquaculture, amongst others. I do not envy the Premier, because she will have to give them a terrible message, which is that their national government has abandoned them in their time of greatest need. It is not that the federal government has forgotten them, because the federal government knows exactly what is happening. They know that they are facing a potential catastrophe, but they are not going to help. It is another case of this Prime Minister getting the big calls wrong. Members will remember when, during the bushfires, he tried to say that it was a state issue. Today we learn he has the same response: 'It's your problem; I won't help.'

Previous prime ministers, both Labor and Liberal, have led our country through natural disasters with dignity, composure and effectiveness. We can all remember Kevin Rudd on Black Saturday, Malcolm Turnbull in Cyclone Debbie, Julia Gillard in the 2012 floods and even Tony Abbott in Cyclone Marcia.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, Minister. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. I have made myself very clear about members using correct titles in this House.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I was giving a ruling. I would appreciate you listening to that ruling instead of continuing to talk and interject. I did not see which members it was, but you are on notice.

**Mr DICK:** Regardless of who they voted for, victims of disasters welcomed those prime ministers. They welcomed the support that was provided and they welcomed the way that those prime ministers conducted themselves, because those prime ministers, like our Premier, acted with strength and empathy, and they delivered moral leadership.

It is this moral leadership that this Prime Minister cannot deliver. The Prime Minister has failed Queensland. The message to the Prime Minister is this: this nation needs him to stop the spin, stop the argument, stop the Facebook ads and get on with it and do his job. The Prime Minister needs to lead this country, help Queensland and join with our government in sharing the cost of this disaster and helping our businesses and communities. If the Prime Minister cannot do this, he should make way for someone else.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (9.50 am): Our government is committed to growing tourism and tourism jobs in Queensland. We know that hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders rely on the tourism industry for a living. That is why I am proud to be part of a government that has delivered record funding for the tourism industry and during this tough time we stand shoulder to shoulder with our tourism operators and industry on the ground, even if the Prime Minister will not.

Our government also has an eye on the future. We know that the digital evolution that is happening across businesses around the world, including with big data and data analytics, is also driving change in the tourism industry. The World Economic Forum predicts that the digitisation of data in the aviation and tourism industries will be a US\$700 billion industry over the next 10 years and will drive growth in jobs.

Today, I am proud to announce that for the very first time February is tourism tech month in Queensland. Yesterday at The Precinct the member for Cairns and I joined with tourism industry leaders including key companies such as Virgin, Qantas and the Brisbane Airport Corporation, tourism tech companies and Queensland based start-ups that are already working to change the way we do business in the tourism industry.

I want Queensland to be the tourism innovation hub of Australia. By investing in these start-up businesses that are transforming the way we do business in the tourism sector we can keep jobs in Queensland and create new jobs and not lose them offshore. We will continue to work with the tourism industry during this tough time and ensure that we are investing in the new jobs and businesses that will drive economic growth into the future.

### Building and Construction Industry, Security of Payment

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (9.51 am): Today is a momentous day for the building and construction industry and its 240,000 strong Queensland workforce. When Labor took office in 2015, we went into bat for tradies and apprentices to secure a better future for the next generation, to give them the confidence that they will get paid in full, on time, every time. When small business tradies have confidence they will get paid, they can plan to grow their business, plan to put on more staff and train the next generation of apprentices, just as this government is doing through QBuild.

In 2017 we passed historic nation leading security of payment reforms, with project bank accounts at the centre. Already on government jobs project bank accounts have seen \$803 million paid to Queensland tradies. Today, we will take the next step and introduce legislation to continue the commencement of these reforms—reforms that will expand protections in the building and construction industry; reforms that will crack down on dodgy developers trying to cut and run; and reforms that will put an end to the roting of subbies, tradies and their families.

Australian tradies have experienced too much heartbreak, too often been left high and dry while developers and ruthless head contractors have walked away unscathed from company collapses. For those tradies who were on the road before most of us here even woke up this morning, it was not optional for them whether or not they went to work today. We are making sure everyone higher up the chain does not have the option not to pay them in full and on time.

We will expand the power of the building regulator. The commission will be given new powers to prosecute those dodgy operators who do not tell the truth about whether they have paid their subcontractors. The regulator will have oversight over project trust accounts. Our laws will give the regulator powers to prosecute anyone who causes a financial loss by not complying with contractual obligations. More protections and strong regulatory powers through our reforms will result in a better and safer industry. It is what tradies asked for and it is what this Labor government will deliver.

At the heart of this work, it is all about jobs and it is about a fair go. It is about a fair go for tradies and subbies out there who deserve something quite simple but often elusive—that is, a fair day's pay for a fair day's work. It is about building an industry that will support the current and next generation of apprentices who are starting their careers. Since coming to office Labor has supported the creation of 235,000 jobs for Queenslanders. A Deloitte analysis shows that the effective regulation of payments, which we will introduce today, will create an additional 2,373 jobs in the construction industry. That is jobs for Queenslanders. That is jobs for Queensland apprentices. On this side of the House, we are incredibly proud to back in Queensland tradies as we build a better sector for all.

### Transport and Main Roads, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government ended the last decade by completing some of the largest infrastructure projects ever built in Queensland: the \$1 billion Gateway Upgrade North Motorway; the \$1.6 billion Toowoomba Bypass; and the \$127 million Cairns shipping development dredging project. Queenslanders have seen what we can achieve when we invest in our communities to create local jobs and make our roads safer and more efficient.

The start of this decade in Queensland will be remembered for one of the largest infrastructure rollouts in Queensland history. Our record \$23 billion roads and transport investment is supporting a boom in cranes, concrete and construction from Weipa to Coolangatta. On the Gold Coast there will be more than 2,700 jobs, on the Sunshine Coast close to 3,000 jobs and there is a boom in Rockhampton with more than 600 road construction jobs. Townsville, Gympie, Mackay and Cairns all have major road projects that are creating hundreds of local jobs and supporting local families.

We will start this decade with a record year of public transport too, starting with more rail services. Next month I am very happy to announce that we will add more than 12,000 train seats on the network for South-East Queensland commuters on 32 new weekly train services. Five services will be extended, and newer trains rolled out for the very first time on the Sunshine Coast. This service uplift adds to the 462 weekly services added last year and means that there will be 212,000 extra train seats across South-East Queensland compared to the same time last year.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth.

**Mr BAILEY:** Labor's rail investment in 2020—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** It is confusing for the opposition, I know that. Queensland's rail investment in 2020 means more trains and seats for commuters, the start of light rail to Burleigh, the Sunshine Coast rail upgrade, the largest public transport project in Queensland history being the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project, the \$371 million statewide smart ticketing system and the \$357 million commitment to station accessibility upgrades.

Our record train crew recruitment means 218 new drivers have been trained for a net increase of 139 drivers since 2016, while another 101 are in training. This is part of the largest recruitment of train drivers in Queensland's history. We are boosting train jobs in Maryborough too, supporting more than 100 local positions, including 12 apprenticeships with the NGR rectification program. The Palaszczuk Labor government will ensure that our state's passage into a new decade is supported by better infrastructure, better services and more jobs for Queenslanders.

With more wet weather forecast across South-East Queensland and other parts of our state this week, we remind people to take care on our roads. I urge all motorists to stay safe, to put their seatbelts on, to put their phones away, to check the weather warnings and traffic information before they leave the house and to please remember that if it is flooded forget it.

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Chatsworth, I have already given you some caution today. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms Grace:** Taken your Berocca this morning, have you?

**Mr SPEAKER:** I do not need any assistance from you, Minister. You have not had the call yet either. I call the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations.

### School Infrastructure

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.58 am): Yesterday I spoke about the Palaszczuk government's great achievement of opening eight new world-class schools—the most opened in one day in more than 30 years—but there is more good news, with another five schools on track to open next year. We know that our state schools are growing, with a record 578,000 enrolments this year, and we understand that our classrooms and facilities need to grow with them. We saw this rapid growth coming, and that is why we have invested nearly \$430 million, including \$250 million in 2018-19, with 71 projects to build additional classrooms in 61 state secondary schools across Queensland as part of the 2020 Ready program, supporting nearly 850 jobs.

In 2007 the Queensland government embarked on major educational reform with the introduction of prep, and we delivered the additional specialist classrooms. The next phase of reforms and infrastructure investment came in 2015—

**Mr Hart** interjected.

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

**Ms GRACE:**—when year 7 students transitioned into high school. The original prep students who started school as a smaller half cohort of students back in 2007 graduated from high school at the end of 2019—and congratulations to them. This means that for the first time there are six full year levels of students in Queensland secondary schools in years 7 to 12 from 2020. This \$430 million investment ensured that state high schools across Queensland were 2020 ready to accommodate the anticipated extra 17,500 secondary students now and into the future.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to be delivering world-class education infrastructure needed to keep pace with enrolment growth across Queensland and to be delivering on this final stage of education reforms that started over a decade ago with the implementation of the very successful prep year. Projects include a new multistorey classroom centre at Trinity Bay State High School near Cairns, a new classroom block at Toolooa State High School near Gladstone and a new multistorey learning centre at Kawana Waters State College. All projects were delivered in line with completion dates, on time and on budget—once again, a mighty effort by my department. The Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering jobs and state-of-the-art facilities for Queensland students, ensuring our students get a great start.

### Resources Industry

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.01 am): The Queensland resources sector continues to bolster our economy and provide jobs and royalties for doctors, nurses and police officers—but it will not be immune from the effects of the coronavirus. We can expect a slowdown in the Chinese economy. We can also expect a possible shift to more domestic production of Chinese coal—but, as always, Queensland goes it alone, with no federal support for Queensland during this crisis. It is particularly galling, as the Deputy Premier said, when just last week there was a \$2 billion gift to the New South Wales resources industry and nothing for Queensland—nothing for Queensland. However, our 66,000 mineworkers in Queensland are doing it for Queensland and its economy, producing \$70 billion worth of exports. I am pleased to advise you, Mr Speaker, that there is a lot more to come.

This year will see the expansion of several existing projects including the \$150 million Ravenswood Gold Mine. The new owners are committed to the expansion, which will extend the mine's life by 13 years, providing 280 jobs and an additional 100 jobs during construction. The world's steel industry also continues to look to Queensland for its supply of metallurgical coal. If it ever gets its approvals from the Commonwealth then the Olive Downs coking coal project will provide 500 construction jobs and 1,000 operational jobs. It goes on. The Murrungama gas project is a joint project between APLNG and Armour Energy. Thanks to this government's nation-leading gas policy, this project will be supplying gas to manufacturers only—to packaging manufacturers such as Orora and Orica's explosives plant at Gladstone.

Today I can also announce that the 2020 Queensland exploration program will be released this week. It flags nearly 7,000 square kilometres of highly prospective land that will be made available for exploration this year. This includes 108 square kilometres of metallurgical coal and 6,804 square kilometres for petroleum and gas. The petroleum release will include land for domestic-only supply. The first competitive tender will be released in March for the coal areas. This exploration program is an initiative of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It assists industry to plan their activities and informs local governments, communities and traditional owners of proposed activities.

Our resources companies need skilled people, and that is where this government is also supporting this industry and its jobs with our emphasis on STEM in school. Keen STEM students in high schools can participate in the Queensland Minerals and Energy Academy program, a partnership between the government and the Queensland Resources Council. This program links students with the resources sector and other STEM industries, giving them hands-on opportunities. That is how you foster jobs, opportunity and economic growth—only something the Palaszczuk Labor government can deliver.

## TAFE

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.05 am): As we start a new year I want to welcome the thousands of new TAFE students and apprentices picking up the tools of their trade for the first time across Queensland. From agriculture to automotive and from mining to manufacturing, over 16,500 young Queenslanders have taken up the opportunity to access free courses and apprenticeships and gain a valuable qualification for free.

The Palaszczuk government has opened the doors of opportunity wide for all young Queenslanders, particularly for those who may not have been able to afford to study. The practical courses they are undertaking will equip them with the skills for the jobs that are in demand and predicted to grow over the next decade. That includes jobs in the construction, electrical and automotive industries—three of the most popular free TAFE courses so far this year for school leavers. High-growth sectors like hospitality, child care and community services have also attracted lots of interest.

For 18-year-old Jessica Clarke from Bundaberg, free TAFE meant she could follow in her sister's footsteps and study a Certificate III in Early Childhood Education and Care. Jessica, who graduated from Bundaberg State High School in 2018, enrolled at the local TAFE Queensland campus and completed her early childhood qualification last year. Federal government data shows a projected employment growth of six per cent in education and training in the Wide Bay region over the next five years. Thanks to free TAFE, Jessica has been able to kickstart her career as an early childhood educator at no cost, with the qualification providing her with the knowledge and skills she needs to secure meaningful employment.

From Thursday Island to Coolangatta and from Mount Isa to Warwick, the Palaszczuk government is providing plenty of opportunities for students like Jessica throughout Queensland. With more than \$770,000 in VET funding annually, we have supported more than 200,000 Queensland students in the last financial year alone. Free TAFE and free apprenticeships are integral in providing the training and qualifications to cater for more jobs in more industries. The Palaszczuk government continues to show its commitment in addressing skill shortages in key industries while helping put young Queenslanders on the path to meaningful and rewarding careers.

## Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.08 am): Community safety is a key priority for the Palaszczuk government. It is why this year we delivered a record police budget and it is why we are delivering an extra 535 police personnel across our great state. It is that commitment to community safety that underpins our investment in building a state-of-the-art, world-class Counter Terrorism and Community Safety Centre at Wacol. This morning I visited the Wacol construction site and witnessed how advanced the project is. The project is on time and on budget, and it is rapidly taking shape.

The new complex includes two indoor live firearm ranges—the walls are up and the roof is on. The facility will also include a scenario village for specialist training. It too is rapidly taking shape. This facility will truly be world class, and it is already generating interest from other law enforcement agencies across Australia and overseas. It will give our police access to the best training in the world. The scenario village is being constructed in such a way that it will replicate a real-life urban environment that police could be required to conduct a counterterrorism operation within. It is this investment in training that helps make our police world class.

Over the last few weeks we have seen more police join the ranks of the Queensland Police Service. In fact, more than 110 new police officers have graduated from our police academies over the last few weeks. I will say that again: over 110 new police officers have graduated in the last few weeks.

They underwent the most rigorous training, and that training never stops. The Queensland Police Service is providing serving police officers with new training aimed at providing police with learning opportunities on sexual violence awareness. This training is initially being offered to officers across Logan and the Gold Coast. The collaborative sexual violence education and awareness program is underpinned by a presumption of belief when crimes involving sexual violence are first reported. The program ensures that what follows is a course of fair, impartial and thorough treatment.

Police officers across Logan and the Gold Coast have been extensively engaged for many years on issues of domestic and family violence, and this training aims to enhance officers' understanding and capacity around the issues of sexual violence. Victims need to know that they are believed, they are understood and they are able to seek support and resources during and after an incident. This police education program is an Australian first and is further evidence that the Queensland Police Service will always strive to serve and support the community with the very highest standards.

## EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS COMMITTEE

### Report

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (10.10 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 29 of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee titled *Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 September and 15 October 2019*. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Education, Employment and Small Business Committee: Report No. 29, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 September and 15 October 2019 [[178](#)].

## TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

### Report

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (10.11 am): I lay upon the table of the House report No. 32 of the Transport and Public Works Committee. The report covers portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 4 September 2019 and 22 October 2019 considered by the committee. I commend the report to the House.

*Tabled paper:* Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 32, 56th Parliament, February 2020—Subordinate legislation tabled between 4 September 2019 and 22 October 2019 [[179](#)].

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Maleny Dairies

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (10.11 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

- notes the terms of ePetition 3268: Queensland residents draw to the attention of the House the decision by the Palaszczuk government that saw Maleny Dairies—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right! Premier, I have asked that motions are heard with respect and in silence. Please continue, member for Glass House.

**Mr POWELL:** I continue—

a Queensland owned and operated company, miss out on—

**Dr Miles** interjected.

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

**Mr POWELL:** I continue—

a supply contract for Metro North hospitals that was instead awarded to French and Chinese companies. This is in defiance of the government's 'Buy Queensland Policy'. The decision will have a significant impact on Maleny Dairies that would have used the contract to secure another Queensland owned dairy farming family and create jobs within that farm, working towards securing the future of the Queensland dairy industry; and

- calls on the Palaszczuk government to review the decision, including awarding at least a portion of the supply contract to Maleny Dairies, a proud Queensland owned and operated company.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.12 am.

### Mines and Quarries, Safety



**Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (10.12 am): My first question is to the Premier. In the last 18 months, eight Queensland workers have tragically died in Queensland mines and quarries. In July last year Minister Lynham announced two reviews to be conducted and publicly released by the end of 2019. Will the Premier explain why those two reviews have not been published and the government is keeping the families of those workers waiting for answers?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. My advice is that the minister plans to table both of those reviews in the parliament this week.

### Paradise Dam

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My second question is also to the Premier. Yesterday the Palaszczuk government rushed to start tearing down Paradise Dam, blindsiding the community with no consultation. Given Minister Lynham's promise in November that Paradise Dam was safe, will the Premier hold off tearing down Paradise Dam until the community has been consulted and the commission of inquiry has reported its findings?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I have said in this House publicly before—and the minister has said it personally when he has been up to Bundaberg—this is a matter of public safety. My government makes no apologies for taking any decision that is needed when it comes to public safety, just as we are taking decisive action when it comes to dealing with coronavirus. We will do what is in the best interests of the public. As the Leader of the Opposition knows, there are currently some amendments before the House. There is also an inquiry currently afoot. That inquiry has been—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Just take a good, long look at yourselves. This is about public safety and protecting the people of Bundaberg.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is not being provocative in her answer. Those on the other side are just screaming out so the Premier cannot be heard. They have asked the question; they should allow the opportunity for the Premier to be heard.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Leader of the House. I hope you will allow me the opportunity to maintain order in the House as well.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The experts also recommended that the wall be immediately lowered for safety reasons. I make no apologies for acting swiftly in relation to this matter.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Just as we act swiftly and decisively when it comes to bushfires, cyclones or any other natural disaster, we will take the necessary action. What would the opposition like us to do? Would they like to us to do nothing in this case and ignore public safety?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Not only that but all of the technical reports have been released in the spirit of full public disclosure. This is a public safety issue, and my government will act in the interests of the safety of the Bundaberg community.

### Ipswich, Defence Industry Hub

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Ipswich is rapidly becoming the centre for the Queensland Defence Force industry. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's new \$15 million Defence Industry Hub in Ipswich and how it will create jobs for the region?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for the question. I also thank the member for Ipswich, my assistant minister, and the Minister for State Development for attending Ipswich recently to tour the fire station and talk about what we are doing as a government to support the defence

industry. We know that whole corridor from Ipswich to Toowoomba down to the Gold Coast presents thousands of job opportunities into the future with a really strong defence focus here in Queensland. As a government, we want to do everything we can to get even more jobs in even more industries here in Queensland, and that is exactly what we are doing.

We know that the RAAF base at Amberley is Australia's largest defence air base, and the construction of the Milvehcoe at Redbank Plains will soon become a major manufacturing centre for land forces vehicles. In good news for 2020, it is soon going to be open. I cannot wait to be at that opening because that will mean hundreds of jobs—if not thousands of jobs—in the supply chain for the Ipswich community and that whole corridor. There are jobs that will flow on from that.

Defence also generates \$1.4 billion in export value for Ipswich and we want to see that increase over the years. We want more of our small to medium enterprises to take advantage of the growth that is happening locally in military and civilian defence activity. That will ensure more businesses are winning defence contracts and more local jobs are being created.

Locating the new facility at the Ipswich Innovation Hub will also encourage greater collaboration between businesses in the defence space and other industries. We also had the opportunity of meeting the CEO of respected TAE Aerospace which recently expanded its Ipswich operations with a new jet engine maintenance facility, which I understand will be opened very shortly in the electorate of Bundamba. The CEO, Andrew Sanderson, said, 'The hub will be a valuable resource for identifying opportunities and upskilling businesses to meet the expectations of the defence supply chain.' The Leader of the Opposition can laugh about jobs in the defence industry.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We know their record on jobs.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr Bleijie:** We want to know about the job in Bundamba.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

**Ms Trad** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Deputy Premier will cease her interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Perhaps the member for Kawana should take a deep look at what happened with the former member for Currumbin. That is what the member for Kawana should be doing—having a very long, deep look at the treatment—

*(Time expired)*

### **Murphy, Mr J**

**Mr MANDER:** My question without notice is to the Treasurer. Yesterday the Deputy Premier said that Jim Murphy resigned of his own accord from his position as Under Treasurer, a statement that is completely at odds with Treasury's 2018-19 annual report which states that Jim Murphy was paid a termination payment of \$297,000. If the Treasurer is correct, will the Treasurer now table a copy of Jim Murphy's resignation letter?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the Deputy Leader of the Opposition for the question. As I said in the House yesterday, Mr Murphy ceased his employment with the Queensland government by mutual agreement. His separation payment was completely in accordance with the contract.

### **Screen Industry**

**Ms SCANLON:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier tell the House about the jobs and economic stimulus to come this year in Queensland's vital screen production sector and are there any new projects?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Gaven for that question. She knows how important the screen industry is for the Gold Coast. It means one thing and that is jobs. It means hundreds and hundreds of jobs. Through our investment and our work with the screen production houses, both abroad and at home locally, we have been able to have a pipeline of jobs from the screen industry on the Gold Coast for many, many years since we have been in office.

Baz Luhrmann has started pre planning for his movie about Elvis on the Gold Coast. I see that Tom Hanks is enjoying many places on the Gold Coast. Perhaps we could invite him here to visit Parliament House and watch the opposition in action. We know that we have had local productions,

including *Loveland* and *Swimming for Gold*. We have also got the TV series *The Bureau of Magical Things* which starts filming this month, which is creating another 200 jobs. On the Gold Coast we have Eurovision—Australia Decides coming up this weekend which I think the member for Gaven is going to. The third season of *Harrow* is currently filming in Queensland. The three seasons of *Harrow* are estimated to have created more than 700 jobs and injected \$45 million into the economy of not just the Gold Coast but Brisbane as well. We know that we have had a bit of a fight when it comes to making sure the federal government puts its fair share in.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** There is a track record of the federal government rejecting Queensland. They are happy to give a billion dollars to New South Wales, but we do not get that.

**Mr Dick:** Two billion dollars.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Two billion dollars. I correct myself. There is a golden opportunity here to have another premier film being located on the Gold Coast. We have put in our share and the federal government are refusing to put in their share. If the federal government came to the party, we could make sure that this big production happens on the Gold Coast. In light of what has been happening with the tourism sector as a result of the coronavirus, this would be a stimulus and a great shot in the arm for the Gold Coast. Why isn't the Prime Minister backing the Goldie? Why?

**Ms Trad:** Taking it for granted.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He is taking it for granted. We will not. We will fight for jobs—every single job in Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee, Board Appointment**

**Mr LAST:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Documents released through RTI show that the Premier's office was provided with nominations for the Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee on 17 December 2018 but the process stalled in the Premier's office until an appointment was finally made on 18 June 2019, some six months later. Can the Premier explain why the gender of government board members appears to be more important to this government than the lives and safety of Queensland workers?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is an imputation that I reject from those opposite. We want to ensure that the best people are put on government bodies, but I also make no apology for getting 50 per cent of women on our government boards.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is a stark contrast between the LNP and this Labor government.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** In fact the Deputy Leader of the Opposition criticised the number of women on the Parole Board.

**Mr Dick:** Too many.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; too many. You either support women in this state or you do not support women in this state.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I notice the member for Maroochydore is interjecting. She had a lot to say recently about a certain arrangement between the president of the LNP and Clive Palmer. I would love to hear what the member for Maroochydore has to say in this House about that.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order under 118(b) and relevance.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I was taking an interjection.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Premier was not asked about what she is now speaking about.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I will ask the Premier to come back to the question. However, the Premier is correct that there was an interjection by a member and she was responding to the member's interjection.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I think the member for Maroochydore raised very legitimate issues.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore! Premier, I asked you to come back to the question as it was asked. Do you have anything further to add?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** If the member for Maroochydore would like to have five minutes talking about her statements about the president of the LNP, I am more than happy to let her talk about it—

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, Premier! Order! Premier, I asked if you had anything further to add regarding the question. You have not so I ask you to finish your contribution.

### **Youth Employment, Training and Skills**

**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 what actions the Palaszczuk government is undertaking to ensure young Queenslanders have the skills to give them access to more jobs in more industries?

**Ms TRAD:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. I know how committed he is to ensuring that young people right throughout our state, and particularly in his area in Townsville in the north, get the opportunities to access skills training and new job opportunities. I appreciate him raising this question with me.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is absolutely dedicated to ensuring that young people and all people have the skills they need to get the jobs they want in our economy—jobs that are here now and jobs that will appear tomorrow. We have backed that up by a number of programs, including Skilling Queenslanders for Work, free TAFE and getting more apprentices on through QBuild, as the Minister for Public Works referred to in his contribution earlier today. We have increased the mandated numbers for apprenticeship and traineeship hours on state government funded projects. This is what the Palaszczuk Labor government is all about.

It is really unusual, but we have found some support for our program from an unlikely quarter, and that is the LNP. I say 'unlikely and surprising support' because it was those opposite who axed Skilling Queenslanders for Work and have promised to do so again. It was those opposite who wanted to sack QBuild employees and did so. It was those opposite who did not fund any infrastructure projects on which to mandate traineeships and apprenticeship hours. It was a surprise for me to learn that the Leader of the Opposition has insourced some highly skilled PR individuals, a highly skilled PR company, to help in her strategic media communications.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** What do they do?

**Ms TRAD:** They provide a whole suite of PR opportunities on the taxpayer purse—\$5,000 for the Leader of the Opposition to get a PR makeover.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Don't they have media advisers?

**Ms TRAD:** Yes, they do have media advisers. Here is a person who points the finger at others and talks about makeovers when, in fact, there are documents and contracts suggesting that the Leader of the Opposition herself has had a taxpayer funded makeover. On top of that—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Maryborough and member for Caloundra, you are warned for quarrelling across the chamber. Members to my left, I cannot hear the Deputy Premier's contribution. I ask that you cease the level of interjection.

**Ms TRAD:** It appears that when those opposite want training or when those opposite want new skills, that is okay and they will put it on the public purse. However, when it comes to ordinary Queenslanders, everyday Queenslanders, young Queenslanders, whether it is through free TAFE or Skilling Queenslanders for Work, they are the first ones to line up to cut, sack and sell.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Kawana, you are warned. You will direct your comments through the chair.

### **Rail Infrastructure, Funding**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the Treasurer rule out the introduction of levies on the people of the Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast to fund the Sunshine Coast rail upgrade and Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3, as suggested by the Treasurer's former chief of staff and now Queensland Treasury general manager?

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Chatsworth is referring to a grand scheme from the former LNP Liberal prime minister Malcolm Turnbull around value capture. The member for Caloundra is actually asking me whether or not I support a federal Liberal Party policy—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Chatsworth.

**Ms TRAD:** Sorry, Chatsworth. I pass on my deepest and most sincere apology to the member for Caloundra. I do understand how much he would like not to be compared or confused with the member for Chatsworth, so he has my sincere apologies. The member for Chatsworth is asking me about my view on Malcolm Turnbull's ambitions for value capture to be rolled out for projects to be successful for federal government funding. This is a federal Liberal Party policy.

We have funded our fair share of the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line. Do honourable members know who has not? It is the federal government. The federal government has not funded their fair share of this project. If we want to talk about infrastructure opportunities and employment opportunities on the Sunshine Coast, let's talk about Mr Palmer's contribution to the Sunshine Coast economy.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the Deputy Premier is being responsive to the question asked. The level of interjection is too high.

**Ms TRAD:** We know—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Broadwater, I have just called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders. You waited less than a second.

**Ms TRAD:** The Sunshine Coast is a very important region of the South-East Queensland economy and the state economy as a whole. That is why it is this government that is making the types of investment we need for the Sunshine Coast to continue to grow.

**Mr Watts:** Roll out the new tax.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Toowoomba North.

**Ms TRAD:** I know those opposite do not particularly care about the Sunshine Coast. Like the Gold Coast, they take it for granted. They never supported light rail on the Gold Coast. They did not support the duplication of the Sunshine Coast rail line, Beerburrum to Nambour. Now they have sent their president, David Hutchinson, up there to learn at the knee of Clive Palmer, the man who sacked hundreds of workers in Townsville—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is standing order 118(b), relevance. The Deputy Premier was asked about increasing taxes or new taxes on the Sunshine Coast community, not what the Deputy Premier is speaking about.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I rule that there is no point of order. The Deputy Premier has been relevant in speaking about matters related to the Sunshine Coast throughout most of her answer as I have heard it. It is difficult to hear over the interjections. I believe the Deputy Premier is being relevant.

**Ms TRAD:** It is very important that we do talk about the Sunshine Coast economy, our infrastructure investment and how those opposite and the president of their party are learning at the knee of Clive Palmer how to sack and close down the Hyatt at Coolum, how to sack workers at QNI in Townsville—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, members to my right. I will cease giving cautions to members and immediately warn you under the standing orders or remove you from the chamber. I have been very clear with my guidance to the House this morning.

**Ms TRAD:** This is the important issue: does the Leader of the Opposition concur with the member for Maroochydore that a severe conflict exists in this arrangement? It is inappropriate, as the member for Maroochydore said. It is very clear that there are deep divisions on that side of the chamber—very deep divisions. The Leader of the Opposition should stand in her place and confirm the member for Maroochydore's statements.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I warn the member for Nicklin under the standing orders. Members, please take the hint.

### Job Creation

**Mr STEWART:** My question is of the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Can the minister please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's record on job creation, and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Townsville for the question. He is a great champion of the work the Palaszczuk government is doing to create jobs right across Queensland, particularly in regional Queensland. Last year the Palaszczuk government created over 1,000 jobs a week and it has created 235,000 jobs since we were elected in 2015—21,000 of those jobs through Back to Work and 28,000 of those jobs through Skilling Queenslanders for Work. We are a government that is absolutely committed to creating jobs and we are helping to create more jobs in more local industries.

What about those opposite? Of course, we have heard already they took plans to the last election to slash Skilling Queenslanders for Work and slash Back to Work. What about their record in government? Campbell Newman and his then assistant minister the member for Nanango said public servants had nothing to fear, but of course 14,000 of them were sacked. That included front-line doctors, nurses, teachers and teacher aides. Is any of this surprising coming from the Queensland LNP when their own party president is now working for Clive Palmer? This is the same Clive Palmer whose multiple business failures cost Queenslanders their jobs.

While many of those opposite clearly have ignored this new career move from their party president, there is at least one LNP member who remembers how bad Clive Palmer was for Queensland, and that is the member for Maroochydore. The member for Maroochydore remembers how many people on the Sunshine Coast lost their job when Clive Palmer took over that resort, which was booming at the time and is now a complete white elephant. Six hundred people on the Sunshine Coast lost their job and 800 workers at Queensland Nickel lost their job. The party president is now working for Clive Palmer. The member for Maroochydore has said it is incompatible and there is a conflict of interest, but what have we heard from the Leader of the Opposition?

Once again, when there is a hard decision to be made, the member for Nanango goes missing. Once again, when there is a test of leadership, the member for Nanango has been found wanting. Her own party president is now working for the leader of a rival political party. The member for Maroochydore had the guts to say something, but not the Leader of the Opposition. She refused to call out racist comments from Young LNP members on the Gold Coast and has spectacularly failed to bring her party faithful together in the key seat of Currumbin. In the words of Alan Jones, she could not have made an impression on a pin cushion.

*(Time expired)*

### State Schools, Air Conditioning

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to almost half of the additional 300 schools that did not receive promised air conditioning before the start of term 1. What action has the Premier taken against the education minister for failing to deliver for the parents, teachers and students at the schools, including Albany Creek State High, Bundaberg State High, Chatsworth State School and even Centenary State High School, where the Premier stood next to the member for Mount Ommaney to announce Labor's air-conditioning policy in November last year? Will the Premier now apologise?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** People love the fact that we are air-conditioning their schools.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for McConnel.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We were out with the member for Mount Ommaney and the Minister for Education—they love us out there.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right: on this side action; on that side all talk. What did they do when in office? That is the LNP. I just now thought what 'LNP' stands for: Liberal National Palmer Party. I have the rebranding. You do not need a PR firm; I came up with it myself. The 'Liberal National Palmer Party' is perfect for them!

Let me say this. I want to thank the schools for all the work they are doing. Before Christmas we announced that we wanted extra classrooms built.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Toowoomba North.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is happening. I look forward to announcing more once that is done. I very much thank the education department for all the work it is doing. Not only were we working on delivering eight new schools and the 2020 Ready Program; we were working on delivering the rollout of air conditioning.

**A government member:** Oops!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, the Leader of the Opposition's 'oops' is for her dealings with Clive Palmer and her dealings with the former member for Currumbin. It is an absolute mess.

We will continue to roll out that program. It is money very well spent. As I said, I look forward to announcing more air conditioning once that round is completed. There are also processes that need to be followed in terms of tenders. It all must be audited. Of course, there are tradespeople to get the work done.

While I am on my feet, I thank the education department for the way in which it has been dealing with the coronavirus and for the way in which it also opened eight brand-new schools—the most schools opened in 30 years in this state—under a Palaszczuk Labor government.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Toowoomba North, you have been consistently and continually interjecting all morning. You are warned under the standing orders.

### Coronavirus, Response

**Mrs LAUGA:** My question is of the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning. Can the minister update the House on how the federal government will support Queenslanders to recover from the impacts of novel coronavirus and whether the minister is aware of any other approach?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question. She knows about the impact of disasters in her community. Since she has been the member for Keppel, she and her community have weathered cyclones, floods and bushfires—as has the member for Rockhampton and every member representing regional Queensland over the last five years.

What we heard today is that the Prime Minister is unwilling to provide national leadership and national support to our state. Queenslanders know what other states get when they are hit by natural disaster. As the Premier said earlier today, what did southern states get after the bushfires? They got some \$2 billion, without having to ask for it—no questions asked. There was some \$2 billion for southern states. Maybe we should have asked for that. Maybe we should have asked for \$2 billion! What does Queensland get? Absolutely nothing. We are not asking—

**Mr Molhoek** interjected.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Minister. Member for Southport, you will direct your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders. Member for Southern Downs, you are also warned under the standing orders for continual interjections.

**Mr DICK:** We are not asking for the federal government to pay the full bill; we are asking for cost sharing under Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Even then, this Prime Minister says no. He says no to Queensland. Meanwhile, back in the Leader of the Opposition's office, what do we hear? Absolutely nothing. She is spending \$5,000 of public money on strategic media planning. I say just quietly to the Leader of the Opposition that it does not seem to be working. The media planning over

the last two months does not seem to have been working. As Keith Woods said today in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, the Leader of the Opposition is a complete omnishambles. That is the approach she is taking. It is a mess. If you cannot lead on getting funding for Queensland, you sure cannot lead Currumbin. We have seen that over the last few weeks. It is an omnishamble.

The member for Maroochydore gets it. She knows quite clearly that the president of her own party has sold out her party. Dave Hutchinson has sold out his own party to go and work for another political party, Clive Palmer. She gets it. She is prepared to stand up for the LNP. She is prepared to stand up to her leader, and the Leader of the Opposition says absolutely nothing again. This is not leadership for Queensland; it is not leadership for the LNP.

We need funding for Queensland. We need disaster recovery funding assistance for our state. From Cairns to Coolangatta, we have communities at threat of significant job loss and under significant financial pressure. Businesses may very well close because of the coronavirus, and we get nothing from Canberra. It is not good enough. Every person in this House needs to support this government's call for financial support from Scott Morrison and for backing Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### State Schools, Air Conditioning

**Ms SIMPSON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. When the Premier announced the 300 additional schools to receive air conditioning over the summer break, why were no schools included from the Gold Coast or Sunshine Coast but nine schools located in the electorate of Inala?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members, the Premier has not even begun her contribution and there are interjections. I have made my thoughts clear about that.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The Department of Education listed the schools in accordance with the number of days that they receive humidity, heat and everything. Of course, out in the west—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** For goodness sake!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I don't set that list; the Department of Education sets that list.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. As I said, once this tranche is completed I look forward to announcing even more. I look forward to hearing members' views in relation to that.

### Gold Coast, Tourism Industry

**Mr POWER:** My question is to the Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and the Minister for Cross River Rail. Will the Minister update the House on the government's plan to support the Gold Coast tourism industry through major events?

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. It is great to be talking about the Gold Coast where they get sea breezes, unlike Inala. However, Inala is a great place to live, having family who live in Inala. The tourism industry is doing it tough right now and that is why it is so critical that we continue—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms JONES:** As I said, everyone has reflected—well, this side of the House has reflected—on the fact that the coronavirus is going to be very tough for the tourism industry. One way we can continue to support visitors coming to and staying on the Gold Coast is by backing major events. As a government we have been very strategic in growing the events calendar, worth around \$350 million when we came into government, but which is now valued at over \$880 million for our state.

As the Premier has said, this weekend there is Eurovision—Australia Decides on the Gold Coast which generated \$1.6 million for the city last year and we expect that in 2020 it will be an even bigger event. The weekend after that there is the NRL All Stars which generated \$4 million the last time it was on the Gold Coast. Tickets are on sale now, so if anyone wants to see the All Stars they should make sure that they go down to the Goldie next weekend for that. Then of course the Logies will be coming up later in the year and we will have a date locked in for the Logies to be announced very soon.

There is one other major event happening on the Gold Coast well before the Logies, and that is the Currumbin by-election. On the weekend we saw both sides of parliament going down to the Gold Coast for their campaign launches, but a very stark difference was noticed. It was my great privilege to be there with our amazing candidate, Kaylee. Guess what? I was joined by all of my mates. There was the Minister for Main Roads, the Minister for Education, the Minister for Employment, the Minister for Public Works, the Minister for Environment and the member for Gaven. Guess who—

**Mrs Frecklington:** There's the numbers!

**Ms JONES:** I will take that interjection, because the Leader of the Opposition was there all alone with the captain's pick. No members from the Gold Coast were there—not the member for Surfers Paradise, certainly not the member for Broadwater, and neither was the fallen member for Currumbin. She certainly was not going to front up, that is for sure. This shows that even Australia's worst driver could drive a semitrailer through the division in the LNP. You could be the worst driver in Australia and you could drive a hole right through the middle of them because they are so deeply divided. It is not just in the sea breezes on the Gold Coast but in the sea breezes on the Sunshine Coast. They are also fighting amongst themselves. I would, too. I absolutely agree with the member for Maroochydore. It is shameful that—

*(Time expired)*

### Olympic Games Bid

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the Premier. How many staff and consultants have been engaged by the Olympic task force and what is the expected cost of the 2032 games bid?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. My understanding is that officers have been seconded not only to work in relation to the value proposition initially but also as we move forward into the prefeasibility. As we know, the Commonwealth Games was a great success for Queensland. It put Queensland on the stage and I firmly believe that the Olympics would have the opportunity to really set Queensland up for the future in a whole range of avenues like the Commonwealth Games did. However, we have to get the work done. There are regular meetings that I attend along with representatives of the Commonwealth, and Minister Jones attends those, as does John Coates. In fact, our next meeting will be next week.

The Olympics also give an amazing opportunity in relation to infrastructure and we are working very closely with SEQ mayors, but there also are opportunities for regional Queensland prior to the Olympics and afterwards. However, a lot of work needs to happen before that decision is made.

My understanding is that a formal candidature process would not take place until next year, but that does not mean that we will stop doing work. We will continue to work, and there will also be opportunities for regional centres to partake and host a range of events. As I said, if a Queensland Olympics do go ahead they would need to be inclusive of all of Queensland, and we saw that with the Commonwealth Games when events were run in Cairns and Townsville. The Commonwealth Games relay baton went through large parts of Queensland showcasing it to the world, and then of course there are the legacy items that they leave. On the Gold Coast—and Gold Coast members would attest to this—the infrastructure that was built, especially for the sporting events, is now being utilised for other championships and also for our school students and sporting clubs. There is a lot of opportunity, but a lot of work needs to happen. I welcome the fact that it has bipartisan support from the LNP. We will continue to work in the spirit of cooperation to give Queensland the very best chance of having a go.

### Road Infrastructure

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's record road infrastructure program, including upgrades on the M1 and Bruce Highway on the Sunshine Coast?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Macalister, who has a very strong record in standing up for the M1 and M1 upgrades. I am very pleased to report that the M1 upgrades are going very well. On the Gold Coast the works from Varsity Lakes to Mudgeeraba are progressing extremely well. The merge at the Gateway is going very well. As soon as those two projects are finished, two much bigger ones—four and five times their size—will start soon after. We are upgrading exit 57. We have upgraded exit 54 and the designs are out for exits 41 and 49. Light rail stages 2 and 3 were built by this government.

We have a candidate in Currumbin who supports those sorts of things—infrastructure for the Gold Coast. Let us compare that to the record of the LNP—not a single new dollar on the M1 during its time in government. It never stood up for the Gold Coast for better federal funding and now its Brisbane

headquarters has preselected its blow-in candidate who admitted to growing up in New South Wales. Those opposite not only cut infrastructure under Campbell Newman; they have now cut out the branch members from having a say on their candidate in Currumbin. They cut Chris Crawford from being able to contest the preselection and now they have the member for Burleigh representing their candidate at candidate forums. She is not even going to candidate forums! Before Christmas I said that there was anarchy on the GC under the LNP, and how right was I? No wonder the member for Surfers Paradise has his premier's chair. The numbers are being counted.

The Bruce Highway upgrade on the Sunshine Coast is going very well and will open towards the end of this year. That is very good, but what is not brilliant is the division in the LNP on the Sunshine Coast where its two most experienced Sunshine Coast MPs, including a frontbencher, have shown some actual leadership and stood up against Clive Palmer employing its party president. They have shown leadership. The most experienced MP in this House, the member for Maroochydore—the first female Speaker—has shown the leadership that the member for Nanango has not.

Meanwhile, the other Sunshine Coast MPs—most of them novices—are all saying nothing. They seem to think that the Liberal-National-Palmer party is a good thing. They seem to think that the Clive Palmer LNP alliance is a good thing. I will tell members something: our candidates look forward to running hard against the Palmer LNP alliance on the Sunshine Coast because Sunshine Coast residents remember how he wrecked the resort, wrecked jobs, wrecked jobs on the Sunshine Coast, wrecked jobs in Townsville. How can you be employed by Clive Palmer and be president of a different party? It is a conflict of interest and the Leader of the Opposition has not dealt with it.

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services**

**Ms BATES:** I table a paid political Facebook advertisement by the health minister using the coronavirus to attract people to like his political Facebook page.

*Tabled paper.* Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Dr Steven Miles, in relation to the coronavirus [180].

Does this meet the Premier's standards for a minister: to use a health crisis to boost his own political profile rather than directing people to official information channels and the Queensland Health website?

**Ms Palaszczuk:** Who's she asking it to?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! It is to the Premier, as I understand it.

**Ms BATES:** To the Premier, sorry.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** She didn't say that.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry. I thought I heard her. She did not indicate?

**Ms Palaszczuk:** No.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I apologise. I thought I heard her say it was to the Premier. Can you please repeat the question so that the person who is receiving that question can hear it?

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Premier. I tabled a paid political Facebook advertisement by the health minister using the coronavirus to attract people to like his political Facebook page. Does this meet the Premier's standards for a minister: to use a health crisis to boost his own political profile rather than directing people to official information channels and the Queensland Health website?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am advised that there was no expenditure of taxpayers' money and I am also advised that at the briefing the minister asked all MPs to share it to make sure that people were getting the information.

### **QBuild**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is building the next generation of QBuild and is he aware of any other approaches?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Rockhampton. I know the member for Rockhampton agreed with the Premier when she said rebuilding QBuild is a landmark decision, one that sets us apart from the LNP. She was right. The Palaszczuk government is rebuilding QBuild. We are rebuilding QBuild after the LNP's cuts. In fact, the LNP scooped up 1,654 QBuild jobs and threw them out the

window. They dashed the hopes of Queensland apprentices. But there is hope, because today I am very pleased to announce that we are engaging the first tranche of 300 tradies and apprentices. I can let the House know that seven new apprentices and tradies are about to start in Rockhampton; eight new apprentices and tradies will start in the electorate of Cairns; 12 will pick up jobs in Caboolture; and six will begin work very soon in the Wide Bay.

This party believes in jobs for all Queenslanders. I am very pleased to announce that six of those new apprentices from this intake are ADF veterans. I am pleased to announce further that 10 per cent of the apprentices are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. I am pleased to announce that 10 per cent of the apprentices that we are engaging are living with a disability. I am also very pleased to announce that we have exceeded the national target of 11 per cent women in frontline construction roles and now 14 per cent of our apprentices are women. We stand for jobs for all Queenslanders.

These new apprentices and tradies will be welcomed here in parliament in just a couple of weeks time. That is 300 additional carpenters, electricians, plumbers and fridgies delivering services to Queensland. They have already been out there. They were part of the first responders responding to the monsoon in North Queensland about a year ago; they have built those school classrooms when they were damaged by fire; when asbestos has been discovered in communities they are there within minutes; and they are building fully accessible social housing in Toowoomba right now. We are reversing the LNP cuts to QBuild. Our record on construction jobs is a stark contrast to the LNP, which oversaw the loss of 6,300 construction jobs across Queensland during its term. The Queensland LNP cannot be trusted on jobs for Queensland tradies. They burnt QBuild to the ground and put more than half of its workforce out of a job.

I especially want to thank the Queensland trade union movement for working with this government to help restart the QBuild program. I thank the ETU, the CFMMEU, the plumbers' union and the AMWU.

### **Coronavirus, Tourism Industry**

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to today's round table with the tourism industry in light of the crippling cancellations due to coronavirus. Will the Premier urgently agree to destination-specific marketing funding, fee relief for operators and critical airline support or will today's meeting be yet another political punch-on?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Broadwater for the question. He must have missed the first half of parliament today because what we have just found out is that with any measures we put in place we are going it alone. That is what the leader of his political party has said to the Queensland government: you go and do it all yourself. It is absolutely disgusting to think that the Prime Minister of this nation will not help Queensland and Australia in its time of need. It is an absolute and utter disgrace.

We need every single person in this parliament to support our industry and to get behind the Queensland government to get cost sharing with the federal government. That is what we do in other natural disasters. That is what we have done through bushfires, that is what we have done through the north-west floods and the cattle crisis. We all pitched in and worked together. Today I am in complete shock that the Prime Minister of our country, who is prepared to help the southern states—

**Ms Grace:** They're not in shock!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No, they are not in shock because maybe they do not care. The Queensland economy is very important. Our No. 1 focus was on the containment of the virus. That was the key public health message and what the health minister and the Chief Health Officer are fundamentally focused on. Today, at the first opportunity, we are getting the stakeholders in to hear the impacts that they will see over the short term and the long term. It is this government that is acting decisively. What we hear from the corridors of Canberra is stone-cold silence. They have washed their hands of it. They do not care about Queensland.

We are not going to leave the industries in the dark. We are going to hear from them their ideas and what we can do to assist them. We will not leave them on their own. This is exactly what we have done in relation to the way we have dealt with other natural disasters in this state where we have worked with industry and we have built back better than before and more resilient. This is having a huge impact on tourism, aquaculture, agriculture and international education and it is absolutely disgraceful that the federal government has written to us today to say thanks but no thanks. The LNP sitting over there, what is their view?

### Health Services, Doctors

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is to the Minister for Health and the Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on the next generation of doctors to join Queensland Health?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question. I know what a passionate advocate she is for health care in her region. Recently I was with her in Mackay and Sarina where we made a couple of really important announcements. First of all, thanks to the advocacy of the member for Mackay, we have extended the cardiac catheter laboratory at the Mackay Hospital to be a 24/7 service which is important for locals in Mackay. We also announced that we would spend a bit over \$30 million to build a new hospital in Sarina which will mean better health services closer to home for folk who live in and around Sarina and also take some pressure off Mackay Hospital from those patients who currently travel. That is precisely what Labor governments do: we expand services and we build new hospitals. We also employ more doctors, more nurses and more health professionals.

As I travel all around this state I am blown away by the dedication of our Queensland Health staff. We have a world-class hospital system delivered by world-class health staff. Those world-class hospitals are fantastic places to train world-class doctors.

I am really pleased to advise the House that this year we are welcoming 768 new medical interns into our hospitals, that is, 768 junior doctors who, one day, will develop a new treatment or cure a disease. In fact, every single one of them has dedicated their career to saving the lives of Queenslanders. I congratulate them on getting to this stage. They will be deployed to 20 hospitals across the state, including 15 rural and remote hospitals. The member for Mackay and I met one of the interns at Sarina Hospital. I am pleased to advise her that 43 of the interns will be deployed to the Mackay HHS. Sixty-one of them have taken up intern positions with the world-leading Rural Generalist Pathway program.

While those opposite sacked doctors, nurses and healthcare workers and spent all of their time fighting with doctors, it is this side of the House that is training the doctors of the future, employing the doctors of the future, building the hospitals of the future and delivering better health care for all of Queensland. That is what every member on this side of the House, including the member for Mackay, is dedicated to doing.

### Cross River Rail, Asbestos

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Cross River Rail. It has been revealed that Workplace Health and Safety inspectors have been called to the Albert Street Cross River Rail site 23 times in just a few months. Last year the minister assured the House that there was no asbestos risk from the Albert Street site and that the project was in full compliance with health and safety laws. How can Queenslanders have confidence in the minister's promise that Cross River Rail was in full compliance and there was no risk from asbestos when workplace inspectors have been continually rating the work site?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, you have one minute to respond.

**Ms JONES:** I thank the honourable member for the question. We on this side of the House strongly believe that all workers deserve to feel safe at work, as do all patrons. In line with the public comments that the CEO of the Cross River Rail Authority made yesterday in answer to the same inquiry that the member has raised today, I can assure the member that all steps are being taken to ensure safety. I am advised that there have been no breaches. In relation to this matter, we will continue to work very closely with Workplace Health and Safety to ensure the safety of patrons and also workers on the site. Of course, this would not be a problem if they had been elected at the last election, because they would not have funded Cross River Rail and Brisbane would have ground to a halt.

### Schoolteachers

**Mr KELLY:** My question is of the Minister for Education and the Minister for Industrial Relations. Can the minister update the House on how many new teachers have been employed across Queensland in 2020 and if there are any policy alternatives?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, it is a good question but, unfortunately, the period for question time has expired.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Member for Bundamba

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I have been advised that today marks the 20th anniversary of the member for Bundamba in the chamber. A week is a long time in politics; 20 years is a bloody long time!

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Coronavirus

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.12 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. notes:
  - (a) the World Health Organization's declaration that the novel coronavirus is a global health emergency;
  - (b) that every country across the globe either directly or indirectly has been affected in some way by this global health emergency;
  - (c) the uncertainty this virus is causing for the community;
  - (d) the Queensland community's cooperation in the public health response to this virus;
  - (e) the economic impacts to Queensland and the country;
  - (f) the tourism impacts, particularly to small to medium sized operators right across Queensland;
  - (g) the international education impacts, particularly to our higher education sector;
  - (h) the impacts on our agriculture, fishing and aquaculture industries;
  - (i) the strong proactive steps taken by the Palaszczuk government to protect Queenslanders and its visitors; and
  - (j) the Prime Minister's recent response to Queensland refusing to declare this virus a natural disaster under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; and
2. calls on the Prime Minister to declare this global health emergency a natural disaster under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, given the scale of this public health emergency and its potential as a national significant disaster event.

## MOTIONS

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.13 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning be permitted to immediately move the motion of which the minister has given notice earlier today, with the following time limits to apply: five minutes for all members; total number of speakers before question put—12 members.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### Coronavirus

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Manufacturing, Infrastructure and Planning) (11.14 am): I move—

That this House:

1. notes:
  - (a) the World Health Organization's declaration that the novel coronavirus is a global health emergency;
  - (b) that every country across the globe either directly or indirectly has been affected in some way by this global health emergency;
  - (c) the uncertainty this virus is causing for the community;
  - (d) the Queensland community's cooperation in the public health response to this virus;
  - (e) the economic impacts to Queensland and the country;
  - (f) the tourism impacts, particularly to small to medium sized operators right across Queensland;
  - (g) the international education impacts, particularly to our higher education sector;

- (h) the impacts on our agriculture, fishing and aquaculture industries;
  - (i) the strong proactive steps taken by the Palaszczuk government to protect Queenslanders and its visitors; and
  - (j) the Prime Minister's recent response to Queensland refusing to declare this virus a natural disaster under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements; and
2. calls on the Prime Minister to declare this global health emergency a natural disaster under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, given the scale of this public health emergency and its potential as a national significant disaster event.

Earlier today the Queensland government received advice that the Prime Minister has denied Queensland's request that the novel coronavirus outbreak that is impacting the state and nation will not be declared a natural disaster for the purposes of Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. It was not that long ago—18 March last year—so we will remember the Prime Minister's hubris on his re-election. We will remember his declaration on that night when he said, 'How good is Queensland!' Unfortunately, the Prime Minister has been short-changing Queensland every day since. If this is what gratitude looks like, we can only imagine what the Prime Minister would have done to Queensland if we had voted against him. Today we have learned of the decision by the Prime Minister not to declare novel coronavirus a disaster for the purposes of the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, which is perhaps the most short-sighted and mean-spirited policy decision of his short-sighted and mean-spirited leadership. It is more than disappointing; it is a betrayal of our state.

In this debate I very much look forward to hearing the Leader of the Opposition's response to this motion. This is a test of her leadership. We know that her leadership is fracturing. We know that the opposition is splitting, just as it has split in Canberra, and I will say a little bit more about that later. This is a test of the opposition leader and her capacity to put the interests of Queensland and its people ahead of her commitment to the dodgy policy agenda of her colleagues in Canberra and the dodgy policy agenda of her LNP colleagues in Queensland. On every occasion that she has faced a similar choice, she has put Canberra and the LNP ahead of Queensland. This motion represents an opportunity for the Leader of the Opposition to finally show Queenslanders that maybe—just maybe—she is on their side.

Quite simply, the Leader of the Opposition needs to focus less on worrying about a king-size bed and start worrying about the king-size threat that this insidious virus poses to Queensland. She needs to worry less about her own interests and about her own strategic media planning. She needs to worry less about a king-size bed and worry more about the threats to the Queensland economy. The Leader of the Opposition's call for more support for the tourism industry will be as hollow as Barnaby Joyce's loyalty pledge, unless she backs this motion. Unless she picks up the phone and calls Scott Morrison—and one would have anticipated that she would have already called her LNP colleague—and backs Queensland's reasonable request for not the \$2 billion that other states have received but cost sharing in response to this disaster, she shall stand condemned.

It is no wonder that Scott Morrison has no interest in Queensland, because the federal government is in disarray. We have seen the aborted leadership challenge of Barnaby Joyce, who was running on an anti-environment platform, laying bare the deep divisions in the coalition. That man does not believe in climate change and he wanted to become the deputy prime minister. Honourable members will remember that at Christmas time he said how much he wanted the government out of his life. He wants the government out of his life so much that he wants to be deputy prime minister and run an anti-science, anti-climate change agenda. It is no wonder that they are split in Canberra.

It is no wonder that the Prime Minister cannot make a decision to support Queensland, because his government is in chaos, just as the LNP is split here, from the top of their organisation down. The president of their party is willing to work for the leader of another political party, the funder-in-chief of opposition politics in this country. Clive Palmer spent \$80 million or more—

**A government member:** \$89 million.

**Mr DICK:** \$89 million; I take the interjection. That is what he spent on the last federal election to back in the coalition to oppose progressive reform in this country and, of course, they say nothing and the Leader of the Opposition has said nothing.

Will she stand up to the Prime Minister? Will the Leader of the Opposition say something and back our call for disaster relief funding to combat the effects of coronavirus? This is a very important motion. All members of the House should support our call. Queenslanders need assistance. Industry needs assistance. Business needs assistance. Regional communities need assistance. That is why all members should support the motion.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.19 am): I rise to address the motion moved by the minister. In so doing, I share the concerns of my colleagues in the LNP regarding the global health emergency with respect to the novel coronavirus. I extend my sympathies and those of the LNP team to the families of the victims who have already lost their lives and to those who are currently suffering from the ravages of this disease and are being treated not only in Queensland and Australia but also across the world. I also extend the concern and sympathy of this side of the House to businesses, particularly tourism and hospitality businesses, the length and breadth of Queensland that are suffering due to the economic impact of this virus.

There is no question that the impacts of this virus have only just started to be felt and it could potentially be many months before we have a full understanding of the impacts. It requires all levels of government—Commonwealth, state and local—to work together to ensure we not only address this initial outbreak and take the medical steps required to isolate those who are suffering from the virus to ensure it does not spread further but also measure and respond to the impacts on our economy in Queensland.

Let me reject the comments made by the minister that somehow this must become a politicised Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements argument. Labor has taken a global health emergency, politicised it and reached a new low in politics in this nation. We have known for some time that any time those opposite are struggling for relevance, are struggling to get a message out to the state—let's face it, they have no message for the state because there is no economic focus on this state and that is why we were languishing at the bottom of league tables before this virus even hit—or are in political strife, they blame the federal government.

Let us be clear, no global health emergency has ever been declared a disaster under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Why? They are not covered. Did former premier Peter Beattie call on John Howard to instigate Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements when the severe acute respiratory syndrome, SARS, hit this nation in 2002? No. More importantly, did former premier Campbell Newman go cap in hand to then Labor prime minister Kevin Rudd and demand that the response to the human swine influenza, H1N1, be declared a disaster and therefore receive disaster recovery funding? No.

These global health emergencies do not fit under disaster recovery funding. Do they require a coordinated response from the Commonwealth and the state? They sure do. Through the course of these kinds of emergencies over the last two decades both sides of politics have acknowledged that they fall outside the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. This is a new low. Just because they are broke and they have no clue how to manage this state it does not mean they need to politicise human suffering and tragedy. It is not necessary.

The Commonwealth government stands ready to work alongside this state government. They will do what is necessary to ensure that not only the medical emergency is addressed but also the economic impacts are mitigated and responded to. It does not require this kind of politicisation nor does it require a change to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements that have stood this nation in good stead through thick and thin for centuries. This needs to stop. The Labor Party needs to stop playing politics with people's lives and start acting like the government of this state and do the job they were elected to do.

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (11.24 am): I rise to support the motion presented to this House. I will pick up where the former speaker finished—that is, our care and prioritisation of people's lives. In responding to the novel coronavirus the Palaszczuk Labor government has stood head and shoulders above other jurisdictions and the Commonwealth in terms of, first and foremost, prioritising the lives and health of Queenslanders in its deliberations. Those opposite who say that that is not the case should simply review the facts. Of course, we know that those opposite do not like facts, evidence and truth.

The argument advanced by those opposite that just because it has not been done in the past it should not happen now is a less than ideal argument.

**Mr Crandon:** Especially if you are a Labor government in desperate financial straits.

**Ms TRAD:** That interjection comes from the member for Coomera who has, in his electorate, benefitted from the fiscal decisions made by this government when it comes to new schools, new transport and new roads in his electorate—

**Mr Crandon:** Because it is the fastest growing region in Queensland you've got no choice.

**Ms TRAD:** He speaks against the budgets that see investment in his own electorate.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Ms TRAD:** The member for Coomera should hang his head in shame. He speaks against our budgets that deliver for his electorate, which did not get anything under the Newman LNP government, and complains about it now.

The coronavirus will have a significant economic impact on our state. Josh Frydenberg, the federal Treasurer, has earlier this week been saying that this virus will have a \$13 billion impact on our nation's economy. The last time I looked, Queensland was part of the national economy—the national economy that was already quite anaemic before the season of bushfires and the novel coronavirus hit. It was anaemic because those at a federal level have refused to follow or heed the warnings of the Reserve Bank, the Business Council of Australia or any other economic commentator in Australia or the world to actually lift their game and start stimulating the economy.

We have a national economy that the Liberal National Party at a federal level had presided over and was incredibly weakened before we had the bushfire season and before we had the coronavirus. When the Premier writes to the Prime Minister and says, 'Before we feel the full impact of the coronavirus on our agricultural industry, on our tourism industry and on our goods export industry, we need to come together and you need to extend the natural disaster recovery arrangements to this event,' he comes back and says, 'No, you're on your own.'

China's influence and China's value to Queensland's economy is 6.5 times more than it was when SARS hit. The importance of China in terms of a source market for our terrific exports is significantly higher. They account for a third of all of our exports. Those opposite want us to simply sit down, stay quiet and not lobby the federal government for their fair share in terms of responding to this crisis in our state. That might be the track record of those opposite—that is, to not stand up to Canberra—but they have to be representatives for Queensland when it comes to engaging with Canberra and not be lapdogs for the federal LNP here in Queensland. It is absolutely outrageous that they take that tack.

Every single member from a regional community that relies on exports should go back and tell their communities that the LNP at a state level is unwilling to stand up to the LNP in Canberra. While they are at it, they should tell their communities that the Leader of the Opposition was missing in action when it came to this debate. She is not even on the speaking list. One of the biggest potential threats to our state economy—

**Ms Bates:** Where's the Premier? Is the Premier on the speaking list?

**Ms TRAD:** I will take that interjection. The Premier of this state has been not only dealing with the coronavirus but also talking about it in this House for the last two days. I do not know where the member for Mudgeeraba has been. The member for Nanango, the Leader of the Opposition, should stand up to Canberra as the leader of our state, Annastacia Palaszczuk, is.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (11.29 am): I, too, rise to address the motion. In doing so, I start, as the member for Glass House did, by clearly and squarely saying that this is indeed a global health emergency. First and foremost, we must address our comments in that prism. First and foremost, we must acknowledge that there are families who have lost loved ones. There has been a great degree of uncertainty and social unrest, and all of our comments should be viewed in that prism.

It is essential though that, as a state that relies so heavily on particularly tourism, we have to reflect on the importance of the Chinese tourism market to our economy and indeed the importance of tourism as a whole. It is there that I will make my contribution on the minister's paragraph (f)—that is, the impacts on tourism.

Contrary to the member for South Brisbane who stood up and, in a very loud and animated fashion that was missing yesterday, said that we will stay quiet on this, I am not staying quiet on this. I want Canberra to come forth and assist us. The mechanism by which that happens is a matter for Canberra. Of course we want to see assistance, but do you know what I want to see right now, Madam Deputy Speaker? I want to see something for those industries and those operators who are on their knees.

Today there is a round table here in Brisbane, and that is an excellent initiative if it delivers something other than a political punch-on. If it is used as nothing more than a stalking horse to start this ridiculous notion that the only way that Canberra can fund something is through disaster recovery and the only way the state can give some form of contribution is if it comes through Canberra, all it will

see are businesses going to the wall. There are operators at the moment in places like the Gold Coast and in the far north, and in centres in between, who are holding on by their fingertips. There are people who work for those businesses who rely on that casual shift to put food on the table for their families and they are holding on by their fingertips. They do not want a debate today about whether or not disaster funding has to be triggered or whether or not some sort of political games will unfold. They want support.

Oppositions always get accused of not putting forward positive solutions. Madam Deputy Speaker, let me give you three that could happen today. If these three happen today, you would have businesses staying alive and you would have towns with faith. Then we can argue with Canberra about how much they pay. No. 1: how about looking at a way that we can ensure that the airlines that currently fly into those centres continue to do so and indeed looking for new opportunities from markets not impacted by coronavirus to come into these markets and fill the void? No. 2: what about fee relief for those operators who have to pay their taxes? It might free up a few bucks to keep a casual employee on. No. 3: what about destination-specific marketing immediately to allow these regions to promote their point of difference in real money and strong money so that each of these industries can go forth? Yesterday the CEO of Destination Gold Coast was brave when she called out the pittance that was coming from this place. I commend the views of Annaliese Battista in doing so and indeed people like Mark Olsen in the Far North who are standing up to be counted in their hour of need.

How much does this mean for tourism places? In Cairns—and I see the member for Cairns will be making a contribution and I look forward to it—\$10 million has been lost already for that community. They were already knocking on death's door. They were already saying they were the worst conditions since the pilots' strike. Businesses were holding on by their fingertips, and this will compound it. Today is not a day for arguing with Canberra about how this funding occurs. We need to fight really hard to get it, but in the meantime this parliament must deliver something in the hour of need for Queensland tourism.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (11.34 am): This government has done everything it can to prevent the spread of this new disease. We have convened the Queensland Disaster Management Committee to ensure a quick, coordinated and comprehensive response. We have screened more than 650 travellers. We have tested 458 more people across the state. We have ramped up testing, as I outlined earlier, by expanding it to private pathology collection sites. We have set up fever clinics at three of our biggest hospitals and they are ready to be set up at others.

We have developed comprehensive information packs for hotels, cleaners, transport operators and other stakeholders. We have shared our experience and learnings with our interstate colleagues to assist them with their efforts. We have led calls for more to be done by the federal government, including providing states with border force intel on travellers' whereabouts and contacts, but we cannot do all of this alone. This is an international issue and we need a strong national response, national leadership, from the Morrison government. We need the Prime Minister to acknowledge the gravity of this situation for Queensland. Instead, they have let Queenslanders down.

They drag their heels in providing us with traveller details and contact information. Then when they did provide it, most of the contacts were missing. After days of calling on the feds to provide data—including a formal letter in writing at their request—they sent 699 names, but 555 of them were missing contact details. We have asked for those contact details, but we are still waiting.

The World Health Organization has declared the new coronavirus outbreak a global health emergency of international concern. When is Scott Morrison going to stand up and show some leadership? Since we have been in this House this morning, 255 more cases have been confirmed around the world. Since I gave my update this morning, 65 more people have died. Queensland Health is working around the clock to get information to the public. They have sent 1,749 text messages to families of Queensland schoolchildren recently returned from China. 13HEALTH have fielded 828 calls about this outbreak day and night. They have completed 620 nurse assessments.

Our amazing Chief Health Officer is talking to her state and federal colleagues every single day. She has been liaising across government agencies including Transport and Main Roads, the Department of Housing and Public Works and the Queensland Police Service every day. Again, she has had to write to the Commonwealth Department of Health requesting data on all travellers and all Australian citizens who left China up to 14 days ago. We should not have to take time away from our health response to the outbreak to plead with the Morrison government to provide us with the information we need.

What has the opposition done to help with this huge effort? Have they contacted their federal colleagues on our behalf? No, they have not. Instead, it appears the opposition were fixated in question time on my Facebook page—and I welcome that. It is a very good source of information about the novel coronavirus. Yesterday, I asked all members to share the health information through their communication channels, and I note that many have. The member for Noosa, for example, posted the health advice yesterday, and I welcome that. But do you know what, Madam Deputy Speaker? The Leader of the Opposition has posted on Facebook 26 times since this health emergency began—her poor followers. Do you know how many times she has shared the Queensland Health advice? Not once, not even since the briefing yesterday, attended by her office, when I asked all MPs to share the information. She did not go.

**Ms Bates:** I am pretty sure you were going to send the information to all MPs.

**Dr MILES:** The opposition spokesperson, who is interjecting now—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Mudgeeraba, you are still on the speaking list. Your time will come. Your interjections are not being taken.

**Dr MILES:** The opposition spokesperson has posted on Facebook seven times since the briefing but has not bothered to share the health information. It is easy to find: it is on my Facebook page. Instead of posting glamour shots on Facebook, maybe they could share the health advice and help us get that message out. Once they have, maybe then they could pick up the phone to their mate in Canberra, 'Scotty from Marketing', and ask him to help them out, get this issue off their agenda, and support Queensland's effort to help our tourism and other industries through this.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.40 am): Listening to the health minister talk about someone from marketing, a fellow who ran a petition page to change the name of the Lady Cilento hospital rather than doing the work he should be doing and making sure we have a health system that works, is like shipping coal to Newcastle. It is phenomenal that this minister, whose own office was allegedly tapping away on a keyboard to fill in a petition to spend \$500,000 to change the name of a hospital because of pure political ideology, would lecture anyone about their response to a health crisis. It is quite frankly unbelievable, unacceptable and paints this motion in the light that it is. This is clearly a political motion from a government that is clearly and desperately worried about its prospects over the next eight or nine months—as they should be, given their disgraceful record in this state over the last five years.

This is pure politics, and nothing demonstrated that more than seeing the Premier pop up on morning TV claiming that this government had not received information when in fact it had been offered to them at 4 pm the afternoon before. Two hours after the Premier pops up on morning TV, a letter goes from the Chief Health Officer to Canberra saying 'please provide it', but it was actually offered at 4 pm the afternoon before. That is a sign of a government truly on top of its brief! This is part of a government where there have been more than 22 multilateral meetings to share information, including frequent meetings with Communicable Diseases Network Australia, of which Queensland is the chair. They are chairing the meetings which spread the information, yet today we have this purely political motion in order to save their ineffective and failed government.

We have never seen this before. Under the Beattie and Bligh governments we did not see it with SARS and we did not see it with swine flu. They did not put their hands up and say, 'Oh, woe is us!' What we are seeing is a government so hopelessly inept at managing its finances that it cannot respond to the problems that inevitably the winds of world tourism and the interconnectedness of our economies around the world—as the Deputy Premier said in relation to our reliance on China—blow across our shores. They fail to acknowledge the \$76 million in funding provided in relation to tourism announced by the Prime Minister on 19 January. That money included: a \$20 million domestic marketing campaign; a \$25 million global marketing campaign; \$10 million for regional tourism events initiatives; \$9.5 million for international media and travel and trade hosting; \$6.5 million for an Australian Tourism Exchange event; and \$5 million to boost diplomatic relationships and stations overseas.

In total, \$76 million was provided in response to the bushfire disaster that occurred in New South Wales, but this money is available if this government is adept enough and nimble enough—I believe that the member for Cooper would be nimble enough and adept enough if she is quick off the mark, which I am sure she is—to leverage that money and say, 'Let's use this to respond to the coronavirus that has now come across our shores.' That is not to mention the \$242 million the federal government

provided last year in response to the monsoonal storm events that swept across North and Far North Queensland—fifty-fifty with the Queensland government—that was provided by the Prime Minister and the federal coalition to ensure that people in the north had access to recovery resources so they can get on with rebuilding their lives, a process which is still underway. It was one of the fastest responses ever.

Now we have a government that is so broke it has no petrol left in the tank, a government that continually whinges and whines. 'We want to build a road, but the federal government is not paying for it.' 'We want to build a railway, but the federal government is not paying for it.' Before too much longer, the way they are going at the moment this government will be saying they want the federal government to pay for their re-election campaign. Here we are with a government \$91 billion in debt and no money in the bank. It is no wonder we have seen this atrocious political motion here today.

 **Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (11.45 am): My intention in addressing the chamber is not to attack other people or belittle anyone. My point is far more relative to what is happening in my electorate. Last year more than 200,000 Chinese visitors came to Cairns and, as you would expect, this contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to our local economy. Cairns is the fourth most visited Australian city for Chinese tourists behind Sydney, Melbourne and the Gold Coast. This makes our community particularly vulnerable since the federal government introduced its ban on Chinese travel to Australia. The ban on Chinese travel to Australia as a result of the global coronavirus health emergency is devastating for tourism operators not just in Queensland and Australia but also Cairns. As has been acknowledged by previous speakers, we have been doing it tough. Mark Olsen tells me that to date there have been 47,000 cancellations. The local industry expects this to rip \$300 million out of the Cairns tourism industry. We are looking at the likelihood of 1,700 jobs at risk. Unfortunately, we know there is more to come. We know that forward bookings have ground to a halt. Our industry is hurting and we need support to get through this.

The Palaszczuk Labor government has acted swiftly. The member for Clayfield touched on the \$76 million, and it is correct that the federal government put that money out there, but that initiative was as a result of what happened in the bushfires. This is going to be an entirely different kettle of fish. We are absolutely jumping on the back of that. As the minister said, this government has acted swiftly by putting in place multimillion dollar domestic marketing campaigns to give tourism operators an immediate shot in the arm at this very tough time. I want to acknowledge and thank the Premier for hosting the economy recovery meeting this afternoon with key players. It will be a great opportunity for our industry, particularly in Cairns, to let the government, key players and the minister reinforce what I have been saying: we are doing it tough. I know that Mark Olsen, the CEO of TTNQ, has been invited and will make his case for our region.

Our government will stand with the tourism industry and tourism operators in Cairns. We want to protect this industry and, most importantly, jobs. In fact, one in five Far North Queenslanders is employed in tourism. We need federal government support to market our destination in Australia and other international markets outside of China, leverage federal support and provide airline attraction funding. Our tourism operators need relief to help cover operational expenses during this dramatic downturn.

I can share some of my experiences. I was working in tourism in Cairns when 9/11 took place. It was an absolute disaster, and we as an industry secured support from both state and federal governments at the time. When SARS happened 17 years ago I was working in the tourism industry in Cairns. It was worth about \$130 million to our region; it is now worth \$1.6 billion. It is significant, without any doubt, but it is not just tourism. We have a significant aquaculture industry which I am sure the minister will talk about. It is huge. We also have foreign students. We have three universities and 16 English language colleges, and they will be feeling the pinch.

Besides the bickering that goes on in this place, the real world out there is hurting. I know that we as a government are listening. We are engaging. There are some parts of the tourism industry that will not be impacted as much as others. The Chinese business is high volume and it is powerful in a number of destinations. We will listen to this industry and we will do what we can. It is important that we listen to trade.

We cannot just turn up and impose our ideas. We are consulting. We are going through a process. We will work through this. We will get through this. If the federal government's silo of capital does not fit into this, they need to look at changing it. This is a national and international disaster and we all need to be getting involved and working together.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Pugh): Before I call the member for Mudgeeraba, I will re-read the list of warnings still valid until the lunch break. They are the members for Everton, Chatsworth, Burleigh, Murrumba, Coomera, Caloundra, Maryborough, Kawana, Broadwater, Ninderry, Buderim, Nicklin, Toowoomba South, Southern Downs and Southport. All of those members are on a warning. If they further interject, they can be ejected from the chamber.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.50 am): I note the motion we are debating here today says—

(a) the World Health Organization's declaration that the novel coronavirus is a global health emergency;

We all agree with that. It also states—

(b) that every country across the globe either directly or indirectly has been affected in some way by this global health emergency;

We agree with that too. It further states—

(c) the uncertainty this virus is causing for the community;

We agree with that. We also know that the LNP publicly supported the urgency motion yesterday to debate the bill later this week. The government has our support in relation to the global health crisis. What we do not support is the premise of this motion that the Prime Minister needs to bail out the Labor government yet again. We know the Rudd-Gillard-Rudd government never once, ever, declared a global health emergency and used natural disaster funding under the disaster recovery funding agreement.

Queenslanders are quite simply sick of this dog-ate-my-homework excuse and blaming the federal government. Yesterday we had a briefing from Dr Jeanette Young, which I was appreciative of. All members of this House are concerned, but what people are sick of is the politicking. As I said, we are sick of Labor blaming everybody else. This is a global health emergency and the politicking by the Palaszczuk Labor government is a new low, even for Labor, but we know that is what this government does best.

Last week was an absolute purler, with the Premier caught out jumping to conclusions on *Sunrise* and other early morning media appearances when she did not even have all the facts or she was ignoring them. I think the *Gold Coast Bulletin* did it beautifully in a cartoon, and I will table that.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, depicting cartoon relating to coronavirus [181].

It is a picture of the Premier rotating like a whirligig, whining that she did not get told anything. We know she was told, and we know that because Greg Hunt made a fool of the Premier in a press conference later that day. I have some of the transcript of that press conference and I would like to refresh your memories on it. Minister Hunt was asked the following question—

Minister, the Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk has been (inaudible) withholding information on people who could potentially be infected with the virus.

What is the policy around that? Wouldn't it be more beneficial to share that information with the states?

Mr Hunt replied—

Any information that we have, we have shared and we will share.

I would like to confirm that the Tigerair flight manifest, the emails, the contact numbers and other known details, were provided to Queensland at 4PM yesterday.

Just to reaffirm, those details were provided to Queensland at 4PM yesterday.

I would also indicate that in relation to daily engagement with Queensland, Queensland has been part of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee meetings of 20 January, 23 January, 24 January, 25 January, 27 January, 28 January, 29 January, 30 January and I believe there's one scheduled for today ...

Queensland has also been part of and indeed is the chair of the Communicable Diseases Network of Australia committee meetings—

The Premier made a fool of herself on that one.

We are sick of the Palaszczuk Labor government always blaming the federal government for everything. We are absolutely sick of it. Last week as I said the Premier made a fool of herself. Instead of blaming Canberra, she should be doing what the Leader of the Opposition has done. She should be calling on her government to provide an assistance package which could include: interest-free loans for affected businesses; local economic development plans, working with regional tourism

organisations; attracting more visitors by ramping up marketing in international markets other than China, including New Zealand, the USA and Europe; and boosting local tourism expenditure by encouraging Queenslanders to holiday at home. I would also like to table the LNP's policy for the benefit of the House. It is our plan to save tourism jobs here in Queensland.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 2 February 2020, from the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, titled 'LNP backs plan to save tourism jobs' [\[182\]](#).

That is what the tourism industry want. They do not want a political fight. They do not want their tourism jobs being treated like a political football. They want the Palaszczuk government to start working. Queenslanders know Labor is not working and we have seen it with the shark control program when they played politics with tourists and took the drumlines out. Here in Queensland we have not just an international health crisis; we have a public health crisis. We have seen crisis after crisis under Minister Miles, including renaming the Lady Cilento Hospital with a dodgy poll and now using his Facebook page instead of Queensland Health to disseminate information.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (11.55 am): I rise to support this motion. The impacts of the coronavirus are already being felt by the Queensland fisheries and agricultural sector which is exposed to this global health emergency. Queensland's agricultural and fisheries sector is an outwards facing and trade reliant sector that employs more than 400,000 Queenslanders in first and second stage processing. Agriculture's forecast worth for 2019-20 was to be \$17.8 billion, with drought already impacting Queensland. This new threat is no doubt unwelcome.

China, which is now impacted by coronavirus, is a close and longstanding trading partner. Our trade with China was worth \$1.53 billion in 2018-19, and China is a significant and growing export market for Queensland beef. I can speak firsthand on that. I visited Chongqing in China last year. They have an insatiable appetite for our clean, green produce. It is an important sector to look after and nourish. Other key exports to China include mandarins, edible nuts, beans, fish, crustaceans, hides and skins, sorghum and untreated wood.

Last night I was honoured to attend the Australia China Business Council dinner, along with the Premier and Mr Hinchliffe. I thank them for their positivity in such a difficult time. The fact is that China is Queensland's largest two-way trading partner and a major investor in our state. The rising incomes and increasing consumer demand across China have supported export opportunities for Queensland's food and fibre producers, backed by the 2015 China-Australia free trade agreement.

China's rapidly growing middle-class consumers are interested in fresh, high-quality fruit and vegetables, meat, sugar and other animal products which Queensland produces to world-class standards. It is a great reputation we have. I am proud as the agriculture minister to support that not only in this state but also nationally and globally.

Last night at the Australia China Business Council dinner there was a guest speaker who noted the close relationship between Australia and China. We stand with Chinese people during this difficult time. I am sure that many members will be in attendance at the parliamentary 2020 Lunar New Year celebration this evening on the Speaker's Green. China stood by us during the GFC and now it is our turn to stand with them. At this time of year with the Chinese Lunar New Year celebrations, there is a strong demand for our seafood—a demand that has been impacted by the coronavirus. This has directly impacted our fishers already. I note the calls from Eric Perez from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, whom my office has been in contact with directly. He said—

Newstart payments for example, you could get that to people very quickly to help them and hopefully not have all the bureaucratic red tape that goes with applying cos we need this assistance quite quickly and Government has the capacity to do that.

That is a position that this federal government can take and act on right now. Our agriculture and fisheries sector has been impacted by multiple natural disasters and drought over the past few years. In the fisheries sector, as a result of this coronavirus, we know internationally they will be impacted directly by coral trout and rock lobster sales. We know locally and domestically they are impacted already by mud crab sales. It is a direct impact right across this nation, right across our state.

Approximately 12 months ago the monsoonal event hit north-west of Townsville, and I must give credit to the Prime Minister. At that time he intervened and joined Queensland's response and worked with all levels of government to spontaneously deliver that funding. Now is not the time for the federal government to turn their back on Queensland and the Chinese community. The recent bushfires and now this virus have compounded the impacts on our agriculture and fisheries sector.

This is a global health emergency. We need the federal government to act; industry wants the federal government to act. The Prime Minister needs to declare this under disaster recovery arrangements. It makes perfect sense. What I am calling for is what industry wants: immediate action.

I also call on those opposite to pick up the phone and use their opportunity to engage with those federal parliamentarians. I know they have been squabbling due to their leadership challenges, but now is not the time for that.

*(Time expired)*

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (12.00 pm): We must work together in this time of economic crisis which is also a health crisis. The coronavirus is a global health emergency. We have seen our health authorities move swiftly to address it, knowing that, as with previous experience, the potential for greater loss of life is always there. In this interconnected world the health response becomes so critical. I have noted that as people in our own community sought to understand what this meant, they quickly realised that the measures that were being put in place limiting people's travel, which may have seemed harsh at the time, were first and foremost in the best interests of people's health. Unfortunately, there is a knock-on impact to our economy.

Before I get to that, I want to talk about our friends in the Chinese community here in Australia, those who are worrying about their families back in mainland China or wherever they are in the world. This is something that is causing great angst and great distress, and we must not forget that. We must ensure that in our communities we continue to reach out to people who are personally impacted or fear that personal impact because they have previously seen disasters in the health arena in China and other parts of the world.

I want to address the economic impact, particularly in relation to tourism and small businesses throughout Queensland. We must work together as a state and with our federal colleagues to come up with plans and ways to fund them. It is bizarre and disappointing that, instead, the state Labor government in Queensland has decided to play politics. They have pulled a stunt rather than a solution. They have an opportunity right now and the tools are in their hands as government ministers with access to budgets.

In 2017-18 alone Queensland had a \$33 million budget for government advertising that was spent. In the previous year—in the lead-up to an election year—surprise, surprise, this Labor government spent \$37 million. I would suggest that this Labor government has an opportunity to work together with our federal colleagues and to look first and foremost at what the response needs to be. We have already heard about practical solutions from the Leader of the Opposition, the LNP leader, Deb Frecklington, with the call for assistance packages such as interest-free loans for affected businesses; local economic development plans; working with regional tourism organisations; attracting more visitors by ramping up marketing in international markets other than China, including New Zealand, USA and Europe; and boosting local tourism expenditure by encouraging Queenslanders to holiday at home. I note also our shadow minister for tourism went further in response to requests from industry, particularly with regard to the assistance that is needed for marketing. That is why I would say to this Labor government that they are pretty quick to waste money on things such as a \$390,000 payout—and honourable members might think I am talking about the Premier's new chief of staff. No, I am talking about the payout to the former head of TAFE who, under this government, saw their employment come to an end I believe three months early and yet they got a \$390,000 payout.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms SIMPSON:** Yes, it is amazing. It is a bit more expensive than the gold watch people used to receive when they said goodbye. Then those opposite paid \$290,000 to the chap who is now the Premier's new chief of staff; he is back on the payroll here in Queensland. That is beyond a supercharged gold watch.

I have outlined that there are opportunities right now. This government has an advertising budget. They only have to take a portion of that and reprioritise it and focus it on where it needs to go. At a time when businesses from Townsville, Cairns, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and other parts of Queensland are calling out for assistance there is an opportunity to act now—

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for Innovation and Tourism Industry Development and Minister for Cross River Rail) (12.05 pm): This is one of those motions on which I wish I did not have to make a contribution because the answer from the Prime Minister to the Premier should have been a yes. Unfortunately, that is not what we have. We can stand in this parliament for as long as we like and

debate whether we have to use this mechanism or whether there are other mechanisms. However, the fact is that as we stand here today we have not been offered one dollar of assistance for the tourism industry and related industries in Queensland that are feeling the heat.

The federal Treasurer came out last week saying that the hit to the economy nationally is expected to be up to \$17 billion. He announced the hit, but he has not yet announced any support. I take the point of the member for Clayfield—he is quite right—\$76 million was announced some time ago, quite rightly, in response to the fires in southern states. Of course, Tourism and Events Queensland and I have been saying that we need a piece of that even though we were not directly affected by the fires in terms of damage to property and lives lost.

When I was on holidays ahead of Australia Day in Port Douglas, I started getting phone calls from tourism operators—before the coronavirus hit—that they were seeing significant declines in hotel bookings, as well as significant declines in the booking of experiences, particularly in communities such as Cairns—and honourable members have heard from the member for Cairns—and the Gold Coast. When we look at the data from Tourism Australia and TEQ, people around the world thought that the whole of Australia was affected by fire. This was particularly so in markets such as the US, Europe and China.

Now we are facing coronavirus. The Premier is absolutely right: this is a national disaster. The impacts will be in the billions of dollars and Queensland will be hardest hit. The communities that will be hardest hit in Queensland are Cairns, the Gold Coast and the Whitsundays—communities that have a very strong Chinese visitation. People have talked about SARS. Let's put that into context. My advice is that when SARS occurred between 2002 and 2004, Chinese visitation to Queensland was valued at around \$156 million. Today it is valued at \$1.5 billion.

**Ms Grace:** Bit different.

**Ms JONES:** It is a bit different—slightly different. That goes to all the great work that our tourism operators and businesses on the ground have done to grow this market. We know this market is about 1.2 billion people and we are seeing more and more Chinese travellers.

What also did not happen with SARS is we did not have the Prime Minister of the Australian government—'Scotty from Marketing'—close the gates to all Chinese travellers to Queensland and Australia. This is significantly different. This is a decision that quite rightly the Prime Minister has made to protect Australians, and we support that. However, he needs to protect the Australians who rely on jobs in the tourism industry and the international education industry right now. What concerns me the most about the letter from the Prime Minister to the Premier—and I think everyone should listen to this—apart from saying no, he does not think this is a national disaster that deserves national disaster funding, is that he also says—

As I have publicly stated, the outbreak may have economic impacts globally and in Australia.

In a letter dated 4 February, why is the Prime Minister saying it 'may' have an economic impact? If he spoke to the shadow minister for tourism—he probably will not speak to me—any minister or his own minister, he would know that already people are being laid off. That the Prime Minister questions in his letter back to the Premier whether there will be an economic impact just shows how out of touch he is. It shows that he has his head in the sand. This is a man who spent his whole career in spin doctoring. 'Scotty from Marketing', you do not think the 'may' was deliberate? He is still trying to deny that this is a national crisis that needs a national response.

In Queensland we are already taking action. The Premier is chairing a meeting today. We have already gone to new markets, leveraging funding from Tourism and Events Queensland. We have added new funding. We have received not one dollar from the federal government in that \$76 million.

*(Time expired)*

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.10 pm): I rise to address the motion moved by the Minister for State Development, the member for Woodridge. This is a very serious public health issue. We know that a global health emergency was declared by the World Health Organization on 31 January. Novel coronavirus 2019, otherwise known as nCoV, is a very serious issue. As other speakers have done, I offer my sympathies to those who have lost their lives and to their families. We know that there are many people around the world who continue to endure suffering as a result of this infectious disease. There are three confirmed cases here in Queensland.

The public health emergency was declared in Queensland with a public health emergency order published in the *Government Gazette* on 31 January 2020. As we know, this is a rapidly-evolving situation, not only here in Queensland but also across Australia and internationally. There are significant

impacts to individual patients and there are also economic impacts. They will be felt in Queensland, Australia and internationally. The last thing that we in Queensland need is politicisation of this issue. It is shameful that Labor, the Premier and various Palaszczuk Labor government ministers are trying to politicise this issue for cheap political gain. We will probably see more and more such motions related to various issues leading up to the state election to be held later this year, on 31 October. We need to assure Queenslanders that it is safe to go about their daily lives. There must be calm but also vigilance.

This parliament needs to show calm and respectful leadership—not scaremongering or whipping up fear—and ensure that our various governments and agencies work together collaboratively and constructively to ensure it is addressed not only in Queensland but also right across Australia.

I note that at paragraph 1(d) of the motion there is some reference to clinical information. I want to reference some of that, because as part of this debate it is important to put that on the record. People need to self-isolate or remain at home if they left Hubei province fewer than 14 days ago until 14 days after they left Hubei, have been in close contact with a proven case until 14 days after the proven case became unwell, or left or transited through mainland China on or after 1 February 2020 until 14 days after leaving China.

I raise that because it is important that, if Queenslanders or tourists are concerned or have clinical symptoms such as fever, cough, headaches or a sore throat, they seek immediate medical review by attending a general practitioner or attending one of the fever clinics established, including the one at the Gold Coast University Hospital or at the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital. The community has a big part to play in preventing the spread of the novel coronavirus. Just like the flu season, we need to ensure good hand hygiene and stay one metre away from anyone sneezing or coughing.

As I said earlier, I note in the motion that the Labor government is attempting to politicise this issue and blame the federal government. The federal Morrison LNP coalition government, the federal health minister, Greg Hunt, and the federal Minister for Home Affairs, Peter Dutton, are doing a tremendous job in coordinating our national response. Queensland is the only state jurisdiction that is not working constructively. We see that today in terms of the motion being moved. We do not see this in other state jurisdictions around Australia.

On 1 February 2020 the Prime Minister announced new border control measures and travel advice. The federal government continues to work very hard to ensure this disease does not spread within our borders. Labor claims that it did not receive passenger information from affected flights but, in fact, this information was provided the day prior.

The motion also calls on the Prime Minister to declare this global health emergency a natural disaster under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, but currently such disasters do not qualify under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. Yes, we need a national coordinated response, but we know that Labor in Queensland is inept at managing its finances. There are dire economic circumstances here in Queensland because of the Palaszczuk Labor government's failure. There is higher debt and higher unemployment, and significant bankruptcies are taking place. The Palaszczuk Labor government needs to take heed of its economic responsibilities and ensure it invests in a state government assistance package. The LNP has called upon the Palaszczuk Labor government—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): Members for South Brisbane and McConnel, I caution you against quarrelling across the chamber.

**Dr ROWAN:** The state government needs to act by allocating a state government assistance package. The Premier should stop playing politics and stop blaming Canberra. That would be the right thing to do by Queenslanders.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## **BUILDING INDUSTRY FAIRNESS (SECURITY OF PAYMENT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Introduction**

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.17 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Architects Act 2002, the Building Act 1975, the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Act 2017, the

Professional Engineers Act 2002, the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991, the Retirement Villages Act 1999 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes, and to repeal the Retirement Villages (Transitional) Regulation 2019. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Transport and Public Works Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [183].

*Tabled paper:* Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [184].

*Tabled paper:* Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [185].

This is an historic moment for Queensland tradies. When I first presented the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Bill 2017 to the House on 22 August that year, I said that the bill would make history and that it would usher in an era of fairness in our building and construction industry. I said it then and I will say it again now: we on this side of the House believe that if you do the work you should get paid on time, in full, every time. For too long Australian tradies have suffered an unreasonably high burden of financial loss. Non-payment has hampered the growth of Queensland businesses. Non-payment has busted apart families. It has led to homelessness and it has pushed Queensland tradies to take their lives.

There are too many stories of the terrible fallouts that happen as a result of non-payment. However, these are not just anecdotes. Suicide is the leading cause of death for Australians between 15 and 44 years of age. Research commissioned by Mates in Construction found that construction workers were at a higher risk of suicide than most and that a lack of job security was a key contributing factor to poor mental health. Between 2001 and 2013, 2,554 men in the construction industry took their lives; 562 of those men were Queenslanders.

Just one family business that closes down, just one family that breaks down, just one life lost, is one too many. The Palaszczuk government has refused to accept that this is the way the industry should be. We have taken the issue of late and non-payment in the construction industry head-on. With this bill, Labor is shifting the culture of this industry. Let there be no doubt: it is this Palaszczuk government that is leading the way on construction industry reforms in Australia.

The Palaszczuk government committed to introducing project bank accounts and we delivered, while those opposite sat silent. Back then they would not back our reforms. They would not back in Queensland tradies. Let's hope that this time those opposite back our nation-leading reforms.

The amendments in the bill will implement the government's response to the Building Industry Fairness Reforms Implementation and Evaluation Panel report, as well as recommendations from the Special Joint Taskforce report. They will also deliver reforms to strengthen building certification and inspection processes and standards arising from the Queensland Building Plan and arising from the national *Building confidence* report. The bill will also implement reforms that will strengthen the ability of the architects and professional engineers boards to regulate their professions. The bill also includes amendments to provide strong penalties to ensure compliance with the minimum financial requirements regulations and ensure that excluded individuals are prevented from obtaining positions of influence as licensees in the Queensland construction industry.

Today, in introducing this bill, I am standing on the shoulders of every Queenslanders who has been touched by this important issue. I look forward to acknowledging those who contributed when this bill returns for debate. I now turn to the particular amendments contained within the bill.

The bill gives effect to all 20 recommendations of the report of the Building Industry Fairness Reforms Implementation and Evaluation Panel. Today I acknowledge the chair of the independent panel, Bronwyn Weir, and panel members Troy Lewis, Jennifer Robertson and Fionna Reid for their work on the review that informs this bill. The panel's report makes 20 recommendations to government. They include: a streamlined account structure requiring one project trust account for each project; replacement of the disputed funds account with new protections including a payment withholding request; a single retention trust account per contractor where a project trust is required; providing the commission the appropriate powers to take on a compliance, monitoring and oversight role; and the phased commencement of project trusts to include projects valued at \$1 million or more.

Implementing these recommendations will enhance and simplify the existing framework while ensuring the transition for industry is effectively managed. The framework will continue to provide a high level of transparency and traceability over the movement of funds and ensure tradies' wages are not used for anything except paying tradies what they are owed. Queensland's system of discrete trust accounts surpasses deemed strategy trusts like those recommended by the national Murray report.

I will deal firstly with amendments that deliver the streamlined account structure. Our amendments streamline these project trusts from three to two accounts. A head contractor is still required to establish a project trust account for each eligible building contract. Failure to do this will continue to carry a maximum penalty of 500 penalty units. If you have a project trust and you withhold cash retentions, you need to establish a retention trust account. Unlike the current framework, where there is one retention trust account per project, new section 34 of the BIF act will provide that a trustee holds all retentions across any number of projects in a single account. As with project trusts, retention trusts will also be phased in to the private sector. Once fully implemented to the private sector, all tradies down the chain will have the protection of a retention trust account where a project trust is required. Funds will be there for tradies should the contracting party become insolvent.

Queenslanders said that head contractors need more recourse to keep developers accountable in cases where they try to cut and run. The panel recommended that a head contractor should be able to lodge a charge over land where the work took place. As a result, this bill lays out a nation-leading initiative, providing a strong motivation for developers to do the right thing by head contractors, delivering the money they are owed.

With amendments in this bill, if a head contractor is not paid by a developer following adjudication, the head contractor can lodge a charge over the land where the work occurred. This stops developers running, leaving everybody in the chain below them in the lurch until the debts are settled. The head contractor can apply to the court then to have the land sold and satisfy the debt. Additionally, the charge on land will make the head contractor a secured creditor if the developer enters insolvency or bankruptcy. I would like to acknowledge the advocacy of both the Master Builders Association of Queensland and the CFMEU on the issue of holding developers to account. This is the first step.

I turn now to amendments that deal with a new mechanism to protect funds in dispute, a payment withholding request. To simplify the framework and ensure it provides protections as intended, a disputed funds trust account will no longer be required. The building industry fairness reforms panel report determined that the disputed funds account was unlikely to be used and recommended an alternative approach. The panel's recommendation to lodge a withholding request gives extended protection to all building contractors, not just beneficiaries to a project trust.

New chapter 3, part 4A of the BIF act gives a claimant, who may be a subcontractor or head contractor, new rights—rights to require a higher party in the contract chain to withhold payment. They are able to serve a payment withholding request on a higher party in the contractual chain for an adjudicated amount. The ability for a claimant to lodge a payment withholding request will apply when an adjudication decision is made and the adjudicated amount remains unpaid by the respondent. This means that a tradie can issue a withholding request to a principal for an adjudicated amount owed by a head contractor, and where the dispute is between a head contractor and a developer the head contractor can issue a withholding request to the developer's financier. This obligation to withhold funds only applies to the extent that an amount is payable to the respondent by the higher party. The obligation to withhold funds ends when the claimant has been paid the adjudicated amount. Money withheld under a withholding request is also subject to a charge, providing additional protection in the case of insolvency. The charge is created in favour of the claimant and is declared to be a statutory interest to which the Personal Property Securities Act 2009 applies.

It is also important to note that the ability of a claimant to make a payment withholding request on a higher party does not limit any other action they may take to enforce the adjudication decision. A maximum penalty of 50 penalty units applies if the higher party fails to retain the amount of the withholding request out of funds payable to the respondent.

I now turn to amendments that will create an oversight function for the Queensland Building and Construction Commission over project trust accounts. The panel provided amendments to improve transparency and to give the commission the oversight it needs to detect financial mismanagement and other instances of noncompliance. The commission will have the powers to ask gatekeepers of information about trust accounts to hand them over in cases of noncompliance.

Clause 78 of the bill establishes an approved audit program which the commission can use to check for compliance with the BIF act—not just the trust account requirements but progress payment and adjudication matters as well. A person who has been asked to supply documents under an audit will not be able to withhold the information on the basis that complying with the requirement might tend to incriminate them or expose them to a penalty.

Amendments in the bill will also provide the commission the powers necessary to freeze a trust account—that is, stop the trustee from withdrawing money—or to have a trust account independently audited. The commission can also apply to the Supreme Court for directions about how an amount in a trust account should be paid out.

Amendments in the bill also contemplate the concept of a supersubbie and, therefore, circumstances where a subcontractor must establish a project trust account; for example, in a circumstance where the head contractor, instead of engaging multiple subbies, could arrange with a subcontractor—let's describe that entity as a supersubbie—to contract with further subcontractors. The government accepted the panel's recommendation that in these specific circumstances a subcontractor—the supersubbie—should also be required to establish a project trust account. In the absence of such anti-avoidance provisions, the establishment of a supersubbie could be used to circumvent the requirements under the BIF act, leaving subcontractors exposed where the supersubbie enters bankruptcy. This kind of practice would have undermined the integrity of the framework. To enable the government to swiftly respond if such industry practices develop, the bill allows flexibility to prescribe a regulation that further subbies will also need to establish a project trust account.

Amendments in the bill respond to industry demands for strong penalties that will deter noncompliance; enable the courts to impose more meaningful penalties, such as imprisonment where appropriate; and emphasise to industry and the community the seriousness of the offences under this legislation.

Some of the offences include a reasonable excuse provision to protect industry participants from strict liability where there are mitigating circumstances. For example, a person may fail to provide a notice within the required time frame because of a sudden or serious illness. However, it is the intention of the government to ensure that a reasonable excuse applies in limited circumstances and does not provide a blanket exemption to head contractors who fail to meet their obligations through their own carelessness or delay. For the avoidance of doubt, an industry participant who fails to meet their obligations because of the failure of their administrative staff or who is ignorant of their obligations under the act does not have a reasonable excuse for noncompliance with these obligations.

Amendments in the bill provide industry with a clear pathway to fully implement project trust accounts. Queensland needs certainty for the building industry—certainty for all eligible building projects in government, local government and the private sector—and this is what the amendments in this bill are providing by establishing a phased commencement to fully implement project trusts across industry by 1 July 2022. The next phase of implementation will commence from 1 July 2020. From this date project trusts will be required on all eligible state government construction projects valued at \$1 million or more, including health and hospital services projects. From 1 July 2021 project trusts will be extended into the private sector and to local government. From this date eligible building and construction projects valued at \$10 million and above will require project trust accounts.

The requirement for project trusts will then progressively apply to lower value private and local government sector construction contracts and from 1 January 2022 project trust accounts will be required on all eligible projects valued at \$3 million or more. Full implementation will be reached from 1 July 2022 when all eligible building projects \$1 million or more will be required to establish a project trust account. Regulating a phased implementation approach will provide industry participants the certainty to transition and to prepare their business operation. It will provide certainty for the banking and accounting sectors that are now in a process of ongoing development of products to support the requirements of the amended BIF act. I table a draft of the Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2020 which includes the commencement dates for the implementation of project trusts to the private sector.

*Tabled paper:* Draft Building Industry Fairness (Security of Payment) Amendment Regulation 2020, Subordinate Legislation 2020 No. [\[186\]](#).

The bill gives effect to certain recommendations of the Special Joint Taskforce report. I want to acknowledge retired Supreme Court judge the Hon. John H Byrne and his team for their work on this investigation. The report makes 10 recommendations to government and highlights opportunities to enhance the compliance, enforcement and regulatory oversight functions and powers of the commission and ensure the integrity of industry participants and prevent fraud. Tradies and industry representatives will tell you that false statutory declarations on payments were endemic in the industry, and this is what the task force heard during its investigations. These false declarations give false confidence to people further up the chain but do not flow the money down to those doing the work. This means that mum and dad businesses are bearing the brunt of false declarations, and that is not fair. The task force recommended that a greater deterrence is needed to stop this happening.

Amendments in this bill will make it easier for the commission to punish individuals who make false or misleading declarations about subcontractor non-payment. Recommendation 1 of the task force's report relates to an existing QBCC Act provision—section 42E—that makes it an offence to cause financial loss by noncompliance with contractual obligations. The Special Joint Taskforce found that unclear wording makes it difficult to enforce in practice because it is not clear who has the burden of providing a reasonable excuse, or lack thereof, for noncompliance. The task force recommended amendments to make it easier for the commission to prosecute this offence. Clause 135 amends section 42E to remove the subjective reference to a person who avoids complying with a contract. It will remain an offence if a person without reasonable excuse causes another party to a building contract to suffer a significant financial loss because of the person's deliberate noncompliance with that contract.

Successful prosecution of a breach of section 42E depends on proof beyond reasonable doubt of absence of a reasonable excuse for failure to perform a contractual obligation. The amendment recognises that it can be difficult for the commission to adduce evidence that the defendant had a reasonable excuse when knowledge of the existence of a reasonable excuse is in the mind of the offender. To assist in prosecution, the amendment to section 42E references section 76 of the Justices Act 1886. The intent of this amendment is to make it clear that the defendant has the onus of showing that they did have a reasonable excuse for noncompliance with a contractual obligation. It is generally accepted that the effect of section 76 of the Justices Act 1886 is that there is a legal burden on the defendant to prove the existence of a reasonable excuse on the balance of probabilities. The inclusion of a note highlights the intention that for section 42E the onus of proving any exemption, exception, proviso or condition depending upon new additional facts is on the defendant.

Amendments in the bill also create a new offence for giving false or misleading information about a licensee's financial position where that information is communicated by another person to the commission. Amendments to section 53B of the QBCC Act insert an offence where a licensee knowingly gives someone other than the commission MFR information that is false or misleading and the information is subsequently given to the commission in compliance or purported compliance with the act. A maximum penalty of 100 penalty units or two years imprisonment will apply. This builds on the work the government has done to reintroduce MFR by placing responsibility for accurate financial information on the licensee if they are supplying the information to an accountant.

Clause 147 of the bill increases the time frames for the commission to start a prosecution from two years to three years to give it extra time to investigate offences. This is necessary for complex matters such as intricate and interrelated corporate structures that often require forensic financial analysis and take substantial time to investigate. The task force recommended that the commission be permitted to publish details about excluded and permanently excluded individuals. It is considered that this would make it easier for subcontractors and consumers alike to find out about a person's previous financial dealings and make informed decisions about whether or not to engage with them. It will also help with the detection of illegal phoenixing activity. To achieve this, clause 140 of the bill inserts new section 56AI which provides the head of power for the commission to publish relevant details about excluded individuals who are not licensees. The bill also sets out the show cause procedure if the commission considers an unlicensed individual is an excluded individual.

Amendments in the bill will also implement key Queensland Building Plan reforms to building certification. This is the first of three phases of Queensland's certification reforms. These reforms aim to strengthen the independence and improve professional standards and compliance of certifiers. Amendments in the bill will clarify that a certifier's primary duty of care is to act in the public interest and, in doing so, that they do not create a conflict of interest. Accrediting bodies will now be required to have their professional development schemes reviewed at least every five years to ensure that they remain current and that they remain relevant. Certifiers will be able to be licensed through a recognition pathway without being accredited with an accreditation standards body, but to maintain standards applicants must demonstrate that they do meet the prescribed qualification and experience requirements.

Amendments in the bill will extend the period of time for which a certifier is required to keep inspection documentation from five to seven years. Owners are to be given the certifier's name and information about their certification responsibility, as well as the right to request additional inspections. The reforms give greater certainty to certifiers by limiting the time period for making a complaint against them for minor administrative matters to seven years.

The bill also includes key amendments to the QBCC Act to strengthen enforcement and compliance. The bill further strengthens the compliance framework to the minimum financial requirements. The MFR is a critical element of the security of payment framework that supports licensed

contractors to operate their businesses in a financially responsible way and pay their debts. The bill introduces stronger penalties for noncompliance with the MFR, in particular for failing to provide financial information to the commission. It has a new offence with strong penalties for executive officers who fail to undertake due diligence to comply with the MFR. Amendments in the bill also toughen QBCC Act provisions about excluded individuals. Someone who becomes an excluded individual due to a bankruptcy or involvement in a company collapse, or a permanently excluded individual due to involvement in two or more of these events, will no longer be able to hold a site supervisor licence.

Currently, excluded individuals and permanently excluded individuals are only prevented from holding a contractor or nominee supervisor licence. Site supervisors exercise significant influence and have multiple legal responsibilities on construction sites. Given these responsibilities it is not fit or proper for someone who is involved in a bankruptcy or collapse to be able to hold a site supervisor licence. A transitional provision ensures these amendments are not retrospective. This means that existing site supervisors who are excluded individuals or permanently excluded individuals will not be impacted. However, once these amendments come into effect, an existing site supervisor who becomes an excluded individual or permanently excluded individual due to bankruptcies or collapses will lose their site supervisor licence.

The bill includes important amendments to the Architects Act and the Professional Engineers Act. These will improve regulatory oversight of these professions and implement proposals outlined in the Queensland government's response to the *Building confidence* report. The amendments will strengthen the registration requirements for architects and professional engineers, as well as expand the disciplinary and enforcement powers of the Board of Architects of Queensland and the Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland. It will empower the boards to undertake more thorough investigations and will support better regulation of these professions. This will mean Queenslanders can continue to have confidence in the quality of architecture and engineering services being provided in this state. Boards will also be empowered to undertake audits of architects and professional engineers, such as checking that architecture and engineering services are being provided or supervised by appropriately registered professionals. This important issue was raised as part of the *Building confidence* report.

Today is a great day for Queensland tradies. Labor's reforms are giving Queensland tradies confidence: confidence that at the end of the day they will be paid for the work they have done; confidence to invest in their business; confidence to take on apprentices; and confidence to employ more Queenslanders. Queensland tradies can be confident that the regulator has the power to stamp out fraudulent practices that have plagued the industry. Queensland home owners can have confidence that our building system works and that our built environment is safe and their investment in property is sound. Queensland continues to lead the way in security of payment reform and in responding to the national *Building confidence* report.

Through the amendments in this bill, Queensland will continue to have the strongest protections for tradies in the nation, with a regulatory framework that supports a safe, fair and sustainable building and construction industry. That is something that Labor and the tradies who we stand shoulder-to-shoulder with are willing to fight for. This is something that we on this side of the House are very proud of. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (12.42 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Transport and Public Works Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Whiting): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Public Works Committee.

## CHILD DEATH REVIEW LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 4 February (see p. 84), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.43 pm): I rise to support the Child Death Review Amendment Bill. There is nothing more important than the safety and wellbeing of our children. The death of any child is an absolute tragedy and the whole community mourns for them. If that child is known to Child Safety we move heaven and earth to find out if there is any way or any process through which we could have supported that child or those children differently so that in the future we change and that we get better at what we do.

At any point in time there are around 92,000 children known to Child Safety and more than 12,000 children in care. Of those 92,000, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, in its 2018-19 annual report, said that there were 58 children who were known to Child Safety who came to harm in that year. In the majority of cases when a child has died it is due to illness, disability, SIDS or accident. Often the first time we have become aware of those children who are referred to in the QFCC reporting is when they presented to emergency.

When even one of the 92,000 children we see is harmed it is one child too many and we just cannot have that. It is why the Palaszczuk government has made an unprecedented investment in child safety since 2015 with \$738 million allocated since that year and an additional almost 600 new staff. It is why when a child dies or does suffer injury we have a robust two-tier review process that includes both internal and external review of our systems and processes and we continue to learn from those reviews. It is why with this bill we are further strengthening our protections for Queensland children because we need to look after our kids.

I was outraged to hear the contribution of the member for Toowoomba South taking the high moral ground on child safety. In fact, I thought his contribution was astonishing. This is a man whose party inflicted savage cuts on the Child Safety budget, slashing \$182 million from child and family services budgets across its three years of government with a recurrent annual funding cut of \$73 million each year from 2015; which cut 225 child safety staff from the system—who even sacks child safety staff?—the party which cut funding from Foster Care Queensland; which cut funding to those vital non-government services that provide domestic violence, housing, youth and family support services, emasculating the very levers that could have helped provide a safer life for our kids and which refused to publish its 2014 Child Death Review Panel report and removed the statutory requirement to table those reports. Despite that we have published them every year since we came to government anyway, which we should because those reports help us all to learn.

This is hard stuff. It is hard to talk about. It is hard to lay yourself bear as a government in the quest to be better, but we have to bring child protection out of the shadows and make it a bigger discussion. We have to all do better by our kids. Clearly when the LNP removed those statutory requirements they were only thinking of themselves.

It is as a result of those Child Death Review Panel reports that we have strengthened our systems—for example, on how we can better deal with the impacts of domestic and family violence on children, how to have a more culturally appropriate response through our Our Way strategy and how to improve our practice. The Palaszczuk government has rebuilt and we continue to invest in child safety because the safety of children is our highest priority. Our investment is seeing results. Our average caseload per child safety officer is under 18 for the seventh consecutive quarter, down from 21 under the LNP. This gives our child safety officers greater ability to work more intensively with families earlier and it means we can help families to nip smaller problems in the bud before they become big problems that put children at risk of significant harm. It also means 93 per cent of urgent investigations are being commenced within 24 hours, the highest response rate for six years. Our early intervention means there are now fewer children in need of protection by Child Safety at the end of investigations.

For the first time we have stabilised the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children coming into care. Those numbers have now been stable for a seventh consecutive quarter. Although Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are overrepresented in child protection, in Queensland the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children is far lower than the national average:

37 per 1,000 compared to a national average of 54.2. Only six per cent of Indigenous families who completed our family support services have been subsequently investigated by Child Safety within six months compared to 36 per cent of those families that did not.

We have increased the number of foster and kinship carers to 5,415, nearly 700 more than in 2013. We have achieved all of this despite a significant increase in complexity with the children and families we work with as a result of domestic violence, drugs and alcohol, mental health issues and crime. Last year we received more than 121,000 calls raising concerns—that is one every four minutes.

Ice is a major factor in 39 per cent of cases where a child must be taken into care, which is up more than 30 per cent in the past two years. Most of those children are under five years of age. Each week, four children are taken into care as a result of ice. We now have 12,000 children in care, which is over 1,600 more than in 2016, up 16 per cent. Members must make no mistake: the increase in complexity means greater risk to our kids and it is something that our staff and the staff of the NGOs with which we work and our many government agency partners are conscious of every single minute of every day. I cannot speak more highly of those people. They see the depths of depravity in the work that they do every single day. They work their hearts out. I could not be prouder to be their minister.

There can be no doubt that the best place for any child is with a safe and loving family, but when that is not possible Child Safety steps in to keep children safe. This bill will help us all, right across government, to be stronger in the way we look after those children. Our child death reviews already teach us so much. I will give an example. One of the cases before the review panel was that of a toddler who died at the hands of his father who had a significant history of violence. Through that review the panel learnt that Child Safety did not have access to the family's history of DV, which police had. That was because of the information-sharing protocols that existed at the time. If we had had that information, we would have been able to factor it in to our decision-making. That little boy was at a higher risk of violence than they had realised. We would have put in different safety responses for him.

The recommendations of that child death case review panel had a significant influence on practice reforms and service improvements, especially around information sharing between agencies such as Child Safety and the police. Now, child safety officers have quick and easy access to relevant information held by police. Say, for example, a prep teacher sees that a child in his class has suspicious bruises on her arms and the child tells the teacher, 'Mummy's new partner is mean, he hurts me and he hurts my mum.' When the teacher notifies Child Safety, they can now carry out prenotification checks with the police. Those checks will mean that Child Safety knows from the very beginning that the mum's partner is a violent offender and they can assess the potential risks more accurately. It means not only that Child Safety has critical information earlier but also that the police and Child Safety will do a joint assessment of the case, which means that the child needs to tell her story only once.

Although the circumstances that lead to a child death review are tragic, the reviews are incredibly valuable. Currently, Child Safety and the Director of Child Protection Litigation, the litigation director, are the only agencies required to undertake reviews. This bill will expand that requirement to agencies such as health, education, police and youth justice to conduct internal reviews. It will also establish a new external and independent Child Death Review Board to carry out systems reviews when children who are known to Child Safety die. That board will be modelled on elements from other death review models, including our Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board, which is an incredibly valuable mechanism. Making this board both external and independent is an important reform to ensure not only transparency and accountability but also objectivity. I support it wholeheartedly.

Before I finish, I want to pay tribute to the QFCC and the QFCC Commissioner, Cheryl Vardon, for the outstanding work that they do and for their absolute dedication and commitment to the safety of the children in our state. I thank everybody who works towards this.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.53 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. In Queensland the most precious things that we have are our children. They are our future. Whatever we can do to help protect children, especially those who are known to Child Safety, we need to do better. This bill goes a long way to help with connectivity between agencies to allow people to work better with Child Safety, as well as other agencies, to identify children who need help at the earliest opportunity.

That it has taken this long for information sharing between agencies to happen is quite concerning. Not having transparency and information sharing between agencies would be like flying a plane without having your gauges on. It is concerning to think that something could be happening to a child and that the police are aware of it, but that Child Safety does not understand what is happening. The bill goes a long way to add that connectivity between agencies and to tidy up so many of those

matters. As the minister just outlined, a child who comes forward will have to tell their story only once. If a teacher picks up on something and reports it to Child Safety, by going through the process we can make the connection if the mother, for example, is facing a domestic violence situation.

The bill will mean better reviews into child deaths. One thing that concerns me is that it has taken the QFCC report to come to a conclusion after an investigation into the death of Mason Jett Lee came to the attention of the government. That review has now come to fruition and it suggests that we will be doing a lot more, as well as introducing this bill into the House. We must do all we can to help children in Queensland, especially those affected by domestic violence, drug and alcohol violence and any other sort of violence, including violence by sexual predators and so on. This is a very short contribution. I support the legislation that is being put to the House today. It will have my support.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (12.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Before I do so, I will correct the record regarding the question without notice that I asked of the Premier this morning, concerning the new defence industry hub at Ipswich. I misspoke when I said that the hub was a \$15 million hub. In fact, it is a \$5 million hub.

The Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 is required to implement the recommendations of the report of the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the QFCC, titled *A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child* and to give effect to the government's commitment to develop a new independent model for reviewing child death cases. In her first reading speech on 18 September 2019, the Attorney-General said—

In introducing this bill, I acknowledge the death of 21-month-old toddler Mason Jett Lee, who on 11 June 2016 died tragically at his Caboolture home. The death shocked the community.

...

Following Mason's death, the Premier requested the Queensland Family and Child Commission, QFCC, to oversee the reviews being undertaken by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Queensland Health about the services provided to Mason before he died. Child Safety and the Director of Child Protection Litigation, the litigation director, are currently the only agencies required to undertake a review of their involvement following the death or serious physical injury of a child who is known to Child Safety.

The government accepted the single recommendation from the QFCC's report, which was for a systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child to consider a revised external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children known to the child protection system.

After the tabling of the bill by the Attorney-General, it was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. On 24 September 2019, the committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions on the bill and six submissions were received. The committee tabled its report in November 2019, being report No. 25 of the 56th Parliament. The committee made only one recommendation, which was that the bill be passed.

The bill expands on which government agencies must review their involvement with a child following a death or serious injury. Queensland's current child death review system is a two-tiered system established under chapter 7A of the Child Protection Act 1999. This involves, firstly, an internal systems and practice review of service provision by Child Safety and the Director of Child Protection Litigation and, secondly, the convening of external multidisciplinary child death case review panels, located in Child Safety, by the Minister for Child Safety to conduct an independent review.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr MADDEN:** As I was saying, Queensland's current child death review system is a two-tiered system established under chapter 7A of the Child Protection Act 1999. This involves, firstly, an internal systems and practice review of service provision by Child Safety and the Director of Child Protection Litigation and, secondly, the convening of external multidisciplinary child death case review panels, located in Child Safety, by the Minister for Child Safety to conduct an independent review.

However, Queensland's current system for reviewing deaths of children known to Child Safety does not consider or identify system changes required to protect vulnerable children or encourage verification of key points of agency interaction and service delivery. This bill establishes a new Child Death Review Board pursuant to the Family and Child Commission Act 2014.

Upon the death of a child, the board will review the systems, identify opportunities for continuous improvement and mechanism to protect children and prevent deaths that may be avoidable. Independence of the department of child safety is critical to the board and is central to the Queensland Family and Child Commission's recommendation and the government's commitment. The independent board and its ability to consistently make public system recommendations will increase transparency and improve public confidence.

I would like to thank the member for Toohy for pointing out to me that while the bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee it was ultimately dealt with by the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee. It was that committee that tabled the report. In closing, I thank the Attorney-General, the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee members, the committee secretariat, the submitters and Hansard. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (2.02 pm): The LNP considers the objectives of the bill to be fundamental in enhancing child safety and that is why we will not be opposing the bill. As stated in the explanatory notes, the policy objective of the bill is to implement the recommendation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission report. The commission's report identified several best practice benchmarks that need to be considered in designing a contemporary child death review model. These included: extending the scope to include other government and non-government organisations; extending the powers and authority of child death case review panels, including the power to make recommendations; reporting to government and public audiences on the outcomes of child death reviews; reconsidering panel governance, such as the selection and appointment of members and the period of membership; and providing appropriate resourcing for secretariat, panel operation and agency reviews.

It is a sad reality that some children in Queensland are killed by the people who should have their best interests at heart. Given this is a reality which we are faced with, it is fundamental that the most effective measures are in place to help build better policies and practices going forward. This bill will strengthen the investigative process of child deaths connected to the child safety system, which will hopefully act as a proactive measure to prevent further tragic deaths in the future.

I agree in principle with the recommendations of the commission. The focus has previously been on Child Safety without the appropriate responsibility and accountability of other organisations. The current review process depends on the goodwill of organisations to participate and how they participate, but there are insufficient processes to make recommendations to support more appropriate service provision. The current system also places the onus on Child Safety when it is evident that a whole-of-system approach is needed. Multiple systems are involved, and thus it is important that these systems and relevant services have some level of accountability in terms of appropriately considering and implementing feedback and recommendations.

The bill proposes to establish a new child death review model by expanding the requirement to conduct an internal systems review following the death or serious physical injury of a child known to Child Safety to other relevant government agencies involved in providing services to that child—that is, in addition to Child Safety and the Director of Child Protection Litigation. I note the submissions to the committee agree with this requirement. Submissions also highlighted that services funded by Child Safety are not included, yet much of the service provision occurs with non-government organisations and community services. It has been suggested that this requirement needs to be applicable to the whole service. In respecting the submitters to the committee, it is important to learn from NGOs and community services, but this should not come at the cost of diluting the responsibility of government services.

I note the concerns around the length of time it has taken those opposite to introduce this bill. It has been articulated in this debate already that in June 2016, after the death of Mason Jett Lee, the government requested the commission oversee the reviews being undertaken by the department of communities, child safety and disability services and the child death case review panel, and the investigation conducted by Queensland Health about the services provided to Mason Jett Lee before his death.

The commission tabled its report on 30 March 2017. It made an overarching recommendation to 'consider a revised external and independent model'. It was not until 18 September 2019, some two and a half years later, that the bill was introduced. It is concerning that it has taken this long. We have heard many explanations for that in the course of this debate. While the department of justice related the delay to the need to undertake consultation, it was noted by committee members that two and a half years was a lengthy period and earlier introduction of this bill may have benefitted our most vulnerable.

The new, independent Child Death Review Board, located within the Queensland Family and Child Commission, will be responsible for carrying out systems reviews, following child deaths connected to the child protection system, to identify opportunities for continuous improvement in systems, legislation, policies and practices and to identify preventative mechanisms to help protect children. I note submissions to the committee also highlighted it would be important the board establishes and maintains a collaborative rather than adversarial relationship with services as the

previous iteration of the board under the commission could be characterised as having an adversarial disposition which was counterproductive for the commission and Child Safety staff. An important step toward a collaborative approach is ensuring a non-blaming stance.

What is not clear to some in the sector and needs further clarification is whether the board would have the ability to request information from private organisations. I do not need to go over that as I note the minister and other contributors to the debate have touched on that. Perhaps during consideration in detail that can be expanded upon.

There is wide support for the expansion of information sharing. This is a significant change and an addition to the workload and it requires appropriate and dedicated funding. There have been questions raised by submitters to the committee concerning the appointment of a Queensland family and child commissioner to the role of chairperson of the board. I am sure the minister will address that issue. It is reasonable that submissions to the committee recommended that the government consider the appointment of the chairperson be made with bipartisan support. We would welcome that.

Given some of the rhetoric I have heard in the debate so far, I think it is important we establish some facts about this government's ability to protect people in our community. Two recent articles highlighted the Labor government's inability to attend to vulnerable children within the recommended time frames. It is deeply troubling that almost 6,400 reports of child abuse and neglect were not addressed on time. The failure to react on time to 126 of the most serious cases is just shocking.

In a recent question on notice it was noted that for a case requiring a five- or 10-day commencement, an investigation and assessment will be counted as having commenced once work on the case has started. This could mean that a child safety officer could open and save a Word document in the office for a case to commence instead of going outside to see the child or the family with their own eyes in order for the commencement to begin.

The member for Bulimba seems to be more interested in protecting weak decisions than protecting those most vulnerable. This is further evidence that the government is more interested in protecting itself. The information articulated just before lunch was really damning. These are not numbers on a spreadsheet; these are real children with real issues. Of the 58 deaths known to the child protection system in 2018-19, 29 deaths were from external sources. Of those 29 deaths, 14 were from suicide and six were from fatal assault and neglect. Those numbers, as I said, are not just statistics in a spreadsheet; they are young people in our communities whose lives we are talking about.

I was quite offended by what the member for Bulimba said before lunch and her excuse for not attending to vulnerable children within the recommended time frames being the complexity of family needs and the community changing. I think the words used were 'ice', 'alcohol', 'drugs' and 'domestic violence'. I would argue that those issues have been prevalent in our community for a long time. To use that as an excuse I think is quite shocking. Family needs were and will always be complex. We need to make sure that the government and the minister spend less time finding excuses and weakening the reporting guidelines and more time protecting the kids.

In the time left it is important that I talk about a few more statistics that have shocked us as we have continued along this path. We would argue that over the last five years we have not seen amazing results from reform. The lives of Queensland kids are at risk while urgently needed reforms to the system are delayed year after year. According to the latest statistics on child safety, children living away from home skyrocketed to 10,535 by the end of September 2019. This was nearly 750 more than the previous year. In just one year there was an increase of 405 ATSI children living away from home—an increase of almost 10 per cent. Meanwhile, there was an increase of six per cent for non-ATSI children over the same period. The number of children subject to a protective order had jumped to 10,769 by the end of September 2019. This is 719 more than 12 months earlier.

The number of notifications—all concerns received that suggest a child is in need of protection—received had jumped up to 25,572 by the end of September 2019. When we consider that this is 1,200 more than 12 months earlier and 3,200 more than in 2015, I would argue that blaming everyone else for the failings in Child Safety is not fair and not reasonable. More importantly, it is not fair to those people who rely on the department and the government to provide that mechanism.

Only 39 per cent of investigations were completed within the 60-day time period. This is down from 47.5 per cent the year before. This means that child safety officers are clearly overburdened and are not given the support they need. The number of children subject to child protection orders increased by 6.4 per cent, from nearly 10,000 as at September 2018 to 10,500 as at September 2019. Since 30 June 2015, the number of children subject to child protection orders has increased by nearly

15 per cent. Over this period the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to child protection orders increased by nearly 18 per cent. The number of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children increased by nearly 12 per cent.

There is a lot more to do. We welcome the reforms in child safety, and we look forward to better results for those most vulnerable.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.12 pm): I rise to speak in support of this bill. I acknowledge the work of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee in examining this bill and their detailed report. The objective of this bill is to implement the recommendation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission report. The single recommendation in that report was that the Queensland government consider a revised external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children 'known to the child protection system'. This bill identifies relevant agencies subject to this bill which include the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women; the Department of Education; Queensland Health; the Department of Youth Justice; and the Queensland Police Service.

The establishment of a separate and independent board, the Child Death Review Board, within the QFCC to provide for the conduct of reviews is the cornerstone of this bill. The board's functions as listed in the bill include carrying out reviews relating to the child protection system following child deaths connected to the system; analysing data and applying research to identify patterns and trends relevant to reviews; making recommendations about improvements to systems, policies and practices; and monitoring the implementation of the recommendations.

On the composition of the board, I note that the legislation outlines requirements of membership of the board as well as limits on the make-up of certain subgroups. I commend the onus of ensuring that the board's composition reflects the social and cultural diversity of the Queensland community, but note at the same time the requirement to ensure appropriate criminal history checks and ongoing disclosure of any offences which may deem a board member ineligible for membership. At the heart of this bill is improving safety for children, and we must ensure that board members appointed are appropriate for the task.

I note clause 23, which outlines the reporting requirements of the board which are line with similar other boards in terms of annual reporting, but I also note the discretion of the board to prepare other reports to the minister as appropriate, accompanied by a recommendation as to the tabling of that report in this House. While the establishment of the board is the cornerstone of the bill, the bulk of the work to be generated by this bill will be in the conduct of relevant agency internal reviews as required.

Clause 6 of the bill provides that, when a child dies or suffers serious physical injury after a relevant agency has been involved with the child, the agency head must carry out a review of its involvement. The purpose of the reviews are to promote safety and wellbeing of children who come into contact with the child safety system. In order to facilitate these reviews there are a number of provisions that facilitate information sharing between relevant agencies to ensure that siloed approaches are avoided because, as we know, it is very unlikely that a child subject to an internal review would have been involved with just one relevant agency.

While some submitters still had concerns about internal reviews and a possible lack of independence, it is noted that all internal agency reviews relating to the death of a child are provided to the Child Death Review Board, which may request further information. It should be noted that it is not the role of either the agency internal reviews or the Child Death Review Board to determine culpability or consider disciplinary action against an employee of an agency. The review process is to focus on improvement to services and systems, not to assign blame.

The QFCC report, which is the genesis of this bill, noted in designing the new child death review model that decisions on accountability are the responsibility of the employer and the Coroner. Just on that, I would like to make a final point in closing. Notwithstanding the important role that government agencies have in monitoring the welfare of vulnerable children and intervening when necessary, I cannot discuss child safety related death and blithely ignore the failings of people in lieu of finding a department head or officer responsible. I do not give a free pass to murderers and abusers of children and their enablers so that I can kick a public servant who is trying to do their job.

I am of the view that, whilst it is important to identify any shortcomings in government processes or procedures, we should not minimise the role of an offender. I have yet to encounter a child death where those who were primarily responsible for the care and safety of those children—whether that be the family, immediate or extended, community or others who were trusted to care for that child—did not have concerns. Why can we not or why do we not intervene when we fear for the safety of a child? What stops us? When did our first response to concerns about the safety of a child become a phone

call to an automated phone service in the city and then walking away thinking, 'Well I've done my bit. It's up to someone else now'? Yes, government has a vital and ever-increasing role to play in child safety, but that is because everyone has failed that child. We have all failed that child. Let us not lose sight of that.

I certainly recall, having been a frontline officer, being contacted and advised that someone I had been involved with as part of my day-to-day duties had been murdered. Members in this House must be aware that when someone becomes aware of this it does cause people to stop and pause and consider what their involvement was. Could it have been better? Could I have done a better job? Every single person who works on the front line makes those considerations. Unfortunately we are now in an environment where that concern also then turns to 'How are they going to blame this on me? What could I have done differently? What could I have done better?'

Every single person who is on the front line doing their best to protect Queenslanders, particularly to keep our children safe, is doing what they can at that first point of contact, as well as when they go on and investigate and do their case management. I want to see more responsibility in the community at large for the safety of our children, not just in government departments. That is what is missing in many of the things we discuss.

Like I said in this House, I am more than happy to discuss how we can improve systems, policies and procedures, but at the end of the day we are all Queenslanders and we all have a responsibility to look after our kids and not palm the responsibility off to a government department. When we can do that, I am more than happy to sit down and point fingers at public servants. Until we all take responsibility for every child in our community, let us try to keep this in perspective.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.19 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the bill before the House. I listened with interest yesterday while the Attorney-General and the Minister for Police—and today the Minister for Child Safety—made their contributions with regard to this bill. Of course they are right. As we all say in this chamber, the care of our children and grandchildren is a very important component of our society. Children are by far the most important human beings on the planet. They are by far the most important human beings because resting in them is the future of our society and our world.

The bill before the House arose out of the tragic death of Mason Jett Lee back in 2016 which led to the Queensland Family and Child Commission report titled *A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child*. The report was tabled in March 2017, a bill was handed down on 18 September 2019 and the committee reported on 18 November 2019. In essence, there were two determinations by the committee: firstly, that it establish a new child death review board that looks at system reviews following child deaths connected with the child support system. The board is also required to take into account and identify opportunities for improvement in systems, legislation, policies and practices. The bill will also establish a model by expanding the government agencies that are required to conduct internal agency reviews following the deaths of such children, including: Queensland Health, the Department of Education, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Youth Justice.

As I said, no-one in this chamber for one second doubts the critical nature of the work undertaken by the department of child safety. I agree with the minister: the officers who work in that department see events that we would never see in our day-to-day existence. I had some exposure to that in the Family Court system, but that was nothing in comparison to what these officers see on a day-to-day basis. I know from people who have worked in the department that they see some horrific things. Therefore, one has to ask: if those officers do see the worst of the worst and do see human beings in their worst colour, why has it taken almost three years to get to this point? Why, after all the calls from the public for action after the report came down way back in March 2017, has it taken three years for this to see a debate in this House? The Attorney addressed that point clearly in her contribution yesterday. She said, 'It is of the utmost importance that we get this new model right.' I accept it is important to get it right, but what I do not understand is why, three years down the track, it is only now we are debating something so critical to protect the children and grandchildren of the people in this chamber and right across Queensland.

In 2017-18, actual revenue into state coffers was \$58 billion. In 2018-2019 estimated actual is \$60 billion, so in the two years post the delivery of the report this state dragged in \$18 billion. At the same time, in 2017-18 there were 224,000 FTEs in the government; in 2018-19 estimated actual is almost 230,000. Do you mean to tell me that, at a time when the Treasurer can take \$100,000 to engage somebody outside to do her work for her, we could not find money and people in the government to do this work and that, given the absolute backing of the important nature of this work, they could not find the money? That is ridiculous. This is the same government that, to suit their own ends, changed

legislation in this House within 18 minutes that had a major impact right across the state, but they could not find a dollar and somebody to undertake the work for three years, yet they proclaim they are here to protect children. This government has its priorities sadly wrong, and as a consequence the children, the little ones—the Mason Jett Lees—continue to suffer. They need and deserve better than this. Yesterday the police minister made this comment during his contribution—

As I mentioned, the motivation behind this bill is a very noble one and that is to protect our children, to do everything in our power to keep our children safe, especially those in vulnerable circumstances.

I agree with him: it is noble. But it is equally noble to move quickly to ensure that protections are put in place. Again I go back to the point: three years. If we were truly noble in our attitudes, beliefs and ideals the government would have moved a lot more quickly than this. What I do not want to see is a similar outcome—another sad, tragic Mason Jett Lee—subsequent to this bill becoming an act of parliament that reviews the same thing again and comes up with a new regime that fails to protect other vulnerable children. Our children are the most important human beings on the planet and they need the protection of all of us in this chamber.

The member for Macalister made a valid point. I have said in this chamber before that it takes a community to raise a child. It takes a community to protect a child. The sooner we band together to ensure that is the principal motivating force in relation to child safety, the better off and safer our children will be.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (2.27 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill currently before the House. In speaking to this bill I acknowledge the death of a 21-month-old toddler, Mason Jett Lee, who died tragically at his Caboolture home on 11 June 2016. His death shocked the community. It was Mason's death that prompted the Premier to request the Queensland Family and Child Commission to oversee reviews being undertaken by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and Queensland Health regarding the services provided to Mason prior to him passing away. This review amounted to the QFCC providing a single recommendation to the government in their report titled *A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child*. The sole recommendation was for the government to consider a revised external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children known to the child protection system.

The Palaszczuk government has also publicly committed to introducing legislation requiring expanded key government agencies to conduct internal systems reviews in child death cases. Child protection, as we know, is a complex matter and, like the rest of the world, Queensland can do better. We know that the Palaszczuk government is committed to improving past practices.

This bill aims to implement the QFCC's recommendation through two mechanisms. Firstly, it will expand the current requirement to conduct an internal systems review when a child known to Child Safety dies or suffers serious physical injury to other relevant government agencies—Queensland Health including hospital and health services, the Department of Education, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Youth Justice. Secondly, it will establish a new external independent Child Death Review Board to carry out systems reviews following child deaths connected to the child protection system. I will make comment about each of these mechanisms separately.

Initially, the bill amends the Child Protection Act 1999 to expand the existing internal agency review process. This amendment will keep in force the standard review processes but will also require relevant agencies to undertake a systems review of their involvement with the child if they have provided a service to the child and introduce provisions to enable the sharing of information while protecting confidentiality so relevant agencies can carry out reviews and share outcomes. It will also require all agencies undertaking an internal review to prepare a review report and provide a copy of these reports relating to child deaths to the new board within six months. Requiring these key agencies to review and critically reflect on their involvement recognises that child protection is a shared responsibility, as well as creates a more uniform and aligned review process.

Further, the bill establishes the new Child Death Review Board under the Family and Child Commission Act 2014. Independence of the department of child safety is critical to the board and is central to the QFCC's recommendation and the government's commitment. The independent board and its ability to consistently make public systems recommendations will increase transparency and improve public confidence.

The bill provides that the board will sit within the QFCC—under the guidance of Cheryl Bardon, a great leader within our government organisations—given its many synergies and opportunities for streamlining with QFCC's existing functions, including oversight of the child protection system and management of the child death register in Queensland. Though the board will receive secretariat

support from the QFCC, it is important to note that the board will be independent and operate as a separate entity from the QFCC with distinct functions and powers. The new board will be consistent with other state practices as it is modelled on common elements from death review models, particularly Queensland's Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board and other states and territories, in particular Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. Consequently, the new board complements but does not duplicate existing review processes, thereby allowing for a far more efficient review system.

As a former principal and administrator of a large organisation, I know the importance of improving and upholding excellent standards of review, particularly for matters relating to children. I am therefore confident that these two mechanisms implemented through this bill will restore the public's confidence in Queensland's child death review system, as well as create a far more efficient system. I also commend the Palaszczuk government for upholding its public commitment to introduce such a bill that will conduct internal systems reviews in child death cases and move us closer to ensuring that every child is safe in Queensland. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.33 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for communities and shadow minister for disability services and seniors and shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. From the outset, I wish to note that the Liberal National Party opposition will not be opposing this legislation.

It is a tragic reality that there are children in Queensland who are seriously injured or indeed killed by people who ultimately should have had the best interests and safe care of those children at heart. One child who is seriously injured or killed is simply one too many, yet in Queensland it is occurring far too often and, sadly, it is happening to children who are known to various Queensland government departments and agencies. It is fundamentally critical that Queensland's agencies are well reviewed and oversights, well equipped and provided with the information and tools necessary in order to ensure that to the best extent possible children who are known to Queensland's agencies do not come to harm. Under this Labor government, such fundamental principles and the independent external framework to enable such reviews and information sharing has been lacking. In fact, it is very unfortunate that it has taken so long to get to this point today. However, I will expand upon this point further shortly.

In relation to the objectives of this bill, this legislation seeks to implement the recommendations of the Queensland Family and Child Commission report and give effect to the development of a new independent model for reviewing child death cases. To achieve this, a new independent Child Death Review Board will be established and located within the Queensland Family and Child Commission which will be responsible for carrying out the systems reviews following the death of a child connected to and/or under the child protection system. This legislation will also expand the requirement to conduct an internal systems review following the death or serious physical injury of a child known to child safety and/or to other relevant government agencies that are involved in the provision of services to that child.

Specifically looking at the Child Death Review Board, I note that the board will be responsible for identifying opportunities for continuous improvement in systems, legislation, policies and practices to identify preventative mechanisms to help protect children and prevent deaths that may be avoidable. I also note that the minister will have the ability in exceptional circumstances to ask the board to carry out a review in circumstances where a child is not connected to the child protection system but where the death or injury is relevant to the child protection system.

I believe it is worth stating again—and it was articulated by my colleague, the shadow Attorney-General and shadow minister for justice, the member for Toowoomba South—that this legislation is not aimed at investigating any one specific child case or one specific incident or death. Rather, it is aimed at identifying and addressing areas of any systemic state government and/or departmental or statutory agency failure.

The objectives of the bill and the systems that it will put in place are all reasonable and can arguably lead one to ask why it has taken so long for it to be enacted. That really is the question. How could this Labor government let such fundamental and critical child safety reforms drag on for so long? Queenslanders know all too well that the Palaszczuk Labor government has had extreme difficulty managing the child safety and the child protection system under its term in government. It is not just this Labor government. We have seen it under successive Labor governments that have failed this fundamental function of government. Who can forget former Labor premier Peter Beattie's plea to the Queensland people that he was 'sickened and ashamed' at reports of child abuse among state wards and foster children and his promise at that time that 'We'll fix it'? That was back in 2003 leading into the 2004 state election.

Turning to more recent times, and with specific reference to this bill before the House today, Queenslanders deserve to understand the sheer lack of will this government has had to date to enact such vital reforms. It truly defies belief, particularly when Queensland has experienced an unprecedented period of crisis within the child safety department under the Palaszczuk Labor government. The aforementioned Queensland Family and Child Commission report, which is the genesis for this legislation, was tabled on 30 March 2017. That was back in the 55th Parliament. Incredibly, it has taken this Labor government a full 902 days—just shy of two years and six months—before it has finally introduced this bill into the Queensland parliament. It has taken a further 139 days from the bill's introduction before the House was finally able to begin its debate.

Let there be no doubt that, when those opposite claim the mantle of working in the best interests of the welfare and safety of Queensland's most vulnerable children, such words ring hollow in this chamber. There is simply no excuse for this Labor government to take 902 days to introduce legislation implementing the recommendation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission. This Labor government has its priorities all wrong. It is more focused on changing the names of hospitals, moving dubious motions in this place and reckless spending on outsourcing core functions of ministerial responsibility and accountability, rather than focusing on this important core aspect of government.

The latest statistics available paint a harrowing picture of Child Safety in Queensland. We know that the number of children living away from home rose by 742 in the 12 months to September 2019 to 10,535 children. Concerningly, in one year alone under the Palaszczuk Labor government, there was an increase of more than 400 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living away from home, a rise of 10 per cent. By contrast, the increase in non-ATSI children living away from home was six per cent. Indeed, almost every indicator and statistic—children subject to protective orders, number of notifications received, number of child protection orders—has risen under this Palaszczuk Labor government. However, there has been a decrease. Sadly, it is in the number of investigations that were completed in the 60-day period, which is now down to 39 per cent from 47.5 per cent a year earlier.

We are truly facing a child safety system that is in crisis. If there is one clear message from the process that has led to today's bill, it is that time is of the essence. For the sake and safety of Queensland children, any reform that can bring about positive change to the child safety and child protection system and other related government agencies must be pursued with absolute care, urgency and vigour.

Before I conclude I wish to thank all members of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, in particular, the member for Pumicestone and the former member for Currumbin for their consideration and examination of the bill that is before the House. I also thank all of those important stakeholders who made submissions to the committee. The Liberal National Party will always stand for safe communities and the safety of all children. That is why we support the proposals and measures that are contained within this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.40 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill. A death of an innocent child always raises questions: how could this have happened, who is responsible, who is accountable for this death and what could we have done to protect the child from fatal injury or neglect? For vulnerable children who are known to Child Safety the questions become more urgent and profound as these children are known to be at greater risk.

The community are rightly angered when a child known to Child Safety dies and they rightly demand answers and accountability to prevent more of these types of deaths happening in the future. Not answering these questions and ignoring the matter only puts other children at risk and it compromises the community's confidence and trust in government agencies.

Child Safety Services do an outstanding job in keeping children safe in Queensland and their staff do amazing work in handling sometimes very challenging and traumatic cases. However, it takes a whole-of-community effort to keep children safe. It is a shared responsibility between the community and government agencies including Health, Police, Child Safety, our schools and community organisations.

Following the death of a child known to Child Safety, the community expects the government to do something that will help these agencies provide improved supports to vulnerable, at-risk children. That is why following the tragic death of Mason Jett Lee in 2016 the Premier requested the Queensland Family and Child Commission to oversee the reviews being undertaken by the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Department of Health. The key findings from the QFCC's report that

followed highlighted a number of failings. For instance, reviews into deaths of children known to Child Safety are not sufficiently independent and do not deliver whole-of-system changes that the agency needs to protect children.

It also found that other agencies involved prior to the child's death are not mandated to conduct internal reviews after the child's death and, furthermore, that Queensland does not yet have a contemporary, best practice child death review model in comparison with other jurisdictions. Importantly, it found information sharing and collaboration between agencies needs greater improvement.

The QFCC found that reviews undertaken by individual agencies were being done in isolation and findings from those reviews were not being shared with other agencies. This gives rise to wasted opportunities for whole-of-system improvements. The primary point is that it is not just the responsibility of one agency to look after a child; protecting a child is everyone's business.

This bill implements the single recommendation of the QFCC's review, that is, to consider a revised, external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children known to the child protection system and to give effect to the government's commitment to develop a new, independent model for reviewing child death cases.

The protection of children to avoid untimely death through neglect or harm means that we do need a model of review that is truly independent and focuses on continual learning and improvement of our systems, policies, practices and legislation right across the board. Child Safety Services may have statutory responsibility to protect Queensland children, but all agencies providing services to children have a duty of care to keep children safe. This bill will require Queensland Health, Department of Education, Queensland Police and the Department of Youth Justice to conduct an internal review of their involvement with the child if the child is subject to review by Child Safety and was known to the relevant agencies during the preceding 12 months.

In the period 2018-19, 58 children who were known to Child Safety died in Queensland. Six of these deaths were from a fatal assault and neglect and 14 were from suicide. These are children who had their whole lives ahead of them and we must do better. Many of these children were in the school system and they were known by police, Youth Justice, health services and other organisations. They were known to be vulnerable and in danger. I am certain many people close to them spoke up and reported their concerns to the relevant agencies, so it is only right that we bring other government agencies into the child death review process so that we can shed light on what system-wide changes we need to implement to keep children safe and prevent more deaths. It is the least we can do to protect the most vulnerable children in our community.

I am proud that our society has come such a long way from ignoring child abuse in our homes and institutions. Too many kids in previous generations died or suffered in silence and many turned a blind eye to this. The great cultural shift in recognising the rights of children has culminated in a series of reforms over the past several decades and includes child protection reforms delivered by the Palaszczuk government since 2015. These reforms are seeing results, with 600 new Child Safety staff added since 2015 and 23,079 Child Safety cases completed in 2018-19. Child safety officers are intervening earlier to work more intensively with families to de-escalate risks to children's safety and help families keep their children safe.

Queensland also has the lowest rate of children subject to care and protection orders, with only 8.9 children per 1,000 children under orders compared with the national average of 10.6 children. Our reforms are also reducing the number of children in care and improving outcomes for children in the child protection system at all stages of their lives. We also have wonderful programs for children transitioning from the child protection system to adulthood. We all know that once a child turns 18 they do not suddenly become an adult, and it can be daunting for a child in care without the usual supports of close family. There are wonderful programs out there such as Life Without Barriers' Next Step After Care program, which is helping young people in the child protection system make that transition to independent adulthood. Our government is supporting their journey with the investment of \$5.5 million last year in the Next Step After Care services and by investing an additional \$2.5 million over the next three years to support young people during and after their transition to adulthood.

I do want to take the opportunity to congratulate the staff at Ipswich Child Safety and Life Without Barriers along with their group of fellow youth advisers for the fantastic job they did organising the Transition to Adulthood Expo held in Ipswich last October. This expo ran a range of displays on housing, education, training and transport—basically all the things that kids in care need to know to feel more in control of their future lives after care. I am proud to share with the House that this expo recently won an Ipswich City Council Australia Day award for Community Event of the Year. It is a wonderful

achievement and I wish to congratulate all the people involved in making it a success. It is just one example of bringing agencies together to share in a commitment to make child protection everyone's business. This bill highlights that point. It will also put into focus our commitment to shared responsibility for child protection through accountability measures such as expanded child death review requirements for all agencies and establishing the new independent Child Death Review Board.

I would also like to acknowledge the work done by the Queensland Family and Child Commission in recommending this reform, and I thank the Attorney-General and the Premier for their continued commitment to child protection reform in Queensland. I would also like to especially thank all Queensland government agency workers in Child Safety, Health, Police, Youth Justice and the many others out there who work tirelessly to keep Queensland children safe from harm. I meet regularly with these people in my electorate. I am always in awe of their commitment and dedication to the future of our children. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (2.49 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. One of the most difficult but rewarding roles I had in my 30 years as a police officer involved the three years I spent as a detective in the Child Abuse Unit and Juvenile Aid Bureau, as it was known then. Every morning the in-tray would have a number of notifications to investigate, usually in partnership with child safety officers. There were interviews with children at schools—or at the specially designed interview room at our office—as we tried to assess whether or not a child was offended against and/or was in danger of further abuse or neglect. It was a difficult task indeed, but it is an extremely important task that our police and our child safety officers undertake daily. It is fair to say that police and Child Safety often do not agree as to the decisions made about the care of the children with whom they deal.

With my history I have a particular interest—as I am sure we all do—in the protection of our children. In my maiden speech I noted that, while the government should seek every reasonable avenue before it considers permanently removing a child from its parents, we must constantly examine the ethical questions about the boundaries of that reasonableness. At times in our history governments removed children far too swiftly, and at other times governments allowed families an unfathomable latitude despite repeated and consistent demonstrations that their chances of turning their lives around were negligible. These new laws, supported by our side of the House, will independently review when these decisions go horribly wrong and when we are left with the tragic circumstance of a child death.

I note that the objectives of the bill are to implement the recommendation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission report *A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child* and to give effect to a new, independent model for reviewing child death cases. I also note that the policy objectives of the bill are achieved by establishing the new, independent Child Death Review Board, located within the QFCC. It will be responsible for carrying out systems reviews following child deaths connected to the child protection system but also expands the requirements to conduct an internal systems review following the death or serious physical injury of a child known to Child Safety and to other relevant government agencies involved in providing services to that child.

While this side of the House supports the bill, the length of time it has taken for Labor to introduce this bill is outrageous. We see rushed through this parliament bills about workers' public holiday rates, for example, and other bills that I argue are not even close to being more important or urgent than this bill. Government members keep trying to justify it.

We note the history of this bill. In June 2016, after the death of Mason Jett Lee, the government requested that the Queensland Family and Child Commission oversee the reviews being undertaken by the departments of communities, child safety and disability services and by the child death case review panel and the investigation conducted by Queensland Health about the services provided to Mason Jett Lee before his tragic death. We know that the QFCC tabled its report on 30 March 2017, making an overarching recommendation: to consider a revised external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children 'known to the child protection system'.

Almost 2½ years elapsed between the handing down of that report and its recommendation and this bill being presented to parliament in September last year. While the department of justice related the delay to the need to undertake consultation, it was noted by committee members that 2½ years is an excessively lengthy period and that an earlier introduction of this bill may have benefited our most vulnerable.

We have seen this government fast-track its pet projects and legislation for political benefit, but this should have been a priority. Surely, nothing could be more urgent or important than the prevention of deaths of children, especially with this government's generation of failure in child safety and youth justice.

It is worth pointing out in this debate some of the latest statistics on child safety that led to the urgency of this bill and to improvements in this area. The number of children subjected to a protective order jumped to 10,769 by the end of September 2019, 719 more than 12 months earlier. That number is 1,500 more than at June 2015. The number of notifications of concern that a child is in need of protection jumped to 25,572 to the end of September 2019, 1,208 more than 12 months earlier. That number is 3,216 more than at 30 June 2015.

Child safety officers are obviously under the pump and under-resourced. I note that the latest statistics show that only 39 per cent of investigations were completed in the 60-day time period. This figure is concerning but is also getting worse, as it is down from 47.5 per cent the year before and shows clearly that child safety officers are overburdened.

The number of children subject to child protection orders increased by 6.4 per cent from 30 September 2018, to 10,526 as at 30 September 2019. Since 30 June 2015, the number of children subject to child protection orders increased by 14.2 per cent. Over this period, the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children subject to child protection orders increased by 17.8 per cent. The number of non-Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children increased by 11.6 per cent. Our child safety system is in crisis and has been for some time. We are failing our children. Hopefully, this bill and the new board it establishes will go some way to making desperately needed improvements.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.57 pm): I rise to speak on this certainly long overdue legislation. As lawmakers, we have a solemn duty to protect those most vulnerable in our society, to act quickly on situations that arise and to implement recommendations in a timely manner. To understand why this is so important, let us not forget the reason we are debating this bill: a little boy, 21 months old, who died on 11 June 2016 because the system failed him. One can only imagine the nightmare, torment and pain this little boy went through, yet his suffering for an extended period of time is beyond comprehension. When his story hit the media, it sent shockwaves through our community and depicted the harsh reality of what humans are capable of.

The true tragedy is that Mason's circumstances were known to not just one but two government agencies—Child Safety Services and Queensland Health. These agencies had the power to act and keep Mason safe but failed to do so. Therefore, the reputation of these workers, especially in Child Safety, was seriously compromised. As a result, both agencies initiated a formal review into their handling of the situation prior to Mason's death. The Queensland Family and Child Commission was instructed formally to oversee this review and ensure it was completed in a timely manner.

It is disappointing to see that it has taken almost three years for this government to debate this bill—a bill that has one overarching recommendation. Queenslanders have a right to ask why it has taken so long to act upon this. Many would say this is inexcusable. It only drives home the lack of accountability in our political system, especially when we are dealing with the most vulnerable in our community: our children.

The one overarching recommendation made by the Queensland Family and Child Commission in March 2017 was designed to save lives. Therefore, one could surmise that this delay has potentially placed other children at risk. One could ask how many other children known to Child Safety could be alive today if this recommendation had been acted upon sooner. The answer to that question we will never know.

Our society has become accustomed to seeing these horrendous crimes. That is a sad indictment but also highlights the issue of individual accountability. As Edmund Burke once said, the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good people to do nothing. As many members in this chamber have spoken about, it requires a community-wide approach. If we see things, we need to report them. If we feel that a child is in danger, we need to report it. Unfortunately, the department of child safety and the police cannot be everywhere.

The little boy who was not even two years old when he died would have been six this year. It is very disappointing to me and many other Queenslanders that this Labor government has taken so long to bring forth this bill and implement one overarching recommendation.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (3.01 pm): We are all deeply saddened and affected by the tragic death of any child. This is amplified when the death is preventable. The heartbreaking, unbearable grief experienced by family, carers, friends and communities as well as our first responders lasts a lifetime. There is no end to the guilt and loss as questions will always haunt us: 'Were they adequately identified

and protected by our welfare system?', 'Could something more have been done or, like many before them, was their suffering only truly realised after their deaths?' and, 'How did we not see the signs?' Teachers, neighbours and doctors—anyone who had contact—are forever haunted. Protecting children is everyone's business and everyone's responsibility. It takes a village to raise a child, and we are all part of that village.

The Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 aims to implement the single overarching recommendation of the Queensland Family and Child Commission report: to consider a revised external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children known to the child protection system. Specifically, the bill establishes a review model that expands the requirement to conduct internal systems reviews to other relevant government agencies involved in providing services to children known to Child Safety. Those conversations and the connectivity between everyone is so vital. Rather than assign blame, Queensland's child death review teams will be further supported to understand cases of preventable deaths and uncover ways that child welfare systems, such as child protection, public health and juvenile justice, can be improved to prevent future deaths or injuries.

The bill also establishes a new independent Child Death Review Board, which is to be located within the QFCC. The responsibility of the board will be to carry out systems reviews following child deaths connected to the child protection system, identifying opportunities for continuous improvement in systems, legislation, policies and practices; and identifying preventive mechanisms to help protect children and prevent deaths that are avoidable.

All published submissions in response to this bill acknowledged the importance of advocating for protecting Queensland's most vulnerable children. Bravehearts' submission affirmed the view of Sisters Inside, noting that through a thorough, effective and independent review process the government will be better placed to protect our most vulnerable. Submitters PeakCare, the Queensland Law Society and the Australian Association of Social Workers also support measures to expand the current internal reviews to other relevant agencies.

Every year in a number of terrible cases children die as a result of child abuse and/or neglect. I do not need to go into the horrific statistics as outlined by the member for Nicklin. The problems most commonly associated with this occurrence and identified in families involved with child protection services are domestic violence, parental mental health and parental alcohol and drug abuse. Reducing the vulnerability of families and protecting children from abuse and neglect begins with a shared understanding and responsibility. That responsibility extends beyond this chamber. It extends to those individuals and those parents involved. It is up to every one of us. We cannot do this alone.

I thank the committee, submitters and attendees at both the public hearing and the public briefing for their examination of the bill. I thank all of those who work in the departments and agencies that every day are confronted with the greatest of responsibilities and often the greatest of heartbreaks—that is, child welfare. May the results of this bill provide what all have sought for so long—that is, for all children, regardless of their circumstances, to be loved, cared for and kept safe as a matter of urgency and as a matter of the utmost priority. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.05 pm): The child safety system in Queensland has been broken for a long time. I have had more than my fair share of professional encounters, struggles and challenges working in the system. Too many lives have been unnecessarily lost. Too many lives have been destroyed. Too many Labor reviews and recommendations have come and gone. Attempts at reform in this state to date have been encumbered by a raft of clumsy laws, protocols, policies, procedures, reporting constraints, red tape and poor accountability.

I would like to acknowledge the devastating and unconscionable death of 21-month-old Mason Jett Lee on 11 June 2016 which is the genesis of these reforms. I extend my sympathies to the many staff across many agencies who, despite their efforts, found themselves unwittingly involved in what can only be described as a catastrophic systemic failure. Unfortunately, tragically, the story of Mason Jett Lee is not unique. Staff in these agencies are still swimming against the tide, doing their utmost in a broken system.

I would like to acknowledge the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for their examination of the bill. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Australian Association of Social Workers, Bravehearts, the Queensland Law Society, Sisters Inside and PeakCare Queensland for making submissions to the committee and for the work they do in the child protection space. They all support in principle the amendments in this bill.

Child protection is without doubt the most complex of frameworks to take the stick of common sense to, but that is, it seems, what the Queensland Family and Child Commission are calling for. The commission oversaw the review of Mason Jett Lee's death and subsequently released their report *A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child*, the findings of which underpin this bill. Cheryl Vardon, principal commissioner, said in the report's foreword—

We must remain vigilant. Every person, every community and every organisation has a role in protecting our children. In memory of Mason, I ask that we all do everything we can to keep Queensland's children more than safe.

Queensland's child protection system under Labor has been the subject of reviews for the past 15 years, yet vulnerable Queensland children remain less than safe. As evidenced in the current commission's report and many reviews prior, the multiple and different parts of what should comprise an effective Queensland child protection system fail to work together to deliver the safety net for our children in care that they are charged to provide. It is with utter despair that the community rightfully demands urgent policy and procedural changes to be implemented to prevent further child deaths and overhaul the process of investigating them so as to identify and close operational gaps and, in doing so, save lives.

The commission found that one of the key learnings from the review of the contributing factors to Mason's death was a lack of information sharing and collaboration across agencies. The commission reported that in 2015-16 alone Mason was one of 45 children known to the child safety department who died in Queensland. Of the 385 child deaths in Queensland in 2017-18, 48 were known to the child protection system. The report elaborated to say that some of these children attended school and some younger ones, like Mason, had been in contact with health and hospital services while others were receiving support from non-government organisations. In most cases, there were potentially many eyes on the children in otherwise innocuous settings before they tragically died and there were many missed opportunities to check on their safety which may have prevented their deaths.

Despite the long established internal and agency restricted child death case review process being subjected to a number of reforms under Labor since 1999 and the commission's recommendations nearly three years ago to overhaul it, shamefully Queensland still does not have a contemporary best practice child death review model. The truth is Labor dropped the ball. The commission had done the work and handed the solution to it back in March 2017. Labor took two years to draft the bill, two months to garner stakeholder support and, at long, long last, in February 2020—nearly three years since the commission recommended urgent changes to prevent more deaths like Mason's—we are here in readiness to support what was needed three years ago.

The crux of the reforms provided for in the bill are twofold and include the creation of a new, independent Child Death Review Board located at the commission that will carry out system reviews following child deaths connected to the child protection system and extending the requirement to conduct an internal system review following the death or serious physical injury of a child known to Child Safety to other relevant government agencies involved in providing services to that child. The new Child Death Review Board, unlike previous incarnations, will be truly independent from the child safety department and will be able to monitor and report on the implementation of its recommendations. It will also be responsible for identifying opportunities for continuous improvement in systems, legislation, policies and practices and to identify preventative mechanisms to help protect children and prevent deaths that may be avoidable.

In exceptional circumstances the minister may ask the board to carry out a review in circumstances where the child is not connected to the child protection system but the death or injury is relevant to the child protection system. In particular, the reviews consider matters relating to the provision of services to, and other interactions with, children and their families by government and non-government entities. This is an important provision in order to remove bureaucratic silos and improve transparency. After all, we are all responsible for child safety and moving forward we must all be committed to keeping Queensland's children more than safe. In order to improve service provisions and accountability, the bill also stipulates that Queensland Health, the Department of Education, the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Youth Justice will also be required to conduct internal reviews in addition to Child Safety and the litigation director. In the case of a child death, reports are given to the board, which carries out further reviews of relevant systems.

While the establishment of an external and independent review board will strengthen the investigative process of a child death that is directly or indirectly connected to the Child Safety system, it is important to note that the commission's report raised the issue of individual accountability and the

legislative requirement for child death case review panels in determining the need for disciplinary action. The commission highlighted that panels often do not have enough information to determine individual accountability and noted that in designing the new child death review model consideration should be given to legislative amendments removing this requirement because decisions on accountability are the responsibility of the employer and/or the Coroner. This may help to break down barriers in the reporting process.

The department stated that the requirement of government agencies to conduct an internal review in the first place rather than having an independent party conduct a review enables the agency to critically reflect on its involvement, support learning and continuous improvement and, importantly, recognise that child protection is a shared responsibility. This philosophy does, however, speak to Commissioner Vardon's overarching statement and appeal for us all to make all Queensland children more safe and to put our insecurities aside as personnel involved in a child's life in order to improve the lives of children in our care.

There is no place for egos and there is no place to hide when the responsibility for our children is shared on a personal, organisational and systemic level, but—and there is a big but—this sector must be adequately resourced if real change is to be achieved. Only 39 per cent of investigations into child safety breaches were completed in the 60-day time period last year, meaning that child safety officers are clearly overburdened. Since 30 June 2015, the number of children subject to child protection orders increased by 14.2 per cent and 17.8 per cent for ATSI children. Sadly, we are living the legacy of a generation of Labor governments in Queensland that have failed to adequately protect the most vulnerable and innocent members of our society—our children. The LNP has a good record in dealing with crime and protecting the vulnerable. The LNP government efficiently and effectively targeted child protection resources following the adoption of the 2013 Carmody inquiry recommendations which lead to the reduction of Child Safety notifications and substantiated cases of harm.

In closing, I want to remind the House of my staunchly held view that there is no excuse for killing a vulnerable, innocent, defenceless child; there is no worse crime; there is no worse offender; and there is no punishment harsh enough to fit this crime. Monsters who kill innocent, defenceless young kids should feel the full force of the law and we must make every effort to prevent these crimes from occurring. I will work every day with my LNP colleagues to fight to protect our children and I will honour Commissioner Vardon's plea to remain vigilant in memory of Mason Jett Lee and many others to keep Queensland's children more than safe. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (3.15 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I particularly want to thank the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee for its work. I seem to recall that this bill was one which was destined for the committee of which I am a member, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, but as that committee had a number of bills before it at the time it was moved across to the other committee and I thank it for its work in this previously unfamiliar field.

This is a good bill and the LNP does support it. We support in particular the objectives of this bill which are to establish a new, independent Child Death Review Board located within the QFCC responsible for carrying out systems reviews following child deaths connected to the child protection system and expanding the requirement to conduct an internal systems review following the death or serious physical injury of a child known to Child Safety to other relevant government agencies involved in providing services to that child. I have listened with great interest to the contributions of members of the House and I have been particularly fortunate to hear my colleagues who have been police officers. It is interesting to hear their perspectives because they speak with the authentic voice of people who have been there and who have seen it from the systems angle. I found their contributions to be most instructive and I thank them for that.

Although the LNP does support this bill, the House must not mistake that for condoning the process by which we have arrived at this bill. We have heard many speakers say that this has taken a great deal of time. We know that we are here because of the tragic death of Mason Jett Lee and the awful circumstances of his death were the straw that broke the camel's back and led to the instructions to the Queensland Family and Child Commissioner to undertake an oversight review of all of the reviews going on at the time. That report was handed down in March 2017 and it has been noted by a number of speakers before me—and I will reiterate the fact—that it has been three years since that report was handed down and we are only having the second reading debate at the moment. I do take on board what the Attorney-General said in her second reading speech in that it is important to get this right, but

I am not accepting the view that three years is an appropriate amount of time to take to get this right. I was just perusing the submission by the Queensland Law Society and, in a not unfamiliar phrase, it said—

As there has been only a brief opportunity to review the proposed amendments and due to the commitments of our volunteer legal policy committee members, an in-depth analysis of the Bill has not been completed.

That submission was by Mr Bill Potts. His successor has said very similar things, and I can see a mirthful look—a knowing look—on the face of the shadow Attorney-General, my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba South. It is a common refrain from the Law Society and other groups that are making contributions—valuable contributions—which we wish to encourage in the scrutiny of these bills that they are not getting enough time. When I see on the one hand years in the making of this bill and then a short period of time for important interest groups to make a contribution, it really does not reflect credit on the government at all.

The member for Nicklin made the observation that when it is necessary to get bills through quickly the government seems to be able to get into action, particularly when there is some political advantage for them, yet when we are looking at the vital role that government has in safeguarding the welfare and safety of the children in our state it can still take three years to get us to this stage. That observation does require remarking on in the House.

I also noted that the Attorney-General made a number of references to the Queensland Family and Child Commission. I am sure that she and I see eye to eye on the matter of the great work that they do and the goodness of that institution. It was the LNP that introduced the Queensland Family and Child Commission against the wishes of the Labor Party. The Labor Party opposed the introduction of the QFCC. I refer to the wonderful second reading speech that my friend, the shadow Attorney-General, made on this matter.

This bill is a response to systemic failings in child protection in this state. I do take on board the message of my friends to my left who have said that it is everyone's responsibility to ensure the safety of children. We all own this problem. I do not shrink from that. It is important to note that we have had systemic failures which have resulted in tragedies over many years and it cannot be escaped that the Labor Party has been in government for about 25 years of the last 30 years. We need to look at how the government has performed in this very important area. I think their efforts have been weighed in the balance and found to be wanting and slow.

Looking at some of the statistics some of my colleagues have referred to earlier on paints a chilling picture of the situation in the state today. The number of children living away skyrocketed to over 10,000 by the end of September 2019. That is 742 more than a year ago. That is quite an alarming increase. In just one year there was an increase of 405 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children living away from home. That is an almost 10 per cent increase. Meanwhile, there was an increase of six per cent of non-ATSI children over the same year. Children subjected to protective orders jumped to 10,769 by the end of 2019. That is 719 more than previously. The number of notifications or concerns received that suggest a child is in need of protection jumped to 25,572 by the end of September 2019, which is over 1,000 more than the corresponding 12 months before. This is 3,216 more than as at 30 June 2015. The underlying matters which feed into those statistics are complex matters, I accept that, but the government is in charge and I think the growing statistics do not reflect credit on them.

There are examples of how the government's response to matters of child safety in the state have been wanting and have been confused. In the case of blue cards we have seen 70 amending acts associated with blue cards in the time that they have been around. The government gleefully took the amendments that the opposition had proposed and withdrew their own bill so they could mull over them to see what they could pick out of them, which is awfully gratifying of course, but we are looking at the safety of children and we need to get on with it.

The Queensland Family and Child Commission explicitly recommended that there be international criminal history checks on those who are going to be granted a blue card. It pains me to refer to the tragedy of Tiahleigh Palmer, which was a case where a blue card holder had an international criminal history which was not known to those issuing the card. I put on record that I am disappointed in the Labor Party's handling of child safety over long years. This is a good bill but it has been very slow coming. We do support it, but I condemn the government for its stewardship of child safety over many years.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (3.24 pm): Former South African president, Nelson Mandela, once said, 'There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children.' If this is true I believe it would be safe to say that this Labor government, a government elected

to reflect the society it represents, must have a very dark soul. This government has failed the children of Queensland across many areas for many years. In the words of my colleague the member for Nicklin, there has been a generation of failure. This government has failed to safeguard our society's most vulnerable and has allowed children to perish at the hands of those who should hold their best interests at heart. This cannot be allowed to continue. We must take action to ensure the most effective measures are in place to help build better practices and policies moving forward. That is why I welcome this opportunity to stand today and speak on the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019.

I must say that, whilst I am happy to contribute, it is a sad reflection of this Labor government's priorities that I actually have the opportunity to do so, because the report was handed down in 2017—months before I was even given the honour of representing the people of Lockyer—yet it is only now, two and a half years later, that we finally get the opportunity to debate it. It is clear that protecting Queensland's most vulnerable has only come as an afterthought for those opposite.

The Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill will implement the recommendations of the Queensland Family and Child Commission's report, *A systems review of individual agency findings following the death of a child*. This will be achieved through the establishment of the independent Child Death Review Board and an expansion of the requirement to conduct an internal systems review following the death or serious physical injury of a child known to the child safety system. Broadly supported by internal and external stakeholders, the bill is a move in the right direction and as such I will join my colleagues in the LNP in not opposing the bill. I will, however, raise a few concerns I hold with the bill and continue to question why it has taken this government so long to act.

Before I do, however, I would like to thank the members of the Education, Employment and Small Business Committee, the committee secretariat and submitters to this bill for their efforts. I must make special mention of the member for Pumicestone and the former member for Currumbin, whose statement of reservation highlighted the negligence of those opposite in their lacklustre effort towards bringing this bill before the House. Whilst I make mention of the former member for Currumbin, I would like to place on record my appreciation for her service to her community and the people of Queensland. I wish Jann and her husband Richard all the best for the future.

I am sure everyone in this House will be aware of the tragic death of Mason Jett Lee. Mason, a vulnerable child known to the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women, was sadly killed through the negligence of parents unfit to care for him. In response to Mason's death, and the deaths of other children, in June 2016 the government ordered the Queensland Family and Child Commission to oversee the internal reviews being undertaken by several government departments, including the former department of communities, child safety and disability services.

The commission handed down its report on these reviews on 30 March 2017. The commission recommended that this government consider a revised external and independent model for reviewing the deaths of children known to the child protection system. This recommendation was clear: the current system of reporting and monitoring had failed with tragic consequences and something needed to change to stop this from occurring again. Despite that, this government's only action was to um and ah over whether it would take action. The delays dragged on, consultation after consultation went by until finally this do-nothing Palaszczuk Labor government introduced this bill on 18 September 2019.

The last election came and went, and Queenslanders again gave those opposite the mandate to govern in the hope that they would act. Now, over two years later, they have decided that it is time. Better late than never, I suppose. We really should not be surprised as, under Labor, child safety is in disarray in Queensland. In the past four years alone, in Queensland the number of children subject to protection orders has risen by 1,500 to 10,769. In the same period, the number of notifications or concerns received that a child is in need of protection has risen by over 3,000 to 25,572. Alarming, only 39 per cent of investigations into those notifications were completed within a 60-day period. That is down from 47.5 per cent in the year previous and shows just how overburdened our state's child safety officers are. Those figures are grim, but finally now we might see the changes that for years Queenslanders have been calling for.

For the most part, the six submitters to the bill were supportive of its proposed amendments. While Bravehearts place their full support behind the bill, other submitters, including Sisters Inside, PeakCare and the Queensland Law Society, support the bill in principle, highlighting areas where some improvements could be made. The Queensland Law Society highlights section 29W as one concern. In their submission, they state—

Proposed section 29W(1) states, 'the Minister must appoint the principal commissioner or another commissioner as the chairperson.' The Society questions whether the appointment of a Queensland Family and Child Commissioner to the role of Chairperson of the Board would maintain the independence of the Board.

I have dealt with Commissioner Vardon on many occasions and I believe that this comment is no reflection on the person but refers to the position and the potential for conflict. That concern is understandable. Given this government's poor track record in child safety, one could seriously question how well placed they are to appoint the chairperson of the proposed Child Death Review Board. If we have learnt anything from this Labor government's recent hirings, it is that certainly they are not afraid of giving staffers or friends a bit of a leg-up.

Nevertheless, this bill has ultimately been received positively and that is why the LNP will not be opposing it. Like most legislation offered by this government, it is far from perfect but it is a step in the right direction. Safety and security do not just happen; they are the result of collective conscience and public investment. We owe our state's children, some of the most vulnerable members of our society, a life free from violence and fear. We have reached a consensus on this matter and Queenslanders are ready to do their part. Let us get this right. Let us do what we need to do to protect our state's children and stop young lives from being taken far too soon. If we fail, it will reflect poorly not only on us but also on Queensland as a whole.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to speak in support of the legislation that is before the House. In particular, I wish to speak about child death reviews. It is with a degree of sadness that I rise to speak on this legislation, as for a very short period I had what can only be described as very personal contact and personal experiences with child death reviews. For the first 12 months of the Newman government I was appointed as the assistant minister for child safety. It was my great privilege to work with the then member for Aspley, Tracy Davis, who was the minister at that time. In that first 12 months one of the tasks that Tracy asked me to undertake was to read and provide executive summaries and a bit of guidance and advice on the many child death reviews presented to the minister's office by the department.

I can assure the House that those reviews are not exactly what you could call great bedtime reading. On a couple of occasions I made the mistake of taking some reports home to read. After a week or two of doing that I promised myself that I would never do it again but would make time available, first thing in the morning or during the day, when in the office of child safety and communities when it was in Charlotte Street.

It is incredibly sad that each year we lose so many Queensland children. I am not sure of the current figures, but I know that five or six years ago it was in the order of eight to 10 a week and that was for all sorts of reasons. Very sadly, we lost some children to accidents, some of which were avoidable. There were some farm accidents and some accidents within an urban environment. I remember one particular occasion when a family was travelling in the electorate of Lockyer. Unfortunately, one of the children opened the door of a small mobile van. The supervisor did not see what had happened. Tragically, one of the other children was killed in a very significant motor vehicle accident. That highlights why it is such an important piece of legislation that is before the House.

I am pleased to see the recommendation that the Queensland Family and Child Commission will undertake a more significant role in reviewing child deaths within Queensland, because that is not something that should be taken lightly. It is not a task that should be left to a few within the minister's office or within the department. It needs full scrutiny and robust review so that meaningful recommendations can be made to government about how to manage the many incidents that fall, sadly, within the realm of responsibility for the department of child safety.

Today I was a little sad when the member for Bulimba made some comments about the LNP's record in this regard. Since the early 1990s, there has never been a year when the government of the day—whichever side of the House was in office—did not significantly increase spending on child safety. I commend the member for Clayfield, who is in the House with us as I speak, because when the findings of the Carmody commission were handed down some of the recommendations required a significant increase in spending.

**Mr Nicholls:** It was \$460 million.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I thank the member for Clayfield and I take that interjection, because I was struggling to remember the exact figure. A further \$460 million was committed by the then Newman government to follow through and undertake many of the recommendations of the Carmody commission. That was just the first stage.

When I was appointed to the role of assistant minister for child safety, one of the first things that I did was to ask the library to provide a research brief on the history of child safety legislation in this state. I got myself copies of the Forde inquiry and the subsequent CMC inquiry into child protection practices. I spent Easter of 2012 in a coffee shop reading those reports. I have to say that in this state

we have come a long way from the 1950s and the 1960s when there was, in fact, no legislation to protect children. Sadly, back in those darker days some of the references to children, particularly children born outside of marriage or outside of a normal healthy relationship, implied that basically they got the treatment that they deserved. In state budgets of the day there was very little to support families and children.

I am pleased that those dark days are behind us. I am pleased that I can stand in this House and support this. While this is only one of many measures that have been undertaken, it is a significant and important measure that we are dealing with in the House today. We need to understand fully the circumstances of child deaths, particularly when those children have been handed into the care of the state government through child protection orders or other instruments.

I want to briefly speak to the Bravehearts submission. I know I talk about Bravehearts a lot, but this is my 15th year of involvement with the organisation and I am very proud of the work of Bravehearts. I note that the submission was prepared by Carol Ronken, who has been with Bravehearts for some 20 years as the director of research. We would not find a more passionate or more well-informed advocate in Queensland or Australia, for that matter, than Carol, nor would we find anyone as passionate as Hetty Johnston.

I am pleased to note that in their submission they acknowledge both the importance and complexities in reviewing circumstances in relation to the death of a child. Most importantly, Bravehearts noted that it fully supports the proposed amendments under the Child Death Review Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. They also went on to note the establishment of a new death review board which expands the requirement for an internal review in the event of the death or serious physical injury of a child known to Child Safety or to other relevant agencies.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, the question is that the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, in accordance with sessional order 2B the House must now consider clauses 1 to 28.

Clauses 1 to 28, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

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

Motion agreed to.

## AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 22 August 2019 (see p. 2479).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (3.42 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I am pleased to speak to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 which I introduced into the Queensland parliament on 22 August last year. This omnibus bill amends 17 acts and four regulations. Most of the amendments address impediments to the efficient and effective regulation of agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry and fisheries. It also includes some amendments to the Racing Act 2002 to provide legal certainty about the responsibilities of the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission and to the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to ensure a decision on the conservation status of a species is made within a specified time frame.

I put on record my thanks to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee for its thorough consideration of the bill. The committee tabled its report on 8 October 2019 and made five recommendations, including that the bill be passed. Most of the written and verbal submissions to the parliamentary committee inquiry on the bill commented on the amendments to address unacceptable protest behaviour targeting our agricultural industries and other places where animals are used or exhibited.

Actions such as farm invasions have produced fear and anger in the relevant industries. This behaviour could also pose risks to human safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and food safety. I am therefore pleased to acknowledge the support of major animal industry stakeholders for the relevant amendments to the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Biosecurity Act 2014 and the Exhibited Animals Act 2015 in this bill.

AgForce, for example, in its written submission to the committee stated that greater deterrents are required through legislation to provide protection to primary producers and industrial and commercial business owners and operators from those who intentionally disrupt businesses in an intrusive manner. Similarly, in their submission to the committee, the Queensland Farmers' Federation acknowledged that legislation is the only way to enhance the potential to prosecute persons who trespass or inappropriately protest to better reflect community concern and the risks that these protest actions are causing. They also support the amendments to the Summary Offences Act, the Biosecurity Act and the Exhibited Animals Act.

I wish to acknowledge the support of AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation, as well as Australian Pork Ltd, Egg Farmers of Australia and the Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association, for the government's proposal to protect our agricultural industries. I think these industry groups reflect the values and the views of the Queenslanders who see the need to provide additional protection for farmers. They recognise that farmers are often working in regional and remote locations and may not have the resources to defend their own interests, especially when confronted with a large group of protesters. The community and our government value the work of our farmers, and it is in the community interest to protect them, including to provide food safety and security.

The measures in the bill demonstrate the high value that the government places on our agricultural and related industries. Not all businesses are provided this level of protection. In many cases, a business would not have to deal with things like nuisance and trespass as civil matters. This government recognises that farmers have a unique and special community value because they produce our food, protect its quality to ensure that it is safe and make a significant contribution to the regional and state economy. The bill is just the latest action by the Palaszczuk government to support Queensland's hardworking farmers deal with inappropriate protest action.

In April 2019 the government formed the Animal Industry Security Taskforce. This task force comprises senior operational policy officers from the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Queensland Police Service and intensive livestock industry leaders. The task force has been established to identify and analyse all of the issues related to animal activism and farm trespass. It has been putting processes in place to de-escalate these tense situations and to maintain the safety of everyone involved.

Also in April 2019, this government took a legislative step to directly address the biosecurity risks caused by unauthorised entry to places where animals are kept by introducing the Biosecurity and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2019. This regulation introduced a new offence for not complying with a biosecurity management plan to prevent, control or stop the spread of biosecurity matter. It enables police and biosecurity inspectors to issue an on-the-spot fine to protesters who go onto a farm without complying with the farm's biosecurity plan. There have been fewer incidents in Queensland since this fine has been implemented. The new offence has no doubt contributed to the reduction in protest activity, as has the prosecution of trespassers for incidents that occurred earlier in the year, and the work of the task force is readying animal industries and the Palaszczuk government to better respond to incidents.

New South Wales has now copied the Queensland approach and made it an offence not to comply with a biosecurity plan. Unfortunately, experience overseas and interstate suggests that these protests will resume. It is clear that the existing penalties may be insufficient to deter some protesters. Also, there are some risks posed by protesters which are not covered by existing offences.

The Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill goes the next step in providing protection to farmers by addressing these deficiencies. Some submissions to the parliamentary committee on this issue focused on the right to protest and levels of penalties. For example, a number of submissions to the committee suggested that current laws and penalties are sufficient to address the risks associated with protest behaviour. This is not supported by the facts.

Protest incidents have increased in the past 12 months. Advice received from the Queensland police in August last year indicates that animal activist protest incidents have escalated from five reported incidents in 2017 and 15 reported incidents in 2018 to 47 reported incidents in 2019. These incidents include actual protests as well as intelligence reports sourced from the public and police. This increase demonstrates that existing legislation and penalties are insufficient to deter this activity.

To make this clearer, I now table an erratum to the explanatory notes for the bill which is explicit that a reason for increasing the penalty for unlawfully entering farming land is that the recent history of protests demonstrates that the existing penalty of 10 penalty units or six months imprisonment appears to have been insufficient to deter protesters.

*Tabled paper:* Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes: erratum [\[187\]](#).

The increased penalties also better reflect the fear and intimidation that may be experienced where persons unlawfully enter farming and other land, especially in large groups in regional and remote locations.

Some submissions seemed to suggest that risks were overstated and being used as an excuse to close down protests. Firstly, these laws are not designed to suppress the rights of people to lawfully protest. The Palaszczuk government upholds the right of persons to protest peacefully and within the law, and these laws will not prevent peaceful protests in appropriate places.

The offences under the Summary Offences Act, as expanded in this bill, including those amendments I will move concerning section 10A of that act, will only apply to behaviour that is already unlawful. These offences are not discriminatory as they will apply equally to all persons. Secondly, the risks posed by unacceptable behaviour are very real. People can spread serious animal diseases on their skin, footwear, vehicles and equipment if they do not maintain strict biosecurity measures.

Conduct such as allowing animals to mix or moving animals that are normally kept separate can also spread disease. Access to a broad range of domestic and international markets' favourable import conditions is critical to the competitiveness of Queensland agriculture but is dependent upon proof of freedom from diseases and pests.

The biosecurity harms caused by the unauthorised entry of a person carrying a disease onto a livestock production premises could be catastrophic to Queensland industry and regional communities. For example, foot-and-mouth disease is a serious, highly contagious viral disease affecting cloven-hoofed animals such as cattle, pigs, sheep and goats. Foot-and-mouth disease had a devastating impact on the United Kingdom in 2001, China in 2005, again in the United Kingdom in 2007, and Japan and Korea in 2011. A major 2013 study estimated that a large outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease could cost Australia more than \$52 billion in lost revenue over 10 years.

Another example is African swine fever which is an infectious viral disease of pigs which could spread via the entry of contaminated items, including people, into pig production facilities. The virus is harmless to humans but deadly to pigs. There have been recent outbreaks in Europe and Asia, and it has most recently been found on Australia's doorstep, with Timor-Leste being the 10th country to confirm it has the disease. Queensland is the second largest pork producer in Australia with approximately 22 per cent of the national herd. Economic impacts from an outbreak of African swine fever would be significant.

Incidents like those that occurred at Carey Bros at Yangan last year where a chemical was spilled in a food production area highlight the potential not only for increased biosecurity risks but also for food safety risks. Several of the recent incidents at livestock production facilities have had an adverse impact on animal welfare or food safety. Activist activities directed at animal exhibitors could also impact animal welfare or exacerbate public safety risks such as by release of exhibited animals that could injure or kill a person.

Several submissions raised concerns about the wording of clause 132 of the bill which amends section 10A of the Summary Offences Act. The amended unlawful assembly offence would make a gathering of three or more people on land used for certain purposes unlawful if the conduct of the gathered persons, taken together, would cause economic loss to a business conducted on the land or pose a risk to the safety of any person or food, or a risk to animal welfare or biosecurity.

To ensure the amendments are not broader than necessary in order to achieve their intent, I propose to move amendments to clause 132 of the bill during consideration in detail. They will ensure the offence does not extend beyond conduct which is already unlawful. They will also ensure the offence does not extend beyond conduct which actually disrupts a business or poses a risk to the safety of any person or food, or a risk to animal welfare or biosecurity.

Some submissions also excused the recent protests on the basis of concern for animal welfare. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring the welfare of all animals in this state. We have a robust system for monitoring and ensuring the compliance of our animal welfare laws, laws that are some of the strongest in the country. The government's commitment to animal welfare is underscored by the amendments in this bill that will strengthen the powers of animal welfare inspectors to adequately deal with abandoned animals and clarify the application of offences when animals are left in hot vehicles.

Animals left in vehicles are a significant animal welfare issue. The RSPCA Queensland reports that animals being left in vehicles are a significant animal welfare issue and its hotline receives about 1,000 calls each year reporting these types of incidents. The RACQ has released data indicating that two pets per day on average are rescued from hot cars in Queensland and that it rescued 859 animals from boiling cars last year, with 260 of those in Brisbane. Animals can quickly begin to suffer due to heat when confined without shade, air movement and access to cool drinking water. Dogs can die in a hot car within minutes because they cool themselves by panting which is ineffective if the air becomes hot.

The bill amends the Animal Care and Protection Act to clarify that the offences of a breach of a duty of care to an animal and animal cruelty may apply to situations where animals are confined in vehicles. The amendments in the bill make it clear that a person in charge of an animal may be guilty of breaching his or her duty of care to the animal if he or she inappropriately confines or transports it. A person who confines or transports an animal in a vehicle in which it was unlikely to be able to regulate its body temperature may be breaching his or her duty of care to the animal even if, for example, the animal was rescued before the animal actually suffered heat stress or other pain.

The bill also amends the Animal Care and Protection Act to insert an example clarifying that a person may be guilty of animal cruelty if he or she confines an animal in or on a vehicle in a way that causes heat stress or other pain to the animal. The abandonment of animals is also a significant issue, with the RSPCA reporting that it investigates approximately 15,000 cases of cruelty, neglect and abandonment annually.

The bill amends the Animal Care and Protection Act to amend inspectors' powers of entry to enable them to enter premises to investigate and render assistance to abandoned animals, even when they are not at imminent risk of death or injury. This has led to situations where an animal has had to deteriorate to a stage where its welfare is significantly compromised. Up until now, an inspector could only enter premises without a warrant or consent to investigate abandonment if an animal was at imminent risk of death or injury. This has led to situations where an animal has had to deteriorate to a stage where its welfare is significantly compromised. The bill amends inspectors' powers to provide an additional basis to enter a premises without a warrant if an inspector reasonably suspects an animal has been abandoned irrespective of what condition it is in.

As I mentioned earlier, the parliamentary committee made five recommendations. I now table the government response to the committee report.

*Tabled paper:* State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee: Report No. 37, 56th Parliament, October 2019—Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, government response [188].

In response to the committee's second recommendation that provisions that insert a new offence or provisions that amend an existing offence commence on a date fixed by proclamation, I will move an amendment during consideration in detail to ensure relevant provisions all commence on 1 March 2020. Recommendation 3 sought clarification of the intended operation of clause 132. I propose to move amendments during consideration in detail of the bill to clarify the operation of clause 132.

With regard to recommendation 4 concerning increasing the amount of public information available on animal welfare breaches, I want to stress that the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries is committed to transparent and open compliance systems. To that end, I advise that my department

will work collaboratively with RSPCA Queensland to enhance the level of detail provided on animal welfare monitoring and enforcement in Queensland to support a better understanding within the community about animal welfare practices and standards. This will be undertaken through the department's annual report and the departmental website.

Recommendation 5 requests that the Queensland government work with the Australian government on the coordination of animal welfare policy. Through the Agriculture Ministers' Forum—Agmin—and the Agricultural Senior Officials' Committee—AGSOC—Queensland already ensures consistent implementation of animal welfare standards for animal production systems. Both Agmin and AGSOC are currently considering reform options for the national governance framework and implementation of standards for farm animal welfare to ensure continuous improvement. My department and I are committed to continuing to work within these committees to improve this national framework.

When the bill is considered in detail I also propose to seek leave of the House to move amendments to repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005. On 5 December 2018 the government announced its decision that the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges cease operating by the end of 2019. It made this decision based on the advice of the review of vocational training in Central West Queensland conducted by Professor Peter Coaldrake. This followed years of declining enrolments and mounting financial losses notwithstanding substantial government support. Previous governments closed colleges in Ayr and Dalby, but still financial losses mounted notwithstanding substantial government support. It is not surprising, therefore, that Emeritus Professor Peter Coaldrake concluded that the residential model of agricultural training delivery was outmoded and unsustainable in the modern training system, with no prospect of this changing. The Palaszczuk government was therefore prepared to take the hard decision to close QATC as a training entity and repurpose its very substantial facilities in Longreach and Emerald.

To assist the transition process, the government provided \$7 million to ensure students could complete their qualifications or studies at Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges or through a supported transition to other training providers to maximise employment opportunities, establish a project management office and work with local communities to determine the best future use of existing college facilities. Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges—or QATC, as it is often known—is a statutory body with its own act. The proposed amendments will repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005 and cover necessary legislative transition issues such as what will happen to assets and liabilities. The repeal is just a necessary formality that reflects a decision that has been known for over a year. QATC has now ceased operations.

The repeal will not impact students. All QATC students have either completed their studies this year or been transferred to another training provider. Staff transition has also happened. An employee assistance program assisted staff with job searches. Some 28 staff are known to have found other jobs before QATC ceased operating on 6 December; 34 permanent staff accepted voluntary redundancy packages; and seven permanent staff are receiving priority placement in other government jobs. On repeal of the act, these staff transfer to the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries with all of the job security protections the Palaszczuk government has implemented. Ten former QATC staff have been employed by the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries to provide caretaker services for the Longreach and Emerald facilities pending the commencement of new operations. The project management office has worked with industry to identify and find solutions for any training gaps that may result from QATC's closure.

I am proposing that the repeal and associated transitional arrangements be moved as amendments during consideration in detail of this bill so that it can be achieved by the end of February this year. This will enable the repurposing of facilities for the benefit of local communities. Local community stakeholder committees have been created in Longreach and Emerald. Through these committees the communities concerned have come to recognise the opportunities for improved education, training and community outcomes available from repurposing the QATC facilities.

An expression of interest process elicited more than 20 proposals for the future use of the facilities in each centre. The committees considered these proposals and developed short-lists of proposals they consider would best reinvigorate education and training and repurpose the Longreach and Emerald colleges. Interest has centred on a multi-user model in both locations to support the provision of vocational education, training and research in agriculture and other industries as well as other community uses and commercial uses to underpin sustainability for the future. Detailed feasibility studies are in preparation and negotiations with short-listed proponents and others are continuing. Details will be announced once these negotiations are finalised.

I would like to once again thank the committee for its report into this bill and its recommendation that the bill be passed. I encourage members to support this bill because it will provide added protection to our farmers from interference. It will protect the community from risks to human health, the welfare of animals, biosecurity and the safety of food produced for human or animal consumption. It will enable inspectors to more easily assist abandoned animals and clarify that leaving dogs in hot cars is an offence. It will facilitate the management of animal and plant pests and diseases by enabling more timely changes to be made to the boundary of a biosecurity zone. It will enable other interested parties to be allowed to participate in farm debt mediation. There are many other small but worthy ways in which this bill will benefit Queensland. The amendments I propose to repeal the Queensland Agricultural Colleges Act will also mean that the bill will enable the repurposing of assets to benefit local communities. I commend the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 to the House.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (4.09 pm): I rise to speak to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This omnibus bill sprawls across 18 acts and four regulations. It covers a wide range of issues regarding risks posed by animal activists and extremists, biosecurity zones, animal welfare, animal welfare inspectors, debt mediation, removing wild stock and abandoned vehicles in state forests, changes to the Nature Conservation Act, Queensland Racing Integrity Commission responsibilities and the traceability of goats.

This government has previous form in limiting time frames for public consultation and investigation by the committee, ramming bills through the parliament to prevent fair and reasonable time for debate on massive bills covering such a wide range of matters that not everything could be given fair consideration. The Queensland Law Society again criticised the process. They said, 'We have been disadvantaged in the preparation of the submission as a result of the constrained timetable as there has been only a very brief opportunity to review the amendment to the various acts. An in-depth analysis has not been conducted. It is possible there are issues relating to fundamental legislative principles or unintended drafting consequences which have not been identified.'

The opposition supports many aspects of this bill. However, I foreshadow that I will be moving amendments regarding animals in hot vehicles and illegal dog baiting during the consideration in detail. They have been circulated in this House today. I also raise concerns at this point about the amendments that have been dropped here today without due consideration by the committee that do wind up the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges. I will say more about that towards the end of this speech.

This government is continuously slow to act on the issues that concern Queenslanders. It is now 13 months since the LNP opposition called for action on animal extremists. It is nine months since the LNP introduced its private member's bill in May last year. We have also shown the way on animals in hot vehicles when we announced our policy almost two years ago in April 2018 to crack down on criminal baiting of pet dogs.

Unauthorised entry by animal activist protesters to places where animals are kept is becoming more frequent and more aggressive. These protests produce fear and anger amongst those who are targeted. They must deal with masked people creeping around in the middle of the night, damaging property, turning off water to pigs and letting out animals. It causes distress. It is an invasion of privacy and someone's right to be secure in their own home. This type of protest action has adverse economic impacts and poses risks to human safety, animal welfare, biosecurity and food safety. Unauthorised entry onto places where animals are kept could introduce or spread an animal disease. People can carry and spread many serious diseases on their skin, clothing, footwear, vehicles and equipment if strict biosecurity measures are not maintained.

There are also diseases such as swine flu which can be spread by contact between humans and animals. These are not dramatic claims. The current threat from African swine fever, if it reaches our shores, could decimate the pig industry. Any transmission of animal diseases will have significant economic, environmental and regional community impacts. It could devastate Queensland's \$6 billion livestock industry and be catastrophic for our regional communities.

Former Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO, Travis Tobin, questioned whether businesses should have to wear losses from both production and funding of more security. He told the committee—

There is also a lot of damage in dollars with the business interruption ... There were repeat offences at the Mount Cotton poultry processing facility. They have estimated their costs at \$50,000 each time in lost production, but there are also stresses on the birds that are in the chain coming through. How you put a value on that I do not know ... some pig farms have had trespass offences three times. One of them has now spent up to \$70,000 on protecting their business. The same thing is happening at processing facilities, where they are spending a lot of money on security measures.

You have to question whether it is appropriate that the business should have to not only incur the cost of the impact of the trespass but then spend even more money to protect themselves from future invasion. It is very real on a personal level and it is very real on a financial level.

Animal extremists must be held to account. Let me be very clear. People have a right to protest but no-one is above the law. It is simply unacceptable that fringe groups are allowed to terrorise farmers. Their activities endanger both humans and animals. Our farmers should not be held to ransom by animal extremist groups. That is why the LNP introduced our private member's bill nine months ago in May last year. We cannot allow these militant and extreme minorities to hold to ransom our hardworking farmers and those working in the agricultural supply chain. We welcome the fact that the government is finally taking some action on this serious issue. Unfortunately, the penalties are manifestly weak. We need strong deterrents to deter these extremists who are backed by well-resourced and organised third parties. In May Labor increased fines to just \$652.17. It is blatantly inadequate—a slap with a wet lettuce leaf. It is hollow lip-service.

The Australian Pork Ltd submission states that while it supports the bill's crackdown on animal extremists it should complement the LNP's bill. It also implores all decision-makers in the criminal justice system to apply more appropriate weighting to the damaging effects that farm invasions and threatening behaviour have on livestock producers. A better alternative would be to have three new criminal offences to bolster our trespass laws: aggravated trespass with a maximum three years imprisonment—

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): I think I am anticipating what the member for Bancroft is going to say. Is it that the member is talking about a bill that is not yet before the House?

**Mr WHITING:** Yes.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would caution the member for Gympie. We are talking about the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, not the private member's bill that is yet to come before the House. I ask you to please speak to the current bill.

**Mr PERRETT:** Thank you for your guidance. Reasonable people are appalled when they see evidence of animal cruelty. Animals should be treated compassionately. No-one is more concerned about animal welfare than farmers and primary producers. We do not condone animal cruelty. The LNP welcomes the government's adoption of our plan to increase penalties for people who leave animals locked in hot vehicles. We announced that plan almost two years ago in April 2018.

Every year, Queensland's RSPCA receives thousands of reports of animals trapped in hot vehicles. A dog can die in just six minutes in a hot vehicle. Unfortunately, those responsible are rarely prosecuted. The LNP acted on this two years ago and proposed a new offence to tackle the problem. We support this specific offence, but it would be better if the penalties aligned with the cruelty offences under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. As previously foreshadowed, I will be moving amendments to align this offence with the act.

I will also move amendments to align illegal dog baiting with section 18 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. Illegal dog baiting is already prohibited under the act as a specific offence, and this will increase the penalties. Currently, baiting an animal has a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment or \$40,035. This does not align with the offence of animal cruelty, which has a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or \$266,900. We need to close this legal loophole. The penalties for illegal dog baiting should be the same as penalties for animal cruelty. Offenders should not get off with a slap on the wrist. Baiting pets is a heartless act. This is about the treatment of animals that have been illegally killed. No pet should have to endure a deliberate, long and painful death because of criminal activities. I urge support for the LNP's amendments to align penalties for leaving animals in hot cars and illegal dog baiting with section 18 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001.

Tackling biosecurity risks quickly and efficiently guarantees the viability of the agricultural sector. Diseases, pests and weeds can wipe out whole regions and sectors if governments are slow to act. I note the amendment regarding biosecurity zones. This amendment aims to facilitate more timely amendment of a biosecurity zone. This will be done by enabling the chief executive to approve the amendment of a biosecurity zone map if a regulation refers to it as being 'as in force from time to time'. The map may be amended on an as needs basis if the distribution of a pest or disease changes or if information becomes available to change knowledge of the pest's distribution. Biosecurity zone maps must be publicly available on the department's website and the chief executive must inform affected stakeholders of changes to the biosecurity zones. I am seeking an assurance from the minister that amendments to the Biosecurity Act 2014 will not have unintended consequences for farmers and graziers in their daily farm management activities.

Two amendments propose empowering animal welfare inspectors and provide for the use of body worn cameras. We need to approach this with caution. It is important that officers are not overzealous and that power is not abused. Trust and confidence in the system is diminished when overzealousness trumps rights. Of course we want to protect and ensure the welfare of animals. However, there is legitimate concern that departmental officers and non-government bodies are being granted undue and unfettered powers. Michael Cope, the president of the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, told the committee that the use of such technology by police was different because they have a strong oversight function. This is not the case here. He said—

For other officials, the potential abuse of such cameras by a large number of government officials in terms of surveillance ... outweighs the benefits to be gained for an extra accountability in the context of their much more limited powers in comparison to those of the police.

The QCCL also raised suggestions that body worn cameras may conflict with the Human Rights Act. The government's habit of granting increased powers to government officials has already seen excessive powers given to the tree police in vegetation management and the fishing industry. The member for Condamine, the deputy chair of the committee, asked—

You talk about the powers of an inspector, specifically around cameras, but we have seen extended powers to inspectors under the Vegetation Management Act, under the Water Act and under the fishing legislation. What makes this any different?

Mr Cope answered—

Probably because we did not see that legislation and did not have the opportunity to state our opposition to it. ... You have surprised me to tell me that this has happened before. ... we are just an organisation of volunteers so we cannot read every bill that gets passed, but if we had known about it we would have turned up and said what I have just said.

A trial of the use of body worn cameras is still being designed and decisions are still to be made about how widely they will be deployed. While the LNP does not oppose this measure, we are seeking clarity about the rollout and assurances that this will be sorted as soon as possible. We are also seeking a guarantee that the body worn cameras will not breach the government's Human Rights Act.

Currently feral rangeland goats are exempted from having approved identification devices or tags before being moved in certain situations. The government wants to make changes because it claims that audits indicate that these exemptions are being misused. This measure is strongly opposed by AgForce, the Goat Industry Council Australia and the Australian Meat Industry Council. Not only was AgForce not consulted on this amendment; it completely contradicts previously agreed and accepted national practices. Those practices have allowed tag-free movements from the property of origin direct to the abattoir or registered goat depot. Operating procedures were changed in February 2016 with the support of the government and AgForce. It is concerning that the government claims peak industry stakeholders support this amendment when they clearly do not and that changes are based on claims of audits of which no-one has any knowledge.

The Goat Industry Council and the Australian Meat Industry Council are members of the Safemeat Partnership. Page 27 of the explanatory notes claims that the Safemeat Partnership supports amendments relating to its goats. It states—

The Safemeat Partnership ... includes the Goat Industry Council of Australia. The Safemeat Partnership supports the proposed amendments relating to goats.

This is not ambiguous. A joint submission from both the Goat Industry Council and the Australian Meat Industry Council has outright this claim refuted. It said—

This statement is in fact untrue. The ... Bill has not been presented to SafeMeat partnerships for a position to be provided. Neither AMIC or GICA have had the opportunity to review the proposed legislation through SafeMeat partnerships, nor was either organisation consulted directly.

It also says—

... the issue of harvested rangeland goat exemptions, sold direct to slaughter or directly to a registered goat depot, has been discussed at SafeMeat Partnerships with GICA and AMIC who are both members of SafeMeat Partners consistently and strongly rejected this proposal.

This issue was raised as recently as June 26 2019, where the minutes for SafeMeat Partners Group meeting No 63 record GICA's opposition to the removal of tagging exemptions.

*'GICA did not support removing tagging exemptions for rangeland goats (this issue has also been brought into the development of the sheep and goat standards).'*

... it is misleading for the explanatory notes to state SafeMeat Partners supports the amendment.

Their position is clear and unequivocal. AgForce said in its submission—

AgForce has not been consulted on this proposed amendment.

I am extremely concerned that these stakeholders have been misrepresented. Moreover, support for the amendment is based upon claims that an audit showed the exemptions were being misused. No-one is aware of any audit—not AgForce, not Queensland's largest goat meat processing facility, not the Goat Industry Council or the Australian Meat Industry Council. The AgForce submission states clearly—

AgForce is unaware of any such audits and upon advice from Western Meat Exporters, Queensland's largest goat meat processing facility based in Charleville which processes approximately 95% of Queensland's rangeland goats, no issues relating to untagged goats originating from other places are evident. ... they have never been notified of any breaches regarding the 'direct to meat works' exemption and that the existing 10-day tag exemption system for 'depots' works very well.

The AMIC and the GICA are also unaware of the audit.

Despite claims in the explanatory notes, AMIC and the GICA are unaware of any evidence that rangeland goat movements are being processed without adequate control or misusing exemptions. AgForce CEO Michael Guerin told the committee—

... neither the Australian Meat Industry Council nor the Goat Industry Council of Australia are aware of any evidence where rangeland goat movements were processed without adequate control or where misuse of the current exemptions is taking place. This demonstrates that the existing 10-day tag exemption system for direct to meatworks and registered depots works very well, with any issues that may have been identified affecting a very small percentage of processed rangeland goats. AgForce suggests that a wide consultation of affected stakeholders has been non-existent and strongly recommends that the committee disregard the proposed removal of section 180(c) from the Biosecurity Act 2014.

Patrick Bell, DAF's General Manager, Strategy and Legislation, admitted to the committee that consultation had not occurred with AgForce. He said—

Going back to the AgForce presentation, it is incumbent on me to advise the committee that the consultation occurred at the national level. Because of the nature of feral goats, it occurred with Safemeat and the Goat Industry Council of Australia.

These are the very same organisations which state they never supported the amendments. These matters are extremely concerning on three fronts: firstly, that claims of support from the AMIC and the GICA were grossly wrong and they were misrepresented; secondly, when it was raised that AgForce was never consulted, the response was that the consultation occurred with the AMIC and the GICA, the very same organisations which were misrepresented; thirdly, there is no-one in the industry who can verify claims or find evidence of an audit which is used to justify the proposals.

AgForce advised the committee that the amendment contradicts previously agreed industry NLIS standards for operating a goat depot and user manual. Patrick Bell told the committee—

There seems to have been a misunderstanding about goat harvesting and movements no longer being able to be achieved once this exemption has been considered. That is not the case. The very case of the standard operating procedures that have been worked through at the national level provide for the goats to move under very similar circumstances to how they are at the moment from rangeland property, untagged through to the holding facility or ... the depot, and then subsequently through to the abattoir. There is not a significant deal of difference other than that section 180E of the act will now be the mechanism under which those activities are regulated.

Section 180E provides for what is known as an inspector's approval or a travel approval to be provided to industry participants to manage the movement of rangeland feral goats and other goats from farm through to depot, holding depot and then through to abattoir. We will take some action to clarify that situation, and that is the mechanism through which we will be implementing this national situation.

We are seeking confirmation from the minister in his summing-up regarding DAF's advice. If the minister cannot confirm the advice, the LNP suggests this amendment not be enacted until there is full and meaningful consultation with the industry.

There are concerns about the amendments to remove wild stock in a state forest, timber reserve, forest entitlement or forest consent area. We appreciate that wild stock can cause a range of problems from grazing, damage to trees, road safety hazards and to forestry operations. The bill amends the Forestry Act 1959 to reduce the pre-muster notification period for wild stock to five business days. It also requires the notice to be given only to neighbouring landholders and those who are reasonably believed to be the stock owners. These amendments will change the required amount of notification. The chief executive will no longer be required to insert two notices of the intended muster in a local newspaper or provide notices at the nearest forestry office, every local district Magistrates Court and every local district stock inspector. The explanatory notes state—

Instead the amendments require the chief executive to give each landholder adjoining the area where the stock are, a notice advising of the muster and instead of providing this notice 28 days prior, it only needs to be provided to relevant landholders and persons believed to be the owner five days prior to the muster. The notice must state the owner may claim the stock within 14 days after the notice is given.

The reduced notice period and removal of the public notification required may impact stock owners' rights and liberties. It reduces opportunities to be notified that their stock is about to be mustered and reclaimed. In a situation where a stock owner's land does not adjoin the muster areas, they will not receive any muster notice if the chief executive is unaware that they might be the owner. This raises serious practical considerations. AgForce said—

Following discussions with our northern members who have utilised the Cape York mustering process, it is recommended that the proposed five (5) Business Days' notice of the actual date of a muster, be extended to ten (10).

...

AgForce recommends at least a 14-day notice period to claim the stock from the date of the actual muster, with such information published on the Department's website.

The Queensland Law Society said—

There are significant consequences if an owner of stock is not notified, for example, under new section 72(6A(b)), the chief executive may sell, destroy or otherwise dispose of the stock.

It proposes that the public notification be amended to require notification on the department's website, while AgForce proposes an extension on the number of days notice and a 14-day notice period to claim stock. The LNP supports its concerns.

Naturally, farming is subject to the vagaries of external factors. Sometimes liquidity is strained. The bill aims to extend the debt mediation process by extending access to mediation to additional farmers and to clarify that other affected persons may participate. Under the current debt process, farmers and mortgagees are required to try mediation to resolve farm debt issues. Mortgagees are obliged to offer mediation before enforcement procedures are instigated. This requirement does not consider family and property ownership structures. Currently, some farmers who have borrowed to buy a property may be excluded from mediation because the property is held in a different name. Other people with an interest in a property, such as a partner and other borrowers, can be excluded. We welcome the amendments to expand access to other vested interests such as partners and borrowers.

Among other issues in this large omnibus bill are changes to the Nature Conservation Act and to the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's responsibilities. Today we saw the minister table amendments that will repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act. I raise serious concern with what is being proposed, in the first instance that this has not gone through the committee process. This could have been included. As the minister earlier indicated in his speech, the government made the decision to close these colleges more than 12 months ago. I suggest to the minister that if he had been genuine in terms of this going to public consultation then it would have been included in the bill he introduced and notification would have been given with respect to these changes.

We know that some serious concerns were raised right across Queensland by myriad parties that have an interest in making certain that agricultural training continues in this state. The process that we saw to close these colleges—particularly in terms of the review undertaken by Professor Coaldrake, with the suggestions and the fact that he donated to the Labor Party through that process for which he was handsomely remunerated—raises serious concerns about the authenticity of the government's decision. I raise those concerns. I have not had a chance to thoroughly read through those amendments but certainly will before we move into consideration in detail. I flag those concerns on behalf of rural Queenslanders and students who have attended these agricultural training colleges in this state.

As I indicated, the opposition supports many aspects of this bill; however, I will be moving amendments regarding animals in hot vehicles and penalties for illegal dog baiting.

 **Mr BATT** (Bundaberg—LNP) (4.33 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. As always, as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee tasked with reviewing and reporting on this bill, I acknowledge the work of my fellow committee members and secretariat staff.

This is another large omnibus bill that seeks to amend 18 acts not only in agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry and fishery industries but also in two unrelated matters concerning the Racing Integrity Commission and threatened species classifications. From the outset, I indicate that the LNP will not oppose the bill but will move the amendments—as our shadow minister just referred to—that we believe will vastly improve the bill's implementation.

In the short time available to speak today, I will focus on the two issues that I know are important to my community in Bundaberg: animal welfare and animal activism. It is difficult to believe that anyone would leave their dog inside a sweltering hot car when it can die in just six minutes, yet unfortunately the RSPCA receives about 1,000 phone calls each and every year about animals trapped in hot cars. That is why in April last year the LNP introduced a 'hot dogs' policy, backed by the RSPCA.

It is good to see that the Labor government has adopted our policy but, unfortunately, it has not adopted our strong penalties. That is why the LNP is moving amendments to ensure those responsible for animal welfare offences, such as leaving animals in hot cars and baiting animals, receive the punishment they deserve—not just the slap on the wrist that those opposite think is enough.

Our first amendment will align the offence of inappropriately confining or transporting animals with the cruelty offence under section 18 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, with a penalty of a \$250,000 maximum fine or three years maximum prison sentence. It is time to get tough on people who leave their animals to suffer in burning hot vehicles. If Labor is serious about drawing a line in the sand on the welfare of animals, it will support our calls for harsher penalties.

Our second amendment will make the penalty for dog baiting the same penalty as leaving an animal in a hot car. Dog baiting is already prohibited as a specific offence under the act. Our amendment simply increases the penalty to give Queensland pet owners certainty that, as they should, perpetrators will face the full force of the law. It is devastating when our beloved pets get hurt, just as it is when our hardworking farmers come under threat.

This bill also implements changes to animal activist laws on the back of our private member's bill that we introduced in May last year. This bill will double the maximum penalty for unlawful entry of farming land to 20 penalty points or one year imprisonment, extending to include areas used for agricultural purposes such as abattoirs, animal-holding facilities and showgrounds.

The current provision makes it unlawful if an assembly of three or more persons cause a person in the vicinity to fear that violence will be used. It carries a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment, or two years if there is actual violence. This bill extends this provision to a range of other purposes including animal keeping, other agriculture and if there is a risk to the safety of a person, food, animal welfare, biosecurity or a reasonable risk of economic loss. These proposed laws are just not tough enough.

I also mention the changes proposed to empower RSPCA inspectors. Currently, an inspector appointed under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 can only enter premises without a warrant or consent to investigate the abandonment of an animal if the animal is at imminent risk of death or injury. RSPCA Queensland inspectors investigate the majority of animal welfare complaints involving abandoned animals and, because of the large numbers of abandonment cases reported each year to the RSPCA in Queensland, often it is not practical to obtain warrants for entry in all cases.

I know that the LNP will always have reservations about circumventing the need for warrants to enter private property; however, in this instance there appears to be such a need when an animal's welfare is at stake. The LNP is serious when it comes to protecting animals and hardworking farming families. That is why I call on those opposite to quit the soft-on-crime approach and support our very important amendments that will see perpetrators appropriately punished, as they should be.

The minister spoke about amendments to the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act. It is really disappointing to see these inserted at the end of this bill. Earlier, the minister said that the repeal of the QATC is just a necessary formality. Why do we need to rush this through today as an amendment instead of going through the appropriate scrutiny of the committee process? It appears as though this also happened yesterday with another bill and another minister pushing it through without going through the appropriate committee process. Now we have two in two days! There appears to be something wrong with our committee such that no-one wants to bring through these matters to our committee. I am not sure, but obviously the chair must agree in terms of this occurring twice in two days.

**An honourable member:** A cover-up!

**Mr BATT:** He might need to have a chat with these ministers.

The assets of the Queensland colleges will be handed back to the government to dispose of or sell off as it sees fit. It is disappointing that the minister wants to rush through these amendments when the appropriate process would be to send them to the committee so that it could deal with them appropriately and so that the communities involved—the towns where these ag colleges are located—and all the appropriate people could have their say on the closure of these colleges and what happens to those assets.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.40 pm): I am a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. We have a lot on our plate. Members may have noted from the speaking list that this committee is a male dominated one. It is not often that being the only female on the committee places me at such a distinct advantage on the subject matter,

but today is such a day. To prepare for my speech I have undertaken 20-odd years of market research—a deep dive, if you will, into the beauty sector. With this extensive experience I deem myself—the member for Buderim is free to disagree with me—the most qualified member on the committee on the issue of cosmetics animal testing.

As a passionate consumer of beauty products, I have observed firsthand the changes in consumer sentiment that have driven the changes we see before the House today. Twenty years ago, as a teenager I vividly remember the cruelty-free campaigns led by the Body Shop, promoting the fact that they did not test on animals as a core part of their marketing strategy. It was the first time that I and many other consumers recall noticing this being brought to the forefront as part of a product's branding. It certainly highlighted to me as a young consumer the importance of choosing products that were created without harming animals. That is a key part of the legislation today.

I also want to note that I really appreciated the way the Body Shop was able to go about getting across the message of cruelty-free cosmetics without resorting to sexualising women. I recall that at the same time, in the early to mid-1990s, PETA used quite sexualised advertising featuring nude women to promote cruelty-free products. For me, this really missed the mark. I felt they were promoting animal welfare but using shock tactics that were degrading to women. I think this is a real shame. I think in the long term it probably did more harm than good for the cause of animal welfare.

I believe that the Body Shop was a frontrunner in advocating to get rid of animal testing in beauty products while also normalising the many different kinds of beauty that exist in society today and acknowledging that it is not just supermodels who like to buy and wear make-up. It is a multibillion dollar industry right around the world. That is why this legislation is so important. The Body Shop played a key role in changing attitudes worldwide. It pushed other beauty brands to consider their stance on animal testing and challenged consumers to protect animals while also protecting their skin. Now, 20-odd years later, thousands of brands worldwide are cruelty-free certified, and more are getting on board every day.

Consumers have never been more aware of their consumption habits. We can tell from the growing popularity of cruelty-free brands like the Body Shop, Arbonne and Ren, to name a few, that being cruelty-free or vegan can have significant economic benefits as well, as consumers increasingly look for cruelty-free products. I will give a local example of this evolution.

I found and fell in love with a local Brisbane based beauty brand, Issada, who sold animal hair kabuki brushes when they first opened over 10 years ago, when I was at uni. In the intervening time they have listened to market demand and noticed that consumers are asking for cruelty-free brushes. They have now created a vegan range of brushes, which I am proud to own. On a larger scale, Mecca Cosmetics is an Australian founded company that began in Melbourne 20 years ago as a boutique skincare and make-up retailer and has grown into a billion dollar company with storefronts internationally. It offers on-trend products to an increasingly educated market of women—and men, the member for Buderim will be interested to know. I am proud to say that my dad, Davey P, was an early adopter of men's skin care, recognising the importance of nourishing the largest organ of the body.

In the 20 years since Mecca was founded in Melbourne, a number of trends have been visible. Using powerful botanical ingredients to achieve results rather than harsh chemicals, some of which are not dissimilar to what you might find in—

**Mr HART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With regard to relevance, while this might be very interesting to the member, it is not part of the legislation.

**Ms PUGH:** I think you will find that it is. It is about the animal-testing provisions.

**Mr FURNER:** On the point of order, it is quite relevant to the bill with regard to animal testing.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir):** There is a section in the bill that refers to that. Obviously it is of interest to the member. It is not a major part of the bill but it is in the bill.

**Ms PUGH:** I did not anticipate my speech being so controversial! As I was saying, many products have moved towards not being loaded with heavy artificial fragrances—I will get to why that is important in a minute; I can tell that the member for Burleigh is very interested—and ensuring that the ingredients are ethically sourced, even if those contain animal by-products like sheep placenta. This product could be obtained one of two ways: from live sheep births or from killing the sheep to take the placenta. Obviously one is much more cruel than the other.

When I was little my mum told me that lipstick used to contain whale blubber and face powder once contained lead. It is sometimes said that beauty is pain, and indeed sometimes it is downright dangerous. Still, none of that has stopped men and women throughout history from trying all kinds of

weird and wonderful things in the name of being more attractive. For our furry friends, our desire to be more beautiful can have a dark side. According to the website of the Humane Society, which advocates internationally to end animal testing, animal testing is not just rubbing a little bit of lip balm on a bunny rabbit. Their website states—

Typically, animal tests for cosmetics include skin and eye irritation tests where chemicals are rubbed onto the shaved skin or dripped into the eyes of rabbits; repeated oral force-feeding studies lasting weeks or months to look for signs of general illness or specific health hazards, such as cancer or birth defects; and even widely condemned “lethal dose” tests, in which animals are forced to swallow massive amounts of a test chemical to determine the dose that causes death. These tests can cause considerable pain and distress including blindness, swollen eyes, sore bleeding skin, internal bleeding and organ damage, birth defects, convulsions and death.

This is what we are legislating today to stop. For many working women and men, wearing make-up and using beauty products is part of getting ready in the morning. It can be time consuming and expensive but also a little bit of a treat. It can be an act of self-care to spend five minutes in your busy day carefully caring for your skin. In doing this, we need to ensure we are also caring for our little critters, who are not particularly keen to have burning goo rubbed in their eyes so we can even our skin tone and reduce the visible signs of ageing. This bill reflects the clear market trends not to torture our furry friends in our quest for beauty or exemplary personal hygiene. This bill will ensure that animal welfare is no longer just a market preference but is enshrined in legislation.

Secondly, I would like to touch on the provision relating to animals in hot cars. As we have heard, the RSPCA Queensland—I am very passionate about them; their headquarters are just a stone’s throw from my electorate of Mount Ommaney—reports that animals being left in vehicles is a significant animal welfare issue. The hotline receives about a thousand calls every year. That is roughly two a day. We know that animals can quickly begin to suffer heat stroke. We have heard that in just six minutes animals can pass away. Unfortunately, a dog’s normal cooling mechanism of panting does not work in a hot car. It is ineffective when the car itself is hot. It is incredibly dangerous and dogs can pass away in just six minutes.

The amendments in the bill make it clear that a person in charge of an animal may be guilty of breaching his or her duty of care to the animal if he or she inappropriately transports it. A person who confines or transports an animal in a vehicle in which it was unlikely to be able to regulate its body temperature may be breaching their duty of care to the animal even if, for example, the animal was rescued before the animal suffered heat stress or pain.

We often have the situation where people come across an animal when it is tied up in a car and they are just not sure what to do. If anyone does come across an animal that is tied up in a car—it is usually a dog and they can often be seen—the right thing to do is not to delay. They should call the RSPCA if they are near Mount Ommaney because it is just down the road. They can also call the local police and take advice from the experts about the next steps. Most importantly, do not leave the dog unattended. Make sure that help comes because, as we know, they can die in just six minutes and it is very important that we ensure that animals get assistance. Every minute is crucial. There is a lot covered in this bill, but those two provisions that I have spoken about are issues that I am very passionate about. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.50 pm): Today I rise to speak to the latest large Labor omnibus bill; this time it is the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. It does not cover everything, but it does span across 18 different acts—excluding the amendments that have been brought in here today—including agriculture, animal management and welfare, forestry and fisheries. In addition, this bill amends unrelated matters such as the Racing Integrity Commission and threatened species classification.

The LNP supports aspects of this bill which will help to ensure that individuals responsible for animal offences are held to account for their actions. This includes clarifying the definition of ‘animal cruelty’ under the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to include individuals in charge who inappropriately confine or transport animals which result in an animal suffering from heat stress or pain. Aspects of this bill align with the LNP’s 2018 policy in relation to hot dogs. It was a policy presented by the LNP which intended to deter people from leaving dogs in hot cars, thereby reducing the number of dogs which experience harm or even death from heat stress in Queensland. Our policy had the support of many Queenslanders, including the RSPCA. The RSPCA receives approximately 1,000 calls every year from people concerned about animals trapped in hot cars, and rightfully so. It is estimated that a dog can die in a sweltering hot car in just six minutes.

It is unfortunate that some people continue to put animals unnecessarily at risk of harm, and that is why the LNP felt that that particular policy was needed. However, this bill falls short in creating the financial deterrent necessary to make some people think twice before leaving their pets in hot cars.

While the majority of pet owners and minders do not put their animals at risk, Labor has fallen short at ensuring there is a high penalty for those who are convicted of such an animal cruelty offence. As mentioned by the shadow minister, the LNP is asking the government to consider an amendment which would align the offence of inappropriately confining or transporting animals with the animal cruelty offence under section 18 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. We also propose that the penalty for such an offence should be increased up to a \$250,000 maximum fine or a three-year maximum prison sentence.

The second amendment that the LNP will be moving to the bill is also in relation to the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001. Dog baiting is already prohibited under the act as a specific offence. However, the LNP feels that the current penalties are not strong enough. Incidents of dog baiting cause deliberate harm to the animal and often result in a painful death. Such actions cause family members to experience anger and grief over the loss of their beloved pet. They also raise fear and tension amongst neighbours as other family pets may face a similar fate if the baiting is not stopped.

The RSPCA has publicly reported concern about poison baits discovered in public areas within Brisbane. There is also a concern that increased media attention of dog baiting may prompt copycat incidents and it is important that the state government provides a clear message that this type of behaviour is unacceptable and that perpetrators will face the full penalty for their actions. That is why we want to see dog baiting treated as an animal cruelty offence under section 18 of the Animal Care and Protection Act and the penalty in place should be a \$250,000 maximum fine or a three-year maximum prison sentence for an animal cruelty offence. Unfortunately, this Labor government continues to treat animal cruelty offences lightly and we ask the government to do the right thing and increase protections for our beloved pets.

The bill also clarifies the biosecurity obligations of a person entering, being present or leaving a place regulated under the Biosecurity Act which the shadow minister covered in detail. These are changes that deal with animal extremists and activists who have come on the back of our private member's bill introduced in May 2019. Labor made changes in May to increase the fines to only \$652 for those who breach biosecurity while trespassing, and it is clearly inadequate. That is why we are here again, and again Labor is falling short. Put simply, the current laws are not cutting it and they are failing Queensland businesses and the broader community's expectation of an appropriate application of the rule of law.

It is simply unacceptable that animal extremists have been able to storm and threaten our hardworking farmers with nothing but a slap on the wrist for their troubles. Labor's proposed laws do not adequately deal with those organisations and ringleaders who are central to these illegal extremist activities and the LNP's laws do. The LNP wants to make it very clear: it is okay to protest and to have a different opinion, but if you choose to trespass and to terrorise our hardworking farmers then you can expect to face the consequences, and they should be harsh.

I also want to address the amendments foreshadowed by the minister in relation to the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act. The government, not content with tearing down Paradise Dam, has decided to come in here and introduce legislation with no notice to tear down Queensland's agricultural training colleges. These ag colleges provide important training and qualifications for the agricultural sector and they also support the regional and rural communities where they are based. The minister said that it was simply a formality and it formalised a decision which was made over a year ago, so then why rush in here today with no notice outside the committee process and introduce these amendments? Transparent government is good government, and that is a test that this Palaszczuk Labor government fails day in, day out. This is just the latest example of a government that is addicted to secrecy and working for its own interests rather than the interests of Queenslanders. Queenslanders deserve better.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.56 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and I do so as chair of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. I thank the minister for his in-depth coverage of the many issues addressed by this bill, and I want to address three main issues in my contribution to this debate. Firstly, the amendments in this bill are very welcome because the biosecurity risks that we face are very real risks. The impact of biosecurity breaches can be devastating, and as we heard in the case of foot-and-mouth disease they can be catastrophic. We know that an outbreak across Australia could cost as much as \$52 billion over 10 years according to a 2013 study. Foot-and-mouth has already hit the UK in 2001 and 2007, China in 2007, and Japan and Korea in 2011. It is serious. It is viral. It is highly contagious.

African swine fever is harmless to humans, but it is simply deadly for pigs. There is no cure; there is no vaccine. If it gets into a herd, you can say goodbye to them because the only action you can take from there is pre-emptive slaughter. This disease has now been detected in East Timor, just off the north of Australia. As the minister said, Queensland has 22 per cent of the national herd and the gross value of our pork production is \$216 million. We cannot and we do not underestimate the economic devastation that would be visited on Queensland by an outbreak of one of these two diseases. As we have heard, the Queensland livestock industry is worth \$6 billion and employs over 60,000 Queenslanders. These diseases and other diseases like them can be spread very easily. All it takes is one speck of dirt on the soles of your shoes or in the tread of your tyres. That is why the amendments in this bill aimed at biosecurity are so important.

An important amendment in the bill is to the Biosecurity Act 2014 to allow the chief executive to amend a biosecurity zone map. Until now changes could only be made by amending a regulation through the Governor in Council. This new system will mean no delays. If a map needs to be re-zoned or amended for biosecurity, such as a fire ant map, it can be done almost straight away. Another important amendment to the Biosecurity Act 2014 is that a failure to comply with a biosecurity management plan will attract a far larger penalty. It will see an increase from 20 penalty units to 500 penalty units.

Debate, on motion of Mr Whiting, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Maleny Dairies



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House—

- notes the terms of ePetition 3268: Queensland residents draw to the attention of the House the decision by the Palaszczuk government that saw Maleny Dairies, a Queensland owned and operated company, miss out on a supply contract for Metro North hospitals that was instead awarded to French and Chinese companies. This is in defiance of the government's 'Buy Queensland Policy'. The decision will have a significant impact on Maleny Dairies that would have used the contract to secure another Queensland owned dairy farming family and create jobs within that farm, working towards securing the future of the Queensland dairy industry; and
- calls on the Palaszczuk government to review the decision, including awarding at least a portion of the supply contract to Maleny Dairies, a proud Queensland owned and operated company.

Mr Deputy Speaker, 12,921 Queenslanders agree that if you were going to spruik a Buy Queensland policy you have to actually buy Queensland; 12,921 Queenslanders agree that the Palaszczuk government has used Maleny Dairies to market that policy; 12,921 Queenslanders agree that the Palaszczuk Labor government encouraged Maleny Dairies to apply for the contract to provide dairy products to the Metro North Hospital and Health Service; 12,921 Queenslanders are appalled that those contracts have since been awarded to foreign owned companies; and 12,921 Queenslanders call on the Premier to review this contract and give Maleny Dairies a fair go.

Let us be clear from the start. As Ross Hopper, owner of Maleny Dairies said, we are not squealing because we missed out this contract, we are squealing because Queensland missed out on this contract. Today's announcement by Lactalis that they are closing their Rockhampton facility and transferring yoghurt production from their South Brisbane facility to Tasmania and Victoria realises our worst fears. Not only do the proceeds of this contract go overseas, the patients in metro north will not even be consuming Queensland dairy products. Quite frankly, the Buy Queensland policy should be renamed the 'Bye Bye Queensland' policy.

Before continuing let me debunk one of the government's counterclaims. Yes, the successful tenderers Lactalis and Lion have Queensland dairy farmers as suppliers. I, Maleny Dairies and the LNP are not anti those farmers, nor indeed those companies. As has been aired, yes, we have previously awarded contracts to those same companies, but please also be clear that not at any stage did Maleny Dairies tender for those previous contracts. Why? Because they knew they were being assessed on price, not on a so-called Buy Queensland policy.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Weir): Order!

**Mr POWELL:** Let us look at this Buy Queensland—or ‘Bye Bye Queensland’—policy. The policy was launched at Sirromet winery to great fanfare, where the Minister for Public Works even sought the involvement of and photos with representatives from Maleny Dairies. The minister and the Premier did the same when promoting the policy with representatives from Maleny Dairies at the Ekka. The Palaszczuk government’s own website says—

In purchasing Queensland food and beverages, you can:

- support local businesses and jobs
- reduce transport and your carbon footprint
- support regional Queensland.

That is the nub of the issue. Maleny Dairies ticks all those boxes. It is truly local: local suppliers, produced locally, locally owned and the profits go back to the local community. Guess what? They even have almost the identical number of suppliers in the catchment of Metro North Hospital and Health Service as the successful tenderer does. Lactalis and Lion tick most of those boxes, but they are not local. If you click on the Queensland government Food and Beverage Supplier Directory and filter by ‘dairy’ who comes up first? Maleny Dairies. Where are Lactalis and Lion? Nowhere to be seen.

**Ms Grace:** Put Pauls in and see what comes up first.

**Mr POWELL:** No, not in there. They did not turn up to the launch at Sirromet and they did not turn up to the Ekka. This policy is not working. How Maleny Dairies have been treated must serve as a warning to all those other Queensland owned and operated businesses that this government has used to sell its policy. Despite what they are being told, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to award contracts on price alone. The policy may say that for each procurement opportunity at least one regional and one Queensland supplier where possible is invited to submit a tender or quote, but under this government’s application of the policy do not expect to actually be awarded a contract. They are simply there to make up the numbers. If Maleny Dairies had been told it was on price or product range they would not have tendered because they knew they could not compete. They were sucked in by this government to sell its ‘Bye Bye Queensland’ policy and I want to make sure that no other Queensland company gets ripped off in the same way.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.05 pm): Some days you just cannot believe your luck. Here I was thinking the LNP would be so embarrassed that their ridiculous stunt blew up in their faces there was no way they would be stupid enough to give me a chance to respond to it here. But just when you think there is no way the LNP could be that stupid, up jumps the member for Glass House. Many of us have, of course, been focused on the biggest health emergency the state has ever faced, one that could decimate whole industries, so some members might have forgotten just how badly the member for Glass House’s stunt went for the LNP. Not those opposite though, they are still fixated on who owns the factory where the milk in the nurse’s tearoom at the RBWH is processed—not where the cows are, not where the farms are, not even where the jobs are, but who owns it. This is shocking race baiting by the LNP at a time when relations with our Chinese community and export partners are challenged by the coronavirus.

Let us recap on the facts that emerged after the LNP locked and loaded its ridiculous campaign. First of all we discovered the milk contract for metro north was awarded to Pauls in 2014 when the Leader of the Opposition was assistant treasurer and the member for Clayfield was treasurer. The member for Glass House was even called a minister in that government, although Jeff Seeney and Andrew Cripps made sure he was kept well away from any decision-making. Where was their racially motivated objection to Pauls milk back then? Not only that, but the Newman government did not even award the contract for the new Sunshine Coast hospital to Maleny Dairies. It too went to Pauls. Let us also remember that the decision to renew the contract for metro north was made according to an independent tender process overseen by the HHS board under the laws and structure for health services introduced by the LNP. It was the LNP that decentralised decision-making, leaving each HHS to make procurement decisions like this.

It is all pretty embarrassing for those opposite. Then we come to the question of local jobs. Metro north applied the government’s policy to support local jobs. The Sunshine Coast HHS specifically asked Maleny Dairies to supply milk for them. I have the email and I will table it for the House.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 13 September 2019, from the Strategic Procurement Manager, Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, Mr Philip John Hoyle, regarding supply of groceries to Sunshine Coast Hospital [189].

Maleny Dairies did not bother to tender to supply milk for their own local health service. The milk Pauls supplies to metro north comes from 141 family owned farms throughout Queensland, farms that would be driven to the brink by the LNP’s reckless call. This brings us to the biggest irony of this whole

farce: most of the farms are in LNP electorates. The member for Scenic Rim will stand up today and demand 27 farms in his electorate lose out. The member for Condamine will be personally undermining the businesses of 26 family owned dairies in his electorate.

Both the electorates of Southern Downs and Gympie have 16 farms supplying milk under this contract to metro north. The member for Gympie and I do not agree on a lot of things, but I have always respected how I thought he stood up for his community and for the primary producers in his community. I am shocked that he has chosen to speak on the motion today. Even the member for Nanango is abandoning the 16 farms in her own electorate. It is astounding. The member for Glass House must have some pull in that caucus room to convince all of those local members of parliament to let down their local communities.

Members do not have to take my word for it. The Queensland Dairy Farmers' Organisation wrote to all of us, including those opposite. I table their letter.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, undated, from the President, Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, Mr Brian Tessmann, titled 'An open letter to all Queensland politicians' [190].

The QDO begged the LNP to stop sensationalising this story. Dairy farmers called the LNP campaign for what it was: pointless xenophobia. They said, 'Instead, your influence and focus needs to be on helping our dairy industry move forward in these very difficult times.' If only the LNP would listen to them.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the next speaker, member for McConnel and several others, I ask you to put your comments through the chair. Also, the literal and figurative finger-pointing has to stop. It is not acceptable behaviour in the chamber, members.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.10 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Glass House. Queensland dairy farmers are hurting. A dairy farmer leaves the industry approximately every five to seven days. Today there are just over 300 dairy farmers compared to 1,500 in 2001. These statistics paint a very dark picture for the industry. Inadequate and unacceptably low prices paid for their milk is one of the main reasons that so many are leaving the industry. That is on top of the high feed costs associated with the devastating drought. It is pushing Queensland's dairy industry into high-speed freefall.

Amongst the doom and gloom there are green shoots of hope with small processors such as Maleny Dairies willing to pay their farmers a fair and ethical price for their milk. While other processors are complacent about having their Queensland farm suppliers close because they can truck milk in from southern states to meet demand, Maleny Dairies continues to grow and add Queensland dairy farmers to its supply list. Maleny Dairies is not alone in being a Queensland dairy success story. There are other small processors, such as Cooloola Milk in my own electorate. It also produces a high-quality product and pays its farmers a proper price for their milk. Those small enterprises should be encouraged and not undermined by government.

That is why it was so shocking when, three weeks ago, the state Labor government showed just how out of touch it is by awarding the metro north hospital contract to multinational companies instead of local producers. It chose French owned Lactalis and Chinese owned Lion, instead of 100 per cent Queensland owned and operated Maleny Dairies. Maleny Dairies was encouraged to apply for the tender under Labor's Buy Queensland and Buy Local dairy procurement policies. It is extraordinary that the government would encourage them to be involved, only to lead them up the garden path. It was disingenuous and callous. Queenslanders who want our local industry to survive and flourish are angry. We know that because almost 13,000 petitioners have signed a parliamentary petition and more than 40,000 have signed a change.org petition calling on the government to reverse the decision. The public is not happy.

There are serious questions around the ethical and sustainable farm-gate prices those foreign owned processing companies pay dairy farmers. The government's own Buy Local policy set by the industry developed Procurement Advisory Board for dairy products states that 'local' means that a minimum of 85 per cent of raw or fresh milk product must be from Queensland. French owned Lactalis has publicly said that it is willing to source milk from down south, rather than paying Queensland dairy farmers a fair price. Given those comments, will the minister guarantee that 85 per cent of the raw milk consumed through the hospital contract will be sourced from Queensland farmers?

The Lactalis and Lion brands do not feature on the website of the Queensland Dairy Farmers' Organisation website, which lists brands produced right here in Queensland using at least 80 per cent Queensland dairy. If the QDO does not regard Lactalis and Lion—

**Mr SPEAKER:** I am sorry, member. Pause the clock. Minister for Public Works, I have just given a direction to the House. Member for Glass House, you have made your contribution.

**Mr PERRETT:** If the QDO does not regard Lactalis and Lion milk as fulfilling the local milk criteria, why did the government choose them over a 100 per cent owned and operated processor such as Maleny Dairies? Maleny Dairies knows its products come from local dairy farms. Today's news that Lactalis is closing its Rockhampton milk factory, with 40-plus jobs to go, makes one question its commitment to our dairy industry. Lactalis is also scaling back production at its South Brisbane site. They are cutting and running. Annastacia Palaszczuk's Buy Queensland policy is nothing more than a three-word slogan—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, you need to use members' correct titles in the chamber.

**Mr PERRETT:** The Premier's Buy Queensland policy is nothing more than a three-word slogan based on false hope. The government's own Buy Local website lists Maleny Dairies on the Queensland government's Food and Beverage Supplier Directory. It does not list Lactalis or Lion.

Unfortunately, the outrageous treatment of Maleny Dairies is not an isolated example of the failure of the Buy Queensland policy. There are numerous other examples of government contracts awarded to interstate or overseas based companies. They show up the hypocrisy of the government. It likes to talk about support, but when opportunities arise it does not deliver. It tries to divert attention with phony assertions that supporting Maleny Dairies is just pitting farmers against each other.

It makes sense to support a wholly locally owned company. Awarding the contract to French and Chinese companies is a slap in the face to Queenslanders. It runs counter to any policy that is designed to support and grow Queensland jobs. The LNP wants to grow and maintain a dairy industry that pays farmers ethically and fairly. We should support and encourage value-adding to our agricultural products and the government should support these Queensland owned and operated businesses.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (5.15 pm): Of course I rise to speak against the motion, because the Palaszczuk Labor government backs Queensland businesses and Queensland jobs. We are backing good, decent and secure local Queensland jobs. When, as the minister responsible for procurement, I first heard of the complaints I made an assessment of the procurement process. Even at a cursory glance, the metro north tender is entirely consistent with policies to support local workers. I will explain why. A more detailed analysis shows this tender maximised local benefits, using the local benefits test. Let us be clear: as the Minister for Health said, these are dairy products made from Queensland milk and made by Brisbane workers for North Brisbane hospitals.

To raise a petition about foreign ownership, which has nothing to do with the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policies, is arch hypocrisy. Let us consider who presided over the foreign takeover of the iconic Pauls company. It was Liberal Party Treasurer Peter Costello. Who presided over the deregulation of the dairy industry, which has seen that industry on its knees in this nation? The Liberal Party Treasurer Peter Costello! Who headed the Queensland Commission of Audit, which helped the then assistant treasurer and now Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, when she was helping to develop Smart Choices? It was also the Liberal Party Treasurer Peter Costello! What did the member for Maroochydore—who was one of only two members of this parliament at that time—do about foreign ownership and the deregulation of the dairy industry when that occurred? Nothing! Yet 20 years on, the LNP want to punish the Brisbane workers who make our milk. They want to punish the farmers who supply it, simply because they produce Queensland milk for a company that is now foreign observed.

Pauls is vitally important to the Queensland dairy industry, Queensland jobs and the Queensland economy. I stand by our Buy Queensland policy. It is designed to back in good, decent and secure local jobs, which includes those 500 jobs just across the river—we can see it just out of the window. They are good, decent and secure jobs. I stand by the \$17 billion invested with 32,500 Queensland registered businesses since the introduction of Buy Queensland.

Let us be clear about what the LNP motion is saying: if you are a Queensland worker who helps build a strong and successful company that is then purchased by foreign investors, under the LNP you will be punished. What did those 500 workers at the Pauls factory do wrong? What did the 140 Queensland farmers who supply their milk do wrong? The LNP reckons their jobs are somehow

less worthwhile than someone else's, simply because a foreign investor bought out their boss. What did the XXXX workers at Milton do wrong? Under the LNP's policy, we could expect to see them punished because a Japanese company bought out their employer. What about the workers at Arnott's Biscuits on the north side of Brisbane? You would not get a Monte Carlo biscuit made by the around-50 workers in the factory at Virginia after the Americans bought out their boss in 1997.

Under the LNP's policies these workers just do not cut it anymore. What about the workforce at Bundaberg Sugar, one of Australia's largest cane companies and an employer of around 500 Queenslanders? It is now owned by Belgium based Finasucre Group. The LNP says that those 500 cane workers are less of a Queenslanders and the LNP will not support them.

What they are doing is pitting Queenslanders against Queenslanders. It is arch hypocrisy with the LNP now pretending that they back Queenslanders and Queensland companies. Where did they buy our trains from? It was India not Maryborough. Where did they buy their milk? They bought their milk from Pauls and not Maleny Dairies.

The LNP's attack on the job security of workers making our milk, our bickies, our beers and our sugar is not what Queensland families need and not what Queensland businesses need. Indeed, the LNP has been responsible for selling the farm through foreign investment decisions in 1998 and most recently in 2019. They did nothing in Canberra to stop the foreign ownership of Australian companies. They sold the farm and now they have the hide to complain about it. It is arch hypocrisy.

What Queenslanders want to see is a government that works with everyone to give all Queenslanders a fair go—not starting fights between workers in Maleny and workers in West End. What is at the heart of the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland policy is supporting everybody and giving everybody a fair go. If the LNP want to run a useful petition, I encourage them to run one calling on LNP Treasurer Josh Frydenberg to exercise his foreign investment review powers, but none of us will hold our breath.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.21 pm): Isn't it great to be a Queenslanders? I used to answer that enthusiastically by saying absolutely, but under the policy settings of this Labor government my answer has changed. Queensland used to great. We can do so much better. Recently, 12,921 Queenslanders signed a petition and agreed with my position. We can do a whole lot better. I love the saying 'talk is cheap, judge me by my actions'. This government could do well to take some time and think long and hard about that saying. Queenslanders are not listening to this government's PR talk. Queenslanders have lost trust in this Queensland government, and is it any wonder.

Queensland has some of the highest unemployment in the nation. Under Labor, Queensland has the lowest business confidence since the global financial crisis. In fact, Queensland has the lowest business confidence since business confidence has been measured. Under Labor Queensland has the highest number of bankruptcies of any state. Typically under Labor billions of dollars in new taxes are being ripped out of the pockets of Queenslanders.

I thank the member for Glass House for uncovering this further flaw in the Palaszczuk Labor government's policies—a flaw in the local buy policy that they proudly promote. Queensland owned and operated businesses should take heed of this example and its warning. Despite the policy stating 'that for each procurement opportunity at least one regional or one Queenslanders supplier, where possible, is invited to submit a quote or tender' under this government's application of the policy local businesses should not expect to be awarded a contract. Regardless of what we are being told, the Palaszczuk Labor government continues to award contracts on price alone. They are just there to make up the numbers.

This policy is another example of talk is cheap. It has come at the expense of Maleny Dairies. Anyone who has been part of a tender or procurement process knows that putting in these tenders cost money. It cost Maleny Dairies a lot to prepare a submission. What makes this case worse is that Maleny Dairies were being used as a PR exercise by this government and run out at any opportunity, and Maleny Dairies were misled.

Maleny Dairies were encouraged to tender by the government because the government wanted to simply tick the box of having a local company make a submission. Maleny Dairies were told at the time that Queensland would 'Buy Queensland'. If Queensland is fair dinkum about Queenslanders and Queensland jobs and businesses then they must fix this flawed and token buy local policy. Some 12,921 Queenslanders agreed and signed the petition that we speak about today in a very short time. Queenslanders are a proud bunch. If someone is having a go, Queenslanders want to know they are getting a fair go. They certainly are not under Labor.

I have 10 dairies in my area. I want to recognise the Stock family. Allan and Delores and Luke and Bec do a great job and have some of the best quality, creamy milk being produced in the country. The Stocks and Brian Tessmann of the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation both agree that they are sick of the dairy industry being used as a political football. I encourage this government to do something about it. Have a look at what New South Wales did in December last year. They lifted the drought freight subsidy to \$50,000. In Queensland it is \$20,000. I call on this government to lift that drought freight subsidy and give them a level playing field.

We now hear that Lactalis is cutting and running from Queensland after being awarded a lucrative contract. What a joke. When I started this contribution I asked the question: isn't it great to be a Queenslander? It used to be great. We can do so much better. Bring on 31 October 2020 when Queenslanders will have the opportunity to elect a Deb Frecklington led government because then we will do better.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.26 pm): I rise this evening to oppose the private member's motion moved by the member for Glass House and welcome the opportunity to clarify some points put on the record by the LNP. The public debate about this tender process has been reckless and has sought to pit farmer against farmer through a xenophobic political stunt that has a clear agenda of obtaining personal data from Queenslanders.

The motion refers to e-petition No. 3268 but we know many Queenslanders misled by the LNP's information in this space signed on to a non-parliamentary petition hosted on a third-party server of a contracted company located in another country. Not only did the LNP misrepresent the substance of the petition, they also misled signatories about the process. The LNP have been drumming up concern and 10,000 signatures to have this issue debated in parliament, yet sessional orders in this parliament contain no such provision. Not content with supporting mineral mining, it seems the LNP extend their extractive obsessions to data mining Queenslanders for their personal information.

We all know Queensland farmers have been doing it tough and that recent rains have done little to ease the drought in our state's worst affected areas. We love our Queensland farmers and we will always back them in—that is what our Buy Queensland policy does and that is what has been done with this contract. It is a disgrace that it has been misrepresented by the LNP in the public arena and by this motion tonight.

Pauls is the milk I grew up on and it is the milk one would find in my fridge today because I know they provide a livelihood for 141 of our local, family owned and operated dairy farms. Pauls purchase just shy of half of our state's raw milk. Pauls provide more than 600 workers with safe and secure working environments. They are a good employer and Pauls has been providing Queenslanders with quality dairy products for generations.

Let us think this beat-up through. A company tenders for a contract. A company cannot supply the requirements of that contract. A company is not successful in that contract. Then the company goes public with a political and xenophobic attack. I may have a very black and white view of this, but you can either supply the contract or you cannot.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order! Member for Buderim, you are very close to being warned, as is the member for Ninderry.

**Ms BOYD:** Even if you can, you need to be the best value for Queenslanders' dollars. To present this in any other way is a sad state of affairs. We are not dealing with hypotheticals here: real Queensland hospital patients need real Queensland milk. The suggestion contained in this motion is that we should take a chance—that we should award a government tender and spend taxpayers' money on an option that may not be the best use of money, that may not be able to supply patients' dietary requirements but that special dispensation should be offered anyway.

The suggestion is that political intervention should favour one Queensland based milk supplier over another Queensland based milk supplier—never mind the expense or capacity to meet the contract and regardless of the knock-on impacts. This is the approach that the LNP opposition in this state backs—that we should roll the dice with an important supply contract in Queensland hospitals. It provides a glimpse into the bad old days of Joh and Newman and sends a shiver down my spine.

Our state's dairy industry needs us. They need leadership from us. They do not need us to use them as a political football. I thank the President of the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation, Brian Tessmann, who called this stunt out as sensationalist, dangerous and divisive in its nature. I say this to

the opposition: let's bring Queenslanders together instead of trying to divide and turn us against each other. Our farming sector need us. They need our leadership and they need our unification; they do not need motions like this.

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Ninderry! Sorry—member for Nicklin!

**Ms BOYD:** They do not need motions like this and they do not need pepped up political stunts as we have seen over this last month. Voting against this motion sends a signal to all dairy farmers in Queensland: 'No matter which company you supply we will support you.' I urge all members to vote down this motion.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** My apologies, member for Ninderry. Member for Nicklin, you are very close to being warned.

**Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (5.31 pm): I support the motion. I will support Maleny Dairies in this matter because in doing so I stand with every dairy farmer.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Members to my left, show the respect that your speaker warrants.

**Mr KRAUSE:** In supporting this motion I stand with every dairy farmer in Queensland who wants to be paid more for their milk. Dairy runs deep in me—my father and both of my grandfathers were dairymen. Unfortunately, once again, we have the Labor Party playing politics with the dairy industry, deliberately muddying the waters about the facts of the matter.

There are two different issues here. First is the disgraceful treatment of a small Queensland business by this government. Clearly Maleny Dairies was led up the garden path by Labor—used in its roadshows, in its glossy brochures and in its promotions, and actively encouraged to tender for the Health contract, even though they told the government they might not meet the criteria. Still, they were egged on by Labor, no doubt because the government wanted to keep using them in their buy local promotions. What a waste of time and money and an insult for Maleny Dairies to be treated like this. Labor used them, abused them, and then cast them aside. It could happen to any small Queensland business, and it is a disgrace.

Could the reason why Maleny Dairies did not win the tender be that they do not have a unionised workforce? Could that be the reason? For the comrades in the Labor Party to have encouraged Maleny Dairies to tender—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Minister and member for Kawana, cease your interjections.

**Mr KRAUSE:**—only to then discover they do not have a unionised workforce, they would have had egg on their face. 'Buy local, comrades?' 'Sure, we will buy local but only if it comes from a unionised worksite.' That is the way the unions control this government. I would not be surprised if that is the real reason why Maleny Dairies did not get the contract.

We hear today that Lactalis is withdrawing from Rockhampton—so much for supporting local Queensland jobs, cutting and running just after they have been awarded another Queensland government contract. Labor should hang their head in shame for the way they are treating the dairy farmers of Queensland and the people of Queensland with their sham buy local policy.

This Labor government is the enemy of the farmer in Queensland. I will not be lectured to by the sanctimonious Minister for Health—he who set up the dodgy poll to change the name of the children's hospital. This government hands out fines of thousands of dollars to dairy farmers. I know of one who got a \$3,600 fine because they did not have a register up to date—it was an administrative error—whilst they let Extinction Rebellion and other vegan activist protesters get off scot-free. This Labor government proposed water meters in dry creeks and rivers in the worst drought in living history. That would have cost farmers in my electorate thousands if implemented. It is simply cruel, heavy-handed bureaucratic government from a Labor Party that does not understand rural Queensland and does not care about them either.

The second issue is that the government has denied Maleny Dairies and other farmers a rare opportunity to make a small inroad into a milk market that is completely dominated by a few processors and two retailers, despite all of their buy local rhetoric. Most Queensland dairy farmers supply Lactalis, Lion, and Norco because they do not really have a choice. Most dairy farmers have no choice. I support

those farmers. Despite the Labor Party's desperate attempts to muddy the waters on this issue, let me make it clear that highlighting the appalling treatment of Maleny Dairies by this government does not change the fact that we support our dairy farmers, but no Queensland small business should be treated like Maleny Dairies has been in this case.

Maleny Dairies pay more to their farmers. If they had won this tender, they might have needed to take on a couple more farmers—two, three, four or five. Who knows? But it would have increased their demand. That means we would have a few more farmers getting paid a better price for their milk. It would have helped to break the stranglehold that the big processors and the big retailers have on the dairy market which has been decimating the Queensland dairy industry for the last 10 to 15 years. It would have been a small step in breaking down that power of big retailers and big processors and, dare I say, big unions as well.

This Queensland government clearly does not get it when it comes to the dairy industry. They have used Maleny Dairies for their glossy brochures and for their political promotions and then they have hung them out to dry. It just proves that the buy local policy is a smokescreen aimed at stemming the flow of regional votes away from the Labor Party in regional Queensland. Obviously Maleny Dairies does not feature in those plans. Independent processors like Maleny Dairies and Scenic Rim 4Real Milk in my electorate pay farmers more for their milk. I support this motion, standing with all dairy farmers who need to be paid more for their milk.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (5.37 pm): I rise to oppose this dangerous motion—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Members to my left, the minister hardly got started.

**Mr FURNER:** I rise to oppose this dangerous motion from the opposition member for Glass House. The Palaszczuk government has been a strong supporter of the Queensland dairy farmers—a strong supporter. We have been closely engaged with dairy farmers in North Queensland. I want to put on record my thanks to the member for Hill for his part—

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, you are warned.

**Mr FURNER:** I want to put on record our close engagement with the member for Hill in terms of his involvement and assistance, sought from the Palaszczuk government, with the dairy farmers up in that part of the world. I was pleased to be up there with him before Christmas looking at issues associated with the many areas up there concerning drought and also the new code that has been put in place. We have met with retailers in respect of that as well, looking at a path forward to resolve some of those matters.

I, like many Queenslanders, continue to be gobsmacked by just how reckless this LNP can be when it comes to talking down the Queensland economy, Queensland jobs and degrading our proud Queensland agricultural industry. The Queensland dairy industry is doing it tough, and the ongoing drought in this state in some regions is into its seventh year and has been cruel to many producers and has contributed significantly to the pressures on both individuals and the industry as a whole. In that context, it beggars belief that any member of this House, let alone an entire party, would advocate for a hard-won contract with a dairy supplier to be torn up. As difficult as it may seem for the opposition, let us have a look at the facts.

The Metro North Hospital and Health Service awarded a contract to Lactalis Australia—or Parmalat or Pauls—and LD&D Australia—Lion—for the supply and delivery of milk and soft dairy products. Lactalis Australia, or Parmalat, was awarded the majority of that contract. Maleny Dairies was disappointed when they were not successful with the tender, and that is understandable. The opposition saw an opportunity. They jumped out to call for the contract to be scrapped and instead awarded to Maleny Dairies, claiming 13 Queensland dairy farmers had missed out on supplying milk. Lactalis Australia, the long-time maker of Pauls milk, buys its milk from up to 150 Queensland farming families in Central Queensland, the Sunshine Coast, South-East Queensland, Wide Bay, the South Burnett and the Darling Downs. That is who the LNP wants to take this contract from.

The Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation wrote an open letter urging for this not to be used as a political football, but here comes the opposition again to play politics with dairy farmers and their workers. It is not too hard to see the game the opposition is attempting to play by over and over again

playing up the fact that the supplier who won the bulk of the contract is French owned and the minor supplier will soon be Chinese owned. It is deeply disturbing to hear the ramping up of rhetoric against foreign investment in Queensland coming from the LNP.

The LNP is demonising French owned Lactalis—a business that still employs more than 600 people across its operations in Queensland—because of its ownership by overseas investors. It is an attack on Queensland workers, an attack on the Queensland economy and an attack on Queensland dairy farmers. Those opposite could not help themselves: rushing to point out a Chinese connection to a small part of the metro north hospitals' milk supply contract because they thought it would somehow outrage people more.

Let me quote a former member of this parliament on a trade and investment trip to China who said, 'China regards Australia as a prime investment destination and my focus for this visit is to leverage this interest.' That was none other than former premier Campbell Newman, the man who slashed and burned his way through Queensland and taught the Leader of the Opposition everything she knows. Foreign investment is good for Queensland, it is good for Queensland's economy and it is good for Queensland jobs. The LNP used to know that. They used to know because Lactalis, then called Parmalat, won the metro north hospitals' milk supply contract under the LNP in 2014. Now the LNP is against foreign investment in Queensland and dog whistling for One Nation votes. That is what they are doing here: dog whistling for One Nation votes.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (5.42 pm): I rise to support the private member's motion introduced into this House by the shadow minister for state development, manufacturing infrastructure and planning and member for Glass House, Andrew Powell. The Palaszczuk government is constantly telling us to support local business with their Buy Queensland policy splashed across our television screens. At the campaign launch the Minister for Public Works actively sought out Maleny Dairies for photo opportunities. The Premier and minister followed this up at the Ekka, promoting their new policy alongside Maleny Dairies and advocating what a wonderful supplier of milk they were for Queenslanders, a locally owned and family operated dairy—which is all true. However, in its wisdom the government has now decided that Maleny Dairies is not up to the job of supplying milk to the metro north hospitals of Queensland. In its place French owned Lactalis, which has the majority of the contract, and Chinese owned Lion Dairy & Drinks, which will supply a niche market for special patient diets, won the tender to supply the Metro North Hospital and Health Service for the next two years.

This was an absolute slap in the face for Maleny Dairies, a proud Queensland owned and operated company. This government has implied that Maleny Dairies could not have fulfilled the tender, a claim which has been rigorously denied by the manager, Peter Falcongreen, and owner, Ross Hopper. Over recent years Maleny Dairies has invested over \$9 million in factory improvements, including the installation of two robots on the production line to increase efficiencies and processing capacity. The supply of milk to metro north hospitals would have been safe, reliable and in capable hands. The contract to supply milk to all metro north hospitals would have meant that Maleny Dairies could have secured another Queensland owned dairy farming family to assist with the supply of milk required for the contract, thereby creating jobs for that farm and ensuring a secure future for the Queensland dairy industry as a whole.

Premier, what has happened to the multibillion dollar Buy Queensland strategy? What has happened to the pledges made by this government? There were promises made to support local businesses and jobs. A major shift was mooted in the way government bought or hired supplies and services. 'Supporting regional Queensland' is stated on the government website advertising this policy. It would appear the Premier has conveniently forgotten this pledge to Queenslanders. This strategy was welcomed by industry and owners of business as a way of safeguarding their future production and ensuring economic security. It was a strategy supported by all Queenslanders to get behind our local business owners and buy locally. I do not know about you, but that makes me feel as if this government is not exactly embracing family owned and operated businesses here in Queensland.

They are selling off contracts to companies outside of Australia, forgetting the importance of supporting local businesses and local jobs in Queensland. Clearly, Premier, your government needs to rethink the Buy Queensland policy; it is just not working. Local companies are tendering and failing to be awarded contracts when companies that are obviously not local are. Maleny Dairies is truly local and they use local suppliers. They are locally owned, the milk is produced locally and they support the local community. How much more local can you get?

This was all before the news today that now Lactalis is going to close their Rockhampton facility at the cost of 47 jobs in the Rockhampton district. I wonder if the Premier and minister would have been so keen to award the contract to Lactalis if this had happened before the awarding of those contracts. We have heard the support for Lactalis by the Premier. If you go online and have a look at the *Courier-Mail* website, the lead story is the Premier's appeal to Lactalis to rescind its decision about laying off jobs and closing the Rockhampton facility. This government talks out of different sides of its mouth when it suits them. It is time this government truly backed our local businesses and renewed this contract. Maleny Dairies is a good Queensland owned business and deserves a fair go.

 **Mr BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (5.47 pm): I rise tonight to speak against the motion. We have had some seriously ridiculous motions in the past from those opposite over the years—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms McMillan): Order, members! There is no need for that interjection.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I only just stood up.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, order! I do not need your commentary.

**Mr BUTCHER:** The member for Glass House really tops the lot tonight. The member is asking the parliament to call on this government to intervene in a tender process that was properly conducted at arm's length by a statutory body in order to give preferential treatment and a lucrative contract to a business in his own electorate. Anyone else would call that pork-barrelling. We have seen what happens to those opposite with pork-barrelling, particularly here in Queensland—

**Mr Hunt** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Nicklin, I think that might be a warning for you, given the number of times I have already cautioned you.

**Mr BUTCHER:**—yet that is what the member's motion tonight is asking the parliament to do. Let's be clear: the tender awarded by the Metro North Hospital and Health Service to Lactalis Australia, the parent company of Pauls, was a properly constituted tender and complies with the government's Buy Queensland procurement policy. Pauls is a local supplier of milk for metro north, with workers employed within a 125-kilometre radius of where the goods will be supplied from.

They are the biggest buyer bar none of unprocessed milk from Queensland dairies and the largest milk processor in Queensland. They draw from 141 Queensland owned family farms, 16 of which, you guessed it, are in the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. It is a shame that she is not here to hear this. There are 16 local families in her electorate of Nanango who supply milk to Pauls—

**Mr LANGBROEK:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. It is disorderly to refer to the absence of a member from the chamber. I ask you to so rule.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you for pointing that out. Member for Gladstone, I ask you to withdraw.

**Mr BUTCHER:** I withdraw. On one hand, we have the member for Glass House wanting parliament to support his pork-barrelling attempt and on the other hand we have the member for Nanango, the opposition leader and so-called wannabe Premier here in Queensland, happy to see jobs go from her local electorate. Surely we have never before had an opposition leader actively opposed to projects and jobs in their very own electorate.

It is extraordinary that day after day the Leader of the Opposition stands up and says no to jobs in Nanango, no to jobs for our farmers and no to jobs for Queenslanders. For the last few weeks here in Queensland, she has been standing up demanding that the Palaszczuk government tears up this contract and gives it to Maleny Dairies. She is asking us to rip the existing contract out of the hands of 141 Queensland dairy farmers, every single one of which is family run and owned by Queensland people. She is ignoring the interests of 700 Queenslanders who work for Pauls, a quintessential Queensland company based right across the river in South Brisbane—all in pursuit of some political points against the government.

The Leader of the Opposition has not learned a thing since she sat beside Campbell Newman sacking Queenslanders, selling our assets and cutting our services here in Queensland. This is not the first time we have seen the Leader of the Opposition stand up and demand we actually take jobs away from the people of Nanango. She did not want us to build a new mine in her electorate. She did not

want us to build a solar farm in her electorate. Now she wants to take contracts away from those 16 dairy farmers in her own electorate of Nanango who supply to Pauls. The opposition leader is always the first to stand up and complain, whinge and make a fuss. I do not think we have ever actually seen her support anything in Nanango.

Last year the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services informed the House he launched construction for the Kingaroy Hospital's redevelopment. He was joined by councillors and the hospital and health board, but guess who was not there. You could say it was a big deal, but who was missing? It was the local member who was not there to deliver for her community. The Leader of the Opposition and member for Nanango begged the minister to be involved in that project, but guess what? There was an empty chair where the member was supposed to be sitting and she could not be bothered to even rock up. It was a \$70 million investment in her community, a state-of-the-art new hospital, but all there was to be seen of the Leader of the Opposition was an empty chair. The opposition have embarrassed themselves tonight with this motion and I urge the House to oppose it.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.53 pm): We have just seen a conga line of ministers and members from the Labor Party, and they have been mostly city members—the members for Murrumba, Ferny Grove and Springwood—but they have all missed the point. This is about the buy local program. What does buy local mean? It is a pretty simple concept that those opposite seem to have completely missed. Buy local means you buy products from a local company. It does not say to buy from an overseas company, a company controlled by overseas entities. It is about buying locally. The member for Glass House's motion states that this House 'calls on the Palaszczuk government to review the decision, including awarding at least a portion of the supply contract to Maleny Dairies'.

We would think that three ministers and an assistant minister of this government might be watching their Premier's Facebook page, but apparently for the last hour or so they have not. If they had, they would have noticed that the Premier posted on her Facebook page an hour ago stating—

This is not good enough. I have written to Lactalis urging them to reverse their decision and support Queensland jobs.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, dated 5 February 2020, from the Facebook page of the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding Lactalis and Queensland jobs [\[191\]](#).

What is she talking about? She is talking about Lactalis, the group that was awarded this contract, which is closing down its Rockhampton regional base and scaling back its activities in South Brisbane. We are calling for a review of this particular case and it appears as though the Premier agrees with us because she has written to Lactalis tonight. Part of that letter says—

My Government has previously dealt with your company in good faith in the interest of providing as many good, secure jobs to Queenslanders as possible.

She is not doing real well there. The letter continues—

Please be aware that I have asked my Director-General, Mr Dave Stewart, to examine how the Queensland Government engages with Lactalis into the future.

We expect the Premier to come in here in the division and vote with us because she wants this to be reviewed as well. Let us wait and see what happens there. The Buy Queensland website says—

The Queensland Procurement Strategy ensures informed decisions are made about how government funds are used to prioritise Queensland businesses—

They have failed with that category, haven't they? And—

support local jobs in regional Queensland—

It is a South Brisbane company but never mind. The website also states—

The Queensland Government Procurement Strategy outlines how we will use this investment to support government objectives to—

...

make it easier by affording full and reasonable opportunity for local business to supply to Queensland Government—

If that was really what they wanted to do, they might be able to break the contract down into something that Maleny Dairies could supply. After all, what they did here is they have a requirement to have one regional company. One local company put in for the tender so they asked Maleny Dairies to do it, but in good faith they did not deal with Maleny Dairies after that and they have given it to a company that is now abandoning Queensland, abandoning Queensland jobs, closing down their regional facility and scaling back in South Brisbane so that some of the products that are made in South

Brisbane will now be sourced interstate. These will not be Queensland products that the hospitals are buying. Let us wait and see what our Premier does when she comes in here to vote. She wants this reviewed, the LNP wants this reviewed and 12,900 voters in Queensland want this reviewed.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.58 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the member for Glass House and condemn the hypocrisy of those opposite for supporting this motion. The strategy is to attack everything but stand for nothing because while they shriek and shrill about a single dairy farm in South-East Queensland they completely ignore dairy farmers up and down the coast of Queensland—the very people they are claiming to care about.

I am genuinely surprised that those opposite want to keep talking about this issue given the facts of the matter have been laid bare for everyone to see. Maleny Dairies could not fulfil the tender, and even they admitted that. The tender was awarded to Pauls, which last time I checked still employed Queenslanders. Pauls sources its milk from 141 family owned Queensland dairies, and a great number of them are in the electorates of those opposite. Many of these dairies are small businesses and are run by Queensland mums and dads. These dairies collectively employ 700 Queenslanders. Seriously, what have you got against Queensland jobs?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Is this all just for political point-scoring? It looks like an own goal to me. The LNP are determined, because they have launched their petition—via a foreign owned company no less. The member for Nanango has proudly posted this petition on her Facebook page, surely expecting a lot of back patting from dairy farmers around Queensland. Alas, that is not how it went. This is what was posted on the member for Nanango's petition from one of the dairy farmers she clearly does not care about. It states—

As a Queensland Dairyfarmer who supplies PAULS in Deb Frecklingtons own electorate of Nanango I am very disappointed in this action by both Maleny and the LNP. It is saying that the government should give a tender to Maleny over milk supplied to PAULS or Dairyfarmers by hard working Queensland Dairyfarmers, whether Maleny is best tender or not. Gee thanks Deb NOT.

I table for the benefit of the House those Facebook posts.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from Twitter regarding milk suppliers [192].

Pauls were awarded the tender because they have the capacity to fulfil the volume and dietary requirements our hospital patients and staff require. I am proud that this contract means that family owned dairy farmers all across Queensland from the Darling Downs to the Atherton Tableland, farmers from the Sunshine Coast and bushfire affected regions and even farmers in the member for Nanango's electorate, are benefitting from this contract.

We are a government that absolutely backs our small businesses. Our small business procurement commitment goes above and beyond anything the LNP have ever produced. We are measuring our spend with small businesses for the first time in Queensland government history.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the minister is not taking your interjections. A number of people who are the primary interjectors have already had an opportunity to speak. I will allow the other members to speak.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I stood with the Deputy Premier at the time of last year's budget and released the first ever small business procurement commitment. We are measuring our spend across government agencies for small businesses for the first time ever, something those opposite never did and still have not committed to doing. We will introduce a small business procurement target, something for which the small business community has been advocating for many years. Let's not forget their record on small business: abolishing the commissioner for small business. Their record on small business is atrocious. Our government is also working on training our procurement officers on how to better engage with small businesses, another thing the small business community has asked for. We are looking at ways to break down big contracts to make it easier for smaller businesses in the regions to apply.

Finally, just because those opposite really are not clued in to their own blind hypocrisy, I point out that the member for Nanango, along with Campbell Newman and the LNP, approved the first Metro North dairy contract to none other than Pauls in 2014. Oh, to have the benefit of hindsight! We are not

in this to politicise or sensationalise a contract between Queensland Health and milk suppliers, but those opposite just cannot give it up. What I say to those opposite today, what I say to the LNP, is stop trying to milk this because the cow really has moved on to greener pastures.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Caloundra, you are warned under the standing orders. I called the House to order three times.

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

**AYES, 43:**

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

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**NQF, 1**—Costigan.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**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, 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.

Resolved in the negative.

## AGRICULTURE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 177, on motion of Mr Furner—

That the bill be now read a second time.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, can you please leave the chamber quietly as a courtesy to the member for Bancroft.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (6.09 pm), continuing: Before the debate was adjourned I was talking about the importance of biosecurity management plans. The Palaszczuk government has already had good success in elevating the importance of biosecurity management plans. In April we brought in a new regulation that specified a new offence for not complying with a biosecurity management plan and on-the-spot fines. Since then there have been fewer incidents of errant trespassers coming onto land than in the past. Observing and obeying biosecurity management plans is for everyone, and that includes protesters. Those who breach these plans need to know the potential impact of what they are doing.

The second issue I want to cover is that of body worn cameras for officers in the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries. Today we are amending the Biosecurity Act 2014 and other acts to enable these workers on the front line to carry out enforcement activities as part of their job. In our committee we have seen how these marvellous officers work protecting our agriculture industry and our natural resources. We have seen how the addition of new technology like these cameras makes them safer and more efficient at their job. They can turn on their camera and record everything when liaising with certain members of the public. Not only that, the camera helps stop the erroneous claims, perhaps, of suspects. The evidence gained can be used later to charge people.

I do not underestimate the potential dangers faced by these officers on the front line. I believe that some years ago in New South Wales an officer investigating illegal clearing was killed. Fisheries officers can be pretty isolated out there on the water. I believe they sometimes deal with people who

are members of organised crime gangs. It is no wonder that sometimes they work in the field with police officers. Therefore, the addition of body worn cameras helps them take action against suspects, protects those being interviewed and keeps our officers safe.

The issue of body worn cameras has been highlighted by other speakers. I do not understand why the LNP appears reluctant to allow these departmental officers on the front line the best equipment to protect them. Like everyone on this side of the House, I am sure they do not want to see our officers understaffed and underequipped. These officers are administering justice. We do not want them facing suspects with one hand tied behind their backs. I know that there are many former police officers on both sides of the House. As someone who sits next to a former police officer, I know that they have and do use these body worn cameras to great effect.

The third issue I want to cover is that of dogs in hot cars. The bill's significant amendments mean fewer animals will suffer or die in hot cars. From now on, a person who inappropriately confines or transports an animal may be breaching their duty of care. No-one will argue against this. We know that a dog can die within minutes in a hot car, even in one with a window down. Last year, 829 animals were rescued from hot cars.

It is important to note as well that the Animal Welfare Advisory Board said that, although the LNP wants it, we do not need a new offence to deal with this issue. The board said that it was more appropriate to amend a current offence. On this issue, I refer to the amendments being dropped today without due consideration by the member for Gympie. In his first amendment to clause 4, the member for Gympie wants to prohibit a breach of duty of care. This will actually make the situation worse!

By omitting this section, a person could place a dog in a hot car and not face a penalty for breaching a duty of care. A dog would have to suffer first for the threshold of cruelty to be breached. By removing the breach of duty of care provisions, a dog has to suffer before the owner can be charged for cruelty. I believe that this is unacceptable. This is the kind of thing that we want to prevent through this legislation. I certainly caution members in terms of voting for these amendments.

In conclusion, this omnibus bill introduces many much needed amendments to ensure we can preserve and enhance our agricultural industries and look after our natural resources. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the debate on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 as a member of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee. The Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 22 August 2019. The committee was required to report back to the House by 8 October 2019. Once again, this is a large omnibus bill which amends 17 acts and four regulations and presents the usual associated problems for both the committee and submitters in trying to scrutinise properly and thoroughly all of the amendments in the limited time available. This was highlighted at the public hearing on 13 September by Mr Dunn from the Queensland Law Society, who stated—

In our submission today we have raised a number of issues but our analysis was somewhat limited due to the amount of time that was available between the tabling of the bill and the submissions to the committee, so there may well be issues in the bill that we have not located or identified. That does not mean necessarily that we do not see that there are other issues in the bill, but we just have not picked them up so far.

Given the range and complexity of the many amendments in this bill, time prevents me from speaking to them all. I will cover what I can in the time available. One of the main objectives of the bill is yet another attempt by this Palaszczuk government to address property invasions by animal activists to which farm owners and processors have been subjected. As we know, in May 2019 this Labor government increased fines for trespass to \$652.17 as its solution to this growing biosecurity threat.

At the time, LNP members in this House said that this paltry fine would be no deterrent to these protesters. This has been proven correct time and again. During the public hearing, AgForce stated that the changes which were introduced in April 2019 establishing on-the-spot fines did not provide a sufficiently strong deterrent to animal activist activity. The Queensland Farmers' Federation also submitted that current laws 'are no longer fit for purpose'.

Now we once again see this incompetent minister put together this hotchpotch of legislation in yet another attempt to be seen as trying to address the issue. These amendments include amendments to the Biosecurity Act that specify that carrying out an activity which prescribes a general biosecurity obligation applies to persons entering, being present at or leaving a place where a biosecurity matter or carrier is present, and such persons are therefore liable to the general biosecurity provision.

The Biosecurity Regulation 2016 is repealing chapter 2, part 10 of the regulatory provisions introduced in April 2019, inserting new provisions to allow that a registered biosecurity entity may make a biosecurity management plan which must be available to be inspected at the place, that that sign regarding compliance must be conspicuously displayed at the place in each area where there is a biosecurity management plan, and that a person entering, being present at or leaving a management area must comply with the biosecurity management plan.

The Summary Offences Act 2005 is replacing section 13, 'Unlawfully entering farming land', with a new section 13, 'Unlawfully entering or remaining on particular land', which extends the land type uses to include a holding facility, food production facility and land for exhibition of animals. It expands the scope of section 10A to include specified risks, making a gathering of three or more persons on land unlawful if the conduct of them taken together would cause a person in the vicinity to believe on reasonable grounds that the conduct poses a risk to the health and safety of a person or a risk to the welfare of an animal or a biosecurity risk or is likely to cause an economic loss or a risk to the safety of food produced for human or animal consumption. The LNP will not be opposing these amendments but would call for more clarity from the minister regarding the last amendment. This was also a recommendation of the committee.

Whilst concerns were raised with the phrase 'likely to cause economic loss' being too broad and vague by the Queensland Law Society and Queensland Council for Civil Liberties, this is something that industries such as the livestock transport industry have been calling for. There have been incidents of protesters interfering with trucks, entering abattoirs, trying to remove pins from trailers and entering the cab of a moving vehicle. This is highly dangerous for the driver, the protester and the livestock. Can the minister give an assurance to industry that these reckless offenders will be prosecuted under this act?

There could be no greater example of the reckless actions of these activists than the illegal entry of a piggery at Pittsworth in the electorate of Condamine in November 2019, where biosecurity notices were ignored and six newborn piglets were stolen—'rescued', the activists called it. This was at a time of heightened biosecurity due to the swine disease not far from our borders. The complete lack of knowledge of animal husbandry by the perpetrators meant that five of the six stolen piglets died by the time the culprits were arrested and charged. The activist was issued with a \$300 fine.

This bill proposes amendments to authorise the use of body worn cameras by authorised officers and inspectors. The Council for Civil Liberties held some concerns about privacy issues regarding the data collected by the use of body worn cameras.

The bill also amends the Animal Care and Protection Act to include inappropriately confining or transporting an animal in a vehicle in a way that causes heat stress as an offence. This is a policy that the LNP announced in 2018, and it is nice to see that it will finally be adopted by the Palaszczuk government. A dog can die in as little as six minutes in a hot vehicle. Unfortunately, prosecutions are rare.

The amendment to the legislation regarding the movement of wild goats was opposed by AgForce in its submission. The Biosecurity Act currently allows for a 10-day exemption for the movement of wild goats from the property of capture to either a processing works or an approved depot without an approved National Livestock Identification System device. The bill amends section 180 of the Biosecurity Act to remove the exemption for the movement of wild goats in these circumstances so that moving goats without an approved device would require a travel approval. The Australian Meat Industry Council, the Goat Industry Council of Australia and AgForce strongly oppose the amendment of section 180(c) of the Biosecurity Act to remove the exemption for moving goats. The department stated that, because wild goats are very mobile and cross state borders, consultation had been undertaken at the national level. This may be so; however, the department and the minister need to engage with those affected by this change. If wild goats are to be NLIS tagged, this will result in injuries such as severe bruising, broken legs and possibly death in the process. These are wild animals not used to be handled like horses, cattle or sheep are.

The last part of the bill I will comment on is with regard to the amendments to the Forestry Act, in particular clause 114 which amends section 72. This amendment will alter the notification process for the mustering of stray stock in a forestry or timber reserve. The chief executive will no longer be required to insert two notices of the intended muster in a newspaper circulating in the district nor provide notices to the nearest forestry office, every Magistrates Court in the district and every inspector of stock within the district. Instead, the amendments require the chief executive to give each landowner adjoining the area where the stock are a notice advising of the muster. Instead of providing this notice 28 days

prior, it will only need to be provided to relevant landholders and persons believed to be the owner five days prior to the muster. The notice must state that the owner may claim the stock within 14 days after the notice is given. I note there were concerns raised in the section of the committee reporting dealing with fundamental legislative principles regarding this amendment. It states—

There is also the potential that a landholder who is the owner of the stock will not receive any notice of the muster if their land is not adjoining the intended muster area and the chief executive is unaware that they might own the stock.

If stock is not claimed by the owner by the end of the 14 day claim period, the chief executive may sell, destroy or otherwise dispose of the mustered stock ...

The impact of a failure to notify is a very serious matter. AgForce suggested that the 14-day notice period to claim the stock should be from the date of the muster and that notice of the muster should be published on the department's website.

I note that the member for Bancroft made comment about the amendments that the member for Gympie 'dropped' into this House earlier. I think they pale into insignificance compared to what the minister dropped into this House regarding our agricultural colleges and the disposal of those assets. It is a disgrace to bring that in with no public scrutiny whatsoever.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (6.24 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 as well as the amendments proposed by the minister. Being a graduate in horticulture and agriculture from the University of Queensland Gatton campus and having worked in both Australia and overseas as an agronomist, I am pleased to support any legislation that benefits farmers and graziers, and this legislation does so. During my first term I was pleased to serve on the Agriculture and Environment Committee and in my second term I have been pleased to serve on the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

The Palaszczuk government has introduced a wide range of legislation that has transformed our primary industries and improved their sustainability. This has included laws dealing with water security, vegetation management, resolving conflicts with the mining sector, protecting the Great Barrier Reef and improving biosecurity. All are reforms the Palaszczuk government should be proud of.

While the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 deals with a wide range of issues, with my speech I will be focusing on those provisions relating to the activities of animal activists, otherwise known as vegan protesters. These animal activists invade farms and agriculture related businesses, causing unnecessary distress to law-abiding farm owners, business owners, managers and staff. This is a new and inventive form of protesting, with large groups of animal activists intentionally creating fear and anger among those who live and work on isolated properties. Help from police is often hours away, and the animal activists know this. Even after the animal activists leave or are removed by the police, the primary producer is left with the worry that their biosecurity plan has been breached, property has been stolen or, worse still, the protesters may return. These animal activists put human safety, biosecurity and food safety at risk and are affecting people's livelihoods by disrupting production.

The recent history of protesting activity demonstrates that existing penalties are insufficient to deter this activity. The Palaszczuk government supports the rights of individuals to protest lawfully in Queensland, but the distress caused to law-abiding primary producers by the actions of these animal activists is unacceptable. It is the community's expectation that animal activists who are using such strong tactics will be met with a strong government response. The Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill carefully balances the rights of those who wish to protest with the rights of those involved in the relevant industries.

It is only unacceptable behaviour putting our agriculture and related industries at risk that will be affected by the amendments contained in the bill. The amendments do not target particular groups or particular views. The proposed laws do not prevent peaceful protest. The laws will apply to all Queenslanders, including non-animal activists whose behaviour puts agriculture and related industries at risk. It goes without saying that farmers, graziers and staff in agriculture related industries have a right to feel safe and protected from risks posed to them, their property and their livelihoods. I have worked on isolated properties, so I know how vulnerable people are on these properties.

In April 2019 a joint government and industry group, the Animal Industry Security Taskforce, was formed to focus on these issues. They discussed the issues of preservation of safety, public order and avoidance of disruption to farm enterprises, and the minimisation of biosecurity and food safety risks. Also in April 2019, amendments were made to the Biosecurity Regulation 2016 to more directly address the biosecurity risks associated with unauthorised entry into places where animals are kept and to provide for swift enforcement action in response to those risks.

This regulation introduced a new offence for not complying with a biosecurity management plan to prevent, control and stop the spread of biosecurity matter. It enables police and biosecurity inspectors to issue an on-the-spot fine to protesters who go onto a farm without complying with a farm's biosecurity plan. There have been fewer incidents in Queensland since this fine has been implemented. The new offence has no doubt contributed to the reduction in protest activity, as has the prosecution of trespassers for incidents that occurred last year and the work of the task force in readying animal industries, and the Palaszczuk government is in a better position to respond to such incidents. At the time the government signalled that it was considering further amendments to address biosecurity risks, and this bill does so.

The bill currently before the House includes a package of amendments to the Summary Offences Act 2005, the Biosecurity Act 2014 and the Exhibited Animals Act 2015 that will address unacceptable behaviour that poses a risk to agricultural and related industries. The New South Wales government has now copied the Queensland approach and made it an offence not to comply with a biosecurity plan. Unfortunately, overseas experience and interstate activities suggest that under the existing laws these protests may resume. Increased protest activities on farms and elsewhere in the agricultural supply chain have produced fear and anger amongst those involved in the industry as well as concern about the risks that these activities pose and it is clear that the existing penalties are insufficient to deter such protesters. There are also some risks posed by protesters to landholders that are not covered by the existing criminal offences.

The Palaszczuk government takes animal welfare very seriously and so does an overwhelming majority of the agricultural sector. The actions of some animal protesters have actually been putting the welfare of animals they claim to care for at risk. Animals will suffer if a serious disease is introduced to a farm as a result of the actions of these protesters. Often their protest actions cause animals to become distressed and in some cases there have been injuries and even deaths of animals. Queensland has a robust system implemented through the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to provide high levels of welfare protection for animals and to ensure compliance with our animal welfare laws. These protections extend not only to companion animals but also to animals used in agriculture.

In December 2018 a number of people conducted a protest activity at the Beerburrum piggery, resulting in 15 people being charged. The biosecurity risk posed by unauthorised entry to piggeries is very significant. People can inadvertently carry disease onto these facilities. When I studied at the University of Queensland Gatton campus I learnt of the importance of keeping disease out of piggeries and the university's piggery was always referred to as a minimal disease piggery, such is the importance of keeping disease out of piggeries.

With African swine fever now found in Timor-Leste right at Australia's doorstep, our pig farmers are more concerned than ever about uncontrolled activities on their farms and the importance of enforcing biosecurity plans. African swine flu has already devastated piggeries in Africa, Europe and Asia. China alone has suffered losses of over 38 per cent of its piggery numbers and it is estimated that these losses could continue to 80 per cent. Eighty per cent of all pigs in China could die as a result of African swine flu and the same could happen here if that disease got into Australia. By entering the piggery uninvited and unauthorised, protesters create the risk of inadvertently, or deliberately, bringing diseases into the piggery. In such circumstances, they go beyond being called protesters and might more correctly be described as vandals or ecoterrorists.

Other examples of protest activity creating biosecurity risks were demonstrated at Lemontree Feedlot at Millmerran in March last year where a number of people trespassed onto the property and also at a dairy farm at Boodua on the Darling Downs. These primary producers and all other primary producers in Queensland who live in fear of protesters invading their property deserve our support. We can only wonder at the distress caused to the primary producers to have their farms invaded. Hopefully the provisions of this bill will go some way to address their concerns. In closing, I want to thank the minister, the members of the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Development Committee, the committee secretariat led by Jacqui Dewar, Hansard reporters and submitters. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.34 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The first point I want to touch on is that pertaining to activists. Obviously the KAP would take a very strong position against those protests that have been happening on farms. I would ask members of the House to consider for a moment—and I am sure many of them have—the fact that trespassing in an urban area is certainly unwelcome, but trespassing in rural surrounds has various other components to it that make it much worse in that you are further away from help, you feel isolated and you are sitting on a business that is your livelihood and you feel very protective of it.

I have never lived on a farm, but I have noticed that people can be very funny about others going onto their place and bringing in weeds. Talking to the member for Hill, he mentioned how funny people on banana plantations can be about Panama disease getting on their farms. People are highly sensitive to that. Not surprisingly, a lot of people in the city would be oblivious to those risks and would not see the harm in that. There needs to be a strong message sent to these people that it is over and above just a simple trespass; it is highly inflammatory to the people who live in these areas and highly confronting when you see a group of more than a handful—anything over more than a handful—come up to your place in a remote area. That is very disconcerting to say the least and needs to be treated as more than just a simple trespassing activity. It is much worse when you put some context around that.

The bill deals with a lot of relatively minor issues such as animals in hot cars. I was interested in expanding access to farm business debt mediation. Quite clearly that is a practical measure, but I go back to the genesis of that farm debt mediation. It is good, but it was there as a replacement or as an alternative to the reconstruction board bill that I introduced in the last parliament. After seeing this issue come back to the House again, I have pangs of regret that we were not able to deliver that and now we are looking at farm debt mediation and trying to tidy that up. Farm debt mediation is not unwelcome, but it certainly does not do the job that is needed out there in rural areas compared to a reconstruction board.

I am very concerned about the use of body worn cameras on authorised officers and inspectors. I can think of scenarios of inspectors looking at tree clearing and such who will pop up on a place. It might not be their intention, but they will catch people unaware who might say things that incriminate them unintentionally or put pressure on them. These people are in a work environment and they are not thinking about the reams of legislation that they are supposed to be complying with and the language that they are supposed to be using. I cannot think of a good case in point to give members right now, but I am sure that there will be officers who are au fait or across all of the rules and regulations who will go onto a farm and someone on that farm says the wrong thing—a slip of the tongue—that is unintentional but will be caught on camera.

If that person was in a more controlled environment, such as in town visiting the inspector's office, they may perhaps give a completely different response that would not have any impact on them. It concerns me that that process lends itself to adverse outcomes. In tidying up those areas we may lose the latitude for officers to use common sense and practice as they have in the past.

Finally I would like to talk about agricultural colleges. It is out of my electorate and I have not been across it as closely as I should have been, but certainly it will impact on me. I have had some very emotive calls from people all around Queensland. Some were ex-students, but some were future students who have seen that that will not now be available to them. It is very sad and perhaps a turning point in these western areas.

I would like to make a point that I am pretty sure would not have been raised yet: it is a good time to reflect on the approach of economic rationalism to services in the bush. Invariably there is a review done on a college or an industry that is ailing and Professor Coaldrake comes in and says, 'Guess what? It is not working. The numbers are down. Let us shut it down.' For once why not look at the source of the problem, which is why are there not more people going through it and can we fix that. If we could stimulate the agricultural or beef industry or had better ways of procuring more young workers there would be more need for it. I am sure that is put aside and it is decided that this is costing us too much money and there are not enough people coming through.

The same language gets used on TAFE courses in Mount Isa in the north-west. It is always the same criticism for businesses or people on the ground: if they made more effort in this space we would be putting more people through the door. There is always a bigger picture. Not surprisingly we pay the price in the bush. Another service is taken away. I am utterly unconvinced that there was not an opportunity for the government to step in and drive some interest into those agriculture colleges and try to reinvigorate them. It is with a sense of bitterness that we see that coming back in the House.

I think it is a terrible shame that we have had closures of ag colleges in Dalby, Burdekin, Emerald and Longreach. It sends a strong signal to people in rural areas and families who want to build communities and a future for their families. Even people like myself who live in town but want to know we will have families out there in the future. We are sending a signal that there is no future and we will shut it down. There will be other courses, but nothing will be the same as having training in situ. I have had personal friends go through the college and friends who have worked there. It is a terrible shame and a blight on the actions of the government. Those are the main issues that I have with the bill and I will leave my comments at that.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Can I say at the outset that whilst I will not be opposing this bill in its entirety, I have some deep concerns regarding some of the provisions contained within it. Furthermore, I will be supporting the sensible and practical amendments moved by my colleague, the member for Gympie. Those opposite can talk this bill up all they like, but at the end of the day it falls a long way short of what is required when dealing with animal activists and unlawful trespass. I will speak shortly about the need for the amendments my colleague has moved, but firstly I would like to speak to the amendments relating to animal activists.

For context, in May last year this government increased the fines that apply to people trespassing on agricultural land to just over \$650. What an insult to Queensland's primary producers: \$650 for jeopardising Queensland's disease free status; \$650 for jeopardising a business that quite often is the result of generations of work; \$650 for causing Queensland families to 'live with the fear of people invading them, sneaking around in the night with masks.' Yet those opposite claim to support agriculture.

Then the minister has the audacity to come in here today and move an amendment to increase the relevant provision relating to unlawfully entering farming land to 20 penalty units. That is \$2,669. That still falls well short of being an effective deterrent. Let me put that into context: at the moment a bullock from a feedlot is worth in the vicinity of \$2,500. That means the maximum fine that these activists face is little more than the cost of one beast in a feedlot which may at any one time have 20,000 head—that is \$40 million of stock at any one time—and here we have a maximum fine of \$2,669.

The LNP supports legal protests conducted under the authority of a police permit. There is no question about that. We support opinions being shared in a respectful, constructive manner. What the LNP does not support is people trespassing and terrorising our hardworking farmers and businesses across this state. That is in stark contrast to this government's weak attempt to convince regional Queensland that it cares. Like those fines, this government's intention to double the penalty for unlawful entry on farming land is manifestly inadequate.

I will now move on to the important and sensible amendments moved by my colleague, the member for Gympie. Just like we have seen with its approach to trespassers, this government is soft on the vile people who are cruel to animals. Let us be clear on this as well for the benefit of those opposite: leaving an animal in a hot car is animal cruelty, baiting dogs is animal cruelty. It is time for this government to get serious instead of tinkering around the edges. The changes included in this bill are a tiny step towards treating these types of offences. In fact, one could be forgiven for thinking there is a theme to this bill and that theme appears to be ignoring animal welfare. This government has not just failed to protect animals from animal cruelty, it has also failed to protect animals on farms from the stress and possible disease that comes with trespass activities by these extreme activists.

As an omnibus bill there are many amendments included in this bill, but this brings with it the need for the minister to provide clarity on concerns that we on this side of the House, industry groups and interest groups have raised. Like my colleagues, I would like further information from the minister on what steps are being taken to ensure amendments to the Biosecurity Act will not have unintended consequences. I also ask that the minister outlines the interaction between this bill and the Human Rights Act 2019 which will commence this year.

As a former police officer, and given this government's willingness to circumvent the need for warrants when it comes to primary producers, my reservations to allow entry to premises without a warrant are well founded. However, in this case I do fully support empowering a properly appointed inspector to act without hindrance when an animal is at imminent risk of death or injury. I also support extending access to mediation for farmers who are facing issues relating to farm business debts. It is no secret that many Queensland farmers are facing challenges today and have been for some time. In addition to supporting that amendment, I also call on financial institutions to treat all primary producers with fairness and respect, particularly given the ongoing drought across the state.

Wild stock in state forests, timber reserves and forest entitlement areas do pose risks in terms of environmental degradation of land through grazing, damage to flora and may be hazardous to forest operations and road safety. I can personally attest to the impact that wild stock have in state forest areas. One only need look north of Townsville in the Bluewater area to understand the dangers that wild stock pose to residents and motorists on the Bruce Highway. Brumbies have caused a number of serious accidents in that area, including fatal traffic accidents along a notorious section of the highway around Bluewater. In the interests of public safety it is imperative that this stock is controlled and managed.

I will now turn to the amendments to be moved by the member for Gympie. Amendment 1 will align the offence of inappropriately confining or transporting animals with a cruelty offence under section 18 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001, with a \$250,000 maximum fine or a three-year maximum prison sentence. This will align the penalty associated with dog baiting with a cruelty offence penalty under section 18 of that act. Dog baiting is already prohibited under the act as a specific offence.

Amendment 2 will simply increase the penalties to align this with our publicly stated position. Amendment 2 will make the crime of baiting an animal a cruelty offence under section 18 of that act and carry a penalty of \$250,000 maximum fine. The LNP want to give Queensland pet owners certainty that if and when these perpetrators are apprehended they will face the full force of the law with tougher penalties, including larger fines and longer jail terms.

I will move on to the provisions within the bill relating to the traceability of goats. I can appreciate that traceability of livestock is critical in a biosecurity emergency as well as to enable market access. The Biosecurity Act 2014 currently exempts feral goats from having approved identification devices or tags before being moved in certain situations. However, the proposal to remove the tagging exemptions for goats is absolutely ludicrous. I note that AgForce does not support the changes to remove tagging exemptions for goats and I certainly support that position. I also note that the Goat Industry Council of Australia and the Australian Meat Industry Council also oppose the changes. Minister, I challenge you to climb—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Direct your comments through the chair please, member.

**Mr LAST:** I challenge the minister to climb into a double-decker truck with around 200 feral goats and tag them. I believe there would be a number of MPs in this place who would probably pay good money to see the minister undertake that task. I have no doubt it would prove very clearly to the minister the difficulties associated with putting tags on feral goats.

Finally, I move on to the amendments that will repeal the Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges Act 2005, effectively winding up the Emerald and Longreach agricultural colleges. What a disgrace that this minister has chosen to tack these amendments onto this bill in an effort to drive them through this parliament. Make no mistake, this is a dark day for agriculture in this state. It sounds the final death knell for our agricultural colleges—colleges which have trained thousands of students to work in our agricultural sector. Rural and regional Queenslanders will not forget that it was under the minister's watch that these colleges closed. I certainly hope the funds from the sale of these assets are reinvested in rural Queensland and not funnelled into South-East Queensland to prop up some city project.

This is an omnibus bill that the LNP will not be opposing. However, there are some serious concerns with the provisions contained in the bill that I have addressed tonight. I have no doubt that there will be far-reaching ramifications as a result of the provisions contained in the minister's bill.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (6.52 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to this bill. I do so at the risk of being labelled an inner-city spiv who has nothing to contribute by the member for Burleigh from the renowned agricultural district of Burleigh—a member who demonstrated his credentials in agriculture by inventing the new unit of measure, the 'hectacre'. I think this bill affirms the minister's title of 'Furner, the farmer's friend'. It is an excellent bill and it should be supported by all those in the House.

Let me move beyond jocularly because this is a serious bill. I rise to make a contribution to this bill because it is an issue that many people in my electorate feel very strongly and passionately about—in many directions, might I say. I do not have to travel far in my electorate to meet people who indirectly generate an income through the agricultural industry. There is great support and a deep understanding by people in my electorate that the agricultural industry is a key part of our state's economy and something that we have to support. I do not have to go far before I find people who have friends and relatives who are primarily involved in the agricultural industry. There is deep support there.

The part of the bill that I particularly want to focus on is the illegal entry onto farms by protesters. As a member of the Labor Party, I of course support people's right to protest, but that has to be done in a safe way. I would encourage it to be done in a sensible way and in a way that will achieve an outcome. If you want to change something you have to go to the decision-makers and urge them to make that change. Simply harassing individuals who have no power to change the system is pointless.

I think the tactics being rolled out are ineffective. In fact, if people really wanted to change people's desire to eat meat they would have to take a whole public health approach to changing people's habits. I do not see that happening any time soon because many people recognise that meat is an important part of a well-balanced diet, while respecting the fact that many people choose a vegetarian or vegan diet.

When it comes to people illegally entering properties, the first thing I would like to focus on is the threats to biosecurity. I had the great privilege of chairing the agriculture committee for a period of time. We conducted a fairly extensive inquiry into invasive weeds. That took me to many different environments around the state and to many different agricultural business settings. What was common was the commitment of landholders to biosecurity. What was also obvious to me, as someone who is not from a rural background, is that there are a whole lot of things we do not know when we walk into these environments. We can easily do damage.

As a former nurse, I can appreciate that. I too worked in an environment where we had biosecurity issues. We had procedures, practices and equipment in place to deal with that. It is not very hard for someone with no training and limited knowledge to walk into those environments and do great damage. People with a very limited understanding of biosecurity issues coming onto properties pose a great risk to our community. For that reason alone, it is very important that we take the actions outlined in this bill.

During my time as the chair of the agriculture committee the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation challenged me that I would not know what it is like to get up at four o'clock in the morning. I explained to them that as a nurse I often had not gone to bed by four o'clock in morning. I offered to visit a farm. I was pleased to do that. I will not mention the farming family, particularly given the nature of the bill we are debating. I do not want to breach their confidence and make them a target.

That family was extremely generous and hospitable to myself and my family. They were also extremely nervous when we first got there. They were very keen to make sure that we were respectful when it came to photography on their property because they had had problems. What becomes evident, particularly with this type of farming business, is that yes it is a farm, yes it is an agricultural business, but it is also their home. They live there. It is where their family has lived for several generations. To have strangers bust into their home, for whatever reason, is a real invasion of their privacy. I can see how that would be distressing on so many levels. For that reason we need to make sure that the provisions in this bill are supported. That family would miss out if the debate that occurred earlier around Maleny Dairies had gone another way.

The other thing that is important in this debate is the isolation that exists for many people who work in agricultural industries. My late father-in-law had a property on Kelly Road in Upper Amamoor. It was a reasonably isolated spot. I see that the member for Gympie knows where that is. After his unfortunate passing at a fairly early age I assisted with managing the property on a fairly ad hoc basis for a couple of years until we were able to shift it along.

It is quite amazing when you live in these places. There is one road in and one road out, and it is a dirt road. You have no phone on the farm. You have no access to law enforcement quickly or easily. When a car drives onto your property that you do not know, it is quite a nerve-wracking experience until you are able to identify who it is. If a group of people came onto your property in masks in the middle of the night, I can see that that would be an extremely distressing and scary experience for those people on the receiving end. For that reason, we need to support the provisions in this bill that deal with those situations. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Kelly, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Redlands Coast, LNP Candidates

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.00 pm): Residents have responded warmly to the announcement of the LNP Redlands coast team for the October 2020 election: Henry Pike for the Redlands electorate, Bev Walters for the Capalaba electorate and myself for the Oodgeroo electorate. The candidates have hit the ground running, exposing the failure of Labor MPs to deliver for our region in many areas.

In terms of the Redland Hospital, we have seen two cancer screening bungles recently with 1,700 people and their families affected and a Labor cover-up. Redlands residents deserve answers. Only a full and open inquiry can get to the bottom of this mess.

In terms of education, we have had STEM program cuts at Ormiston State School. Despite petitions, letters to the minister and community outcry, Labor removed the two STEM classrooms over the Christmas break, reducing the opportunity for girls and boys to study STEM.

In terms of the aircon con, our kids were sweating it out at school this week. No Redlands coast schools made Labor's list for air conditioning.

In terms of koalas, the *Redland City Bulletin* recently reported—

REDLANDS mayor Karen Williams says a state government plan to protect koalas ignores expert advice and removes thousands of hectares of habitat from new mapping.

Cr Williams said the draft koala conservation strategy was little more than ... good intentions ...

She went on to say—

The KPA mapping excluded the North Stradbroke Island's whole population area.

What a joke!

In terms of water security, the gates on the Leslie Harrison Dam were supposed to be replaced to bring the storage capacity back to past levels. Even with the Redlands being drought declared, local Labor MPs did nothing.

In terms of Transport and Main Roads, despite being funded in the current budget, construction still has not begun on the LNP's congestion-busting Gateway on-ramp initiative at Old Cleveland Road, leaving Redlanders wallowing in traffic congestion.

In terms of marine and island issues, the government must restore funding for the Wellington Point artificial reef and be fair to recreational and professional fishers who have been shafted with quotas, bag limits and size limits before the Moreton Bay Marine Park review has begun and before releasing the science.

Straddie residents are now on their own as all mining ceased in 2019 with major job losses and as Labor's ETS is running out of money. Slugging residents and visitors with secret taxes to pay for their failed plan is a disgrace. The 'Trad-broke Island' plan shot the goose that laid the golden eggs, and Labor has now become the goose—more like an ugly duckling!

In terms of fire safety, we continue to call on local Labor MPs to lift the Labor-union ban on a rural fire brigade for Mount Cotton. Sadly, local Labor MPs are doing nothing to solve these issues. Only an LNP government and local LNP MPs can clean up this mess.

### **Alger Electorate, School Infrastructure**

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts) (7.03 pm): As our schools in the Alger electorate began the 2020 year of learning, I was pleased to welcome students for the first day of school at Calamvale Community College. The electorate of Alger continues to welcome new families and so too does Calamvale Community College. That is why I worked with the education minister and the local community to see \$2.1 million invested in much needed new classrooms delivered for day one of the 2020 school year.

I fought hard to see six new learning spaces for the senior school of the college. That means that students will be completing their secondary education in new air-conditioned classrooms, with the latest technology to support them. During my visit, I also had the chance to meet with prep students and their families as they begin their school journey.

As the local member, it was fantastic to see the result of the \$80,000 refurbishment to the prep learning space, funded by the Palaszczuk government. This investment will see our youngest students start their education in a bright and engaging environment that will grow their imaginations. I want to acknowledge college principal, Lisa Starmer; the school board chair, Mike Butler; and P&C president, Leesa Mason, who together helped us secure the much needed new classrooms and the refurbishment.

This is just one example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to education in the Alger electorate. Our government has prioritised learning infrastructure to support students, teachers and their families throughout their schooling. Last year I announced that Alger State School's C block would get a \$350,000 makeover. I can report to the House that grade 5 students are back for the 2020 school year to learn in those new and improved classrooms.

Along with this infrastructure, my local community is also very pleased about the \$7 million investment at Pallara State School which I was able to announce last year. The school is welcoming more and more families as more people move into the area, so it is important that they have the infrastructure they need to teach the next generation. I had many meetings with the principal, Mark Johnstone, and heard from teachers and parents that the next stage of the school's construction is needed now. I am very proud to see the commitment for new teaching blocks progress.

I am always amazed by the knowledge and enthusiasm of students in my electorate. It is a privilege to support their education with more infrastructure in their schools. I will continue to fight for the schools in my electorate of Algester, because the Palaszczuk government understands that an investment in education is an investment in the future.

### Australian 4WD Hire

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (7.06 pm): On 16 June 2018 I detailed the unscrupulous, unfair, fraudulent and quite possibly illegal activities of Australian 4WD Hire. After exposing those activities, I was inundated by emails from former customers who had been ripped off by that business.

In April 2019 after my representations to the federal Treasurer, and the hard work of others, the ACCC instituted court proceedings alleging that Australian 4WD Hire used unfair contract terms, engaged in unconscionable conduct and made false or misleading representations in relation to insurance cover in breach of the Australian Consumer Law. The ACCC also alleges that Australian 4WD Hire's fleet manager, Mr Vitali Roesch, and director, Ms Maryna Kosukhina, were knowingly concerned in the alleged breaches of the Australian Consumer Law. Despite this, both Roesch and Kosukhina, under the guise of Australian 4WD Hire, continued ripping customers off right up to and over Christmas 2019. Here is how they did it.

Despite clearly knowing that they were going to sell the business and then put the company in liquidation, Kosukhina and Roesch via the business delayed paying legitimate creditors and continued to accept rental security bonds and deposits, and it appears they also did so for some days after selling the business. Records show that on 17 December 2019 the business was sold to a company incorporated only five days earlier—a company with no name, only an Australian company number, whose registered office is in Melbourne and whose sole shareholder and director cannot be located. Dodgy business indeed!

Then Roesch and Kosukhina put the company behind Australian 4WD Hire into liquidation. This means many customers who had paid bonds and deposits for the trip of a lifetime before Christmas 2019 and the many customers owed money as a result of successful legal claims now face almost no prospect of recovering their money. Tens of thousands of dollars have been ripped off again. The new owner refuses to refund bonds paid prior to Christmas, and of course to no-one's surprise there is virtually no money in the defunct company accounts, despite tens of thousands being deposited by customers in the lead-up to the sale and subsequent liquidation.

I have written to the liquidator, Mr Matthew Bookless of SV Partners on the Gold Coast, calling on him to thoroughly investigate all aspects of this tawdry and shameful business. He should review the dodgy business contract and publicly examine the individuals concerned to see if money can be recovered to benefit creditors. I table a copy of my email to Mr Bookless and a copy of his initial report to creditors.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents from the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, relating to the appointment of a liquidator of Australian 4WD Hire [193].

The ACCC must continue its prosecution of Roesch and Kosukhina to ensure they cannot continue their predatory practices. Any potential customers should be wary of Australian 4WD Hire. Its chequered history and the events of the last month should sound alarm bells. The business continues to use the same dodgy rental contract described by the ACCC as unfair, misleading and unconscionable. New customers run the real risk of being ripped off unless that changes, so beware of Australian 4WD Hire. My advice is to protect yourself and rent from somewhere else.

### Miller Electorate

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.10 pm): The south side of Brisbane, which I represent, has a very exciting 2020 ahead. There are a lot of projects underway, and I would like to give the House a quick report on what they are.

At Tarragindi we are seeing the veloway from Gaza Road to Bapaume Road rise up. It is very advanced now and I do not think you can miss it. This bicycle freeway is the last link in an uninterrupted 17-kilometre route into the CBD right through the south side of Brisbane shadowing the freeway. It is very popular and will lead to greater safety on the south side for cyclists and a faster journey, so it is great to see that. There are three bridges involved; 70 Super-T girders have been raised already and are in place. It is good to see.

We are building better roads. The \$400 million upgrade of the Ipswich Motorway is advancing very well. In fact, because it has been so well managed and there have been savings, we have added an extra arm to the south to link with Boundary Road. There is a new cycleway alongside of that, but it will six-lane the Ipswich Motorway. That is great news for motorists coming into and out of the city from the southern area.

We have secured the second oval for the Yeronga State High School as part of the redevelopment of the former TAFE site into a mixed-use precinct. That site is now entirely cleared and, with the school growing again, they have the second oval so they can grow and have that space. As part of the mixed-use precinct we will have a permanent home for the Yeronga Community Centre, which rose out of the floods in 2011 and still does fantastic work on the south side, the Annerley-Stephens Local History Group and the All Gauge Model Railway Club. I thank Minister Dick and his department for his support of community groups there.

Recently we announced that Wellers Hill State School is one of five schools in the Tennis in States Schools initiative, which will see the courts there resurfaced and other improvements so we have sporting infrastructure for our students. The Tarragindi Tigers clubhouse is nearly finished now. It is a fantastic project and there has been a huge effort from the local community, with \$150,000 from the Palaszczuk government as the base they worked from. They have added a huge amount of value themselves. I really look forward to that opening. This club had two teams when I was the local councillor and now they are one of the biggest clubs in Brisbane. I cannot speak more highly of them.

The Souths Rugby Union Club received \$75,000 for their field upgrade, which has been very helpful. We got a new field in place for the Western Magpies AFL at Chelmer for the 2019 season, and \$150,000 made the world of difference out there for AFL players. I am really glad to see that. I was very happy to sponsor the Graceville Hounds touch football competition over the summer.

We have koala exclusion fencing in next to the South East Freeway. That has been fantastic to keep koalas safe. In relation to station accessibility upgrades for Fairfield, the designs are out. People have been very positive about that and we will do Yeronga as well.

### **Harrigan, Mr K; Cox, Dr J**

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (7.13 pm): I rise to express my thanks to some very important local residents of the Moggill electorate, the first being Senior Sergeant Kevin Harrigan, who was formally farewelled as the officer in charge of the Karana Downs Police Station late last year. On the day of Kevin's official farewell a police piper and guard of honour celebrated a magnificent 44 years with the Queensland Police Service. Kevin served most recently as officer in charge of the Karana Downs Police Station until December 2019. It was my pleasure to present Senior Sergeant Harrigan with a special community award to recognise his many years of service to both the local Karana Downs community and the Queensland Police Service. Having started at the Queensland Police Academy in 1976 at the age of just 16, it was not until March 2003 that Senior Sergeant Harrigan took the opportunity to move from Proserpine to Karana Downs to join the local police station as its first ever senior sergeant officer in charge.

I am sure all members of this House understand the importance and benefit of having a police service that is deeply focused on the needs of its community. Senior Sergeant Harrigan was well liked and respected by the residents of Mount Crosby and Karana Downs, and he will be sorely missed by his colleagues at the Karana Downs Police Station. I am pleased to be able to say that we in the electorate of Moggill have many Queensland Police Service officers who serve with the same dedication as Senior Sergeant Harrigan. I would like to take this opportunity to recognise the teams at Indooroopilly and the Karana Downs police stations as well as the Bellbowrie Police Beat for their hard work and dedication to our local community. I certainly know that the members for Ninderry and Lockyer appreciate the work of our Queensland Police Service officers.

I would also like to place on record my thanks to Dr John Cox, who retired at the start of this year from his role as a general practitioner—a role that he performed with great distinction for some 55 years. Dr Cox is a long-term resident of the electorate of Moggill and he has been a general practitioner in the western suburbs of Brisbane, having practiced in Auchenflower, Bellbowrie and, most recently, Mount Ommaney. As a medical professional myself, I know the dedication and hard work that goes into serving your community in this role, and I commend Dr Cox for his many years of service.

I would like to particularly recognise Dr Cox's service to the Bellbowrie community—a community he served with distinction until the destruction of his general practice in the 2011 floods. I recently had the honour of catching up with Dr Cox and his wife, Rae, to present Dr Cox with a community award in

recognition of his service to so many across the western suburbs of Brisbane. I am sure all members of this House will agree that recognising the service and dedication of local community leaders is one of the most rewarding aspects of being a member of the Queensland parliament. I know that many in my community have certainly been made better by the contributions of Senior Sergeant Harrigan and Dr John Cox.

Finally, I also acknowledge Bishop Rob Nolan, who organised the western suburbs bushfire service at Booker Place Park at Bellbowrie last Sunday. Can I also recognise all members of the Kenmore Rotary Club, including president Martin Grabert, for their hard work in organising the Australian Day citizenship ceremony at the Our Lady of the Rosary primary school at Kenmore.

### **Stretton Electorate, Coronavirus**

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.16 pm): Tonight I want to speak about the resilience of my local community and their response to the outbreak of the coronavirus. As I have said many times before, I am very proud to represent the most multicultural electorate in Queensland. My electorate also has the largest number of people with Chinese heritage of any electorate in Queensland. Everyone knows that our local area is the most diverse in the state, has fantastic food and richness of culture.

Can I say at the outset to all members of my community who are worried and concerned about friends and family in China and elsewhere that my heart goes out to you. It is really important to acknowledge that people are doing it tough right now and are understandably worried about their loved ones. I want to acknowledge the strong leadership of the Chinese community, many of whom are here this evening. I cannot mention everyone, but I particularly want to mention the work of Michael Ma, Vicky Yu and Peter Low OAM. My local community, particularly the Chinese community, has been doing everything they can to make sure the correct information and health advice is being circulated and that people are following that advice.

Local schools have been working really hard to get relevant and up-to-date information to parents, because obviously this issue has coincided with students returning to school. I want to particularly mention Sunnybank Hills State School, which has the highest number of students of Chinese heritage in the state. Principal Geoff Mill and the team at Sunnybank Hills State School made sure all relevant information was available to parents at an early stage and took a common-sense approach. In my view, they have done an outstanding job in dealing with this particular challenge.

I also want to acknowledge and thank the Premier and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, who visited our community on the weekend. As I said, our community is doing it tough and our local businesses are doing it tough as well, so it was fantastic to see the Premier and the minister show their support. I know it was very well received in our local community.

Unfortunately, as so often happens, there are people outside our community who do the wrong thing and seek to impugn our area. I want to particularly condemn those responsible for the fake media release from Queensland Health which was spread extensively on social media. I do not know what kind of warped mind would do such a thing, but to create fear and impugn our local community is an absolute disgrace. On a positive note, I know that police are investigating the matter and I really hope that those responsible are held to account very soon for that reprehensible act.

Finally, while our community is doing it tough right now, I know that our community is stronger. We will get through this and we will bounce back. I also remind those from outside our local area that we are open for business, and you can always count on delicious food and plenty of friendly faces whenever you visit our local community.

### **Noosa Electorate, Firefighting Companies**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (7.19 pm): Last year I spoke on the importance of action in response to the devastating bushfires across Queensland and sent through resident feedback to the Noosa Local Disaster Management Group and ministers after our own fires. I spoke of the enormous gratitude we have for our frontliners and that acknowledging their heroic efforts was important. It has been wonderful to see the many thank you events over the past months and the commitment during a recent visit to Noosa by Minister Crawford to these heroes as well as some improvements for them going forward. It has also been fabulous to see my own community rise to the fire action challenge.

Although Noosa is best known for its environmental and tourism credentials, it is actually home to some exciting firefighting companies which are not only part of these efforts but also producing regional jobs. It has been wonderful to see their work. Helitak's aerial fire suppression tanks are

replacing the rope and bucket system around the world and are sold globally. Fireball International are already detecting Californian fires in seconds using real-time satellite imagery. McDermott Aviation's choppers and pilots fly the length and breadth of Australia fighting fires from the air, with the Responder app enabling many of Queensland's rural fire brigades to quickly organise and deploy their volunteer crews.

Noosa is also rapidly becoming a hotspot for technology entrepreneurs, with the Peregian hub's near scrape during the fires in September last year provoking a deep interest in FireTech, which is the category of technologies that help to predict, prevent, fight and manage bushfire emergencies. This has set in motion a plan for Noosa to become a global centre of excellence for FireTech. In September this year, the hub will host the world's first commercialisation program for FireTech start-ups, followed by an international conference in November and the establishment of a FireTech hub facility in early 2021. This initiative will help Queensland to tap into a rapidly growing market for fire solutions through attracting the best talent in the field and creating high-tech jobs.

How proud I am of not only the existing Noosa businesses that work in this space but also the emerging. Queensland frontliners are leaders in times of disaster and they deserve every bit of assistance in the changing environment we will continue to experience. I look forward to what options for involvement and support are available from our government to FireTech 2020 and beyond, as well as the knowledge of our traditional custodians. Together we can make Queensland a leader in this space and keep people, property and wildlife safer not only locally but globally.

### **Bulimba Electorate, Oxford Street**

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.21 pm): My electorate is amazing. We are a close community. We look out for each other. If you are happy, sad or in trouble, we are there for you. A special part of my electorate—and one for which it is probably best known—is Oxford Street, Bulimba, the place where many people from outside our patch come to visit. Along with local visitors, they go to the movies, to one of our fantastic restaurants, coffee shops or bars, or to take a promenade up and down the street to try the diverse retail opportunities.

It is where local kids go after school to get an ice cream. It is where you catch up with people if you have not seen them for a while. It is where parents take their kids for a play in Oxford's Memorial Park. It is where we have special occasions like Anzac Day and Hocus Pocus. It is where every Saturday you can drive past and know the Southside Eagles will be playing. It is where you go to church. It is where the historical Bulimba State School is, as well as the Bulimba kindy and the Tugulawa child care.

However, like a number of high streets, Oxford Street has been doing it tough. There are some empty shops, some high rents and some businesses struggling to see the light at the end of the tunnel, and it is hard going. In true fashion, my community is not going to take this lying down and I am so proud of them. They have got themselves together, forming the Oxford Street Business Association and they are doing amazing things with social media, marketing, profiling, finding ways to remind the local and broader community just how special our area is and always working on solutions. Best of all, they are supporting each other.

These things do not get started by themselves and they do not run by themselves. I congratulate Gayetri Aegeter from lovely Nom Nom ice cream, who put her hand up to be president of the association and is doing a fabulous job. I also congratulate Tania Shepley from The White Owl Boutique who stepped up as secretary. These women are working so hard, as is every single trader on Oxford Street. Many of them have lived and raised their kids in the area over many years.

My friend Kara Cook, councillor for Morningside, and I have made a commitment to help our local traders sort things through. We are determined to help them make a difference. The only people who are not stepping up to help us are the LNP controlled Brisbane City Council. Kara has called on the Lord Mayor to commit funds for a village precinct project on Oxford Street but just yesterday the council said there was no money for that. They have spent most of it on LNP wards. Maybe next year, or maybe Oxford Street will have to wait like Seven Hills in our area, which is only now seeing delivery after a 10-year campaign. I say to the Lord Mayor that our good traders on Oxford Street cannot wait that long. They are a mighty community and they deserve to be a priority. We hope the BCC will join with us to keep this fantastic part of our community thriving.

### Gregory Electorate, Royal Flying Doctor Service

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to talk about a good news story in parliament. I rise to speak at the behest of Mr Paul Wiggins and place on record his profound gratitude to the Royal Flying Doctor Service and the community of Windorah in my electorate of Gregory. More specifically, I wish to place on record the events that happened to Mr Wiggins and his partner in what is one of the most remote locations in Western Queensland.

Mr Wiggins is from Parramatta in New South Wales. On Boxing Day 2019 they were a long way from home, travelling through South-Western Queensland by road when Mr Wiggins suffered a heart attack. They rang the Windorah Primary Healthcare Centre and nurse paramedic Shelley Watts arrived promptly. As the on-call nurse for Boxing Day, Shelley's mission was to stay with Mr Wiggins and sustain him until the arrival of the Royal Flying Doctor Service. To Mr Wiggins's gratitude, Shelley's expertise was such that she was able to perform a blood enzyme test on the spot and an ECG. On the basis of these tests, Shelley correctly identified a blocked artery and immediately administered medication to assist. Mr Wiggins had a second ECG during the RFDS medical evacuation flight, and the RFDS doctor was able to show him that Shelley's intervention had already unblocked the artery.

Mr Wiggins fully recovered but the adventure was by no means over for his partner, who found herself thousands of kilometres away from home, all alone, with no co-driver. She was about to make some new friends, and it was Ian and Marilyn Simpson, the proprietors of Windorah's Western Star Hotel Motel, and I saw them last week. Ian Simpson drove Mr Wiggins's partner, Shannon, and her car safely all the way back to Parramatta from Windorah, some 1,200 kilometres.

We live in a world where we have social media and people on social media criticising, but I think the majority of Australians are good people. Ian and Marilyn are a part of that quiet and decent Australia that many fear we are losing, but I can tell you everywhere across Western Queensland we still are decent people.

Mr Wiggins has written asking that I voice his special gratitude to Shelley Watts, who saved his life, and to the RFDS crew of Dr Charles Ellis, nurse Di Dowrick and pilot Nick Tully. All of them delivered impeccable service with unsurpassed expertise. Mr Wiggins would also like to thank Windorah's postmaster and volunteer ambulance driver, Elaine, for her part, and of course he thanks both Ian and Marilyn Simpson from the Windorah hotel for doing such a fine job. It is good to be a Queenslanders and we see decent people every day.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Thank you for bringing that story to parliament, member for Gregory. It is a great story.

### Lee Street State Special School

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (7.27 pm): It is always good to follow good news with more good news. I am very pleased to report to the House that it was an outstanding day last week when I was able to attend the first day for our new special school in Caboolture, the Lee Street State Special School. It was outstanding to see the kids coming into the school with the parents, caregivers, teachers and staff. Everyone had a tear in their eye because it is just the most beautiful school you could come across. It will certainly provide great opportunities for these young people of Caboolture and give them a real flying start to their lives.

There was a common unity across that school as well as seven other schools in Queensland because eight brand-new schools opened last week, which was the biggest number in many, many decades. I was remarking with the principal of Lee Street State Special School that there are very few occasions where the entire school is able to share their first day at school. We reflected that the teachers, staff and students were all able to claim last week's first day at school as their first day at school. There is a common purpose and unity there.

The almost 160 students at Lee Street State Special School will be supported by 43 staff, including 38 teachers. As I said, it is a beautiful school with state-of-the-art facilities worth some \$25 million. I pay tribute to the construction company, Badge Constructions, for the effort they put in to not only deliver this outstanding school but actually put some heart into their work. They knew that what they were constructing was something special.

They knew the place they were constructing would provide significant opportunities for some kids in our community who do need a little bit of extra help. I must pay tribute to Badge for not only delivering a great product but also doing all those extra things that have made the Lee Street State Special School the wonderful place that it is. It is important to note that that construction project also supported 73 construction jobs.

The demand for enrolments at Lee Street State Special School is so significant that we have actually brought forward stage 2. Construction is now underway on the next building, a new two-storey learning centre and multipurpose activity centre. Badge Constructions are also doing that. Because they are committed to ensuring that that project is also delivered on time and on budget, they will be able to have that building ready for the beginning of term 2—a significant achievement.

I wish everyone at Lee Street State Special School all the best for the school year ahead. It is an outstanding school and I look forward to visiting very often.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

## **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson