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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 20 May 2020

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WEDNESDAY, 20 MAY 2020



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Cystic Fibrosis Month



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, the month of May is recognised nationally each year as 65 Roses for Cystic Fibrosis Month. The intention of this month is to raise awareness of this often fatal chronic respiratory disease that affects the airway, lungs and endocrine system. This year, Cystic Fibrosis Queensland celebrates 60 years of providing support and hope to cystic fibrosis sufferers and their families. They are a not-for-profit charity advocating for the cystic fibrosis community and raising essential funds. All members have been sent a red heart-shaped lapel pin courtesy of Cystic Fibrosis Queensland to their electorate office. I have asked that members consider wearing them throughout the month of May to raise awareness of cystic fibrosis and the challenges faced by the nearly 1,000 Queenslanders with the disease. The Queensland parliament is also marking this occasion by lighting Parliament House in red from 22 to 29 May to help bring attention to this important cause.

TABLED PAPERS

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Health Act 1937:

- [774](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 74
- [775](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 74, explanatory notes
- [776](#) Health (Drugs and Poisons) Amendment Regulation 2020, No. 74, human rights certificate

Public Health Act 2005:

- [777](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2020, No. 75
- [778](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2020, No. 75, explanatory notes
- [779](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2020, No. 75, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Economic Response



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): Yesterday, Queensland industry, business, unions and government stood united but socially distanced in our focus to recover from COVID-19, with a common goal to create Queensland jobs and rebuild our state. It was a show of strength and unity and a promise to Queenslanders that we will get through this together. So many people have been hurt and businesses impacted, and they need a government that is united across the board to work in their best interests. In consultation with stakeholders, we outlined the Queensland economic recovery strategy, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. This united front was welcomed by the Infrastructure Association of Queensland. Priscilla Radice said by working together, it would help to lift private sector investment. She said, 'It creates the business confidence we

need with the pipeline of work and will lift our productivity and sustainability as a state.’ The Australian Industry Group also backed the strategy giving a thumbs up to announcements particularly around investment in infrastructure, support for small business, increase in skills and training funding, and manufacturing. RACQ welcomed our \$400 million Accelerated Works Program to get our roads built across the state. Rebecca Michael said—

The package will not only benefit motorists to improve safety, particularly in the regions where it’s most needed, but it will also create jobs, stimulate productivity and fast track our economic recovery. Roads are the lifeblood of Queensland, and they will support growth and recovery in supply chains, in freight and in tourism.

Our \$200 million of Works for Queensland package was applauded by the LGAQ with whom we worked closely on identifying projects. CEO Greg Hallam said it was a great initiative with a proven track record.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I hear some members opposite interjecting. They did not want Works for Queensland and did not commit to it at the last election.

Mr Dick: Wanted to get rid of it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That’s right. Greg Hallam said—

This payment will ensure that we can create around 5,000 jobs in a very quick time. It’s certainly our intention to get that money out the door within weeks and people started working, certainty by the start of the next financial year.

Our \$100 million package of grants for small businesses was welcomed by CCIQ and small business owners across Queensland. CCIQ’s Jack Baxter said, ‘This is one step in the right direction in the marathon that’s going to be the recovery from the COVID-19 period.’ Small business owner Jessie Cameron from Molten Store on James Street said these grants were terrific news and was positive about the future—

I’m really grateful for any support. It takes years, decades, to build up a strong small business culture and I’m really excited to see that thrive once again.

This announcement was also welcomed by the tourism industry along with the \$50 million package for the sector. Daniel Gschwind from the Queensland Tourism Industry Council said—

The announcement specifically of the small business grant will be most welcome by the tens of thousands of small businesses in the tourism industry that might benefit from this. The \$50 million additional for infrastructure in tourism will help us prepare for the consumers of the future. We can’t wait to get our businesses going again.

Master Builders and Suncorp welcomed our \$11.25 million commitment for household resilience, for people to get building works done to withstand cyclones into the future. CopperString’s Joseph O’Brien welcomed our \$14.8 million commitment to the project, saying—

The Queensland Government has demonstrated an inspiring vision for North and North West Queensland powered by a strategic transmission investment and the country’s best renewable energy zone, and today is a critical step forward in creating jobs and prosperity for our regions and ensuring the world has a secure supply of clean minerals needed for the modern global economy.

The Queensland Plumbers Union were excited about the \$20 million towards construction of a Queensland Apprenticeships Centre in renewable hydrogen at Beenleigh to help train people for jobs in emerging industries. State Secretary Gary O’Halloran said, ‘I think it shows that when a union and the union industry partners work together they can achieve many things.’ Queenslanders work best when we work together, and yesterday we sent a very strong message to Queenslanders that we are for you, we are united, we are going to recover and we are going to create jobs and get people back to work.

Building our Regions

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): Today I have more new project investment to announce from the latest round of our Building our Regions program. This program supports local government infrastructure projects in regional communities which create jobs and economic development. The first four rounds of Building our Regions allocated funding towards 223 projects across 66 local government areas in regional Queensland. That is supporting more than 2,400 jobs and attracting additional investment of \$487 million for councils and other organisations. Today I can announce round 5—the \$66 million round—another 48 new council projects worth tens of millions of dollars of infrastructure investment, partnering with 39 local councils to create more than 350 jobs.

These are construction jobs in towns up and down the state which will help local workers and their families. We want to progress these projects quickly to make sure the benefits are felt sooner in our communities, and to maintain industry confidence. For example, in the Whitsundays there is

\$5 million for the Airlie Beach Sustainable Water Project; in the Burnett region, for the Banana Shire Council we are allocating \$1.8 million for the Biloela Industrial Estate, stage 3; for the Fraser Coast Council we are investing \$2.9 million for the Eli Waters Sewage Infrastructure Upgrade; in the Far North, for the Cook Shire Council there is \$950,000 to upgrade Coen Airport; in Mackay, \$1.2 million to expand the Mackay Animal Management Centre; in Mt Isa, \$3.7 million for the council's Family Fun Precinct redevelopment; in the Scenic Rim, \$3.75 million for the Beaudesert Town Centre Revitalisation; for the Livingstone Shire Council, \$2.8 million for the Yeppoon Sewage Treatment Plant Sustainable Energy Project; for Gympie, \$2.7 million for the Cooloola Coast Esplanade Revitalisation; and for the Western Downs, \$2.4 million for the Tara Lagoon Parklands Development. That is just 10 of the 48 projects in round 5 of Building our Regions.

The funding applications were submitted by local governments and have gone through a thorough assessment process. I am pleased to be able to announce these projects today, adding to the stimulus we announced yesterday as part of our unite and recover strategy. We are working with councils just as we are working with the private sector. Together we will reset, recover and reinvigorate our strong economy for the future.

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.39 am): Queenslanders united to fight COVID-19 and now we are uniting for economic recovery. Health may have been at the front line of fighting this virus, but it also has a vital role to play in the recovery. The Palaszczuk government has always invested in building hospitals because we know how important it is to the wellbeing of Queenslanders and also to our economy. Our hospital building program will create recovery jobs right across the state. This week we released the designs for the \$394.6 million major Caboolture Hospital redevelopment project. The police minister and the member for Bancroft joined me at the hospital recently to meet the new contractor and see the plans.

This is one of the biggest hospital redevelopments in Queensland, delivering 130 more beds and expanded services. Not only will the project boost hospital capacity once complete; it will also create up to 1,260 full-time jobs over five years in the region, with 350 workers on site each day during peak construction periods. This project will also deliver on the Palaszczuk government's priorities to support opportunities for apprenticeships and trainees. The Palaszczuk government is currently building 173 new or upgraded health facilities across the state supporting more than 1,200 full-time jobs, including more than 120 apprentices. We are building hospitals from the top of the state to the bottom. In Far North Queensland the Thursday Island Hospital redevelopment will support a total of 104 full-time jobs over two years while the construction of the Cairns Hospital Mental Health Unit will support a total of 201 full-time jobs across the three-year life of that project. I know the members for Cook, Barron River, Cairns and you, Mr Speaker, are very excited about these projects for their communities.

The members for Waterford, Woodridge, Logan, Macalister and Springwood are also excited about the major redevelopment at Logan Hospital. Logan Hospital just celebrated its 30th birthday—built and opened by a Labor government and now getting its biggest expansion ever from a Labor government. Works on the Logan Hospital—which include a major expansion with an extra 206 beds, a new multistorey car park and a maternity service upgrade—will support a total of 1,565 full-time jobs over five years. We are building hospitals from our coastline to the outback. There is the Nambour General Hospital redevelopment which is forecast to support a total of 252 full-time jobs over four years and there is the Roma Hospital redevelopment which is supporting a total of 333 full-time jobs over three years.

These are fantastic projects delivered by a Labor government making significant contributions to regional economies through the purchase of equipment, supplies and services. Even maintaining our existing assets also supports Queensland jobs, with up to 238 full-time jobs supported each year undertaking this important work. We on this side of the House are proud to support hundreds of jobs for Queenslanders while continuing to bolster our economic response to the pandemic. It was our strong healthcare system that protected us from this virus and, by continuing to expand it, it will support us in our recovery.

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.43 am): Yesterday the Premier announced the Queensland COVID-19 economic recovery strategy, Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs. This is the next step in our staged plan to help the Queensland

economy recover and get Queenslanders back to work, and a critical component of our approach is our infrastructure guarantee. That guarantee means we have locked in a \$51.8 billion program over the next four years. This is the largest infrastructure program since the 2010-11 state budget. Let me repeat: the biggest infrastructure program and biggest infrastructure spend in a decade. Our infrastructure guarantee will ensure we continue to back jobs. Over 41,500 jobs were supported by our infrastructure spend in 2019-20 alone and we will maintain that high level over the next four years. Most importantly, this infrastructure guarantee will ensure we can continue to reverse the infrastructure freeze that was imposed by the previous Newman LNP government.

Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, investment in infrastructure of course is the lifeblood of the economy. Our record includes new schools, upgraded hospitals, an upgraded M1 and more investment in roads, rail and aviation infrastructure, and that will continue with over \$23 billion from the infrastructure guarantee allocated to the transport sector, connecting communities and enabling economic development. Our program also includes record investments in health and education, delivering key projects such as the \$460 million Logan Hospital expansion, the \$350 million Caboolture Hospital expansion and the \$80 million invested for a new Caloundra South secondary school. But members do not have to take my word for it. Our infrastructure guarantee is already uniting Queenslanders, including key stakeholders. Priscilla Radice, the Chief Executive Officer of the Infrastructure Association of Queensland, said this—

I, too, would like to thank the Premier and the Treasurer and all the ministers for listening to industry. Committing to the infrastructure budget is incredibly important. It will keep a mix of projects large and small which together will create the legacy for lifting our economy. We can't just build our way out of a recession. This coordinated and cooperative manner of listening to industry and working together will actually help to lift private sector investment. It creates the business confidence we need with a pipeline of work and will lift our productivity and sustainability as a state. Thank you.

In return we thank Ms Radice and all other business and industry leaders who are working so hard in their respective areas of work in the state to support and sustain jobs at this difficult time. Our infrastructure guarantee is further evidence that the Palaszczuk Labor government has the plan to unite Queensland, help our economy recover and build Queensland jobs.

Renewable Energy Projects

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.46 am): There is one thing that we know well on this side of the House—that the best way to stimulate our economy is not to cut, sack and sell but to invest in our people and to partner with industries and work with the private sector to fast-track new infrastructure projects that create jobs for Queenslanders. Forest Wind will be one of the largest wind farms in the Southern Hemisphere. This is exactly the kind of project we need to get Queensland's economy moving again. This \$2 billion project could not have come at a better time as we work hard to 'turbine' charge the Queensland economy. The project alone will create more than 400 jobs during construction in the Wide Bay-Burnett region and with 226 wind turbines Forest Wind will have the capacity to power one in four Queensland homes with renewable energy.

Mr Dick: Hear, hear!

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. Today I will introduce the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020 to pave the way to deliver this world-leading project. Our government has a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Ms JONES: Not in a good mood this morning. Our government has a renewable energy target of 50 per cent by 2030. At capacity, Forest Wind has the potential to generate up to 1,200 megawatts of electricity. This will be a huge boost to our renewable energy plan, ensuring Queensland continues to lead the way in Australia for delivering cleaner, greener power and cleaner, greener jobs—and there is plenty more where that came from.

Since 2016 we have seen almost \$5 billion invested in almost 2,500 megawatts of new renewable energy in Queensland, creating almost 5,000 Queensland jobs, and we are working closely with the private sector on several other renewable energy projects to create jobs in our regions, including a multimillion dollar renewable hydrogen project in Gladstone and a project that will use solar energy to extract hydrogen from treated waters at the Redlands. We will continue to partner with the private sector to cut red tape and fast-track major infrastructure projects just like this wind farm in the Wide Bay to create jobs for Queenslanders.

Coronavirus, Works for Queensland



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (9.49 am): As the heartbreaking economic fallout from this pandemic became more evident in the past few weeks, I have been speaking regularly with mayors across the state in order that we unite and recover. Their input has been instrumental in fashioning the Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy: Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs launched by the Premier yesterday. It is their people who are affected: their workforces, their communities.

Our mayors were very quick to welcome the announcement of the extra \$200 million for the COVID Works for Queensland on top of our signature \$600 million Works for Queensland program for regional Queensland. We know that this equates to upwards of more than 6,000 jobs supported or created as we unite and recover. I could go on forever about the benefits of this commitment, but let us hear what they have to say. Let us start with the very southern end of the state for no particular reason other than it is a name that we are all familiar with. Coming to us from the Delta Quadrant known as Goondiwindi it is the Borg himself. Mayor Lawrence Springborg says—

Works for Queensland has been a very beneficial program for our region with many projects funded. This additional funding will make a significant impact in helping to build community structure and support jobs during this critical time.

Paul Antonio in Toowoomba says—

The current pandemic has disrupted the whole state, and we welcome the Queensland government's announcement that South-East Queensland will receive Works for Queensland funding for the first time.

Gladstone's Matt Burnett says—

We welcome the funding from the Queensland government. Works for Queensland has been an outstanding program for our region. This additional funding will provide a significant boost to Queensland local governments and help support jobs during this tough period.

Karen Williams from Redland City Council has been a very vocal advocate for the program to be expanded into her area and she says—

This funding will help create local jobs as we recover from the COVID pandemic, which is very welcome, and I thank the state government for this commitment.

In Bundaberg Jack Dempsey, another familiar name, says—

We welcome any extra funds for local government and appreciate the Queensland government's support.

A great supporter of this government. Mackay mayor Greg Williamson says it is great news—

Works for Queensland is one of the best funding programs the state has ever offered. To be able to now use it during COVID recovery is an excellent outcome.

Townsville mayor Jenny Hill says—

Works for Queensland is a win-win for the community. With regional economies taking a hit from the COVID-19 global pandemic, the jobs that will be generated through this increased funding are more important than ever.

In Mount Isa, Danielle Slade says—

Works for Queensland is an excellent program that has helped make several projects in Mount Isa a reality, and this funding will support and create many local jobs during this tough time.

Fraser Coast mayor George Seymour says—

The Works for Queensland program has proven enormously beneficial on the Fraser Coast, helping to create jobs and deliver local projects council wouldn't have been able to do on our own. Our council stands ready to work in partnership with the Queensland government to help our local community emerge even stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the Far North, Bob Manning in Cairns says—

We welcome the Premier's announcement today of an additional \$200 million in funding available to local governments through the Works for Queensland program.

I will finish with Greg Hallam from the Local Government Association of Queensland. He says—

This will ensure that new opportunities are created right across the length and breadth of Queensland and that we will see people who are unemployed find work. It's a great initiative. It's one we've proved works before. We thank the government for their leadership.

These are not words out of the mouths of babes, these are strong statements from people who are leaders of their communities and who are from a variety of political backgrounds. All colours of the rainbow are here supporting this government's commitment to unite and recover.

Coronavirus, Apprentices and Trainees

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government is laser focused on supporting Queenslanders on our road to recovery. In addition to the extensive support we are giving small businesses, we are also taking action to make sure we are supporting our apprentices and trainees during this crisis. Early in the crisis we sent texts to around 60,000 apprentices and trainees encouraging them to contact the department for advice on what support is available to them. The risk of mass contract cancellations was significant and we moved quickly to minimise this. I am pleased to report that so far cancellations of apprentices have been lower this year compared to the same period last year. Where contracts have been cancelled apprentices and trainees will still receive funded training allowing them to continue while looking for a new host employer. Critically the support has been extended to our school based apprentices and trainees who were previously ineligible.

Through our strong advocacy work we have also been able to secure from the federal government further wage subsidies for apprentices in group training organisations. I have also convened a small advisory group of key training and employment stakeholders to help guide our COVID-19 response to support apprentices through the recovery. The announcement yesterday of the \$20 million centre of excellence in Beenleigh will also provide a unique opportunity for apprentices. The project will be built by apprentices for apprentices.

We have always recognised training as a pathway for many Queenslanders to get into a rewarding job. With COVID-19, training has become even more critical in ensuring Queensland workers can keep working or access emerging job opportunities. Our \$500 million workers assistance package is helping to connect every impacted Queenslander to free online training to help them upskill or reskill. From health support and community care, food service and customer engagement to digital literacy and data security, Queenslanders are all learning whilst at home. So far nearly 13,500 Queenslanders have enrolled in one of the 15 short online courses on offer from TAFE and CQU. Free apprenticeships for under-21s and free TAFE for year 12 graduates is still ongoing and continuing to provide a pathway for many young Queenslanders. We know the path to recovery will be long, but Queenslanders can be sure that the Palaszczuk government has their back all the way.

Household Resilience Program

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport) (9.55 am): Helping Queenslanders get back to work in regional Queensland is critical. That is why our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs economic recovery strategy will fire the starter's gun on a second household resilience program. Let me explain the value of the program by the numbers. The first iteration of the Household Resilience Program delivered in 2019 has already cyclone proofed 1,749 Queensland homes. Our government has been working with the building industry on how Queensland tradies can stay afloat. We have heard that home improvement upgrades are a major contributor to industry turnover which is why industry has welcomed this as a very good step.

It is good news for tradies too, as the program has used 99.8 per cent local Queensland companies to date. Queensland tradies in regional Queensland have tied down old pre-1984 roofs, they have replaced hollow core doors and sealed leaky windows creating direct and supply chain jobs right across regional Queensland. The benefits in the program in round 2 will be felt right across the state. In round 1 in Bundaberg 34 businesses have delivered 152 household upgrades; in Townsville 86 local businesses delivered 518 upgrades; and in Cairns 97 local businesses delivered 272 household upgrades. As in any good stimulus measure, there is an important multiplier effect: generating \$67.7 million in construction investment across regional Queensland.

In another outstanding number resulting from the program, I can inform the House that an evaluation found that 90 per cent of Queensland households reported that they could not have undertaken these potentially life-saving home improvements without the Palaszczuk government's grant supporting these household upgrades—Queenslanders like Mary, who is retired and lives in Townsville on her own. She says—

I've lived here for 25 years. I hadn't thought about doing the repairs, but with the help of the program I could get protection on all the windows and doors. In light of the Townsville floods...being able to make these improvements makes a big impact.

She goes on to say—

I saved \$330 on my insurance so I'm pretty happy about that.

I bet Mary and many, many others are. In fact, the average annual insurance saving from the Household Resilience Program was \$310 per household per annum. Yesterday Suncorp Insurance CEO Gary Dransfield praised the household resilience program, saying—

The program is the best way to help North Queenslanders protect themselves and their loved ones against cyclones. A stronger home means lower risk and therefore cheaper insurance for customers.

Whether it is a natural disaster or a global pandemic Queenslanders can count on this government, the Palaszczuk government, to stand united with them.

Coronavirus, Schools

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (9.59 am): The period of greatest upheaval in our state's education system will conclude next Monday when all grades return to the classroom. At the start of this year who would have thought that a global health pandemic would hit, forcing schools to shut to keep our community safe? The way in which the Department of Education, principals, teachers, teacher aides, all staff, parents, carers and students have adapted to the sudden change to learning at home must be commended by all members of this House, but we all know nothing beats face-to-face learning.

All Queensland students began a staged return to normal schooling and early years learning from Monday, 11 May. Students in kindy, prep and year 1 and those in years 11 and 12 were the first to return to schooling. Those are the children who are at the most important junctures of education: the beginning and the end of their journey. Children of essential workers and vulnerable and at-risk children are still able to attend school, while for students in year 2 through to year 10 home based learning will continue until the end of this week. These changes are in line with the advice of health experts here in Queensland and at the AHPPC. From all reports, things went extremely smoothly—so smoothly, in fact, that Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania have adopted our plan.

Last week attendance was consistent with around 83 per cent of prep, year 1, year 11 and year 12 students and around 20 per cent of the other grades physically attending school this week, which is obviously a reflection of the easing of restrictions. Those students learning at home are being supported and directed by their teachers while they learn remotely, with prepared lessons and materials being delivered by teachers to those students. Access to a range of resources remains available through the Department of Education's website, in addition to the learning@home TV resource.

We looked at a number of possible models for a return to normal schooling and after consultation with Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young this staggered approach was deemed the safest and best so as not to jeopardise all the gains we as a community have made so far. Health and safety must come first, so any staff and students who are unwell must not attend school. All adults must maintain social distancing of 1.5 metres and must not gather in groups in and around school grounds, car parks, school gates and outside classrooms. Parents should use stop, drop and go options rather than walking children into school grounds and strict personal hygiene protocols, including the cleaning of high-touch surfaces such as desks and door handles, will remain in place. I know that all schools throughout Queensland are looking forward to once again rolling out the welcome mat to all students next week.

Coronavirus, Manufacturing Industry

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (10.02 am): Queensland has faced more than its fair share of challenges, but we always rise to the occasion. Whether it is floods, cyclones or, as we know, bushfires, this state continues to demonstrate its strength, resilience, agility and ingenuity. The coronavirus is no different. Once again Queensland manufacturers have stepped up, providing personal protective equipment and other essential products for frontline workers in response to the pandemic. To date, our top priority has been to keep those on the front line healthy and safe while they continue to tackle the challenges of COVID-19 here in Queensland.

However, now as we flatten the curve we are also planning on ensuring ready access to the essential goods, materials and products needed into the future. That is why yesterday the Premier announced a \$50 million boost to target and support the expansion of Queensland's vital manufacturing sector and production capacity. Over the past few months we have seen Queensland companies apply machinery and systems to create PPE and other essential products in Queensland, including Evolve Group at Crestmead, which is manufacturing N95 medical masks in high volume; and iconic distilleries such as Bundaberg Rum, Beenleigh Rum and Saleyards Distillery in Rockhampton, which are now

supporting the production of hand sanitiser for our frontline staff. This new funding will provide a platform to establish ongoing domestic production capacity for those products and give certainty to manufacturers with long term off-take agreements.

I recognise that it is a great privilege to be the Minister for Manufacturing and to work with our vibrant, innovative and resilient manufacturing sector in Queensland. I am committed to working with manufacturers to invest in advanced manufacturing to create thousands of more jobs throughout Queensland and to boost Queensland's economy. I know that the strong position of our manufacturing sector is due to the hard work of local businesses, local workers and our strong team in the Department of Regional Development and Manufacturing. I also have to acknowledge the hard work of the former minister responsible for manufacturing, who I know will continue to be a champion of manufacturing in his new role as Treasurer.

We are building on our reputation as a place where great ideas are born. I am so proud of our state's ability to adapt our manufacturing skills at this critical time to support our frontline medical health teams and others who are sacrificing so much to keep our communities safe.

Police Resources; Correctional Facilities

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.05 am): In recent weeks our approved police strength passed the 12,000 mark for the first time ever. That is a record number of police in Queensland. It is our government that is backing community safety and backing our police with a record budget. In fact, this year we will see an extra 195 police officers in place. I am advised by the Queensland Police Service that that increase in our police numbers is very much on track. In fact, we have two more police graduations this month and I have good news: there are more police on the way. This comes at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever before.

Queensland Corrective Services is also supporting local economies by delivering more jobs for Queenslanders. They are on a recruitment drive. There are 700 jobs up for grabs in locations right across Queensland, especially in the regions. This government—our government—is creating good-quality jobs with exciting career paths in regional centres right across our state. We have correctional centres in Maryborough, Rockhampton, Mareeba and Townsville providing jobs for communities in those regions. Hundreds of jobs are being created thanks to our major prison capital works projects, too.

The \$241 million expansion of our Capricornia Correctional Centre is on track. The first operational cellblocks from that expansion are set to come online this year. I am advised that more than 230 full-time permanent jobs will be required to support the project when it is complete. Our investment in Capricornia not only creates jobs in construction and jobs in the prison; it also provides a major boost to small and medium sized businesses in the region.

We are also getting on with the job of building a new prison at Gatton that will support 430 construction jobs in that community and, when operational, will deliver up to 1,000 permanent jobs. Employment in the region will be boosted even further when we transition Southern Queensland and Arthur Gorrie prisons to public control. Thanks to that change there will be more jobs at those locations and the associated economic benefits. That shows the importance of our government's focus, which is about supporting the economy, creating jobs and keeping Queenslanders safe and healthy.

Coronavirus, Agriculture Industry

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferry Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries) (10.07 am): As the COVID-19 crisis wreaked havoc right around the world, the Palaszczuk government quickly stepped in to provide support and ensure key sectors of the Queensland economy kept moving. Farmers and those along the supply chain wanted certainty and support from government and we were happy to oblige, of course. We were one of the first jurisdictions in the country to declare agriculture an essential service, giving those who bring our Queensland produce to the shops and dining tables around the country the confidence that their operations would not be disrupted.

Those opposite should be very interested to hear that the federal agriculture minister has praised the Palaszczuk government in respect to this particular crisis. In speaking of the federal agriculture minister, I want to make sure that today he is recognised for his support for Queensland in terms of the matters concerning backpackers. Those workers come to our shores not only to find work but also to holiday. There are certain requirements to ensure that we in Queensland are safe and that they are safe when they are working in Queensland.

These unprecedented times call for unprecedented cooperation. I have been meeting regularly with industry groups such as AgForce, Growcom, the Queensland Farmers' Federation and all of the industry sectors, in fact, through the agriculture coordination group. We are giving our fruit and vegetable growers the support they need to get on with the job of feeding Australia. During the winter months, Queensland feeds Australia and our growers rely on seasonal workers, many of whom are on working visas, to pick the fresh fruits and vegetables that end up on the dinner plates of Australians and also international customers.

Modelling shows we need up to 10,000 workers on average per month to ensure the harvest is completed in places like Wide Bay Burnett, Cairns, Moreton Bay, Darling Downs, Bowen and the Whitsundays. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused uncertainty about how those workers can continue to safely harvest our winter crops. There were legitimate concerns that backpackers coming from states with community transmission could turn up in regional areas and see a shutdown of that harvesting. That is why the Palaszczuk government worked with industry to develop a five-point framework that manages the risk of COVID-19 on farms while protecting the agriculture supply chains through access to a necessary seasonal workforce.

The framework consists of five key elements: stronger border protections, mandatory health plans, a general health obligation, stronger compliance and locally led solutions. The response from industry has been extremely positive. In fact, Growcom, the peak horticultural industry, told me just recently that the framework that has been implemented is better than any other state and territory in this country. They think our approach to supporting agriculture is way ahead of any other jurisdiction in Australia. Carl Walker, who I was speaking to on the phone just yesterday, the well-known representative from Bowen, has been fulsome in his support for measures that protect his and every other farm from COVID-19 through community transmission.

I would like to thank Growcom and all the other industry groups for their efforts over the last few weeks. We have listened and we have worked together with industry to help make sure they protect Queensland agriculture, because the Palaszczuk government backs our farmers 100 per cent. We always will support the agriculture sector.

Energy Industry, Apprentices and Trainees

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (10.11 am): As the state embarks on its recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, our publicly owned companies are doing their part in providing employment opportunities for young Queenslanders. Many of our Queensland owned energy and water assets will continue with their highly successful apprenticeship and traineeship programs in the new financial year. I am pleased to inform the House that 126 apprentices and trainees will begin their exciting careers at Ergon Energy and Energex in 2021. The intake includes 10 ex-Australian Defence Force members who have been recruited through Energy Queensland's successful partnership with RSL Queensland—this a magnificent program—and one experienced retrenched apprentice from another organisation which had been forced to wind back operations. This reinforces the Palaszczuk government's commitment to helping Queenslanders find employment post-coronavirus and a commitment to diversity in all workplaces.

Furthermore, our state owned energy assets are looking ahead to the new year with recruitment set to begin for apprentices and trainees in 2021. Powerlink is forecasting to offer 27 apprenticeships next year, while Stanwell is expected to welcome 11 apprentices and trainees and is now accepting expressions of interest for their early career programs in 2021 and beyond. CS Energy currently has seven apprentices and trainees who started earlier this year and will begin recruiting for next year's intake in the coming months.

Our Queensland owned water assets are also helping the futures of young Queenslanders. SEQ Water has welcomed 11 trainees in the past month and a further 14 trainees since the end of last financial year. In any given year, SEQ Water aims to employ up to 40 graduates, trainees and apprentices which represents about five per cent of its workforce. Sunwater has committed to a minimum of five apprentices ongoing through a mixture of direct engagement and group training organisations.

Our publicly owned businesses are investing in developing the frontline staff needed now and into the future. This investment by the Palaszczuk government means these apprentices can become an integral part of their community as they pursue fantastic careers in towns and cities right across Queensland. In Queensland we have world-leading electricity and water infrastructure to service this great state. This next wave of apprentices and trainees will be playing an important role in Queensland as we recover from the COVID-19 crisis. We are only able to do this because we own our assets.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.14 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. condemns Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's failure to uphold basic standards of integrity, for example:
 - (a) the Premier's former chief of staff's company received \$267,500 from QIC;
 - (b) the member for South Brisbane:
 - (i) accepting a gift from a major government contractor;
 - (ii) compromised a CCC assessment; and
 - (iii) interfered with an independent recruitment process;
 - (c) the Deputy Premier:
 - (i) wrongly denied initiating a 'no-upgrades during Parliament' policy for eHealth Queensland; and
 - (ii) relying on a dodgy poll to wrongly claim a majority of Queenslanders supporting changing the Lady Cilento name;
 - (d) the member for Miller and the mangocube affair;
 - (e) the member for Waterford—

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier will cease her interjections.

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right! I have asked consistently that these motions be heard in silence.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Would you like me to start again, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: No, I would like you to continue, Leader of the Opposition.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I continue—

- (d) the member for Miller and the mangocube affair;
- (e) the member for Waterford failing to declare a gift from a major government contractor;
- (f) the member for Capalaba making baseless allegations in a letter to the Speaker;
- (g) the member for Springwood breaching government advertising standards;
- (h) the member for McConnell promising air-conditioning for 300 schools over the Christmas break, then denying the promise;

Ms Jones interjected.

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

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I continue—

- (i) the member for Keppel's promise to back a casino on GKI and voting against it in parliament;
- (j) the member for Mansfield's refusal to release a 92-page fraud report about her time as principal;
- (k) the member for Mount Ommaney failing to declare a new house;
- (l) the police minister cruelly using the Pullen family to promote a policy that wouldn't apply to their son's killers;
- (m) the member for Thuringowa's spat with TEL and the Townsville Bulletin; and
- (n) the Premier being found in contempt of this Assembly.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members to my left. I will wait for silence, members.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

Tourism Industry, Queensland Border Closure



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. The Premier contradicted her own road map just 10 days after it was published by ordering the border to stay closed until September instead of July. Queensland tourism industry boss, Daniel Gschwind, said this was a demoralising blow for the industry. Why is the Premier risking tens of thousands of jobs and our \$30 billion Queensland tourism industry by changing the border reopening on a whim?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about this issue at length. I say from the outset I will always protect Queenslanders' lives. That is first and foremost. That is what keeps me up at night. Do not think that I have not had sleepless nights having to deal with the impact that coronavirus could have had on Queenslanders. We know that a number of Queenslanders unfortunately have lost their lives. There have been more people who have lost their lives in New South Wales and in Victoria, but we also know that there is community transmission.

This is not just a thought bubble of the LNP here. I also hear that the LNP in Western Australia has mounted the same attack against its Premier. It seems like they all sat down together and had a little—

An opposition member interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us talk about road maps. This is the Australian government road map. Dr Young has made it very clear that we will review at the end of each month. I do not know what the situation is going to be at the end of this month, nor do I have a crystal ball to know what it is going to be like at the end of the following month. What we are trying to do is put in place a road map that is reviewed at the end of each month. That road map clearly says that for the June school holidays people should travel regionally. That is what it says. This is not dissimilar to what the Australian government's road map says. At step 2 it says, 'Allow local and regional travel. Consider allowing'—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Our road map very clearly says, 'Subject to further planning and review.' It is very clear.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Broadwater will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Gold Coast Mayor, Tom Tate, backs me up. He says, 'Health trumps everything else.' I absolutely agree. I did not ever think I would say this in this House, but Senator Matt Canavan also supports—

Mrs Frecklington: 'Demoralising' is the word that Daniel Gschwind said.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No. Matt Canavan has come out in support saying, 'The decision to close state borders has proven to be the right one.'

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I know that Senator Canavan is sometimes touted as a future leader of the opposition. That is not a bad idea. We miss Lawrence Springborg. I miss Lawrence. I miss Tim. In fact, the member for Currumbin gave quite a good speech yesterday. It was more inspiring than the member for Nanango's first speech. I say very clearly that I will always stand up for Queensland families and their health. That is paramount.

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Closure

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: We have her on the hop.

Mr SPEAKER: Without the commentary please.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question is to the Premier. In relation to school closures, the Chief Health Officer said, 'So sometimes it's more than just the science and the health; it's about the messaging.' Is the Premier's decision to delay the border closure to September based on science and health advice or is it just about the messaging?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Let me make it very clear. We are very fortunate in Queensland to have, I believe, the best Chief Health Officer in Australia. Dr Young is well respected. She was around with swine flu and SARS, and she prepared Queensland ahead of every other state. In fact, it was her recommendation to me to declare a health emergency at the end of January. We were the first state to do that. I was the first Premier to call this out and ask for a national meeting to help battle coronavirus. Those opposite ignored it. When we announced our initial package they thought we were jumping at shadows.

We only have to look at what is happening around the world. We are not living in a normal society at the moment. Have a look at us here in this chamber. We are not even sitting next to each other. We are practising social distancing because there is a real threat out there. We have only just opened cafes

and restaurants. We have only just started to ease restrictions. It is very concerning that in other countries we are seeing a second wave. The thing that keeps me and the Deputy Premier, the health minister, up every night is worrying about a second wave. We have seen the confirmed case in Rockhampton. We were very concerned about the impact that would have.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition and others, I have heard a number of times today members of this House not being referred to by their formal titles. That will cease.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say this very clearly. Fundamentally, I will put the health of Queensland families first. We have absolutely been doing the right thing. I thank Queenslanders for the enormous job they have been doing. We have one of the lowest rates of active cases at the moment. We have only 12 active cases in Queensland compared to 369 in New South Wales and 100 in Victoria. In Victoria they have had to close down, from memory, four McDonald's and three aged-care facilities. In New South Wales we have had issues around cruise ships. Unfortunately, another person from the Newmarch aged-care facility has lost their life.

Dr Miles: 100th death.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The 100th death in Australia. This is real.

Dr Miles: It's about lives.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This is about lives. It is about saving lives and it is about protecting families. We will always listen to the Chief Health Officer.

Mr Mander: Why does the road map say July?

Ms PALASZCZUK: We are trying to unite Queensland; they are trying to divide Queensland. We are trying to unite and recover.

(Time expired)

Hydrogen Industry

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the proposed Queensland apprenticeships centre in renewable hydrogen at Beenleigh as announced as part of our COVID-19 economic stimulus package?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Macalister for her question. It was only at the end of last year that we visited the training centre. What an impressive site it is. What is unique about this centre is that industry has a great partnership with the unions. This is what we want to see. In terms of uniting and recovering, we will work together in the best interests of Queenslanders to make sure our young people have the skills that are needed for the future. By committing to expanding this centre it is an investment in the skills of the future.

This \$20 million expansion of the hydrogen centre of excellence in Beenleigh puts Queensland at the forefront of this industry. We are talking about traditional industries and new industries. Our Advancing Queensland hydrogen road map, released in 2018, from memory, clearly puts in place our plan to invest in a new industry. Another way to invest in that new industry is to ensure we have people with the skills and training ready for when that industry takes off. The hydrogen industry is a multibillion dollar industry. It can create tens of thousands of jobs and has the potential to be the size of the LNG industry in Queensland.

This \$20 million centre of excellence will firmly establish Beenleigh as a training hub, completing the Plumbing Industry Climate Action Centre that we opened last year. The training centre supports the training of 400 to 500 fire protection and plumbing apprentices, 100 mechanical services or heating ventilation and air-conditioning apprentices and 100 pre-apprenticeship trainees. This expansion will enable a further 200 new training places each year and train qualified technicians, including those essential to the emerging renewable hydrogen industry as it develops.

We are definitely in the driver's seat. It also compliments the work that has been happening at the Redlands where there is a partnership between QUT and Sumitomo and the work that is happening in Gladstone. What we are seeing are great opportunities for regional centres of excellence for the promotion of hydrogen but also a huge appetite for this from both Japan and Korea. We know how important those trading partners are for our future and how interested they are in exploring these new technologies.

When looking for a plan for the future, a plan for jobs and a plan for uniting and recovering, this is an investment in young people's skills for the future. It is an investment that my government backs 100 per cent. I thank the member for her strong advocacy.

Member for South Brisbane, Policies

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. The former treasurer had policies of a Service Priority Review Office, a freeze on public servant wages, a Public Service hiring freeze, as well as planned raids on public servants' superannuation entitlements. Given the Palaszczuk government has cancelled the budget, will the Treasurer continue with these policies announced by the member for South Brisbane?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Everton for his question, and I say that our policy is to be careful, prudent and strategic with the use of public moneys. That is what we will be doing as a government. We will be finding savings, as I said yesterday. I said yesterday in the House, if the member for Everton had bothered to listen, that there are decisions to be made about debt, deficit, investment and savings. That is the choice that every government makes. That is the choice that every political party makes.

There is one choice that we have made, and that is we choose jobs. That is what the Palaszczuk Labor government does. We made it clear, and the Premier has made it clear, that there will be a wage freeze for the financial year 2020-21. For the current financial year there will be a wage freeze and that will be delivered. I can assure you, Mr Speaker, and all members of the House that I have been working diligently on that for the Premier, dealing with stakeholders, talking to them productively to work through issues around that. There will be a wage freeze. We will be finding savings, and I have tasked Treasury to do that, as every treasury must do.

Our primary responsibility at this stage is to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. That is what we are doing, that is what we have announced and that is what we will deliver. That is our plan.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, cease your interjections.

Mr DICK: We have heard nothing from the opposition. You would have thought, Mr Speaker, in 100 days of lockdown they could have done something to develop a plan for Queensland. One thing they did do—

Ms Palaszczuk: They follow advice from our press conferences.

Mr DICK: That is right. They are very happy to take the advice of the Premier at a press conference. One thing they did do was develop a brochure that was distributed throughout Queensland yesterday.

Mr SPEAKER: Are you tabling that?

Mr DICK: Two people they did not put on that brochure were the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. That is how proud they are of their leadership team. That is how proud they are of their plan for Queensland. They cannot even be seen on a brochure with their candidates. Member for Everton, you can spend your time obsessing—

Mr SPEAKER: Direct your comments through the chair.

Mr DICK:—about the number of women on the Parole Board; I will spend my time trying to find jobs for Queensland. Saving, sustaining and supporting Queensland jobs—that is my priority and that is what the Labor government will deliver for Queensland.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Treasurer, I ask that you direct your comments through the chair, not directly at other members in the chamber. That is a general warning for all in the chamber today.

Works for Queensland

Ms LAUGA: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how our successful Works for Queensland program will help our regional communities get through COVID-19?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Keppel very much for that question. Of course we know that Works for Queensland is a very important program that rolls out across regional Queensland. I know that her electorate has benefited a lot over the years and will continue to benefit because the councils submit really good projects that are shovel ready and we can get people into jobs as quickly as possible.

I want to thank the LGAQ. I want to thank all of the mayors. Ever since we have had this COVID crisis we have been meeting regularly with the mayors by phone hook-up before their elections and after their elections. From memory, there is another meeting planned this afternoon. We will continue

speaking with the mayors across Queensland. I thank them for the way in which they work with my government. They are very much on the same page when it comes to focusing on unite and recover, unlike those opposite.

We know that this has been a great success. The Minister for Local Government has mentioned a number of the mayors who have been very supportive of the project. In fact, even Mayor Lawrence Springborg said—

The Works for Queensland has been a very beneficial program for our region, with many projects funded. This additional funding will make a significant impact in helping to build community infrastructure and support jobs during this crucial time.

These are very wise words from a former leader of the opposition in this House. I congratulate him on his election. I look forward to continuing to work with him in relation to making sure we have jobs for Queenslanders no matter where they live in this state.

Some of the projects that have been delivered in the current round of Works for Queensland include the Esplanade Plaza in Cairns CBD, the Maryborough Aquatic Centre, upgrades at Charleville Airport, the Fraser Coast Sports and Recreation Precinct and the Charters Towers Hill virtual reality experience to promote tourism. Of course the mayors of Gladstone, Redlands, Bundaberg, Townsville and Cairns have welcomed our announcement of an additional \$200 million.

We will continue to fund this program. It is giving back to regional Queensland. Our focus is to make sure that we get people who have been impacted and hurt by the current COVID crisis into work as quickly as possible. My government proudly backs regional Queensland, and we will continue to back regional Queensland for many, many years to come. I thank the member for Keppel for that great question.

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Closure

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. A chorus of industry voices all say a September border reopening will destroy business. The Gold Coast mayor says he only supports the continued closure linked with medical advice. There are reports that the tourism minister was blindsided by the decision. What advice was the Premier relying on to choose a September reopening at a time when businesses are bordering on bankruptcy?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to talk about the health of Queenslanders and putting the priority of Queensland families first.

Mr Bleijie: That's not what the question was.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, it is actually. It is fundamentally about the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders in the current COVID crisis. It is about protecting Queenslanders. It is about saving lives. It is about a gradual reopening of the economy which is sensible and measured.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, you are warned under the standing orders. I have been very clear about comments not being directed at other members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Thank you, Mr Speaker. It would be helpful if the opposition were constructive and not destructive in this time. It is very disappointing in this time to see those opposite not listening to the health advice, twisting people's words and not—

Mr Bleijie: How many times has the Leader of the Opposition requested a briefing from the Premier?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me say this: the Leader of the Opposition when asked how she put together her road map said it was from listening to my press conferences and listening to Dr Young. That is how they put together a road map.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. You have had a pretty good go today.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let me talk about the inconsistency in the opposition's argument. First and foremost, our government is trying very hard to save Virgin and the regional jobs that it will deliver. We believe it is important for the future growth of the Queensland economy and the tourism industry to have that second airline. Those opposite reject that.

Mr Mander: No, we don't.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You have not come out supporting it.

Mr Mander: Yes, we have.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You now support—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Mander: Not your policy.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Now you support Virgin. That is news to me, because apparently you did not support the \$200 million—

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr Mander: Not \$200 million of taxpayers' money.

Ms PALASZCZUK: You wanted that to go to—

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, regardless of fewer members being in the chamber, the standing orders still apply. Premier, I called you to order a number of times.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Sorry, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask that you direct your comments through the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What we are seeing with our road map to lifting restrictions—and it gets reviewed at the end of each month, because we look at every two-week period to see how the numbers are going—is that thankfully, and thank God, our numbers are going well at the moment. I thank all Queenslanders for the work they have been doing.

I make no excuses for shutting our border to protect the lives of Queenslanders. As I said, there are over 300 active cases in New South Wales at present, where we have 12. There are 100 active cases in Victoria at the moment, where we have 12. I cannot predict the future, and we will review it at the end of each month. It would be negligent of any government not to follow the advice of their health officer—absolutely negligent.

Mr Mander: Interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton will cease his interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is one of the reasons yesterday we launched the \$100 million small business grants package, making sure that we back some of our small tourism operators across Queensland. That is why we announced a \$50 million tourism package to look after our theme parks and zoos to make sure they can get through this as well.

(Time expired)

Health Services

Ms McMILLAN: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the Deputy Premier advise the House of the steps the Palaszczuk government has taken to ensure Queenslanders have access to free health care here in Queensland, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mansfield for the question; it is an important one. I know she is an advocate for healthcare services in her electorate, as is everyone on this side of the House.

We have prioritised rebuilding our health services since the day we were elected, and it is that work that prepared us so well and has stood us in such fantastic stead to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have delivered record Health budgets each and every year. We have employed 2,012 more doctors, 6,252 more nurses and midwives, 511 more ambos and 1,806 more health professionals. Right now we have 173 hospital or health facility building projects underway, and it is thanks to all of that effort—all of that effort—that we now have one of the world's best healthcare systems. Can you imagine if we had not had the chance to do that work? Can you imagine if our health system had suffered five more years of the LNP's cuts? How many people would have got sick if they kept sacking nurses?

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton.

Dr MILES: How many more nursing homes would they have sold off? They had plans to sell them all. We delivered a record number of pathology tests yesterday. How many could they have done if they had succeeded in their plan to sell off our pathology services? Privatised pathology services

could not have delivered what we have delivered here in Queensland. None of those hospital projects would be underway. There would be no Roma Hospital redevelopment. There would be no Kingaroy Hospital redevelopment if it were not for the Palaszczuk government and the hard work of our Premier, then health minister now Treasurer, and myself over that time. We could not have responded to COVID-19 if we had not been able to rebuild our frontline health services. If Queenslanders had not decided in 2015—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr Mander interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you are warned under the standing orders. The member for Glass House is also warned under the standing orders. You have both had a pretty good go today. I remind the members for Cooper, Broadwater, Nanango and Kawana that you are under warnings under the standing orders, which means no interjections.

Dr MILES: If Queenslanders had not decided in 2015 to back their health workers over the LNP we could not have responded to COVID-19 as we did. We would have had fewer nurses, fewer doctors and fewer beds in our hospitals. I am pleased to say that thanks to the decisions to reverse those cuts and employ more we have responded so well—

(Time expired)

Inner City South State Secondary College Principal, Appointment Process

Mr BLEIJIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. Yesterday the education minister said—

When the decision was made with regard to the reclassification, I think in passing I let the Deputy Premier know ...

The minister previously denied she had any discussions with the member for South Brisbane. Will the Premier investigate why the education minister is changing her story?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Kawana for his question. Those matters are all before the CCC. They are doing an investigation. The member, whom I recall actually referred the matter to the CCC, should let the CCC do its job.

Coronavirus, Small Business

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Will the Treasurer update the House on what the government is doing to help lead small businesses through the challenges of COVID-19, and is he aware of any other approaches to emerging from lockdown?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Bancroft for the question. Our government understands the role that small business plays as one of the big engines of the Queensland economy. I know the member for Bancroft is a strong supporter of the vibrant small business community in his electorate, which is doing it tough at this time. We understand that small business, particularly tourism and hospitality small businesses, have been hit hard by COVID-19. That is why we provided \$1 billion in small business loans along with land tax relief and payroll tax rebates. That is why the Premier announced yesterday \$100 million in small business grants, providing up to \$10,000 for businesses to help them reopen out of lockdown. We will be working hard in Treasury to find savings and deliver on the Premier's commitment for a wage freeze to apply in the coming financial year 2020-21.

As I have said, the lockdown has been hard on everyone, member for Bancroft, but it has been particularly hard on the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy. While Queenslanders miss going to the cinema and the footy, I have not heard many people say they miss the Leader of the Opposition and the deputy. As we have seen from the flyers being dropped throughout Queensland, the Leader of the Opposition and her deputy have been erased by the LNP as the leadership team. When it came to saving regional flights they were missing again, subcontracting out leadership to Peter Dutton and David Littleproud. They did not want to be seen, and I have to say that Queenslanders probably do not want to see them either.

Yesterday the member for Everton was up again, indulging in one of his great and abiding passions: talking down the Queensland economy. When I was speaking the member for Everton said he could hear the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* playing in the background. All I could hear when the member for Everton was speaking was *All by Myself*. He said I was 'all show and no go'. Let me say this about the Leader of the Opposition: she is no show and should go. Where has the Leader of the Opposition been? She has not been on the TV backing Virgin and Virgin jobs. She has been in the

supermarket touching every single product she could lay her hands on. She has been listening to the Premier and her media conferences, I will give her that much, and modelling her policy on the Premier's public statements.

Of course, she has been working on the brochure that does not include her. There is the member for Everton in social isolation, on the couch in his slippers with an empty pizza box fuming over the number of women on the Parole Board and working out how many misrepresentations he can put on Twitter. The member for Everton should have taken some action during iso: he should have learned baking so he could bake a policy. He could have learned a new language like economics. That may have helped the opposition. They do have a plan. It was in the paper. Selling our state is the responsibility of the Queensland government. That is what the opposition believes, and that is what they will deliver—

(Time expired)

Member for South Brisbane, Right to Information Applications

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. The opposition's RTI applications to both Treasury and the education department seeking texts and messages exchanged between the member for South Brisbane and her deputy director-general had wildly different results. Treasury said there were five documents but Education said there were 27 documents. Will the Premier order an investigation into this large discrepancy to ensure that ministerial records have not been destroyed improperly?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Glass House for his question. As I said, these matters are before the CCC. Let me state on the public record that the same RTI rules that apply to this government applied to the former government. I do not know what the scope was. I am not privy to that information, nor should I be.

Queensland Economy, Infrastructure

Ms PUGH: My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Can the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is partnering with the private sector to deliver new infrastructure that will fast-track Queensland's economic recovery?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I had the great privilege in my first week of being the state development minister to be in her electorate, where we inspected the old site of the Oxley State High School that we are redeveloping in partnership with the wonderful C&K Kindergarten that is out there. We got to meet with the CEO of C&K Queensland, Jane Bourne, as well as their wonderful kindy director and of course the beautiful children there. I want to thank and acknowledge the hard work of the local member, the member for Mount Ommaney, in representing their views. It was great for me as the minister to hear directly from them about the work we are doing there.

As the Premier said when we were sworn in at the beginning of last week, she has one priority for us and that is to create jobs. That means we have to work with the private sector wherever we can to fast-track infrastructure and development. Already we have heard here today that the first order of business after question time will be the introduction of the Forest Wind development bill which will see a \$2 billion investment in the Wide Bay region, creating 400 jobs locally. This week we have also pressed play on the latest round of consultation on the Kalbar project, which is an agricultural production industry development in the Scenic Rim.

Mr Furner: A great project.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection from the agriculture minister; it is a great project. It will be a boon for jobs in that region, with 180 jobs expected to be created. In total, this is a \$50 million investment by the private sector into the agricultural industrial precinct. As I said, we have now gone out to public comment on this project and I hope we will get bipartisan support to kickstart this development in the Scenic Rim.

In my first week as state development minister, I also visited the Yeronga and Yeerongpilly sites, as well as the one at Oxley I have spoken about. Through these three urban renewal projects, we expect to generate up to \$1 billion worth of private sector investment. Following in the footsteps of the previous state development minister, who is now the Treasurer, I am working with Economic Development Queensland across this portfolio to see where we can fast-track development on these key economic development sites across our state.

Next week I will be travelling to three additional sites on the north side of Brisbane with exactly the same task in mind—the North Shore Hamilton Village, the Carseldine Village and the Herston Quarter Priority Development Area. I will also be meeting with the Lord Mayor of Brisbane to reach out to him in a bipartisan way to see how together we can work to bring forward jobs and construction, and I acknowledge that the Lord Mayor was very open to that idea. That bipartisan approach at a time like this is exactly what we would have expected from the LNP in the state parliament, but once again we have spent the morning in the gutter where they like to dwell—as opposed to asking any questions about the COVID response, economic recovery or jobs for Queenslanders. It is about time they stood up and showed some leadership.

(Time expired)

State School Principals, Appointment Process

Dr ROWAN: My question without notice is to the Minister for Education. Director-General Tony Cook told estimates last year—

In relation to the Deputy Premier ... there is nothing that we would do that we would not normally do for a local member in relation to consultation with a school.

However, since the Crime and Corruption Commission decided to investigate the matter, the education minister has claimed appointments are an operational matter without the involvement of members of parliament. Can the minister explain why the director-general's evidence to estimates contradicts her statements here in the House?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for the question. These are all matters before the CCC. They are all being investigated. We should let them do their job without any political interference.

Public Transport

Ms PEASE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister please update the House on how the government continues to support public transport and roads for families and businesses in my community and across Queensland as they prepare to return to work and school?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Lytton for her question. We were the first state to declare a health emergency, and we have acted very, very strongly in a very united way in terms of addressing the challenges for public transport. We have flattened the curve. We have done a range of things, such as tripling cleaning on our trains and enhancing cleaning across our public transport network. We have brought in cashless boarding and we have brought in rear door boarding.

We have put in a \$54½ million package to support our operators across the bus and ferry networks across Queensland, and we have kept the full timetable in train for the whole situation with the pandemic so we can ensure that all of our essential workers can get to work and that we maximise social distancing. That full timetable continues to run, but apparently those opposite do not support running the full timetable. We have seen the member for Chatsworth saying in the media that it makes no sense to do that, and the member for Everton, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition, has said that it is a waste of money. That sounds like code for cuts to me. In the middle of a pandemic, the LNP policy is to cut public transport services at a time when our community needs it the most.

This is again another case of the opposition mismanaging public transport. They ordered trains from overseas that were not disability compliant. They cut the train driver training by 48 drivers. We saw their mismanagement when they were in government. They cut the Cross River Rail project. This Labor government is building Cross River Rail, we are doing the Sunshine rail duplication and we are doing two stages of the light rail. We even have a plan to protect that heavy rail corridor to the Gold Coast Airport. We are the only major party that does that. The member for Burleigh made it clear in the Currumbin by-election that there will be no heavy rail corridor to the Gold Coast Airport from Varsity Lakes. That is their policy. The LNP policy was very clear in the by-election—there would be no heavy rail corridor to the airport but they would run the light rail along there and there would not be room for both.

In light of that, I was curious to hear the member for Currumbin suggest that she supports a heavy rail station at Elanora. I am not sure how that is possible when the LNP policy is to not run a heavy rail line there at all. Is the LNP policy to build a heavy rail station at Elanora with no trains and no track? It makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. This is another public transport anomaly and diabolical policy from those opposite.

With students heading back to school and workers heading back to their offices, I encourage everyone to keep up with social distancing and good hygiene and to adjust their travel if required. From this week, Queenslanders will start to see messages appear on trains, buses and station platforms to keep up their efforts and make sure we continue to flatten that curve going into the future, as we have done so well compared to other jurisdictions.

(Time expired)

Great Barrier Reef, Regulations

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts. Queenslanders are sceptical of the so-called scientific justification for the state government's agriculture industry killing reef regulations. Given the objective and impartial nature of the scientific process, will the minister commit to amending the reef regulations should the current federal Senate inquiry call for change?

Ms ENOCH: I thank the member for the question. Can I say from the outset that I think every Queenslander and in fact every Australian recognises how important the Great Barrier Reef is, regardless of where they live or what industry they might be connected to. It is an iconic World Heritage listed treasure with cultural, social and economic value. On that point alone, we know that the Great Barrier Reef contributes some \$6 billion to the Australian economy and supports around 60,000 jobs—a fact that the tourism industry is acutely aware of at this point when we are living through this new COVID-19 reality.

Last year we passed very responsible reef regulations in this parliament based on the best available scientific expertise. This was scientific expertise that did not just come from the dark corners of a building; this was scientific expertise that was supported by many, many scientists and many, many reports. In fact in 2016 the Great Barrier Reef Water Science Taskforce recommendations made it really clear that we needed to take urgent action around ensuring that water quality was addressed. In 2017 the Scientific Consensus Statement was made by 48 reef scientists and specialists.

In 2019 there were two reports. One of those reports was by the federal government, the *Outlook Report*, and it was handed down by the Great Barrier Reef management authority. They made it really clear that there were two major threats to the Great Barrier Reef—one was climate change and the other was water quality. They said that the outlook was very poor and that if we did not act urgently and take interventionist actions now the plight of the Great Barrier Reef in the future could be one that we would not all be very happy about, I can tell you that much. The science has been very clear.

The federal LNP government's reef inquiry is nothing more than an attack on science—that is all it is—and it is a political ploy on top of that. We expect nothing more from a party that still does not believe wholly in the science of climate change. In this very chamber, there are still members on the LNP side who do not believe in the science of climate change. In fact, yesterday we saw the member for Broadwater, who claims to be a spokesperson for tourism and the environment, stand up and move a motion of disallowance for the reef regulations. He is supposed to be the shadow minister for environment and tourism and here he is turning his back on both sets of stakeholders proving once and for all that he does not care about the environment and he does not care about the tourism industry.

(Time expired)

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would put to you that the minister is definitely anticipating debate when she mentioned the disallowance motion moved by the shadow minister for the environment yesterday and proceeded to debate that particular issue.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order. The mention of that does not in itself anticipate debate. I believe there may have been words from the minister directed at the shadow spokesperson but they did not necessarily pertain to the contents of the disallowance motion.

School Infrastructure

Ms LINARD: My question is of the Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations. Will the minister advise the House how construction works at Queensland schools are supporting vital jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic?

Ms GRACE: Thank you for the question. Having ongoing infrastructure construction work occurring during the COVID-19 crisis is absolutely essential to keep the economy going. Throughout this COVID pandemic our education system has gone through a period of change as we moved to a

temporary learning-at-home model. There was excellent work being done by the school community—in particular, all the staff in the schools—to facilitate that. On behalf of the government, I thank them from the bottom of my heart.

One thing that remained constant is our record commitment to building new and improved infrastructure at our Queensland schools with our record \$1.5 billion investment, which is on time and on budget—the whole lot of it. That is an extraordinary effort by the department to have it delivered on time and on budget, even during a worldwide crisis. Whether it is a multipurpose sports centre, new schools, classroom blocks, science labs, performing arts centres, the refurbishment of existing facilities, information technology hubs or communication upgrades, we know that building projects in our schools support construction jobs, and it is those jobs that are greatly needed at the moment.

Right across the state local contractors are doing an excellent job of getting on with the job of upgrading our schools, taking advantage of the reduced number of students in the classroom to fast-track some of the works. One such example is our \$235 million Renewing Our Schools Program, which is upgrading infrastructure across Queensland, supporting more than 700 jobs in Cairns, Townsville, Proserpine, Sarina, Bundaberg, Toowoomba and Brisbane just to name a few, or our \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools Program, which will air-condition every classroom, staffroom and library in every Queensland state school and expand solar installation to offset those costs. I noticed the member for Currumbin, in her first speech in the House, talked about air-conditioning classrooms. They will all be done by June 2022.

We are ploughing ahead. We are already in the next tranche of the 330 remaining schools. We have awarded another 90 contracts to get that air-conditioning done. They are ahead of time. Of the 301 original schools that were due to be completed by June this financial year, only a handful are left. The only obstacle to finishing those—and about 70 per cent are finished—is heritage issues and electrical upgrades. It is a great effort. We are delivering for the schools of this state.

Paradise Dam

Mr BOYCE: My question is to the Minister for Natural Resources. I refer to the minister's letter to Mr Tom Marland on 8 May 2020 in which the minister buck-passes the decision to lower the Paradise Dam to Sunwater. However, on 14 May 2020 Sunwater advised that director-general James Purtill issued revised safety conditions under section 356 of the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act. I table these letters and correspondence.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 May 2020, from the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, Hon. Dr Anthony Lynham, to the Principal, Marland Law, Mr Tom Marland, regarding Paradise Dam [780].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 14 May 2020, from Allens Linklaters, Mr Michael Ilott and Mr Brock Morgan, to the Principal, Marland Law, Mr Tom Marland, regarding Paradise Dam [781].

Will the minister clearly tell the House who made the decision to lower Paradise Dam?

Dr LYNHAM: I welcome any opportunity to talk about Paradise Dam, and I thank the member for his question. There is no doubt that every reference regarding Paradise Dam shows this dam is in a distressed state. The work has to commence on this dam. The protection of the community of Bundaberg is paramount. Safety is paramount. Sunwater advised me that the dam was in a perilous state, and this was after engineering reports and also a technical review panel. I supported Sunwater in this. We have since had more reports—the Tatro report, the Rizzo report and soon to be made public, the commission of inquiry report. I cannot speak about the commission of inquiry, but the other reports also show the dam is in a distressed state and work needs to be done.

I heard the Leader of the Opposition's statements regarding Paradise Dam, stating as fact that the dam could be fixed for \$25 million or thereabouts. This is just patently untrue. There is no reference anywhere in any report to the dam being able to be fixed for \$25 million. It is like the Leader of the Opposition wants to fix the dam by sprinkling fairy dust over the Paradise Dam and it miraculously will get better.

During the 2013 floods this dam had a serious risk of overturning sections of the spillway and causing peril to the people of the community of Bundaberg. There are 48,000 people at risk from this dam. Every other community downstream of a dam in Queensland knows that they are safe should there be a cyclonic event or other weather event. There is only one community in Queensland that is uncertain of what could happen to them should a cyclone of the magnitude of that experienced in 2013 or above hit that dam, and that is the community of Bundaberg.

I feel terribly for the people of Bundaberg having been let down so badly by their elected MPs. I have taken the elected MPs on the journey through to protect the people of Bundaberg, but all we hear is rhetoric and mistruths such as that the dam can be fixed for \$25 million. Really? Cherrypicking and

mistruths from reports is all we hear from those opposite. We never hear anything about the protection of the 48,000 people of this wonderful community of Bundaberg. The people of Bundaberg deserve better, and in October the people of Bundaberg can have their say.

Water Infrastructure

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy. Will the minister update the House on the status of water infrastructure investment in Queensland, and is he aware of any alternative policy approaches?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for his question. He is a member who is sincere about water infrastructure and about the prosperity of Central Queensland. An amount of \$848 million has been invested in water infrastructure in this state—that is 1,600 jobs right across regional Queensland—because we in the Palaszczuk government are serious about water infrastructure. On the subject of Rookwood Weir, I am pleased to report that work at Gogango on Thirsty Creek Road will be completed next month and soon work will be commencing on the Riverslea bridge. However, we still have no LNP funding for Rookwood—none. It is only the Palaszczuk government that presently is funding Rookwood. There is no funding whatsoever from the federal LNP.

It is not the only example. Let's take another example, I refer to the Lower Burdekin groundwater mitigation project. Here is a project in Far North Queensland that the federal government could get behind—\$11 million to prevent \$150 million worth of economic loss to the farmers of the Burdekin. Here is a water infrastructure project ready to roll and we have the federal LNP government telling us, 'We want to back water. We want to get behind water.' This one is ready to roll. What happened? We asked for funding and got nothing—zilch, nothing, nil. They ignored farmers in North Queensland. The federal LNP ignored farmers in the Burdekin. The state LNP ignored farmers in the Burdekin. The local member for Burdekin could not give a toss about farmers in the Burdekin.

Mr SPEAKER: I think you might find that is unparliamentary language. I ask you to withdraw.

Dr LYNHAM: I feel perplexed as to why he is not supporting farmers in the Burdekin.

Mr SPEAKER: Will you withdraw?

Dr LYNHAM: I will. As if droughts, floods, bushfires and COVID-19 were not enough, our farmers are further threatened by the LNP's water infrastructure policies. Who can forget Peter Costello's famous Commission of Audit, the author of the original script for that all-time big screen flop, Campbell's cut, sack and sell—and what a script. Here is his line on water infrastructure. His line on water infrastructure that they follow is divert scarce capital that could be employed elsewhere for core services, so no capital was destined to go to any water infrastructure as far as the state LNP was concerned.

Anything we hear from those opposite regarding water infrastructure is pure fiction. Some early teasers are being tested up north. The member for Burdekin has been promoting a statewide audit of water infrastructure assets. An audit of water infrastructure assets is their only policy. We all know what an audit is for, because an audit always occurs prior to a sale. If they sell those assets, gone will be subsidies to farmers to keep water prices low and gone will be any freeze on water irrigation prices because Queensland farmers' money will go to a Swiss, Chinese or American company every time they pay their water bill.

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Priorities

Mr PURDIE: My question without notice is to the Premier. On Monday, the Premier and cabinet decided to release prisoners from jail early. Yesterday, the Premier and her government decided it was urgent by introducing a bill. Today, the Premier claims it is not a priority. How can Queenslanders trust the Palaszczuk government when its priorities keep changing day by day?

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Member, the way I hear that question is that it is anticipating debate on a matter which is on the *Notice Paper*. I rule it out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Standing order 113(1)(b) states that questions may be put to the minister without notice relating to the proceedings pending in the Legislative Assembly for which the minister is responsible but discussion must not be anticipated. I put to you, Mr Speaker, that, by mere reference to the policy of the government, the member is not anticipating the debate. The

Premier indicated to the media that such legislation will be amended. It is no different from the Minister for the Environment mentioning the reef regulation disallowance motion. I put that standing order 113(1)(b) applies in that members can ask questions about proceedings in the House and we are not, with respect, anticipating the debate of the subject matter; we are simply referencing the proceedings of the House pursuant to the standing orders.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I encourage you and the Manager of Opposition Business to look to the standing order that he references and note that he references the member responsible for the matter before the House. The question from the member for Ninderry was directed to the Premier. That reiterates that the case that the Manager of Opposition Business makes is not appropriate.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have anything further to add?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I do—under the standing orders in responding to a point of order raised by the Acting Leader of the House. It has been ruled by Speakers that the Premier is responsible for her government, in this case the Palaszczuk government, of which she can, under the standing orders, answer questions put to any ministers about any matter for which she is responsible as head of the Queensland government.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: A point of order, Mr Speaker?

Mr SPEAKER: I will not have duelling points of order. This is not going to turn into a debate. You have made your point, Acting Leader of the House. Do you have anything additional to add?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: I do. I reiterate that the very standing order I referenced earlier that indeed was first referenced by the Manager of Opposition Business does not refer to the general responsibility but the specific responsibility for matters before the House.

Mr SPEAKER: In terms of who has carriage of the bill, that is the point you are making. I agree with the Acting Leader of the House. The question is ruled out of order under standing order 231.

Small Business

Mr POWER: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development. Will the minister update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to support small businesses in Queensland? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Logan for his question. It has been great to work with him and other members from Logan over the last month to support our Logan small businesses. We know that almost one million Queenslanders are employed by our small businesses, and we have been working hard to support them. There was a wonderful announcement yesterday by the Premier—\$100 million for small business grants of up to \$10,000 and specific small business training. That builds on our \$1 billion loans for small businesses, the biggest loans available in the country. Of course, we now have supported over 6,000 small businesses with one-on-one specialist advice through our small business hotline that connects them to free mentoring and free financial counselling. On this side of the House, it has been great. We all have been out supporting our local small businesses with our campaign #supportsmall and we are very proud to be working with CCIQ on our #supportsmall campaign.

It has been interesting to see the support from those opposite when it comes to small businesses. Last time we sat I talked in this place about the Leader of the Opposition's support for small businesses. I refer to her Facebook video where she goes into a grocery store, picks up every item and then puts them back but does not actually buy anything. It has been interesting to see other members of this House in terms of supporting small, and it seems that the Deputy Leader of the Opposition also took to social media in posting about how he is supporting small. It turns out that he has been going on a coffee shop tour of his electorate. He starts off by telling everyone that they need to #supportsmall, but it seems as his tour starts out it is less about supporting and buying from small business than just a photo opportunity talking about buying local. I table that for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Extract, dated 16 May, from the Facebook page of the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, regarding buying local [\[785\]](#).

It turns out that he did not actually buy anything from this coffee shop. Let us be clear: the Deputy Leader of the Opposition walks in, gets a photo, has a sign that says 'buy local' but does not actually buy anything from the local business. What this shows is that for the LNP it is all about them. On this side of the House, with Labor and our Premier, it is all about Queenslanders—the health of

Queenslanders, the health of our small businesses. We are here supporting the hundreds and thousands of small businesses get back on their feet with real brands, loans and support for them through our hotline. Those opposite are just interested in cheap social media posts where they are not supporting small businesses. If the deputy leader cannot even buy a coffee from a small business, how can they support small businesses in Queensland?

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The minister's time has expired. The period for question time has expired.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the notice of motion tabled by the Leader of the Opposition earlier today. I note in looking at that motion that the motion contains a number of alleged facts that may not be able to be authenticated. Further, I ask you to consider—and this is a more complex and difficult challenge than that one—the specific issue as well that there are numerous inferences and imputations and indeed personal reflections, many of which are very misleading, that members may not be able to object to in the course of consideration of that motion, particularly in the context of the social distancing arrangements in the chamber in terms of those members' ability to be present and to be able to respond to those matters.

In these circumstances, I ask that you consider the formality of the motion or, indeed, whether it needs to be rephrased. I particularly ask that you consider that first matter in relation to the authentication. Obviously there are matters on which you can seek evidence of authentication in relation to those matters but further considering the particular circumstances under which the House has to operate in the current environment. I ask that you consider those matters as well.

Mr SPEAKER: Acting Leader of the House, thank you for the point of order. Probably the most salient point regards the social distancing arrangements in place. Ordinarily I would expect that if a member had concern about a personal reflection and if they were in the chamber, they would seek to have that done on the spot immediately. But without every member being able to sit in the chamber, that right was not afforded to all those members. I would be happy to hear from any members who are referred to in the motion to see if there are personal reflections to which they do object. I will consider the point of order in the time before the debate of that motion later today. I will take consideration of the point of order raised.

Mr BLEIJIE: I rise to a point of order. Mr Speaker, I do not want to debate the point, obviously, given your previous rulings. I just make the point that, with respect to the social distancing arrangements, I have been advised by the government that the majority of its members, bar three or four who have been paired for medical reasons, are on the precinct. I do not understand how at any given time one member cannot be in the chamber to raise a point of order with respect to their rights and immunities under the—

Mr SPEAKER: No. I am going to—

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, because—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I am going to put a halt to it here because it is starting to debate the content of the motion in a sense. It is not possible for every member to be in the chamber—on the precinct, yes, but not in the chamber—and it is certainly not possible for any member to know that they were going to be referred to in a motion which was not put on notice until that time, so I do not take that contention at all.

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

Mr SPEAKER: Do you have a further point of order to raise?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, I have a further point of order, Mr Speaker. If I can ask: how is this different to any motion where only six members on each side can speak at any other time, Mr Speaker, because not every member is in the chamber when a—

Mr SPEAKER: No. Please resume your seat, member for Kawana, and resume your seat, Acting Leader of the House. This matter is finalised. The motion has been given notice of. The House will debate a motion this afternoon if it is a relevant motion. I have made no decision on any of the matters raised by the Acting Leader of the House. I will consider the point of order, and that is the commitment I have given to the House. The matter is finalised. There will be no further points of order related to this matter.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.22 am): I give notice that I will move—

1. That this House notes Queensland's \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan and notes the following statements:
 - (a) RACQ said the accelerated works program will 'create jobs, stimulate productivity and fast track our economic recovery';
 - (b) LGAQ said the COVID-19 Works for Queensland program 'shows the power of governments working together, it shows pragmatic and decisive leadership ...';
 - (c) CCIQ has backed the Small Business Adaptation Grants and said they 'are very pleased to see their support given to businesses through these funds';
 - (d) Infrastructure Association of Queensland has welcomed the commitment to maintain the infrastructure program stating that 'committing to the infrastructure budget is incredibly important';
 - (e) Queensland Tourism Industry Council has said 'The \$50 million additional for infrastructure in tourism will help us prepare for the consumer of the future';
 - (f) Ai Group has welcomed 'the increase in skills and training funding, and particularly the increase in funds to the Made in Queensland Initiative';
 - (g) QCU has welcomed the model of working with businesses and government to make sure that we are creating as many jobs as we can in Queensland;
 - (h) Master Builders and Suncorp have welcomed the household resilience package with Suncorp saying it is a 'win for cyclone prone homeowners, builders, communities and regional economies'; and
2. That the House supports Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (11.23 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the Premier and Minister for Trade be permitted to move at 4 pm today the motion of which the Premier and Minister for Trade has given notice earlier today, with the following time limits to apply—

- three minutes for all members; and
- total time allowed before question put—one hour.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

FOREST WIND FARM DEVELOPMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (11.24 am): I present a bill for an act to enable the establishment and operation of a wind farm in certain state forests, and to amend this act, the Forestry Act 1959, the Land Act 1994, and the Planning Act 2016 for particular purposes. I table the bill, explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020 [782].

Tabled paper: Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, explanatory notes [783].

Tabled paper: Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [784].

I am pleased to introduce the Forest Wind Farm Development Bill 2020. The Palaszczuk government has been working diligently with key stakeholders to facilitate this exclusive transaction and a major investment project to support the government's long-term renewable energy targets and to continue to invest in the Queensland economy. This special purpose legislation provides a tenure pathway for a large-scale wind farm project fully funded and financed by the private sector to be developed within the actively managed exotic pine plantation of the Toolara, Tuan and Neerdie state forests in the Wide Bay-Burnett regions of Queensland.

Should Forest Wind clear all of the hurdles and complexities it faces, this wind farm could create up to 440 jobs during construction and up to 50 full-time operational jobs in the region. With up to 226 turbines generating approximately 1,200 megawatts of electricity at capacity, this is enough clean energy to supply one in four homes across Queensland. If this project proceeds, the wind farm would increase Queensland's large-scale renewable energy capacity by 40 per cent and reduce CO₂ equivalent emissions by 78.6 million tonnes over 30 years. This is the size and significance of this project.

The bill aims to ensure that the management, environmental values and integrity of the state's forest reservations are balanced with the development of purpose-built infrastructure aligned with the government's policy commitments to transition Queensland to a low carbon energy sector and the Queensland government's clear renewable energy target. Currently under the Forestry Act 1959 state forests comprising native and plantation forestry are to be permanently reserved for the production of timber and associated products in perpetuity and to protect the watershed therein. The bill addresses the inconsistency of a large-scale wind farm on state forest land with the cardinal principle for the Forestry Act 1959 and will facilitate tenure for the project that can coexist with the existing plantation licence held by HQPlantations Pty Ltd.

The bill also modifies the application of several sections of the Land Act 1995 to facilitate tenure that provides long-term certainty and security sought by project investors. The bill does not in itself grant tenure for the project but gives the state the power to grant tenure. Provisions in the bill enable the minister responsible for the act to grant access licences for the development of the project and the minister under the Land Act to grant project leases provided the requirements in the bill and the project agreements are met. As I said this morning in my ministerial statement, this is about the facilitation of jobs.

This bill also proposes amendments to the Planning Act 2016 to facilitate the orderly planning and development of land in the Springfield area near Ipswich. Springfield has long been the subject of special planning arrangements under the Springfield Structure Plan, a development control plan dating back to the late 1980s which has been preserved under successive state planning legislation, including the current Planning Act 2016, and successive state governments.

The Springfield Structure Plan differs in several respects from the usual planning arrangements in Queensland. In particular, it provides for the approval of a hierarchy of more detailed plans for development. The Springfield Structure Plan also contains dispute resolution arrangements in relation to these plan approval processes. The Planning Act 2016 explicitly validates these plan approval processes and dispute resolution arrangements. The Planning Act 2016 also requires that development carried out under the development control plans, including the Springfield Structure Plan, must comply with the plans.

Recent decisions in the Planning and Environment Court and the Court of Appeal have determined that one of the key types of plans under the development control plan is not a mandatory requirement for development to take place. This has created uncertainty about the orderly planning and development of Springfield, including the timely and cost-effective provision of infrastructure—something I know we all support. The amendments I am introducing today address this uncertainty by clarifying that an appropriate hierarchy of plans must be approved before development under the Springfield Structure Plan takes place, as well as establishing the process for these plans to be lodged and assessed. In order to continue the orderly planning and development of Springfield, the bill will allow plan applications that are currently required to be made by the Springfield City Group Pty Ltd, or SCG, also to be made by third parties subject to the requirement that, if prepared by a third party, SCG's views must be sought and considered.

The bill also updates the dispute resolution procedures to include disputes that involve plan applications and infrastructure, and amends who may commence and participate in dispute resolution processes. The bill also requires SCG to give a statement to the Ipswich City Council in response to any plan applications made by a third party and establishes the scope of the matters to be addressed by the statement.

This bill delivers much needed employment opportunities to support Queensland jobs and investment and will be a boost to renewable energy generation in our state. It will have a positive impact for the Wide Bay-Burnett region as it creates up to 400 jobs during construction and around 50 ongoing jobs in that region. This is a massive win for the state of Queensland. It will also provide the necessary amendments to the Planning Act 2016 to ensure the efficient and effective operation of the Springfield Structure Plan—once again, a huge job-generating project in our state. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. KJ JONES (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (11.31 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee.

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 19 May (see p. 926), on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (11.31 am): The opposition will be supporting the bill. Before I give some feedback in my portfolio responsibility area, I make the point to the minister that the shadow minister in this regard has sought to be anything but political. He has put forward what he believes to be fair and thoughtful ways that we can keep our mineworkers safer. The offer of a bipartisan parliamentary inquiry, in my mind, was the first of a raft of very good suggestions that the shadow minister has put forward. Instead, what we have had, particularly in the media, is somehow a suggestion that that is a foolish process that can bear no fruit. The minister scoffs and says, 'Why would you want politicians looking at this?' The answer, is that it is what we get paid to do. One only has to look at how detailed and effective *Black lung white lies* was as a process to know that these inquiries can bear fruit. If both sides of politics go into these debates with open minds and are willing to get to the bottom of the issue, there can be successful parliamentary inquiries.

I respect that the minister believes that there is another process to go down, but to scoff at that suggestion in my mind was, in fact, wrong. It is wrong because we have an issue we have to deal with. Eight deaths in less than two years is clearly not good enough. We, as a parliament, owe it to every man and woman who goes onto these mine sites to give them the best chance of going home at the end of each day to their loved ones. In the end, the responsibility of any parliament lies with keeping its people safe. That safety sometimes takes the form economically, sometimes it takes the form socially and sometimes it takes the form in a workplace, but the laws that we debate have to ensure that that is the case.

I will now turn briefly to the area that I wish to raise—that is, the section that relates to abandoned mines. There has not been much debate on this as yet. It is great to have a former environment minister here in the chamber. I will particularly talk about section 19B of the bill which allows the department to make sure that mines are not just left and that the environmental rehabilitation gets done. That is something that all of us should strive for. If people are going to make money from an industry, it is the responsibility of those people to do the right thing by the environment. What concerns me is that we are using the provision under the Environmental Protection Act of the transfer to an eligible person. Let me tell members what I have discovered about that. There have been over 2,000 applications to the department for a suitable operator application. In the last four years there have been none that were not recommended—not one! Every application for a suitable operator has been approved.

I have walked on the site of the former Baal Gammon Copper mine in Far North Queensland where a community has been ripped apart by an entity that did not rehabilitate that mine. That entity remains a suitable operator today. I say to the minister: if the department is of the view to get tough on abandoned mines, the opposition supports it wholeheartedly, but, if the process remains that a suitable operator can be deemed on the same classification through the same act in the environment department, I would suggest to you it will not bear the fruit that you seek it to bear.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Through the chair, please.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I believe the minister is acting in good faith in wanting to get a result out of this, but if the same provisions exist that have allowed 2,127 people to be deemed a suitable operator and not one to be deemed unsuitable then that is a concern.

I am a big supporter of mining in this state. We should all be big supporters of mining in this state. It has kept the lights on, particularly in recent times. We also owe it to our children to make sure that when people finish at these sites they carry out rehabilitation and that communities have the most basic of rights—that is, to clean drinking water—and can let their children go for a swim in the creeks, which generations have enjoyed. There have been times when that has not been the case. If this legislation can bring about a better environmental outcome, I support it wholeheartedly, but I would suggest to the House that we need to have a good, hard, long look at the terms for dealing with the suitability of people to operate.

Finally, I conclude by saying that why the shadow minister has been so supportive of this, why we will continue to put forward our support for changes to make life safer for the men and women who go to work there, is not because one in eight jobs rely on resources in some form or another and therefore we owe it to them and the economy to make sure that the resources industry can continue. It is not because it is worth north of \$60 billion to our economy. It is because if we do not ensure that people look to our mines as being the best and safest in the world, one of our competitive advantages of attracting people to work in Queensland will be lost. We owe it to them to provide a safe workplace, we owe it to their families to provide a safe workplace, and long term we owe it to our economy, as a state with great resources that can offer a safe working environment for men and women to go to work to every day.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (11.38 am): I support this legislation. I would like to start by responding to what could generously be referred to as a hissy fit by the member for Condamine yesterday. He started out by having a very large swipe at the committee system and the process in this fine parliament. It should be noted that when the member for Condamine's party last had control of the parliament, with about 90 per cent of the votes in this House, they made absolutely no changes to the committee system. It seems fairly extraordinary that the member for Condamine would come into this place and criticise a system that his side of the parliament was very happy to work in when they had the absolute chance to change it if they had so desired.

The member went on to take a very large swipe at the mining minister. I think he accused the mining minister of doing nothing, which is really quite misleading for the parliament. A quick and short summary of the things that the mining minister and the Palaszczuk Labor government have achieved is worth consideration: better detection and prevention of black lung disease and an improved safety net for affected workers; increased maximum penalties for offences to \$4 million and powers for the regulator to issue fines without going to court; statewide safety reset sessions for mine and quarry workers; \$35 million to deliver reforms to improve the safety and health of our mines; a commitment to tighter controls on mine dust levels; the establishment of an independent resource health and safety authority; and extra mines inspectors. To describe that as nothing is really quite extraordinary. It can only lead me to think that perhaps the reason that the member for Condamine was having such a hissy fit is that he had seen the flyer that had gone around his electorate—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr McArdle): Member, I let it go on the first occasion, but that is unparliamentary. Would you please withdraw that?

Mr KELLY: I withdraw. Perhaps the reason that the member was upset was that he had seen the flyer, which had gone around his electorate, that led him to believe that he would be in opposition for a long time. The flyer I am referring to—

Mr MICKELBERG: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 118 on relevance. The member is well away from the bill as he is talking about a flyer in the electorate of the member for Condamine. I am not sure how that relates to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is a valid point. Member, please come back to the terms of the bill and the terms of the standing orders.

Mr KELLY: Absolutely, Mr Deputy Speaker. Clearly no-one likes it when we point out the fact that their leader's picture did not get onto the flyer.

I fully support the extension of industrial manslaughter provisions to this industry. When one of your co-workers or someone in your industry dies, for any reason, it really impacts on everybody in that industry. Sadly, at the moment my profession is experiencing that in droves. I note the minister is also a member of my industry.

Over the past six months we have watched in horror as around the world nurses and other health workers have died as a result of caring for people with COVID-19. There have been over 300 such deaths in six months. We know that some of those deaths would have been preventable with proper training and equipment and that in other countries both governments and managements failed to act in those instances. The workers in my industry with whom I speak expect that, where deaths could have been avoided or worse involved putting profits before safety or involved criminal negligence, people should be held to account. The workers in the mining industry with whom I have spoken have exactly the same view.

I believe that these provisions are critical, they are necessary and they will save lives. I have little direct experience of being in the mining industry. However, I have spent a considerable amount of time as a member of the pneumoconiosis black lung select committee and that provided me with a great opportunity to meet with and speak to people at all levels of the mining industry—all levels.

In my own community I meet many people who work both directly and indirectly in the mining industry. I know from my work on that committee and from speaking with people in my own community that we all want workers to go home safely. We all want things to be safe. I believe all of those people would support these provisions, because they simply demand a higher standard from mine owners and operators and, ultimately, we will get higher standards from workers, as well. That is something that we should welcome because it will lead to safety for workers. I am sure that the mine operators would welcome it and I am sure that the CFMMEU would welcome it. The majority of people already do the right thing, but this legislation will raise standards even higher and bring them into line with other workplaces across the state.

As I have already said, this legislation is just one of many things that this government has done. At times I have had the opportunity to speak to the minister following incidents involving injuries or deaths in the mines. As a decent human being and as a doctor who swore an oath to preserve human health and wellbeing, the minister takes every injury and death personally and seriously, and recommits himself to improving things further. Therefore, the provisions in this bill are brought with nothing but good intent.

One of the provisions that I really like about this bill relates to the requirements for statutory office holders to have permanent jobs, and that means that those in critical safety roles need to be permanently employed. During the lengthy black lung inquiry, frequently the committee heard from workers about the impacts of a casual workforce on the mining industry generally. Time and time again, we heard specifically about issues related to the casual workforce and the impacts on safety, particularly for those in the critical safety roles. There were two LNP members on the committee at that time. I would encourage those officers to go and chat with them. It may be difficult now as one is out of parliament and the other has his own party and may no longer be talking so much to folks opposite. However, at the end of the day, time and time again committee members heard from workers about how critical this issue is. I listened carefully to the contribution of the member for Hill, because he was also a member of that committee. He spoke passionately about this very same issue. In mining communities around this state people will be overjoyed about this one provision, because it will save lives.

Finally, another provision in the bill that I particularly like relates to the process of mine rehabilitation and site clean-up. From a very young age I was taught by my dear old mother that if you mess up you clean up. While mining brings a lot to this state, the people in my community and others around the state with whom I talk expect that once a job is done the area will be cleaned up and rehabilitated. This bill certainly brings that to the fore.

I thank the minister, his staff and the department for their hard work on the bill. I thank the committee and all of the submitters, particularly the CFMMEU. The minister should be very proud of this bill. It is a huge step in the right direction of keeping workers safe. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.46 am): It is a privilege to rise to voice my support for this bill. In particular, today I rise to speak about the first objective of the bill, which is all about safety. We have had many tragedies in Queensland. I am reminded that we are here now in this chamber while four men are still in hospital after suffering significant burns in a mine incident in Moranbah only a fortnight ago.

Just a few months ago I visited the miners' memorial at Moranbah. Mining is in Queensland's blood, but in Moranbah it is in their DNA. The memorial commemorates 13 miners who lost their lives while working in the surrounding coalfields. It also remembers those who lost their lives on the roads, in work camps and on their way to and from work. Reading the names on the plaque brought home to

me the significance of the one step we still need to take to ensure that legislation keeps up with what society expects. While visiting the memorial, I ran into Peak Downs mineworker Scott Leggett, who told me just how proud the town is of their beautiful and moving memorial and how we still have so much to do to keep miners safe. I take this opportunity to acknowledge Scott's contribution to the parliamentary committee that considered this bill. His working life is dedicated to supporting mineworkers.

I know how the incident two weeks ago would have shaken the Moranbah community. I take this opportunity to extend my well wishes to the men's families and friends, and to the amazing frontline health workers who supported them and saved their lives. This is now our opportunity to put the lives and safety of our miners first.

The first objective of the bill is about continuing to raise and strengthen the safety culture in the resources sector. We all deserve to work in a safe workplace and we all deserve to come home safe after a day's work. Before I was elected as the member for Waterford, I worked as an employment lawyer representing the very miners and workers we in this chamber are now working to protect. I believe wholeheartedly in and have devoted much of my professional working life to ensuring that the welfare and wellbeing of workers is front and centre. We are one step away from making that a reality for our miners and quarry workers and today we are taking that step.

In 2017 the Palaszczuk government passed laws to ensure that industrial manslaughter became a serious offence—one that carries very significant penalties. These vital reforms ensure that not only do the families of those lost in tragic but avoidable circumstances get the justice that they deserve. They ensure that companies are compelled to put safety as the highest priority, as it always should be. Queensland already has the toughest mine safety and health laws in the world, but this bill affords the 50,000 mine and quarry workers the same enhanced protections that every other Queensland worker is protected by.

The bill also implements legislative changes to support the Palaszczuk government's ongoing reforms to mine rehabilitation and financial assurance laws. It progresses amendments that align with the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to improve the regulatory efficiency of the resources sector. Significantly, the reforms in this bill will form part of a suite of sweeping mine safety and health reforms that include: better detection and prevention of black lung with an improved safety net for affected workers; statewide safety reset sessions for mine and quarry workers to refocus on health and safety; \$35 million to deliver reforms to improve the safety and health of our mineworkers; extra mine inspectors; and the establishment of an independent resources health and safety authority.

It must be important to say at this point that the bill is not about prosecuting mine companies that provide the jobs to so many; they are measures to reasonably enforce safety obligations. If our companies do the right thing and put health and safety first, then there is nothing to fear from this legislation.

One of the first cases I worked on as a young employment lawyer was with a local Moura resident named Johnny Hempseed, who was a long-time coal shop steward for the AMWU and had been, for many years, fighting for a miners memorial in Moura to honour and remember their miners. The memorial in Moura, the one in Moranbah and the others that exist in so many mining towns is why this bill is before us. Having visited so many, I hope for a day when no memorial and no plaques are added, mourning a lost miner, the one who went to work and never came back. Today we take the next step in ensuring that we put Queensland miners' lives first. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (11.51 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill received over 80 submissions officially and also a submission at the bar. It is important to note that submissions should be recorded and should go through a proper process when the committee is weighing up people's conversations and evidence to them. If there is some hearsay input then maybe there should be an opportunity to afford those people to come forward and give formal evidence to the committee. Whilst I am not saying it should be discounted, I think it should go through a formal process.

It is a very important bill. Why is it important? It is important because the life of every single mineworker is absolutely important to everybody in this House. I think all sides can agree that what we want is an outcome where Queensland has the safest mines on planet Earth. I do not think anybody would disagree that that is something that we should strive for.

It is also very important because this industry contributes much to Queensland's history and people's livelihoods and the future of Queensland. It sits on our coat of arms because it is a key industry for us. The parliament has a role to play in making sure that mines are safe. There is absolutely no doubting that. We should have legislation that supports safety at our mines. It is also important that all sectors of the mining industry are consulted when legislation is put forward. We know that the minister

conducted three separate reviews into mine safety. Not one of these safety reviews recommended the introduction of industrial manslaughter legislation or that statutory office holders be under direct employment of the mine operator—not one of the reviews. You would think that if you conduct a review into mine safety and you engage experts to do that you would take seriously their recommendations and, if they do not put a recommendation forward, you would have to ask yourself why.

The bill states that ‘industrial manslaughter be an indictable offence, available where criminal negligence by senior management leads to a worker’s death on a resource site’. The interesting part of that is ‘senior management’. What exactly and who exactly are we talking about? Why is that not clearly defined? We all want to know, if something goes wrong on a mine site and there is an accident and someone has lost their life, who is responsible. Whose job was it to make sure that that life was not lost? To have this catch-all phrase of ‘senior management’ that could be interpreted widely and in many ways, does not put the key responsibility on the shoulders of anybody at the mine site.

I would urge the minister to give some guidelines as to who is a senior officer, to give some clear guidance as to who the enforcement officer is at the mine site who will be held responsible if something tragically goes wrong so that everybody can know—the company can know, the employees can know, the public can know and the families of the miners can know—who is responsible. It may be more than one person, and that is fine, but we need a clear definition so that it is beyond dispute as to who is in the box seat if something tragically goes wrong.

The other part of legislation that is always important is implementation. You can bring legislation into this place and the legislation can say and do lots of things, but it needs to be implemented. In order for this legislation to be implemented, one of the matters that concerns me is the change that was made in relation to ‘direct employee’. In Queensland, the owner of the mine may not be the extractor of the resource. It may well be that a contractor has that responsibility. It becomes very difficult if there is not someone in that contractor’s hierarchy who is responsible for mine safety.

We also have a situation where many of our mines are in partnerships, meaning the people who are doing the extraction may well be a contractor, servicing several people who are in partnership in the mine. To exclude a contractor from being able to hold one of these positions creates great difficulty in implementing what is required by this legislation. It will require great restructuring for no real safety outcome. Defining who we are talking about would aid in ensuring that the right person is responsible for the safety of the mine site.

Further to that, if we have this catch-all where we do not know who it is—and it could be many people on one mine site—the question then becomes: how many people are there in the industry who have the experience, the knowledge and the training to act in this role? Are those people employed by contractors at the moment or are they employed directly by mine owners and operators? The question is: what is the pipeline of those people coming through? What does a mine site do if their full-time employee decides to take long service leave and they are not allowed to bring a contractor in to cover the role? They may well not have somebody in their organisation who has the experience, knowledge and training to be able to take on the role. If they are precluded from bringing in a contractor to do that role while the person is on long service leave, that will become a practical difficulty for management of the mine site.

The objective here is safety at the mine site. To exclude a class of person who already is in short supply—many because of the experience required to do the role are aged, and many who will feel the additional burden fall on their shoulders may in fact walk away from the industry—will mean that a great deal of experience in safety and other areas will be lost.

We can all agree that the objective is to make sure that we do not have deaths on mine sites. One death is too many; eight is absolutely tragic and something needs to be done. The question remains: is what we are doing going to solve the problem? Will it lead to the safest mine sites in the world being in Queensland or will it lead to a bureaucratic model that is difficult to manage, that increases the costs associated with the resource industry and does not really achieve any outcome in terms of safety?

I ask the minister in his closing remarks, to give some clear guidance as to who these officers will be. That is the first question. Secondly, can we seriously consider some allowance when people take sick leave or long service leave so that their positions are covered by people who are suitably qualified and not necessarily employed directly on a full-time basis by the mine operator at that time? Without that, we may find people without the experience, we may find people without the training and we may find people without the knowledge being promoted to this position. Whilst that would mean we have someone filling that position and we have someone who we may be able to identify as responsible, it does not necessarily lead to a safer outcome for the mines.

They are my concerns, along with a couple of others in relation to the FLPs. I do not have much more to add. Others have said many things, but I think it is important that this category of 'contractor' is clearly understood, that we need to have some allowances for joint ventures and other mines to operate effectively and that there is a clear definition of who we are talking about.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (12.01 pm): I rise to support the bill before the House, and I am very proud to do so. As we know, there is nothing more important or fundamental for working people than the right to return home safely to their families and friends at the end of a working day. At its very core, that is what this bill is all about. I join others in expressing my best wishes to the injured miners and their families and say a big thank you to the first responders for doing an excellent job. Well done.

I joined the movement in 1980. I remember shortly after going to my first union meeting where industrial manslaughter was on the agenda. I remember that distinctly because I had to do some research on what industrial manslaughter actually meant. I had an idea but I did not really understand the difference between industrial manslaughter and manslaughter. It comes back to me now.

Some 37 years later in 2017, the Palaszczuk government became the first state government in the country to introduce industrial manslaughter provisions into work health and safety legislation. As Minister for Industrial Relations, I cannot tell members how proud I was to be responsible for the introduction and passage of those laws—laws opposed by those opposite. That is exactly what they would do should we ever have the misfortune of them occupying the government benches in the future. They opposed those laws then and they oppose them now and they will remove them as soon as they have the opportunity. Actions speak louder than words.

The provisions we introduced in 2017 mean that negligent employers culpable in workplace deaths now have nowhere to hide. The new offence of industrial manslaughter brought with it tough penalties of up to 20 years imprisonment for individuals and fines of up to \$10 million for corporate offenders. We make no apologies for that. If any one of us acts negligently in the community and causes the death of someone, whether in our vehicle or another way, we face manslaughter charges. These provisions flowing into the industrial area is something we are very proud of. These penalties send a strong message to all employers and PCBUs—that is, people in charge of a business or undertaking—that negligence causing workplace death will not be tolerated under any circumstances. We hope and pray that employers get this message and that the provisions are rarely, if ever, used. They are there as and when required.

The first prosecution for industrial manslaughter in Queensland was commenced late last year by the Work Health and Safety Prosecutor—an independent prosecutor—following a tragic accident in May 2019 where a worker died after being struck by a reversing forklift while securing a load on a tilt tray truck at an industrial workplace. Last month the company concerned, Brisbane Auto Recycling, and its directors pleaded guilty to industrial manslaughter. The sentencing hearing takes place next week in the Brisbane District Court.

The bill before the House means that these same penalties and protections are now extended to the mining and resources sector. It is only fair and right. It is as it should be. Mining workers deserve the same protections that other workers in all Queensland workplaces have already under the Palaszczuk government, no thanks to those opposite. They voted against them. That is what this bill delivers.

This bill will strengthen safety culture in the resources sector through the introduction of industrial manslaughter provisions and also by requiring that persons appointed to critical statutory safety roles for coalmining operations must be an employee of the coalmine operator. This amendment is designed to ensure that statutory office holders can raise safety issues and make reports about dangerous conditions without fear of reprisal or impact on their employment.

In his contribution yesterday, the member for Burdekin showed he fundamentally misunderstands this legislation by conflating the two crucial mine safety and health amendments to suggest the industrial manslaughter provisions only apply to statutory office holders. To be clear, under these laws senior officers are held accountable—that is, all senior officers not just statutory office holders. The scope is not limited. It is industrial manslaughter. If a person is criminally negligent they will be held to account. I question whether he has read through this critical legislation properly. I also note the issues raised by the previous speaker.

The industrial manslaughter provisions will bring the conduct of senior officers in the sector clearly into focus, holding industry and those in senior positions on site to account. It is always somebody else's fault. It is the government's fault. It is the department's fault. It is the weather's fault.

It is always somebody else's fault. PCBUs are in charge and it is their responsibility first and foremost. Workers should be able to raise issues when they see fit without any undue prejudice to their work or whether they will have a job and be able to put food on their table the next day.

Under the bill, senior officers of a mine or quarry company can be tried for industrial manslaughter if criminal negligence is proven regarding a worker's death. The executive could face up to 20 years in jail if a mine or quarry worker dies due to their criminal negligence. Fines can also apply. The maximum penalty is \$13 million.

The shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, thought it was a problem because it would deter people from applying for executive positions in the mining sector. I sincerely hope he does not subscribe to this view. We have had industrial manslaughter provisions that apply to the non-mining sectors in this state since 2017. Where is the evidence that one executive has not taken a job because of the industrial manslaughter provisions? Give me just one example where an executive has not taken a job because of the industrial manslaughter provisions. The fact is that it has not happened.

All of Queensland is covered, bar the mining and resources sector, by industrial manslaughter provisions. I have not had one case come to me. They make it up. It does not happen. Anything they can do to obfuscate their responsibilities they will do. They even make up things that are not true. The fact is that these laws are good for workers. They are good for all those employers doing the right thing. They are good for safety in an industry that sadly has a history of workplace deaths spanning many years.

The Palaszczuk government, under the stewardship of Minister Lynham, has already extensively reformed mine health and safety over the past five years. I have never known a minister to consult so widely with the industry. In the reset they were all consulted. It is ludicrous for those opposite to suggest for one second that this minister has not done all within his power to improve health and safety in the mining and resources industry.

This stands in stark contrast to the opposition's own track record regarding health and safety legislation for miners. Yesterday the shadow minister made reference to the Pike River royal commission in 2012. While in government from 2012 to 2015, they neither progressed nor passed any major health and safety legislation, except for one amendment to the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 that related to production. More than anything, that demonstrates the opposition's priorities when it comes to the crunch. This bill continues the work of the minister and the work of the Palaszczuk Labor government in supporting Queensland workers and their families, and we are proud of it. I have worked all my life in this area—40 years—and I will continue to do so.

Our goal must be that every worker who heads off to work returns home safely each and every day. We must be ever vigilant to ensure that is exactly what happens. That is what this bill is about. Beware, Queenslanders. Beware, miners. Those opposite say, 'Oh, no, we're not going to oppose the bill,' but I have not heard much from them about supporting it. I have not heard from those opposite very good reasons why this bill should be passed. All we have heard is criticism: 'It's the minister's fault. It's the department's fault.' This is about ensuring that those who are responsible are held to account for their actions. That is what industrial manslaughter is all about. Do not ever forget it.

The opposition should be supporting this bill, not just saying, 'We're not going to oppose it.' It will be a slight on them. They opposed industrial manslaughter previously. Lord help us if they ever get back into government. I know what they will do: they will rescind this legislation. I commend the bill to the House.

(Time expired)

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (12.11 pm): I rise to speak on the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. First, I would like to acknowledge why this bill is before us. I offer my sincere condolences to the families of the eight miners who have passed and my thoughts are with the five who are now in critical care.

I have lived in Central Queensland mining towns including Moranbah. I have worked at just about every single pit in Central Queensland from Goonyella to Moura. I know what the miners are thinking because they tell me straight up and from the heart. They are sick of this government that is trying to lay blame wherever it can. You cannot argue with the independent Auditor-General. He said that only 20 of the black lung report recommendations have been fully implemented out of 66 recommendations. Worse, from this report it seems 27 have not been implemented and the recommendations not accepted.

Firstly, I support the introduction of industrial manslaughter, as it will only affect those within our industry who are not doing the right thing. With that being said, I am against the changes to the statutory office holder roles. I am not sure that this change is practical or sustainable on the basis that, if a

permanent statutory employee takes leave for a couple of months—which is a high probability given the age demographic and employees having long periods of service and large amounts of accumulated leave entitlements—the coalmine operator will have to employ another individual to cover this temporary gap. This may sound easy, but I assure members that it will not be.

Also, a large percentage of the people who work in these contract roles are working for themselves, not for large labour hire firms. They have started companies and work for themselves. Under these proposed changes, they will not be able to continue doing that, and as such I fear that a lot of them, who have no will or desire to be a direct employee of the mining companies ever again, will retire and we will lose hundreds of years of experience along with them. This is important.

The minister has stated that the overwhelming message from his safety resets across the industry was that labour hire are scared to speak up and that this is the reason for the change. That statement may be correct, but it was from the masses in the workforce—the machine operators and the tradesmen—not the statutory officials. What is being done for the labour hire employees as a whole? Absolutely nothing is being done. The member for Bancroft was here the other day saying that Labor supports the middle class and the working class. If we were going to make these roles permanent, why didn't we do it for all workers? Why didn't we do it? Where were they?

Dr Lynham: It's a federal government responsibility.

Mr ANDREW: Make a recommendation to them, if that is the case.

Dr Lynham: We tried.

Mr ANDREW: I take that interjection. If we wanted to make real change around the statutory roles, we would have legislated against them performing a dual supervisor/statutory role, as this can in certain instances be in conflict with each other. Also, we should have looked at raising the required competencies for supervision, as this is currently a massive issue right across the industry. We only need to look at the morale of the people out there. What we should have had is buddy system where the people who have experience are paired up with the younger people who do not have experience. That is how I learnt in the industry. It is a simple thing to do, and we should be doing it.

I also believe there are massive issues with our regulatory body—the Mines Inspectorate. I know of many occasions where complaints have been made and no action has been taken, not even a site visit to look at the issue. At the end of the day, if the industrial manslaughter laws are passed, persons in the statutory roles will be right in the firing line for these laws to be applied if they are failing in their obligations. If the looming threat of 20 years imprisonment is not enough to compel them to perform their role correctly then I can assure members that whoever they are employed by will do nothing.

Coalminers and their families are being treated with contempt. This government is not serious about mine safety. They are only interested in mine royalties—yes, the money, the dollars, the dosh. To this government, the coalminers are the bank tellers. They mine the coal, they produce the royalties and the government then spits in their face by spending it on Cross River Rail and on all of these other projects in the south-east corner. The miners do not get the royalties. All they get is cheap words of supposed care and sympathy as they lie nearly dead in a critical condition in a Brisbane hospital. Words cost nothing but safety costs money. We are seeing crocodile tears. They do not care, because as each miner is transferred to hospital they are replaced just as quickly. Saying sorry is too little too late.

The real reason this government has wimped out on implementing the recommendations in mining reports is that it does not have the intestinal fortitude to do it. That is the truth. This government is weak—so weak that a full-strength XXXX would knock it over. Oh, sorry, I forgot—this mob would only drink expensive beers or champagne! This government is not the workers' or the coalminers' friends. It has betrayed them time and time again.

The public servants in the Mines Inspectorate and the department do not want to move to Mackay—a key recommendation of the black lung report. They want to stay living in suburbs like Kenmore, Toowong, Clayfield and other green, leafy suburbs of Brisbane as far away from the coalmines, coalminers, coal towns and coal dust as they can get. They live a champagne lifestyle with their families with little fear of having accidents or being killed, whilst the blood of the miners is wiped off the coalface. They live off the miners but they will not live with them. That is truth. Where is Moranbah? Tell me.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! The member will direct his comments through the chair.

Mr ANDREW: The regulators should be in Mackay and Moranbah. This government will be forever shamed including the members for Mackay, Rockhampton and Keppel. We should all stick together on this and back our people.

Mrs Gilbert: You've got no idea.

Mr ANDREW: I will take that interjection. How many go out to the coalface? How many have I seen in the 30 years that I have been out there?

Ms Lauga interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! There will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr ANDREW: Roll on October so they—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. You will direct your comments through the chair. There will be no quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr ANDREW: Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. Roll on October so we can tell this incompetent, blame-diverting and shameful government that we are not going to cop it anymore. We are miners and we are proud of it—and we deserve to be safe. That is what they are saying, and that is what I am saying here today. When it comes to the government's insincere platitudes, sneaky talkfests and no action, they can keep them. I do not support the bill.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.18 pm): The safety of workers in any industry is paramount. I begin my contribution today by expressing that my thoughts are with the five critically injured mineworkers of the Anglo-American Grosvenor Coal Mine and their families. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge Dr Deb Simmons, the anaesthetist from Mackay Base Hospital, and the nursing staff who provided an emergency response on the day to those critically injured workers.

When a relative, a family member or a friend leaves for work, you rightly expect them to return home safely. Sadly, in the 12 months to July last year, Queensland had seen six tragic workplace deaths in the resources industry, leading to this sector taking part in important industry safety resets through June and July, along with an expert review by Dr Sean Brady, handed down in December.

By February of this year, the Palaszczuk state Labor government tabled legislation which is now before the House—the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. The principle policy objectives of this bill cover three distinct priorities: firstly, safety and health; secondly, financial assurance; and, thirdly, regulatory efficiency.

Understandably, the introduction of industrial manslaughter offence provisions and associated requirements for safety statutory roles under the principle of safety and health has caused great contention and concern amongst a number of stakeholders. Whilst every effort must be made to protect workers and improve workplace safety, particularly in the resources industry, it is overwhelmingly apparent that the Palaszczuk state Labor government has once again taken a simplistic approach to industrial reform, choosing to ignore many legitimate concerns from a variety of stakeholders and potentially enabling a number of adverse and unintended consequences.

We are here in this parliament to ensure that when legislation is examined, debated and passed there has been due diligence and scrutiny to ensure there are no adverse or unintended consequences. That is the responsibility of this parliament. It is the responsibility of individual elected representatives, and responsible parliamentarians do that. That is why the Liberal National Party is raising a number of concerns as part of this debate—for example, the issue of who exactly will be captured under this legislation with respect to industrial manslaughter offences as referenced in this bill.

In its consideration of this legislation, the Queensland parliament's State Development, Natural Resources and Agricultural Industry Development Committee in its report No. 46 noted that this bill will see industrial manslaughter as an indictable offence where criminal negligence by senior management leads to a worker's death on a particular resource or mine site. Accordingly, this legislation inserts definitions of 'employer', 'senior officer' of an employer, and 'executive officer' if the employer is a corporation. Understandably, a number of the submissions provided to the Queensland parliament's committee raised concerns that the definition of 'senior officer' was extremely broad and goes beyond executive officers of a corporation.

In its submission to the committee, the Queensland Resources Council highlighted the difficulty with the application of such a broad definition. They stated—

Resource workers like SSEs, SSMS, safety certificate holders and the people identified in the management structure of a mine are not executive officers of the corporation. They do not have the capacity to affect significantly the corporation's financial standing but are simply employed to work at the operation using the resources they are given.

This is just one example, but it is worth noting that the vast number of submissions received concurred with these sentiments and called for a number of roles to not be captured by the industrial manslaughter provisions of this bill. Such a position or recommendation is not to avoid accountability or reduce safety but rather to avert the real potential adverse consequences of the application of this

provision, including providing reduced motivation to develop a better culture of safety in the workplace. Certainly, within the mining and resources sector we need to ensure there is a culture of safety because that is in the best interests of workers and all Queenslanders.

Similarly, significant concerns were raised by the requirement within this bill that not only employees of the coalmine operator could be appointed as a statutory office holder. Notwithstanding the fact that such a requirement completely took the industry by surprise, given there was no consultation with resource operators or evidence to support such a change, it must also be noted that the need for such a requirement was not reflected in the aforementioned Brady review. The vast number of submitters to the committee's review of this legislation went to great lengths to warn the Palaszczuk state Labor government that such a provision has the potential to go against the intent of this bill and in fact would have an adverse impact on workplace safety.

Along with representing a significant shift in the nature and flexibility of such work by removing the ability of contractors to be statutory office holders, there are genuine concerns that legislating for such a requirement will in fact lead to fewer reports of safety concerns, and that is the last thing we want to see in this industry here in Queensland. In fact, the committee heard evidence that it is contract statutory office holders who are more likely to report such safety concerns. Such a requirement defies the reality of the complex corporate structures in mining, which is why contract statutory office holders are in such demand given they can easily fit into new roles and provide relief where an office holder has taken leave. Such a provision also speaks to the authoritarian nature of the Palaszczuk state Labor government, which is seeking to dictate to workers who they must work for. This burdensome and impractical legislative requirement deserves further attention and consideration by Labor's minister; however, I do acknowledge that the minister has tabled amendments.

Finally, in my contribution today I believe it is important to note and reiterate for the House the very serious concerns and issues that have been raised by the Queensland Law Society in its examination of this bill along with its submission and stated position; that is, that the Queensland Law Society does not support the introduction of industrial manslaughter offences into the resource safety acts. The Queensland Law Society, along with a significant number of other submitters, also took issue with section 23 of the Criminal Code not applying to an offence of industrial manslaughter. In its submission to the committee the Queensland Law Society stated—

QLS is particularly concerned that an accused will therefore not be able to plead circumstances of accident, involuntariness or acts independent of their will. In the absence of appropriate defence or excuse provisions, these provisions essentially become strict liability offences, which infringe and deny fundamental rights given to those accused of homicide offences which carry an extremely high maximum penalty. It is the Society's view that this infringement of a cornerstone principle of our justice system is not justified by the objects and purposes of the legislation.

There is also the substantial issue of this bill's alleged breach of fundamental legislative principles. So serious was the purported breach that the Queensland Resources Council found it necessary to write to the Speaker of the parliament, with the Committee of the Legislative Assembly now reviewing the alleged failure in the regulatory assessment process of this bill.

The Queensland resources industry is vital to our great state. As of last year this industry employed more than 53,000 people, and as of January this year the value of our resource exports was more than \$71 billion. In addition to supporting many Queensland workers and their families, it is through this industry that Queensland is then able to invest in our roads, deliver more public transport, provide better school and education facilities, and invest more in our health and hospital system. There is no doubt that we need that investment in the western suburbs of Brisbane, particularly in the electorate of Moggill, given the failure to invest in road and public transport infrastructure and our local schools.

As I said at the beginning of my contribution, the safety of all workers in this industry is absolutely paramount. As Queensland seeks to recover from the ongoing economic crisis as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, every effort must be made to ensure that this industry and so many others can continue to operate to create more jobs and provide a safe working environment for all.

In conclusion, I would like to take this opportunity to highlight to the minister one final issue. As we all know, the Labor Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy is also a practising surgeon and is registered with the Medical Board of Australia via the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency. It was really by good fortune or pure chance that an anaesthetist was available on the day of that most recent critical incident in Moranbah. I know that the minister sits around the cabinet table and I would encourage him and his ministerial colleagues to continue to develop strategies in relation to the medical workforce, both specialist and generalist. I know from the review into this incident that more needs to be done here in Queensland. I know that various Queensland governments of all persuasions have invested in the rural generalist training pathway and strategies to develop that, but for those

particular communities like Moranbah, where there are medical superintendents with right of private practice and medical officers with right of private practice, certainly a lot more needs to be done to support those communities when incidents take place such as the one we have seen. Given the minister's training and his ministerial responsibilities, I would encourage the minister and his colleagues to consider these matters as part of the review into that critical incident recently in Moranbah.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I go to the heart of the bill I want to offer my sincere condolences to the five mineworkers who were seriously injured as a result of a gas explosion at Anglo American's underground Grosvenor mine two weeks ago on 6 May 2020. I am very pleased for one of the miners who has been released from hospital; however, his four comrades are still in hospital in a critical condition and they will likely have a very long road to recovery. I wish them and their families and co-workers all the very best. I also thank the first responders who were there to support those miners after that incident.

I would also like to pay tribute to the victims of the Moura mine explosions and those workers who lived through those tragedies. I know from having spoken to one Moura miner, John Hempseed—who lives in my electorate and who suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder after those explosions—that this incident was a serious trigger for him. I recognise that this explosion would have been a very serious trigger for a lot of the Moura miners and their families who experienced those tragic events all those years ago. I want to thank the Moura miners who have worked so incredibly hard to deliver the Moura mines explosions memorial in Moura.

I would also like to reiterate how dangerous mining as a profession is and that miners really do put their lives on the line every single day they go to work. Safety in our mines is incredibly important. Every man and woman who works in our Queensland mines and quarries deserves as safe a workplace as possible. I can report that the collection of evidence and reconstruction of the scene prior to the explosion at the Grosvenor mine is underway and that there are nine inspectors who form part of the Queensland Mines Inspectorate team with specialist expertise in mechanical, electrical, mining and geological disciplines on site.

Debate, on motion of Ms Lauga, adjourned.

CRIMINAL CODE (CHOKING IN DOMESTIC SETTINGS) AND ANOTHER ACT AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (12.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Criminal Code and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020 [786]

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [787].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Choking in Domestic Settings) and Another Act Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [788].

In March I was one of the hundreds of people who attended the funeral of Hannah Clarke and her children, Aaliyah, Laianah and Trey. The Prime Minister also attended, as did the Premier, the Police Commissioner and several other dignitaries. None of us had known Hannah and her children while they were alive, but we all knew of their story and we all knew how their story ended. In front of us was a single white coffin. Inside was Hannah with her three babies by her side.

No-one can imagine the terror and the pain that they must have suffered in those final moments. Four beautiful lives were destroyed by an act of pure evil. The cold-blooded murder of Hannah and her children had no meaning at all, but there was a message and that message was for all of us. It was a clear message that we must act to save women and children like Hannah and her three beautiful children. We cannot just weep for the victims and then move on. We cannot just talk about the horror of domestic violence. It is time to take action. It is time to take decisive action against domestic violence. More talk will not save lives. It is down to us—each and every one of us in the people's house—to do everything that we can as soon as we can to fight domestic violence.

The LNP has always been at the forefront of Queensland's struggle against domestic violence. The last LNP government instigated the *Not now, not ever* report in 2014. We have given our complete support to the recommendations brought forward by the Palaszczuk government. However, the *Not*

now, not ever report was not enough, so in February the LNP outlined a package of new measures to crack down on domestic violence. Our proposals will target offenders and support victims. We are seeking bipartisan support from the Palaszczuk government for those proposals. The proposals cover four areas of action.

Firstly, we propose the introduction of a new coercive control offence, a specific domestic violence summary offence and new laws to empower police to issue domestic violence orders on the spot. These new offences will protect individuals in abusive relationships and they will allow police to offer immediate legal protection for the victims of violence.

Secondly, the LNP proposes allocating half a million dollars to fund the rollout of 200 personal safety devices to those at risk of domestic violence. Smart technology and GPS tracking should be used to monitor offenders and warn victims when a violent former partner is close to them. We must try everything possible. Other countries have done it and so we should follow.

Thirdly, we propose extra support for domestic violence victims and their families. Specifically, the LNP would provide an extra \$1 million for the Women's Legal Service and an additional \$1 million for other frontline and not-for-profit agencies. We would also provide one-off emergency assistance grants of up to \$2,000 to help victims and their families flee from dangerous homes.

The fourth area of action is contained in the bill that I have tabled today. With this bill, we seek to introduce the toughest strangulation laws in the nation. Nonlethal strangulation was criminalised in Queensland in 2016 following the *Not now, not ever* report. The new law, section 315A of the Criminal Code, owed much to the campaigning work of Sonia Anderson, whose 22-year-old daughter, Bianca, was strangled to death by her boyfriend in 2010. Another woman, Professor Heather Douglas of the University of Queensland, was also instrumental in the passage of the legislation. Her research revealed the full extent of this horrific but often hidden form of violence. The professor established that a woman who is subjected to attempted strangulation by a partner is eight times more likely to be murdered by that partner.

As well as the psychological trauma, the consequences of nonlethal strangulation can include memory loss, miscarriage and permanent damage to vision, hearing and vocal cords. I wish to again publicly thank Sonia Anderson and Heather Douglas for their work. Their campaign not only changed the law in Queensland; it changed the law across Australia. However, a major flaw has emerged in that legislation. The terms 'choke', 'suffocate' and 'strangle' were not defined in the Criminal Code. Fixing this flaw should be a priority for every political party in Queensland. The LNP shadow cabinet discussed this issue on 3 February and resolved that a future LNP government would amend section 315A to include a much broader definition of 'nonlethal strangulation'.

This bill amends Queensland's nonlethal strangulation laws to include clear legislative definitions of the words 'choke', 'strangle' and 'suffocate'. Queensland will be following in the steps of the Australian Capital Territory in providing clear legislative definitions. By providing a broader definition of 'strangulation', we will ensure that the law protects the vulnerable and allows prosecution of violent and abusive offenders. The bill tabled today will not just redefine the offence of strangulation; it will also double the penalty for it. The current maximum sentence is only seven years imprisonment. It should be much more. The bill will increase the maximum sentence to 14 years imprisonment.

The bill will also classify nonlethal strangulation as a serious violent offence under the Penalties and Sentences Act. Courts could then order that strangulation offenders sentenced to five or more years imprisonment but less than 10 years must serve at least 80 per cent of that sentence. Those sentenced to 10 years or more would automatically serve up to 80 per cent of their sentence. Increased sentences would send a strong, clear message to domestic violence offenders that it is not okay—a message that says their behaviour is abhorrent and should never and will never be tolerated by our community.

As well as being supported by police officers, the campaign for a broader definition of strangulation is backed by campaigners and organisations in the front line of the war against domestic violence—people such as Betty Taylor of the Red Rose Foundation; Diane Mangan, the former CEO of DVConnect; and the Women's Legal Service. The case for reform in Queensland's strangulation laws is overwhelming. We cannot allow offenders to avoid justice. There must be consequences for crime.

Just consider for a moment what it must be like to be a victim of strangulation. Think what it must be like to be pinned down by a much stronger partner, to feel their hands on your neck gripping your throat. Imagine the terror that you would feel in those circumstances, the fear that you would have for your life, the fear that you would have for your children and their lives. No-one should ever suffer that.

We must protect victims of domestic violence in any way we can. We must protect victims from domestic violence, from this terrible crime. It is the clear responsibility of the government of the day to work towards fixing any error they find.

The LNP opposition has given the Palaszczuk government enough time. The victims of domestic violence have given the Palaszczuk government enough time. We cannot stand idly by while more and more victims of domestic violence are suffering because of this legal loophole. It is up to us to fix it, and that is why the LNP opposition has acted and is calling on the Palaszczuk government to follow our lead. We must deal with it now before anyone else slips through the cracks.

This is not about playing politics. This is about helping the victims of crime. This is about the opportunities that we have as members of parliament to stand together and assist anyone who has been in this situation or who may be in this situation in the future. We cannot wait until after the next election. We cannot wait until each and every case of COVID-19 has been cleared up in this state. We have a duty to protect the men and women of Queensland who have suffered and continue to suffer because of this legal loophole.

I plead with the Palaszczuk government. We do not need an inquiry. We do not need another summit. We do not need another review to deal with this. For the sake of the victims, this House must act and support this bill.

First Reading

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (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 Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee

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

MINERAL AND ENERGY RESOURCES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 984, on motion of Dr Lynham—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.42 pm), continuing: As I was saying, this bill will introduce tough new laws under which mining executives could face up to 20 years imprisonment and fines of up to \$13 million if found guilty of criminal negligence. This bill will build upon the toughest laws in the world with respect to mine safety. During our time in government, the Palaszczuk government has been working incredibly hard to introduce and pass reforms to improve mineworker safety across Queensland.

I refer to the comments from the member for Mirani calling for the permanency of all coal workers. Perhaps the member for Mirani should direct his calls to his federal counterpart, the One Nation senator for Queensland. Federal Labor went to the 2019 federal election with this policy, the same jobs, same pay policy. I support the member for Mirani in his plight to have all coal workers out of casual labour and into permanent work. It is one of the greatest problems with the mining sector. The casualisation of work is something that mineworkers talk to me about regularly. I am a great supporter of the permanency of as many jobs in Queensland as possible but in particular in our mines.

Shamefully, One Nation and the LNP recently voted in parliament to ensure that workers only get 24 hours notice to vote on permanent cuts to their pay and conditions. I table a copy of the latest *Queensland Mining & Energy* bulletin, which says that workers will have 24 hours to respond to COVID-19 related pay cuts.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Queensland Mining and Energy Bulletin, titled 'Workers will have 24 hours to respond to COVID-19 related pay cuts' [789].

I want to thank all of the concerned mineworkers who have contacted me with concerns about these changes. Essentially, this means that workers have absolutely no time to consult or get advice and that the regulation that previously allowed for seven days notice has now been amended to allow for only 24 hours notice. Yet again we see One Nation siding with the LNP and the losers are workers.

In closing, I note the commentary from those opposite regarding current inspector numbers. I would like to advise that the current inspector numbers are at 48, the highest number of inspectors in a decade. With the recruitment of a regional inspector to soon commence, the total number of inspectors will increase to 49. The member for Burdekin's need to play politics and be selective of real numbers speaks to the LNP's approach to mine safety and health in Queensland. That is why these reforms in this bill are so very important. We must ensure that mine site employees feel safe to raise safety complaints and that their employment is secure and protected when they do the right thing and look out for their safety and that of their co-workers.

The member for Burdekin also raised the issue of the mining inspectorate moving to Mackay. Inspectors cover safety in mineral mines and quarries, petroleum and gas and explosives, as well as coalmines. Of the state's coalmine inspectors, 20 of 25 are already based in Mackay and Rockhampton. I urge the member for Mirani to perhaps look at these figures before shooting off in parliament about not having any inspectors based in regional Queensland when, in fact, the vast majority of those inspectors are based in regional Queensland. We looked long and hard at this recommendation in consultation with industry and unions—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member, please resume your seat. 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: Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions. In accordance with sessional order 2B the House must now consider all remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. The question now is—

That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 10, as circulated, be agreed to.

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 20, line 11—

omit, insert—

- (c) part 4, heading and sections 29 and 33;
- (d) part 14;
- (e) part 17, heading and sections 209 and 210;
- (f) part 18.

2 Clause 10 (Insertion of new pt 20, div 9)

Page 24, line 1, '12 months'—

omit, insert—

18 months

3 Clause 10 (Insertion of new pt 20, div 9)

Page 25, line 16, '12 months'—

omit, insert—

18 months

4 After clause 15

Page 30, after line 8—

insert—

15A Amendment of s 275AA (Protection from reprisal)

Section 275AA(1), penalty, '40 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

1,000 penalty units

5 After clause 161

Page 185, after line 11—

*insert—***161A Amendment of s 254A (Protection from reprisal)**

Section 254A(1), penalty, '40 penalty units'—

omit, insert—

1,000 penalty units

6 After clause 205

Page 226, after line 7—

*insert—***205A Amendment of s 857 (Delegation by Minister, chief executive, CEO or chief inspector)**

Section 857—

insert—

(2A) The CEO may delegate the CEO's powers under this Act to an appropriately qualified person.

7 Clause 212 (Replacement of s 99BU (Requirements for infrastructure charges register))

Page 235, line 3, 'levied'—

omit, insert—

collected

8 Clause 212 (Replacement of s 99BU (Requirements for infrastructure charges register))

Page 235, line 7, 'levied'—

omit, insert—

collected

9 Clause 212 (Replacement of s 99BU (Requirements for infrastructure charges register))

Page 235, line 17, 'levied'—

omit, insert—

collected

10 Schedule 1 (Minor and consequential amendments)

Page 252, after line 1—

*insert—***2 Particular references to prescribed mineral**

Each of the following provisions is amended by omitting 'prescribed mineral' and inserting 'prescribed mineral (royalty)'—

- section 46(a)
- section 47(1)(a)
- section 50(5), definition *relevant mineral*, paragraph (f)
- section 54(1)(b)(ii)
- section 58(1) and (2)
- schedule 3, part 1, sections 1 and 2

3 Schedule 3, parts 1 and 2, heading, after 'prescribed minerals'—*insert—***(royalty)****4 Schedule 6, definition *prescribed mineral*—***omit, insert—****prescribed mineral (royalty)*** means any of the following—

- (a) cobalt;
- (b) copper;
- (c) gold;
- (d) lead;
- (e) nickel;
- (f) silver;
- (g) zinc.

Question put—That the minister's amendments Nos 1 to 10, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 218 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, 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.

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 28 November 2019 (see p. 3952).

Second Reading



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (12.47 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to commence by thanking the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for its consideration of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The committee's report No. 60, tabled on 21 February 2020, made a single recommendation that the bill be passed. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those who made submissions to the committee and those who appeared as witnesses at the committee's public hearing.

As the Attorney-General previously advised the House in her introductory speech, the bill proposes amendments to over 30 criminal and civil law acts within the justice portfolio and across a diverse range of subject matters. The overarching focus of the bill is on providing for fairness, legislative clarity and operational efficiency in court and government processes.

For 16 years, since the commencement of the Coroners Act 2003, the Coroners Court has operated under different legislative schemes depending on when a death was reported. The current Coroners Act 2003 established a modern coronial regime for Queensland that is focused on establishing the true facts surrounding a death. Under this modern coronial regime, a coroner has the power to require a witness to give potentially self-incriminating evidence at an inquest if the coroner is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so. However, this power is not currently available to a coroner with respect to deaths that were reported prior to the commencement of the current act. For those deaths, a coroner is limited to the powers available under the now repealed Coroners Act 1958. The effect of this is that there is a hard core of remaining cases that have not received the benefit of the modern coronial regime and remain unresolved. This issue was the subject of coronial findings following the inquest into the death of Bryan Hodgkinson.

The bill amends the Coroners Act 2003 to provide that inquests that have been previously heard under the repealed Coroners Act 1958 can be reopened by a coroner under existing provisions of the Coroners Act 2003 subject to the requirements of those provisions. The bill also provides a discretionary power for a coroner to stop an inquest that is currently being heard under the repealed Coroners Act 1958 without concluding that inquest or making findings and to reopen the inquest under the current act. The effect of the proposed amendments is that the current act, including the power to require a witness to give potentially self-incriminating evidence at an inquest, can apply to inquests into deaths that were reported before the commencement of the current act. This is the case even where a witness has previously claimed privilege against self-incrimination under the repealed Coroners Act 1958. This amendment may affect rights retrospectively.

I note that, in its submission to the committee, the Queensland Law Society expressed concerns that the proposed amendment abrogates the right to maintain a claim for privilege against self-incrimination and also applies rights retrospectively. However, the amendment is justified to support

coroners in finding the truth and potentially provide answers to loved ones. I also note that there are significant existing protections in the Coroners Act 2003 for witnesses who are compelled to give such evidence. For example, any compelled evidence will not be admissible against a witness in a criminal proceeding, other than in a proceeding for perjury.

The bill also proposes to amend the Coroners Act 2003 to support the operation and efficiency of Queensland's coronial system in response to issues identified by the State Coroner and highlighted in the 2018-19 Queensland Auditor-General's *Delivering coronial services* report and coronial findings. Amendments in the bill will allow an approved doctor, or a suitably qualified person under the supervision of an approved doctor, to perform certain preliminary examinations upon a death being reported, to assist a coroner in the performance of the coroner's functions under the act. The amendment will assist in identifying those deaths that do not require further coronial intervention and that can therefore be 'triaged' out of the coronial system at an early stage. The amendment responds in part to a recommendation by the Queensland Auditor-General and draws from the model operating in Victoria.

I note that the Caxton Legal Centre in its submission to the committee raised concerns that the proposed amendment in relation to preliminary examinations may impinge on the rights of families from particular religious or cultural backgrounds. Such concerns can be allayed by the inclusion in the bill of certain safeguards, for example, by requiring a coroner to consider the potential distress for the person's family members because of cultural traditions or spiritual beliefs. This reflects the current position in the act in relation to autopsies, which will generally be more invasive than a preliminary examination.

In addition, the bill also amends the Coroners Act 2003 to: provide a coroner with a discretion to order an autopsy where reasonably necessary for an investigation; allow a coroner to stop investigating a death and not make findings if, after an autopsy, the coroner is satisfied that the death was due to natural causes, the death was not reportable under any other criteria and an autopsy certificate has been issued; allow for the appointment of a second registrar; enable the State Coroner to delegate power to a registrar to, in an investigation, require a person to give information, a document or anything else that is relevant to the investigation in certain circumstances; and allow a coroner to delegate the power to provide consent to the removal of tissue under the Transplantation and Anatomy Act 1979.

The bill also proposes amendments to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act 2003, known generally as the dangerous prisoners act, to put beyond doubt its application to offenders serving terms of detention while being held in custody in a corrective services facility for a serious sexual offence. There are examples of the Supreme Court having applied the provisions of the dangerous prisoners act to offenders sentenced to detention under the Youth Justice Act 1992, the YJA, and who are serving their sentence in a corrective services facility. In those instances, those offenders have met the definition of prisoner contained in section 5(6) of the dangerous prisoners act. Therefore, these amendments to the dangerous prisoners act do not expand the ambit of the act in this respect.

The ability for an application to be made in respect of an offender under the dangerous prisoners act has always been whether a particular offender has satisfied that definition. That definition has always required that an offender be detained in custody serving a period of imprisonment for a serious sexual offence. A difference is recognised, at law, between imprisonment imposed under the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 and detention imposed under the YJA; generally speaking, the former applies to adults and the latter applies to children and young people.

Children and young people serving periods of detention have always been liable to be transferred to a correctional centre upon a certain age being reached. However, over the course of a number of amendments to the YJA, the legal mechanism which effects that transfer to a correctional centre has changed. The proposed amendments clarify the continued application of the dangerous prisoners act to offenders who have been sentenced under the YJA but are serving that sentence in an adult correctional centre. Additional amendments will correct an anomaly to ensure that the dangerous prisoners act applies to those offenders who are returned to custody due to a suspension of parole. These amendments will ensure that those offenders are also captured by the definition of 'prisoner' in section 5(6).

The bill contains various amendments to support the efficient and effective operation of the criminal justice system and criminal laws and includes amendments to: the Criminal Code to ensure the offence in section 463, which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment, captures the wilful and unlawful setting fire of naturally growing grass and vegetation; the Criminal Code to enable an accused person's lawyer to make an application to transmit summary charges to a higher court and

remove the requirement for the application to be signed on oath; the Criminal Code to clarify that the circumstance of aggravation applies to unlawful stalking directed at a 'law enforcement officer' when or because the officer is investigating the activities of a criminal organisation, consistent with the aggravating circumstance in relation to threats.

It also amends: the Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act 1986 to remove the requirement for the minister to authorise the prosecution of offences under that act; the Criminal Proceeds Confiscation Act 2002 to clarify that section 237 of that act is only activated where both an interstate restraining order and a pecuniary penalty order have been filed; the District Court of Queensland Act 1967 to include two Criminal Code offences, related to child exploitation material, to the list of exceptions to the general jurisdictional restriction placed on the District Court if the maximum penalty is more than 20 years imprisonment; the Drugs Misuse Act 1986 to correct a drafting anomaly which ensures a person can be prosecuted for an offence of disclosing identifying information about a drug informer and provides a definition of 'informer' for clarity; the Evidence Act 1977 to enhance protections for vulnerable people by enabling courts to exclude the public from a courtroom while an out-of-court statement, usually a prerecorded police interview, given by certain children and other witnesses is being played; the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982 to ensure the intended operation of the restricted premises order scheme by including criminal activity at the premises that is likely to pose a risk to the safety of a member of the public in the definition of 'disorderly activity'; the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to consolidate the sentencing principle at section 4 of the Penalties and Sentences Regulation 2015 into section 9 of the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 in order to improve the accessibility of the criminal law; and the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to enhance judicial discretion and reduce complexity in relation to pre-sentence custody calculations.

Importantly, in the context of the current COVID-19 health emergency, the judiciary and key legal stakeholders have identified those amendments to the Criminal Code for the transmitting of summary charges and amendments relating to pre-sentence custody in the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 as being critical measures that should be implemented as a priority.

The bill contains various civil law amendments, including to: the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 to streamline processes for the acceptance of out-of-time complaints in specified circumstances; the District Court of Queensland Act 1967, the Magistrates Courts Act 1921 and the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 to clarify that interest payable on any basis is not to be considered in applying the jurisdictional monetary limits for the District and Magistrates Courts and for QCAT; the Land Court Act 2000, with related consequential amendments to the Mineral Resources Act 1989, to clarify and improve the administration of the Land Court and its procedures and processes, including for the recommendatory jurisdiction; the Legal Profession Act 2007, to further strengthen provisions relating to directors of insolvent incorporated legal practices and corporations and clarify that the Queensland Law Society's power to conduct a trust account investigation of the affairs of a law practice may be exercised routinely, not just in relation to a particular allegation or suspicion—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Minister, are we close?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: No, we are not.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I will ask you to resume your seat.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE**: As I was saying before the luncheon adjournment, the bill contains various civil law amendments including an amendment to the Magistrates Court Act 1921 to clarify that the jurisdiction of those courts includes personal actions for the recovery of chattels, noting that I intend to introduce some further refinements to the drafting during consideration in detail of the bill to address concerns raised by the Caxton Legal Centre and the Queensland Law Society during the committee process; the Ombudsman Act 2001 to allow the Ombudsman to delegate the making of a decision about a human rights complaint under section 66 of the Human Rights Act 2019 to an appropriately qualified officer; the Property Law Act 1974 to clarify that a mortgagee may exercise a power of sale following the disclaimer of freehold land by a trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator without the need to apply for court orders under the Commonwealth Bankruptcy Act 1966 or the Corporations Act 2001; the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 to simplify the process for changing a tribunal member's entitlements to remuneration and allowances and provide flexibility in the appointment process for senior and ordinary members; the Retail Shop Leases Act 1994 to remove the minister's power to appoint mediators and generally align the appointment process with that under the Dispute Resolution Centres Act 1990; and the Succession Act 1981 to remove the requirement to obtain the court's leave to apply for an order authorising a will to be made, altered or revoked on behalf of a

person without testamentary capacity, together with the requirement for the proposed testator to be alive when the registrar signs and stamps with the court's seal a will or other instrument made pursuant to court order.

The bill contains amendments to the Civil Proceedings Act 2011 including an amendment to section 59(4)(b). This amendment aims to address possible unintended consequences of a change in wording between section 48(2)(b) of the now repealed Supreme Court Act 1995 which used the word 'ascertainment' when referring to costs and the replacement provision in section 59(4)(b) that uses the word 'assessment'. The bill also contains other miscellaneous amendments to streamline administrative processes, clarify various provisions and make amendments of a technical or drafting nature.

Finally, I want to foreshadow that I intend to move the following amendments during consideration in detail: further amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 to clarify that the changes to the transitional provisions of that act apply to deaths in connection with fires and to clarify that the types of preliminary examinations able to be performed are limited to those exhaustively listed in the Coroners Act; an amendment to remove the provision in the bill expanding summary disposition of indictable offences relating to property under the Criminal Code following further consideration of the concerns raised by key stakeholders during the committee process about potential unintended impacts on the resources of the Queensland Magistrates Court; further amendments to the Magistrates Courts Act 1921 to address submissions to the committee made by the Caxton Legal Centre and the Queensland Law Society to ensure the amendments as drafted achieve their intended purpose, being to clarify that the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court includes personal actions for the recovery of goods and chattels; further amendments to the Legal Profession Act 2007 to clarify that the Queensland Law Society's existing power to investigate the affairs of a law practice is not limited to the investigation of a trust account by replacing the defined term 'trust account investigation' with 'part 3.3 investigation'; and new amendments to the Human Rights Act 2019 to allow human rights certificates to be prepared under the authority of the responsible minister and add a regulation-making power that enables certain types of legislation to be exempt from the requirement for a human rights certificate where they do not substantively impact on human rights.

I should also clarify that the amendments to be moved during consideration in detail to further clarify that the jurisdiction of the Magistrates Court includes personal actions for the recovery of goods and chattels do not extend to the Caxton Legal Centre's suggestion that the jurisdiction of QCAT should also be expanded to such matters. This proposal falls outside the scope of the bill. However, I want to report to the House that it will be further considered by the Department of Justice and Attorney-General in due course. With that contribution, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.05 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. The bill is an omnibus bill, as the Acting Attorney-General has said, and it amends 37 acts and regulatory instruments within the Justice portfolio both on criminal and civil matters. It is intended to provide legislative clarity and operational efficiency in court and government processes. The majority of the amendments are administrative in nature and uncontroversial. However, there are some changes worthy of attention that I will make reference to during my contribution. I confirm that the opposition will not be opposing the bill.

On 21 February 2020 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee recommended that the bill be passed. Opposition members lodged a statement of reservation which drew attention to one key matter relating to the summary disposition of indictable offences in relation to property offences. I will come to that shortly. After 14½ minutes I heard the Acting Attorney-General just quickly slip that in there and say that that was related to feedback that had been received from stakeholders about the impact on the Magistrates Court. I would submit that the withdrawal of that particular provision relates more to the dawning on this Labor government that again its soft-on-crime approach would have seen significant offences heard in a jurisdiction where serious penalties could not be applied, but I will revert to that in due course.

I think it is appropriate to acknowledge the statement of reservation that was lodged by opposition members which drew attention to this particular problem and this particular concern. With your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, I want to acknowledge the deputy chair who has been performing extraordinarily well in discharging his duties over the last couple of years. I also want to acknowledge the new addition to the opposition composition on that committee being the new member for Currumbin, who will be an outstanding addition to that committee. Yesterday we saw a most beautiful and compelling first speech from the member for Currumbin. She is going to be an outstanding

contributor to this House and I look forward to what lies ahead of her in the years to come and I look forward to her contribution on that committee. As a former Crown Prosecutor, I think she will be of great value to that committee in its deliberations.

For 16 years the Coroners Court has operated under different legislative schemes depending on when a particular death was reported. The bill proposes amendments to the current Coroners Act 2003 to allow for new or reopened inquests of deaths to be held under the act for precommencement deaths. Specifically, the bill provides a discretionary power for a coroner to stop an inquest that is currently being heard under the repealed Coroners Act 1958 without concluding that inquest or making any findings and to reopen the inquest under the current act. Unlike the repealed act, the current act includes a power to compel a witness at an inquest to give self-incriminating evidence. These amendments have been adopted because of District Judge O'Connell's recommendations in the case of Bryan Hodgkinson in December 2018 that the current act be amended to ensure that all inquests, including inquests part heard or inquests to be reopened, no matter when the death occurred, now come within the ambit of the current act. Judge O'Connell went on to say—

I trust this issue is addressed very promptly for the sake of the families and the public still seeking answers from pre-2003 act 'reportable deaths'.

The opposition supports these measures. However, I do seek to raise a case that is unlikely to benefit from the amendments—that is, there is a family that will not likely benefit from the amendments that give the coroner the discretionary power to stop an inquest currently being heard under the repealed 1958 Coroners Act without concluding that inquest or making any findings and to reopen the inquest under the current act. I am talking about the case of Anthony John Jones who tragically disappeared on about 3 November 1982. His body has never been found. He was presumably murdered and allegedly disposed of in a Hughenden slaughter yard. It is a murder mystery that has plagued Queensland police for 38 years.

The initial 2002 coronial inquest ruled Tony had been murdered. A second inquest was opened in 2016 under the 1958 Coroners Act and remains ongoing as State Coroner Ryan has not yet handed down his findings. This matter has been reported on by the ABC as well. The family are in limbo and desperately pleading for the inquest to be heard under the new act. This is a very complicated matter. However, it is unlikely to be achieved and the Attorney-General ought to be aware of this family's plight and their efforts. I implore her to consider their calls for justice and to do anything possible in her power to help them.

The explanatory notes to this bill assert that the amendments to the Coroners Act improve the administrative and operational efficiency of the coronial system, including in response to the coronial findings following the inquest into the death of Bryan Hodgkinson and issues identified in the Queensland Auditor-General's report No. 6 of 2018-19, *Delivering coronial services*. Again this is a report that has gone unspoken about by the Acting Attorney-General. I understand there have been some technical amendments made arising from findings from that report. Those changes have been made to this bill. That report is a damning indictment on the operation of the coronial system in Queensland. There is more to be gained from that report than simply a number of technical matters that are being fixed up in this bill.

The audit that the Auditor-General undertook revealed a shocking systemic problem. We have the headline statistics of cases aged over two years continuing to increase. Since the election of the Palaszczuk government, cases aged over two years have gone from 11.9 per cent to most recently 17.58 per cent. That means nearly one in five coronial cases are sitting on the shelf for two years or more. Cases over the last 12 months that are aged between 12 months and 24 months have increased by 40 per cent, from 411 in 2017-18 to 572 in 2018-19.

Turning to the audit that the Auditor-General undertook that was reported in 2018-19, one sees systemic problems that the Auditor-General has clearly laid out. It said it lacks cohesion, there is no clear line of leadership, of accountability and there are clear problems between the delivery of coronial services in regional Queensland to those in urban Queensland. These are problems that will not simply be solved by a number of minor technical amendments as we see in this bill or, indeed, the additional funding that has been allocated, which I will concede, by the government to the coronial system. These challenges are vastly greater than just more funding or the technical amendments in this bill. It does require a systemic overhaul to make sure that we are delivering the highest quality coronial services for families who have lost loved ones and are seeking answers.

What we see in the coronial system, from the audit undertaken by the Auditor-General, are clearly structural problems and there must be changes. I recall that while that review was being undertaken by the Auditor-General there were reports by consultants that had been heavily redacted. Workplace Edge

had gone into the coronial system and undertaken a review of the operation of that system. In a 76-page report 54 pages were redacted. We are seeing significant problems in the coronial system. Those pages were redacted on the grounds of staff welfare.

We are not truly getting to the bottom of the systemic problems in the coronial system with this bill. We know coroners are under pressure. We know staff are under pressure. We know there are structural problems. I call on the government to continue to do more, because although they have quoted that this report has led to some aspects of this bill, it is not nearly enough when we have lives and families destroyed by accident or foul play and when people need answers and a highly functioning and well-resourced coronial system to give them those answers.

There are a range of amendments to the Criminal Code and the Penalties and Sentences Act in this bill. The bill amends section 359 of the Criminal Code to clarify that the circumstance of aggravation applies to unlawful stalking directed at a law enforcement officer when or because the officer is investigating the activities of a criminal organisation. The bill also amends section 463 which relates to setting fire to crops and growing plants to include a new provision heading and expand its application.

Turning again to the point of contention that I alluded to earlier that was raised by opposition members in the statement of reservation, I will give the technical approach to it just for a moment. Clause 51 of the bill as it currently stands—and I acknowledge the Acting Attorney-General has foreshadowed that that provision will be omitted—expands the summary disposition of indictable offences relating to property by increasing the amount under the definition of ‘prescribed value’ from \$30,000 to \$80,000. The offences include stealing, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, fraud, unlawful entry of a vehicle for committing an indictable offence, computer hacking, burglary and wilful damage. Any of those offences involving property worth less than \$80,000—instead of \$30,000—were to be heard summarily. Of greatest concern is that under section 552H of the Code, magistrates only have jurisdiction to impose a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or 100 penalty units.

In practical terms, an offender could plead guilty to the offence of stealing a motor vehicle valued at \$79,000 in the Magistrates Court to avoid the maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and instead be liable to a maximum of three years. The Queensland Law Society and the Bar Association also submitted that this amendment would prevent defendants from accessing legal assistance funding and defendants who rely on legal aid will most likely not be represented by counsel because it is virtually impossible for a defendant to obtain aid to be represented by counsel in the Magistrates Court. I acknowledge the Acting Attorney-General has argued that that is the reason for the omission of that particular clause.

If one cuts away all the technicalities, what this clause relates to is that offences of theft where the value of the property is less than \$30,000 are currently being dealt with by the Magistrates Court, which can only sentence offenders to up to three years imprisonment. Offences involving the theft of property valued at over \$30,000 could be determined by the District Court, which can impose far longer sentences and more severe penalties. Labor’s proposal had been to lift that prescribed amount from \$30,000 to \$80,000 which, in the current climate of people deeply concerned about levels of crime across Queensland, was very confusing. In places like Townsville where we have seen robbery up 137 per cent and the unlawful use of a motor vehicle up by 74 per cent, why would the government be making punishments lighter? It was sending a very unusual message, taking a light-on-crime approach, and I do not know where it came from.

Overnight we again saw the government, within an hour, overturn what I would presume to be a cabinet process. Presumably the bill to be debated later today and tomorrow had gone through a cabinet process, but overnight that amendment disappeared. We have seen that time and time again over the past term of this government. Last year the debate on the blue card bill was adjourned so that the Attorney-General could go away and adopt the amendments that we had foreshadowed. We saw the Local Government Act ‘go away’ when compulsory preferential voting was going to be introduced. The minister had to fly to Cairns and ditch it after being rolled in cabinet.

We have seen the complete line of confusion through the youth justice bill that put 17-year-olds into the youth justice system with no plan and no idea for the future, resulting in overcrowding in watch houses. After the minister gave an interview on *Four Corners* and \$500 million later, they came out the other side. Their approach was to solve the problem with amendments to the Youth Justice Act, section 48, which turned the presumption in favour of bail. Then we saw the minister in Townsville blaming the lawyers and the magistrates for simply applying the law that this government had passed. Following that, in March we saw the child safety minister come into the House to say that the Youth Justice Act would be amended to repeal that particular provision. They are up and down.

This government has no idea what it is doing from one day to the next and so it is with this provision. Time and time again, either because of a lack of process at the cabinet level or of proper disclosure and discussion around these important issues, we have seen the government change their minds once they come into this House or once they detect some political headwinds. Are they simply making errors as they go through the process? Who is reading the bills before they come to this place? They have plenty of spin doctors and policy advisers, yet time and time again we see bills changed on the floor of the parliament and debates adjourned so that they can adopt our amendments. There are changes of heart and changes of policy on the fly, and here we see another example. They have realised that the proposed amendment would have meant that people who had committed quite serious property offences would not be subject to the full force of the law. Obviously the opposition is pleased that the statement of reservation submitted by the opposition members of the committee had some impact and that those provisions were removed from the bill.

There are a number of changes to acts involving the administration of the court system, including, among others, the Civil Proceedings Act, the Judges (Pensions and Long Leave) Act and the Land Court Act. The District Court of Queensland Act is to be amended to add two Criminal Code offences in connection with involving a child in making child exploitation material and the making of child exploitation material to the list of exceptions to the general jurisdictional restrictions placed on the District Court.

The bill changes the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 by omitting section 183(3) so that the Attorney-General no longer needs to advertise for applications from appropriately qualified persons to be considered for senior member and ordinary member positions. This gives the Attorney-General the power to appoint a senior member or ordinary member after consultation with the president, without even advertising for the position. This process gives the Attorney-General the power to make political appointments and it completely overrides a fair recruitment and selection process. I do not think we have ever seen a more efficiently ruthless government at appointing political mates. You have names such as Battams, Bredhauer, Fraser, Hamill, Lucas, Mulherin, Mickel, Mooney, Roberts, Robertson, Soorley and Quinn. If you were to list all the names, that would be just the tip of the iceberg.

What is most galling about those opposite is that the Labor government stands on the principle of transparency and merit based appointments. They create judicial protocols that they squeeze at the edges. They pretend that there are open and transparent appointment processes, but in this bill we see that they are going to remove it all. They are going to make it an appointment of the Attorney-General. It is the high-mindedness of those opposite that actually displays their hypocrisy. They pretend to have a transparent and merit based recruitment process, but at the heart of it they will ignore that and appoint their mates. We have seen that time and time again. Now it is actually going to be written into the law that the Attorney-General can make appointments without advertising the positions. That makes a mockery of everything that those on the other side talk about in terms of merit based appointments.

Turning to the administration of justice, the bill includes minor amendments to, among other things, the Anti-Discrimination Act, the Evidence Act and the Drugs Misuse Act. The bill amends the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act to correct an anomaly in its operation with respect to prisoners returned to custody on parole suspensions and to clarify the application of the DP(SO) Act to those serving periods of detention while being held in custody in a Corrective Services facility. The Bar Association and the Queensland Law Society expressed concern at the proposed extension of the operation of the DP(SO) Act to persons who commit serious sexual offences as children and whose sentences of detention extend into adulthood so that they are transferred to the adult prison system.

Minor changes to the Legal Profession Act also clarify that the power for the QLS to conduct a trust account investigation of the affairs of a law practice may be exercised routinely and not just in relation to a particular allegation or suspension. As a former in-house lawyer, it is pleasing to see the clarification for government legal officers, in-house counsel and volunteer lawyers to move admissions to the legal profession that are without conditions.

Finally, there are a number of minor amendments to succession and property related law legislation, including the Commercial Arbitration Act 2013, which corrects a minor technical drafting error identified in the Supreme Court decision of Wilmar Sugar Pty Ltd v Burdekin District Cane Growers Ltd, and the Property Law Act 1974, which clarifies that a mortgagee may exercise a power of sale following the disclaimer of freehold land by a trustee in bankruptcy or liquidator without the need to apply for court orders under the Bankruptcy Act or the Corporations Act. In both instances, the QLS submitted that the drafting ought to be simplified and cleaner.

I finish by saying that the opposition will not oppose the bill. I reiterate that it is pleasing to see the government forced into another humiliating backdown on a provision. They had misunderstood the will of the Queensland people. They had misread the mood. Again it proves that they are completely out of touch with community expectations when it comes to crime. Time and time again, they are letting down the community with the lawmaking in this decision. We need only look at section 48 of the Youth Justice Act, this bill here and even events from overnight to again highlight that they are out of touch with community sentiment when it comes to crime and Queenslanders deserve so much better.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (2.28 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. In its report No. 60, which was tabled in this assembly on 21 February 2020, the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee recommended to the assembly that the bill be passed. The principle objectives of the bill are 'to amend criminal and civil law legislation within the justice portfolio to provide for fairness, legislative clarity and improved administration of justice and operational efficiency in court and government processes'. To achieve these broad policy objectives, the bill proposes to amend approximately 33 acts and four regulations.

A key amendment of this bill is to ensure all inquests come within the ambit of the Coroners Act 2003. The bill addresses issues identified by the State Coroner and highlighted in the Queensland Auditor-General's coronial services report. A significant amendment to the Coroners Act will mean that regardless of when the death or disappearance or suspected death occurred, the bill will provide a discretionary power for a coroner to stop an inquest that is currently being heard under the repealed Coroners Act 1958 without concluding the inquest or making any findings and to reopen the inquest under the current act.

The committee heard from the department that the effect of the current transitional provisions is that there is a hard core of remaining cases that have not received the benefit of the modern coronial regime and remain unresolved. By reopening the inquest under the current act, this would enable the coroner the power to require a witness to give evidence at that inquest even if that would tend to incriminate the witness. Witnesses will no longer be able to claim privilege against self-incrimination.

Another key amendment under this act is to allow suitably qualified persons such as forensic pathologists, or someone under the supervision of a pathologist or a doctor, to perform certain preliminary examinations upon a death being reported to a coroner. The list of preliminary examinations that will be allowed is listed in the bill, but includes actions such as taking and testing of samples of body fluids such as blood, urine and saliva. These preliminary actions will allow those deaths that do not require a coronial inquest to be identified quickly and triaged out of the coronial system at an early stage. It is also proposed under these amendments to require the keeping of specimen tissues which under the 1958 act was not a requirement. If there was old specimen tissues stored in certain circumstances, the bill provides that old specimen tissue can be retained indefinitely. These proposed key amendments would support the coroners by providing them with extended powers to investigate deaths, disappearances or suspected deaths and to allow the coroners to potentially provide answers to families and friends.

The Attorney-General advised that the bill includes some key amendments to the Criminal Code to simplify and clarify the operation of existing provisions and make procedural enhancements to increase efficiency in the criminal justice system. The amendments will clarify jurisdiction and improve the administration of the court.

Clause 49 of the bill will amend section 359E, punishment for unlawful stalking, of the Criminal Code to clarify that the circumstance of aggravation applies to unlawful stalking directed at a law enforcement officer when or because the officer is investigating the activities of a criminal organisation. Clauses 53 and 54 propose to amend the Criminal Code to enable an accused person's lawyer to make a written application under section 652 to transmit charges for summary matters on behalf of the accused to be dealt with in a higher court.

To improve the accessibility of the criminal law, clauses 163, 165 and 167 of the bill propose to relocate the sentencing principle at section 4 of the Penalties and Sentences Regulation 2015 into section 9, 'Sentencing guidelines', of the Penalties and Sentences Act, and clarifying and improving the administration of the Land Court Act 2000 with related amendments to the Mineral Resources Act and its procedures and processes, including for the recommendatory jurisdiction and for the Magistrates Courts Act 1921 to clarify that the jurisdiction of those courts includes personal actions for the recovery of chattels. Amendments to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009 address the unnecessarily heavy administrative burden on the department by removing the necessity to remake each member's appointment instrument every time the members' remuneration or allowances change.

The bill proposes to insert a new definition for 'criminal activity' in section 33 of the Peace and Good Behaviour Act. This definition will provide that disorderly activity includes criminal activity that is likely to pose a risk to the safety of a member of the public. The bill would amend Part 8 of the Retail Shop Leases Act to enable an appropriately qualified person to be appointed as a mediator in the framework for resolution of retail tenancy disputes.

While the bill proposes amendments to multiple acts associated with the administration of justice in Queensland, these amendments were identified during periodic reviews of the relevant portfolio acts or by administering agencies and justice portfolio stakeholders. I support the committee's recommendation that the amendments, as proposed in the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, be passed. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I am on the committee and I acknowledge my fellow members—members for Toohey, Macalister and Mansfield, and my former colleague on the committee, the member for Lockyer, and the member for Mirani. I thank the committee staff for their work on this particular bill.

As my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba South said, the LNP will be supporting this bill. Had the government not come forward with the advice that they will be amending the bill to change certain aspects of it, we would have been opposing those aspects. I will get to those in a moment.

I say at the beginning that this is yet another omnibus bill. We are seeing so many of these. I feel that it is a discourtesy to this House that we see so many bills which are composed of a ragbag of elements that make it difficult for members to come to a good understanding of what is proposed and, more importantly, for the community members who wish to make submissions and participate in the committee process. Not for the first time, and I would imagine not for the last time, the Queensland Law Society picked up on this and complained that there was not sufficient time for them to make a detailed assessment of the bill. They said, 'There may have been unintended consequences arising from the amendments. Further, if we have not recommended on an aspect of the bill, it does not indicate our support for the amendment. In the time available, we make the following comments.' I have spoken to Bill Potts and the current president, Luke Murphy, about these things. It seems to me for a bill which can wait for as long as it has to be debated there could have been more time for the community to make submissions.

Having said that, I turn to the matter of the coroner's reforms. I echo what the shadow Attorney-General said before regarding the plight of Anthony John Jones' family who are seeking to have justice in their case. It is a good thing that the coroner now will have the power to terminate an inquest and restart it under the new act. That is a great thing. On the balance of public interest, I also believe it is favourable that witnesses can be compelled to give testimony against themselves. I note that the community expects that people will be treated fairly. There is always the worry that even though such evidence given under compulsion will not be admissible in a trial, it is possible that juries will have heard that evidence. It is something we need to be cautious about. However, on the balance of public interest I support that.

Regarding the Coroners Court, the shadow Attorney-General mentioned the alarming increase in the number of cases which are now taking over two years to be dealt with, from 11 per cent to 17 per cent under the current government. I echo what he said regarding the importance of properly resourcing the Coroner. Tinkering with the law to make things easier for him is a great thing. It is also important to make sure that the Coroner is resourced adequately to be able to provide coronial services to Queenslanders who desperately need those services and for whom it is very important indeed.

I turn now to the expansion of summary disposition for property offences from \$30,000 to \$80,000. I am very pleased that the government has foreshadowed that it will be amending that part of the bill because the effect would have been to push a lot of offenders out of the superior court system into a Magistrates Court where there is less scope for sentencing. A concern raised by the Bar Association was that accused in those cases may find it very difficult to obtain legal aid funding because normally that is only for matters heard in district courts and above. I can understand their concern. I will leave it to others to wring their hands over the plight of offenders. My biggest concern was that we would have seen yet another go-soft-on-crime move by this government. I am delighted that they took note of the statement of reservation my colleague the member for Lockyer and I put in the report.

I will give members some examples of the practical effects of that. If we look at the punishment for stealing under section 398, the maximum penalty in a superior court would be 14 years imprisonment but only three years in the Magistrates Court. The maximum penalty for the unlawful use or possession

of motor vehicles, aircraft or vessels is seven years in a superior court or three years in the Magistrates Court. That sort of pattern persists through fraud, burglary, unlawful entry of a vehicle, falsification of records and so on.

As somebody who fancies himself as being very connected with his community, I can say that the community, by and large, is sick and tired of wringing hands about the rights of offenders and going soft on crime. This would have been a virtuoso example of Labor's intention to go soft on crime. This would have let a lot of scallywags off the hook, and that is not the direction we should be taking. I am very pleased that for places like Goondiwindi and Townsville and other areas around the state where these sorts of offences are quite significant and are a major blow to law-abiding citizens in those communities, that particular proposal will be taken away.

I will now turn to QCAT appointments. I completely concur with what my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba South said about the propensity of this Labor government to make inappropriate appointments of mates and friends of the Labor movement. Even in my short time in this House, there have been no depths too low in terms of appointing Labor mates, however scrofulous or however much of a self-serving scrimshanker they may be, and there is no disqualifying criteria if one is one of their mates. It does concern me whenever we move to put into law—

Government members interjected.

Mr LISTER: I am sorry, the truth hurts. It does concern me that it will be enshrined in law that competitive appointment processes involving advertising positions for important roles like that of a QCAT commissioner are undesirable. It also shows me that this government is becoming increasingly bold in their moves to monopolise power in this state and have everything their own way. I think that is very concerning.

The LNP supports this bill because it does have some good elements, particularly concerning the Coroner. I urge the government to desist in putting through so many omnibus bills. It does the people of Queensland no favours when legislation is mixed together in a ragbag and unable to be digested and when there is not enough time for members of the public and interest groups to make a proper assessment and a submission to committee. That is all I have to say on the matter.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.43 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. From the outset, I would like to thank my Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee colleagues and the secretariat for their able assistance and support during the deliberation of this bill. This bill amends several acts that will facilitate our justice system—matters before the court, matters pending and the administration of penalties and sentences. There are few major changes foreshadowed in this bill. However, the changes, in most cases, are minor and technical in nature and provide further clarification and represent an ongoing process of continual improvement in our justice system.

As I said, there are a number of acts amended by this bill. If the member for Southern Downs would prefer we had a separate inquiry for every single act amended, we could be here for quite some time, hence the omnibus bill.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs McMAHON: I understand that dealing with multiple bills can be quite difficult for some. I will firstly address the changes to the Coroners Act. The majority of these amendments are as a result of recommendations from the Auditor-General's report titled *Delivering coronial services*. I apologise in advance to those who will hear some of this again during my speech tomorrow in the debate on committee reports. I promise I will go into far more detail then. Just a warning: it will be after lunch.

I note that the acting minister has discussed the issue of powers relating to inquests held pre commencement of the act. My intention is to focus on the issue of preliminary examinations. To provide clarity to members of this House, not every death in Queensland is reported to the Coroner. Section 8 of the Coroners Act identifies what is a reportable death. Approximately 17 per cent of all deaths in Queensland between 2011 and 2017 were considered reportable deaths under the definition. Not every reportable death is then examined by the Coroner. In fact, only 62 per cent of those were considered further. Not every death reported to the Coroner requires an autopsy, and even then there are different types or levels of autopsy conducted. Only after an autopsy and further examination of the evidence does a coroner consider whether an inquest will be heard. Only one per cent of all reportable deaths results in an inquest.

Each of these steps requires a volume of work by initial investigating police officers, coronial support staff, pathology and laboratory staff as well legal aspects conducted by the Coroners Court. Let us not forget that in and around all that is a grieving family. This process must be swift, it must be thorough, it must find answers to lingering questions, but it must also be compassionate. The aim is to

prevent non-reportable deaths from entering the coronial system. Do not be mistaken, the processes undertaken once a body is lodged in a morgue are invasive and not delicate. For a grieving family each step through this process can compound the loss.

It is therefore essential that a balance must be found between finding the cause of death and being sensitive to the needs of the family of the deceased. Where a reportable death does not require a full or even partial autopsy, it should be triaged out of the coronial system so that a body may be released as soon as practicable and a family's grieving process continue. Ensuring that the least invasive of measures is taken is a key part of this particular amendment.

I have attended countless sudden deaths. I probably averaged one or more a week over my operational career. In my experience, the statistics on what is reportable to a coroner do hold true. In the instances where no cause of death certificate can be obtained and there are no external or outward indicators of the cause of death, it is understood by all that further investigation by the coroner is required. This should not mean that a full autopsy is required in every instance.

Clause 28 of the bill allows an approved doctor or a suitably qualified person under the supervision of a doctor to perform certain preliminary examinations of the body. Current preliminary examinations are limited to reviewing medical records and taking CT scans of a body. The act specifically prohibits the taking of blood samples. Amendments before the House seek to change this. New section 11AA(4) provides that a doctor approved by the State Coroner may perform preliminary examinations, including the taking of blood samples. Also included in these amendments is the consideration that must be given to a deceased's cultural traditions and spiritual beliefs prior to commencing an examination. For the benefit of members of the House, this information is provided on the form 1 provided to the examiner by attending police. Further amendments also seek to triage cases out of the coronial system.

Clause 29 allows a coroner, following the result of an autopsy that determines that death is due to natural causes, to stop investigating the death. Clause 31 additionally empowers the coroner to continue an investigation without necessarily conducting an autopsy. This amendment gives the coroner the discretion as to whether an autopsy is required. Currently, the only way a coroner can avoid an autopsy as a matter of course is to cease investigation. The conduct of autopsies can be extremely stressful for a grieving family. This amendment recognises that if a cause of death can be determined by less invasive means then it should be the preferred course of action.

To increase efficiencies within the coronial system, the amendment allows the appointment of additional coronial registrars to assist in managing cases and allow the delegation of some powers to the registrar but does not grant the power to conduct an inquest or require a person to give information relevant to the investigation. Additional delegation to coronial registrars includes the ability to consent to the removal of tissues and organs. Currently, if a deceased person's wish was to donate tissues or organs and the death is under investigation by the coroner, the coroner must consent to the release of those tissues and organs. This comes with time constraints and workload issues for coroners to consider those requests in a timely fashion that makes such donations viable. By being able to delegate this consent to the coronial registrars, a deceased person's wish regarding organ donation may still occur. I think that is probably enough of me talking about death for the day.

There are three other amendments in this bill I would like to briefly talk about, and they are changes to the Criminal Code and Evidence Act. Firstly, clause 49 amends the definition of 'law enforcement officer' with respect to the application of section 359E, 'Punishment of unlawful stalking'. Currently, there is a circumstance of aggravation for stalking where the subject of the stalking is a law enforcement officer currently undertaking an investigation into the activities of a criminal organisation. The amendment before the House ensures clarity that the term 'law enforcement officer' applies to a range of officers who conduct such investigations and is not limited to a sworn police officer. Whilst it does include an officer of a law enforcement agency, it now also includes a person appearing for a director under the DPP Act, such as a prosecutor, a person authorised in writing by the Police Commissioner or the Crime and Corruption Commission, understanding that these are not always sworn officers. This amendment is to ensure that all people who undertake investigations against organised criminal activity have the necessary protections.

Another amendment to the Criminal Code that may interest members is the amendment to section 463 under clause 50. Section 463 deals with setting fire to vegetation. This section is as old as the Criminal Code, and as such provided some level of difficulty in prosecuting instances of vegetation fire. The current definition under the Criminal Code allows for offences where the vegetation set fire to was (a) a crop of vegetable produce; (b) a crop of hay or grass; (c) any trees, saplings or shrubs; and (d) any heath, gorse, furze or fern.

Notwithstanding that few could provide clear definitions or even identify gorse or furze if they saw it, it has not been helpful in prosecuting grassfires—that is, naturally growing grass by the side of the road or in a backyard. Police would have had to prove the existence of saplings, shrubbery or heath in order to prosecute under this section. Subsection (d) will now refer to any grass other than the grass mentioned in subsection (b).

Finally, I turn to the Evidence Act. This bill amends section 93A, 'Statement made before proceeding by child or person with an impairment of the mind'. A 93A statement is commonly a video or taped interview with a child and a police officer used for the purpose of the child's evidence during a criminal proceedings. I am sure members would understand that the prospect of a child in a witness box is not conducive to the wellbeing of the child, particularly when you keep in mind the evidence they would be required to give and possibly who in front of.

Ordinarily when a vulnerable witness does give evidence in court the court may give consideration to excluding the public while the evidence is presented. However, the act has been silent on the playing of 93A statements to a court. This bill clarifies that a court may exclude the public from a courtroom while a statement made under section 93A is being presented. There are many other amendments I could address, but I will let others speak to them. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.52 pm): Today I make a contribution to the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This omnibus bill, which contains within its 109 pages amendments to 37 acts and regulatory instruments across the width and the breadth of the justice portfolio, is far too broad for me to cover entirely in the short time I have today. Not to be deterred by that, I certainly have sufficient time to discuss this bill's faults and question how the inclusion of these faults could even be considered reasonable. Thank goodness we have seen one change at the eleventh hour regarding clause 51.

First, I would like to thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, the committee secretariat and the bill's stakeholders and submitters for their efforts on this bill. I make special mention of my colleague the member for Southern Downs for his assistance on the statement of reservation made in the committee report on this bill which has helped to inform debate in this House.

The Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is predominantly administrative in nature. Intended to provide further legislative clarity and operational efficiency to Queensland's courts and government process, it falls completely short of the systemic changes that the Auditor-General has recently considered. It is for the most part a fairly bland exercise in bureaucracy, devoid of any sweeping legislative changes and relatively uncontroversial. Unfortunately for the Palaszczuk Labor government, this bill did not completely avoid controversy.

The first area of controversy comes from the changes to the way QCAT members can now be appointed by the Attorney-General, who will no longer need to advertise for applications from appropriately qualified persons to be considered for selection for senior member and ordinary member positions. This enables further biased political appointments without the scrutiny of a merit based process. This is an example of an arrogant government out of touch with the community's expectations of openness and transparency.

The other controversy, which is again self-initiated by Labor, occurred the same day the committee report was issued. On 21 February this year, the *Townsville Bulletin* published an article 'Laws to "go easy" on car thieves'. This Palaszczuk Labor government is always finding new ways to be soft on criminals who terrorise this state, whether it be prisoners released early—which are the headlines in the paper today—through to the criminals who would have benefited from the clause 51 proposed amendments. Labor consistently prioritises criminals over victims. They are all over the place when it comes to crime. They have no idea how to handle the skyrocketing crime in this state. Through the Labor government's soft-on-crime approaches, offenders have now had years of learning how to get around the system, and we have elder brothers and sisters teaching their younger siblings how to minimise their risks of higher sentences and escaping the revolving door of bail for youth criminals.

While we like to imagine criminals as mad individuals who act only on impulse, the reality is quite different. Criminology research conducted internationally has found that many criminals are among the most rational and thoughtful thinkers in society. One study conducted on convicted property thieves in certain jurisdictions across the United States found, when asking these thieves what the opportune time to break into property was, that many suggested during the middle of the day in broad daylight. One may ask: why? The answer the criminals gave was, 'We're just as likely to be caught during the day as we are late at night. However, after dark we'd be charged with burglary. During the day it is breaking

and entering. The penalty for the latter is a shorter sentence.’ This same rationale applies right here in Queensland and is another example of how the Palaszczuk Labor government is actually encouraging Queensland criminals.

It is disappointing that it took an opposition statement of reservation and media attention to realise that their amendment was not in line with the community’s expectations. In our statement of reservation, the member of Southern Downs and I raised two key concerns about the consequences that would follow from clause 51. The first related to the significant impact this will have on the underfunded and overburdened Magistrates Court. The second related to the failure of Labor to recognise the value of property owned by hardworking Queenslanders.

If it were not for opposition pressure then, under Labor, youth criminals would have been able to plead guilty to theft of a vehicle valued up to \$79,000 and have the matter heard in the lower court, the Magistrates Court, to avoid the maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and instead be liable only to a maximum of three years imprisonment. Under Labor’s proposal, magistrates would have had no option but to impose a maximum penalty of three years, or 100 penalty units, in most cases, unless an extreme case warranted referral to a higher court. Under Labor’s laws, we would have seen more criminals stealing luxury cars and fewer criminals being held to account. Fortunately, thanks to opposition pressure, the residents of Queensland, particularly residents of Townsville whose cars are stolen on a daily basis, will continue to see criminals dealt with by the District Court, a court which can impose tougher sentences.

The Minister for Police may need to rethink the statement he made on 10 March, when he claimed that Labor would ‘go hardcore on the hard-nut offenders and will ensure these offenders are held to account and the community is safe’. If weakening the culpability of property offenders is going hardcore and keeping the community safe, I shudder to imagine what the government must consider a soft approach.

Minister, I give credit where credit is due: thank you for listening to our plea. This is an example of where the government finally listened to sensible suggestions from the opposition. If only we could get this arrogant government to listen to and consider other sensible suggestions the opposition has proposed in our response and recovery to the coronavirus pandemic, but this Premier and her cabinet are too arrogant to listen to the opposition. They are too arrogant even to consult and listen to their own members who, I am informed, only find out the latest direction of this government when the Premier fronts the media.

This is appalling and arrogant leadership. No leader should think they know it all, let alone cut from decision-making and consultative processes the constituents of over two-thirds of this parliament’s members. Imagine what may have been possible if the Premier listened to the opposition months ago and appointed Deb Frecklington as the chair of a select committee to oversee parliamentary function as a truly representative body of this state. For a start, we might have seen a lot fewer mixed messages from the government, which is being controlled by the unions. This is another example of a not-good-enough government and 31 October cannot come quickly enough. I look forward to the day when a Deb Frecklington-led LNP government can get on with the job of fixing Labor’s mistakes and get Queensland working again.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (3.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to begin by commending the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee chair, Peter Russo, the member for Toohey, and the members of the committee. As this bill has been well ventilated in the chamber I will speak to only a couple of the amendments that are important to my portfolio area and my community. The policy objectives of the bill are to amend criminal and civil law legislation within the justice portfolio to provide fairness, legislative clarity and the improved administration of justice and operational efficiency in court and government processes.

The first amendment I will address provides clarity in relation to the penalty for unlawful stalking; that is, a circumstance of aggravation applies to unlawful stalking directed at a law enforcement officer when or because the officer is investigating the activities of a criminal organisation consistent with a circumstance of aggravation in section 359. This is a very important deterrent. Our law enforcement officers do outstanding work on behalf of our community. They do at times attract attention and inappropriate, threatening and illegal conduct from criminal elements in the community. An appropriate circumstance of aggravation that enhances the penalty for illegal conduct directed towards our law enforcement agency sends a strong message to criminal elements that our community and the

parliament will not tolerate that behaviour and that there should be appropriate penalties. It also sends the message to our law enforcement agencies that we support them, we think they should be treated with respect and they should be protected in the role they perform.

The next amendment relates to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act and corrects an anomaly with respect to prisoners returning to custody from parole suspensions and clarifies its application to those serving periods of detention while being held in custody at a Corrective Services facility. It is very important for that regime to be robust and to ensure that any gaps are appropriately closed. This scheme is the best in the nation. It was the first scheme of its type. It is the strongest and most comprehensive scheme. Jurisdictions around the country have copied our scheme because it is effective. It does ensure community safety. It is appropriate for us to continue to review its operation to ensure that any gaps are closed.

The other amendment in relation to the Peace and Good Behaviour Act includes criminal activity. This is about making stronger legislation even stronger. It is a good amendment, and it ensures that appropriate considerations are given by the court when making orders under that act. It has my strong support.

I note there was extensive consultation not only in the preparation of the bill but also by the committee. That reinforces this government's approach to administration; that is, this is a government of consensus and a government of consultation. We listen to people, we take on board their comments and feedback, and we make changes where appropriate. That is not only a credit to this government but to our Premier's leadership as well—unlike the predecessor to the Premier, who ignored everyone, fought with everyone and did not listen to the community and important stakeholders. The approach that our government takes around consultation and consensus is certainly something I am very proud of.

I want to speak generally about the processes associated with the amendments to the Coroners Act. This is about making sure that justice is delivered and that, where appropriate, further investigations can be conducted to provide closure to families. In speaking to this particular amendment I want to pay tribute to the work that the Queensland Police Service does in assisting the Coroner but also, more broadly, in ensuring that justice is delivered no matter how much time has passed since the original crime was committed.

In acknowledging that I pay tribute to our cold case investigation team. This specialist team in the Queensland Police Service has been recognised time and time again as the leading cold case team in the nation. They have solved the oldest cold case in Australian history and an appropriate arrest was made in that particular case. They have the sole duty of reviewing cases that are not solved, reopening those cases, reinvestigating, finding the perpetrator where possible and providing closure and justice to the family of a loved one who was taken in tragic circumstances. I pay tribute to that team in the Queensland Police Service and I give my support to the amendments to the Coroners Act.

I know that sufficient work has been done by the committee and the government in respect of this particular bill. It supports the good work of this government. It makes stronger laws even stronger, and I encourage all members of the House to support this bill.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (3.08 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill continues the Palaszczuk government's proud commitment to deliver justice for Queenslanders. It builds on our work to make Queensland communities safer and protect our most vulnerable. A total of 33 acts and four regulations have been amended in this bill providing for fairness, legislative clarity and the improved administration of our courts and government processes.

Some of the more significant amendments include ensuring that all future coronial inquests come within the ambit of the Coroners Act 2003 regardless of when a death or disappearance occurred. It allows the Queensland Human Rights Commission to accept out-of-time complaints under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991, and it enhances protections for vulnerable witnesses under the Evidence Act 1977. These are just a few of the amendments comprising this sweeping omnibus bill, and together they ensure that Queensland has a more efficient and fair court system. This bill also builds on the Palaszczuk government's numerous justice reforms delivered over the past five years.

We have strengthened the legislation, making it easier for victims of crime, child abuse and domestic violence to seek justice for the crimes committed against them. We have enhanced our court system and justice agencies by boosting resources and providing groundbreaking programs that have helped address underlying causes of offending.

Ipswich has its fair share of people who are doing it tough, and they sometimes feel as though they have been given the wrong end of the stick when it comes to the justice system, whether they are the victims of crime or the perpetrators. Many of my constituents often do not have the money to find the best lawyers to fight on their behalf, to pursue wrongs committed against them or to fight off charges. People in Ipswich benefit from a Labor government because Labor is committed to reforming the justice system and making it easier for them to access justice and legal services when they most need it.

For example, in 2018, Ipswich became the third location in Queensland to operate the Court Link program, an initiative designed to address and overcome the underlying causes of offending, such as substance abuse, homelessness and mental illness. Court Link provides support to these people to help them stay out of our courts and jails and reduces the costs on our court system and community. Another fantastic initiative is the Murri Court. In last year's state budget, Ipswich was given \$899,000 to re-establish a Murri Court at a total cost of \$4.1 million over five years. The Murri Court was a hard fought win for Ipswich, particularly as the former Newman government had scrapped Ipswich's previous Murri Court in 2012. With Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people overrepresented in our criminal justice system, abolishing the Murri Court was a retrograde step by the LNP, even though the evidence showed that it was working.

I believe more needs to be done for other members of my community who have particular support needs and challenges, particularly victims of domestic violence. A specialist domestic and family violence court in Ipswich would be a step in the right direction to improve access to justice and support for victims, and it would reduce the trauma of having to attend a criminal court for DV matters. Ipswich comes fourth in the state for lodging DVO applications and fifth in the state for breaches of DVOs. In fact, over the year from 2018 to 2019, DVO breaches in Ipswich increased by 29 per cent. Over the past four years, Ipswich has seen 1,341 charges lodged for domestic and family violence offences and 155 strangulation offences.

In 2017, the Griffith Criminology Institute evaluated the specialist DV court trial in Southport and surveyed two groups of victim participants—one group who attended the Southport specialist DV court and another comparison group who attended the Ipswich Magistrates Court. In the institute's report, they found that the Southport group had consistently higher rates of satisfaction with the specialist DV court. The Southport group also perceived higher levels of procedural justice, with 85 per cent of participants agreeing or strongly agreeing that they were 'treated with respect', that the 'court process was fair' and that the 'decision was fair'. In comparison, only 61.5 per cent of Ipswich participants agreed that the court process is currently fair.

Improving access to justice to vulnerable members of the community is what Labor governments do best. The Premier and the Attorney-General should be commended for introducing legislative reforms that improve Queensland's justice system, including the amendments that fall under this bill. Only a Labor government in Queensland could have introduced and passed into law the Human Rights Act, which came into force on 1 January this year. Only a Labor government could have committed to reforms implementing key recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and pass laws making it easier for child abuse survivors to sue institutions that neglected to protect them. Only a Labor government could have introduced bold new electoral laws capping election donations and spending to ensure that future Queensland elections are fairer, transparent and more just.

Only a Labor government could have delivered criminal justice reforms, such as making sure 17-year-old offenders are not put into adult prisons, passing lemon laws to protect Queenslanders who purchased defective vehicles and introducing revenge porn laws making it an offence to share intimate images without consent. Like the amendments in this bill, these reforms together improve access to justice for all Queenslanders. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.15 pm): I rise to speak on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The use of omnibus bills is becoming alarmingly routine in the Queensland parliament. Such bills do nothing for the cause of oversight, scrutiny or debate—principles that all parliamentary democracies are supposed to value and protect. The bill seeks to amend 33 different acts and four regulations and, despite looking hard for one, I could find absolutely no unifying principle whatsoever to any of the myriad legislative changes contained in this bill. I did, however, find a number of proposed changes that were somewhat troubling and which I would like to bring to the House's attention.

Firstly, I note that the amendment of 'prescribed value' for a property offence has been raised from \$30,000 to \$80,000 in section 552BB of the Criminal Code. This will see a significant number of offences relating to property theft now handled by the Magistrates Court, denying an even greater

number of Queenslanders their constitutional right to a jury trial. This continues a trend in Queensland whereby more and more offences are being dealt with by judge-only trials. The right to a jury trial goes to the heart of the criminal justice system in our democracy. Many eminent jurists, both past and present, have identified jury trials as a fundamental common law right which cannot be abrogated by parliamentary statute.

The proposed changes to the Peace and Good Behaviour Act will also diminish the rule of law in Queensland. The changes broaden the definition of 'disorderly activity' and 'restricted premises orders' to include a wide range of activity never intended by the original legislation. The Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982 states that a commissioned officer may make a public safety order against a person or group of persons if the officer is satisfied that 'the presence of the respondent at premises or an event ... poses a serious risk to public safety or security'. It goes on to state that 'a person who, without reasonable excuse, knowingly contravenes a public safety order made for the person, or a group of persons ... commits a misdemeanour'. This is punishable by up to three years imprisonment.

The new definition of 'disorderly' conduct under the act will be 'criminal activity at the premises that is likely to pose a risk to the safety of a member of the public'. The new definition given for criminal activity, meanwhile, is 'conduct that involves the commission of an offence'. This will greatly expand the criteria against which a public safety order may be made against an individual and a restricted premises order against a venue. All that will be needed is for a person who is guilty of committing an offence to be present somewhere for the conditions to be met under the new provisions.

There are in fact any number of nefarious and anti-democratic scenarios that become possible under the updated public safety definitions this new bill proposes. One example of the potential for unforeseen consequences would be that if laws were brought in making the download of a COVID-19 tracking app mandatory then any person who failed to comply could be issued with a public safety order under the new laws. In the same way, any place they occupied or visited could be issued with a restricted premises order.

The changes that have me most concerned, however, are those proposed under section 218 in relation to the 1999 Criminal Practice Rules. The bill proposes a simple change to one word in relation to a designated arson offence—that of 'setting fire to a crop'. The bill recommends that the word 'crop' be substituted for the word 'vegetation'. The criminal offence is one set out within the context of other farming related offences and on the face of it is nothing more than a minor change of wording. I cannot help wondering, however, why such a change was needed. There is no specific reference to the change, or declared need for it, in the bill's explanatory notes, associated documentation or submissions.

As every Queenslander knows, the word 'vegetation' is a very loaded word in this state, especially for anyone from rural or regional areas. The word 'vegetation' is a word strongly connected to the untold misery and stress experienced by Queensland farmers under the current state Labor and federal coalition regime. 'Vegetation' is a word strongly associated with the theft of farmers' property rights through the taking away of their right to manage their land. The very sight of the word on paper calls up images in all rural and regional Queenslanders of a punitive regulatory system of oversight, surveillance and heavy enforcement costs and burdensome green tape.

The decision in the Queensland District Court earlier this year to impose nearly \$1 million in fines on a farmer in a case involving firebreaks is just the latest in a long and sorry saga of prosecution and demonisation that farmers have been forced to withstand from our ruling elites in Queensland. As the law firm Creevey Russell stated at the time, farmers can expect an increasing focus on larger fines and greater deterrence going forward. What better way to ensure that others stop engaging in similar conduct than to prosecute farmers for unlawfully setting fire to vegetation?

The vegetation management laws were just the beginning. The real campaign to get rid of the small, independent farmers begins with the passing of this bill. With the simple change of a single word, the government has opened the door not just to \$1 million fines but potentially to criminal prosecution and imprisonment for 14 years. As Bill Potts, the former president of the Queensland Law Society, told the legal affairs committee last year in relation to another Labor bill containing draconian and antidemocratic new powers, there is no use saying that the new powers will not be used in the way we are suggesting because the fact is if authorities are given the power to do something, they will use it.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the bill before the House. I do commend the committee on going through a lengthy omnibus bill. They are always difficult to dissect and write a report on, so I say well done to all committee members.

I want to talk about the Coroners Act that has been the subject of much comment in the House during the debate. Like the shadow, I want to refer to the 2018-19 report by the Queensland Audit Office titled *Delivering coronial services*. The shadow made the point that the content of that report is sobering reading. It is a report that should be a pillar of the redevelopment and growth of that very important office given the nature of the work that it does and given the impact that it has on the families of deceased people. The report was scathing in relation to the office. At page 18 it made this comment—

We found that Queensland's coronial system is struggling to keep up with demand and is not consistently providing timely and effective support to coroners.

That is a strong statement for anybody to make. However, a person such as the Auditor-General has made it on the basis of an assessment of what it found in that office. My understanding is that that has not been properly addressed between that date and now. Although what we are addressing today is important, the findings in that report are critically important to the effective and efficient running of a pivotal body in our justice system. Again, at page 18 the report made this comment—

... there are excessive delays and a declining clearance rate, leading to a growing backlog of coronial investigations that are 24 months old or older. The system is under stress, to the extent some senior people believe the system is failing.

I will take the phrase 'some senior people' to refer to either members within the office itself or senior members within the justice system who are passing comment. Irrespective of that, here we have people who are intimately involved in the coronial system by one method or another passing judgement. That report should be the basis of an extensive review of the resourcing, the legislation and the empowering of that body to deliver long-term effective results for the families of those who are deceased and, importantly, to ensure the justice system in this state runs smoothly and efficiently.

The bill before the House provides a discretionary power for a coroner to stop an inquest from being heard under the repealed 1958 act. That individual need not make findings or conclude the inquest and can then reopen the inquest under the current act. The upshot of this is, of course, the question of privilege against self-incrimination. That existed under the 1958 act. It will not exist if the terms of this bill come into play and the narrow confines of its operation come into effect.

I understand clearly the argument that there is a need for a balance between the rights of the family members to a conclusion—and in many ways that conclusion leads to them getting on with their lives. However, I also understand that for many years it has been a right in this state under the 1958 act to not self-incriminate if the person determines not to provide a statement.

Although I accept the opposition will be supporting the bill, that goes against the grain for me because too often the rights that we have had entrenched in law are being eroded. One such example was contained in the last bill before the House which dealt with section 23 of the Criminal Code. I do not want to re-ventilate that. I just find the argument contained in the report and the comment by the department ambiguous. To be quite frank, it is another example of the erosion of rights that we have seen in this state since the Criminal Code came into existence back in 1891 by Sir Samuel Griffith. That is an important point: we should not readily let the protections that we give ourselves and our citizens—and have done so for a long time—be removed without exceptional reason. The right to privilege against self-incrimination in this act is one.

The other point I want to turn to is the appointment of members of QCAT. It only covers senior and ordinary members. According to the 2018-19 report they number 17 in total, but they are senior members of QCAT. QCAT is a body that has significant power with regard to civil disputes, occupational regulation, minor civil claims, referrals by the Anti-Discrimination Commission and others. It has a wide jurisdiction. To remove the compulsion to advertise for these positions removes transparency in relation to senior members of this body. I am not for one second suggesting that the president of QCAT would be involved in anything other than achieving the utmost goals. He is a man of eminent esteem and respect. However, the danger is if you remove transparency you then open the door to suspicion. These people are appointed for a particular purpose. These people are senior members of QCAT.

On page 13 of the report there is a comment by the department in relation to the removal of advertising of the positions. It does not mean that QCAT would not go through a public process or advertising requirement from time to time. On one hand they are saying they do not need to do it; now they are saying they are going to do it from time to time. They might have an expression of interest and have that pool of readily available applications to draw from. They might have a pool of people on one side. We do not know who they are going to be. The public have no idea who they are or what their qualifications might be. The scrutiny of even this chamber is left out. We are simply advised by the Attorney-General at the end of the day that these people are appointed to either a senior or ordinary member position.

Again, it is the erosion that this government is renowned for in relation to hiding things from the public. When the government hides things from the public, it creates suspicion. There is nothing worse than a judicial system, whether it be QCAT, Coroners Court or any other court, with a suspicion in relation to appointments. That creates problems perceived by the public and taken up by the public, and that creates issues for the government of the day.

The third point is clause 51. What a great effort by our members to put forward a statement of reservation. The Acting Leader of the House can put a spin on that as much as he likes. He can argue the point that we looked at the submissions and we therefore changed our minds. Rubbish! They were stung by the reality. The impact was going to be devastating. Our shadow ministers—should-be ministers—on the committee put forward a compelling argument and made the government see sense. I congratulate them. 1 November will see a real Attorney-General in this House: the current shadow Attorney-General, who will do a brilliant job.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise this afternoon to make a short contribution on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. These changes are intended to clarify wording and add and/or remove clauses across the scope of many different acts, including the Coroners Act, Criminal Code, Ombudsman Act, Peace and Good Behaviour Act, Drugs Misuse Act, Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act, Criminal Law (Rehabilitation of Offenders) Act, and more. It amends 37 acts and regulatory instruments in total, most of which are administrative in nature, to improve clarity of criminal and civil legislation.

There is so much to speak to within this omnibus bill. I will stick to a couple of key amendments. In relation to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act, there is removal of a clause that requires the Attorney-General to advertise for senior member and ordinary member applications from appropriately qualified people. These new changes extend power to the Attorney-General to appoint such members after consultation with the president in which no advertised recruitment needs to take place. Potentially, this could lead to biased member recruitment or selection. As articulated by our shadow Attorney-General, the member for Toowoomba South, this just further clears the way for this government to continue making political appointments to promote Labor mates.

In relation to the Coroners Act, there will be provisions to permit the coroner discretionary power to stop an inquest without conclusion or making any findings. Amendments will also permit coroners to reopen inquests into deaths no matter when the death occurred. The current act will include power to the coroner to compel a witness at an inquest to divulge self-incriminating evidence for the purpose of finding out the cause of a death. In relation to the Dangerous Prisoners (Sexual Offenders) Act, this bill defines who is a prisoner and permits the Queensland Ombudsman to delegate the decision-making of a human rights complaint to an appropriately qualified officer.

In relation to the Criminal Code, an amendment to expand summary disposition of indictable offences relating to property raises some concerns by legal and community stakeholders who submitted to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee earlier this year. At this point, I acknowledge all members of that committee for their careful deliberation of this bill. During committee examination of the bill, the Bar Association of Queensland specifically raised concerns about the burdening of an already under-resourced Magistrates Court system. Initially, this Labor government was to proceed with a watered-down summary disposition of indictable offences related to property, and I understand this clause is being removed. This raises a much larger issue in that, where there is a clear community expectation to be tougher on criminals, the Palaszczuk Labor government signed off on these soft-on-crime provisions, showing once again that it has the wrong priorities particularly when it comes to issues regarding community safety.

We have a judicial system which has significant capacity issues—not only for adult offenders but also for our youth offenders. As well, the submissions to the committee brought to light again that our legal aid system is under-resourced. This increases the risk of more unrepresented persons before the courts and creates unnecessary delays for everyone involved. Justice delayed is justice denied.

On this bill the committee received six submissions in total. These included the Queensland Ombudsman, the Queensland Human Rights Commission, Caxton Legal Centre, the Bar Association of Queensland, Queenslanders with Disability Network and the Queensland Law Society. These submitters were generally supportive of the bill, with the majority raising some concerns. In particular, the concerns related to Labor's original amendment to clause 51, an amendment to increase the prescribed value on personal property offences from \$30,000 to \$80,000, which would have moved cases involving property loss of up to \$80,000 from the District Court down to the Magistrates Court. As a result of these submissions, the removal of clause 51 and expression of favourable support from various stakeholders, the LNP will not oppose this bill.

It is important that we send a strong message to offenders. Victims of car theft in Townsville, on the Gold Coast and even on the Sunshine Coast will be relieved to see more criminals dealt with at the District Court level as opposed to the lower Magistrates Court—a District Court that is able to impose tougher penalties which meet people's expectations in a community where car theft is as rampant as assaults and robberies. There are many examples of communities facing higher crime rates.

When we read the headlines and letters to the editor, it is clear that the Labor government is soft on crime. It is our role as parliamentarians to create legislation which supports Queenslanders' expectations. This expectation is to be tougher on offenders and to ensure victims of crime are protected from further harm and supported so they can recover. Theft of property can cause significant financial hardship to victims; it is not just a stat on a crime report. Although the crime stats are very scary, they are not as scary as actually being a victim of crime, especially when the property stolen is a depreciating asset such as a car. People may still owe money on the car even after an insurance payout. Their work and personal life may be negatively disrupted until the car is returned or replaced. There is more to property crime than loss of an asset and a tangible dollar amount used to justify in which court jurisdiction the matter should be heard.

Once again we see this Labor government flip-flopping on crime. Only the LNP will ensure that justice policies continue to meet community expectations, that victims' rights are recognised and that people can feel safe and secure in their own homes and suburbs across Queensland.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (3.37 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 currently before the House. This bill seeks to enact a wide and diverse range of much needed justice reforms by proposing miscellaneous amendments to over 30 criminal and civil law acts in the justice portfolio. These amendments seek to provide fairness, legislative clarity and improved administration of justice and operational efficiency in court and government processes.

Firstly, I draw attention to the bill's amendments to the Coroners Act 2003. The bill seeks to expand the operation of the act to include all inquests regardless of when the death, suspected death or disappearance occurred. This issue was identified by the State Coroner and highlighted in the 2018-19 Queensland Auditor-General's report *Delivering coronial services*. The bill's amendment to this act will close the gap in the powers available to a coroner regarding deaths reported prior to the commencement of the Coroners Act 2003. Under Queensland's modern coronial regime, a coroner is afforded the power to require a witness to provide potentially self-incriminating evidence at an inquest if the coroner is satisfied that it is in the public interest to do so. However, regarding deaths reported before the commencement of the act, a coroner is confined to the powers afforded by the now repealed Coroners Act 1958. As a result of this inequality and inconsistency, those cases remain unresolved, much to the detriment of the family and friends of the deceased who deserve closure.

Further, the amendments to the Criminal Code will improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system by simplifying and clarifying the operation of existing provisions. This bill makes amendments to section 359E to clarify that the circumstance of aggravation applies to unlawful stalking directed at a law enforcement officer when or because the officer is investigating the activities of a criminal organisation. This amendment would render the provision consistent with the aggravating circumstances in section 359, 'Threats'. This bill also seeks to enable an accused person's lawyer to make a written application under section 651 of the code to transmit charges for summary matters on behalf of the accused. This will effectively improve the efficiency of the criminal justice system by removing the outdated requirement that the application be signed in the form of a sworn declaration. This is consistent with the recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council in its report titled *Community based sentencing orders, imprisonment and parole options*.

In response to a decision of the Magistrates Court, this bill makes an amendment to the Peace and Good Behaviour Act 1982 to include criminal activity at restricted premises that is likely to pose a risk to the safety of a member of the public in the definition of a disorderly activity. The Palaszczuk Labor government is committed to promoting a safe and healthy environment to foster public welfare, and that is what this bill's amendments will do. I commend the work of the committee and thank it for its consideration of this bill. However, perhaps the chair, the member for Toohey, may need to do a little bit of hand holding for the member for Southern Downs, who voiced his confusion about the bill.

However, confusion is something that we know runs strong in the LNP—whether it be the Leader of the Opposition picking up and putting down shopping during the COVID pandemic; or supporting small actually means, member for Everton, buying something in the shop that you go to; or the candidate for Aspley, who clearly does not know which party she belongs to. Her four-page newsletter has more photos of our wonderful Premier on it than their own Leader of the Opposition. Thanks for the promotion!

Queensland's current justice system is facing more and more demand pressures and I am glad to conclude that this bill effectively improves the administration of justice by addressing aspects that are otherwise strenuous, inefficient and inconsistent with the fundamental principles of fairness and legislative clarity. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (3.41 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. A look at the committee report will show that recommendation 1 is that the bill be passed. As I said during debate on the previous bill, that is the No. 1 recommendation on every committee report this sitting. I was criticised for that, but it goes further. During debate on this bill the member for Sandgate criticised the LNP members of the committee for putting in a statement of reservation. It is their right to express their view in a statement of reservation. It is bad enough that they have no input into the actual report; now they are being criticised for putting in a statement of reservation. It goes beyond the pale. The LNP will not be opposing this bill. It is, however, interesting to note that the government reconsidered watering down sentencing for indictable property offences after pressure from the opposition as stated in that statement of reservation.

There were five submitters to the bill, with submissions from the Queensland Ombudsman, the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Caxton Legal Centre Inc., the Bar Association of Queensland, Queenslanders with Disability Network and the Queensland Law Society. All five were supportive of the bill in principle. However, the majority raised some concerns with the bill—namely, the issue of the increase of the prescribed value from \$30,000 to \$80,000, meaning property offences up to \$80,000 would now be likely to be heard summarily in the Magistrates Court. The BAQ was concerned that defendants who rely upon Legal Aid would find it difficult to find counsel to represent them as it is almost impossible to get representation in a Magistrates Court via Legal Aid.

The bill is another omnibus bill which amends 37 acts and regulatory instruments within the Justice portfolio, both criminal and civil. The bill's objective is to provide legislative clarity and operational efficiency in court and government processes. Most of the amendments are administrative in nature and largely uncontroversial. One of the amendments is to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal Act 2009. This change will allow the Attorney-General to appoint a senior member or ordinary member after consultation with the president after no public advertising for the position. This has the potential to lead to a biased recruitment and selection process, and we have seen some form in this area.

This was another bill that, if brought into this House in its original form, would have handed an extra lifeline to criminals—something they are all too often handed by this go-soft-on-crime government. We have already witnessed under-resourced police men and women working around the clock to ensure criminals are taken off the streets, only to be rearresting the same offenders down the track. Recidivist youth offenders are a major concern in the electorate of Condamine. In response to a question on notice asked on 18 March this year, the police minister responded by advising that in the cumulative years of 2017, 2018 and 2019 156 juvenile offenders committed 536 offences in Drayton. Of these offenders, a staggering 65 per cent reoffended within the same calendar year. Juvenile offenders are not scared of the system. This government is creating hardened criminals due to its soft approach on juvenile crime. By the time these juveniles are old enough to enter adult prisons, they have a rap sheet as long as your arm.

Our understaffed and under-resourced police officers are doing their jobs. However, when we see this government wanting to water down indictable property offences, we have to wonder if it is as tough with the talk as it is with the action. In a media statement on 10 March 2020, the police minister said that Labor would go 'hard core on hard-nut offenders and will ensure that these offenders are held to account and the community is safe'. I am not sure if the minister understands what going hard on offenders is. After all, it took an opposition statement of reservation and some media attention for the minister to realise that its amendment was not hard core on hard-nut offenders after all.

If it had not been for pressure from the opposition, youth criminals would have been able to plead guilty to car theft up to \$79,000 and have their matter heard in the lowest court, the Magistrates Court, to avoid the maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and instead possibly receive a maximum sentence of three years. Thanks to my colleagues, the residents of Drayton who have had their cars stolen will continue to see criminals dealt with by the District Court—a court which can impose tougher penalties.

Let us take Oakey for example. It has a police station that is staffed by seven officers with one police vehicle. Over the three-year period from 2017, 2018 and 2019, 82 juvenile offenders committed 219 offences and of these offenders 53 reoffended in the same calendar year. That means that 64 per cent of the time the police are arresting recidivist offenders. A large number of areas in the

electorate of Condamine are experiencing a large growth in population, yet we continue to see our Police Service staff working with less resources and officers on the ground. In the town of Pittsworth it took 18 months to fill a second full-time position at the station. Meringandan and Goombungee are relying on other regional stations to ensure they can police their areas properly. Along with these two stations, the poor single officer at Cambooya is run off his feet. I have spoken with residents in that area and they are worried that there is not a large enough police presence. I share their concerns and will continue to campaign for this government to staff the station adequately with two full-time officers.

This government has no idea how to fix its crime crisis. It is continually trying to fool the community by launching new plans. However, when it comes to dealing with offenders, this government is weak. Only last year I spoke in this House about how crime was affecting the Condamine electorate. The Biddeston Store was targeted by thieves twice in a month. Zimms Corner on the Warrego Highway at Kingsthorpe was raided by thieves before the demountable building it was operating the service station out of was set alight. The Gowrie One Stop Convenience Centre was forced to completely replace its front door after the store was ramraided by a vehicle and its ATM ripped out. The Farmers Arms Tavern at Cabarlah—a family-run pub—was broken into and again the ATM had a rope tied to it and connected to the tow ball of a ute and ripped through the front door of the building.

Since these events in 2019, mindless crime has continued across the Condamine electorate and it definitely does not help that our police stations are stretched to the limit. Even the DownsSteam tourist museum was targeted. A pump was stolen from the property, a pump that was used to move water so it could make tea and coffee. This is \$460 that DownsSteam has not budgeted for. Since the corona pandemic has forced the museum to shut its doors, its income is non-existent.

I note in this bill there is reference to the Land Court, clarifying for both the Land Court's judicial and recommendatory functions the scope of the Land Court's and the president's powers to make orders or directions to enable procedural issues to be addressed in a timely and responsive manner. Nobody could want to see the Land Court address matters in a more timely manner than I. The Acland coalmine has been sitting for 13 years and is waiting to go back to the court again. Anything that can be done to speed up that process should be done because it is being used as a tool to delay projects. If we are going to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no greater example of what we need to get going than Acland stage 3. It is ready to go and will employ hundreds. As I said, we will not be opposing this bill, but I will always defend the right of a committee member to put their thoughts in a statement of reservation or a dissenting report.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (3.50 pm): I will not be opposing this bill, but I will make comments along the same lines as the member for Condamine who quite rightly points out the role of the committees. In a unicameral system the committee process is more important than ever. The government that seeks to mock it and say that a committee member should not be able to put in a dissenting report is a government full of hubris.

It was the committee that first-led the charge on the section I intend to talk on, which is clause 51. Whilst I acknowledge the government has seen the error of its ways on the back of a concerted campaign, including in the media, it would be wrong of us not to point out why the contemplation of what was going to occur in that clause should be highlighted for all that it is. Communities across this state are crying out for tougher laws. The member for Surfers Paradise has been articulating how bad things are at the moment in his patch on the Gold Coast. One only has to pick up the *Cairns Post*, the *Townsville Bulletin* or speak to the member for Burdekin and one will find out how bad things are in those regional communities, yet the only changes that this government makes to law and order seek to weaken them. Talk about a tin ear.

Whether or not the threshold would have moved from \$30,000 to \$80,000 or from \$30,000 to \$30,001 is irrelevant. The message that this government continues to show, that somehow law and order is not a major issue in this state, is one that must be screamed from the rooftops. This House has removed breach of bail as an offence. This government no longer thinks that jail should be used unless it is a last resort, despite how many times an offender comes before that same magistrate with the same crime time and time again. We speak about the lifting of the threshold as though somehow a car break-in or a minor offence does not change lives. I will read the following from a constituent in my area. Marni says—

I'm getting so sick of this. I live in Sickle Avenue and our garage got broken into last year and I haven't felt safe ever since. I'm constantly paranoid of someone walking around my house at night while me and my children are sleeping. I now keep a bat close to me.

In the last week there have been car break-ins in Coombe Avenue, Shinnecock Close, Barbirra Street, View Line Terrace and Sickle Avenue, all on Hope Island. I say to those opposite that law and order is a major issue. Law and order must be taken seriously. Today, within a 24-hour period, we had a police minister who was seeking to say that the highest priority for this place was to allow prisoners to be released early at a time when the community is worried sick about their livelihoods and their way of life as a result of COVID-19.

This government has its priorities all wrong. I say to Queenslanders that if you think you will see more pieces of legislation that strengthen crime under this government you are sadly mistaken. Worse than that, you will see a constant erosion of law and order. This government will not listen to a committee after 31 October if it is returned to office. The slide towards a society that is weak on crime will continue. The opposition will not be opposing this bill following this amendment. This is a reminder of just how weak on crime this state has become under a dreadful, dreadful government.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.54 pm): I rise to speak to the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I note the contribution of our shadow Attorney, the member for Toowoomba South, and the contributions that I have heard whilst I have been in here from the member for Southern Downs, the member for Condamine and, of course, most recently the member for Broadwater about the issues that are plaguing people throughout Queensland and, as was mentioned by the member for Broadwater, specifically in my electorate of Surfers Paradise.

I note that the government has acknowledged that it will change clause 51. Over the last couple of months—and I will turn to this more during my speech—there has been a significant issue with the theft and destruction of cars in a number of suburbs in the Surfers Paradise electorate. There have been ramraids into shops using stolen cars, house break-ins whilst residents are home and present—how petrifying is that—kayaks and other watercraft being taken from backyards, garages broken into, wallets stolen and cars stolen. These are just a few of the crimes that residents in Clear Island Waters, Broadbeach Waters, Benowa Waters, Paradise Waters, the Isle of Capri and Sorrento have fallen victim to throughout the coronavirus pandemic. The increase of offences in areas that have a history of very little crime is exacerbating the impacts of this pandemic in my community and residents are rightly frustrated.

The question is: is it because the criminals know that our hardworking police are otherwise occupied with border closures and COVID-19 enforcement or is it because these are out-of-town criminals who have decided to target some more desirable vehicles from some of the better suburbs of the Surfers Paradise electorate, as we have seen reported similarly in Brisbane where the northside and southside gangs brag about and publicise their exploits on social media?

The impacts of coronavirus have been on lives and livelihoods and now, due to Labor's weak stance on crime, the impacts have spread to where we live. Whilst locals are doing the right thing by staying at home with their families and managing new challenges such as working and learning from home and decreased income, it is hard to believe that Labor had been working on legislation to weaken the laws and the penalties for property offence matters. Whilst Labor has now backed down from its ill thought out laws, this bill is proof that Labor cannot run our justice system and it certainly cannot run our state.

The bill which was before us this morning and is now to be amended defies logic. It is because of the LNP and stakeholders that one concerning element of the bill, which would have been a slap in the face for my constituents—those whom I have mentioned most recently—was scrapped at the eleventh hour. Clause 51 would have had a detrimental effect on my community. The fact that this clause, weakening penalties for indictable property offences, was even considered in the first place goes to show how out of touch the government is.

In my electorate alone in the last month I have been in touch with a woman who woke up to find a stranger in her house looking for something to steal; a Clear Island Waters resident who found the tyres and seats of his car slashed and his wallet missing; and according to local police a gang of criminals from outside the city of the Gold Coast stole vehicles from the same residence twice. Within a couple of weeks after being bailed for the first offence, having being told to stay at home, they ignored the magistrate's direction. Labor's response to these crimes since 2015 and most recently has been to weaken the law and tip the scales further in favour of the criminals. It is unbelievable that I face the prospect of telling residents who are already frustrated by the injustice of criminals getting a slap on the wrist for their crimes that the laws in Queensland were going to tip further in favour of the offender thanks to Labor.

Let us look at what Labor was proposing. It was around this issue about someone pleading guilty to car theft—up to \$79,000—and having their matter heard in the lower Magistrates Court to avoid the maximum penalty of 14 years imprisonment and, instead, being liable to a maximum of only three years. Prior to today's amendment, under Labor's bill magistrates would have been able to issue a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment or 100 penalty units in most cases. We would have seen the punishment for stealing under section 398 changed from a maximum penalty of five to 14 years imprisonment to a measly three years.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

MOTION

Coronavirus, Economic Response



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (4.00 pm): I move—

1. That this House notes Queensland's \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan and notes the following statements:
 - (a) RACQ said the accelerated works program will 'create jobs, stimulate productivity and fast track our economic recovery';
 - (b) LGAQ said the COVID-19 Works for Queensland program 'shows the power of governments working together, it shows pragmatic and decisive leadership ...'
 - (c) CCIQ has backed the Small Business Adaptation Grants and said they 'are very pleased to see their support given to businesses through these funds';
 - (d) Infrastructure Association of Queensland has welcomed the commitment to maintain the infrastructure program stating that 'committing to the infrastructure budget is incredibly important';
 - (e) Queensland Tourism Industry Council has said 'The \$50 million additional for infrastructure in tourism will help us prepare for the consumer of the future';
 - (f) Ai Group has welcomed 'the increase in skills and training funding, and particularly the increase in funds to the Made in Queensland Initiative';
 - (g) QCU has welcomed the model of working with businesses and government to make sure that we are creating as many jobs as we can in Queensland;
 - (h) Master Builders and Suncorp have welcomed the household resilience package with Suncorp saying it is a 'win for cyclone prone homeowners, builders, communities and regional economies'; and
2. That the House supports Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan.

I am calling on this House to support our Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. This is a time when every single Queenslanders should work together. These are unprecedented times, the likes of which I have never seen in my lifetime; the likes of which none of us have seen in our lifetimes. It is at times like this when we all have to stand as one for Queensland. Yesterday I was absolutely delighted when we released our plan that so many stakeholders from across the board came and stood by our side, determined to unite and recover for Queensland jobs. I call on every single member of this House to support this plan in the best interests of Queensland and Queensland families. It is a plan that Queenslanders are getting behind.

Yesterday Joseph O'Brien, the director of CopperString, said that the commitment today was not just a commitment to CopperString but to the minerals, mining, processing and industrial manufacturing sectors across northern Queensland, from the Port of Townsville through to the mines in Mount Isa. Solar Citizens has also backed CopperString, saying—

By supporting more renewable investment and transmission infrastructure, we can see more onshore minerals processing and manufacturing.

Of course, manufacturing is at the heart of what my government stands for. We want to protect our traditional industries but also grow new industries. When it comes to our strong resources and agricultural sectors, these are the strengths of not just the Queensland economy but also the Australian economy, which Queensland has helped to power ahead with. I thank all of the workers and the employees in those industries for putting in place all of their COVID safety plans and allowing their industries to get on with the job. It is so important to Queensland and so important to the rest of Australia.

We also know that construction is going to be very important in the weeks and months ahead. That is why we decided that we would extend the Household Resilience Program, which has proven to be of great benefit, especially in the north of our state in areas that are impacted by cyclones. The Household Resilience Program will mean that our tradies will be able to get on with the job of making

houses even more resilient. Yesterday the Master Builders Association welcomed the money, saying that builders across Queensland have welcomed today's announcement from the Queensland government which is designed to kickstart the Queensland economy and create jobs.

Of course, we have made a massive commitment to honour over \$50 billion worth of infrastructure programs over the next four years. To put that in context, the Australian government has pledged \$100 billion in 10 years; my government has pledged \$50 billion over four years for Queensland alone.

(Time expired)



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (4.03 pm): I move—

1. That all words after 'plan' in paragraph 1 be deleted, and the following words be inserted in their place: 'and also calls on the Palaszczuk government to implement the 'LNP Plan to Get Queensland Working':
 - (a) no new or increased taxes to boost business confidence and create jobs;
 - (b) build and own the visionary New Bradfield Scheme;
 - (c) to build a second M1 to ease congestion on the M1 so people can get home from work safer and sooner;
 - (d) to air-condition every state school classroom in Queensland because cool kids are smart kids;
 - (e) break Ergon's monopoly and introduce retail price competition for electricity into regional Queensland allowing regional Queenslanders access to the same deals as South-East Queensland saving households around \$300 a year;
 - (f) clear elective surgery waitlists by partnering with the private sector so Queenslanders get the surgeries they need on time;
 - (g) build dams—the first stage of our water security plan is to get shovel ready the Nullinga Dam, the Urannah Dam and raising the Burdekin Falls Dam;
 - (h) fix Paradise Dam instead of ripping down a dam in drought;
 - (i) set up a Queensland infrastructure fund with royalties from the Galilee Basin;
 - (j) stop the millions of dollars Labor has wasted;
 - (k) support the LGAQ's \$608 million battleplan;
 - (l) fast-track \$500 million for local road projects; and
 - (m) \$200 million for an unprecedented tourism marketing fighting fund.'

The Premier just came in here and tried to spend her couple of minutes talking about what stakeholders have said. The editorial of the *Courier-Mail* said we need courage and conviction to kickstart the Queensland economy. The LNP has courage and conviction in spades. The editorial went on to say—

The Premier's so-called 'Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs' strategy is a decent start ... But it is rather pedestrian in others because it lacks the challenging, risk-taking and visionary response that's required.

An opposition member: And that's generous.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is being generous; I take that interjection. That is exactly what the LNP's plan will do. It will kickstart the Queensland economy. It will get the X factor back into Queensland, which is exactly what we need to do.

Queenslanders have been united in their efforts to beat coronavirus. I cannot wait to hear the united stance of the member for Cooper, the supposed tourism minister, who has been deathly silent in relation to the border closure debacle. I am waiting to hear from the member for Waterford, who has presided over the slowest recovery for small business in Australian history. I cannot wait to hear the united plan from those Palaszczuk ministers who are so silent.

(Time expired)



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (4.06 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier and oppose the amendment moved by the Leader of the Opposition, because it is not possible to support an LNP plan when it does not exist. One clear message coming out of the parliament this week is how badly Queensland has been let down by the leadership of the LNP. At a time when the national cabinet has come together in a bipartisan way to deliver a united response to COVID-19, the LNP has continued to do what it does best: whinge and whine instead of helping Queensland to win. While the Labor Party works, the LNP whinges.

As detailed in the Premier's motion, industry bodies and advocacy groups from all over Queensland are backing our recovery plan. It is a prudent and targeted plan to assist businesses to reopen their doors and get Queensland back to work. What do we get from those opposite? More

negativity and endless anti-Queensland complaints! In terms of an economic plan, all we have heard from the Leader of the Opposition comes from a bunch of cuttings from the Premier's press releases. That is her grand strategy: cut and sack, to which she has now added cut and paste.

The only performance worse than that of the Leader of the Opposition is the contribution made by her hapless accident-prone deputy. That was evident from the member for Everton's rambling, incoherent rant in the parliament yesterday. The member for Everton will never be known as the 'member for Clever-ton', I can tell you that. We know the member for Everton is against Virgin, the workers and regional communities that depend on its survival. What we do not know is what the member for Everton is for. The member for Everton is like a walking thought bubble, just without the thought.

The government understands the seriousness of the threat posed to our economy by COVID-19. The unemployment figures released last week present a sobering reminder of the challenges our state faces. Since the 100th case of the virus was recorded on 14 March, in Queensland jobs have decreased by 6.1 per cent. Since 14 March, in Australia jobs have decreased by 7.3 per cent. ABS data shows that in Queensland jobs have decreased at a lower rate than the Australian average in every industry.

I know the member for Everton is always disappointed by good news in these difficult times, so I can only guess how miserable he must be to hear that in the week from 25 April to 2 May in Queensland jobs increased by 0.6 per cent while in the same period in Australia jobs decreased by 1.1 per cent. Over the same week, in Queensland wage increases were three times the national average. This motion presents another opportunity for Queensland to back a plan for this state.

(Time expired)

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (4.10 pm): This document has one fundamental flaw and that is that its author, which is the Palaszczuk government, has zero economic credibility. What did we see under the former treasurer? We saw the highest unemployment rate in the country, we saw the highest number of bankruptcies, we saw the lowest level of business confidence, we saw the highest debt and we saw business suffocated by nine new or increased taxes under the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government is no friend of business. We saw a former deputy premier who was embroiled in integrity issues. Believe me, the member for South Brisbane will be back. She is not going anywhere. She will be back and she will be in some position of influence in the future, although she is still pulling the strings in the background now.

What happened over the last week? We have a new Treasurer. The happiest person in Queensland on Saturday when the former treasurer made her announcement was the member for Woodridge. The member for Woodridge would have been doing high-fives around his lounge room when he realised, 'My opportunity has come!' What an embarrassing start it has been. At first, there was the foray into Virgin which we have spoken about time and time again.

Mr Minnikin: How did that go?

Mr MANDER: How did that go? That is exactly right. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been lost by this organisation over the last six or seven years, an organisation that is 90 per cent foreign owned, and this minister wants to recklessly use taxpayers' money despite the fact that private investors are queuing up to be involved in getting Virgin mark 2 back up again. The minister then gave false hope to the Virgin workers that they are all going to get their jobs back, which we know will not be true, unfortunately. It got better than that! Then we had the bumbling, embarrassing situation on national television where the Treasurer of this state did not know the debt. Even when he finally found it, he understated it by \$7 billion.

How can we have any confidence in the plan in this document when we have a Treasurer who has absolutely no idea, who believes it is okay to give \$200 million to a venture and not expect a commercial return? This Treasurer is also all show and no go. This is a man who fell in love with himself many, many years ago and has remained faithful ever since.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.13 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion to support Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. COVID-19 has delivered a hard economic blow to this state, the likes of which we have not seen in decades, particularly in Ipswich where unemployment rates are higher than average and further loss of jobs and livelihoods would be catastrophic to us. I welcome Queensland's Unite and Recover plan, in particular the \$400 million accelerated works package announced this week that includes a \$10 million commitment to upgrade the five-ways intersection in my electorate connecting Brisbane Road with Chermside and Glebe roads.

The fiveways upgrade is estimated to directly provide 15 jobs over two years. Anyone who has driven through the fiveways at peak hour knows that this is one of the most congested intersections in Ipswich. As more people move to Ipswich to set up home, our roads are becoming increasingly choked with traffic.

I also welcome the unite and recover plan to deliver a \$200 million COVID-19 Works for Queensland package to support local jobs and local governments with funding for building vital infrastructure. Newly elected mayor Teresa Harding has put a lot of work into Ipswich City Council's project proposals, including for parks and sporting infrastructure, community based infrastructure and a business case for a second Bremer River crossing. I welcome Ipswich City Council's support for the COVID-19 Works for Queensland program.

I also look forward to seeing local businesses in Ipswich access the \$50 million Making it for Queensland fund to grow our state's advanced manufacturing capacity, particularly in PPE, biomedical and health sectors. COVID-19 has highlighted to global manufacturing and medical supply companies that too many of their factories are in one location. This provides an opportunity for Queensland to show that there is no more secure a place to invest than in our state, particularly in the Ipswich manufacturing corridor.

Many small businesses in Ipswich have told me that they are doing it tough at the moment. I am pleased to see our government invest \$100 million in small business adaptation grants, offering up to \$10,000 to small businesses so they can get through the challenging months ahead. Many small businesses in my electorate will be relieved to access this financial help so that they can keep their doors open.

Many jobseekers in Ipswich, particularly young people and women who have borne the brunt of job losses, will welcome an additional \$20 million in funding to provide additional online training to help them get back into work.

I am proud to be part of a Labor government that understands that governments are elected to support their constituents during tough economic times by providing much needed economic stimulus to turbocharge the economy. Unite and recover is a plan to invest in Queensland infrastructure and create jobs now while unlocking future growth for our economy. I call on all members of this parliament to join other Queenslanders and support our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (4.15 pm): Imagine the recovery effort for Queensland if, for the last five years, we had a competent team at the helm who looked to fix the issues of unemployment, fix the debt issues, created jobs for people and economic opportunities. Imagine the recovery effort. Look around at other jurisdictions and all of the money they have to spend on the recovery effort. This government does not because this Labor government has sent the state broke. I see the small business minister looking at me in shock.

Mrs Frecklington: She's excited!

Mr BLEIJIE: She should be. She complained this morning that a local member of parliament supports a coffee shop—there are 17 coffee shops in his electorate, I might add—yet if I was the Minister for Small Business I would go to the Queensland chamber of commerce website and see how local members of parliament stack up on the local small business scorecard.

Ms Fentiman interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Waterford! Please resume your seat, member for Kawana.

Speaker's Ruling, Amendment Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I was not aware that there was going to be an amendment. Having viewed the amendment that has been proposed, I believe that the amendment is not relevant to the main motion and therefore is out of order. The government's plan is a wideranging plan, so in terms of being directly relevant during the debate itself I will allow significant latitude. However, the amendment to the motion I deem to be out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: The member for Waterford should look at the CCIQ survey where it rates local members. This is the small business minister. Have a guess at what they rate the small business minister's support for small business: 33 per cent. The Liberal National Party rates nearly 100 per cent. The biggest stakeholder of small business rates the small business minister in Queensland at 33 per cent when it comes to supporting her constituency. The new Treasurer says, 'Debt is a tool. Debt is a tool.' Karl Stefanovic had it all over him the other day. Then the minister came in here and had to explain that he had to look a bit of paper. Everyone knows the debt level. Everyone knows the projected debt level, and it is not good because of the economic mismanagement of the government.

The CCIQ rates Minister Bailey's support for small business at only 33 per cent. They get the statistics from the voting record in this House. The CCIQ can say whether you support small business by the voting record in this House, and Labor members are 33 per cent. The Premier is no friend of small business, sitting at 33 per cent herself.

The Labor government does not support small business. The only party with a plan to get Queensland on fire again, to get Queensland working again, is the Liberal National Party under a Frecklington-led government. She will do it as Premier come 31 October 2020.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (4.19 pm): I can tell members that the only plan the LNP has if they form government in 2020 is to cut, sack and sell in Queensland. They will cut services. They will sell assets. They will sack public servants. That is exactly what those opposite will do. I strongly believe that that is the only plan those opposite have. They talk about no new taxes. They have a plan for all these things, but they do not talk about how they propose to pay for them.

Mr Lister interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Southern Downs, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms LAUGA: They do not talk about how they propose to pay for them, but we know exactly how they will pay for them. They will cut services, sack public servants and sell our state owned assets.

I rise to speak in support of this motion and to support Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. In particular, I welcome funding from Building our Regions round 5 for the Causeway Lake revitalisation business case to look at expanding recreational activities and the Yeppoon waste treatment sustainable energy project to install solar panels in partnership with Livingstone Shire Council. Both are wonderful local projects which will grow jobs and tourism. The Causeway Lake project will set the community up for the future. It is something that the people of Keppel have been asking for for a long time. I look forward to seeing more projects supporting more jobs through the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program.

The \$100 million for small business adaptation grants of up to \$10,000 for businesses below the payroll tax threshold will provide much needed support for smaller companies and tourism operators in Central Queensland. I have already had businesses contact me and say that they are very pleased about these grants. The \$50 million tourism industry support package, including \$25 million in grants for tourism infrastructure, will help position our tourism operators to be competitive when restrictions ease and travel can resume within Queensland and later on within the nation.

I know that the \$50 million tourism package announced by the tourism minister has been well received by the tourism industry. It will encourage domestic tourists to come back and visit our regions when the restrictions ease. I think it is a smart campaign to market our regions and get tourists thinking about making trips to our regional communities. I am fully supportive of Daniel Gschwind's comments that most of the potential projects for Queensland are in regional areas. I am very excited about the tourism marketing package in particular. I support the government's plan.

(Time expired)

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (4.22 pm): In responding to what we are debating, I firstly have to put on the record that not one of the items listed by the Premier has not been backed by both the Leader of the Opposition and everyone on this side of the House, with one exception: road funding, where we have asked for and committed to significantly more. We understand the importance of roads to get rural communities going. We understand their importance to the tourism industry. We understand their importance for the agriculture industry.

The Premier listed many projects including CopperString, which this side of the House supported long before yesterday's road to Damascus conversion of the Premier. The LGAQ spoke in favour of it. The government decided to give the LGAQ one-third of what it asked for, but I respect that it is a contribution that will be valued and so too will the contribution to tourism.

When the government quotes QTIC as saying that it will help them prepare for the consumer of the future, it does not raise the issue in the immediate vicinity, and that is the opening of state borders. For the member for Keppel to selectively quote Daniel Gschwind is wrong. What the Queensland Tourism Industry Council has said, and what all sorts of representative bodies and chambers have said, is that they are prepared to back good medical advice, but when dates continue to change without any change in the medical advice people quite rightly question it. We had the Premier say July and then 24 hours later she said September—

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Direct your comments through the chair, member for Thuringowa.

Mr CRISAFULLI:—and yet there has been no change in the medical advice. What people want is certainty. They want an end to the mixed messages. People are trying to lift their businesses from the canvas. They were gearing up for July. The business community said, 'If the medical advice changes, we are glad to accept that and we will go back into hibernation.'

As a result of one comment on ABC Radio which was in contrast to what the Chief Medical Officer agreed to only a few days before in relation to the road map and which is still in contrast to the federal government's medical advice that the borders can safely open—that is not good government and that is not clarity; those are mixed messages—right now the state is yearning for clear direction. Right now the tourism industry and all those who survive as a result of it just want clarity. When there has been no change to the medical advice but a flip-flopping of dates, people lose faith in government. The matters put forward are ones the opposition supports and we would like to add further to.

(Time expired)

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Happy birthday to the member for Thuringowa. I now call the member for Thuringowa.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.25 pm): The microphone is bugged. Oh, no. It's up. It's running. Good.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Thuringowa, I think you used unparliamentary language. Can I ask you to withdraw.

Mr HARPER: I withdraw. Sorry, Mr Deputy Speaker. I rise to support the motion and to support the Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. Firstly, I want to commend the Premier. Her leadership and the work of our ministers in response to this worldwide coronavirus pandemic is clear. The Premier has the health, safety and welfare of Queenslanders front and centre in responding to this pandemic. The health response to date has been nothing short of outstanding. I know the work of the health minister and the Chief Health Officer has helped protect and save the lives of Queenslanders. We are not out of the woods yet. We have to have a cautious, staged, commonsense response when it comes to our recovery. This virus will not go away or simply be eradicated. It is going to require a vaccine.

We all know someone who has been affected by the job losses. My son lost his job in hospitality. Our focus is now on restoring jobs. That is a priority. The \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan puts Queenslanders first and will boost many small businesses and help create jobs through a range of measures. We must stand together and support our Queensland people and the economy.

This is not the time for politics; it is a time to put people first. The member for Broadwater indicated in his contribution that he would like to see the borders open now and put lives at risk. We have a road map. We have a staged response. Every couple of weeks there will be a response and that response will be measured. Those on the other side should stop trying to seek political relevance through grandstanding. How about they stand up and support the 5,000 jobs at risk with Virgin. Not one of those opposite has bothered to stand up and try to support Virgin. We know how important it is to regional Queensland. We know how important it is to keep those jobs in regional Queensland and to have a second national carrier.

We also know how important it is to respond through our Works for Queensland fund and our \$400 million roads package that will see road projects undertaken like the Hervey Range Road. As local members we asked to get those accelerated capital works going. That is what is happening under this government. That is what happens under the leadership of our Premier, who puts the health and safety—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr HARPER: The member might laugh and think it is funny. We are putting the health and safety of Queenslanders first.

(Time expired)

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (4.28 pm): Mr Deputy Speaker, as the shadow minister for North Queensland, I can assure you that this government's so-called economic response plan falls a long way short of what is required to get the north and regional Queensland back up and running. That comes as no surprise after we saw the cabinet reshuffle last week. One would think that was an opportunity for the Premier to appoint a minister for North Queensland—but no. There was no minister for North Queensland appointed, and so we continue the long and sorry saga under the watch of this Labor government.

It is clear that this government does not have a plan for the regions when it comes in here and attacks two of Queensland's key industries. Isn't it surprising then that the Premier has come in here tonight and is all of a sudden talking up the resources sector and the agricultural sector when they have been kicking those two sectors for the last four years? It was only a week and a half ago when we had a deputy premier who said there was no future for coalmines in this state and who told our coalminers to go and re-skill. Now the Premier has the audacity to come in here tonight and start talking up the resources sector and the agricultural sector. It would not have anything to do with royalties, would it?—with the money that is flowing into the 'tower of power' across the road, with royalties flowing out of our regions and out of my electorate of Burdekin? My constituents in the Burdekin have had enough. They are fed up.

What have we seen this week? We have seen a roads stimulus package where just 12 per cent of the new funding is heading north of Proserpine. Perhaps the transport minister, who is sitting over there, could get the Premier in the car and drive from Cape York to Proserpine—1,611 kilometres—and have a look at the state of the road. The amount of funding that has been allocated north of Proserpine would not paint a dotted line from Cape York to Proserpine, let alone fund the road upgrades and the road widening and build the bridges that we need in that area.

If you want to have a look at some shocking roads, come out to my patch where we are still driving on unsealed roads, where the local residents are choking on dust from the 24/7 road trains that are going past their front doors, where the mums and dads are driving their kids to school every single day on dirt roads and choking on dust, putting their lives at risk. One has to ask why—for an area that is pumping \$5 billion in royalties into this state—some of that money is not coming back to our patch. Why are we still driving around on roads where you need a helmet on in your car because you spend more time hitting the roof of the car than hitting the seat? They are nothing more than goat tracks. Only the LNP will deliver.

(Time expired)

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (4.31 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion and Queensland's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. The Palaszczuk government wasted no time when it came to putting the health and wellbeing of all Queenslanders first. Since the onset of COVID-19 we have seen exactly that. It has been quite enlightening to see that we have had a very low number of confirmed cases of coronavirus in Far North Queensland. In the most vulnerable communities in my electorate—Cape York and Torres Strait—we have seen zero cases. If there is one government that is going to stand up for communities in my electorate, it is the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan highlights this government's commitment to the economic recovery in this state, no matter where people live. These are unprecedented times, and right now Queenslanders need certainty. Queenslanders need a plan that will support our economic growth as we work through the impact of COVID-19.

The Economic Recovery Strategy allows for a staged, adaptable approach, with the first stage being a set of immediate initiatives to get Queenslanders back to work and kickstart our economy. It is a plan that delivers for my electorate of Cook, with new Building our Regions round 5 projects including the Aurukun fuel facility upgrade; the Coen airport facilities upgrade; the Lockhart River airport cabins; the Chillagoe critical water infrastructure project; the Northern Peninsula Area airport amenities upgrade; the Hope Vale township community and cultural park; the Horn Island airport upgrade business case; the Horn Island affordable housing project; the Saibai Island fuel infrastructure upgrade; and the Port Douglas sugar wharf upgrade.

In a vast electorate such as the Cook electorate, these projects are critical and are welcomed by all of the communities in my electorate. I stand by this government to support all of the great work that we are doing to help our state economy recover from the impact of COVID-19.

I certainly look forward to seeing further investment through the \$200 million COVID Works for Queensland program and the \$400 million accelerated works package for roads announced yesterday. I also welcome the additional \$11.25 million for the Household Resilience Program to provide grants so that homeowners on the cape can improve the resilience of their homes from cyclones. This will support local jobs and lower insurance premiums.

The \$100 million in small business adaptation grants of up to \$10,000 will help small businesses, including tourism operators in the Far North, to get to the other side. There is additional online training with \$20 million to assist young people. I call on all members of this parliament to join other Queenslanders and support our plan to unite and recover for Queensland jobs.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.34 pm): Isn't it a surprise that we are here this afternoon debating this motion because yesterday, after weeks of bad press thanks largely to the member for South Brisbane, the government tried to reset, to suggest that they had a plan that was going to get Queensland out of the economic crisis that, COVID aside, was basically of their own making. It did not quite fly, did it? It was an eight-page glossy, which, if you took out the front and back page, the 5½ pages of pictures and the blank page, you ended up with about a half a page of dot points, of which half were repeated statements.

Mrs Frecklington: They did have a steer on it. That was as close as they got to ag.

Mr POWELL: That was a dip to the agricultural sector—a photo of a cow. This is a classic example of a government with no budget, no plan and no idea of how to get Queensland working again. They are short-changing Queensland. It is no wonder they could not get on the front page of the *Courier-Mail*. In fact, they could not even get a positive editorial out of the *Courier-Mail*, as the Leader of the Opposition pointed out. 'Pedestrian' was the word. Yet again Queenslanders see that they are going to let crooks out of prison, they will not open the borders and there is the ongoing drama around the member for South Brisbane.

Let us look at what they did announce. They announced an accelerated works program. From day one the Leader of the Opposition and the LNP have been calling for \$500 million to be spent on regional roads and bridges. They could not even hit that mark. Then we had the LGAQ's battle plan—\$200 million extra for Works for Queensland. That is not even a third of what the LGAQ were asking for—\$608 million. How is that going to fly in my areas of the Moreton Bay and Sunshine Coast councils?

Then we had the small business grants. Thank goodness they finally got there. If it were not for the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow minister for small business, we probably still would not be here. They might have been the first to declare a pandemic or a health crisis in this nation, but they have been the last to deliver small business grants for our hardworking mum-and-dad businesses around this state.

As for keeping the forward infrastructure budget, wow! We are supposed to thank them for keeping their forward infrastructure budget? Imagine what the IAQ would say if this government had the vision of the LNP—if this government had signed up for the new Bradfield scheme or for the dam commitments that the LNP have. Then they would be getting some positive statements out of the IAQ. As for the tourism industry, it is not going to count for much if you cannot get tourists into the state. Only the LNP will get Queensland working again.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing) (4.37 pm): I rise to support the motion tonight. The Palaszczuk government will always support regional Queensland. Yesterday's announcement by the Premier of the Queensland Economic Recovery Strategy underlined that commitment once again. There is plenty for regional Queenslanders to look forward to as part of this package. When our regions do well, all of Queensland does well.

There is a \$400 million Accelerated Works Program to deliver new road, bridge and pavement sealing works right across the state—sealing regional roads right across the state. They are important works that will employ local regional workers. There is \$14.8 million allocated to the CopperString project—which I am glad to hear the opposition support tonight—to continue its important development and to prepare for construction in 2021. That is a huge win for regional Queensland. For the North Queensland members who are here today, that will bring huge job opportunities for North Queenslanders and their communities. We are opening up the North West Minerals Province to provide critical resources for both domestic and international markets. That has the potential to inject nearly \$80 billion into the economy over the next 10 years.

I was pleased to see some positive comments from people in North Queensland. An editorial in the *Townsville Bulletin* stated—

Projects like these are perfect ways to help the region's economy as we work our way out of the coronavirus pandemic and back to prosperity.

Mr Harper: Front page!

Mr BUTCHER: I will take that interjection; it was the front page. CopperString chairman John O'Brien said—

CopperString will drive significant improvements in our global competitiveness and secure our reputation as one of the world's leading suppliers of new economy minerals.

MITEZ CEO Glen Graham said—

The lower cost of energy is probably going to be the game changer that will enable a reasonable number of new mines to open up.

Regional Development Australia, Townsville and North Queensland thanked the Queensland Government for ‘taking the next step forward in this exciting project for our region’.

It was amazing to hear about another \$200 million. I note that the member for Glass House said it is ‘only’ \$200 million and it is not close to their \$600 million, but I remind him that this is the third tranche of Works for Queensland and it now totals \$600 million—just as you asked for—in funding for regional councils to get work on the ground and deliver the local projects they so badly need. We know how much local councils love this program and, as I said, with the third round it now totals \$600 million. This funding will get local shovel-ready projects moving right now, delivering local jobs and improving local infrastructure for local councils.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.41 pm): Well, let’s get Queensland working again and let’s get rid of Labor! The only thing this Labor government knows how to build are roadblocks. They are also pretty good at putting up brick walls when they are asked to be accountable to the people. We have a vision to see this great state get on in this very challenging environment, but it has lead in its saddlebags because this government has loaded it up with debt. Now we have a new Treasurer, who has taken over from the disaster-prone member for South Brisbane, who does not even know that Queensland has \$92 billion worth of debt. ‘Oops, we didn’t want to tell people that!’ Maybe he really did not know, but it was a terrible mistake. In this situation people need confidence that the government is able to competently rebuild the future of this state, yet they have a state Treasurer who cannot even tell you what the state debt is.

Small businesses in Queensland are the answer to the future of rebuilding our state’s economy. They have been absolutely devastated by the impact of COVID but, as we have seen, now they have had a double whammy due to the uncertainty of this state government with respect to issues such as commercial leasing—there is still no mandatory code implemented into regulation or legislation—and actual roadblocks. At first, according to the Queensland road map, we thought there would be an opening up in July. But no, the Premier came out and said that it could be September. Today we have heard that it may even be later than that. There is a one-woman disaster who is a roadblock to recovery in this state and her name is Annastacia Palaszczuk, Premier of Queensland. I believe that people significantly understand what it means to address health concerns in this state, but they also understand that, with an incompetent Labor government that does not even take ownership for \$92 billion worth of debt, they have the wrong mob in the driver’s seat in Queensland.

I want to address the issue of small business grants. As the member for Glass House said, this is something that we, along with our leader, Deb Frecklington, called for in April—over a month ago—because Queensland was the only state that did not have grants for small business in the COVID environment. This is one little glimmer of light, and we are pleased to say that we were out there fighting and advocating for it. We put this forward when the government said no, they were not going to do that. They thought payroll was going to solve the majority of problems but, as we know, the majority of small businesses do not pay payroll. There was also the QRIDA loan debacle, which has been so badly mismanaged by this government, promising people something and then closing the doors. There is so much more I could talk about. I have had so many calls from devastated—

(Time expired)

 **Ms SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Premier. It is interesting to hear the member for Broadwater is suddenly interested in transport and the tourism industry, because the member was part of the Newman government that gutted the tourism industry of funding—over \$180 million, in fact—and not a single new dollar for the M1, but now suddenly he is interested in—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Member for Broadwater.

Ms SCANLON: In stark contrast, this government has been investing heavily in those two industries and is continuing with our investment in those spaces. This is a measured, responsible strategy for economic recovery and it has been welcomed by many leaders in my city. I table an article published in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* today titled ‘Package supported’.

Tabled paper: Article from the Gold Coast Bulletin, dated 20 May 2020, titled ‘Package supported—Premier focused on tourism industry “brought to its knees”’[\[790\]](#).

The Gold Coast was the first region in Queensland to have an active case of COVID-19 and, as the Premier said this morning, had we not united together in our health response over 30,000 Queenslanders could have lost their lives. Those are not just figures on a spreadsheet: those are grandparents, parents and loved ones who are alive today because we acted quickly. We were the first state in the country to declare a state of emergency, and as of today the Gold Coast only has two active cases and 193 recovered cases. We were the first state in Australia to act with a support package to respond to COVID-19, and today's motion builds on that investment.

Over the last few weeks I have spoken with a number of businesses, tourism operators and my local chamber of commerce, who were all supportive of the measures that have been implemented to date but wanted further assistance to ensure that payroll tax was not applied to the JobKeeper payment and a grants scheme to support small businesses who were not eligible for payroll tax relief. These are both matters I raised with the Minister for Small Business, Shannon Fentiman, who has listened and acted with a \$100 million Small Business Adaptation Grants Program. This is on top of the over 1,000 Gold Coast businesses that have received a total of over \$32 million in payroll tax relief and 626 Gold Coast businesses who were approved for loans totalling over \$88 million.

Tourism is also critical to the region I represent. It supports almost one in five jobs. I am pleased to see a \$50 million package to fast-track tourism projects and assist our theme parks, who employ hundreds and thousands of locals within my community. I am also pleased to see that there is additional funding for our manufacturing sector. I have a large industrial manufacturing sector in Nerang that I know received support prior to COVID-19. This will provide added financial assistance to provide health consumables, devices and PPE to shore up supply chains of essential goods.

As the youngest member of this parliament I am also very aware of the impact on my generation, so I welcome support in relation to online training and the new apprenticeship training centre in Beenleigh around renewable hydrogen. I commend—

(Time expired)

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (4.47 pm): It all started off beautifully. Just after lunch yesterday it could not have been typecast any better: it was a beautiful day on the Speaker's Green and peak industry groups were lined up one after the other. Do you know what? They would have taken \$800. They would have taken anything. The trouble was that somewhere along the line between when that took place with all the cameras set up—which I am sure the new Treasurer had some input into—by the time they got to the five o'clock news yesterday afternoon and then the six o'clock news the triumvirate of the Premier, the Treasurer and the member for Cooper I am sure would have been sitting around going, 'My goodness, we've been trumped!' The lead story on all of the commercial networks was Django, so the \$800 million stimulus package was trumped by the rescue of a whale. Here we go with Django from the Gold Coast who jumped out of his tinnie and stole their thunder.

How formulaic was it to think that this week, this sitting, the 'brains trust' would have got together—sorry, member for Miller, you are probably excluded from that group—and they would have said, 'How can we deflect the fiasco of the Karl Stefanovic "I wake up with *Today*" story'? It was a train wreck of epic proportions. Given the fact that the Labor Party lost their deputy premier about 168 days out from an election, they were desperate to get off the front page. It was just terrible. So they have come up with \$800 million worth of stimulus package which, as I have said already, was trumped by the rescue of a whale.

That money could have been put towards the maintenance backlog. I reckon with my ready reckoner that the maintenance backlog is probably around \$5 billion at the moment. We on this side of the chamber have been arguing about that for many, many months. We know that the LGAQ wanted about \$600 million but they were lucky they took their \$200 million. At the end of the day, I have a question, through the chair, for the member for Miller or maybe the birthday boy, the member for Thuringowa. Could they set the record straight on what sort of accounting procedure we use to prepare a state budget? Is it: (a) cash accounting; (b) accrual accounting; or (c) all of the above? I would love either the member for Miller or the member for Thuringowa to actually answer the question.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.50 pm): Just over 100 days ago, our state—indeed, our nation and the world as we know it—changed in a way none of us dared imagine. Queensland has been inspiring in our response to the virus—our dedicated health professionals, most especially—but every single Queenslander has played their part. These 100-odd days have been dramatic and sudden, and now our state needs a swift and comprehensive rebuild. Our government will deliver this.

Let us not lose sight of the fact that initial modelling showed our death toll could have been more than 30 times greater than the total number of cases we have seen. Let us also not lose sight of the economic impact of this virus. Under the Palaszczuk Labor government, we have seen five successive surpluses and strong economic growth. Let us not forget as well that we were one of the first states to act. We have weathered this storm because we do what Queensland does best in times of crisis: we pull together.

We have a plan to come through this crisis, and in health alone that is a \$1.2 billion COVID-19 health investment. Our social distancing measures have allowed us to flatten the curve and to reduce the number of people who are sick and need care in our hospitals at any one time, but at the same time we are lifting the line—investing in our health and hospital system to increase the number of Queenslanders we can care for at any one time. We are doubling intensive care capacity and tripling emergency department capacity. We have: 105 more paramedics; more ambulance services; more acute care services; expanded fever clinics; deployed new infrastructure and better utilised our existing hospitals; expanded community screening; contact tracing and 13HEALTH services; resource backfilling of health staff who are unwell; continued non-elective surgery in the private sector; more support for regional services; and more aeromedical services for regional and remote communities.

Let us never forget the LNP's record in government. The LNP could not manage a public health emergency of this magnitude. Never forget that under the LNP the Chief Health Officer had many of her responsibilities torn away and they sacked many of her specialist staff. Never forget the nurse sackings. Never forget those sacked by those opposite—a decision for which they have never apologised. There has been no lesson learned there. There was never an apology. Never forget that the LNP sacked 69 pathologists—clinicians we are now relying on to find and diagnose this virus. It has taken the Palaszczuk government five years to rebuild the frontline services cut by the member for Nanango and her former ministerial colleagues. Those opposite do not have what it takes to govern us back.

(Time expired)

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.53 pm): The government want to come in here and give themselves a pat on the back for doing absolutely nothing. They may have been the first state in Australia to have come forward in the health crisis, but they are the last state to do anything about the economic crisis they have caused. Let us have a look at a few of the things they have done and a few of the things they have not done. They put \$500 million into the QRIDA loan schemes. These are loans, not grants.

Ms Grace: It is all gone. That is how popular it is.

Mr HART: I take that interjection. It has all gone. Who would have thought that people would want to take free money, that they would like to take loans that were interest free? Unfortunately, those opposite have never run a business. They do not know what it takes to run a business. They do not appreciate that of course people in business would like a free loan. There were enough businesses which applied for these loans that the government had to add another \$500 million to the kitty, yet no new entrants are allowed to come in and apply for that loan. I have also heard from various people that there are no conditions on any of these loans. It may be that people are getting business loans and paying their residential mortgage off with them. I would really like to know what auditing process is going to happen, because this government is not really good with other people's money.

On 29 March the national cabinet approved a mandatory code of conduct for commercial premises. That was seven weeks ago, and so far there has been no clarity for anybody on either side of the commercial tenancies. We have tenants saying to their landlords, 'I don't have to pay rent because that's what the government has told me,' and we have landlords saying, 'The law hasn't actually been changed so you have to pay rent or we're going to throw you out.' There is absolutely no clarity and it has scared a lot of people.

There were a whole bunch of people on the lawn out here patting the government on the back for approving some of the things that they asked for, but that is just not good enough. We have had industry bodies come to us as well and they have asked for a whole line of things, but the government has gone through and picked one or two things out of that. For instance, it does not take a crystal ball to see that, in the building industry, development and buildings are going to fall off a cliff in six or 12 months, but what has this government done? Absolutely nothing.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.56 pm): The geniuses on the opposition tactics committee say they are ready for government, but they cannot even move an amendment without it being out of order. The geniuses on the other side who want to run this state cannot even get an amendment right, but I think I have worked out what the problem was. They were missing the intellectual nous of the member for Toowoomba North. I think that is what has happened—after they sacked him and promoted him in the space of 24 hours. I digress.

We do not need lectures from the economic illiterates on that side. We remember them in government. They gave us 0.7 per cent growth. They nosedived the economy into the abyss. Unemployment was 7.1 per cent, which is actually higher than it currently is. We hit 7.1 per cent under them. We saw how hopeless they were. I just need to mention two words: Strong Choices. They were trying to sell off our assets, they were sacking nurses and they were sacking public servants. We all remember that.

By moving this amendment, it is very clear that they do not support our economic plan and they do not support getting jobs going, but we do know what their plan is. The LNP's plan is: whatever it is, they oppose it. That is their plan. They will knock it, they will be negative, they will whinge and they will whine, but you cannot whinge and whine your way to government in Queensland, and that is what the opposition is putting forward to us.

The best economic plan is not just what we are seeing in this motion; it is the best health response. That is the best thing. We acted first, we acted early and we went hard. People in the US, the United Kingdom and Italy would look at Queensland as the best state in Australia and say, 'Those people got it right.' Any opposition with any credibility would come into this place and admit that was the case, but that is just a bit beyond this limited crew on the other side.

This package is \$880 million, with \$400 million in regional roads. I heard today that there were a range of LNP MPs bagging it until they found there were lots of projects in their own electorates—because we are getting jobs across the whole state going. We are not going to cut roads like those opposite did with \$600 million worth of cuts. There are a lot of projects in there and a lot of stimulus as part of it. The CopperString component is very strong. The energy sector is stronger because of this government. We are not going to sell it off; we are going to make it better. We are going to make sure we get jobs going, and that is why we had so much endorsement from all of those different groups yesterday—because they are working with a government with a plan, not an opposition that just opposes everything.

(Time expired)

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (4.59 pm): One would think from the member for Miller's contribution tonight that the Labor government actually expect us to put them on our shoulders, walk around and give them a great parade for all their achievements. The health crisis that we warned would become an economic crisis has become an economic crisis. What we need to be doing is actually listening to certain regions that tell the story of the challenge facing our—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): The time for the debate has expired.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

SPEAKER'S RULING

Notice of Motion

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Speaker Mickel, in a ruling on 24 February 2010, stated that a notice of motion is merely an incomplete motion, a proposal. It is for the House to determine whether it will agree to the proposition. As long as the motion, if agreed to, would not offend the law and the notice is internally logical, coherent and contains only the facts necessary and is able to be authenticated, it should not be interfered with.

I have taken objections from five members and the Leader of the House about the Leader of the Opposition's notice of motion given this morning. Most members objected on the basis that the facts alleged in the notice of motion were factually incorrect, could not be authenticated or were personally offensive. Speaker Mickel, in a ruling on 3 August 2010, stated that a Speaker can remove words from a motion which are unbecoming or unparliamentary. Speaker Mickel, in a ruling on 17 August 2010, stated a Speaker can remove words from a motion that asserts facts which cannot be authenticated.

The Manager of Opposition Business has been consulted, and I have utilised the Speaker's powers under standing order 70 to alter the notice of motion by removing or altering those matters that could not be authenticated and removing words that were unparliamentary. Some members may still find the content of the motion offensive. There will be an opportunity for the statements and assertions included in the motion to be debated in the House. However, I could find no precedent to remove matters that could be authenticated.

I also remind the House that it is the role of the Speaker to ensure proposed motions comply with the standing orders. It is not the role of the Speaker to assess the value of a motion; that is the role of the members when the motion is debated.

MOTION

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (5.02 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. condemns Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's failure to uphold basic standards of integrity, for example:
 - (a) the Premier's former chief of staff's company received \$267,500 from QIC;
 - (b) the member for South Brisbane:
 - (i) accepted a gift from a government consultant;
 - (ii) contacted the chair of the CCC during an assessment; and
 - (iii) is involved in a CCC investigation into an independent recruitment process;
 - (c) the Deputy Premier relied on a poll found by the CCC to lack transparency to claim a majority of Queenslanders supported changing the Lady Cilento name;
 - (d) the member for Miller and the mangocube affair;
 - (e) the member for Waterford belatedly declared a gift from a government consultant;
 - (f) the member for Capalaba made baseless allegations in a letter to the Speaker;
 - (g) a message from the member for Springwood in a QBCC email was found to breach government advertising standards;
 - (h) the member for McConnel promised air-conditioning for 300 schools over the Christmas break, then denied the promise;
 - (i) the member for Keppel promised to back a casino on GKI and voted against it in parliament;
 - (j) the member for Mansfield's involvement in a fraud investigation prior to election;
 - (k) the member for Mount Ommaney belatedly declared a new house;
 - (l) the police minister used the Pullen family to promote a policy that wouldn't apply to their son's killers;
 - (m) the member for Thuringowa's spat with TEL and the *Townsville Bulletin*; and
 - (n) the Premier being found in contempt of the Assembly.

The former deputy premier and the former treasurer recently reminded us that a week is a long time in politics. I think everyone in this House can agree with that. Given that, five years is a very, very, very long time in politics. When it comes to the Palaszczuk government, it is obvious that it is a government that sincerely lacks any form of integrity, openness and accountability.

I can remember a time from when the Premier was the opposition leader right through to when she became the Premier when she said she believed in open and transparent government. It is a shame that the Premier has determined not to keep her word on overseeing an open and transparent government, one that has the utmost and highest of integrity standards. We have seen debacle after debacle facing the Palaszczuk government, and that is an absolute embarrassment to the people of Queensland, who are suffering through a global pandemic.

At a time when a government should not have distractions, we have a Premier who has overseen some of the worst integrity scandals in decades and decades. What we have seen is the Premier of Queensland constantly distracted and passing on confused messaging. She is so distracted because they have a former deputy premier who is involved with multiple scandals that are before the CCC—and I will not touch on them. We have now seen the promotion of a minister to Deputy Premier who is facing his own integrity scandals in relation to a rigged poll around the name change of the Lady Cilento hospital. We know that the Labor integrity crisis continues day after day, and there is no indication that that will finish any time soon.

We know there is one reason the integrity scandals continue in Queensland today. That is because we have a Premier who has no power and she is too weak to handle the issues that are before her. When members from her own government are doing the wrong thing it is incumbent upon the Premier of the day and of the state to stand up to those members. We have seen the dithering around the former deputy premier. Time and time again we have seen Labor ministers and Labor members getting away with their behaviour. That should never ever have been tolerated by a leader in this state.

What I do know is that the people of Queensland do expect a higher level of integrity standards from their elected officials. The list of Palaszczuk government members included in the motion is so long that we could not fit it all within the 250 words. There were just not enough words—

Ms Boyd: You should have chosen your words better. You can redraft it. Ask for the Speaker's help.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I have no idea how that one got promoted. Seriously, I am more than happy to say this to the member opposite. I apologise for not mentioning every single Labor MP in the chamber who has been subjected to integrity scandals over the last five years. It would take me more than—

Ms Grace: That's misleading.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I understand why the education minister is so stressed, because the integrity scandals are also floating around with the Minister for Education—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That is overstepping the line. I take offence and I ask it to be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence to those comments. Will you withdraw, Leader of the Opposition?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw but—

Mr SPEAKER: No, please withdraw unconditionally.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I withdraw. I should also mention the Premier's own unique contribution to Labor's integrity scandals. She was the first Premier in Australian political history to be found in contempt of parliament for using her powers and making threats against members of the crossbench.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (5.07 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. Unlike the member for Stafford, I am not a medical doctor, but I think we can agree that the Leader of the Opposition is suffering from relevance deprivation disorder, the main symptom of which is saying misleading, offensive and frankly silly things to try to get attention. That is what this motion was and thank you, Mr Speaker, for your intervention in amending it.

While this side of the House has devoted itself to fighting the pandemic, the opposition leader is only devoted to herself and to her own political interests. At a time when all levels of government are enjoying an unprecedented time of cooperation, those opposite come in here and play games. It is day 112 of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was the Palaszczuk government's early action that prepared us to respond effectively to the virus. We injected \$1.2 billion into public hospitals. We ordered more PPE and ventilators. We boosted testing capacity and we purchased GeneXpert machines. We employed 1,375 extra staff: doctors, nurses and paramedics.

As I have outlined to the House, initial modelling showed Queensland's death toll due to COVID could have been 30 times greater than the total number of cases we have seen. Instead, we are beginning to lift restrictions with a sensible road map based on the best health advice. Queensland's position and hold on the virus comes down to the hard work of our government and, more importantly, the work of each and every Queenslanders. They have listened to the health advice and they have stayed home. I am thankful to Queenslanders for listening to our advice and the advice of our Chief Health Officer.

I am thankful they have not listened to the advice of those opposite. Their policies have the potential to harm Queenslanders. They want to open our borders and freely allow interstate travellers who would come from areas where there is community transmission of COVID-19. Closing our borders has had a significant effect on how well Queensland has done. Victoria and New South Wales are still experiencing outbreaks. Victoria has put three aged-care homes in lockdown and had to close 12 McDonald's stores. There have also been additional cases linked to the Cedar Meats abattoir. Opening our borders as the Leader of the Opposition advocates would only put Queenslanders at risk. I was also disgusted—

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, sorry to interrupt. I am curious to ensure that you are speaking to the motion, because I do not see that there is any particular relevance, regardless of the magnitude of the current pandemic, to the motion presented to the House.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. The motion goes to the integrity of the government and I am speaking to the integrity.

Mr SPEAKER: I think you will need to be a little bit more direct to those matters.

Dr MILES: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Recently, I was also disgusted to see opposition members like the members for Mudgeeraba and Surfers Paradise pushing anti-vaccination content on their social media. Vaccination is the best way to protect you and your family from preventable illness. When we have a viable vaccine for COVID, it will be truly vital to be able to return to normal. We need all members, including those members opposite, to support vaccination—not to criticise it. Frankly, those members should apologise to the Premier instead of coming in here and supporting a motion condemning her. They should come in here and apologise. Last week, the opposition leader said that every part of Queensland north of Wide Bay should have all restrictions lifted. That is how desperate she was to get a mention in the regional dailies. Just days later, Rockhampton had a potential index case which could have been catastrophic. Those opposite have never cared much about health. It is not in their DNA like it is in ours.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. With respect to the motion, the only part that relates to the Minister for Health is item (c) relating to a poll that he had undertaken in regard to the name of a hospital. I submit to you, Mr Speaker, that under standing order 118 the minister is not being relevant to the motion or any of the items contained in the motion.

Dr MILES: Mr Speaker, I am speaking to the motives of the opposition leader in moving this motion.

Mr SPEAKER: No, I think the Deputy Premier will need to come to the matters pertaining to be about standards of integrity. I really ask you to come back, otherwise I will ask you to resume your seat.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need any assistance from members to my left.

Dr MILES: The point I am making is that this motion is nothing more than an attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to be relevant when she is not, to raise her profile when she has none, to retain credibility that she has lost. In doing so, I think it is appropriate to highlight in the context of a motion about integrity just how much integrity this government has had and just how much this motion represents an attempt by those opposite to get their heads on TV when they have missed seeing them on TV. That is why they are moving that motion here. It is feeble and it is offensive.

(Time expired)

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (5.13 pm): Thank God we have competent doctors and nurses in our health system, because that was a completely incompetent response from the Minister for Health. What an insult to the parliament. This parliament needs to address the integrity issues of the Labor Party. It is relevant to the people of Queensland. Just because this Labor government does not want to talk about these issues does not mean they do not matter. We have a Premier who is desperate to hide behind the issues of COVID when integrity matters are raised. One would think she was an Olympic sprinter with the way she puts on her running shoes to get out of those press conferences whenever something else is raised in regard to the integrity of this government or questions are asked about the lack of alignment of ministers to their stories.

When the media sought to ask a question of the tourism minister, the Premier had to get out of there and shut down that media conference. This is no light matter. This is a government that, in the history of Queensland, has an unprecedented record in terms of gagging this parliament. Most debates in this parliament involved a standing gag before COVID hit. When COVID hit, they were desperate to shut down this place. We all understand the seriousness of the health issues with this pandemic, but it is even more important to ensure that extraordinary measures have extraordinary scrutiny—but not with this government. In fact, a number of times when questions were asked of the Premier she did not want to answer them. She took personal offence and would huff out of a lot of media conferences or run from this parliament. It is just not good enough. The former deputy premier lost her job because of integrity issues. Is it any wonder that her successor to the leadership of the left and the deputy premiership, the member for—where is the Minister for Health from?

An honourable member: Murrumba.

Ms SIMPSON: That is right, he shifted seats!

An honourable member: He moved.

Ms SIMPSON: I wonder if that will happen with some others in the left over there? No wonder he did not want to talk about the integrity issues of the member for South Brisbane! Significant issues saw the former treasurer exposed. There are a number of matters still under investigation, but for those in the public arena they should not be taken lightly. Yet the Premier tried to sweep these away until it was finally undeniable and we saw the then treasurer resign, but that was after a litany of disasters. Unfortunately, Queensland is paying the price of that. This Labor government does not want to address the integrity issues. This is at the expense of Queenslanders, who have a state government failing to address the serious matters of employment and economic stability in this state.

We have a government of Labor members who fly high, love their overseas travel at the largesse of government contractors and belatedly declare those on the parliamentary register, such as the member for Waterford, the Minister for Small Business, and the former treasurer, the member for South Brisbane. What of the situation where these government consultants receive significant funds or have significant roles in government and are aligned with these senior ministers such that they do not think they have to declare it until it is brought to the attention of one of those ministers many months down the track? We often find this situation with Labor ministers. They claim they have integrity only after they have been forced to declare things.

The situation of the former treasurer, the member for South Brisbane, has never been seen in such a way in this state. I know that matters are being investigated, but those on the record are extraordinary. Now the new Deputy Premier stands up in this place as the Minister for Health and fails to address or explain how he came to that position. There is no explanation of the turmoil in their midst—all because of the integrity issues. These issues have taken the government's eye from the very issues that Queenslanders want addressed. No, Labor members do not want to talk about that. They want to hide it until it is undeniable, until they are forced to address it in the public sphere, and then they try to pretend that it does not matter. We believe that, for the sake of the state, it does matter.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (5:18 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. I want to say at the outset that this motion is a reflection on the state of the opposition and not the government. I reflect on what the Deputy Premier was stating about the lack of integrity of those opposite with the COVID-19 crisis. I want to make it patently clear that we have had six tragedies in this state—six deaths from COVID-19. If we were to extrapolate and compare our population to that of the United Kingdom in terms of the number of deaths over there, we would have had 5,000 deaths here in Queensland just following the United Kingdom trend—5,000 families grieving if we followed what those opposite are suggesting and not following the path that experts have predetermined.

This is a motion that harks back to the days of the Newman LNP government—a motion that back then it would have been proud of. Public debate and politics in this House should never be about personal attacks, and we see it on a daily basis here in the parliament from those opposite. They have no place. The LNP, however, has a record and history of smear and attacks. I sat on the opposite side of the House with eight other Labor members—which obviously, Mr Speaker, you were part of, and you remember it well. If those opposite want to talk about integrity, I will talk about integrity. The LNP released my personal employment records secure within Queensland Health during the 2014 Stafford by-election. They were my personal records released to the public from Queensland Health. It was unconscionable. It was probably criminal. I am still waiting for an apology. Those opposite do not know the meaning of integrity. This is how low those opposite will stoop.

For those opposite to sit there now and throw allegations at my friends and my colleagues shows that they have learnt nothing at all—nothing at all. They have no ethics. There is no moral compass. It is simply smear and innuendo. They are bereft of any vision for this state. There is no policy. To them there is no way forward. Their only plan is personal attacks and smear because there is nothing else. Let me take one example within my own portfolio—water pricing policy. Their plan for water pricing policy is to conduct a water audit. Yes, that is right: their entire plan is an audit—nothing else, just an audit. Farmers of this state be ready because if the LNP are elected, to solve all of Queensland's water issues, they will get an audit and probably some fairy dust and that is about it. Members can clearly see by this small example the absence of policy. That is why they rely so heavily on smear and innuendo.

My predecessor in the seat of Stafford, Dr Chris Davis, is another victim of callous, vicious and baseless attacks by the Newman government. Before entering politics, Dr Davis had an extensive medical career—a distinguished medical career—and was the Queensland president of the AMA. The

LNP forced him out simply because he stood up for what was right. Even after he left parliament, he was persecuted and unable to get a job in Queensland Health, even when he was the only applicant. Only recently he was vindicated, winning a successful court challenge.

Just yesterday in this House the member for Buderim showed it was still in the LNP's DNA, attacking me and my integrity when debating industrial manslaughter. This was a disgraceful attack. Will they do it again? You bet they will do it again. Those opposite would serve themselves well by looking in the mirror and asking themselves if they really believe that this is the type of politics that Queenslanders demand. Well, it is not. It is about debate. It is about policy. It is about outcomes for Queenslanders. It is about moving the state forward post COVID-19. It is about keeping our families safe and listening to the experts.

(Time expired)

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (5.24 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. The motion outlines a litany of integrity failures of this government—whether that be the Premier, found guilty of contempt of the parliament; the former deputy premier, who resigned under another corruption cloud; the new Deputy Premier behind the Lady Cilento hospital dodgy poll; or various other ministers and backbenchers outlined in this motion. Queenslanders and Redlanders deserve better than what they are getting from the Palaszczuk government. This motion refers to the inappropriate behaviour of Labor MPs in the Redlands, specifically the members for Capalaba and Springwood. Sadly, this is just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the bad conduct of local Labor MPs and this government in Brisbane's south.

With respect to the member for Capalaba, to start with he made baseless allegations in a letter to the Speaker which drew a warning from the Speaker of the parliament about the veracity of information provided by the member. Then there was the time he was forced to apologise in the parliament for doctoring information to make counterfeit election candidate materials. There was also the bogus petition calling on the government to upgrade the Gateway Motorway on-ramp after decisions had already been taken. Further, the member worked with the roads minister, Minister Bailey, to change the designation of the intersection at Shore and Wellington streets in Cleveland from dangerous to safe just so they did not have to upgrade it. Then the member for Capalaba claimed to deliver an emergency warning SMS service for the Redlands. He was happy to declare on social media 'Don delivers'—only to be outed by Mayor Karen Williams that he had made no contribution to it at all, and I table his posts and her response.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the Twitter account of the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP, in relation to emergency warning SMS service for Redland City [791].

The mayor said—

We now look forward to you providing funding to support this council initiative funded by ratepayers. Then you can say you have delivered a little bit of it.

When we consider the behaviour of the member for Springwood, Mick de Brenni, we see more of the true character of this Labor government. The motion specifically refers to the member for Springwood breaching government advertising standards, but there is more. In the previous parliament he was accused of bullying the member for Cairns, a disabled man in a wheelchair, while in the chamber. A former Labor media adviser and insider made claims about how Minister de Brenni treated his staff. Then there is the bullying and intimidation by Minister de Brenni's campaign team of CFMEU union thugs of LNP candidate Julie Talty in the 2017 election campaign. It is interesting that also in the recent Logan City Council mayoral and councillor campaigns conservative council candidates like young 20-year-old Jacob Heremaia had their signs and trailers regularly vandalised, violently smashed and stolen while Labor-leaning councillors and mayoral candidates did not experience that. I take a moment to congratulate new Councillor Jacob Heremaia for winning against these dirty tactics.

Interestingly, there was another de Brenni recently running in an election campaign for Logan City Council mayor. That de Brenni campaign for mayor was accused of stealing the signs of competitors in the Logan City Council elections, but Mr de Brenni denied it was him. It was interesting that TV news footage caught Mr de Brenni—

Mr SPEAKER: Member, the motion refers to a particular individual, not members of the individual's family, so I would ask you to come back to relevance as to the points in the motion as put forward to the House.

Dr ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I make the point that in terms of the Logan City Council area there are Labor candidates or Labor-leaning candidates who are participating in actions that show a lack of integrity. They have been caught out on television lying—

Ms GRACE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I really do raise the issue of relevance. I was going to do it before you made a particular ruling, but I think it is still down that path—relevance to the—

Mr SPEAKER: I will take care of that; thank you for your point of order. Member, I ask you to be relevant to the motion as put forward to the House. I am listening carefully to your contribution.

Dr ROBINSON: It is interesting to note patterns of behaviour of Labor MPs and Labor council candidates in various parts of Queensland. Today I call on Minister de Brenni to give assurances that no such bullying, intimidation, theft and vandalism will occur in his 2020 campaign like what happened in his 2017 campaign and that LNP candidate Kirrily Boulton will not be subjected to such thuggish behaviour. Will Minister de Brenni commit to a clean, bullying-free campaign this time?

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

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: The allegations that the member for Oodgeroo has raised in this contribution bear no relationship to the matters that are contained within the motion and they do not bear any relationship with any of the other broad range of matters which he could spend his time contributing to the debate on.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, as I have said, I have been listening to your contribution. I believe the matters put forward in the motion relate to the state government of Queensland, not the council arena nor a particular party. Whilst a party may be in government, it does not necessarily relate to all aspects of that, nor the avenues related to individuals named. I ask you to be relevant to the points in the motion as put or I will ask you to resume your seat.

Dr ROBINSON: Thank you, Mr Speaker. Then there is the member for Redlands, Kim Richards, who sent out an Australia Day email from a parliamentary email address and in it she asked them to donate to the Redlands and the fundraising link directed contributions straight to the Labor Party coffers despite it being inappropriate to use parliamentary resources in this way.

In conclusion, Redlanders and Queenslanders deserve better and can get it by voting for their local LNP candidate on 31 October: Henry Pike, Bev Walters, Kirrily Boulton and myself on the Redlands Coast.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations) (5.30 pm): I rise to speak against this motion. It is a sad day because we have heard nothing from those opposite about the need for parliament to sit as we are in a pandemic crisis and we have to be held accountable on the issues that are happening during these unprecedented times. All we get from those opposite is a bunch of allegations, innuendoes, imputations and inferences. There is no policy on how we get out of this. This motion condemns the Premier, Annastacia Palaszczuk, in her role.

In this unprecedented crisis, never before seen on such a worldwide scale, those opposite condemn the Premier of this state, who, in the words of the member for Stafford, has saved thousands of lives when compared to the UK alone, for the actions that we took as a government. I join the Deputy Premier in saying that those opposite have had all this time on their hands and the only thing that they can come up with is a list of integrity issues—a bogus list, I might add. It is absolute gutter politics.

Some of the issues they have put forward in this motion are issues that are already under consideration. I am proud that in this country a person is deemed innocent until proven guilty. Everyone deserves their right to be heard. Natural justice has been thrown out the window because of the disgraceful accusations that are being made by those opposite.

I do not want to repeat the accusations contained within this motion—they are so disgraceful—but let me mention the member for Miller and mangocube. The last I heard he was cleared and there was nothing there. He is back as a minister. Within this motion is an integrity crisis about someone who was completely cleared by the CCC. Those opposite are employing gutter politics by bringing it up again. When those opposite were in government they talked about Labor using the CCC as a political football for political muckraking. They have become the absolute masters, let me tell members, to use the words of the member for Kawana. He was going to change the law so it could not be done. Those opposite probably knew that they were on their way to a hiding in the last election because they hid him away. No-one saw him. He was the worst Attorney-General we had ever seen. They knew they were sliding so they did not change the laws because they knew they were going to use them for their disgraceful mudslinging. All those opposite do is throw mud and muckrake. It is all they are good at.

Turning to the accusation against the member for Capalaba in relation to baseless allegations in a letter to the Speaker, how many letters have been sent by those opposite to the Speaker containing baseless allegations? Talk about the pot calling the kettle black. What an absolutely ridiculous notion.

The next matter refers to myself, the member for McConnel, promising air conditioning. You bet I did! We have done more than 300 schools. Every classroom, every staffroom and every library has been air-conditioned. We are getting quotes on the remaining 330 schools and we are at 100 already. We will install air conditioning. Whether our commitment in November was to air-condition or put on solar panels, we are delivering in spades. The member for Currumbin said she would like to see air conditioning in her school. I want to give her a bit of a lesson. How many schools were air-conditioned under Campbell Newman's reign while the member for Surfers Paradise was the minister for education? None! How many schools have been air-conditioned in Queensland in the past six months? Over 300, that is how many! We are powering ahead, as I said, with a number of contracts in this area.

The next matter is promises made by the member for Keppel. Is that like the promises those opposite made to the public servants that they had nothing to fear and then sacked 14,000 of them? You want to talk about integrity issues, there is not enough time!

Mr SPEAKER: A reminder to members that comments will be directed through the chair or I will start issuing warnings under the standing orders.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.35 pm): A former chief of the Army said the standard that you walk past is the standard that you accept. Through her failures to act, the Premier walked past behaviour that does not stack up on even the most basic understanding of what is right and wrong. The Premier says she wants to run an open and transparent government but time and again all we see from the Premier is her ignoring and condoning behaviour that simply is not up to the required standard. What Queenslanders see is a culture of arrogance, hypocrisy and secrecy that puts the interests of the Palaszczuk Labor government ahead of the people of Queensland. It is not good enough. Queenslanders deserve better.

Let us not forget that we are all here to serve Queenslanders. We are elected to serve others, not to serve ourselves. From ministers in the Palaszczuk Labor government all we have seen over the last five years is their righteous sense of self-importance and entitlement. They put their interests ahead of the interests of the community. For many of these Labor ministers, their actions show that the most important thing is the pursuit of power which they care more about than doing the right thing by Queenslanders.

Effective leaders lead by example. Leaders use their values to form a bedrock for a team and they model those values day in and day out. Leaders demonstrate high standards and they set consistent high standards both for themselves and for the team. Is it any wonder that so many ministers in the Palaszczuk Labor government have an inability to take responsibility for their actions when they look to the top and all they can see is a feeble and fumbling Premier and a manipulative, self-interested deputy premier? What example do they have to follow? They have a Premier who herself was found in contempt of the parliament last year and who seeks to shift blame or hide whenever things get uncomfortable. They have a former deputy premier who stumbled from one integrity crisis to another without sanction.

Even when she was faced with the former deputy premier's latest inexcusable conduct, the Premier still failed to act. When the going gets tough the Premier goes missing in action. That is not leadership; that is cowardice and Queenslanders deserve better. Even worse, when the Premier was finally forced to do something what did she do? She promoted a man whose incompetence and integrity failings are only rivalled by those of his predecessor, a man who sought to avoid scrutiny with his eHealth 'no health upgrades during parliament' policy and who misled Queenslanders with his dodgy poll to rename the Lady Cilento hospital.

There is an old saying that 'wise leaders generally have wise counsellors because it takes a wise person themselves to distinguish one'. If we apply that test to the Premier then we should be deeply concerned.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The member for Toowoomba North and the member for Miller will cease their quarrelling across the chamber or I will issue a warning to both of you.

Mr MICKELBERG: We should be concerned when we reflect on the scandal which still engulfs the Premier's confidante and right-hand man, David Barbagallo. When in opposition we frequently heard the now Premier's constant calls for LNP ministers to be sacked whenever they were accused of infringing the ministerial code of conduct, yet as a Premier we have seen time and again her failure to act and her failure to enforce the same standards of conduct—standards that, it should be said, are the bare minimum that Queenslanders deserve to have upheld.

How can we expect Queenslanders to hold politicians in anything other than contempt when all they see is a cavalcade of self-interest and deceit from this government? How low does the bar have to go before the Premier will step up and set and enforce real standards of behaviour and act in the best interests of all Queenslanders? When will the Premier finally take responsibility for making decisions and act like a leader? Based on her past performance, I am not going to hold my breath.

During these difficult times, Queenslanders are crying out for leadership. They are crying out for a leader who will take responsibility and who will act decisively; a person who leads by example, not just with hollow words; a leader of strength and of conviction; a leader of integrity; but most of all they want a leader they can trust. The Premier is not that leader and she never will be. There is an odour wafting over the Palaszczuk Labor government—a scent of self-interest; a decided air of dishonesty and deceit. It is a strong wind of weakness and inaction and it is an odour that will only be expunged when this self-interested Labor government is removed by the Queenslanders they have forgotten to represent. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.40 pm): We are in unprecedented times and what we do in this place matters. It has an impact on the lives of everyday Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk Labor government has demonstrated that our priorities lie with protecting the health and prosperity of Queenslanders. That will always be our focus.

Mr Speaker, in your ruling before the debate commenced, you reiterated that the value of a motion is judged by the House. On the measure of this motion before the House and how valuable it is to the state of Queensland at this point in time, I think it is entirely appropriate that it will be judged by this House because, in contrast to our focus on protecting the health and prosperity of Queenslanders, the Leader of the Opposition has used precious parliamentary time to air a list of grievances and petty, lame attacks. One would think that, if she was going to attack the Premier's integrity, as Roy and HG say, she might step into the hall of mirrors. Let us not forget that the Leader of the Opposition supported the Premier's actions that led to the contempt mentioned in paragraph 1(n) of the motion before the House. Let us not forget that the House unanimously accepted the Premier's apology.

Unlike the Leader of the Opposition, the Premier fights for Queenslanders. She has led Queensland as we have flattened the COVID-19 curve. She will lead Queensland as we smash the curve of unemployment. If it was not clear before, now it is absolutely clear: the Leader of the Opposition is not fit to govern. She has been missing in action since the COVID-19 pandemic began. She has no plan to get Queenslanders back to work. She does not even have a plan to get herself onto some glossy LNP brochures. Given those clear deficiencies in her leadership, I can almost understand why the Leader of the Opposition might want to use a motion like this to distract us from her shortcomings. It almost makes sense—almost. However, the Leader of the Opposition should heed this phrase: those in glass houses should not throw stones. We heard some aphorisms from those on the other side, so that is one for everyone to take on board.

If the Leader of the Opposition wants to reflect on integrity, she is wading into some muddy LNP waters. When those opposite were last in government, one of their first acts was to water down Queensland's donation disclosure laws, allowing donations under \$12,800 to go under the radar, and we all know why. That was not the action of a government hell-bent on ensuring integrity. What about the decision of those opposite to sack the Parliamentary Crime and Misconduct Committee under the cover of darkness, or their continued efforts to undermine the independence of the CCC? That did not scream integrity either. Who can forget the sorry saga of Scott Driscoll? Those opposite had to be dragged kicking and screaming to suspend him. What about the LNP's dodgy donor membership rort? The list goes on. They fail the integrity test on every occasion and they have the fingerprints of the Leader of the Opposition all over them. We know that the Leader of the Opposition learned at the feet of Campbell Newman. She sat around the CBRC table, learning all the tricks and how to do things, while also taking in his philosophy of government. His philosophy of government is her philosophy of government and it stands in stark contrast to the approach of the Palaszczuk government.

Since 2015, this government has restored the independence of the CCC; restored the disclosure threshold to \$1,000, as well as six-monthly reporting of political parties and associated entities; introduced real-time disclosure of political donations, leading the nation; and banned political donations from property developers at both state and local government levels, despite the best efforts of the LNP to use the federal parliament to create legislative loopholes to get around the ban or to try to strike the legislation down in the High Court. Those opposite do not have a leg to stand on when it comes to matters of integrity, yet they prioritise cheap political stunts rather than laying out their plans for

Queenslanders. We know why that is. Clearly and plainly it is because the LNP do not have the integrity to be up-front about their plan for Queensland's economy, which is, always has been and always will be to cut, sack and sell.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.45 pm): Leadership is not about your title; it is about your behaviour. I rise to support the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition as it highlights what a complete farce is the Premier's often stated mantra of 'my government will be open and accountable'. That comes from a state Premier who has the inglorious stigma of being the first Queensland Premier to be found guilty of contempt by the Ethics Committee and to have had to apologise to the parliament.

What a list of Labor incompetence and lack of integrity this motion outlines. It is a long but not very distinguished list of Labor members across the board and it fundamentally highlights that this lack of integrity is a direct consequence of continued infective leadership by the Premier herself. It has been a long-running joke that the member for South Brisbane, when she was the deputy premier, virtually ran the government and that the Premier was just a titular head. Most of these integrity issues could have been dealt with by strong and decisive leadership.

With any group there are always some individuals who stand out in particular. When it comes to a perceived lack of integrity and with reference to paragraph 1(d) of the motion, it is pretty hard to go past the history revisionist member for Miller, the transport and main roads minister. The member for Miller has a penchant for looking back at history, so let us do just that when it comes to his own perceived integrity issues. In September 2017, the CCC chairman, Mr MacSporran, described Mr Bailey as 'foolish' for his use and subsequent deletion of a private email account. It was injudicious to deactivate an account even if there was nothing to hide. Mr MacSporran said—

To behave that way you create a problem for yourself. So it's all self-inflicted and let's hope it won't happen again.

He further said—

It emphasises how foolish the behaviour is to use a private email account and then deactivate it.

In relation to the very issue of integrity, Mr MacSporran went on to state that Mr Bailey was incredibly lucky not to be facing criminal charges and he urged MPs to avoid using private email accounts, because they created the perception of corruption. Members would recall that the integrity saga was sparked after it was revealed that Minister Bailey deleted his private mangocube email account following reports that he was contacted at that address by the Electrical Trades Union over the merger of Energy Super and Victoria's Equisuper. In an official media release dated 22 September 2017, the CCC acknowledged that the timing of the deactivation of the private email account proximate to an RTI request raised questions about Minister Bailey's intentions at that time.

I will continue with perceived integrity issues. In March 2018, Minister Bailey came under fire again—yep, a bit like the member for South Brisbane, the gift that keeps on giving—after it was revealed that former ETU state secretary Peter Simpson sent executive Mark Algie's CV to the former energy minister for a government board role. The email, sent to Minister Bailey's personal account, came almost two months after applications for the position closed. As we subsequently learned, Mr Algie was appointed to the \$60,000 a year job two weeks later. What is it with the genius member for Miller and his fascination with email?

Interestingly, as reported in the *Northern Daily Leader* on 13 March 2018, Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said that she believed that the CV was already with the department of Treasury and that it came to cabinet. Premier Palaszczuk repeatedly refused to say if Mr Algie's CV was with the department of Treasury before applications for the position closed. The Premier also reiterated that she had no problem with Mr Bailey's refusal to release his private emails, which were obtained by the media through freedom of information requests. How is that for integrity perception? Talk about protected species! Integrity and Labor are like oil and water.

With reference to paragraph 1(n) of the motion, as previously stated, the Premier was forced to make an embarrassing apology after being found guilty of contempt of parliament. In terms of her integrity, we recall that the Ethics Committee examined the issue after Premier Palaszczuk was referred to it by Katter's Australian Party. The Ethics Committee report clarified that, while it was perfectly legal for Premier Palaszczuk to alter the KAP's funding agreement at any time, by tying the action to an ultimatum she directly sought to influence a sitting MP, which is a breach of law. The Ethics Committee also found that, while Premier Palaszczuk's initial response to the issue during question time in parliament was off the cuff and could be read as not fully binding, the Premier then doubled down on the matter, repeating her ultimatum later outside parliament. I end where I started: leadership is not about your title; it is about your behaviour.

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (5.51 pm): Oh, my goodness! I thought I had seen it all, but it turns out I have not. I can sum up the integrity of the opposition not in three words but in three actions. Who can forget the chicken dance by the member for Mermaid Beach? That showed their absolute disdain when it came to the questioning of decisions they made as a government. In my view, that is because of their born-to-rule mentality. They thought that the trappings of office were there for them to use to progress their family and friends. Any day of the week I will stand for our Premier's integrity and the integrity of the government, compared to those opposite.

It took me a long time to make the decision to run for office in 2015. It was a tough decision, one I made with the blessing of my family and the ones who would support me in my time in this House. I remember that election vividly. I have spoken about this once before. The turning point for me occurred when a constituent of the member for Everton, the now Deputy Leader of the Opposition, came up to me at the Woolworths at Ashgrove and cried on my shoulder about how terrible she felt that she had voted against the then government in favour of the Newman government because she thought we needed change. That was the view of many Queenslanders, and we have acknowledged that. She also believed Campbell Newman when he did that video with the head of the public sector union in which he said that no-one in the Public Service had anything to fear in terms of losing their jobs. This single woman in her mid-50s, who had worked her entire life in the public sector—a low-paid administrative officer—was crying on my shoulder saying, 'Kate, please. Please get back in there. They told me a mistruth and I fell for it.' That is not integrity; that is a blatant mistruth. Those opposite promised that no public servant had anything to fear. They then tore up that promise and we saw 14,000 Queenslanders pay the price.

There is another glorious example that I remember time and again. They had a big budget in those days. They were letterboxing my electorate—letterboxing my house, promising me and every other Queenslander that electricity prices would go down under a Campbell Newman LNP government. Remember that corker? What did we see? We saw an increase of more than 40 per cent. That was the legacy of the then assistant treasurer and now leader of the LNP—a more than 40 per cent increase in electricity prices. Thank you so much, Deb! Those opposite promised to reduce household bills by more than \$230—another broken promise.

As I spoke about this morning, those opposite promised that tourism would be treated as a pillar of the economy, only to slash their funding by \$188 million. That is why in 2015 we promised—and why we have delivered every single year we have been in government—\$400 million to support an industry when it needed it most. One can only imagine where the tourism industry would be today if we had not restored that funding which created new Queensland jobs such that in government the number of people working in the tourism industry went from one in 12 to one in 10.

Unfortunately, I have only five minutes to speak. I am one of those politicians who always argues that if you cannot say it in three minutes you cannot say it, but this is the one time I am challenged on that because I still have five pages of broken promises to go through. What did those opposite do in government?

Mr Bailey interjected.

Ms JONES: I take that interjection. There was an investigation by Queensland's corruption watchdog into the appointment of then arts minister Ros Bates's son to the public sector; the standing down of Transport's then director-general, Michael Caltabiano, the member for Clayfield's good mate from the council days, following a referral to the Ethics Committee; the resignation of then minister Ros Bates—I think she lasted only a few weeks—following the allegation that she failed to register contact with lobbyists; then public works and housing minister Bruce Flegg's resignation after undeclared contacts with his lobbyist son; the appointment of party organiser treasurer Barry O'Sullivan to review the books of state agencies GoPrint and GoPlant while serving as the treasurer of the party; boot camp contracts to LNP donors, but old mate is about to talk so he can answer that—I mean the honourable member for Kawana; electoral donations—that is right, they are still trying to tear up those laws as well; attacks on the CMC; attacks on the Integrity Commissioner; sacked 26 staff from the CMC—

(Time expired)

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (5.56 pm): The Liberal National Party in Queensland will not be lectured to by the Labor Party on integrity, accountability and transparency. Labor would have us believe that we should just forget the last five years. Labor wants us to forget the last five years. Forget about the member for Miller—the mangocube, the secret emails with union officials, the Crime and Corruption Commission investigation calling the member for Miller foolish, changing laws because of it. Let's not forget all the other integrity scandals that we have had.

The member for Cooper said that she had five pages of issues she wanted to read out. I can advise the House that we were very limited with our one-page and 249-word motion. We know that if we talked about all the integrity scandals over the past five years of Premier Palaszczuk's government there would be many more pages.

To lose a deputy premier and treasurer in the middle of an economic and health crisis is unprecedented. Those opposite would have us forget it. They would give the new Deputy Premier the role and think that we will just move on and forget about all this. It does matter. When the people go to the ballot box on 31 October, we will keep reminding them about all of these integrity issues.

The member for Sandgate lectures us about integrity, yet he was the minister who stood in this House and changed the electoral law—the process of how people vote in this state—with 17 minutes notice. The minister lectures us on integrity and accountability! He was the leader of the House who came up with this little motion, with 17 minutes notice, to abolish compulsory preferential voting in Queensland. He changed the electoral laws without any consultation. Then he comes in here and lectures us on integrity and accountability.

The education minister is mentioned in the motion. She has been very quiet in the last 10 days since the Crime and Corruption Commission launched a full-scale investigation into the appointment of a principal to a school in the electorate of South Brisbane. For days the education minister put out a little statement here and a little statement there but did not face the press. Then she said, 'It's nothing to do with me. Members of parliament have no powers to intervene in school principal selection processes.' She said that it was all operational. Then we reminded the education minister that the member for South Brisbane had doxed her in and reminded the House that she had spoken to the education minister. Then on Tuesday the education minister said, 'I think in passing I may have had a conversation.'

Was it one of those conversations the former member for Cairns, Rob Pyne, had in passing? Do members remember those little conversations? No-one has a conversation with the member for South Brisbane in passing. It is at the direction of the member for South Brisbane. There is no 'little conversation'. I see the member for Logan smiling. He knows exactly what I am talking about. No-one has a little conversation in passing with the member for South Brisbane—never. If this were not so serious it would be laughable.

We could look at the Premier's former chief of staff currently subjected to a CCC investigation. We could look at the mangocube affair that the member for Miller would have us forget. The member for McConnel talks about air conditioning. As mentioned in the motion, who could forget, when asked at a press conference about completing the installation of air conditioning at only 100 schools when she was meant to complete it at 300, her saying, 'No, the Premier never said that.' Then Channel 7 reminded the Minister for Education, 'We actually have the Premier on film saying that.' She then said, 'Oh well, it is out of context.' Air-conditioning units were promised to be delivered by the school holidays at 300 schools and they were not.

The point is that Queensland is heading in the wrong direction. We are the unemployment capital of the nation. We are the bankruptcy capital of the nation. We have the highest unemployment rate in the country. This all falls under Premier Palaszczuk's watch. She is the leader of the team. She is the head of the government. The only way we will fix these issues and sort out these integrity issues is by voting for an LNP government on 31 October 2020. That is when the grown-ups will be put in charge of fixing these issues.

(Time expired)

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (6.01 pm): I rise to oppose the motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition. Those opposite should hang their heads in shame. Those opposite have no plan for Queensland. In my younger days when I played footy, there were teams we played against that played dirty footy. Those teams had no discipline, no talent, no ticker and, generally, no teeth. They played the man and not the ball with cheap shots when the referee was not looking. Those opposite do not have the ticker and are only focused on smearing individual members of this House.

It is the Palaszczuk government which has spent the last five years cleaning up the mess of cheap shots on the workers like the doctors, nurses and teachers who were sacked under Campbell Newman. Of course, the current Leader of the Opposition was his apprentice as an assistant minister. As they say, those in glass houses should not throw stones. The member for Kawana has a very short memory.

While I have the opportunity, let us walk down the memory lane of some of those great hits. How can we forget the fiasco of the Newman LNP government's—or dare I say, the failed former attorney-general's—boot camp. I have been advised that the Auditor-General found a number of errors and issues with the failed boot camp system overseen by the worst attorney-general in the history of the state or, as some have called him, the 'Kmart Attorney-General', the member for Kawana.

This failed system saw money flying out the door for no real benefit. I refer to a *Courier-Mail* article by respected journalist Sarah Vogler on 9 April 2015 in reference to the Auditor-General's report into boot camps and then attorney-general Jarrod Bleijie's decision to overrule the independent selection panel's decision to award the contract for two boot camps. The article states—

The report also found no issues with the initial panel process and said the cost of the sentenced boot camp program had escalated from its initial budget of \$3 million to \$10 million.

"The documentation relating to the Attorney-General's decision to award contracts for the Fraser Coast and Lincoln Springs boot camps does not demonstrate that economy in procurement was achieved," the report states.

The article continues—

The evidence indicates that suitable, lower cost service providers were available.

"The lack of any other evidence to support the final position taken for these boot camps, itself a failure to adhere to the government's own documentation standards, serves to weaken accountability for these decisions.

"It ultimately leaves the process of awarding the two contracts open to accusations of favouritism which in the absence of a clear documentation trail cannot be readily rebutted."

But the report found Mr Bleijie—

the member for Kawana—

had the legal authority to enter into service agreement contracts.

In effect, a captain's pick. The article went on to state—

One of the providers selected by Mr Bleijie subsequently donated—

5½ thousand dollars—

to the LNP via a fundraising lunch, while the other was considered the tenth choice by the selection panel which said it did not have the experience to run such a camp.

Hardly independent now, was it? While on boot camps, let us not forget the member for Kawana's little taxpayer funded flight to visit one of those boot camps. We know that the member for Kawana has many similarities with the former federal member for Mackellar. They are both monarchists and they both love a good helicopter ride at taxpayers' expense. While I could spend all day talking about the member for Kawana's integrity, I end with two words—Tim Carmody.

As a former school principal, I have seen many fine leaders in my community and indeed in my schools over the years, both staff and students. When I see leaders, I see a person with a clear vision, compassion for their people and a resilience against adversity. I see those qualities in the leadership of the Premier of our state, Anastacia Palaszczuk. We are currently faced with a public health crisis and, in turn, an economic crisis, and we have a strong leader focused on what matters—that is, the people of Queensland. This motion should be read for what it is: a cheap political stunt by an opposition which has no discipline, no talent and no ticker. I oppose the motion.

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

AYES, 35:

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

NOES, 44:

ALP, 44—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Crawford, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Lynham, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, B. O'Rourke, C. O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Stewart, Trad, Whiting.

Pairs: D'Ath, Wilson; Healy, Stevens; Pegg, Sorensen.

Resolved in the negative.

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1011, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe—

That the bill be now read a second time.



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.11 pm): Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: I call the member for Scenic Rim.

Mr Langbroek: I was continuing.

Mr KRAUSE: Mr Speaker, the member for Surfers Paradise was in the middle of his contribution before the debate was adjourned.

Mr SPEAKER: The member has sought the call and the member has now been given the call. The member for Scenic Rim has the call.

Mr KRAUSE: In making a short contribution to this debate, I will touch on some of the issues that have been raised by other members of the LNP in this debate—in particular, the issue of shifting the threshold for offences to be dealt with summarily in the Magistrates Court or in the District Court. This continues a long history of the Labor Party being soft on crime in this state.

Who can forget the way they were dragged kicking and screaming to bring into the parliament the no-body no-parole laws, the domestic violence reforms that were brought into the parliament by the LNP which the other party voted against several times in the 55th Parliament, the breach of bail laws for youth justice, and the general watering down of youth justice laws so that it now is a catch-and-release system for our police officers? I was talking to a police officer just this afternoon in the Scenic Rim electorate. When I asked him if there was any one issue that he wanted to raise with me, he said, 'I would like to see reform to the breach of bail laws, in the youth justice space.'

Shifting the threshold for the Magistrates Court and for the District Court would have continued the Labor Party's record of watering down laws and being soft on crime, because the maximum penalty that can be imposed by the Magistrates Court is three years imprisonment. When judges need to make decisions about sentencing, they need to take into account all of the circumstances. That means that for all of those offences we would have seen lower sentences across the board.

It is good that the government said it will withdraw that provision. The question is: how did it make it into the bill in the first place? Why did the government or the department put it in the bill in the first place? Was it just someone in the department who thought it was a great idea? It was probably not, because it would have had to go through the entire cabinet process. Why did the government think it was a good idea in the first place to water down the penalty for those offences?

When we look at the offences involved—unlawful use of a motor vehicle, burglary, fraud, unlawful entry—they all are offences that people in my area are concerned about. They are also concerned about property crime that is rising due to the increased use of ice, which is an issue around Beaudesert. It an issue everywhere. Because of unlawful entries and people's cars being stolen, people fear for their property rights and for their safety in their own homes. This proposal, although being withdrawn, would have made that a whole lot worse.

I will also touch on the issues that it would have raised for the Magistrates Court and on the pressure it would have placed on those courts. That is a particularly pertinent issue in Beaudesert, where we have a Magistrates Court that is overloaded on the days that it operates and is physically incapable of dealing with the issues that come before it. It is great that that provision is being withdrawn, but it is telling of this government's attitude to victims of crime and criminals. The government is constantly putting the rights of offenders above the rights of victims of crime and the general safety of the community. That in itself is a reason why the government needs to be removed on 31 October.

Another issue I raise relates to the recruitment and selection process for members of the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal—that is, removing the requirement for the minister to advertise for applications from appropriately qualified persons to be appointed as senior members and ordinary members. Those persons can now be chosen by the Attorney-General in consultation with the president. The question is simple: why is that change being made? Why is there back-peddling when it comes to the selection process? Why is there back peddling on openness and transparency when it comes to the selection process of those quasi-judicial officers here in Queensland? It can give rise to the perception that there could be a biased recruitment and selection process. We just had a motion outlining the integrity failures of the government. It is unbelievable that there is another move in this bill to reduce the transparency, accountability and openness of the QCAT selection process.

Many people in my part of the world have concerns about crime, about the treatment of criminals by the judiciary and about the passage of laws in this place which allow the judiciary to be too soft on offenders. It is the property rights of us as individuals that hold our economy and society together. If there is no adequate deterrent for people not to commit those offences against people's properties and against their own person, then we will see the continued deterioration of our society.

There must be a deterrent. There must be strong deterrents for people taking other people's properties, destroying them, breaking into them. Time after time we see those deterrents watered down by the Labor Party. That is a big concern for my electorate and I know for people in many other parts of Queensland, particularly in North Queensland and in Townsville where over the last few years they have seen skyrocketing youth crime in particular when it comes to motor vehicles and the government's action—or should I say 'inaction'—in properly dealing with that scourge on our society.

As I said, we are not opposing this bill, but these issues need to be highlighted, particularly the issue around how such a terrible provision of watering down criminal sanctions when it comes to property offences made it into this bill in the first place. The government came to its senses only because of the strong dissent of the LNP members of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee. They should be commended for pointing out the stupidity of the government in putting that provision in the bill in the first place. The government should be condemned for doing that.

The people of Queensland know where they stand when it comes to this government and the fact that it is soft on crime. If they want a government in this state that will stand up for the community and for victims of crime, they need to remove the Labor Party from government on 31 October.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (6.19 pm), in reply: At the outset, I thank all members who contributed to the debate on the Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As I indicated in my earlier speech, the bill proposes miscellaneous amendments to over 30 civil and criminal law acts within the justice portfolio and across a broad spectrum of subject matter. The primary focus of the bill is on providing fairness, legislative clarity and operational efficiency in court and government processes.

As noted by members who contributed, a substantial part of the bill relates to amendments to the Coroners Act 2003 which will extend the operation of that act to all inquests regardless of when a death occurred and otherwise support the operation and efficiency of the coronial system. I shall address some of the matters raised during the debate about the coronial amendments. There is one thing that we can trust the LNP to do, and that is to use this place to comment on current matters before the court. I suspect that it will not be the last time the member for Toowoomba South uses victims of crime for political point-scoring. Unfortunately, they just never learn. The shadow Attorney-General was so outraged that he never wrote to or raised with the Attorney-General the particular issue that he raised in the debate today. The member for Toowoomba South stood in this House and criticised this government for not acting quickly enough to bring that particular reform before the House.

Let me remind the House that this recommendation came about by way of a report published in late 2018. Since then, consultation occurred on the issue before arriving at a policy position after removing the right to silence—a very big step that the member for Caloundra highlighted was indeed a very big and significant step—so it is entirely appropriate that the consultation on this big, major step took some time. It came to fruition with the introduction of the bill before the House in November 2019. It is quite over the top, ridiculous and a bit 'boy cried wolf' to suggest that the government dragged its feet in acting on this reform.

A number of members mentioned the advertising issue. Clause 186 of the bill will remove the requirement for the minister to advertise for applications from appropriately qualified persons to be appointed as senior members and ordinary members of QCAT. This is consistent with equivalent acts in Victoria and New South Wales; that is, for the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal and the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal. What we see here is a case where the government has reformed things, responding to the nature of how communications work and how engagements work, just to effectively take out the requirement to advertise in the paper.

The bill will remove the requirement for the minister to advertise for applications from appropriately qualified persons to be appointed as senior members and ordinary members. This amendment provides greater flexibility in the way that senior and ordinary members are appointed. This ensures that the appointment process will continue to be fully transparent and that Queenslanders' confidence in these processes can be maintained. To that end, QCAT will continue to have public processes for the appointment of members, including advertising and seeking expressions of interest from time to time. In fact, some members explained that and then did not see the logic of it. That is extraordinary.

This omnibus bill is entirely appropriate. I did hear a number of members opposite critique the fact that it is an omnibus bill. It is the nature of government, particularly in large, extensive legislative portfolios like justice and Attorney-General, that there are omnibus bills from time to time in order to manage the way in which improvements and adjustments to legislation respond to legal matters, legal cases, or the discovery of inconsistencies or potential misinterpretations. It is absolutely appropriate, and those who critique omnibus bills demonstrate their unfitness to govern. They demonstrate their inability to be ready to govern in this state. That is the nature of how this works. It shows they would have us mired in the minutiae of a separate bill on every single different issue that may result in an amendment to an act of this state. The statutes are littered with lots of little things that need to be addressed and proper reforms that need to happen. None of them constitute major reform in and of themselves. That is why it is appropriate that there are omnibus bills to address these matters. That is why it is entirely appropriate, and to that end I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time allocated for this stage of the bill having expired, I will now put all remaining questions.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

 **Mr HINCHLIFFE** (6.25 pm): I table electronically the explanatory notes and statement of compatibility with human rights to my amendments.

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe's amendments [\[792\]](#).

Tabled paper: Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe's amendments [\[793\]](#).

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Dr Robinson): In accordance with sessional order 2B, the House must now consider remaining clauses, schedules and any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. I note the minister's amendments Nos 7 and 18 are outside the long title of the bill and therefore require leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That amendments Nos 1 to 18, as circulated, be agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

1 Clause 28 (Insertion of new s 11AA)

Page 24, line 10, 'any of'—

omit, insert—

only

2 Clause 40 (Amendment of s 100 (When repealed Act still applies))

Page 30, line 18 to page 31, line 2—

omit.

3 Before clause 41

Page 31, before line 3—

insert—

40A Omission of s 100 (When repealed Act still applies)

Section 100—

omit.

4 Clause 41 (Insertion of new ss 100A—100E)

Page 31, line 4—

omit, insert—

Part 6, division 1—

5 Clause 51 (Amendment of s 552BB (Excluded offences))

Page 36, lines 19 to 21—

omit.

6 Clause 51 (Amendment of s 552BB (Excluded offences))

Page 36, line 22, '(2)'—
omit.

7 After clause 81

Page 51, after line 3—
insert—

Part 17A Amendment of Human Rights Act 2019**81A Act amended**

This part amends the *Human Rights Act 2019*.

81B Amendment of s 41 (Human rights certificate for subordinate legislation)

(1) Section 41—

insert—

(1A) However, if there is more than 1 responsible Minister for the subordinate legislation, the human rights certificate for the legislation may be prepared by 1 of the responsible Ministers under the authority of the other responsible Ministers.

(2) Section 41(2)(a) and (b), 'in the responsible Minister's opinion'—

omit, insert—

in the opinion of the Minister preparing the certificate

(3) Section 41—

insert—

(4A) This section does not apply in relation to subordinate legislation that is—

(a) a proclamation or other instrument that fixes a single day for the commencement of all of the provisions of an Act that are not in force; or

(b) an instrument, other than a regulation, of a type prescribed by regulation.

(4B) The Minister may recommend to the Governor in Council the making of a regulation under subsection (4A)(b) only if the Minister is satisfied an instrument of that type will not directly or indirectly limit a human right.

8 Clause 141 (Amendment of s 263 (Investigations))

Page 74, line 14—
omit, insert—

(1) Section 263(2)—

9 Clause 141 (Amendment of s 263 (Investigations))

Page 74, after line 22—
insert—

(2) Section 263(5), 'is a **trust account investigation**'—

omit, insert—

is a **part 3.3 investigation**

(3) Section 263(5), note, 'trust account investigation'—

omit, insert—

part 3.3 investigation

10 Clause 144 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 76, after line 1—
insert—

(1AA) Schedule 2, definitions *levy* and *trust account investigation*—

omit.

(1AB) Schedule 2—

insert—

chapter 5 body corporate means a Chapter 5 body corporate under the Corporations Act.

part 3.3 investigation see section 263(5).

11 Clause 144 (Amendment of sch 2 (Dictionary))

Page 76, lines 9 to 14—
omit.

- 12 Clause 148 (Amendment of s 4 (Jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts))**
Page 77, line 18—
omit, insert—
(1) Section 4(a), 'amount claimed'—
- 13 Clause 148 (Amendment of s 4 (Jurisdiction of Magistrates Courts))**
Page 77, after line 20—
insert—
(2) Section 4(a), after 'otherwise'—
insert—
, including any claim for detention of goods or chattels
(3) Section 4(c)—
omit, insert—
(c) every action in which a person has an equitable claim or demand against another person in respect of which—
(i) the only relief sought is—
(A) the recovery of a sum of money or of damages, whether liquidated or unliquidated; or
(B) the delivery of possession of goods or chattels in relation to a right, security interest, encumbrance, charge or lien; and
(ii) the amount, value or damage claimed is not more than the prescribed limit;
(4) Section 4—
insert—
(2) For the purpose of determining whether a Magistrates Court has jurisdiction under subsection (1) for a claim for detention of goods or chattels, the amount claimed is taken to be the total of—
(a) the amount claimed for the value of the goods or chattels; and
(b) any amount claimed for damages for the detention of the goods or chattels.
- 14 Clause 218 (Subordinate legislation amended)**
Page 106, line 10, 'Subordinate legislation'—
omit, insert—
Legislation
- 15 Clause 218 (Subordinate legislation amended)**
Page 106, line 11, 'subordinate'—
omit.
- 16 Schedule 1 (Subordinate legislation amended)**
Page 107, line 1, 'Subordinate legislation'—
omit, insert—
Legislation
- 17 Schedule 1 (Subordinate legislation amended)**
Page 107, after line 16—
insert—
Legal Profession Act 2007
1 Sections 264, 265(1)(a), 266(3)(a), 541, definition *investigation*, paragraph (b), 542(1) and 564(1)(a), 'trust account investigation'—
omit, insert—
part 3.3 investigation
2 Section 540(a), 'trust account investigations'—
omit, insert—
part 3.3 investigations
- 18 Long title**
Long title, after '*the Guardianship and Administration Act 2000*,'—
insert—
the Human Rights Act 2019,

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Question put—That clauses 1 to 218 and schedule 1, as amended, stand part of the bill.

Motion agreed to.

Clauses 1 to 218 and schedule 1, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading

Question put—That the bill, as amended, 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, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION (COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 19 May (see p. 888).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (6.27 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.27 pm): I wish to lead the opposition's response to the COVID-19 related bill for this week. This bill seeks to amend a number of acts in this House. In particular, it crosses over 20 pieces of legislation and covers a plethora of portfolios. On 22 April 2020 the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act was passed, being the second response to the COVID-19 emergency. The particular bill up for debate this evening, although I note that the minister and Deputy Premier chose not to speak to it again this evening, seeks to amend 20 acts and in many cases give effect to the bill that was passed on 22 April 2020.

The bill before the House at the moment covers the health, disability, corrective services and detention sectors. Over the last couple of months we have seen the most extraordinary decisions having to be made by government in the broadest set of circumstances imaginable. If you recall the first COVID related bill passed by this House in March, there was 60 minutes notice given to this House. Despite the government having longstanding knowledge that a bill was coming before the House, we had 60 minutes to get our heads around it.

For the second bill that was passed in April, we were given a little more time, but the extraordinary powers that were handed to the executive in particular on that occasion in that bill warranted far greater scrutiny than they were given. Those powers that were given to the executive on that occasion were extraordinary powers, and I spoke to this at the time. In fact, the bill itself talked about extraordinary regulations being made. From recollection, I talked about Henry VIII clauses which allowed the government of the day, the executive of the day, to potentially make regulations that conflicted with the act under which they were authorised. They were extraordinary powers to be given to an executive.

I talked about the inherent and growing tension between this legislature that makes the laws and the executive that enacts them, and it is appropriate that we raise these questions again in these extraordinary times. That is the only appropriate course of action for an opposition. We see again in this bill another extraordinary set of laws that give power to the government of the day and the executive to address these most extraordinary circumstances.

I had a look through the explanatory notes of the bill. The words 'rights' and 'liberties' were used on 25 occasions in the explanatory notes, as there ought to be because of the analysis of the FLPs. When we were considering how to examine this bill and analyse the powers that are being given to the government of the day, we noted the phrases that were used near the words 'rights' and 'liberties'. They included words like 'outweighs the impact on rights and liberties'; 'the potential breach ... is justified';

'may raise whether the legislation has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties'; 'any infringement of rights and liberties will be limited'; 'may be inconsistent with the rights and liberties'; 'retrospectively'; 'restrict the ability'; and 'may also have the potential to infringe'.

Every provision in this bill that attracted words like that ought to be given the most serious scrutiny, but unfortunately at the moment that scrutiny is not being given to these provisions and to this bill. That is why this place of debate is so vitally important now because we do not have a committee process. That is three bills in a row relating to COVID that have not gone through a committee process. They have not undergone that public scrutiny that is so vitally important to the passing of laws in this House.

I want to confirm the opposition's support for the bill because these are extraordinary times and they require significant measures from the government to address them. We oppose clause 10 relating to letting prisoners out seven days early on parole. I will return to this later in my contribution. No amendments have been tabled at this stage, although obviously it has been foreshadowed in the public arena that that particular provision will be withdrawn by the government. I am yet to see that, so I foreshadow that if that amendment is not made we will be opposing that clause. I also foreshadow now that we will be seeking to move amendments to the Youth Justice Act. I will return to that later in my contribution. The Youth Justice Act is being amended by this bill tonight, so I would like to make the amendments that the government has promised over the last couple of months. We will be seeking to move amendments in that regard.

I return to the seriousness of how these laws are being made without scrutiny and consultation. Page 18 of the explanatory notes refers to the consultation that has taken place in the preparation of this bill. As I said, the bill covers a wide range of portfolios, including environment, health, liquor and gaming, disability services and corrective services. A significant breadth of legislation is being changed, so the lack of consultation on this bill is perplexing. The government has commented on the various lobby groups that have made representations over time, but there is no further detail on whether they were consulted on this bill.

One of the first points I would like to make in that area is that, given the bill is called the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Bill 2020 and it has the word 'justice' in its title, it is surprising that the Queensland Law Society was not consulted. That is a significant gap already in the consultative process on this bill. Other areas of consultation that have been referred to by the government in the explanatory notes related to manufactured homes and residential parks. Consideration has been given to representations made by stakeholders about the impacts of the COVID-19 emergency on the gambling sector, but again there is no talk of this bill being seen by stakeholders.

We have known about this bill for at least a number of days because we heard the Premier say there would be COVID-19 related legislation before the House this week. The government have had time to consult properly and engage with stakeholders to hear their concerns from across the board but they have failed to do so. Instead, we are left with a situation where stakeholders found out about this bill after they were alerted to it by a number of members of the opposition with shadow portfolio responsibilities. Again, I stress that, at this time when there is no scrutiny of bills being undertaken by parliamentary committees, the engagement with stakeholders and the degree of debate that we have in this House is vitally important to ensure that all areas of these laws are analysed. The one aspect of this that does give me some comfort is that there is a sunset date of 31 December this year for many of these provisions. That is an appropriate curb on the executive power and is entirely appropriate in the circumstances.

I turn to the amendments in this bill that relate to my portfolio. A number of my colleagues will make contributions in respect of their particular portfolios. The first amendments I want to talk to are body corporate and community management amendments. We have a new section 323D which permits a body corporate to adopt a reduced sinking fund budget for the current financial year of the body corporate by ordinary resolution. The second major part to that is section 323E that will apply where the body corporate for a community titles scheme has fixed lot owner contributions for the current financial year of the body corporate. The Strata Community Association plays a vital role in lobbying government for good law in this area. I have spoken with the Strata Community Association. There are 50,000 strata titles across Queensland. They are vitally important in the economies on the coast and the regulation in those areas is desperately in need of attention.

It was in 2014 when the LNP Attorney-General, the member for Kawana, started the property law review. We are now in our seventh year of waiting for this government to act upon the work that was undertaken by QUT and the former LNP government. It was vital work necessary to update the

body corporate laws in Queensland. We have here some of the reforms that are probably necessary which have been done extraordinarily quickly without any consultation. They have been waiting for long periods of time to be worked upon and at least in this moment of urgency that has actually occurred. The very fact that it has taken this long for the Attorney-General to get to work and make these changes is quite perplexing. It shows that it can be done but the Attorney-General chooses not to.

One other area that I wanted to comment upon is related to the commercial leasing code. We on this side of the House have had people from both sides—landlords and tenants—reaching out in terms of how they manage their commercial leasing arrangements. One of the clear concerns is the lack of certainty about that. The Morrison federal government released a code on 7 April and since then both landlords and tenants at the commercial level have been waiting for this code. We understand now that there is a draft confidential version of the code out for public consultation. However, we are not certain where that rests. We understand there was consultation that probably closed last week, but there is still no clarity. That means that landlords and tenants do not have certainty around their commercial arrangements. Right now that is the worst possible scenario for so many businesses, small and large, to be living through. Again, if this code is sitting with the Attorney-General's office, I call on her to please do everything in her power to get this code sorted. There are businesses crying out for that certainty right across Queensland.

This commercial leasing code has been different to the residential reforms that were passed in our last COVID bill back in April. Then the REIQ campaign forced the government's hand; it forced them to act to change their view, act appropriately and find the right balance. My hope is that the government does not force industry groups, landlords and tenants into the same corner and that they act sooner rather than later to ensure that the commercial leasing code is finalised as soon as possible.

I turn again to the Strata Community Association. I have spoken with their CEO and president. Their view on the bill is that there could be enhancements or improvements. I ask that the acting Attorney-General consider some of their proposals and their thoughts, in particular, a proposed minor amendment to section 323E(2), replacing the words 'no later than the end of the financial year' in subparagraph (2) with 'no later than two months after the proposed date of the next annual general meeting'. I also ask: has the government given consideration to discounts for timely payment of body corporate levies? It does not appear that that has been contemplated during the drafting of this bill, although it does apply to many schemes. I ask the acting Attorney-General to take those comments on board. If the industry has not been appropriately consulted, at least at this stage consideration could be given to those kinds of amendments.

I would like to add another comment regarding strata title. When those extraordinary regulations were passed in April, the government foreshadowed that there would be regulations relating to strata titles. The industry is still waiting for those regulations. We are nearly at three weeks and working towards a month on from that particular bill and those emergency COVID regulations which are due to impact strata title are still outstanding. The role of the opposition in this case is to hold the government to account when promises are made for regulation, for certainty, for proper support. The opposition's role is to make sure the government is delivering on their promises and the opposition does not resile from that position.

I also note that apart from the absence of direction on laws that update the 1997 act, there are also modules under strata title that are coming towards their sunset that also need to be renewed. The government has proven that it is possible to act quickly in this space when they want to. My call to the government is to take the initiative, sort out some of these problems in strata title and give certainty to the industry at large.

Turning to the next section—and this is what has been foreshadowed—I understand that clause 10, which inserts the new section 110A, will allow the chief executive to release a prisoner from a Corrective Services facility on parole up to seven days prior to the prisoner's parole release. My understanding from media reports is that there will be an amendment in that regard. I have not seen that yet. If there is not, we will be opposing that particular clause.

I want to draw a contrast between the priorities of a government that would see fit to release a prisoner early on parole as opposed to what their true priority should be, because ultimately it is a question of priorities for government. That kind of priority says one thing about that side of the House, and the private member's bill introduced by the Leader of the Opposition today says something about the priorities of this side of the House. At a time when domestic violence calls are through the roof and Google have reported that there are significantly higher numbers of searches being undertaken for the phrase 'domestic violence', we know this is the kind of matter that should be considered in this particular bill.

What we saw in the domestic violence summit was that the criminal justice group was pretty much shut down. There was no consideration of any legislative change, which so many in that forum were looking for. There were many people who were disappointed with that. I accept that there is important work to be done to address domestic violence resourcing and other aspects of it that were raised at that forum. However, there was a missed opportunity to investigate what criminal law reform could be necessary. That shows the kind of priorities of those on this side of the House compared to the other when the Leader of the Opposition introduces a private member's bill in the way we did.

Ms Farmer interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I look forward to the minister's support of the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! The minister will cease interjecting.

Mr JANETZKI: I look forward to the minister's support of our private member's bill which seeks to clarify the definition of 'strangulation' and institute a more severe penalty.

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr JANETZKI: I take the interjection from the member for Mudgeeraba. The Red Rose Foundation in particular was quite pleased to see this bill introduced today. They took out a press release about it. I take the interjection.

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The bill before the House is the COVID-19 emergency response bill. I encourage the shadow minister to address that bill rather than the bill that is going to be on the notice paper sometime tomorrow.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The legislation is quite wideranging as an omnibus bill, but I do ask the minister to be focused on the current legislation.

Mr JANETZKI: The question that has to be asked this evening is: did the government really think it an appropriate priority to release prisoners on parole seven days prior to their parole release date? Is that evidence of the priorities of this government during COVID-19 when we have not only the health crisis but also the looming economic crisis? Hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost, yet that is the priority of this government. They should be ashamed that that is their priority. Other aspects could easily have been legislated right now in this bill, even in the domestic violence space. It is an opportunity missed at a time when we know that domestic violence services are under more pressure than ever before.

Turning to my next point, I want to speak briefly about the amendments to the Gaming Machine Act 1991. In particular, I draw attention to an industry that is crying out for help. During the week, the acting CEO of Clubs Queensland, Dan Nippres, went on the public record saying that up to 25 per cent of Queensland clubs could close due to COVID-19. We have a major part of our community clubs at risk at this very moment. The further regionally you travel, the more you understand how important these clubs are. They are vitally important everywhere—in urban and regional areas. So far, the government has promised the deferral of some gaming tax. In contrast, the LNP has said that gaming tax should be waived until such time as clubs are operating again. These are community clubs that return profits to their members, support their community groups and pay for the bibs for the netball team and the footballs for the football team. These clubs are the pillars of our community and desperately need help right now, particularly when I hear the acting CEO of Clubs Queensland say that up to 25 per cent of Queensland clubs may in fact close.

New section 367C does give some hope, as does section 367A, when the provisions talk about 'waived' or 'deferred' under a new part 11A. These are quite practical clauses that need to be given to the Attorney-General to see through these waivers and deferrals, but my hope is that those words which have given hope to Clubs Queensland are actually used—not the 'deferred' but the 'waived' part—because our clubs need as much help as possible. When I talk to Clubs Queensland, the frustrating thing that I find is that so much of what they are asking for is not even tax related or Gaming Machine Act related; in fact, it is simply regulatory in nature. There are so many things that the Attorney-General could do to make the lives of clubs in Queensland easier. They are on their knees and need as much help as possible from this government. The first thing the government could do is consider some of the regulatory requests that Clubs Queensland have repeatedly made to the Attorney-General over the last five years.

I want to raise quickly the changes to the Liquor Act 1992. Representatives of the Queensland Hotels Association with whom I have spoken lobbied for these changes in respect of takeaway liquor, and they have been approved by the government. It is an appropriate clause to be introduced, and the opposition will be supporting it.

My next point relates to the changes to the Local Government Act, which are more of interest to the local government shadow minister, and she will speak about those in due course. It is appropriate that I mention that. It is a quite an unusual power that will give councils the power to raise rates outside of their formal budget meetings. I accept that it is probably necessary in these extraordinary circumstances, but it is quite an extraordinary power. I understand that the Local Government Association is supportive of it. The opposition will be supporting it.

When the Deputy Premier and health minister started speaking yesterday in the first reading speech before the bill was declared urgent, he commented upon there being amendments to the Youth Justice Act. It did raise my attention because we have been waiting for these changes to the Youth Justice Act for some time. However, it turns out that the Youth Justice Act amendments related to employees at detention centres. The unions were consulted in that regard, so I am sure everyone is happy. What is not clear is when this government will move amendments, as promised by the minister, to address the gaps in the Youth Justice Act. What we have seen throughout Queensland for the last five years is a youth justice crisis. It has been from beginning to end. That is why this opposition will seek to move amendments to resolve these problems once and for all.

The Youth Justice Act needs repair. Over the last five years of this government, we have seen shocking, poor—whatever adjective you want to find—governance of this most important area in the state. Initially, 17-year-olds were moved into the youth justice system. There was no plan. I remember Ian Leavers of the Queensland Police Union talking about there being no plan, that McDonald's had been planned better than the Youth Justice Act. In one April-May edition of the *Queensland Police Union Journal* he said—

The Youth Justice Minister ... has clearly done nothing. No planning. No modelling ... As a result of the Youth Justice Minister's inability to do her job, we now have more juveniles than adults in the Brisbane watchhouse.

We warned that the Youth Justice Act would need to be properly planned when considering that 17-year-olds were moving into the youth justice sphere. It was not. What did we see? We saw the watch house crisis that, frankly, appalled everybody. We saw the minister go on *Four Corners* and walk out the other end of it promising \$500 million to solve this problem. It was the most expensive interview in Australian television history! We saw a lack of planning result in the pain and suffering of young children caught in the watch house. It is worth remembering these were young children. There was evidence that under this government there were children in watch houses with their fingers severed, they were naked under their smocks for days, there was water contaminated by faecal matter, and they were crying for their mothers in 24-hour fluorescent light. It was those harrowing stories that forced the government to act, but again it failed to act with appropriate planning and consideration. In its amendments to the Youth Justice Act, the government changed section 48 without properly thinking through the potentialities. We saw an explosion of crime in Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane, the Gold Coast—

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I acknowledge that the shadow Attorney-General has flagged his intentions to move amendments to the bill. Those amendments have not been circulated. I can see that he wants to make reference to these matters, but making it the core of his contribution to a bill which does not contain these matters—and there are no amendments circulated to the House in relation to these matters—is straying from what is relevant to the bill before the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): The member is free to reference the fact that there are amendments, but without them being circulated there is no real opportunity to go to the detail of that. Could the member come back to the bill?

Mr JANETZKI: Those amendments will be correcting the errors that have been made. With regard to the release in favour of bail amendments that were passed by the government that were flagged for change on 17 March by the youth minister, here we are two months later when the youth justice minister walked in after being asked. The Premier had been written to by the Leader of the Opposition.

Debate, on motion of Mr Janetzki, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Queensland Border Closure

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.00 pm): I rise to speak on an issue that is of tremendous importance to my community. It is causing angst within my community and it is causing consternation for the people in my community almost every single day. I am talking about the border closure between

Coolangatta and Tweed Heads and the uncertainty around when that border will be reopened. The government recently published its 'Roadmap to easing Queensland's restrictions' which stated that the easing of restrictions would occur around 10 July 2020. Yesterday the Premier changed her mind and said it would occur in September. Now she is not sure when the border will reopen, but one thing is certain: she says it will stay closed. This is not good enough for my community. My community needs certainty around when the border will reopen. My office has been inundated by locals saying how much this closure is affecting their business and their livelihoods. They need it reopened sooner rather than later. In fact, today in the *Courier-Mail* the national Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Paul Kelly, said that there is no reason for the states to remain closed. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 20 May 2020, titled 'Coronavirus: Deputy CMO Paul Kelly says no reason for states to remain closed' [794].

My community needs certainty around when the border will be reopened so that they can plan lives accordingly. These issues are unique to my community's border towns of Tweed and Coolangatta. The government's one-size-fits-all approach does not work for the border community. The continued closure is especially affecting our family owned small businesses. There is an article in today's *Gold Coast Bulletin* which details how much the small businesses in the border communities are being affected, businesses like Currumbin Boatshed. I table that article so members can read about the small businesses in my community that are being affected.

Tabled paper: Article from *Gold Coast Bulletin*, undated, titled 'Boatshed up Currumbin Creek with no paddle' [795].

In my maiden speech I gave my commitment to the people of Currumbin that I would not waste a single opportunity to represent them. This issue is devastating my community. The government needs to provide certainty around when the border will reopen, and my community needs this now.

Coronavirus, Health Response

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.03 pm): We thank the member for Currumbin for that New South Wales perspective on the border closure.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Dr Robinson): Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting.

Mr POWER: As I said last week, when members reflect on what happened during COVID-19 they will reflect as to whether they helped keep the state safe or undermined it. The member for Surfers Paradise managed to promote antivaxxing during this time when a vaccination will be so essential to restoring our economy and restoring our safety. We need to get behind and unify in terms of the information given by the Chief Health Officer. Unfortunately, the first contribution from the member for Currumbin has tried to undermine Queensland's Chief Health Officer, and that is so disappointing. That is not what Logan is about. I want to recognise the people of Logan and the whole of Queensland for the way they have stopped the spread of COVID-19 in Logan and Queensland by backing the Chief Health Officer, not undermining her in their first speech.

Logan has not escaped positive cases, with them mostly coming in from overseas. There have been 46 local cases and, concerningly, six were locally acquired from an unknown origin. There are also another two—and this is worrying—from interstate. Logan locals have done great things. By listening to the experts like Dr Jeannette Young, they have smashed the curve. They have protected themselves and they have protected others. The most important message is this: if you feel symptoms, go to the Logan fever clinic and get a test, as thousands of Logan residents have done. The test can reassure them, but it also means that they will not then spread it or if people do have it we can contact-trace so it is stopped at that point. As I said, the two most recent cases came in from interstate. If just one of them had ignored the signs or broken the guidelines and had not been washing their hands or doing all of the things we should, then it might have quickly spread to others. That is why the Logan community must continue the great work and I could never be more proud of the Logan community keeping each other safe.

This has not been easy though. Logan residents have lost work. JobKeeper has helped, but it is a daily struggle for some. That is why I want to continue to see investment in wages. This week I was excited to see the Minister for Main Roads and the Premier announce \$37.5 million for a jointly funded upgrade to the four-lane section of the Mount Lindesay Highway from Stoney Camp Road through to Chambers Flat Road. That backs 80 jobs—80 people who can work in a COVID safe environment. On Friday I was out there observing the workers put in place the 54 beams. We know that we back Logan, we back investment in Logan roads, we back improving our transport and we back them getting the safe jobs that they can support. That is what this government is about.

Paradise Dam

 **Mr BOYCE** (Callide—LNP) (7.06 pm): Paradise Dam is fast becoming the biggest infrastructure failure in Queensland history. The Labor government is hell-bent on pulling down the dam wall on the grounds of safety. The minister, Dr Lynham, is refusing to release the commission of inquiry's report into the lowering of the Paradise Dam wall. The report has cost the Queensland taxpayer \$6 million. What is the minister hiding from now? This morning in question time I asked the minister a simple question: who has made the decision to lower the Paradise Dam wall? The minister did not answer. I will quote what the minister said in a letter to Marland Law which I tabled this morning—

I advise that the decision was not made by me, rather the decision was made by SunWater as the owner and operator of Paradise Dam.

Sunwater's response through Allens Linklaters—documents also tabled this morning—says—

Our client is required by statute to proceed with essential works condition DS15 which is one of the safety conditions for the dam that provides :- the primary spillway is to be lowered to EL 62.6m AHD or nearest level below this by 1st December 2020 unless otherwise agreed in writing by the Dam Safety Regulator. Our client must comply with this by virtue of Section 356A of the Water Supply Act.

Would you not agree, Mr Deputy Speaker, that that is conflicting? Furthermore, it is now obvious that the minister has not read Dr Rizzo's report. He has stated that there is no reference to the cost of repairing the Paradise Dam. Page 33 of the report, which I will table, says quite clearly that the 63 anchors recommended for Paradise Dam would have a cost of US\$15.75 million.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 29 March 2020, titled 'Rizzo International, Inc.—Assessment of Dam Safety Issues Paradise Dam Queensland, Australia: Project 19-6089, Revision 0' [[796](#)].

That is approximately A\$25 million. Also, page 38 of Dr Rizzo's report says—

Paradise Dam is in a distressed state but is highly unlikely to experience failure resulting in loss of life. The distressed state can be remediated at reasonable cost as accomplished at other dams around the world, without negative consequences or extreme actions. We are of the opinion that an alarmist atmosphere has evolved over the safety of Paradise Dam without adequate basis.

The distress should be addressed with suitable corrective engineering actions but such actions should be measured, not extreme or dramatically disruptive.

With the modifications to the SunWater concept as recommended here in, it may be possible to achieve adequate F.O.S. against sliding without post tension anchors. i.e. Simply by modifying the ... spillway ...

(Time expired)

Coronavirus, Lynham, Mr A

 **Hon. AJ LYNHAM** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (7.09 pm): Tonight I will give a personal reflection on how the Queensland response to coronavirus is progressing. Presently we have had 1,058 cases, with six lives tragically taken. It could have been far worse. I remember the early predictions. They were not pretty. I want to talk about Anthony Lynham—Anthony Lynham from Burnham-on-Sea in England. He is one year older than me, married to Gaynor. We have been in contact via the net for some years now. I think Anthony googled his name and found me. We have been friends since, but we have never physically met.

Anthony and Gaynor have five boys, while Pam and I have four. Let me tell members about his eldest son, Stephen. He was dearly loved, a fine musician. He loved the sea cadets. He joined the Royal Navy. He sailed the world. He met and married Denise. They have two lovely children, Jack and Jodie. On Saturday, 2 May Anthony and Gaynor lost their eldest son, Stephen, to COVID-19. He was fit and well. This event has been devastating for them all. His funeral is in two days time. In the United Kingdom the COVID tally is 35,341 deaths. Taking population into account, if that was transferred to Queensland we would have 5,000 deaths. We have six.

I am here in Australia, in Queensland. I think of my four boys and I thank Annastacia Palaszczuk, Steven Miles and Jeannette Young for staying strong, backing the evidence and protecting my family. I am deeply saddened that my good friend Anthony Lynham has lost his eldest son Stephen, leaving behind Denise and two children. I finish with Denise's words—

Please take this seriously. Stick to the rules so that others do not have to go through the heartache that we are going through. Stay safe.

Indeed, to everyone here—to my colleagues, to families in Queensland—stick to the rules, stick to the evidence, stick to the advice and stay safe.

Quad Bikes

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (7.11 pm): I rise today with a heavy heart for the family and friends of another young life lost too early. The Burdekin district, an area well-known for its sugar cane and the silver link, the mighty Burdekin River, is in mourning following a tragic death due to a quad bike accident. While the incident is under investigation, and out of respect for the family and friends of the victim, I will not be referring to that particular incident, but I stand today to plead for our communities across the state to learn from this incident and stop these unnecessary deaths.

The Burdekin district has lost two young lives due to quad bike accidents in just over 18 months. The loss of a child is a parent's worst nightmare. For friends and family the devastation of losing someone in their prime is beyond comprehension. However, it keeps happening. During the ACCC's review into quad bikes it was shown that each year there are 16 deaths that are attributable to quad bike accidents. Approximately six people per day attend a hospital emergency department due to quad bikes every single day and two of those people require hospitalisation. Research also shows that deaths and injuries from quad bikes and associated costs impacts our economy to the tune of over \$200 million each year, but this is not about the money, it is about lives and, in this most recent case, young lives.

As a result of the ACCC's review new safety standards apply to all quad bikes from 11 October this year with an additional requirement for general use quad bikes to apply from 11 October next year. It is a sad reality, however, that these standards will not bring back those young people the Burdekin district and other places have already lost. Those new standards cannot heal the devastating effects or incidents like these, effects that last a lifetime. Those new standards cannot erase the impact on families, on friends and on our emergency service workers. In fact, nothing can.

As a community we can help prevent the pain and the loss of life. Throughout my electorate quad bikes are used on farms, on properties and for recreation. In fact, they can be an essential tool for primary producers, contractors and emergency responders. However, like so many tools the effects can be horrific when used incorrectly. Today I call on all members of this House to call on your communities to stand up and take action when they see irresponsible use of quad bikes or any other vehicle. Take the keys, call the police, do whatever is needed because it is up to all of us to stop these tragedies.

The Burdekin district is in mourning and so are many others throughout the state and the nation. We cannot bring back those young lives or heal the pain of their families and friends but as members of this House we can play our part in saving other families and friends from the same pain.

Redlands Electorate, Coronavirus Response

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (7.14 pm): COVID has had a dramatic impact across our communities. It has changed nearly every aspect of how we work, live and play, but one aspect that has not changed is the support of my government, the Palaszczuk government, which is continuing to deliver for my Redlands community. Our mayor for Redland City Council has expressed her appreciation for our Palaszczuk government's \$880 million Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan, which positions our communities to recover as we journey through to a post COVID-19 world.

For Redlands this continues to build on what our government is already delivering. We have seen the largest investment in the Redlands in infrastructure for over a decade. That is investment in roads, transport infrastructure, investment in health, investment in our schools; that is \$60 million for Cleveland Redland Bay Road, that is \$50 million in education, it is upgrades at the Redland Hospital and there is more on the way. Yesterday I also received a project update on our new \$34.1 million ferry terminals for our Southern Moreton Bay Islands in partnership with the Redland City Council. It looks fantastic and is very close to moving forward.

For the past two years I have been lobbying the government to look at classification of our islands with Minister Hinchliffe to provide access to grant funding for projects, so it was absolutely fantastic news yesterday with the announcement of the additional \$200 million boost to Works for Queensland on top of the \$600 million already there that our Redland City Council will now have access to. We are supporting businesses as they grapple with the challenges COVID-19 has thrown at us.

As I said, what has not changed throughout COVID-19 is the support for our Redlands community by our Palaszczuk government. From the get-go we have been on the front foot in response to the health crisis and the economic crisis. We have been working with our small businesses. Thanks to Minister Shannon Fentiman we have just done a Zoom hook-up via Facebook Live with our Redlands Coast Chamber of Commerce. They are doing a fantastic job with our Palaszczuk government's funded Regional Jobs Committee. Thanks to Rebecca and the team. They are doing an amazing job.

In terms of small business, never has there been a more important time than now to be able to access mobile and wi-fi services. I note that it is really disappointing that our recently installed communications tower on Russell Island, where we are working really hard to improve economic prosperity, a tower that was funded by the federal government under its Black Spot Funding Program, currently only services Optus customers. The majority of customers, like those who are with Telstra and others, are still being left behind. What I would suggest to our federal member is that, rather than wasting his time on nasty and denigrating memes and questionable social media asking parents to call our hardworking principals and school communities, he get on with the job of doing what he is paid to do and sort out issues like this, particularly for our Southern Moreton Bay Islands community. They deserve better.

Advanced Manufacturing; Traeger Electorate, Small Business

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (7.17 pm): I rise to talk about advanced manufacturing. There is a lot of talk in the wake of coronavirus about how we need to refocus. It is really interesting for someone who has rejected a lot of the ideals of monetarism. What was also interesting for me was hearing Paul Keating on Alan Jones saying that monetarism has run its course—that is to say, you cannot sit back complacently and say the market will solve everything, it is the job of business to drive the economy, government has to get its hands dirty and make things happen. That is in complete contrast to the approach of the Liberal and Labor parties in this House to economics—or in any parliament in Australia for that matter—for the last 10 or 20 years. We need to refocus.

If we are talking about advanced manufacturing we had better start to recalibrate. There is no better example of this than in Mount Isa. If you are standing in Mount Isa you are standing on millions of tonnes of copper under the ground. It gets turned into ingots and 90 per cent goes on rail to the refinery at Townsville and is turned into copper sheet at 99.9 per cent. Then it is sent over to China on a ship where it gets plastic put around as insulation and sent back as copper wire to Australia. In the wake of coronavirus electricians are saying there is a four to six week wait for the copper wire to come back into the country. People said you cannot prop up a car industry—you do not do that, that is against the rules of monetarism and market economies—but now everyone is saying it would be good to produce some things though, would it not? We should produce something. That is a real conflict. One has to have a position one way or the other.

It is interesting that people are now talking about advanced manufacturing, but we had better start recalibrating because everything that has been done one way needs to change. There is no better example to give than that of copper wire. We have a shortage of wire, but we can produce it. All we have to do is put a plastic coating around the copper wire in Townsville and we can sell that copper wire in Australia, but we do not do that. There is a copper smelter and refinery that are on the verge of shutting down. Not only are we not promoting advanced manufacturing but also we are losing it. It is declining at the moment. The North West Minerals Province is paying the highest electricity prices in the world yet we expect them to compete with the world. We say we have advanced manufacturing, but we had better go back and look at this stuff because it is under threat. We welcome the news from the government and are very grateful for the \$15 million for CopperString. That is a great start, but there needs to be a lot more of it.

I want to talk about small business in my electorate. Outback small businesses hit by the coronavirus need to be looked at separately from those in the cities, because some of the tourism businesses such as outback pubs that have closed down may never come back. They do not have the critical mass to weather the storm. Businesses will not be able to start trading immediately to make up their losses. With some of those buildings, they do not have the fluidity of other markets where things are propped back up. We need to look at those businesses separately. The Karumba caravan park, Jim Molloy's Central Hotel in Cloncurry, and Kate Downie in Hughenden are all waiting for this rescue package. I hope what has been offered now is enough.

(Time expired)

Print and Packaging Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Local Government, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.20 pm): I wish to draw the House's attention to the state of Australia's print and packaging industry and the important role that all levels of government can play to ensure that the industry not only survives but also thrives in this nation. Actions by the federal Liberal National Party government were recently brought to my attention by a Sandgate constituent, Mr Walter Kuhn. Walter and his partner, Sharon, are respected leaders in the print and packaging industry, not just on

Brisbane's north side but throughout Queensland and across the nation. Their business, Kuhn Corp Print & Packaging, whose premises are in Virginia in the electorate of the member for Nudgee, has been producing high-quality products since 1993.

Walter came to me extremely concerned about the federal government's move to outsource printing contracts to companies based in China rather than award them to Australian businesses that provide quality and timely services. In these difficult economic times caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is important that all levels of government do everything they can to support Australian businesses and Australian jobs. The Print and Visual Communication Association of Australia recently launched a petition on change.org to demand that all levels of government turn to Australian companies before looking at spending Australian taxpayers' money offshore.

The success of the Palaszczuk government's procurement policy, led by the Minister for Housing and Public Works, has meant that Queensland government procurement is sought first in Queensland. We have seen a groundswell of support from businesses and unions alike for our approach to procurement. It is absolutely appropriate in these times that we respond to the needs of our community by looking to what we can do to support and provide for ourselves.

I acknowledge the contribution made by the member for Traeger. I appreciate that it is indeed through the strong tradition of the progressive side of Australian politics that we support Australia providing for Australians. That is why I call on the Commonwealth government to follow the Palaszczuk Labor government's lead and start putting Australian print and packaging companies before their overseas competitors.

Theodore Electorate, M1

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (7.23 pm): I rise to express the concerns of many of my residents when it comes to the current roadworks at exit 57 on the M1 and the flow-on effects that that has had on my local community. From day one residents have expressed their concerns about the proposed design of the new interchange and a lot of their predictions have come to fruition. Firstly, I bring to the attention of the House that since the removal of the right turn from the Old Pacific Highway motorists are now using the Oxenford Tavern and Dan Murphy's car park as a U-turn facility. That is a safety concern for staff and patrons who frequent those businesses. Furthermore, the actions of those individuals are causing a high degree of frustration for motorists and are impeding traffic flows.

In addition, as predicted by locals, the removal of the right turn from the Old Pacific Highway has forced additional traffic along council controlled roads. Residents have reported an increase in congestion around Leo Graham Way and Global Plaza. The large increase in traffic coming out of Leo Graham Way and turning right is now causing delays along Tamborine Oxenford Road. Those roads were never designed to handle such volumes of traffic, which is resulting in lengthy peak-hour congestion periods. I also note that local small businesses now claim that the extra congestion is forcing customers away from their businesses.

Another concern is the right turn from Hope Island Road into Heathwood Drive. Often motorists will swap lanes as they traverse that intersection. For example, they will travel from the right lane and often swing wide, unwittingly entering into the left-hand lane. That is causing concerns for motorists who are turning left from Tamborine Oxenford Road into Heathwood Drive, as it is hard to judge which lane those vehicles are coming from.

The U-turn facility on Tamborine Oxenford Road is another point of contention. Residents have witnessed near misses when motorists have misjudged the distance of oncoming traffic using the facility. Only recently a truck with a trailer had to swerve into the left-hand lane from the right to miss a small sedan as it used that turn. It should be noted that we also have vehicles darting out from the 7-Eleven service station, crossing multiple lanes to use the facility.

Many residents have expressed their fear that it is only a matter of time before there is a serious accident. Residents are asking the department to take those concerns into serious consideration and implement a plan to alleviate those problems.

Miller Electorate, Coronavirus Response

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (7.26 pm):
 bOver the past few months the world has been turned upside-down by the spread of the coronavirus. The impact has been shocking. Worldwide there are five million cases and 325,000 deaths, 100 of them in Australia, and there are still 2.7 million active cases across the globe. Many

things that Queenslanders have taken for granted have been changed profoundly or in some cases have disappeared. People's health, jobs, schooling, work practices, how they move about, socialise, parent and their family life—all of that has changed suddenly, necessarily and often profoundly. It is at these challenging times in life that we realise what we value most and what we need most, and that we deeply appreciate those who put out a hand to reach others who desperately need it.

Tonight, during such extraordinary times, I take this opportunity to acknowledge those who are doing that in my electorate and the might of my community in supporting others. We are seeing people from all walks of life dedicating themselves and their time to those most in need of help to get through this crisis. I take this opportunity to thank some of the local legends in the Miller electorate. Last week I dropped in on Claudia, Theresa and the Sherwood Neighbourhood Centre team who are doing an amazing job helping with food parcels and supporting our local community, while staying safe themselves.

I acknowledge Melinda, Pauline, Bec and the team at the Yeronga Community Centre who have been running a 24/7 food pantry. People can drop food into their community pantry which is basically located on the street. You can leave food for others who need it and if you need it you can come and take it. It is a wonderfully simple idea that I was happy to contribute to, as many members of our community do. I am very proud that we have a permanent home for the Yeronga Community Centre, because they have done wonderful work since the 2011 floods. They will go into the Yeronga Mixed Use Precinct.

I thank Paula Callaghan and her team at the Benarrawa Community Development Association who do a wonderful job to support the community at Chelmer. I thank Trish Cattermole and the team at Belong at Moorooka who service a large area that covers not only my electorate but also the electorates of Toohey and Algester. I know our members are grateful for their work.

Thanks go to the volunteers and staff at Meals on Wheels at Yeronga and Sherwood for their ongoing support of the vulnerable in our community. I thank the people of Braille House at Annerley, the Moorooka Lion's Club and the Women's Legal Service which provides crucial legal support for women, especially now when, sadly, we have seen an increase in domestic violence due to the circumstance. Of course, big thanks go to all our frontline health workers, teachers and school staff who have faced huge challenges. I think it is fair to say that respect for them is at an all-time high. I also thank our public transport workers.

The House adjourned at 7.29 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke B, O'Rourke C, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting