



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SIXTH PARLIAMENT

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THURSDAY, 13 AUGUST 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.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (9.31 am): On Thursday, 18 June 2020 in question on notice No. 668 I asked the Minister for Housing and Public Works whether the social housing eligibility criteria have changed in this term of government and sought details of any such changes to the eligibility criteria. The minister's answer explicitly stated, 'The eligibility criteria for social housing has not changed.' I table for the benefit of the House two documents from government websites.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 1 January 2018, titled 'Social Housing Eligibility Criteria' [\[1352\]](#).

Tabled paper: Webpage, dated 29 July 2020, titled 'Check your eligibility / Homes and housing / Queensland Government' [\[1353\]](#).

The first is an earlier document dated 2018 titled 'Social Housing Eligibility Criteria', and the second is a subsequent webpage, which was last updated in October 2019, under the headings 'Eligibility for housing' and 'Check your eligibility'.

The later 2019 document states that 'you must meet all the eligibility criteria to receive social housing'. The eligibility criteria listed under heading 7, 'Wellbeing', states that you must have 'multiple and complex factors that mean you are unable to independently access and sustain stable housing'.

The requirement to demonstrate multiple and complex factors and a number of these complex factors themselves are new to the 2019 criteria and represent a clear and significant change. I understand the experience of stakeholders working in social housing—

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maiwar, I apologise for interrupting you. This is not the time to deliver the argument around why it is a matter of privilege. I ask that you write to me to supply those details. You have made it clear that you will be raising a matter of privilege against the minister. You will be writing to me on the matter?

Mr BERKMAN: That is my intention.

Correction to Record of Proceedings, Apology

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.33 am): I rise to correct the record in relation to my contribution to the debate on the opposition leader's motion last night. During the course of that debate, I said that the LNP during its term in government created 8,400 full-time jobs. That was incorrect. I am advised that the LNP in fact oversaw the loss of 8,400 full-time jobs during the term of the Newman government. I apologise to members opposite for any offence caused by suggesting that they created jobs.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I have made myself clear about matters of privilege being heard in silence and it is certainly not an opportunity to either re-prosecute an argument or challenge the speaker who is on their feet.

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.34 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. On Tuesday, 11 August 2020, in response to a question from the member for Macalister, I advised the House that the member for Mudgeeraba had written to my department demanding to know what had happened to a \$21 million commitment to Gold Coast Springbrook Road

under the then minister for main roads, Craig Wallace, during the Bligh Labor government. I advised the House that the project was in fact cut by the Newman LNP government and that the member for Mudgeeraba had obviously forgotten about that. During my contribution, the member for Mudgeeraba interjected to say, as *Hansard* reflects, that she did not forget; Craig Wallace cut it. Mr Speaker, that statement is false and I will be writing to you alleging that the member for Mudgeeraba—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my left, I have just given guidance about matters of privilege being heard. I will not tolerate interjections during these matters of privilege being raised. It is every member's right in this House to raise those matters.

Mr BAILEY: That statement was false and I will be writing to you alleging that the member for Mudgeeraba has intentionally attempted to mislead the House in relation to who in fact cut the \$21 million project for Gold Coast Springbrook Road.

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (9.36 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. I do not do it very often. In question time this week—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Leader of the Opposition, maybe I was not clear. There will be no interjections. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms JONES: I rise on a matter of privilege. In question time this week, the Leader of the Opposition and senior shadow ministers, including the members for Everton, Chatsworth, Glass House and Moggill, repeatedly made false and misleading claims in this House regarding the Cross River Rail project. I believe these members are in breach of standing order 266 and in contempt of the parliament.

Despite the Minister for Transport and Main Roads and myself as the minister responsible for the Cross River Rail project providing accurate advice and factual information about the project numerous times, and despite the member for Everton's own documents—well, my documents, but he tabled them in the parliament—which contradicted their own comments, indeed contradicted his own comments, they have continued to repeat these false and misleading claims eight times. I would like to inform the House I have today written to you, Mr Speaker, regarding this contempt.

REPORT

Register of Members' Interests

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table the 33rd report on the Register of Members' Interests.

Tabled paper: Thirty-Third Report on the Register of Members' Interests [[1341](#)].

SPEAKER'S RULING

Responsibility of Passholders to Parliamentary Precinct, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, security on the precinct is a collective matter. All passholders must ensure that procedures regarding security are followed. One of the responsibilities of passholders in signing in guests is ensuring those guests are accompanied by a passholder at all times. Passholders who sign in and accompany guests are responsible for the behaviour of those guests on the precinct while they are here. Passholders must ensure that guests do not go into areas they are not permitted to, or engage in inappropriate conduct with other members or staff, or attempt to access the private papers of other members.

A member has brought to my attention social media posts by a guest of the member for Mirani. The social media post shows a display of political material on the precinct and posting of paraphernalia on another member's office door. The activity could, at best, be considered immature. In any event, it is not appropriate behaviour on the parliamentary precinct. Disappointingly, this is not the first time I have dealt with the behaviour of visitors on the precinct who have been the responsibility of the member for Mirani.

On 23 October 2019, I made a statement in the House asking for the member's apology to the House and suspended the member's privileges to bring visitors to the parliamentary precinct for six months. That was under section 50 of the Parliamentary Service Act 1988. I have decided to refer the

behaviour of the member and his guest on the precinct to the Ethics Committee. I have also suspended the member's privileges to bring visitors to the parliamentary precinct under section 50 of the same act until such time as the Ethics Committee reports to the House.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 18 June 2020, the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the member for Everton deliberately misled the House on 16 June 2020. The matter relates to two statements made by the member for Everton during the matters of public interest debate. The first statement was 'Queensland is still the only state without a budget,' and the second statement was 'Before the coronavirus, this state had ... the highest debt level in the country.'

I sought further information from the member for Everton about the allegation made against him, in accordance with standing order 269(5). With respect to the first statement, I note that the member for Everton apologised in the House on 11 August 2020. His apology is noted at page 1835 of the *Record of Proceedings*. With respect to the second statement, I find that the member for Everton has made an adequate explanation for the basis of his statement. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 18 June 2020, the Treasurer and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning wrote to me alleging that the Member for Everton deliberately misled the House on 16 June 2020.

The matter relates to two statements made by the Member for Everton during Matters of Public Interest.

The first statement being, 'Queensland is still the only state without a budget' and the second statement being, 'Before the coronavirus, this state had ... the highest debt level in the country'.

In his letter to me, the Treasurer contended that the first statement was misleading because at that point in time no state, nor the Commonwealth government, had delivered a budget.

The Treasurer further contended that the second statement was misleading, and provided figures from the 2019-20 mid-year economic updates as evidence of this.

I sought further information from the Member for Everton about the allegation made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

With respect to the first statement, the Member for Everton has apologised in the House on 11 August 2020. The apology is noted at page 1835 of the *Record of Proceedings*.

With respect to the second statement, the Member for Everton provided the revised actual figures from the 2018-19 year that was contained in each state and territory's 2019-20 budget, which he concluded was the basis for his statement that Queensland had the highest debt level. This material differs from the evidence the Treasurer relied on to assert the contrary.

Having considered the material presented by both members, in relation to the first statement, and noting the Member for Everton's apology in the House on 11 August 2020, I consider the Member for Everton has made an adequate apology for the statement.

In relation to the second statement, I consider the Member for Everton has made an adequate explanation as to the basis for his statement.

Therefore I have decided that the matters do not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matters.

I table the correspondence in relation to these matters.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence relating to an allegation that the member for Everton, Mr Tim Mander MP, deliberately misled the House [[1360](#)].

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 16 July 2020, the member for Kawana wrote to me alleging that both the Premier and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women deliberately misled the House on 17 June 2020. The matter relates to statements made by the Premier and minister during question time. The Premier said, 'I am more than happy for the Leader of the Opposition to get up in this House and explain why 225 child safety officers were cut.' The minister said, 'Those opposite sacked 225 child safety officers.'

I sought further information from the Premier and minister about the allegations made against them, in accordance with standing order 269(5). In her correspondence, the minister informed me of her intention to apologise at the earliest opportunity. I note that on 11 August 2020 the minister apologised to the House, and this is recorded at page 1920 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I consider the minister has made an adequate apology.

In her correspondence, the Premier informed me of her intention to correct the record. I note that on 11 August 2020 the Premier did so, and this is recorded at page 1919 of the *Record of Proceedings*. Accordingly, I find that the Premier has made an adequate explanation for her statement. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED DELIBERATELY MISLEADING THE HOUSE

On 16 July 2020, the Member for Kawana wrote to me alleging that both the Premier and Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women deliberately misled the House on 17 June 2020.

The matter relates to statements made by the Premier and Minister during Question Time.

The Premier said, 'I am more than happy for the Leader of the Opposition to get up in this House and explain why 225 child safety officers were cut'.

The Minister said, 'Those opposite sacked 225 child safety officers'.

In his letter to me, the Member for Kawana contended that these statements were misleading because a Child Safety Officer is a role with a specific meaning, and that no Child Safety Officers were sacked in the period alleged.

I sought further information from the Premier and Minister about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

In her correspondence, the Minister explained that while her statement was not deliberately misleading, it could be seen as potentially ambiguous.

Therefore, the Minister informed me of her intention to apologise at the earliest opportunity. I note that on the 11 August 2020, the Minister apologised to the House, and this is recorded at page 1920 of the *Record of Proceedings*.

On the information before me, I consider the Minister has made an adequate apology for her statement under Standing Order 269(4).

The Premier argued that child safety officers are not defined in the Child Protection Act 1999 as contended by the Member for Kawana, but noted that there is a definition on the Department of Child Safety website and it would be incorrect to assert that 225 of these officers were sacked by the Newman Government. The Premier conceded that her statement could potentially be seen as misleading.

The Premier argued that in a general sense she was referring to public service officers who work for Child Safety, when she said that 225 child safety officers had been sacked.

I note that on the 11 August 2020, the Premier made an explanation to the House, and this is recorded at page 1919 of the *Record of Proceedings*.

I consider the Premier has made an adequate explanation for her statement under Standing Order 269(4).

Therefore, I have decided that neither matter warrants the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee and I will not be referring the matter.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Bundle of correspondence relating to an allegation that the Premier and Minister for Trade, Hon. Annastacia Palaszczuk, and the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Di Farmer, deliberately misled the House [[1354](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Visitors to Public Gallery



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I wish to acknowledge the attendance in the public gallery of a delegation from the Far North Queensland Regional Organisation of Councils. I welcome to the parliament: Peter Scott, Mayor of the Cook Shire Council; Michael Kerr, Mayor of the Douglas Shire Council; Jason Woibo, Mayor of the Hope Vale Aboriginal Shire Council; Angela Toppin, Mayor of the Mareeba Shire Council; Bradley Creek, Mayor of the Wujal Wujal Aboriginal Shire Council; Ross Andrews, Mayor of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council; and Leon Yeatman, CEO of the Yarrabah Aboriginal Shire Council. I also welcome Darlene Irvine, Executive Officer of FNQROC. Welcome all to Parliament House.

School Group Tour

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Bethania Lutheran Primary School in the electorate of Waterford.

PETITIONS

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

Chinchilla, Youth Crime

Mr Boyce, from 891 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce a range of measures to reduce youth crime in Chinchilla [[1342](#), [1343](#)].

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

Leslie Harrison Dam

From 1,451 petitioners, requesting the House to look at feasible options to restore the holding capacity of Leslie Harrison Dam and to permit non-motorised recreational use at and on the Dam [[1344](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

REPORTS BY THE CLERK

The following reports were tabled by the Clerk—

[1345](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 2019-20

[1346](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal: Review of base and additional salary rates and the allowances system 2020, Determination 21/2020, 13 August 2020

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles)—

[1347](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. Dr Miles), to a paper petition (3373-20) presented by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, and an ePetition (3330-20) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 239 and 2,049 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to do all within its power for a full-time paediatric cardiologist to be based in North Queensland

Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch)—

[1348](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3264-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 5,825 petitioners, requesting the House to assess an environmental value of the Bimblebox Nature Refuge and to grant it a state protected status as one of the few remaining forests in western Queensland

[1349](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3310-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 199 petitioners, requesting the House to preference local Indigenous art and art forms for the fit out and interior design elements of the new QPAC and to name the theatre after a female Indigenous artist

[1350](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and the Great Barrier Reef, Minister for Science and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch), to an ePetition (3346-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 412 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure a full and thorough investigation of the handling of the old Dakabin tip site be conducted through a relevant State entity

Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan)—

[1351](#) Response from the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Ryan), to an ePetition (3348-20) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 1,256 petitioners, requesting the House to do all within its power to revoke or refund fines handed to Queenslanders who breached COVID-19 rules as a matter of principle and an ePetition (3349-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 228 petitioners, requesting the House to dismiss the spirit of petition 3348-20 presented by Nick Dametto MP and reaffirm that in Queensland we will protect public health and prosperity through fines for flagrant breaches of public health orders and never attempt to remove freedom of assembly

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.43 am): In the past 24 hours Queensland has had no new cases of COVID-19. This is a result of a massive effort. All five million Queenslanders share in this result because it has taken all five million of us to achieve it and it is going to take all five million of us to keep it up. Just in the past 24 hours 11,915 tests were processed.

Queensland's health response to the global pandemic has taken enormous sacrifice. Among those sacrifices were the Queenslanders asked to delay some surgeries so we could free up resources in hospitals for COVID. In June, the health minister announced that we would pay back those sacrifices by fast-tracking those surgeries with a quarter of a billion dollars spent on weekend and out-of-hours procedures. In a moment, the health minister will detail the result of that elective surgery blitz.

I cannot thank Queenslanders enough for the selfless way they are confronting this pandemic, but the danger is still on our doorstep. As of this morning, New South Wales had 297 active cases. We have 11. New South Wales had 96 additional cases in the past week. They are having to take appropriate measures. Like Victoria, we wish New South Wales every success in containing the virus, but Queensland is not taking any chances.

Our borders will remain closed for as long as the risk remains. Dr Young advises that those risks are real. For those impacted by our border closure I can only offer sympathy, but I will not put the safety of Queenslanders at risk. Queenslanders can rely on each other. We have proven it time and time again. We cannot let our guard down.

Natural Disasters, Recovery Assistance

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.45 am): While the world has been captivated and dealing with the global pandemic for most of 2020, in Queensland we have not forgotten the catastrophic bushfire season of 2019. Some 7.7 million hectares were scorched across the state, destroying homes and businesses. The road to recovery from disasters is often long and behind the scenes I want to assure Queenslanders that the recovery work has been continuing.

I want to thank former police commissioner, Ian Stewart, who did great work as the State Recovery Coordinator and with the Queensland Reconstruction Authority has been working hard to support impacted communities. Twenty-three councils were activated for financial assistance under the joint federal-state Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements. More than \$2.5 million has been paid out in personal hardship assistance grants to more than 12,000 people.

We announced a \$20 million tourism and community recovery package to address the long-term mental health, economic, tourism, environmental and industry impacts. Seeing the destruction at Binna Burra Lodge, we set up a task force to support the 56 staff impacted by its closure and committed \$1.7 million in joint disaster funding arrangements for its recovery. I am pleased to advise the House that Binna Burra Lodge will be reopening to visitors next month. Isn't that wonderful news.

I am also pleased to announce today an extra \$36.8 million under joint category D Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements to further support our most heavily bushfire impacted communities as they also deal with the pressures of COVID-19. This funding means councils and state agencies within 13 council areas can apply for projects to continue to assist in their recovery efforts and importantly create local jobs to carry out this work, which is vital for our economic recovery, with up to an available \$5 million for each given project. The council areas include: Bundaberg, Gladstone, Gympie, Ipswich, Livingstone, Locker Valley, Mareeba, Noosa, Scenic Rim, Southern Downs, Somerset, Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba.

The 2019 Queensland Bushfires State Recovery Plan 2019-22, which outlines how recovery efforts are being delivered across the state, including rebuilding local communities, economies and the environment to ensure communities are stronger and more resilient, is now publicly available on the Queensland Reconstruction Authority's website. I thank all ministers for their participation in that recovery effort.

World War II, Commemoration

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.47 am): On 15 August 1945, 75 years ago this Saturday, the acting premier of Queensland, Ned Hanlon, rose here in this place to read an *Extraordinary Queensland Government Gazette* that had been published on that Wednesday morning. *Hansard* records that Mr Hanlon said—

I have great pleasure in notifying the people of Queensland that I am in receipt of official information to the effect that the war with Japan has ended.

The acting premier went on to say—

On behalf of the people of this State, the Queensland Government gratefully acknowledges the magnificent efforts of our fighting services. We pay tribute to those who died for us.

Three-quarters of a century later, we say to our parliamentary predecessors of 1945, 'Hear, hear.' On Saturday, the 75th anniversary, we again commemorate the end of World War II, with thanks for the sacrifice and service that gave us peace. Our own circumstances this year give us an even deeper appreciation of what it was to live in those truly difficult times—a deeper gratitude for the dedication of those who shoulder the burden of helping us through. Pandemics and wars are different perils but with some lessons shared. We can draw inspiration, hope and strength from knowing that the war generation surmounted challenges—and so can we.

Queensland can be proud of its strategic role in the Second World War. We were a support base for the war in the Pacific and the main military base for US forces in Australia, with large concentrations in Brisbane, Rockhampton and Townsville. The legacy can still be seen in structures like the Charters Towers airfield and MacArthur Chambers in Brisbane.

Of the almost one million Australians who served in the war, more than 39,000 made the ultimate sacrifice. This Saturday there will be a special COVID-safe commemoration at Anzac Square for veterans and invited guests. In their own way, I hope every Queenslanders finds a moment to reflect on the end of a conflict that cruelly tested us and strongly united us.

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.49 am): Path to Treaty is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to start a journey towards a future that is more just, more equal and more respectful for First Nation peoples. It is Labor governments across Australia who have taken the necessary and long overdue steps of progressing treaty discussions with First Nation peoples in their jurisdictions.

In 1988, 200 years after the arrival of the First Fleet in Sydney, the late former prime minister Bob Hawke signed off on the historic Barunga Statement, which called for treaty written on a piece of bark. Since then, we have seen history made in Victoria with the introduction of Australia's first treaty laws into the Victorian parliament, and the Northern Territory have embarked on their treaty process led by the First Nation Treaty Commissioner—both, I am proud to say, led by Labor governments.

Here in Queensland last year our government committed to progressing a reframed relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. Path to Treaty is a key element of this commitment and builds upon generations of calls by First Nation peoples. It also builds upon other Queensland government-led initiatives that are advancing reconciliation such as the 2010 amendment to the preamble of the Queensland Constitution to honour First Nation peoples as the First Australians; commencement of the Queensland Human Rights Act 2019, which acknowledges the right to self-determination in the preamble; and the recent introduction of the historic Torres Strait Islander traditional child-rearing practice bill.

Last year we appointed an independent Eminent Panel of First Nation peoples and non-Indigenous Queenslanders, supported by a treaty working group, to conduct consultations right across Queensland. I thank them and acknowledge their presence in the public gallery today. They reported back that there is significant support for a treaty process in Queensland; there is recognition that First Nation sovereignty was never ceded and continues to be asserted; there are calls for legally binding human rights based treaties; truth telling and reconciliation should be at the forefront of a treaty process; and there is a need for a campaign to build support and a process for deciding representation. I am proud today to table the report and recommendations of the Eminent Panel and treaty working group, along with the Queensland government treaty statement of commitment and response.

Tabled paper. Treaty Working Group—Report of the Treaty Working Group of Queensland's Path to Treaty, February 2020 [[1355](#)].

Tabled paper. Treaty Working Group—Advice and Recommendations from the Eminent Panel on Queensland's Path to Treaty, February 2020 [[1356](#)].

Tabled paper. Treaty Working Group—Supplementary Advice and Recommendations from the Eminent Panel on Queensland's Path to Treaty, May 2020 [[1357](#)].

Tabled paper. Queensland Government—Treaty statement of commitment and response to recommendations of the Eminent Panel, August 2020 [[1358](#)].

The response accepts, or accepts in principle, the recommendations and commits to continuing the treaty journey through a staged approach within the constraints of COVID-19. I know that this is warmly endorsed by members in this House, especially the Minister for Environment, the member for Cook and the member for Bundamba. I pay tribute to them and the great contribution they make to our Labor government.

The Path to Treaty will benefit all Queenslanders, help promote reconciliation, foster a shared pride in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and heritage, and help heal the wounds of the past and create a shared future for all of us. I look forward to continuing the Path to Treaty, inspired by the way treaty can enrich our lives and the lives of future generations of all Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: I sincerely thank you, Premier, for that statement.

Coronavirus, Health Update

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): On this, the 12th day of no new community transmission of COVID-19 in Queensland, I am proud to update the House on the amazing work of our hospital staff who have not just kept Queensland safe from COVID-19 but who have also been carrying out an elective surgery blitz.

As we ramped up our COVID response, some of the day-to-day business in our hospitals had to be suspended such as non-urgent surgeries and data reporting. These measures were agreed to nationally. In the absence of usual performance reporting, I asked the health department to prepare a three-month report so we can all see how our hospitals performed during this period. I am pleased to say that it shows wait times for elective and emergency care in Queensland hospitals have improved despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is clear that from April to June our hospital staff have worked so hard. Not only have they kept COVID out; they have also made sure Queenslanders have the other care they need. In June, the Palaszczuk government announced a quarter of a billion dollar blitz on elective surgery and other procedures to get through the list of people forced to wait longer than clinically recommended. While elective surgery long waits were expected to peak at 7,000, our elective surgery blitz saw them drop to just 2,774 by the end of June.

Despite seeing nearly half a million people, the median wait to be seen at Queensland's emergency departments was just 10 minutes in the quarter to June 2020, down from 15 minutes in the same period last year. Nearly 90 per cent of patients were seen at emergency departments within clinically recommended times, up from 76 per cent to June 2019.

As anticipated, the number of people waiting longer than clinically recommended for elective surgery increased after the national suspension. This time last year, 94.5 per cent of patients were seen in time, which dropped to 80.6 per cent after the elective surgery shut down. The most urgent surgeries—category 1—continued unaffected, and our hospitals delivered 11,723 life-saving surgeries during this time.

The impact here was much smaller than other parts of the world and we are recovering faster. It is incredible to think that, while many hospitals around the world are struggling to cope, our fantastic health staff have managed to improve performance across most measures. During a global pandemic, Queenslanders were able to go to the emergency department at their hospital and be seen in around 10 minutes. I want to sincerely thank the Queenslanders who had surgeries deferred for their patience and understanding. Most of all, I want to thank our health staff. They are simply the best in the world. I table the Queensland hospitals performance report March to June 2020.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government—Queensland Hospitals Performance Report [\[1359\]](#).

While I am on my feet I would like to say a few words about the NRL players alleged to have breached their COVID-safe plans. The Queensland Police Service are currently investigating, but any breach to a COVID-safe plan is disappointing. These rules were developed by the NRL for the NRL and are in place to protect Queenslanders, the players, their families and staff. Blatant disregard of the rules is an insult to the hard work of Queenslanders who have followed the public health messaging. Stiff penalties apply to rule breakers, no matter what position in the NRL they hold.

I am one of the Brisbane Broncos biggest fans. I very much hope the recent claims are untrue. Players who breach the COVID-safe plan are not just putting the season at risk, not just letting down their club and their code, but also betraying their fans who tune in and turn up every weekend. They need to know that their actions will have consequences.

Jobs Support Loans

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (9.57 am): As all Queenslanders know, the devastating health consequences of COVID-19 are causing deep economic pain around the world. While the outstanding work of Queenslanders has helped insulate our state from the worst of these effects, we are certainly not immune. We have seen significant

impacts on many of our key industries, including tourism, international education and training, and the retail and hospitality sectors. As Queenslanders also know, the Palaszczuk government acted swiftly and decisively in response to the COVID-19 health crisis and to the substantial economic challenges it has presented.

Our economic stimulus package in response to COVID-19 now totals more than \$6 billion in new, additional funding. This includes substantial support and relief measures for workers, businesses, industry, households and communities, as well as additional funding for the health sector. Our \$1 billion concessional Jobs Support Loans facility, interest free for the first 12 months, is the largest program of its kind undertaken to date by any state.

There are at least 86,373 good reasons to talk about this program. That is the number of Queensland jobs which have been supported through these loans. Keeping those 86,000-plus Queenslanders in work through this program has had clear stimulus benefits to local communities across the state. Pleasingly, 87 per cent of these loans have been approved for small businesses—those with 20 staff or fewer.

Last month I had the pleasure of joining my colleague the Minister for Employment and Small Business to meet Rod Anderson and his team at Rod's Kitchens at his factory at Meadowbrook in the wonderful City of Logan, which we are both so proud to represent in this parliament. They employ more than 14 local workers and, like so many other businesses, were naturally concerned about the impact COVID-19 would have on their business. Their QRIDA loan came at just the right time, and they have been able to keep their doors open and their staff employed through COVID. The company is now considering expanding their business by opening a new showroom on the Gold Coast.

Rod and his team are not alone. In fact, they are one of almost 7,000 Queensland businesses that have collectively been approved loans from the fund totalling approximately \$996 million as at Friday, 7 August. In towns and communities across the state and in all sorts of industry sectors there are businesses afloat and trading with the support of this loan program. I am confident that the ongoing benefits of our \$1 billion QRIDA loan program will be felt for many years to come.

Coronavirus, Medical Research

 **Hon. KJ JONES** (Cooper—ALP) (Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation) (10.00 am): Queensland researchers are leading the charge in the fight against COVID-19. Today researchers from the University of Queensland will continue to analyse data from the very first round of clinical trials on the Sunshine State's very own COVID-19 vaccine. Results have been promising so far. If everything goes to plan, by October they will look to progress to the second phase of human clinical trials. This research is only possible because successive Labor governments invested in our universities, institutions and research to stop the brain drain and build Queensland's very own homegrown capacity.

Today I am proud to announce \$6.45 million to support more than 30 Queensland research projects across the state aimed at fighting the coronavirus pandemic, including: Dr Kristyan Guppy-Coles' work to develop faster diagnosis of coronavirus patients; Dr Tristan Casey's management toolkit; and Professor Janya McCalman's vital work in Indigenous mental health. The funding announced today will allow our researchers to get on with some of the most important work of their careers.

Our universities employ—as you know from your own community, Mr Speaker—thousands of workers right across our state, particularly in regional Queensland. At the national level we have seen the federal government completely walk away from supporting our universities at the very time they are needed most. That is why I am very proud that our government has stepped up and delivered leadership by committing \$150 million in interest-free loans for our universities to safeguard more than 4,000 jobs across Queensland. We will continue to back Queensland universities and Queensland researchers to create jobs and ensure that vital research gets out of the lab to help ordinary Queenslanders and Australians.

While I am on my feet, as a champion of Yarrabah on behalf of the government I would also like to welcome the mayor and CEO, who are in the public gallery today. What an historic day for all of us as we move forward with the Path to Treaty here in Queensland.

Path to Treaty

 **Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.02 am): Last year during NAIDOC Week 2019 the Queensland government reaffirmed its commitment to reframe the relationship with

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders. I would like to acknowledge the Premier's leadership in committing to this reframed relationship with First Nation Queenslanders through the Path to Treaty. Progressing the Path to Treaty signals the importance of learning about our state's shared history and respectfully acknowledging the past. Equally, it is our opportunity to celebrate and embrace the unique contributions of First Nation people and to create a shared future which truly enables Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to thrive.

I acknowledge that this is just the beginning of a lengthy but important process that will benefit all Queenslanders. I am proud to see the recommendations and report of the Eminent Panel and treaty working group tabled by the Premier today along with the Queensland government treaty statement of commitment and response. I want to acknowledge the members of the Eminent Panel, the treaty working group and the Indigenous mayors who are in the gallery with us here today. In line with the recommendations, and in recognition of what was heard from Queenslanders through consultation last year, the response commits to proceeding on this historic Path to Treaty.

As a key next step, a treaty advancement committee will be established to provide expert advice and guidance on options for the implementation of recommendations. Recommendations such as establishing a First Nation treaty institute will be subject to further government consideration in 2021 when the committee reports back. The committee will consider and provide advice on the important elements of treaty: a truth and healing process, nation-building, capability-building and operational costs. The committee will also seek to maintain a momentum for Path to Treaty discussions across Queensland, including overseeing community and stakeholder engagement and research and partnership opportunities.

In conclusion, I want to thank the members of the Eminent Panel and the treaty working group for this historic report and for supporting Queenslanders to begin this journey together. I also want to thank and acknowledge the member for South Brisbane for the work she did whilst minister and the support of the member for Bundamba, the member for Cook, and the minister and member for Algeester for their passion, guidance and assistance. I also want to thank the team within the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships for supporting this process and helping to make treaty a reality for Queensland. In closing, I want to thank my policy adviser, Katie Kiss. Mr Speaker, you should see the shoes she is wearing today: they are truly deadly.

I look forward to being part of a government that is progressing this initiative to address the wrongs of the past and lead us towards a brighter future together founded on truth.

Coronavirus, Quarantine

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.06 am): I can update the House on the latest in relation to a person who absconded from hotel quarantine in Toowoomba. Upon being returned to custody yesterday this person was subjected to another COVID-19 test. I am advised that test has come back negative. The male was subsequently charged for breaching COVID-19 quarantine requirements. His bail was refused yesterday and he was remanded in watch house custody to appear in court today. I want to make it well known to everyone that the police take these matters very, very seriously, and anyone who breaches quarantine will feel the full force of the law.

Never before has our community witnessed an emergency like the one we are experiencing. Twin threats, economic and health, are inextricably linked, which at first glance appear to ask us to make an impossible choice. Queensland has carefully navigated its way through this unprecedented challenge using common sense and the best advice to a position that balances these seemingly competing imperatives. Queensland has a plan to protect the health of Queenslanders and the health of our economy, and that balancing act begins on the front line: our borders.

The Queensland Police Service is our first line of defence, and along with our partner agencies the Queensland police officers on border duty and at our airports are helping prevent the spread of COVID-19. It is what our police do; they are keeping the community safe. That border work also has another important benefit. Right now when you look around Australia, Queensland is in an enviable situation both in terms of health and the state of our economy. With negligible community transmission of the virus, Queenslanders are able to go about their daily business relatively unimpeded. There are no virus hotspots in Queensland. Queenslanders can travel freely about their state. This is in sharp contrast to places where the virus is rampant. In Queensland, in many important ways it is closer to business as usual, and an important reason why Queensland is in that position is because of those police officers on our borders. They are protecting the health of Queenslanders and protecting Queensland jobs.

It has not been easy for our police. There have been times when the border restrictions have been unpopular, despite them being in everyone's interest. Police have borne the brunt of the disgruntlement, but people in other places have seen what can happen if you let your guard down. The tide has turned. It is now clear to everyone that the work police are doing on our borders is imperative. It is imperative for the safety of Queenslanders and it is imperative for the sake of Queensland jobs. Our police are doing outstanding work on our borders and we owe them a debt of gratitude.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.09 am): It is the Palaszczuk Labor government that has an economic plan for recovery. Roads move Queensland forward in more ways than one, which is why our economic plan includes a \$12.6 billion commitment to build a better Bruce Highway and futureproof it with a Bruce Highway Trust. The global impact of COVID-19 has been far-reaching, with impacts on economies including Queensland's, but because of Queensland's strong and ongoing health response—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I hear interjections from those who spent nothing on infrastructure. It is because of Queensland's strong and ongoing health response that we have kept supply chains open and freight flowing and we have continued to build game-changing Bruce Highway upgrades from Cairns to Brisbane. That has helped to support thousands of jobs, drive safety and supercharge Queensland's freight efficiencies and supply chain into the future. Between Gympie and Brisbane, which are regions expected to boom, we are building \$3 billion in Bruce Highway projects and driving a \$2 billion plan for much more. Last week we announced the first major contract for the \$1 billion Bruce Highway Gympie bypass. This 26-kilometre new road will generate close to 600 jobs and a greater capacity for our freight industry. It will join more than \$1.1 billion in works already underway on the Sunshine Coast and will be followed by another \$660 million upgrade to six-lane the Bruce Highway from Caboolture to Steve Irwin Way between Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast.

Mr Ryan: Hear, hear!

Mr BAILEY: I acknowledge the support from the member for Morayfield. This week we started consultation on a \$2.1 billion commitment to upgrade the Bruce Highway in Moreton Bay and the connecting Gateway Motorway. That plan includes a new arterial road between Dohles Rocks Road and Anzac Avenue—the Moreton Connector. Our plan will make sure that our roads are ready for the double demand expected on this stretch in the next two decades and, importantly, support another 1,200 jobs. That is because Labor backs the Sunshine Coast, we back Gympie and we back Moreton Bay—not just through roads but also through rail where we are delivering the \$550 million Sunshine Coast rail duplication, which will create more jobs, public transport and opportunities for Queensland businesses.

Mr Minnikin: On the never-never. Anna Bligh, 2009.

Mr BAILEY: Those opposite did not even start the business case on it. We are getting it done, with more than half a billion dollars worth of investment. This week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we introduced close to—

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr BAILEY: I will start again. This week in response to the COVID-19 pandemic we introduced close to a thousand extra bus services and 105 train services to extend morning and afternoon peak services and help the community spread their travel patterns as part of our COVID-safe public transport plan. I want to acknowledge our commuters and, importantly, our Queensland Rail drivers and station staff and our TransLink and QR staff and planners who have successfully brought these additional services online. They are running very smoothly. The Palaszczuk government knows how important transport and roads are to our economic recovery. We can be trusted to continue investing in the transport infrastructure that this state needs.

Coronavirus, Small Business

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.13 am): The Palaszczuk government knows our small businesses have been doing it tough during the global coronavirus pandemic. We have already paid more than \$130 million in grants to small businesses right across the state supporting almost 15,000 small businesses. Gaven based school uniform manufacturer, Mr Charles, will use their grant to

promote their ecowear school uniforms produced from fabrics made from recycled plastics, such as drinking bottles. The 48-year-old business saw a decrease in sales when schools closed and they will use the grant to promote their business to schools across Queensland. Since they received the grant, their managing director, Deanne Wells, has seen an increase in sales, which is great news.

The grants are also supporting businesses in the regions, such as the Townsville Turf Club, which is using its \$10,000 small business grant to help it to increase its online presence and enhance its website. The Townsville Turf Club general manager, Natalie, said the grant would help improve their online platforms to get information out not only about the racing but also about their capacity to host events and functions while observing new ways to do business to restrict the spread of COVID-19.

The Mackay based Hotel Oceans International are using their grant to upgrade their website and make it more mobile friendly. The grant will also support a digital marketing campaign for the hotel to attract more tourists and let them know that Queensland is good to go. The business owner, Hannah, said that the grant will enhance their online presence and audience reach which will go a long way towards increasing their business. COVID-19 has forced our small businesses to adapt, and it is great to see that our grants are helping them pivot to become digitally capable but, most importantly, keep their businesses running and keep employing Queenslanders.

We are also investing in small business owners to give them the skills they need to adapt their business. Through our online skills hub, small business owners and their staff can access over 400 courses for free to learn across topics such as leading a successful business, digital skills, foundation business skills and more. So far we have seen almost 3,000 enrolments through the skills hub, and I would encourage more small businesses to jump online and look at how they can upskill and take their business to the next level. We know that small businesses are the engine room of our state's economy and provide jobs for close to one million Queenslanders. Delivering for small businesses is key to our government's economic plan.

SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.15 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 8 September 2020.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Responsibility of Passholders to Parliamentary Precinct, Apology

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (10.16 am): Unfortunately, this morning I have been made aware that a visitor I had in the precinct had taken a photo of a door directly opposite my door. I would like to express my sincere apologies to both the House and the member for Thuringowa for this issue. I think everybody on both sides of the House understands that I have never, ever gone out of my way to be disrespectful or indecently treat people in this House, so I just wanted to make everyone aware that I had no understanding of this. I did not know it happened, and there is no way that I endorse that type of treatment or putting people or other members in this House down. I just wanted to make that very clear.

REPORT

Office of the Leader of the Opposition

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.17 am): I lay upon the table of the House the public report of the office expenses for the Office of the Leader of the Opposition for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020.

Tabled paper: Public Report of Office Expenses, Office of the Leader of the Opposition, for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020 [[1361](#)].

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

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

New Acland Coalmine

Mrs FRECKLINGTON (10.17 am): My first question is to the Premier. In relation to New Acland stage 3, the Premier is at war with many federal Labor MPs and today the CFMMEU state president has said that the Premier is sitting on her hands but has approved other projects while under a legal fight. Will the Premier end years of heartache and uncertainty for the 3,000 workers whose livelihoods rely on this project by immediately approving this work so work can get started?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Aside from the very lengthy preamble to the question, there is an obligation—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Manager of Opposition Business, if you wish to rise to a point of order, you may do so. I am hearing this point of order.

Mrs D'ATH: There is an obligation on the Leader of the Opposition when asking her question to make sure that the statements she makes are factually correct. We say that is not factually correct and she should be required to reword her question.

Mr SPEAKER: I will take advice from the table. Leader of the Opposition, as the facts have been challenged in regard to your question, I will give you an opportunity to rephrase your question. You will get one opportunity.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My first question is to the Premier. In relation to New Acland stage 3 the CFMMEU state president has said that the Premier is sitting on her hands but has approved other projects while under a legal fight. Will the Premier end years of heartache and uncertainty for the 3,000 workers whose livelihoods rely on this project so they can get work started?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. As I have said in this House on numerous occasions, the matter is before the courts. I cannot be any clearer. It was an election commitment that the matter would go before the courts. That is what is happening. I am not entering into any debate while the matter is before the courts.

Child Protection

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My second question is also to the Premier. In the wake of the damaging coronial report into the tragic death of Mason Jett Lee, which found that 21 child safety officers had failed in their duty to protect Mason, the Premier promised an urgent report by the Public Service Commission. It has now been 72 days and still there is no public action. Why is protecting Queensland's most vulnerable children not a priority for the Labor government?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I reject the second half of that question, and I will be writing to you, Mr Speaker, because there is clearly imputation in that question. When I sat in that chair I was called up by the Speaker on numerous occasions for having factually incorrect details or imputations in my questions. It seems there is one rule for one side and one rule for the other.

Mr Bleijie: Reflecting on the chair.

Ms PALASZCZUK: No, it is not. I said I will be writing to the Speaker.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in respect of you. The Premier has said there is one rule for her side and one rule for our side. That is a clear reflection on your Speakership, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you for your chivalry, member for Kawana. However, I believe the Premier was speaking in an historical context.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Correct, and the member for Maroochydore is very well aware of those facts.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The Premier is incorrect and also offensive as it was an Ethics Committee finding as I seem to recall. I ask that the Premier withdraw the offensive comments.

Mr SPEAKER: The member finds those comments personally offensive, Premier. Will you withdraw?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I withdraw. The safety of children is absolutely a key priority of this government. In fact, Minister Di Farmer has been trying to convene meetings with the opposition—and my advice is that sometimes they have attended and sometimes they have not attended—trying to work

with a collaborative approach, a bipartisan approach, to dealing with child safety. If there is an issue as to why some members of the opposition cannot attend those briefings, I wish they would put that to one side and attend them. The minister is very keen to involve stakeholders.

Mr Mander: We've given a full submission.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is not about a submission; it is about working together. The member for Everton would not know about bipartisanship because he has never been good at it. It is extremely disappointing. We know one thing that the opposition is good at.

Mr Mander interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: The opposition is very good at whingeing. Let me say this in relation to the investigation by the Public Service Commissioner that is occurring. It is being conducted by the Public Service Commissioner. It is not being conducted by me or by a minister; it is being conducted by the Public Service Commissioner.

Mr Mander: Give them a hurry-up.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Everton, I have asked you to cease your interjections.

Ms PALASZCZUK: So rude!

Ms Grace: It's arrogance.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It is arrogance and rudeness. That investigation will take its course and it will be done thoroughly by the Public Service Commissioner. When it is completed, the Public Service Commissioner will release the findings. The matter was referred from the CCC to the Public Service Commissioner, and the Public Service Commissioner will release that report when it is finalised.

Health Services

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to ensuring all Queenslanders receive world-class health care, which includes an acute mental health unit to be built in Ipswich?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Bundamba for the question. I hear, Mr Speaker, that the member for Bundamba may have tipped you in the tennis competition yesterday. It is just a rumour that I heard.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Of course, the member for Bundamba raises a very good question because Queenslanders are concerned about their health. They are concerned about the health of their families, the health of their loved ones and the health of their family members who are in aged care. They are also concerned about loved ones who go through tough times with mental health. We are very dedicated to ensuring that Queensland has the robust health system that it needs. Whether it is dealing with a world pandemic and our rapid response to it, building infrastructure across Queensland including more mental health beds or expansion to our children's services, we will always put the priority of health front and centre. Queenslanders can count on the government to continue to build the infrastructure that is needed.

We have already planned and funded over \$2 billion in health infrastructure since 2015 and, of course, the member is very well aware that the early works have begun on the new \$91 million 50-bed acute mental health unit at Ipswich Hospital. I know that the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West and the member for Jordan will also benefit from that.

Over the last month or so I also had the opportunity to go out and see the newly completed Gladstone Hospital emergency department. An amount of \$42 million has been invested. It is very much needed and very much deserved for the people of Gladstone and the region and, once again, it has been completed under this Labor government. Recently I also had the great opportunity to be in the wonderful city of Bundaberg. I had a great meeting with the mayor. Of course, the mayor was known to many people here having served in this place as a previous member for Bundaberg.

Dr Miles: He is a big fan of yours, Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection. What we were able to do there—and this is something for which the Bundaberg community has been waiting for quite some time—is we have now identified the site for a brand new hospital in Bundaberg. It is a new 60-hectare greenfield site adjacent

to the Bundaberg ring-road to the west of Kay McDuff Drive and about five kilometres south of the central business district. It is in the perfect position for a hospital of its size. It is also expected to create around 800 new health related jobs and more than 1,000 construction related jobs over the life of the project.

We do not hear anything from those opposite, but we know one thing they did when in office. They decimated the health system in Queensland with the cuts to health, to nurses, right across the state. Imagine where we would be—

(Time expired)

Credit Rating

Mr MANDER: My question without notice is to the Treasurer. In 2012 the Treasurer said, 'I do think Labor fell into the error or seriously miscalculated and underestimated the desire for Queenslanders to hold on to the AAA credit rating.' Will the Treasurer guarantee that Queensland's credit rating will not be further reduced?

Mr DICK: There is one way the credit rating will be threatened in this state, and that is with \$23 billion of unfunded expenditure. I can tell honourable members now that with \$15 billion for the new, old, 'fake Bradfield scheme'—or whatever you want to call it—and \$8 billion in unfunded promises, Moody's and Standard & Poor's—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Broadwater.

Mr DICK: They are all watching the alternative government. If they say, as the member for Everton, the shadow Treasurer, has said in the House, that they are going to keep expenditure below revenue when revenue—

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Apologies, Minister. Pause the clock. Member for Broadwater, you are warned under the standing orders.

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Broadwater. When he was the local government minister the member for Broadwater went to Kingaroy and said, 'The only way this community will get a new hospital is if you sell a power station.' There is one Premier who has delivered a new hospital for Kingaroy, and that is the Labor Premier of Queensland, Annastacia Palaszczuk. If anyone wanted a clearer example of the distinction between a party that wants to cut, sack and sell and a party that invests and builds they need look no further than the Kingaroy Hospital. As the former health minister, I am still waiting for the 'thank you' from the member for Kingaroy for building her a new hospital.

Ms Palaszczuk: And Roma.

Mr DICK: And the member for Warrego. I am looking forward to the 'thank you' for that. If you are going to make \$23 billion of unfunded promises, when revenue is collapsing for every jurisdiction in the country, and say that you are not going to borrow more, then of course—

Mr Bleijie: How's the budget?

Mr DICK: I take the interjection from the member for Kawana, the worst attorney-general in Queensland's history, because no government in this country is going to deliver a budget until 6 October—that is, the federal budget. In fact, every state jurisdiction in the country agreed to not deliver a budget this year. I know that it is hard to count, member for Kawana. I do not want you to have to apologise.

Mr SPEAKER: Through the chair, member.

Mr DICK: There is one way our credit rating will be put at risk—not by the careful, prudent plan that our government has but by \$23 billion in unfunded promises, when you are not going to borrow more and keep expenditure under revenue, because the only way you can do it is to sell a power station to build a hospital. That is exactly what they want to do.

Health Services

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government has improved health care for Queenslanders?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Aspley for his question and his continued advocacy for better health services on the north side of Brisbane. It is certainly very welcome. We were the first state to bring forward elective surgery ahead of the COVID-19 pandemic in February, and we were the first state to commit funds for an elective surgery blitz so that we could catch up those elective surgeries that had to be suspended because of the national decision announced by Scott Morrison. Elective surgery changes and improves lives. Thousands of Queenslanders are benefiting thanks to our investment. We are delivering more appointments, more procedures and more surgeries. All of that is on top of staying prepared for a COVID-19 outbreak and on top of all of the work to make sure that we never have such an outbreak.

We have 66 testing locations open and active. We have now tested more than 700,000 people. We have exported our expertise to Victoria, Tasmania and Papua New Guinea when they have needed help. Our staff responded quickly to potential outbreaks in Rockhampton, Cairns, Wide Bay and Brisbane. All have been effective. In fact, the fact that we see them as isolated incidents, with just a few cases each, is a credit to our 2½ thousand public health staff right across this state. They are doing a tremendous job. I shudder to think how they would have coped if we had not gotten into government and rebuilt those services.

When we came to office, more than 100,000 Queenslanders were waiting longer than clinically recommended just to get an appointment. More than 100,000 Queenslanders were on the waiting list just to get on the waiting list. The only answer of those opposite was a \$77 million wait-time gimmick that did not deliver a single appointment. I feel like I am channelling the Treasurer right now! Their priority was to sack 4,400 health staff, 1,800 of them nurses and midwives. Members might not know that those opposite stripped our Chief Health Officer of responsibilities and sacked many of her staff.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member will Maroochydore will cease her interjections.

Dr MILES: They sacked 169 public health staff, not to mention the pathology staff they sacked to prepare it for privatisation. In the past five years, we have taken the health budget from \$13 billion to nearly \$20 billion, because we on this side of the House invest in health care.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders. Your interjections were designed to disrupt and interrupt and I was not going to do that to the minister on his feet.

North West Minerals Province

Mr MILLAR: My question is to the Premier. The Labor government has handed over four separate cash grants to a Chinese state owned coalminer, giving it cash and valuable inside information about Queensland's lucrative North West Minerals Province. Why are Queensland taxpayers paying a Chinese communist government entity to take sensitive information?

Ms PALASZCZUK: If the member wants to refer information to me, I am happy to have a look at it. I am not—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, the Premier is being responsive to the question.

Ms PALASZCZUK: If the member would like to refer some facts to me, I will be happy to look into it.

Coronavirus, Economic Response

Mrs MULLEN: My question is of the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning. Could the Treasurer update the House on the importance of financial management in dealing with the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is he aware of any other approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Jordan for her question. As much as it pains me to say it, 2020 will be a deficit year as governments around the world borrow to cushion the impact of COVID-19 on their economies. That is exactly why Queensland needs a strong plan for economic recovery—that is, the Labor government's Unite and Recover for Queensland Jobs plan. Unlike Labor's plan to get through these tough economic times, we heard yesterday from the LNP in this House its plan to drown Queensland in more red ink. We heard a wish list of unfunded promises in a motion moved by the Leader of the Opposition and her hapless deputy. It would have been more appropriate for that motion

by the Leader of the Opposition to be lodged on Santa's knee than to be moved in this House. It is an approach that is reckless—as I have said constantly about their capacity—and demonstrated absolutely zero judgement about what Queensland needs at a difficult time.

There is \$23 billion in unfunded promises. Moody's will love that. Standard & Poor's will love that. Fitch will love it. What we learned yesterday was that the la-la land of 'Deb-onomics' is founded on the irrational principles of 'Mander-matics', where the starting position seems to be that two plus two equals five, or zero, or both at the same time. It is like Schrodinger's shadow Treasurer.

Yesterday the member for Everton repeated his commitment to stabilise government debt. That is just what Queensland needs—another very stable genius at this time! He also said that, notwithstanding that the debt-to-revenue ratio was 140 per cent when he last sat around the cabinet table, they would bring debt below revenue, there would be no new or increased taxes and there would be a 10-year freeze on royalties. When governments around the world are borrowing to save lives and to save livelihoods, this is not responsible. It is highly irresponsible from someone who said that it was irrelevant and irresponsible to have a debt plan. They now have an unfunded spend-a-thon. They have blown the dial off the spend-o-meter. No wonder they believe it is irresponsible to have a debt plan, because that is exactly what they are saying to Queensland.

The member for Everton has been the shadow Treasurer for 976 days. No wonder they are silent and glum on the backbench. The member has had 976 days to come up with a plan for Queensland and he has delivered absolutely nothing except a wish list for Santa. That is all he has, and he will not even deliver it at Christmas; he wants to wait until January to have a budget! This is not—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mr DICK: He will not reveal their plans. He is not fit to be the Treasurer and he is not fit to be part of a party that would lead Queensland.

Small Business, Grants

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Minister for Employment. Many small businesses have expressed their frustration and anger at delays and a lack of communication from the Labor government's small business grants process. Now a whistleblower has contacted the opposition to say that a number of public servants handling the small business grants process have been stood down while under investigation. Can the minister advise if any public servants administering the COVID-19 small business grants process have been stood down and why?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. To my knowledge no public servants have been stood down and I am pleased to report to the House that the first round of small business grants, which were taken up in a matter of days by small businesses, has now been completed. This is a fantastic result for small businesses. Some 15,000 small businesses have received small business grants to help them get through this global pandemic and, because there was such a need, the Premier announced a second round of small business grants now being administered through QRIDA. Again I am pleased to say that so many small businesses are receiving these grants and it is helping their businesses adapt through COVID and helping them keep Queenslanders in jobs.

I am very proud of the fact that in the second round we specifically made 50 per cent of the funding available for regional businesses. This is my message to members opposite today: rather than coming in here and complaining about small business grants going to small business owners to help them stay open and keep people in jobs, members opposite should get out in their communities and remind small businesses that applications are still open for regional businesses to apply for a \$10,000 grant. I am very pleased to say that in Townsville 541 businesses have received \$4.8 million. In Cairns 859 businesses have now received \$7.59 million. In the Mackay and Whitsunday region 417 businesses have received \$3.7 million. In Rockhampton 146 businesses have received small business grants totalling \$1.25 million.

We are the only state that has offered no-interest loans, worth a billion dollars, which the Treasurer spoke about this morning, two rounds of small business grants and electricity rebates, and no small businesses are paying payroll tax this year. The list of supports that we have provided small business has been absolutely phenomenal and I want to thank the Premier, who has been travelling across the state meeting with small businesses hearing their concerns.

Ms SIMPSON: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The minister said she was not aware of the matters I asked her a question about. Will she take it on notice and report back to the parliament?

Ms Grace: That's not a point of order.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for McConnel, it is a point of order. Minister, the member has asked whether you will, under the standing orders, come back to the House.

Ms FENTIMAN: Mr Speaker, I am answering the question. I have answered the question that I am not aware that any public servants have been—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Minister, it is a simple question: will you take it on notice under the standing orders?

Ms FENTIMAN: No, Mr Speaker.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Ms FENTIMAN: While I am on my feet I want to continue to talk about the fantastic record that this Labor government has when it comes to supporting small business, because what is the record of those opposite? What is their record? They cut the Small Business Commissioner's office when they were in government. They like to think they are a friend to small business, but at the first opportunity they completely cut the office of the Small Business Commissioner. We on this side of the House brought back the Small Business Champion. Because of the extra support that small businesses need during COVID, we have now appointed Maree Adshead as the Small Business Commissioner for the first time. Those opposite cut the office while we put in place the office to ensure that we are supporting small businesses.

Economic Development

Ms LINARD: My question is of the Minister for State Development, Tourism and Innovation. Will the minister please update the House on the government's strategy to partner with the private sector and promote economic development to rebuild Queensland's economy?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question and I know that she is truly a champion for not only small business but also medium business—in fact, all business in Queensland. We are all very proud, as the Premier has said this morning, that Queensland finds itself in a unique position because Queenslanders have listened to the health advice because of the strong action taken by the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Chief Health Officer. We are very much focused on our unite and recover plan. This is about ensuring that we work with the private sector to create jobs and to rebuild Queensland's economy through some of the toughest times that we have faced, certainly in my lifetime. That is why I am very proud to advise the House that the work that we have been doing through EDQ in State Development has leveraged more than \$110 million in private sector industrial investment in Queensland in the last financial year, and I acknowledge the Treasurer's work in this portfolio.

Even though we have had extremely tough times in our economy during the past 12 months, through this investment and partnering with the private sector we have created more than 250 jobs and we are strengthening industries that are going to be absolutely vital not only to our economic recovery but also for our long-term growth in areas such as manufacturing, transport, logistics, resource recovery and defence. Just recently I was in the honourable member's electorate at UAP to inspect the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub at Northgate. It is a great business and we saw many small businesses that are growing right now because of this investment that we have made as a state—that is, they are bucking the trend that we are seeing across the economy. That is happening not just here in Brisbane but right across our state, whether it is partnering with Cold Phase in Mount Isa or partnering with Tracko's Investments from the Innisfail Industrial Estate.

There is a stark contrast between the work that we are doing in partnering with the private sector and the carping from the sidelines from those like the member for Everton. If I were the member for Everton I would be watching my back. We have all heard the rumours this week that Timmy from Clayfield is back. The member for Clayfield absolutely runs rings around the member for Everton. If I were in the hierarchy of the LNP I would be on the member for Clayfield's ticket, that is for sure. We do know that it does not matter which Tim those opposite put in charge of the finances; they only have one playbook, and that is to cut, sack and sell.

We will continue to work with the private sector to create jobs. We will not be fighting amongst ourselves. We will not be boning against ourselves. We will not be lining up against each other to try to take the spoils from each other. It is the same old LNP. As we have heard repeatedly this week, if you cannot govern yourselves, you cannot govern Queensland. Let us see if the honourable member for Everton is still sitting in that chair when we all come back next month.

Mr Mander: No, I'll be over there!

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member's time has expired.

(Time expired)

Ms Jones: Can I just get that interjection on the record?

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired.

Ms Jones: Arrogance does not suit you, mate.

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, your time had well expired.

Member for Redlands

Dr ROBINSON: My question is to the Attorney-General. I refer the Leader of the House to media reports that the Crime and Corruption Commission is currently dealing with a complaint by a former member of the ALP about the member for Redlands about financial irregularities in electoral funds and bullying. As the Attorney administers the Electoral Act 1992 and the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and has responsibility as the Leader of the House, how will the Attorney manage the clear conflict of interest of the member for Redlands sitting on the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee while at the same time being subject to an active complaint?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. My first point is that that was an extremely lengthy question and a very long preamble.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: You have the call.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you, Mr Speaker. For those opposite, I have every right as Leader of the House to raise that issue in relation to that question. On the question itself, first of all, I do not involve myself in investigations that the Crime and Corruption Commission is engaged in at any point.

Dr Robinson: So there's no conflict of interest? You're fine?

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Oodgeroo will put his comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders. You have asked your question. The Attorney-General is being responsive to the question asked.

Mrs D'ATH: Nor as the Attorney-General or as Leader of the House is it my responsibility to manage the conflicts of interest of individuals in this House on either side. It is the responsibility of the individual themselves if they believe there is a conflict of interest to raise that with the relevant committees. I would not know what is occurring inside the PCCC meetings because I am not on that committee, so I cannot comment on what the PCCC is doing, and nor should anyone else, because those deliberations are confidential.

Dr Robinson: So you're just going to leave her there?

Mrs D'ATH: I question whether the member has sought any advice as to whether in fact this question is within my portfolio responsibilities, but it is the responsibility of each and every person in this House to manage conflicts of interest. It is—

Mrs Gerber: So including you?

Ms Jones: She's hilarious!

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

Mrs D'ATH: I will take that interjection from the member for Currumbin: yes, it includes me, and if the member for Currumbin has any allegations she may want to stand on her feet and put those allegations and I am happy to respond.

We know those on the other side just love to smear. That is what they do. They love to smear. They love to just throw allegations out there for political gain because this is the only thing the LNP has. They have no plans to keep the community safe. They have no economic plans. They certainly have no plans as to how they are going to manage the big spend that they have already promised leading into the election. The fact is they have no idea what they would do if they actually won government. They would spend, spend, spend and we know how they are going to pay for that, and that is cut, sack and sell because that is all they do.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Yes, we will spend, spend, spend for the benefit of Queensland. The point of order is that the question was about the Electoral Act, the Crime and Corruption Commission and conflicts of interest. What the Attorney-General is speaking about now has no relation to the question. I ask, under the standing orders, she be brought back to the question.

Mr SPEAKER: In allowing the question, which may well have been dubious in terms of the connection to the Attorney-General's portfolio, I will allow the Attorney-General to continue with her answer.

Mrs D'ATH: Thank you. Those on the PCCC have the opportunity to meet with and ask questions of the CCC themselves and deal with those issues as a committee.

Road and Transport Infrastructure

Ms PUGH: My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on the Palaszczuk government's efforts to repair the Newman era transport budget cuts and deliver record investment in roads and transport in Queensland?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Mount Ommaney. What a pleasure it is working with her. She is an advocate for roads and getting things done in her electorate. We have made sure that the Sumners Road interchange, which was cut by the Newman government, was funded under this government with the member for Mount Ommaney. Who can forget when we announced the funding that the LNP ran out that afternoon and said, 'Us too. Us too'? When it comes to examples of cutting, Sumners Road was just one example.

Members of the LNP will say anything to stop people remembering that they called 64 times for the borders to be opened. That is why they are starting to make announcements. The interesting thing is that they are making announcements committing to things that they cut before. The Leader of the Opposition is out there promising \$5 million for a business case for the Eastern Busway—the Eastern Busway that was cut by the Newman government when it was elected in 2012. The member for Mudgeeraba wrote to me asking why was I not funding a road in her area which was cut by the Newman government. She did not even remember that her own party cut that project.

The Palaszczuk government infrastructure photo fan club is growing. It includes the members for Mudgeeraba, Burleigh, Bonney and we now have another candidate for the photo fan club of our infrastructure and that is the LNP candidate for Pumicestone. Everyone knows her as the 'blow-in from Balonne' who deserted her community while it was flooding when she was the deputy mayor. She has been getting her photograph taken on the Caboolture-Bribie Island Road, another project cut by the Newman government. Those opposite must be going through all the things they cut and starting to promise them again so that if they get elected they can cut them again. It is Newman government 2.0!

I can inform the House today that the compounding effect of these LNP cuts by the Newman government, their so-called fiscal repair measures made in 2012-13, were in fact \$2.2 billion. That was a \$2.2 billion blow to the Queensland economy and that is a lot of bitumen. That would fund a Rockhampton Ring Road, a Mackay Ring Road, a Smithfield bypass, an Ipswich Motorway and you would still have change. We remember how much they cut, they sacked and they sold, but to give members an idea of the wealth of experience over there, the member for Maroochydore said yesterday that about 1,000 kilometres of highway could be built on the Bruce Highway with a billion dollars. No, the 26-kilometre Gympie bypass, that is a billion dollars. After 28 years in parliament they are not even close about the cost of roads. We will build roads, they will cut them.

Mining Industry, Safety

Mr LAST: My question without notice is to the Premier. The Grosvenor Mine disaster inquiry has exposed four government safety inspector positions have been kept vacant and one former inspector told media that there are only eight inspectors operating at any time to cover the entire state. One death is one too many, but in the past two years eight workers have tragically lost their lives on the job. Will the Premier now admit that having only eight inspectors to cover thousands of mine workers across hundreds of sites has caused this safety crisis?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. Any death is an absolute tragedy, especially on our mine sites. That is why the inquiry was set up. We will get to the bottom of that. I am not going to make comment about that while that inquiry happens. In relation to your specific question, I am happy to get advice from the minister for mines, Anthony Lynham, about the number of inspectors that are there and if there are any vacancies I would expect those vacancies to be filled as a matter of urgency.

Queensland Border Closure

Ms McMILLAN: My question is to the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice. Will the Attorney-General provide an update on any legal challenges to our border closures?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. I thank her for a question relevant to my portfolio. The challenges that we face in dealing with COVID-19 are significant. The decisions that the Chief Health Officer, the Premier and Deputy Premier—the Palaszczuk government—make are extremely important to the lives and livelihoods of all Queenslanders. That is why when those opposite and others in the community call for borders to be opened they are being completely irresponsible and endangering people's lives and livelihoods in doing so. We know that the opposition have called for the borders to be opened 64 times. Worse still, there are those out there who have taken it even further. Clive Palmer took it to the courts to try to force Queensland's and Western Australia's borders open and, if that was not enough—forcing Queensland taxpayers dollars to be spent trying to defend our border closures—the Morrison government intervened to support them.

Very recently, since Victoria's cases have very sadly gone up, the Morrison government has tried to backflip. They have tried to walk away and have said, 'We are withdrawing from these cases, but we were never there supporting Palmer, we were there just to assist the court.' That is utter rubbish. We have it on the record that the Morrison government intervened in the Queensland and Western Australia proceedings to support the applicants, to support a billionaire who is attempting to rip open our borders and endanger the health of our community and our economy.

Meanwhile, One Nation sought a crowdfund to launch a different legal action, again to force the Queensland borders open, and the Morrison government intervened to support them. Not only were Queensland taxpayers forced to pay to defend the decisions that the Queensland Palaszczuk government made to close the borders, the Morrison government wasted taxpayers' dollars on intervening in all these proceedings and most recently tried to claim that he was not there to support Palmer in his actions. It is disgusting behaviour from Palmer, from One Nation and from Morrison. Have we heard one word from the Leader of the Opposition, the member for Nanango, in relation to these High Court challenges? While she was calling for the borders to be opened 64 times she did not criticise these challenges once. It is a shame and she should be ashamed of herself.

Milk Prices

Mr KNUTH: My question without notice is to Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. The release of the Fair Go logo by the Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation which identifies milk sold in Queensland that pays a fair price to dairy farmers is meeting significant resistance from the major supermarkets. Will the minister commit to additional funding to QDO for a campaign to fight the major supermarkets and launch the logo to the Queensland public?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Hill for his question. I know for a fact that this issue is very close to the heart of the member for Hill, as it is close to the hearts of members on this side of the chamber. As the grandson of a dairy farmer, I am very proud to be the agriculture minister and to represent farmers in our state of Queensland.

The member for Hill and I have had regular discussions on this matter and the issues that are faced by the dairy industry in Queensland. Late last year, we held regular discussions with stakeholders via teleconference and spoke together here at Parliament House. The member for Hill will well recall that, in early December last year in Atherton, we had a discussion and later attended a town hall meeting with local dairy producers to hear firsthand about the impacts of the drought and elevated feed costs, and also how milk prices impact on the viability and profitability of providers. We had the opportunity to visit the farm of Greg and Bronwyn English to see their operation. That brought back memories of my visits to my grandfather's farm at Ridgewood in the seat of Nicklin. I congratulate the member for Hill for his advocacy for the dairy industry. I will continue to work with the member on this matter.

While the setting of milk prices is ultimately a commercial decision and an issue between the retailers, processors and suppliers, the Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting our dairy producers in any way that we can. That is why in 2017 we provided \$960,000 in funding, targeting Queensland dairy farmers' organisations for marketing strategies, including the development of a fair-go milk logo to help consumers make better informed decisions when buying milk. I look forward to the day when I can pour milk on my Coco Pops, as I did today, knowing that it has been bought from a local shop and has a 'buy local' logo on it.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr FURNER: I love the cries of adulation from those opposite. The only thing that I have learnt from the LNP is that you never argue with stupid people, because when you do you get dragged down to their level. I understand from the QDO and the ACCC that we will be holding up the rollout of the logo. I am sure that the federal government will get moving on this issue. On 7 May, I raised the issue at the agriculture ministers' forum. I impressed upon David Littleproud the importance of working together to ensure that this matter is addressed, so that we do justice to the farmers and get a fair-go logo for Queensland producers.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: Just like a chocolate milkshake, only crunchy!

Biosecurity

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries. Will the minister update the House on why good biosecurity matters for Queenslanders?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for his question and I acknowledge his interest in pests and weeds. We were discussing this subject in Longreach only recently. Exotic pests, disease and weeds are increasingly impacting on our ecosystems. Invasive animals and plant species have been identified as one of the two major threats to biosecurity and biodiversity through competition and predation, while they also contribute to other major threats and habitat loss. Biosecurity Queensland leads the government's efforts in prevention and response to the recovery from animal and plant pests, disease and weeds. Biosecurity risk is increasingly due to the expansion in the movement of humans, livestock populations and animal and plant products, the increased distribution of plant species production and changing patterns of human activity impacting on ecosystems.

Mr Speaker, as a Far North Queenslanders you would know that for the foreseeable future Queensland will contribute by being the frontline state in dealing with biosecurity threats due to the suitability of our climate and geography, the establishment and spread of many pests and disease, our proximity to northern neighbours and our extensive coastline. Queensland has a long border and we need to keep it secure for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

When it comes to our borders, the LNP has more positions than a bucking bull at the Mount Isa rodeo. While the LNP struggle to work out where they stand on borders, it is no wonder that Queenslanders are confused about them. Is opening Queensland borders to Victoria and New South Wales no longer an official position of the LNP? Did those opposite check with Clive Palmer before making a decision? With that and many other changes, one would think that the LNP has delegated policy decision-making to the will of the local pub. Queenslanders know that the LNP cannot offer more than a spin-it-and-see approach to this policy. The leader of the LNP in Queensland has made it clear that if she were premier the borders to Victoria would now be open. Does that really support her position?

If there is one statement that makes things crystal clear, it came last year when the LNP leader spoke about cluster fencing. I will never forget her statement and neither will stakeholders in the west. I know the Premier hears about it all the time. The LNP leader said—

Labor seems to believe the wild dog menace will be solved by shiny new fences being erected in cluster models promoted by individuals and some local shires.

The members who represent the seat of Gregory and locations throughout western Queensland know that cluster fencing has worked. It has done the industry justice. We are seeing sheep move back into those areas—

(Time expired)

Cross River Rail

Mr HART: My question without notice is to the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Given the concerns raised by the CFMMEU about Minister Jones and the treatment of Queensland tradies by the Labor government, will the minister advise if the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority has complied with the government's procurement best practice principles?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Burleigh for the question. I know he is a big fan of the Buy Queensland policy, which has seen record amounts spent with Queensland businesses. I cannot speak for the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority. That is matter for the relevant minister.

All statutory authorities, government owned corporations and government agencies comply with our Buy Queensland policy. In the House yesterday I spoke about the significant outcomes from supporting Queensland jobs with the Buy Queensland policy. In fact, \$900 million extra went to Queensland businesses under the Buy Queensland policy in its first full financial year compared to 2016-17. We are delivering confidence for Queensland small businesses. Not only that, we are making sure that small businesses are paid on time, in full, every time. We have a comprehensive suite of policies to ensure the success of Queensland businesses. That is why the Palaszczuk government was creating jobs at the rate of over 1,000 new jobs in this state each and every week before COVID-19 hit. That is why we continue to have an unwavering focus on ensuring that we support Queensland businesses through our economic recovery plan.

We have invested \$6 billion into Queensland's economic recovery plan, and the delivery of Cross River Rail is a \$5.4 billion investment. Those opposite were deadset against the project. They did not want the Cross River Rail project and they did not want the North Queensland stadium or the Cairns Convention Centre project. All we hear from those opposite is whingeing about the Buy Queensland policy. Queenslanders will not forget that the member for Burleigh came into this House, along with the rest of them on that side of the House, and voted against our policy that unashamedly prefers Queensland businesses delivering on those projects.

On the Cairns Convention Centre project we had an 85 per cent target for local businesses to deliver that project and we are exceeding that target. We exceeded the target on the North Queensland stadium project. I am confident that the minister for Cross River Rail will ensure that the target is exceeded on that project as well. Only the Labor government in this state has backed in Queensland businesses to create jobs for now and the jobs of the future.

Cairns Convention Centre

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Minister for Housing and Public Works, Minister for Digital Technology and Minister for Sport. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting Cairns workers and the Cairns economy through the \$176 million Cairns Convention Centre project, and is the minister aware of any other approaches?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the honourable member for Cairns for asking this question. He has raised with me on numerous occasions just how hard the Cairns economy has been hit by COVID-19. We know that the Cairns economy relies on international tourism. About 842,000 visitors would ordinarily be visiting Cairns each year, delivering \$1.1 billion into the Cairns economy. We know that is not happening at the moment. We know that the member for Cairns and the other honourable members for the Far North Queensland region are doing everything they possibly can to secure the economic recovery of that community.

I want to pay credit to you, Mr Speaker, for securing a home season for the Cairns Taipans. I want to pay credit to the member for Barron River, who is delivering the \$12 million sports and performing arts complex at the Smithfield State High School. I want to pay credit to the member for Cook, who is making sure we deliver the \$300 million injection into the Far North Queensland economy through the Wangetti Trail. I want to pay credit to the member for Cairns, who is doing everything he can to ensure the Cairns Convention Centre delivers for his community.

What is that Cairns Convention Centre delivering? It is delivering \$176 million into the Cairns economy and a new offering for the global convention centre market with multiple spaces. I think the Cairns Convention Centre will win the world's best convention centre for the third time in 20 years. It will deliver an extra \$50 million in convention centre business to the Cairns business community each and every year and, importantly, 570 extra construction jobs during the delivery of the project. The Buy Queensland project is making sure that those jobs are going to Cairns locals. We set a target of 85 per cent. I am pleased to inform the House that that is being exceeded at the moment, with 88 per cent of the 180 workers on site being from Cairns.

This construction project and every other construction project in this state is possible because the Premier held strong on her commitment to put Queenslanders first. She did not cave to those opposite or New South Wales. Instead, she showed leadership and she kept the borders closed. We have seen what weak borders means to the construction industry in other places. Victoria has seen a 75 per cent reduction in construction activity because of that.

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: We know that the member for Burleigh is pretty keen on billboards. I would invite the member for Burleigh to put this stat on a billboard. Under the LNP's approach to the borders we would have seen a 75 per cent reduction on that Cairns Convention Centre project. That is 427 Cairns tradies out of work. Some 427 workers in Cairns would not be at work today. That is what recklessness looks like, that is what poor judgement looks like and that is what absence of leadership looks like.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Cairns, you are warned under the standing orders for arguing across the chamber. Take it outside.

Cross River Rail

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for State Development. It has been 169 days since the Palaszczuk Labor government directed the construction contractor for Cross River Rail to stop work on the Dutton Park and Boggo Road stations. Given the \$2 million-a-day penalty taxpayers face—now more than \$330 million for this delay—on what date will the design be finalised and work started?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for the question. I would like to clarify a number of things. Firstly, no construction has started on that station. Construction starts in 2021, as per the schedule. The stop-work order was in relation to design works. As we have said from day one, no matter where you build a station on the south side of the river, what we are constructing is a brand new system that will be an underground system that has to link in with the existing rail system. No matter where we built a station, we would have to tie those two together. That is a complex piece of engineering work. It is always going to be included in the \$5.4 billion project cost, as I keep saying, as I have said repeatedly and as members opposite choose to ignore. I can absolutely say that there has been no penalty cost.

I also said to parliament on Tuesday—it was reported in the paper on Tuesday—that those complex design works are underway. Engineers are working on it and we are hoping to have that finalised soon. No penalty payment has been paid. We are negotiating within the contract, as per the contract. As I said on Tuesday and Wednesday and will say here on Thursday, unlike those opposite we are committed to building this infrastructure because we know that it is going to be a game changer for Queensland. It is infrastructure that is absolutely needed. We know that the gridlock over the river comes into effect in 2022. If the LNP had been elected last time then this would not be getting built, which means we would have had absolute gridlock on the rail network.

I give the commitment that I gave on Monday, on Tuesday and on Wednesday and give again today, on Thursday: these complex engineering design works are happening through a steering group which includes the best and brightest engineers not only from the consortium but also from Cross River Rail, TMR and Queensland Rail. They are working through it as we speak. As I said on Tuesday, yesterday and today, we are hoping to have this finalised soon.

I am very proud to be part of a government that is delivering the infrastructure that is sending pay packets home to Queensland families through the coronavirus pandemic. As the Premier said on Tuesday, we have seen what has happened in Victoria because they did not close their borders. If we had listened to the Leader of the Opposition—64 times—we would not be seeing construction happening on Cross River Rail. Right now we have thousands of workers on this project taking pay packets home to their families because we have been able to get on with this construction job. It is on track, it is on budget and we are delivering this.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: You heard it. I said it because it is true.

Mr Minnikin: On track and on budget.

Ms JONES: Yes, on track and on budget—and I am standing in parliament.

Honourable members interjected.

Ms JONES: That is right; they do not have any.

Opposition members interjected.

Ms JONES: I said it because I knew you would react that way. I said it because it is true.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Everton is warned under the standing orders. Comments will come through the chair.

North Queensland, Police Resources

Mr STEWART: My question is of the Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services. Will the minister please update the House on policing numbers for the North Queensland police districts?

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

Mr RYAN: There are more police in Queensland than ever before and more police in North Queensland than ever before. That is because of our record \$2.6 billion police budget. Since coming to power we have delivered an extra 104 approved police positions to Townsville and an extra 71 to the Cairns and Far North police district. This is a significant investment in policing. The important thing about—

Mr Batt interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Bundaberg, if this were a court of law you would be badgering the witness. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr RYAN: The important thing about our commitment is that we properly fund our commitment. You only have to go back to the Newman years to see what those opposite did to policing. They never followed through with the appropriate funding. What did that mean to Townsville? They had to tighten their belts. The LNP Newman government never provided enough funding for police cars, for accoutrements for police officers and for important equipment that they use. We fully fund them. We are backing them 100 per cent.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Correction to *Record of Proceedings*; Members of Parliament, Remuneration

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.18 am): In answer to a question about child safety I said ‘the CCC’; I meant to say ‘coroner’. I want to publicly correct the record.

Secondly, I advise the House that on 2 April I wrote to the remuneration tribunal requesting that they place a hold on salary increases for members of parliament. I wrote again on 19 June saying—

I reiterate my previous request to you that the tribunal consider placing on hold any salary increases for members of parliament at this time.

I can confirm that a document now has been tabled by the Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal. The determination states very clearly—

The Tribunal determines by majority that a 0% increase will apply to the annual base and additional salary rates of Members of the Legislative Assembly on:

1 September 2019

1 September 2020

1 September 2021

1 September 2022.

I accept that finding of the remuneration tribunal and I thank them for their work.

Further Answer to Question, Small Business Grants

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (11.19 am): I rise to make a ministerial statement. In relation to the member for Maroochydore’s question during question time today, I am advised by the director-general that no staff have been stood down in relation to small business grants. Some confidential issues were raised with the department in relation to the program and three employees involved with those concerns were directed to take leave with pay whilst the department reviewed those matters. There were no relevant findings to substantiate the concerns raised and the employees have since returned to work. I thank the staff of my department who have worked incredibly hard to deliver these grants to Queensland small businesses. I am proud of their work to support Queenslanders during COVID-19.

QUEENSLAND FUTURE FUND BILL

ROYALTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading (Cognate Debate)

Resumed from 12 August (see p. 2024), on motion of Mr Dick—

That the bills be now read a second time.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (11.20 am): I rise to make a contribution firstly to the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020. As I understand it, this is a first for Queensland. I understand the objectives the government is trying to achieve. I would like to see a provision in this legislation that would see the funds better utilised. This is consistent with the commentary of Adept Economics that more focus should be put on broader fiscal management in the economy. That could be married up with the federal initiative of developing Northern Australia. I think we have done that quite poorly in this state.

We see an opportunity for part of the Future Fund to be quarantined for North Queensland—that is, a portion of the fund allocated to a North Queensland future fund. Those funds would be quarantined and focused on unlocking opportunities that exist in North Queensland, have long been ignored and could contribute well to the state's bottom line. This was discussed at length last night with the delegation from Townsville Enterprise and Taskforce North Queensland. They have produced a document titled 'Unlock the north'. They still use words like 'unlock' to indicate that there is still a lot of work to be done in North Queensland. That does not have to be read as a criticism. It can be read as an opportunity. This bill presents an opportunity.

The KAP sees this bill as a great opportunity for the government to quarantine part of that fund. The likes of QIC could play a role in this. It has an investment in NAPCo and it already has an interest in some industrial activities in those areas. An organisation like that could complement its activities with other investments. For instance, NAPCo could buy the Karumba port or gain equity in the HIPCo irrigation scheme at Hughenden which has good metrics and shows good returns. Those sorts of things are good, safe investments and the public could underpin them. At the same time, it would deliver on the fiscal imperatives for the state government. As was said last night at the Townsville Enterprise and task force dinner, it is important to have these discussions in the context of the coronavirus.

Mining and agriculture are the sectors keeping this state going at the moment. That may well be the case for the next year or two, whether we like it or not. There is certainly a deficit of infrastructure and policy associated with those industries. There is a great opportunity to enhance those things that are performing well, have always performed well and will continue to carry us through these dark economic times. The Queensland Future Fund Bill is missing a great opportunity to introduce a North Queensland component to the Future Fund, with the support of the likes of QIRC. That is certainly something the KAP would like the government to consider beyond the term of this parliament. We believe it is imperative for the development of Queensland.

I will also make some comments on the Royalties Legislation Amendment Bill. I will address what is missing. Royalties can be a great enabler and lever for government. They should not be seen just as opportunity to pull cash out of an industry but seen as an enabler. We see this firsthand in the North West Minerals Province. Projects have no chance of getting up unless we can entice someone to invest in them and get them off the ground. I think that is the attitude we have to take in the context of the economic pressures we are facing.

The one way to do that is adjust the royalties. A great example of this at the moment is the copper smelter in Mount Isa. I am a bit rubbery on the figures. In terms of bauxite and zinc processing, the Queensland government, I sincerely say, in its wisdom has in the past said that if companies are going to value-add to the mining process and not just send the ore over to China to process—that is, they set up a smelter or refinery in Queensland—they would give them a 30 per cent discount on their production of zinc or alumina. I think that is a great policy.

That has kept manufacturing and value-adding in Queensland. That is something we should be focused on. It is something the federal government keeps talking about. We need to see action from the federal government in that area. It is glaringly obvious that we are yet to see any real action from the federal government in that area of stimulating advanced manufacturing.

I return to this state and royalties. The copper smelter in Mount Isa is on wobbly wheels. If a company produces copper and value-adds, I think the royalty discount in Queensland is 20 per cent. Why is it 20 per cent when for other products it is 30 per cent? I am not sure why. If we want to keep a copper smelter in Queensland and stop it from being demolished and not have one built in China where it will be processing the same ore, the government may have to consider royalties.

People can be sanctimonious and say that they are not going to help the mining industry and we will lose the smelter or they can suck it up and keep it open. There are 1,300 to 1,500 jobs associated with that smelter. I was talking last night to people from Incitec Pivot and those involved in the copper industry. Sulphur is taken from the process at the smelter in Mount Isa and captured by Incitec Pivot's acid plant. The acid is carted to the phosphate mine. There are about 600 workers there. They are mostly Townsville workers. That acid goes by rail to one of the biggest fertiliser plants in the southern hemisphere to make fertiliser.

That links in with the viability of Sun Metals in Townsville. There are thousands of jobs that revolve around keeping that smelter open. The government has to consider royalties in order to keep that open. They might like rolling the dice on that, but I do not want to. I want to keep those jobs in Townsville and the north-west. Royalties are the way to achieve that.

That needs to be considered as part of this discussion. Now is the time to look at royalties—not so much as a cash grab for the economy but as a lever to ensure jobs. What this comes back to is jobs. It is not about mining companies making profits. That is not the aim. The aim is jobs—high-value jobs. People with those jobs spend money in the restaurants in Townsville. They spend money in the tourism and hospitality industries where we have a deficit of overseas tourists. That is what it is all about. This is a very important thing that should be included in this bill, but is not. It requires consideration by the government beyond this bill, if it is not amended now.

The Queensland Future Fund requires a North Queensland future fund as part of it, run by a body like QIC. It should be focused on stimulating and unlocking potential in the north. The government needs to revisit royalties, particularly around value adding and our copper smelter, otherwise thousands of jobs in Townsville will be lost. That will fall squarely on the shoulders of this government.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (11.28 am): I am pleased to speak in support of the cognate bills—the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 and the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. The Queensland Future Fund will play an important role in helping to maintain Queensland's credit rating and support sustainable long-term financial management.

The announcement of the planned Future Fund follows a similar establishment of a dedicated Debt Retirement Fund in New South Wales, and such future funds have also been in operation for some time at the Commonwealth level—and last time I checked neither were big bad socialist governments.

When the Queensland Future Fund Bill 2020 was introduced into the House, the Treasurer indicated that it would require any Queensland Future Fund to be established as a special purpose account, separate to the consolidated fund and departmental accounts, which would ensure the necessary ring-fencing would be achieved.

Importantly, the Treasurer has made it clear that there will be transparency, openness and accountability within any Future Fund movements, including deposits and withdrawals from the fund. Specifically, the bill provides that the fund movements will be recorded and disclosed in Treasury's audited financial statements that form part of Treasury's annual report, which is tabled in the House by the Treasurer of Queensland.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! This is probably a reasonable time to remind members of those who are on a warning: the members for Nanango, Broadwater, Maroochydore, Oodgeroo, Currumbin, Cairns, Burleigh, Everton and Bundaberg. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I will place you on a warning for that statement. Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the Treasurer to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (11.30 am), in reply: These bills are a key part of the Palaszczuk government's economic agenda. In that regard, I would like to extend my thanks to the member for Everton and the LNP members opposite for supporting these bills. In the lead-up to an election, it was open to the LNP to seek political advantage by opposing these bills, but I am pleased to see that they have done the right thing by the Labor government and Queensland by supporting these bills, which are a critical part of Labor's economic agenda. Even the member for Callide might fall into line this time.

I know I have been quick to criticise the judgement of the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow Treasurer, but today their judgement is correct. They are right to support these Labor government bills, which are critical to our government's economic plan and Queensland's recovery from COVID-19. The opposition could have taken the opportunistic path to oppose these bills and vote against them, but they have not. I thank them for backing our judgement and the Labor government's bills, even when it might be politically costly for them, because it is the right thing to do.

Of course, even though the LNP strategy team is supporting us, a few members have made remarks that demand a response. Regrettably the standard LNP talking points got the usual run. The LNP say we have the highest bankruptcies. An average of 1,000 more bankruptcies occurred every year under the Newman government. The LNP say we have the highest average unemployment rate. That is an average that no statistician uses, except the LNP. The actual unemployment rate in Queensland was 5.7 per cent before COVID-19. Under the Newman government, it peaked at 7.3 per cent and was still at 6.6 per cent when we were elected.

Members of the opposition say we have the lowest business confidence and falling investment. That is incorrect, again. In the LNP's final year in government, private investment fell by 15 per cent and public investment fell by 29 per cent. They kept saying we cancelled the budget. They are wrong again. LNP members might refer to the correction and apology made by the shadow Treasurer on Tuesday if they want to get a head start on writing their own apologies. They might like to confirm that all states have deferred their budgets and that New South Wales, Victoria, the Northern Territory and the ACT are also yet to set a date.

They say we have the most debt. All I can say is that the federal coalition government, supported by every federal Queensland LNP member of the House of Representatives and every federal Queensland LNP senator in the Senate is supporting the federal coalition government's debt, tipped to top \$852 billion by June 2021. The author of the Commission of Audit, Peter Costello, has opined publicly that federal debt is likely to exceed \$1 trillion before the COVID crisis is over.

They say we were the last to announce a COVID stimulus package. In fact, the Palaszczuk Labor government was the first, and at that time we were the biggest. Our first \$27 million stimulus package was launched in mid-February in Cairns, our business loan facility was announced almost a week before the Commonwealth's, and our \$4 billion stimulus package was the largest among all states to date.

I will move on to the more substantive points raised in debate. Regarding the Queensland Future Fund, some opposition members went so far as to say that it would only maintain a 'so-called surplus' on the government's defined benefit superannuation account. As committee members have been advised on several occasions by the State Actuary, Queensland is the only jurisdiction in Australia to have a fully funded defined benefit superannuation scheme.

Victoria's defined benefit scheme is around \$30 billion in arrears. It will not be fully funded until 2035. Frankly, given the economic situation in Victoria, you would wonder whether that is achievable. The New South Wales scheme has a \$68 billion deficit, unfunded until at least 2030. As of late 2019, the Commonwealth's defined benefit scheme was more than \$233 billion in the red. Again, that is the responsibility of the Morrison coalition government. That is 100 times the balance of Queensland's defined benefit scheme, with one important difference—Queensland's account is in the black.

We are the only Australian jurisdiction with a defined benefit scheme in surplus, and we are keeping the scheme in surplus by law. To say otherwise, of course, would be to continue to mislead the parliament. It is particularly troubling that almost every opposition member to speak to the Queensland Future Fund Bill, which the LNP supports, described it as a 'raid' on public servants' superannuation.

In the course of the debate, the State Actuary has advised my office that the comments by the members for Mermaid Beach and Toowoomba North—in particular, that teachers, nurses, police and other public servants should be worried about their superannuation entitlements—are simply wrong and will concern those public servants unnecessarily. Once again, to repeat those sorts of claims in the House would be to mislead the parliament. More importantly, it would mislead those hardworking public

servants, many of them nurses and police officers—in fact, every public servant in Queensland—who have done so much hard work to respond to COVID-19. I want to thank them and assure them as the Treasurer of Queensland that their investment in the defined benefit scheme is safe and secure.

The entitlements of defined benefit members are not affected in any way by this bill and continue to be guaranteed under section 29 of the Superannuation (State Public Sector) Act. That security is further strengthened by the funding guarantee included in the Queensland Future Fund Bill. In short, this will ensure that the defined benefit remains defined.

Opposition members have cast doubt on the value of the assets that I have announced will be transferred to the Queensland Future Fund, including the land titles registry, worth at least \$4 billion. The members for Everton and Buderim ask how that can be the case when the land titles registry generates only \$51.9 million in revenue per year. The people of Queensland should be worried about the member for Everton's capacity to deliver a budget when he is clearly incapable of reading one.

From the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy's 2018-19 annual report, user charges and fees related to land titles totalled more than \$300 million in 2019—six times more than the shadow Treasurer's guesstimate. I table the relevant page of the department's annual report for the benefit of the member for Everton.

Tabled paper: Extract, undated, from the notes to financial statements of the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Energy, page 82 [1362].

Even though he might have eventually worked it out himself, I am reluctant to tell the member for Everton that the titles office returns more than \$300 million a year to the people of Queensland. If he knew that, he might just want to privatise it. Of course, that is what the Queensland Future Fund Bill is designed to prevent, and the opposition is supporting that bill in the House today.

While the opposition claims they will gladly support the Queensland Future Fund Bill, a number of LNP members also cited favourably the submission to the committee's inquiry by Gene Tunny—an economist who is so 'eminent', so 'leading' and so 'respected' that he is starting to give Rodney Dangerfield a good name. In his submission, quoted by members opposite, the respected Mr Tunny said—

... the Queensland Future Fund is unnecessary and undesirable. It would lock up funds and reduce the flexibility of the Government to manage its budget and balance sheet in the best interests of Queenslanders. It could tie the hands of future governments by locking up so-called strategic assets ...

The eminent Mr Tunny went on to say that he is 'not advocating austerity or a perverse fiscal policy'. One might ask: what is the talented Mr Tunny advocating for? If you read his 2018 book, he dedicates a whole chapter to his proposed answer. In chapter 9, titled 'Is Privatisation Still an Option in Queensland?', Mr Tunny lays out his alternative plan. He notes that there is 'potential for government to receive very favourable terms in privatisations of government-owned businesses' and that 'Queensland governments should maintain privatisation as a legitimate policy option'. This is the person quoted endlessly by the members opposite. He even asks, 'Should any business be government owned?' That is the proposition that Mr Tunny sustains publicly.

In the case of electricity or water—the bulk of Queensland's government owned corporations—Mr Tunny argues that 'there does not appear to be a logical case for government ownership'. He is entitled to his view. He says that 'there remain several valuable Queensland GOCs that could be suitable candidates for privatisation, namely the GOCs that were previously proposed to be leased out by the Newman Government'.

He concludes with the coup de grace, 'It is time to reconsider privatisation in Queensland.' Mr Tunny is a former Treasury official who literally wrote the book on asset sales. His opposition to the Future Fund has been glowingly cited by the LNP, but at least for today they are voting against Mr Tunny and in favour of the government's 'locking up strategic assets' from their own future privatisation. Rest assured, the LNP will keep Mr Tunny's privatisation book on the shelf, but I am pleased they are supporting the position of the government today.

Regarding the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill, which the LNP also supports, we heard from members opposite that Queensland is now ranked the 15th most attractive investment destination in the world for mining companies, according to Canadian think tank the Fraser Institute. The Fraser Institute should think 15th in the world is a good thing: after all, according to its own website, 'it now ranks in the top 15 among all think tanks worldwide'. Of course, members opposite forgot to mention that—again, according to the Fraser Institute—Queensland's investment attractiveness has increased since the Palaszczuk Labor government was elected from an index value of 77.8 in 2015 to 79.3 in 2019.

Queensland is also the most attractive investment destination on the east coast of Australia. Victoria ranks 43rd on the Fraser Institute list, while the Liberal-led NSW government languishes in 47th place. What of the African countries that we have heard from many members opposite are now allegedly more attractive investment destinations than Queensland? We heard that consistently from members opposite, so I looked again at the Fraser Institute rankings. I invite LNP members to correct the record, because I want them to nominate the foreign jurisdictions ranked ahead of Queensland that are in Africa. Is it Finland, Nevada, Alaska, Portugal, Ireland, Idaho, Arizona, Sweden, Saskatchewan, Turkey or Utah? None of these are African countries when I last looked at the map. I table the relevant page of the Fraser Institute report for the benefit of Opposition members, in particular the members for Everton, Mermaid Beach, Bonney, Toowoomba North and Gregory. I invite them to find the African country they allege is a more attractive investment destination for miners than Queensland.

Tabled paper. Extract, undated, from the Fraser Institute Annual Survey of Mining Companies 2019 Report, titled 'Figure 3: Investment Attractiveness Index' [1363].

Opposition members raised the question of how volume measurements for the volume model will be made. To clarify for members opposite, the top three LNG exporters in Queensland produce 90 per cent of the gas subject to royalty. All three of these big producers have sophisticated control rooms and measuring stations that record very precisely the amount of gas they produce. Section 801 of the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 states, 'A petroleum producer must ensure each product' they produce 'is measured by a meter ... and the meter complies with any requirements prescribed under regulation.' That is, gas producers are already compelled by law to supply measurement data to government, which large producers do with a high degree of accuracy.

For remaining producers, who generate just 10 per cent of gas in Queensland, the majority have functioning gas meters and measure volume data accurately in accordance with existing law. For a small minority, the Office of State Revenue is developing a royalty ruling to set out the guidelines for measuring the volume of liable petroleum. More importantly though, it seems that in posing this question opposition members are seriously suggesting that gas companies do not measure the volume of gas they drill, store and ship. I do not think that anyone else in Queensland agrees with that proposition. That may be the way the LNP operates. Rather than 'measure twice, cut once' their slogan is 'don't measure: just cut, sack and sell.' Unlike the LNP, Queensland's gas companies know exactly what they produce.

Our government is ensuring that gas producers are up-front with Queenslanders about the resources that the people of Queensland own. Throughout the debate, LNP members made overtures about a 10-year royalty freeze for gas producers. I must admit to being a little perplexed about the terms of the LNP's 10-year freeze. Last year it was a 10-year freeze starting in 2019. Now it is an effective 11-year freeze ending in 2030. It is rolling freezes under the LNP as they usher in a new ice age. If I recall correctly, I think it was the member for Callide who gave a speech in this House welcoming the new ice age.

To reiterate my opening remarks, much can change in 10 years—like the emergence of an entire LNG industry that now exports \$16 billion of gas per year. It was established by a Labor government 10 years ago and has been championed by Labor governments ever since. With the introduction of the volume model, Labor vows to keep the gas royalty framework unchanged for five years, providing certainty to industry and to government.

As the COVID-19 pandemic has shown, economic conditions can change dramatically and without warning. Freezing royalty rates for 10 years or 11 years—or whatever it is under the LNP—denies governments the opportunity to reduce royalty rates should future economic shocks dictate that assistance be provided to the resources industry. Of course, the last government to promise a 10-year royalty freeze was the LNP in 2012. On the same day the LNP promised royalties would not change for 10 years, the member for Clayfield—the then treasurer—increased coal royalties from 25 to 50 per cent, ripping an estimated extra \$1.6 billion out of the industry over four years. Resource companies know what the promise of a 10-year royalty freeze really means when the LNP says it.

In further debate, opposition members—cribbing studiously from the Economics and Governance Committee's dissenting report—also claimed they were unaware of the additional revenue the volume model would collect. Had the LNP read the first report from the Weatherill review or the relevant news articles by Sarah Elks from the *Australian* and John McCarthy in June, or listened to the contribution from the member for Ipswich yesterday, even if they could not do that research they would have noted that, according to preliminary estimates, the volume model would generate between \$90 million and \$100 million per year in additional royalty revenue.

In addition to the two rounds of revenue updates I have already provided since becoming Treasurer, our government will again update our revenue forecasts—including those from the volume model—with the COVID-19 fiscal and economic review. Industry also praised the independent chairmanship of the Hon. Jay Weatherill, with Queensland Resources Council chief executive, Ian Macfarlane, calling him 'a steady hand' in a pressured environment, noting that he did an excellent job in chairing the discussions around the certainty, equity, simplicity, transparency and compliance that the volume model would bring.

These bills represent key parts of the Palaszczuk government's economic agenda. I would like to express my appreciation to all of those who have contributed to the process, including the tireless officers in Queensland Treasury, the Office of State Revenue, the Queensland Treasury Corporation, the Queensland Investment Corporation and the Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel. I would also like to thank Economics and Governance Committee members, members of parliament who contributed to the development of this legislation, including, may I say, the Member for South Brisbane, who is in the House today, and all participants in the committee and legislative processes. I would like to thank the LNP, who are backing our economic agenda and helping us unite and recover for Queensland jobs. I commend the bills to the House.

Question put—That the Queensland Future Fund Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Question put—That the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill be now read a second time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail (Cognate Debate)

Queensland Future Fund Bill

Clauses 1 to 24, as read, agreed to.

Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—



Mr DICK (11.48 am): I move—

That clause 2 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Clause 2 postponed.

Clauses 3 and 4, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr DICK (11.48 am): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr DICK: I move the following amendment—

2 After clause 4

Page 14, after line 22—

insert—

Part 2A Amendment of Duties Act 2001

4A Act amended

This part amends the *Duties Act 2001*.

4B Insertion of new ch 17, pt 26

Chapter 17—

insert—

Part 26 Transitional provision for Royalty Legislation Amendment Act 2020

675 Retrospective effect of definition *defined relative*

- (1) The new definition applies, and is taken to have applied, in relation to a dutiable transaction for which liability for transfer duty arose on or after 23 May 2018.
- (2) Subsection (3) applies in relation to a dutiable transaction for which liability for transfer duty arose on or after 23 May 2017 but before 23 May 2018 (the *relevant period*).

- (3) The former definition is, in relation to a person, taken to have included—
- (a) a child of an aunt or uncle of the person; and
 - (b) the spouse of a person mentioned in paragraph (a).
- (4) In this section—
- former definition** means schedule 6, definition *defined relative* as in force during the relevant period.
- new definition** means schedule 6, definition *defined relative* as amended by the *Royalty Legislation Amendment Act 2020*.

4C Amendment of sch 6 (Dictionary)

- (1) Schedule 6, definition *defined relative*—
insert—
- (fa) a child of an aunt or uncle of the person or a child of the spouse of an aunt or uncle of the person;
- (2) Schedule 6, definition *defined relative*, paragraph (g), 'to (f)'—
omit, insert—
- to (g)
- (3) Schedule 6, definition *defined relative*, paragraphs (fa) and (g)—
renumber as paragraphs (g) and (h).

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes to Hon. Cameron Dick's amendments [1364].

Tabled paper: Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Cameron Dick's amendments [1365].

Amendment agreed to.

Message from Deputy Governor



Mr DICK (11.48 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency recommends the amendment circulated by the Treasurer. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

ROYALTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, CATHERINE ENA HOLMES AC, Deputy Governor recommend to the Legislative Assembly that an appropriation be made for the purposes of the attached amendment, to be moved by the Minister, to a Bill for an Act to amend the Betting Tax Act 2018, the Judicial Review Act 1991, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Petroleum Act 1923, the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004, the Petroleum and Gas (Royalty) Regulation 2004, the Taxation Administration Act 2001 and the Taxation Administration Regulation 2012 for particular purposes

DEPUTY GOVERNOR

Date: 12 AUG 2020

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 August 2020, from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor, recommending an amendment to the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [1366].

Insertion of new clauses—



Mr DICK (11.49 am): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Mr DICK: I move the following amendment—

3 Before part 3

Page 15, before line 1—

insert—

Part 2B Amendment of First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

4D Act amended

This part amends the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*.

4E Amendment of long title

Long title, after 'owners'—

insert—

, and to provide for a scheme for the payment of other particular grants to home owners

- 4F Amendment of s 1 (Short title)**
 Section 1, ‘*First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*’—
omit, insert—
First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000
- 4G Amendment of pt 2, div 2, hdg (Basic concepts)**
 Part 2, division 2, heading, after ‘concepts’—
insert—
for first home owner grants
- 4H Insertion of new s 3A**
 Before section 4—
insert—
- 3A Application of division**
 This division applies in relation to first home owner grants.
- 4I Insertion of new pt 3, div 1A**
 Part 3, before division 1—
insert—
- Division 1A Preliminary**
- 9A Application of part**
 This part applies in relation to first home owner grants.
- 4J Insertion of new pts 3A and 3B**
 After section 25E—
insert—
- Part 3A Regional home building boost grants**
- Division 1 Preliminary**
- 25F Application of part**
 This part applies in relation to regional home building boost grants.
- 25G Commissioner’s functions and powers**
- (1) The commissioner is responsible for administering the RHBBG direction.
- (2) The commissioner has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for performing the commissioner’s function under subsection (1).
- Division 2 Entitlement to grant**
- 25H Application for grant and when grant is payable**
- (1) A person who is eligible to apply for a regional home building boost grant under the RHBBG direction may apply for the grant.
- (2) An application for a regional home building boost grant must comply with the RHBBG direction.
- (3) An applicant for a regional home building boost grant is entitled to be paid the grant if—
- (a) the applicant, or if there are 2 or more of them, each of the applicants, complies with the eligibility criteria for the grant under the RHBBG direction; and
- (b) the transaction for which the grant is sought—
- (i) is an eligible RHBBG transaction; and
- (ii) has been completed within the meaning of the RHBBG direction.
- Note—*
 See also section 25I(2).
- (4) Only 1 regional home building boost grant is payable for the same eligible RHBBG transaction.
- Division 3 Decision on application**
- 25I Commissioner to decide applications**
- (1) The commissioner must authorise the payment of a regional home building boost grant if the commissioner is satisfied the grant is payable on an application for the grant.
- (2) Also, if the RHBBG direction provides for the commissioner to authorise the payment of a regional home building boost grant in anticipation of the applicant for the grant complying with particular stated requirements, the commissioner may authorise the payment as provided for by the direction.

25J Amount of grant

The amount of a regional home building boost grant is the lesser of the following—

- (a) the consideration for the eligible RHBBG transaction less the amount of a first home owner grant paid to the applicant in relation to the eligible RHBBG transaction;
- (b) \$5,000.

25K Payment of grant

A regional home building boost grant authorised by the commissioner must be paid—

- (a) to the applicant for the grant; and
- (b) in the way stated in the RHBBG direction.

25L Conditions

- (1) The payment of a regional home building boost grant is subject to—
 - (a) the conditions stated in the RHBBG direction; and
 - (b) any other condition imposed by the commissioner.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a condition may require a person on whose application the grant was made to—
 - (a) give notice of non-compliance with a condition within the period stated in the condition; and
 - (b) repay the amount of the grant within the period stated in the condition for repaying the amount.
- (3) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a condition mentioned in subsection (1) or (2).
Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

25M Notice of decision

- (1) If the commissioner decides an application for a regional home building boost grant, or decides to vary or reverse an earlier decision on an application for a regional home building boost grant, the commissioner must give the applicant written notice of the decision.
- (2) If the decision is to refuse an application for a regional home building boost grant, or to vary or reverse an earlier decision on an application for a regional home building boost grant, the notice must state the following—
 - (a) the reasons for the decision;
 - (b) that the person may, within 60 days after receiving the notice, object to the decision;
 - (c) how to object.

Note—

See part 5.

25N Investigations and enforcement

- (1) The commissioner may carry out an investigation (an **authorised investigation**) to decide—
 - (a) whether an application under this Act for a regional home building boost grant has been properly made; or
 - (b) whether an objection to a decision made under this Act in relation to a regional home building boost grant should be upheld; or
 - (c) whether an applicant for a regional home building boost grant to whom the grant has been paid was eligible for the grant under the RHBBG direction; or
 - (d) whether a condition on which a regional home building boost grant has been paid has been complied with; or
 - (e) another matter reasonably related to the administration or enforcement of this Act in relation to a regional home building boost grant.
- (2) Part 4 applies in relation to the investigation and enforcement of a matter relating to a regional home building boost grant as if—
 - (a) a reference to a first home owner grant included a reference to a regional home building boost grant; and
 - (b) a reference to an applicant or former applicant included a reference to an applicant or former applicant for a regional home building boost grant; and
 - (c) a reference to an application included a reference to an application for a regional home building boost grant; and
 - (d) a reference to a home included a reference to a home within the meaning of the RHBBG direction; and
 - (e) a reference in section 51A(1)(b) to a contravention of a section included a contravention of section 25L(3).

Part 3B Home builder grants**Division 1 Preliminary****25O Application of part**

This part applies in relation to home builder grants.

25P Commissioner's functions and powers

- (1) The commissioner is responsible for administering the home builder direction.
- (2) The commissioner has the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for performing the commissioner's function under subsection (1).

Division 2 Entitlement to grant**25Q Application for grant and when grant is payable**

- (1) A person who is eligible to apply for a home builder grant under the home builder direction may apply for the grant.
- (2) An application for a home builder grant must comply with the home builder direction.
- (3) An applicant for a home builder grant is entitled to be paid the grant if—
 - (a) the applicant or, for a joint application, each of the applicants, complies with the eligibility criteria for the grant under the home builder direction; and
 - (b) the transaction for which the grant is sought is an eligible home builder transaction; and
 - (c) the relevant requirement in relation to the eligible home builder transaction has been met.

Note—

See also section 25R(2).

- (4) Only 1 home builder grant is payable for the same eligible home builder transaction.
- (5) In this section—

relevant requirement, in relation to an eligible home builder transaction, means—

- (a) if the transaction is a contract for the purchase of a new home within the meaning of the home builder direction—the contract has been completed within the meaning of the home builder direction; or
- (b) if the transaction is a comprehensive home building contract within the meaning of the home builder direction—the foundations have been laid and the first progress payment has been paid to the builder under the contract; or
- (c) if the transaction is a contract for a substantial renovation within the meaning of the home builder direction—construction under the contract has commenced and at least \$150,000 of the contract price has been paid to the builder under the contract.

Division 3 Decision on application**25R Commissioner to decide applications**

- (1) The commissioner must authorise the payment of a home builder grant if the commissioner is satisfied the grant is payable on an application for the grant.
- (2) Also, if the home builder direction provides for the commissioner to authorise the payment of a home builder grant in anticipation of the applicant for the grant complying with particular stated requirements, the commissioner may authorise the payment as provided for by the direction.

25S Amount of grant

The amount of a home builder grant is \$25,000.

25T Payment of grant

A home builder grant authorised by the commissioner must be paid—

- (a) to the applicant for the grant; and
- (b) in the way stated in the home builder direction.

25U Conditions

- (1) The payment of a home builder grant is subject to—
 - (a) the conditions stated in the home builder direction; and
 - (b) any other conditions imposed by the commissioner.
- (2) Without limiting subsection (1), a condition may require a person on whose application the grant was made to—
 - (a) give notice of non-compliance with a condition within the period stated in the condition; and
 - (b) repay the amount of the grant within the period stated in the condition for repaying the amount.

- (3) A person must not, without reasonable excuse, fail to comply with a condition mentioned in subsection (1) or (2).

Maximum penalty—40 penalty units.

25V Notice of decision

- (1) If the commissioner decides an application for a home builder grant, or decides to vary or reverse an earlier decision on an application for a home builder grant, the commissioner must give the applicant written notice of the decision.
- (2) If the decision is to refuse an application for a home builder grant, or to vary or reverse an earlier decision on an application for a home builder grant, the notice must state the following—
- (a) the reasons for the decision;
 - (b) that the person may, within 60 days after receiving the notice, object to the decision;
 - (c) how to object.

Note—

See part 5.

25W Investigations and enforcement

- (1) The commissioner may carry out an investigation (an **authorised investigation**) to decide—
- (a) whether an application under this Act for a home builder grant has been properly made; or
 - (b) whether an objection to a decision made under this Act in relation to a home builder grant should be upheld; or
 - (c) whether an applicant for a home builder grant to whom the grant has been paid was eligible for the grant under the home builder direction; or
 - (d) whether a condition on which a home builder grant has been paid has been complied with; or
 - (e) another matter reasonably related to the administration or enforcement of this Act in relation to a home builder grant.
- (2) Part 4, other than section 49, applies in relation to the investigation and enforcement of a matter relating to a home builder grant as if—
- (a) a reference to a first home owner grant included a reference to a home builder grant; and
 - (b) a reference to an applicant or former applicant included a reference to an applicant or former applicant for a home builder grant; and
 - (c) a reference to an application included a reference to an application for a home builder grant; and
 - (d) a reference to a home included a reference to a home within the meaning of the home builder direction; and
 - (e) a reference in section 51A(1)(b) to a contravention of a section included a contravention of section 25U(3).

4K Amendment of s 27 (Limitation of authorised officer's powers)

Section 27—

insert—

- (4) An authorised officer who is an officer or employee of an authority responsible for the administration of a corresponding law may exercise the powers of an authorised officer under this Act only in relation to a first home owner grant.

4L Amendment of s 31 (Commissioner may carry out investigations under corresponding laws)

Section 31, after 'investigation'—

insert—

, to the extent it relates to a first home owner grant,

4M Amendment of s 56 (Lodging objection)

Section 56(1)—

omit, insert—

- (1) This section applies to an applicant or former applicant for a first home owner grant, regional home building boost grant or home builder grant who is dissatisfied with a decision of the commissioner—
- (a) on the applicant's or former applicant's application for the grant; or
 - (b) to require payment of an amount under section 47 in relation to the grant.
- (1A) The applicant or former applicant may lodge a written objection for the decision with the commissioner.

4N Amendment of s 65 (Delegations)

Section 65(2), after 'part 4'—

insert—

in relation to a first home owner grant

4O Amendment of s 67 (Protection from liability)

Section 67(1), after 'this Act'—

insert—

, the RHBBG direction or the home builder direction

4P Amendment of s 68 (Offence to disclose confidential information)

(1) Section 68(1)(a), after 'this Act'—

insert—

, the RHBBG direction or the home builder direction

(2) Section 68(3)(c)(i), after 'this Act'—

insert—

, the RHBBG direction, the home builder direction

(3) Section 68(3)—

insert—

(e) to the extent required to comply with the agreement between the Commonwealth and the State called 'National Partnership on HomeBuilder'.

(4) Section 68(4), after 'administering this Act'—

insert—

, the RHBBG direction or the home builder direction

(5) Section 68(6), after 'of a law'—

insert—

, the RHBBG direction or the home builder direction

(6) Section 68(7), definition *confidential information*—*omit, insert—****confidential information*** means information held by the commissioner, including information given on an application under this Act, that relates to a particular application for a first home owner grant, regional home building boost grant or home builder grant.**4Q Amendment of s 69A (Disqualifying arrangements)**

Section 69A, heading, after 'arrangements'—

*insert—***for first home owner grants****4R Amendment of s 69B (Valuation or evidence of value of property)**

(1) Section 69B(1), after 'eligible transaction'—

insert—

, eligible RHBBG transaction or eligible home builder transaction

(2) Section 69B(4), definition *property*—*omit, insert—****property*** means—

(a) in relation to a first home owner grant—

(i) a home; or

(ii) land; or

(iii) a relevant interest in land; or

(b) in relation to a regional home building boost grant—

(i) a home within the meaning of the RHBBG direction; or

(ii) land; or

(iii) an estate in fee simple in land; or

(c) in relation to a home builder grant—

(i) a home within the meaning of the home builder direction; or

(ii) land; or

(iii) an estate in fee simple in land.

(3) Section 69B, definition *relevant person*, after 'grant'—*insert—*

, regional home building boost grant or home builder grant

4S Insertion of new pt 13

After section 82—

insert—

Part 13 Transitional provisions for Royalty Legislation Amendment Act 2020**83 Application of Act for pre-commencement applications and relevant decisions**

- (1) This Act applies in relation to a pre-commencement application or relevant decision as if it were an application or decision made under this Act.
- (2) However, if it is an offence for a person to contravene a provision of this Act, the provision applies in relation to a pre-commencement application or relevant decision, or the grant to which the application or decision relates, only if the act or omission constituting the offence occurs wholly after the commencement.
- (3) For section 56(3), an objection to a relevant decision made before the commencement must be lodged within 60 days after the commencement.
- (4) In this section—

pre-commencement application means an application for a grant made under the RHBBG direction or home builder direction before the commencement.

relevant decision means a decision by the commissioner on a pre-commencement application for a regional home building boost grant or home builder grant, whether the decision is made before or after the commencement.

84 Protection from liability for particular officials

- (1) An official is not civilly liable for an act done, or omission made, honestly and without negligence under the RHBBG direction or home builder direction before the commencement.
- (2) In this section—
official means—
 - (a) the commissioner; or
 - (b) an officer or employee of the department to whom the commissioner has delegated powers under the RHBBG direction or home builder direction.

85 Application of s 68 to particular information

Section 68 applies to information held by the commissioner, whether the information was given before or after the commencement.

86 References to First Home Owner Grant Act 2000

A reference in a document to the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000* may, if the context permits, be taken to be a reference to this Act.

4T Amendment of schedule (Dictionary)

- (1) Schedule, definition *authorised investigation*—
omit.
- (2) Schedule—
insert—

authorised investigation means—

- (a) for a first home owner grant—an investigation to decide—
 - (i) whether an application under this Act or a corresponding law for a first home owner grant has been properly made; or
 - (ii) whether an objection to a decision made under this Act or a corresponding law should be upheld; or
 - (iii) whether an applicant to whom, or for whose benefit, a first home owner grant has been paid under this Act or a corresponding law was eligible for the grant; or
 - (iv) whether a condition on which a first home owner grant has been paid under this Act or a corresponding law has been complied with; or
 - (v) another matter reasonably related to the administration or enforcement of this Act or a corresponding law; or
- (b) for a regional home building boost grant—an investigation mentioned in section 25N(1); or
- (c) for a home builder grant—an investigation mentioned in section 25W(1).

eligible home builder transaction means an eligible transaction within the meaning of the home builder direction.

eligible RHBBG transaction means an eligible transaction within the meaning of the RHBBG direction.

home builder direction means the administrative direction called 'Australian Government HomeBuilder Grant—Queensland' made by the Minister and published on the department's website.

home builder grant means a grant payable under part 3B.

regional home building boost grant means a grant payable under part 3A.

RHBBG direction means the administrative direction called 'Regional home building boost grant' made by the Minister and published on the department's website.

- (3) Schedule, definition *corresponding law*, after 'this Act'—
insert—

to the extent it relates to a first home owner grant

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 5 to 12, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



Mr MANDER (11.49 am): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 39:

LNP, 36—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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 46:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pairs: Pegg, Robinson; Power, Nicholls.

Resolved in the negative.

Clauses 13 to 70, as read, agreed to.

Clause 71—



Mr MANDER (11.55 am): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

AYES, 42:

LNP, 36—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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 46:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Pairs: Pegg, Robinson; Power, Nicholls.

Resolved in the negative.

Mr SPEAKER: It being 11.57 am, 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 clauses or remaining clauses, schedules or any amendments circulated by the minister in charge of the bill. The Treasurer's amendment No. 7 is outside the long title of the bill and requires leave of the House. Is leave granted?

Leave granted.

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment No. 7, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

7 After clause 159

Page 156, after line 10—

insert—

Part 12 Legislation amended

160 Legislation amended

Schedule 1 amends the legislation it mentions.

Schedule 1 Legislation amended

section 160

Building Boost Grant Act 2011

1 Schedule, definition *First Home Owner Grant Act*, '*First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*'—

omit, insert—

First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Act 2000

First Home Owner Grant Regulation 2010

1 Section 1, '*First Home Owner Grant Regulation 2010*'—

omit, insert—

First Home Owner Grant and Other Home Owner Grants Regulation 2010

Clauses 71 to 159, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 2—

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendment No. 1, as circulated, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendment agreed to.

Amendment as circulated—

1 Clause 2 (Commencement)

Page 14, line 7, after 'Act'—

insert—

, other than parts 2A, 2B and 12 and schedule 1,

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the Queensland Future Fund Bill be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Question put—That the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title (Cognate Debate)

Question put—That the long title of the Queensland Future Fund Bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Question put—That the Treasurer's amendments Nos 8 to 10 be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Amendments agreed to.

Amendments as circulated—

8 Long title

Long title, after '2018,'—
insert—

the *Duties Act 2001*, the *First Home Owner Grant Act 2000*,

9 Long title

Long title, 'and the'—
omit, insert—

, the

10 Long title

Long title, before 'for particular'—
insert—

and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1

Question put—That the long title of the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

CRIMINAL CODE (CONSENT AND MISTAKE OF FACT) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.02 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Co-operatives National Law Act 2020, the Criminal Code, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, the Legal Profession Act 2007, the Liquor Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Racing Integrity Act 2016, the Wagering Act 1998 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 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 (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 [[1367](#)].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [[1368](#)].

Tabled paper: Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1369](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Criminal Code (Consent and Mistake of Fact) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. The bill implements the recommendations of the Queensland Law Reform Commission's review on consent laws and the excuse of mistake of fact. The Queensland Law Reform Commission's report on its review was tabled in the House on 31 July 2020.

The QLRC is an independent review body and consists of a chairperson who is assisted by part-time members. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the QLRC members who produced this report. I will particularly identify them because a number of these members are retiring from the QLRC and I want to thank them for their work. I thank the then chairperson, the Hon. Justice David Jackson, Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland; the Hon. Margaret Wilson QC, retired Justice of the Supreme Court of Queensland; His Honour Judge Brian Devereaux SC, Judge of the District Court of Queensland; Ms Penelope White, barrister; Dr Nigel Stobbs, barrister and senior lecturer at QUT's School of Law; and Ms Ruth O'Gorman, barrister.

I also take this opportunity to thank all Queenslanders who made submissions to the QLRC, in particular, those survivors of sexual violence who gave up their time and also put themselves through the traumatic task of having to discuss their personal experiences. The QLRC held several rounds of consultation facilitated by both targeted and public invitations for submissions and feedback. Appendix B to the QLRC's report shows the wide breadth of consultation undertaken by the commission, which included a workshop with representatives from organisations that support and represent victims and survivors of sexual violence.

The QLRC has applied its considerable expertise to this review of significant public interest. The nature and breadth of the QLRC's review of the practical operation and application of Queensland's laws on consent and the excuse of mistake of fact is unprecedented. The transcripts from 135 rape and sexual assault trials during 2018 and 40 appellate decisions from between 2000 and 2019 were

examined in addition to another 76 trials referred to it at its invitation. This is an astounding amount of work and analysis for which I thank the QLRC for undertaking. The evidence uncovered by this review is invaluable because it is specific to the operation of Queensland's Criminal Code, which functions differently in key respects to the criminal law in common law jurisdictions in Australian states such as New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia. The inclusion of an analysis of trial transcripts has provided the most accurate evidence base possible as it avoids biases and inherent problems of relying solely on appellate decisions for analysis.

The rigorous approach of the QLRC gives the Palaszczuk government confidence in accepting and implementing all of the QLRC report's five recommendations. The QLRC found four legal principles that can be distilled from the current case law in Queensland that would benefit from being explicitly spelt out in the Criminal Code. Those principles are: silence alone does not amount to consent; consent initially given can be withdrawn; a defendant is not required to take any particular 'steps' to ascertain consent, but the jury can consider anything the defendant said or did when considering whether they were mistaken about consent; and the voluntary intoxication of the defendant is irrelevant to the reasonableness of their belief about consent, though it can be relevant to the honesty of that belief.

The QLRC also recommended an amendment to ensure that the definition of consent applies uniformly to sexual offences in chapter 32 of the Criminal Code. All of these recommendations are implemented in the amendments to the Criminal Code in this bill.

The implementation of the QLRC's recommendations in this bill will strengthen and clarify the operation of the law in Queensland. Furthermore, it represents further progress towards Queenslanders being able to live free of sexual violence. These amendments to the Criminal Code will strengthen, modernise and make the law more accessible for all Queenslanders and facilitate a more consistent and correct understanding of the law by judges, legal practitioners and juries.

The amendments to the Criminal Code in this bill are consistent with the draft bill at appendix G to the QLRC's report with the only addition being a transitional provision. The transitional clause provides that the bill's amendments to the Criminal Code will operate prospectively to offences in chapter 32 of the Criminal Code, charged after the date of commencement but will be able to be applied to offences that are committed before commencement.

I note that the QLRC's report also identified some areas for future reform. The QLRC observed that there may be merit in giving consideration to the creation of a standalone offence for the practice known colloquially as 'stealthling' and the modernising of language in chapter 32 of the Criminal Code by removing the term 'carnal knowledge'. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General will consult with stakeholders on these issues.

While the QLRC report concluded that there should be no amendment to the Criminal Code to deal specifically with a circumstance in which a person consents to a sexual act under a mistaken belief there will be a monetary exchange for that act, it also noted that the proposal raised broader policy issues relating to the regulation and protection of sex workers which was outside the scope of its review. This issue will, therefore, be incorporated into a proposed review of regulation of the sex work industry by the QLRC, which the government has already publicly foreshadowed. I want to be clear that the amendments to the Criminal Code in this bill are only one aspect of the Palaszczuk government's ongoing response to prevent and protect Queenslanders from sexual violence and support the survivors of sexual violence.

As the QLRC observed in its report, there are limits to what can be achieved in terms of changing social practices with amendments to the criminal law. Work at the front end of the criminal justice system must also occur to see real change. In addition, the Palaszczuk government has already made significant reforms in the area of sexual violence, including: introduction of a sexual assault counselling privilege; amendment to give victims of a sexual offence who are giving evidence in a proceeding for an offence against the offender automatic status as a 'special witness'; and introducing offences relating to the non-consensual sharing of intimate images.

It is important to point out that the ANROWS National Community Attitudes Survey report published in November 2018 found the following: too many Australians are willing to excuse violence as part of a 'normal' gender dynamic in a relationship; one in five Australians believe domestic violence is a normal reaction to stress and that sometimes a woman can make a man so angry he hits her without meaning to; two in five Australians believe that women make up false reports of sexual assault in order to punish men; one in eight believe that if a woman is raped while she is drunk or affected by drugs she is at least partly responsible; and one in three think it is natural for a man to want to appear in control of his partner in front of his male friends.

Many Australians hold attitudes suggesting that sexual aggression can be attributed in part to men's natural sex drive. One in three—33 per cent—Australians believe that rape results from men being unable to control their need for sex. One in four—28 per cent—Australians believe that when sexually aroused men may be unaware that a woman does not want to have sex. One in six—between 13 per cent and 15 per cent—Australians feel that non-consensual sex is justified if the woman initiates intimacy.

In the second half of 2019, the Palaszczuk government released *Prevent. Support. Believe. Queensland's framework to address sexual violence*, a new sexual violence prevention framework for Queensland. That framework includes a range of strategies under the priority areas of prevention, support and healing, and accountability and justice to provide a whole-of-government response to sexual violence.

We know that only a fraction of cases reported end up in court. Further work is required across government to examine the experience of women in the criminal justice system with a view to reducing the high attrition rate of sexual assault complaints. These significant reforms are designed to improve the experiences of sexual violence survivors in the criminal justice system and ensure their voices are heard with clarity.

Legislation is only part of the story. As a community, we need to work smarter on education and awareness, particularly among Queenslanders reaching the age of consent, to change attitudes and prevent sexual violence in the first place. Furthermore, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women will work together across multiple government departments and in consultation with the Queensland Police Service to develop appropriate education programs to support the amendments in this bill. The Palaszczuk government will continue to work with victims of sexual violence and domestic and family violence to better understand how we can encourage more victims to come forward and be supported.

The bill also reaffirms the Palaszczuk government's commitment to reducing harm from alcohol related violence by progressing additional initiatives to advance our Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Policy. Changes to the Liquor Act 1992, Gaming Machine Act 1991 and Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 implement the second tranche of the government's legislative response to the final evaluation of the Tackling Alcohol-Fuelled Violence Policy by: providing greater rigour around ID scanning and the banning regime; increasing the minimum duration of police banning notices from 10 days to up to one month; ensuring the ongoing effectiveness of safe-night precincts by legislating a three-yearly review of safe-night precincts; and increasing transparency and accountability around liquor and gaming machine decisions. These amendments support the government's comprehensive, multifaceted policy framework aimed at changing the culture around drinking, promoting responsible drinking practices and ensuring a safer night-time environment.

The bill also legislates Queensland's commitments under the National Consumer Protection Framework for Online Wagering in relation to restrictions on wagering inducements to open accounts. Amendments to the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, Racing Integrity Act 2016 and Wagering Act 1998 complement and further support the harm minimisation objective of the proposed inducement bans by additionally prohibiting the offer of inducements to customers not to close an account with an interactive wagering operator or racing bookmaker and prohibiting the offer of inducements not to unsubscribe from direct marketing materials.

The bill also contains miscellaneous amendments to provide: liquor accords and safe-night precinct local boards a legislative process for exemption from cartel behaviour; flexibility for wagering operators in respect of dividends; and a minor, technical amendment to the Co-operatives National Law Act 2020.

The bill also contains amendments to the Legal Profession Act 2007 which clarify the operation of certain provisions in relation to the Legal Practitioners' Fidelity Guarantee Fund. The fund is administered by the Queensland Law Society and was established to provide a source of compensation for persons who have lost trust money or property due to a dishonest default by a solicitor/law practice. The Legal Profession Act currently provides that the society may limit the amount payable from the fund to \$200,000 for a single claim and \$2 million for all claims made in relation to a single law practice—the statutory caps. The statutory caps were introduced as protection against an extraordinary claim against the fund which, if paid in full, would result in the fund being exhausted to the detriment of subsequent claims. However, the act allows the society to exceed the caps if satisfied that it would be reasonable to do so after taking into account the position of the fund and the circumstances of a particular case.

The application of the statutory caps resulted in a number of claimants between 2009 and 2016 not having their claims against the fund paid in full to the extent of approximately \$6 million. I am pleased to advise the House that the Queensland Law Society is supportive of revisiting those claims so they may be paid in full. I commend the society for its decision in this matter which will promote both fairness in the administration of claims and public confidence in the profession. The amendments will empower the society to make these additional payments and provide clear guidance as to when the statutory caps can be applied. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.15 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 Weir): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

CRIME AND CORRUPTION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.16 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 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: Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2020 [[1370](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2020, explanatory notes [[1371](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill 2020, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1372](#)].

This bill comes at a critical time, as Queensland heads towards its first state election following the introduction of fixed terms. The government will enter caretaker mode on 6 October 2020 until Saturday, 31 October 2020, when the people of Queensland will head to the polls to elect the 57th Parliament of Queensland.

The bill implements recommendations made by the Crime and Corruption Commission regarding the publication of allegations of corrupt conduct. On 19 December 2019, the CCC commenced an investigation into the Department of Education recruitment process that was selecting the principal for the new Inner City South State Secondary College. The CCC's final report on its investigation, titled *An investigation into allegations relating to the appointment of a school principal*, was tabled on 2 July 2020.

The Palaszczuk government is particularly concerned about the comments made by the CCC as part of this investigation highlighting the difficulties it faced because allegations were in the public domain. The CCC stated in its 2020 report that having allegations in the public domain is not ideal and may impede the integrity of their investigation. The CCC's longstanding position is that it prefers for complaints and other correspondence relating to assessments and investigations to remain confidential. Publication of a complaint or correspondence may compromise the effectiveness of CCC inquiries, especially when potential witnesses have advance warning. The publication of a complaint can also lead to unsubstantiated allegations being aired publicly and may give the appearance a complaint is motivated for political gain or other reasons. Publicising allegations may also damage the reputation of the person alleged to have engaged in corrupt conduct and compromise the fair trial of persons charged with corruption.

As the CCC has noted in its 2016 report, these risks have become amplified in contemporary society where mass communication methods mean allegations are instantaneously and widely transmitted and stay on the public record in perpetuity. However, as the CCC has also acknowledged,

identifying a solution that ensures allegations of corrupt conduct are kept confidential must be balanced against the right to freedom of speech within current legal constraints and the need for open and accountable government.

While the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 contains various provisions dealing with confidentiality, as the CCC highlighted in its 2016 report, it does not have power to prevent people who are not employed by the state or local government from publicising allegations of corrupt conduct. Use of existing offences relating to frivolous and other improper complaints can also be problematic.

In examining this complex issue in detail in 2016, focusing particularly on the public interest, the CCC undertook extensive consultation on a public discussion paper as well as holding a public forum. Not surprisingly, this consultation revealed divergent views both in favour of and opposing the publicising of corruption allegations. As noted by the CCC in its 2016 report, many submissions supported publicising allegations of corruption. This government notes that the Fitzgerald inquiry remains an important reminder for all Queenslanders of the need to protect those who seek to expose government corruption. The CCC noted that some submissions put forward the view that public awareness of corruption allegations was an important 'check and balance' on the performance of the CCC and the fact that publicising allegations of corruption assisted the CCC to perform its function by prompting people to provide information to the CCC relevant to a matter or information about different, but related, matters.

Some submissions opposed publicising allegations of corruption, noting the serious and potentially irreparable reputational damage that can be done to an individual who is the subject of a corruption allegation or complaint, even where the allegation or complaint is subsequently unfounded. Others also noted the potential ramifications for an individual's prospects to receive a fair trial where extensive pre-trial publication of an allegation or complaint may have a prejudicial effect on any related criminal proceedings. In addition, some submitters to the CCC in 2016 highlighted the negative impact that publicity can have on the CCC's ability to detect and investigate allegations of corruption. This concern was reinforced again in the CCC's recent report. There is no argument that this is undoubtedly a challenging issue, but it is not one that the Palaszczuk government is going to shy away from. Ultimately, on balance, the CCC was of the view in its 2016 report that with one exception concerning the publicising of allegations of corruption against a councillor or candidate in the lead-up to local government elections there should be no change to the law.

In its recent 2020 report, the CCC recommended expanding implementation of its 2016 recommendations to the state election period. This government agrees that it is good policy that there be consistency wherever appropriate between state and local government processes and that any changes to one level of government should apply to the other. The ability to cast a free and informed vote in an election lies at the heart of Queensland's democratic system of government. It is reflected in the human rights of freedom of expression and the freedom to take part in public life which are now enshrined in Queensland's landmark Human Rights Act. The offences contained in this bill are designed to enhance the integrity of Queensland's electoral processes by ensuring that public debate in an election period is not hijacked by the publication of baseless allegations and complaints that are politically motivated and designed to do nothing more than inflict reputational damage on political opponents.

Queenslanders have the right to be fully and reliably informed in relation to relevant matters as they head to the polls, not distracted by publication of fanciful allegations and complaints. The offences are aimed equally at ensuring that public trust in the integrity of the CCC is maintained. As Queensland's primary public watchdog, the CCC plays a pivotal role in ensuring the public sector and Queensland's elected officials are held to the highest anti-corruption standards. Any sense that the CCC is being used as a political football undermines this trust. Misusing the CCC in this way can also be extremely damaging to the integrity of its assessment processes and results in the diversion of its resources from fighting serious instances of major crime and corruption. Importantly, the prohibition on publication does not mean that wrongdoers will escape detection or punishment. As the CCC indicated in the context of local government elections, it will continue to 'prioritise, in the public interest, the assessment and investigation of these matters' so that ultimately individuals who are convicted of a criminal offence may be removed from office.

I now want to provide the House with a brief overview of the specific amendments in the bill. The bill makes it an offence for a person to publish a corrupt conduct allegation about a candidate during the relevant election period unless the CCC has been notified and at least three months has elapsed to allow the CCC sufficient time to assess the merits of the allegation. The definition of 'corrupt conduct allegation' covers both complaints and allegations about corrupt conduct. Importantly, the offence targets publication. This means it is not intended to apply to prevent a person from seeking legal advice

or discussing their views in ordinary social discourse. In order to be said to have published an allegation, it will be necessary to have released information to the public at large or a portion of it. In this respect, for example, a print or online newspaper article or information posted to a public social media account would be caught but a local member writing to inform an individual constituent that a matter has been referred to the CCC would not. The offences would be summary in nature and carry a maximum penalty of 50 penalty units or six months imprisonment. The amendments will also allow an aggrieved candidate or the CCC to seek an injunction to restrain any further publication of allegations during the relevant election period.

The Palaszczuk government is serious about ensuring the ongoing integrity and transparency of our democracy. The CCC has comprehensively considered the issue of publicising allegations of corrupt conduct and while the CCC has stated that it is not convinced publishing untested corruption allegations does, in reality, contribute to open, transparent and accountable government it acknowledges that there must be compelling reasons to justify any move away from this principle. The CCC has provided its advice about these compelling circumstances and this government is prepared to adopt that considered and independent advice. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.25 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 Weir): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee.

Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committee, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (12.26 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Crime and Corruption Amendment Bill be declared an urgent bill and the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee report to the House on the bill by 2 September 2020.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 28 November 2019 (see p. 3954).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (12.26 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill will improve the health and wellbeing of Queenslanders through significant reforms to a number of health portfolio acts and regulations. The bill will provide our First Nation people with a direct and fairer say in how health services are delivered throughout Queensland and the Palaszczuk government is strengthening our public health system by recognising important linkages between the Queensland Ambulance Service and hospital and health services. The bill also has the first legislative provision of its kind in Australia to protect LGBTIQ individuals from health service providers that engage in the harmful, deceptive and unethical practice of conversion therapy.

I thank the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for its careful consideration of the bill. I also thank the stakeholders who made submissions to the committee's inquiry and attended the public hearing on the bill. I especially thank those members of the LGBTIQ community who came forward to share their experiences and

perspectives with the committee. I commend you for your personal courage and your commitment to helping us make Queensland a safer and more welcoming place for all members of our vibrant and diverse community.

The committee's report on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 made three recommendations. The first recommendation was that the bill be passed, with proposed amendments to clause 28 of the bill which will amend the Public Health Act 2005 to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers in Queensland. The second recommendation describes the proposed amendment to clause 28 of the bill. Specifically, the committee recommended the definition of 'conversion therapy' be amended to clarify which treatments and care provided by health service providers will be covered by the conversion therapy ban. The committee's third recommendation is that I inform the House what education, training or guidelines will be provided to health service providers if the bill is passed to assist them to understand what practices will be covered by the prohibition of conversion therapy. I table the government's response to the committee's report.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 32, 56th Parliament—Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, government response [\[1373\]](#).

I welcome the committee's recommendations and its support for the passage of this important legislation. As set out in the government's response, I accept the committee's recommendations and will be moving amendments during the consideration in detail stage. The amendments will clarify the operation of clause 28 of the bill to ensure there can be no confusion about the intent of these provisions and how they will operate in practice. I will say more about the proposed amendments and the government's response shortly. Separately, I will also move amendments to the bill to address some minor drafting and technical issues with the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019 that were identified following the act's passage.

Queensland has a world-class health system. Even so, we face challenges: an ageing population, increasing demand and delivering health services across a large geographic area. It is important that we are always looking for ways to deliver better outcomes for Queenslanders. The bill strengthens networked governance by amending the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to embed the principle that the Department of Health, the Queensland Ambulance Service and hospital and health services must all work together in the best interests of the system and the Queenslanders they serve.

The amendments reflect the policy intent that Queensland Health operates as a networked system. However, this will not be achieved by legislation alone. Creating a truly networked system that delivers benefits for all Queenslanders needs cultural, behavioural and operational changes. Queensland Health system leaders are already working collaboratively to make this a reality. The director-general of my department has recently established the Queensland Health Leadership Board with oversight of the move to a networked system to ensure Queenslanders have access to the best care.

Queensland is leading the way in improving health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The *Queensland closing the gap report card 2018* shows that Queensland has the highest life expectancy and lowest life expectancy gap compared to other Australian jurisdictions. This is an important achievement. However, there is still so much to be done to reach health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and the Queensland government is taking steps to make this happen.

I am proud that we are debating this bill on the same day that we have announced we will establish a new Treaty Advancement Committee to progress the Path to Treaty process with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders. It will ensure Queensland is well placed to consider the next steps in the journey to a treaty with First Nation Queenslanders. The Palaszczuk government values the important role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders as the First Nation people of this state. Treaty is important to our relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and our commitment to deliver better economic, employment, health and housing outcomes for them. Queensland Health is the main provider of health services in Queensland and often the sole provider in rural and remote areas. Queensland Health has very clear responsibilities in terms of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health. To reflect these responsibilities the bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to embed the commitment to the delivery of responsive, capable and culturally appropriate health services as a guiding principle for the delivery of public sector health services.

The bill also amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to give Queensland's First Nation people a seat at the table of our 16 hospital and health boards by requiring all boards to have at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander member. I want to particularly thank Adrian Carson and Neil Willmetts for suggesting this reform at a workshop I held some time ago. They are both excellent

advocates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health care and I appreciate their time and advice. They will also be pleased to know we have appointed at least one Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person to all of our hospital and health boards after the last round of appointments.

This bill will make First Nation representation on boards the law in Queensland. I hope in time to see even greater Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation in leadership roles and throughout the service. Last year I appointed the first Chief Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Officer, Haylene Grogan. She has made increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health workforce her first priority. The bill will also ensure each hospital and health service will have a health equity strategy, setting out actions to achieve health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the delivery of public health services.

Queensland Health is already consulting with stakeholders in government, health and community sectors to ensure that health equity strategies can deliver the greatest benefit for our First Nation people. Submissions to the committee's inquiry were overwhelmingly supportive of these amendments. I thank stakeholders for their support for these initiatives to ensure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders enjoy the same quality of life and health as the rest of our community.

The bill also makes amendments to the Public Health Act 2005 to prohibit conversion therapy by health service providers in Queensland. If the bill is passed Queensland will become the first jurisdiction in Australia to ban these highly destructive and unethical practices which treat LGBTIQ people as abnormal and urge them to change or suppress who they are. Of course, no treatment or practice can change a person's sexual attraction or experience of gender and so it is no surprise that survivors of conversion therapy report experiencing deep feelings of shame, alienation and hopelessness, often resulting in symptoms of depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide or self-harm. The risks are even greater for LGBTIQ children and young adults who are already vulnerable to harassment and discrimination.

Professional associations and other expert bodies around the world strongly oppose the use of conversion therapy, including the Australian Psychological Society, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, London and the World Health Organization to name just a few. In 2018 I convened the Ending Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy Roundtable. Health professionals who attended the round table reported that conversion therapy is taking place in clinical settings in Queensland, including among registered and unregistered health practitioners. I want to thank the round table for their valuable contribution: Peter Black, Dr Stuart Aitken, Dr Fiona Bishop, Rev. Peter Catt, Nathan Rowe, as well as the LGBTI Legal Service, Amnesty International, the Human Rights Commission, Equal Voices, the Queensland AIDS Council, the Human Rights Law Centre, the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, the St Francis College at Charles Sturt University and the Centre for Human Potential. Evidence of these practices was also provided by a number of individuals and organisations who made submissions to or who appeared before the committee during its inquiry into the bill. I also want to thank Dr Stephen Stathis from Children's Health Queensland for his expert contribution during the inquiry.

It is time to send a clear message that conversion therapy is unacceptable and has no place in Queensland's healthcare system. Being LGBTIQ is not an affliction or a disease that requires medical treatment. An ideology that treats LGBTIQ people as broken or damaged has no place in our community and it certainly has no place being promoted by health service providers to whom we entrust our health and wellbeing.

Some will use this debate to create confusion about the bill. They will seek to prey on our fear of the unknown and unfamiliar by conjuring up absurd stories that hurt our LGBTIQ community, but in particular our trans Queenslanders. I trust that members of this House will see through these arguments. It is not the bill that promotes an ideology, but instead those who oppose it. Their goal is to frustrate progress towards a more tolerant society that promotes dignity and equality for all people. They are and will be on the wrong side of history.

I will now address the committee's three recommendations on the bill, all of which relate to the proposed prohibition of conversion therapy. Recommendations 1 and 2 of the committee's report are that the bill be passed with amendments to clause 28 to clarify the definition of 'conversion therapy'—that is, which treatment and practices by health service providers will be considered conversion therapy and will be prohibited under the bill.

To be clear, the intent of the bill is to protect the public from unethical providers who would engage in harmful and discriminatory practices that have no basis in evidence. The bill does not prohibit practices that are evidence based or that are otherwise clinically appropriate, even if those practices

do not necessarily affirm or support a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. Nor does the bill promote a particular approach to treatment or interfere with health service providers' reasonable professional judgement about what care is most appropriate for their patients.

In light of the committee's recommendations, I will move amendments to clause 28 of the bill to remove any potential for doubt about the scope of practices that will be prohibited. The amendments will clarify that the definition of 'conversion therapy' does not include legitimate treatment decisions by health service providers, including evidence based treatments such as exploring psychosocial factors and other issues that are reasonably related to providing safe or appropriate care.

Recommendation No. 3 of the committee's report is that I inform the House about any education, training or guidelines to be provided to health services if the bill is passed to help them understand what practices are covered by the conversion therapy ban. I can advise that Queensland Health has commenced implementation planning to support the objectives of the new legislation if it is passed by the House. Immediate actions include developing and disseminating communications materials for health practitioners, health service providers and the general community. Specific guidance will be developed for health service providers regarding the legislative changes, including how they relate to existing professional standards and practice obligations. Appropriate materials will be developed in consultation with a range of individuals and organisations with relevant expertise, including peak professional bodies, members of the medical community and experts in LGBTIQ health issues. Materials will be made readily available to health service providers and members of the public.

It is a great privilege for me to stand before the House today to advocate for these historic reforms, which are the first of their kind in Australia. By including all Queenslanders in our health system we make it stronger. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.41 pm): I rise to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill introduced by the Palaszczuk government last year, which has sat languishing on the Notice Paper for several months. Most of this bill is fairly non-controversial and we do not oppose those elements of it, but we will be strongly opposing clause 28 of the bill that proposes to treat doctors like criminals and has been widely opposed by medical and legal stakeholders. We would appreciate the government providing us with the time during consideration in detail to oppose that specific clause.

As the explanatory notes state, the bill proposes to amend the Ambulance Service Act 1991, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013, the Private Health Facilities Act 1999, the Public Health Act 2005, the Private Health Facilities Regulation 2016 and the Public Health Regulation 2018. According to the explanatory notes, the bill implements policy initiatives and improves the effective operation of the legislation by amending it as follows—

- the *Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011* to:
 - o strengthen networked governance in Queensland's public health system by:
 - requiring Hospital and Health Services and Hospital and Health Boards to have regard to the effective and efficient use of resources for the public sector health system as a whole, and the best interests of patients and other users of health services throughout Queensland; and ...
 - o strengthen the commitment to health equity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people and strengthen the capability and effectiveness of Hospital and Health Boards by:
 - including as a guiding principle a commitment to achieving health equity and delivery of responsive, capable and culturally competent health care to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - requiring each Hospital and Health Service to have a strategy for achieving health equity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people; and
 - requiring each Hospital and Health Board to have one or more Aboriginal persons and/or Torres Strait Islander persons as members;
 - o allow the Patient Safety and Quality Improvement Service within Queensland Health to disclose root cause analysis reports about reportable events to quality assurance committees; and
 - o make minor technical amendments;
- the *Ambulance Service Act 1991*, to complement the amendment to the Hospital and Health Boards Act, to recognise the Queensland Ambulance Service and Hospital and Health Services have mutual obligations to collaborate;
- the *Public Health Act 2005* to ...
 - o repeal redundant provisions for the Queensland Pap Smear Register, which has been replaced by the National Cancer Screening Register; and
 - o correct a minor drafting error in the legislative requirements for Water Risk Management Plans;
- the *Public Health Regulation 2018*, to repeal redundant provisions for the Queensland Pap Smear Register;
- the *Private Health Facilities Act 1999*, to align the conditions of licence for private health facilities in Queensland with requirements under the nationally adopted Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme;
- the *Private Health Facilities Regulation 2016*, to support amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act to align conditions of licence for private health facilities in Queensland; and
- the *Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013*, to clarify the Mental Health Commission's powers to employ staff and to allow the Commissioner to be appointed for a term of up to five years.

Those are provisions that the LNP will not be opposing.

It is curious though that the Palaszczuk government has to legislate to ensure that hospitals and ambulance services have to work together. Specifically, they are required to collaborate and this has to be done through legislation because the Minister for Health cannot administer his department properly. As the LNP members on the committee rightly pointed out in the committee report—

The portfolio over which the Minister has responsibility includes Health and the Queensland Ambulance Service, in which there is one Director General and one Commissioner for the Queensland Ambulance Service, yet they cannot 'collaborate' to have the two services work as one.

That may have something to do with weak leadership from the minister. It may also have something to do with the record levels of ambulance ramping and the failed dump-and-run rapid transfer ambulance policy that was supposed to be in place for only the two weeks of the Commonwealth Games and that has led to disputes between staff in hospitals. A new governance model implemented in this legislation shows that the current model is not working. After more than five years of the Palaszczuk government, we now require legislation to ensure that hospital staff and ambulance services collaborate. It is an admission of failure in governance and administration by the Minister for Health.

In the context of better governance, everyone remembers the incidents in April last year when paramedics and emergency hospital staff clashed over a lack of available beds and, in particular, a leaked memo to staff that saw a major dispute at the Logan Hospital. As the *Courier-Mail* reported at the time—

More than 500 ambulance patients were left on stretchers in overcrowded emergency hallways at four Brisbane hospitals last month as the sites dealt with an escalating beds crisis. A whopping 365 of those patients were ditched at the one hospital.

The figures put context to last week's extraordinary standoff - between Logan emergency (ED) nurses and paramedics over rapid offloads, which allow paramedics to park patients on temporary trolleys while they await an ED bed and get back on the road.

At the time, the stoush prompted former director-general of Queensland Health Michael Walsh to admit rapid offloads were not operating smoothly at Metro South hospitals and he had to intervene in the process.

While I am discussing rapid offloads, ambulance ramping and waiting lists, I will refer to the minister's press release that states that wait times have improved despite COVID-19, which is nothing more than smoke and mirrors. The press release states—

In June, the State Government announced a quarter of a billion-dollar blitz on elective surgery—

Mr KELLY: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I fail to see how this is relevant to the long title of the bill.

Ms BATES: Health and hospital boards, the Ambulance Service.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): It goes to the efficiency of health. Member for Mudgeeraba, I will keep you to the bill.

Ms BATES: It will be a short contribution, thank you. The minister stated—

In June, the State Government announced a quarter of a billion-dollar blitz on elective surgery and other procedures that were suspended by Prime Minister Scott Morrison during the height of the pandemic.

It is great to see the current government adopting the LNP's policy to partner with the private sector, which Labor rubbished for the past five years. It is not ScoMo's fault that category 3 patients have been knocked off the wait list. That is the fault of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

The minister's press release went on to talk about ambulance wait times, which we are talking about here. The press release states—

And despite seeing nearly half a million (469,763) people the median wait to be seen was just 10 minutes at Queensland's emergency departments in the quarter to June 2020, down from 15 minutes in the same period last year.

That was because people did not come to the emergency departments. In fact, the Gold Coast ED dropped from 380 a day to 120 a day and doctors on the Gold Coast had to go on TV and encourage patients to come to the hospital rather than staying at home until their symptoms got worse.

As I mentioned before, the LNP will not be opposing most of the bill. However, the LNP will be strongly opposing the Palaszczuk government's plan which was to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers in Queensland.

Clause 28 of the bill expressly prohibits a health service provider from performing conversion therapy on another person, with criminal sanctions upon a finding of guilt. Our concern was that this would treat a health matter as a criminal matter, and those criminal sanctions have a maximum penalty

of up to 150 penalty units, or 18 months imprisonment, for vulnerable persons as defined in the bill. These changes would have treated doctors like criminals and were roundly criticised by many legal and clinical stakeholders.

AMA Queensland is opposed to the amendments recommended in the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 on the basis that the legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals providing evidence based practices and have the potential to limit therapeutic approaches supporting children and adolescents presenting with gender dysphoria. AMA Queensland said that they were concerned that the wording of the legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals who were providing evidence based practices. As they also noted in their submission, AMA member Dr Cary Breakey also submitted separately—

The legislation effectively puts any psychotherapy and family therapy practitioners at risk of offending if not “affirming” the child’s (or even adults) gender preference. Even Gender Clinics who do do comprehensive evaluations of family and dynamic drivers of the child’s gender feelings could be vulnerable, especially if they identify powerful parental dynamics heavily influencing the child’s expression.

Another AMAQ member, Dr Peter Parry, noted—

... gender dysphoria varies with circumstances in any particular individual and some cases persist, whilst many desist and become more comfortable with birth gender or a same-sex orientation. In my view, the bill as it currently is written, does not provide sufficient protection for therapists to assist young people—in the area of gender dysphoria—to explore possible family, psychological or social dynamic causes of their gender dysphoria.

Gender dysphoria is the discomfort a person feels with how their body is perceived and allocated a gender by other people. The experience may occur when a person feels that their biological or physical sex does not match their sense of their own gender. This feeling, that there is a mismatch, can trigger a range of responses. Some people experience serious distress, anxiety and emotional pain which can affect their mental health. Others experience only low-level distress or none at all. If people are concerned and they want to seek counselling from a health professional, they should be encouraged to seek help and assistance. As the National Association of Practising Psychiatrists said—

Any denial of patients presenting with gender dysphoria of the appropriate assessment and treatment of conditions leading to gender dysphoria or associated with it is an abjuration of the legitimate care of these individuals.

NAPP is concerned that the usual process of psychiatric assessment and treatment of psychiatric disorders could be misinterpreted as ‘conversion therapy’ in the clinical setting of gender dysphoria.

NAPP notes that psychotherapy and psychoanalysis is included in the Queensland Government definitions of conversion therapy. There are different types of psychotherapy and these include supportive, cognitive behaviour therapy, psychodynamic, psychoanalytic, and brief psychotherapy. Psychotherapy as practised by psychiatrists as a treatment modality is not conversion therapy.

The focus of both sexual orientation and/or gender identity can change over the course of psychiatric treatment. This is not conversion therapy. A patient may experience a change in the object of their sexual attraction during a course of psychiatric treatment. For example, a patient with a psychotic disorder, who has delusions and hallucinations about men, may lose these symptoms as a result of psychiatric treatment.

Further, as a result of the loss of an irrationally based fear during treatment, the patient may experience a sexual attraction to an individual of a gender opposite to the gender the patient was attracted to at the beginning of therapy. During the treatment and recovery from an episode of depressive illness or anxiety disorder a patient may experience a change in sexual attraction or gender identity.

Children and adolescents may temporarily have thoughts of being of a different gender to their gender assigned at birth due to the influences of social contagion, multiple psychosocial factors (including a history of sexual abuse), and the presence of psychiatric illness.

The perverse outcome from these changes is that it may discourage people from seeking medical help and assistance, at a time when they need it most.

As I also mentioned earlier, concerns were raised by legal stakeholders about the bill. The Queensland Law Society also raised concerns around the impact of impending criminal prosecution on averting legitimate clinical treatment. They said—

QLS is concerned that the prospect of criminal prosecution may fetter otherwise legitimate aspects of psychological and psychiatric treatment. Some providers may be concerned that reasonable clinical interventions might be captured within the definition of conversion therapy. We query whether section 213F(3) provides sufficient protection for health service providers who are providing appropriate treatment.

I note the additional recommendations from the committee in relation to this clause and the specific concerns about which services provided by health service providers are banned by the government. Labor’s laws would have turned doctors into criminals, compromising medical treatment, and we will oppose that clause in the bill.

As this may be the last health bill that comes before this parliament, I want to take the time now to briefly thank and acknowledge the work of the member for Caloundra, for his tireless dedication and commitment as the deputy chair of the parliamentary Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee during this term. The member for Caloundra has provided a great service to this House and in representing the people of Caloundra for over 16 years, and that should be acknowledged.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.56 pm): I cannot argue with the last part of the member for Mudgeeraba's contribution. The deputy chair has done a good job.

Mr McArdle: Thank you.

Mr HARPER: I will say, though, that it is always surprising to follow the member for Mudgeeraba. It is not surprising when they oppose, whinge and whine about health services—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr HARPER: Hypocrisy knows no bounds, member for Mudgeeraba. The LNP sacked 1,800 nurses and midwives. I rise to make a contribution to the second reading debate of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Order! I would encourage members to allow the member for Thuringowa to have the floor.

Mr HARPER: The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 amends a range of acts with objectives of implementing policy initiatives and improving the effective operation of those acts. The bill proposes amendments to the Queensland Ambulance Service Act 1991, Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013, Private Health Facilities Act 1999, Public Health Act 2005, Private Health Facilities Regulation 2016 and Public Health Regulation 2018.

The bill was referred to our committee on 28 November 2019, with a reporting deadline of 21 February 2020. The committee requested and received a written brief from Queensland Health about the bill which we published for the information of stakeholders, and we thank all those stakeholders. We accepted 153 submissions. Most submissions focused on the proposed amendments to the Public Health Act 2005 to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers. The committee considered the views raised by submitters at hearings.

There are key reforms of the bill that warrant particular mention. Amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act and the Ambulance Service Act are designed to strengthen the governance of the state's public health system. This is a massive health system that comprises the Department of Health, the Queensland Ambulance Service and 16 hospital and health services that deliver fantastic health services right across the state of Queensland. It is timely to acknowledge all health professionals in Queensland Health and, of course, the Queensland Ambulance Service, particularly in their health response to COVID-19.

The amendments proposed in the bill give effect to recommendations from an independent expert panel appointed by the government. Submitters and witnesses to our inquiry unanimously supported the proposed amendments to strengthen coordination and cooperation across the health system and to improve outcomes for patients as well as staff. The bill also amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people a direct and fairer say in how health services are delivered by each of the state's hospital and health services. The amendments will require that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives are appointed to all 16 hospital and health service boards. This is a significant and highly symbolic reform to improve the delivery of health services for all Queenslanders.

Finally, the bill provides amendments to the Public Health Act to prohibit, for the first time in Australia, the provision of conversion therapies by health service providers. The term 'conversion therapy' covers a raft of treatments that attempt to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity. The committee heard throughout the inquiry that these often clandestine therapies are condemned by health and other bodies around the world for the psychological harm, high rates of suicide, self-harm and other adverse health outcomes they cause their victims. In his response to the recommendations the minister provided clarity and a definition of 'conversion therapy'. I thank the minister for providing that. I support the bill and commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Harper, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Queensland Economy, Unemployment

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Today Queensland's unemployment rate is the worst in the nation at 8.8 per cent. That equates to 234,800 Queenslanders who are officially out of work and on the jobless queue. Under this Labor government, and because they cannot manage the economy, nearly 111,000 Queenslanders have lost their jobs over the past year—31,700 in the past month alone. Before the coronavirus Queensland had on average the worst unemployment rate in the country. Today, unfortunately, that trend continues.

How can we have any confidence in this government to navigate our way out of the economic recession we face when they could not do that when times were far better pre COVID? How can we have confidence in a government to lead an economic recovery when there is no budget? If there is no budget there is no plan for economic recovery.

The governments of every state in this nation—Victoria, Western Australia, New South Wales, South Australia and Tasmania—have announced that they will deliver a budget this year. The Palaszczuk Labor government is the only government that has not announced that it will deliver a budget and it will not produce one before the election. How can we have any confidence that they have a plan to stimulate the economy and get jobs going again in this state?

Only the LNP has a plan to stimulate the economy. We will invest for growth. We will supercharge the regions. We will unleash Queensland industry. We will secure our children's future. We will get Queensland working again by investing in the infrastructure that will create jobs. We will bring in the policies that will bring confidence back to business so they will invest in this state. If they invest in this state we will create jobs in partnership with the private sector. This government has failed miserably and the jobless queue today is proof of that.

Bundamba Electorate

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.03 pm): Our continued commitment to unite and recover includes ongoing investments and support across the local Bundamba community. Barbers, bookkeepers, landscapers and fitness and hospitality workers are among those to already benefit from our small business adaptation grants. These grants are protecting Queensland jobs and keeping Queensland businesses open. Local workers continue to talk to me about high levels of community support and of new and returning customers.

This is our unmistakable Queensland spirit, and I am proud to be part of a united community and a united government that looks out for their mates and offers a helping hand when times are tough. This helping hand is at the very heart of Skilling Queenslanders for Work. Over 2,300 locals in my area have found jobs through the program, and about 480 will benefit from the latest round of funding. In all, more than 200 community based projects will share in nearly \$42 million. Locally, that means that Career Employment Australia at Goodna and Challenge Employment and Training at Collingwood Park can continue to deliver nationally recognised training and job opportunities.

Now more than ever local community groups need our support. A total of 586 groups across Queensland will share in more than \$14.6 million from the latest round of funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund—a much needed lifeline as we unite and recover. Our local recipients—Queensland Youth and Families Support Services, Refugee Connect, White Rock Warriors and YMCA Bremer Youth Space—will purchase new equipment and offer new services with the fund's support.

We are taking a pragmatic and effective approach to business and economic recovery by helping Queenslanders get to and from work safely. This week we have delivered increased train and bus services on our local Ipswich lines, providing more seats and more space. Importantly, we have also improved infrastructure around these public transport hubs. This month we officially opened the new-look Ebbw Vale station park-and-ride—a \$3 million upgrade that supported 16 jobs during construction. I thank the Minister for Transport and Main Roads for attending that opening.

While we are supporting Queensland jobs, our health workers are supporting us. I recently joined the assistant health minister, the member for Pine Rivers, in meeting some of the team from West Moreton Health's Goodna Community Health facility. Our outstanding health workers are doing an amazing job across Queensland, and I thank each and every one of them.

Crime

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (2.06 pm): The first responsibility of any government is to keep their community safe. People deserve the right to go to bed at night and know that the car they work hard for will be there in the morning. They deserve to know that while their kids sleep in their beds some low-life grub will not be rifling through the drawers beside them. They just want to go about their lives in a peaceful and safe manner.

The Broadwater community is a great community and it is a safe community. In recent times we have seen a spike in crime. The spike in crime must be addressed. We have seen incidents in Paradise Point that we never thought would be possible—incidents like young offenders with tasers in shopping centres and people waking up to a scene of devastation with someone smashing through a window. In recent times in Hope Island we have seen a spate of break and enters.

I have two calls to make today. The first is that our region deserves more police and so too does the Coomera region where the member is calling for 35 extra police officers. Runaway Bay needs additional police resources too.

There is another thing. It can happen right now and it will not cost the government a cent. The suburb of Hope Island, which is currently administered by the Coomera Police Station, should come under the jurisdiction of Runaway Bay. The Coomera station services a growing population. It is under-resourced and stretched. I think there is a community of interest to put Hope Island and the resources from the police beat there in with Runaway Bay. It would improve efficiency. I will not sugar-coat the need for more police—that is an absolute necessity—but right now this government could do that with the stroke of a pen and give those communities the certainty they deserve.

It also requires tougher laws. The contrast between this side of the House and the government on this is stark. What will a Frecklington LNP government do? It will have tougher laws for repeat offenders. It will monitor youth offenders 24/7. There will be mandatory detention for the third conviction. Everybody deserves a second chance, but not a fifth, not a seventh and not a 13th. There will be community payback farms to make sure that people can curb their behaviour. We will scrap youth bail houses.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr CRISAFULLI: No-one knows it better than the member for Thuringowa, who will perish because of it.

It is unacceptable that breach of bail is not an offence in this state. It is unacceptable that a magistrate has to use detention as a last resort. The only way people will feel safe in their houses, the only way they will claw back their lifestyle is to change the government at the end of October.

Lindum Level Crossing; Cross River Rail

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (2.09 pm): I rise today to discuss the Lindum level crossing. This crossing is a complex four-way intersection where local roads meet and cross three rail lines all at Lindum station. Since I was elected in 2015, I have been campaigning for an upgrade to the site, so I was thrilled that the Queensland and Australian governments agreed to a joint \$800,000 Lindum precinct study last year. This study is a strategic analysis considering the broader transport network and precinct. It includes traffic and pedestrian movements, accessibility, bus interchange and rail operations, active transport connections, park-and-ride facilities, and station upgrade and road network planning proposals. Public consultation was undertaken between November 2019 and February 2020. This study will map a way forward to ensure a safe and reliable transport system.

One of the outcomes of the study will hopefully be support for an upgrade of the existing Lindum station with lifts and a more accessible platform which will go a long way to resolving pedestrian safety concerns, as this is a key issue at the site, with sadly a pedestrian fatality occurring in February 2019. Lindum station park-and-ride also needs further expansion, and the Palaszczuk government has already committed \$5 million to support additional parking.

I have always been clear that I want a commonsense community outcome, not some political fix at Lindum station. I have asked the minister to ensure that the options developed will include a low-impact option, as there is much local concern that an overpass will lead to property resumptions and disruption to the local shopping village. I look forward to the options report and getting on with a solution for the precinct.

The Labor Palaszczuk government backs public transport, backs Lindum and backs jobs as we unite and recover from the current global economic challenges, with a record \$23 billion investment for roads and transport, supporting 21,500 jobs across our state. We are building the biggest infrastructure project in Queensland—the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail, which is part of our economic recovery plan. This will take thousands of cars off local roads, slash travel times and deliver more trains for our community. It will also deliver jobs right now and is injecting \$4 million into our economy every day. Unfortunately, the LNP have been talking down Cross River Rail for years and they continue to do so with this game-changing project.

We need a route that benefits the greatest number of passengers, ensuring that baysiders have easy access to Cross River Rail. Labor backs jobs and we back commuters which is why we are delivering record transport investment, creating jobs and solutions that benefit all baysiders and all Queenslanders. I will always stand up for the bayside. I look forward to a common-sense community outcome for Lindum station.

Metro North Hospital and Health Service

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.12 pm): Now more than ever, Queenslanders deserve to have confidence in our public health system. While our hardworking nurses, doctors, paramedics, midwives and health professionals do an incredible job supporting patients across the state, the culture of cover-up reigns supreme at senior levels of the department and across some hospital and health services.

We have seen dodgy polls used to waste taxpayers' money to rename hospitals, we have seen corruption investigations and resignations from senior bureaucrats and we have even seen the minister attack journalists for exposing his own failures and mistruths. In recent weeks, media reports about the conduct of bullying by the communication director of Metro North Hospital and Health Service—a senior executive of Queensland's biggest health service—have surfaced. These relate to several complaints from several staff within the communications team of that HHS.

As the *Courier-Mail* reported, the director is under investigation after allegations of bullying and harassment, including offensive nicknames and references to other work colleagues. A brave group of 10 women have blown the whistle after initial attempts to raise claims about the toxic culture went unchecked. I also understand the senior director of Queensland Health's strategic communications unit was advised about the issues and concerns of several women in the communications team last year. Women were preyed on, bullied, harassed, intimidated—some suffering nervous breakdowns and worse. The stories of these women go to the culture of cover-up in the biggest health service in Queensland.

This was a team of people in regular contact with the minister's office. If the minister did not know anything, he should have. He needs to come clean about why this happened for so long seemingly unchecked. Despite issues of grave concern, I understand that this person has only recently been suspended.

People have been afraid to speak out for fear of repercussions. The recruitment processes within these organisations with staff on short-term contracts mean that people have to side with job security, particularly when their allegations are about their boss. Several brave staff have come forward and provided inside details of his mode of operation which prompted the media stories and the subsequent investigation—but he is still employed.

They describe a boss who would be 'erratic', 'threatening', 'controlling', 'aggressive' and 'inappropriate'. Some of these allegations include playing constant games of punishment and reward within the office; regular leaking of information, including confidential things about other HHSs in particular to curry favour with media; obsessing over young, pretty journalists and having silly nicknames for them, always making sure he was involved with those stories and those female journos; making sexually inappropriate comments about random people; and referring to the downstairs cafeteria as the 'rape dungeon'.

The concern is that this went on for months and months and was basically left unchecked. The minister needs to come out, apologise to these women and tell the people of Queensland why his biggest hospital and health service is in the media for all the wrong reasons yet again. Anything less than that is yet another cover-up and major health failure on this minister's watch.

(Time expired)

Miller Electorate

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.15 pm): I would like to speak on the progress of a lot of things that are going on in my electorate of Miller. The Veloway upgrade is open. That is a fantastic new enhancement to our bicycle freeway system at Tarragindi, benefiting not just my electorate but other electorates like Greenslopes, Toohey and Mansfield. The local residents are really enjoying it. We are seeing new bike riders out there, and families are loving it too, as the infrastructure is safer.

I recently visited the \$400 million upgrade to the Ipswich Motorway. The last girder has gone in. It has much better flood resilience. There is a whole new cycle network from Granard Road to the Oxley roundabout. It is well advanced. We will see it fully completed by the Christmas-New Year period this year. It has much greater capacity for that bottleneck. The Palaszczuk government absolutely supports road upgrades where they are most needed.

As part of the Yeronga TAFE redevelopment, we are seeing a second oval for Yeronga State High School. There is currently a lot of work going on and work that has recently been completed at Yeronga State High School. They have a new fence around the school which has really brought up the whole feel of it. The outdoor learning area has turned what was a fairly unused space into a dynamic space. I look forward to continuing to work with the school. They are refurbishing the administration area, so there will be a great entry point too.

At Junction Park State School \$850,000 has gone into the maintenance of A block including a new paint job. There is \$1.2 million for a new teaching block at Milpera State High School, where migrant kids learn English. They do a fantastic job.

We have been air-conditioning the state schools that have not been done previously which is terrific. I acknowledge the hard work of the local P&Cs over many years for those schools that have been done. Thank you for all of the fundraising and the fetes. Many hours have been put in by local parents.

We have solar panels for Graceville State School, Wellers Hill State School and Yeronga State High School as part of phase 1. Phase 2 will be Junction Park. Yeronga, Chelmer and Milpera will be phase 3. We are also seeing the 40-kilometre-an-hour zones in a number of places working really well, such as on Cracknell Road near St Elizabeth's school at Tarragindi. We are contributing to the revamping of the tennis courts at Wellers Hill State School. The Yeronga Community Centre will have a permanent home when we redevelop the TAFE site. It will be a permanent home for the local history group too.

The Tarragindi Tigers soccer club's clubhouse is operational after receiving \$150,000 from this government. Souths Rugby received \$75,000 for their field upgrade, and that is going well. The Magpies at Chelmer received \$150,000 for their field, and it looks fantastic now. The installation of the koala proof fencing next to the freeway is saving our koalas from going on to the freeway. There are so many things going on that I have run out of time.

(Time expired)

Agriculture Industry, Queensland Border Closure

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.18 pm): The escalating health situation interstate has justified closing Queensland borders, but the impact on farmers and our agricultural industries, especially in border communities, needs commonsense attention. The specialist nature of animal husbandry and modern agricultural production means Queensland farmers and the agricultural sector has been hit hard by the sudden border closures.

Members who represent farming communities are receiving desperate calls and messages from farmers who have been locked out of their properties south of the border. For example, under the previous arrangements, one cattle producer had an exemption pass to cross the border to his property twice a week to check the welfare, water, feed and health of his livestock. The border pass was renewed last Thursday. At 3.07 pm the next day, last Friday, he received an email advising him it was cancelled because he resides in the wrong postcode. This has placed the welfare of his livestock, including young calves, in jeopardy.

Border closures are impacting farmers and the entire agricultural supply chain. Agronomists, chemical supplies, service and maintenance supplies, mechanical engineers, shearers and tractor dealerships are no longer able to get to their farmer clients. Their industries have basically ground to a

halt. Cattle breed societies are concerned because this is the time of year for stud bull sales, which are vital to ensuring the diversity of genetic stock and rebuilding herds. Horticultural growers cannot get seasonal workers who come from interstate. It is a serious challenge to farmers who are trying to harvest crops. Fruit is at risk of dying on trees and vines, and crops are being left to rot in the paddocks.

Australia's largest beef processing facility is the JBS Dinmore plant west of Brisbane. It has a normal daily operating capacity of 3,400 head. From Monday, 24 August, it will shut for at least a fortnight due to difficulties in generating viable kills in the face of a drought impacted livestock supply. That is a sign of a struggling industry. Compounding this is news from internal departmental leaks from DAF which confirm the department is stopping face-to-face counter services to farmers in Bundaberg, Mackay, Boonah, Charleville, Charters Towers, Cloncurry, Dalby, Emerald, Gayndah, Goondiwindi, Gympie, Longreach, Maryborough, Roma, Hermitage, Kingaroy, Mareeba and Maroochydore—all while two-thirds of the state suffers through drought. This is a disgraceful attack on our farmers by Labor.

Queensland farmers understand they need to share the load during this pandemic. They also expect a fair go. Common sense should prevail when it comes to managing the daily operations of businesses that provide our essential food and fibre. I am calling on the Premier to work with our farmers and rural and regional communities to get the balance right and make sure border closures do not do more harm than good.

Pine Rivers Electorate, Road Infrastructure

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.22 pm): For years I have been fighting to make Eatons Crossing Road in my community a safer road to travel. That is why last week I was so pleased to join the minister to announce a major safety improvement makeover for the road that will go from Eatons Hill through to Samford Village. It is a busy arterial road in my community, with some 14,000 motorists using the road each and every day. One of the things I have been calling for over the last several months is a full safety upgrade across the length of the road. It was fantastic to meet with the minister to announce this improvement for our local community.

At the intersection of Eatons Crossing Road and Lilley Road we are going to put in new traffic signals. TMR looked at all of the options, including roundabout lights or just leaving it as it was, but this intersection is located on a curving alignment and it currently operates under give-way conditions. We have seen improvements done on a number of occasions at this intersection—one shortly after I was elected in 2015 and another that lowered the speed limit in the area—but we continue to see accidents and fatalities on this stretch of road.

These safety improvements, aside from the upgrade to Lilley Road, will include road widening for centre lane treatments, enforcement bays, safety barrier installations and motorcycle safety rails at designated locations. Of course this will mean that the road will be safer for everyone in the community to use. As well, 46 direct jobs will come out of the project. Our local wildlife rescuers have been lobbying for a long time to see improvements for our fauna in this section, so we will also put in koala signage. On top of this, the road will also be safer for cyclists. We will also upgrade several of the intersections along the road to ensure there are channelised turn lanes so vehicles can separate from the road in order to turn. That will be on Clear Mountain Road, Mount Sampson Road and Lascelle Court.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all in the community who came to me advocating for this improvement for our local community. It was an opportunity for me to hear a number of really harrowing stories from the community around their near misses on the intersection of Lilley Road, which are determined very heavily by driver judgement. Not only were there a lot of misses but I also heard about some accidents. I am happy to make these improvements—

(Time expired)

Training Programs, Advertisements

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.25 pm): With a record number of jobseekers in the unemployment queue Queenslanders deserve jobs, not training rorts, rip-offs and waste. Queenslanders do not deserve retribution when they blow the whistle on rorts. Over two weekends *The Sunday Mail* revealed that some unscrupulous training companies are exploiting jobseekers with advertisements that promise jobs but really are a lure into training packages paid for by the taxpayer but with no job at the other end. There are many courses the government subsidises with precious training dollars where there are few or no jobs at the other end. That is a failure of the way training

priorities are set by the state government, but the predatory practice of some unscrupulous companies that put out direct advertisements that look like they are for jobs, when they are really about luring them to training, is even worse. It is predatory and it is wrong. The state government knew about this more than a year ago and failed to act.

A concerned businessman, Jeff Lamb, went to the state Labor government last year to alert them to this rort and followed up with the Minister for Training, Shannon Fentiman's office, again in January of this year, but no action was taken. I table those emails.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding funding for training providers [\[1374\]](#).

The media has run the story over the past two weeks and the Premier promised action, but she has done nothing. More than 200,000 people are in Queensland's unemployment queues, and it is more important than ever to help them connect to training that connects to jobs. However, there is something else that the state government also needs to answer. They need to take action on this rort, but they need to answer why they failed to act earlier. The other question they need to answer is, 'Why are they shooting the messenger?' We have heard about the shocking rorts, but there is something worse: retribution for those who blow the whistle on rorts. I will quote Jeff Lamb, who raised this issue publicly. He said—

03/08/2020 Channel 9 News provided on a Sunday afternoon with information from DESBT on an historical overpayment from 2017, which we repaid the department the sum of \$57,000 due principally to record-keeping administrative errors made under the (then) PQS agreement.

Release of this information on Sunday afternoon would have required high-level intervention from the Labour party, Ministers or representatives.

Channel 9 was provided with this information without appropriate context and led to running a piece on the fake jobs scam concluding with vision of our One Stop Training branding, named One Stop Training as a party which had to repay \$57,000 in an unrelated matter some years prior.

This was a malicious release of information by DESBT ...

He goes on to say that he feels 'personally attacked as an individual and business owner'—

(Time expired)

Thuringowa Electorate

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.28 pm): I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk Labor government, which has prioritised the health, safety and welfare of people in Queensland with regard to keeping them safe from the global pandemic COVID-19. This has allowed us to get on with our economic response and deliver for the people of North Queensland, including my electorate of Thuringowa. It is about supporting people to get a job—whether that is through our Skilling Queenslanders for Work program, Back to Work Youth Boost, Works for Queensland fund, or perhaps by supporting tradies by increasing the First Home Buyers' Grant or an additional \$5,000 per regional applicant, taking state and federal grants to \$45,000.

I had a great conversation with a taxidriver on the way to the Townsville Airport recently. He said that he and his family were so excited to be building their first home by accessing that grant and supporting local jobs. As we have seen in our delivery of job-generating infrastructure like Riverway Drive stage 1, it attracts more private industry—it becomes a catalyst, and they are investing in our local community—such as the \$30 million Riverway Plaza development, which is creating over 300 jobs over the life of its project. It is led by local company Phoenix Constructions.

Ms Farmer: Where is it?

Mr HARPER: It is on Riverway Drive. Soon tenders will be announced to build the \$250 million Townsville Ring Road duplication stage 5 that runs through the very heart of Thuringowa—and is connected to Riverway Drive. It will be creating more jobs.

We have invested millions in opening up the North West Minerals Province. There is a further \$16 million in CopperString 2.0 which will attract more investment in the resource sector. We are committed to raising the Burdekin Dam wall and we are investing in the Kidston pumped hydro project where we committed over \$130 million to build the high-voltage line required for transmission of that pumped hydro power—supporting over 500 jobs. It is all about creating local jobs.

However, recently, as you know, Mr Deputy Speaker Stewart, we had to go it alone. We had to go it alone on stage 2 of the Haughton water pipeline after the federal member for Herbert, Phillip Thompson, promised the people of Townsville in the lead-up to the last federal election that they would

fund and deliver it, with no strings attached; however, a year later, they had not lifted a finger. It was all a ruse. They would give \$195 million in one hand and take \$156 million away with the other through enforcing that our state government does not receive its full GST allocation. The member for Herbert let down the people of Townsville. He broke his promise. It came, as we found, with strings attached and we should never forget that. In North Queensland, your word is your bond. You cannot promise us something in North Queensland and not deliver.

I want to acknowledge and commend the Water for Townsville Action Group and their 12,000 members for their advocacy for water security. They have worked hard with us for so long. I want to thank the Premier and Treasurer for backing North Queensland by fully funding stage 2 of the water pipeline and creating a further 1,000 jobs.

Coronavirus, Queensland Border Closure

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.31 pm): I rise to inform the House of the difficulties the border bubble is causing constituents. The Labor government chose to include the whole shires of Bulloo and Paroo in the bubble; however, they included only one postcode in the Balonne shire. I have written to the Premier and the Chief Health Officer asking for the inclusion of the postcodes of Bollon, St George, Thallon and Moree in the border zone due to the complex relationships between these communities. Neither the Balonne shire nor I have had a response from either the Premier or the Chief Health Officer. These postcodes have been COVID-free since the commencement of the pandemic and Moree has been COVID-free for the last three months. I have also requested a briefing from the government via the health minister. However, there has been silence from this incompetent Labor government who have no understanding of the regions.

There are school based apprentices who live at Thallon and work in Mungindi who now cannot go to work. There are shearing contractors in Bollon who will not be able to travel to their work in New South Wales. There are nurses in New South Wales who live south of the border bubble who cannot get a permit to travel to work at the Mungindi Hospital. There are pregnant mothers who cannot attend appointments with their doctors in Moree. The national bull sale selling season is well underway. The restrictions limit the ability of interstate vendors to present cattle at sales in Roma and Rockhampton and buyers to properly inspect their prospective purchases. There are businesspeople in the Balonne shire—agronomists, stock and station agents, heavy duty mechanics, contractors, chemical/seed distribution people—who are not able to get a permit to go into New South Wales to do their work and travel back without mandatory quarantine.

Omission of these postcodes is causing considerable disruption to the agricultural supply chain and the local Balonne economy. I have great concerns for the mental health of these people in the Balonne shire. They are trying to recover from one of the worst droughts in history. They need a workable border bubble—not the chaos and confusion they are getting from this Palaszczuk Labor government.

This Labor government will be the cause of food shortages in the future. Food producers in the Balonne shire who sell onions and grapes direct to Woolworths and Coles are unsure if they will be able to get their skilled seasonal workers in time for harvest. Without these workers, farmers will have no choice but to leave those crops to rot. Even those who are able to get permits are afraid to use them because the permit does not guarantee entry into Queensland, as this is determined by an emergency officer at the border. Others have been declined, including many in specialised agriculture.

It is no wonder we have the highest unemployment. There is a lack of business confidence in the Labor government's decisions because they have left out postcodes like this and omitted them from the border bubble. What is happening in the Balonne shire is absolutely disgraceful. It is putting a huge impost on these people and causing chaos. I call on the government to meet with us to provide that briefing because we can sort this out. Unfortunately, there is absolutely no motivation whatsoever from the government to do that.

Redlands Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (2.34 pm): The Cleveland Redland Bay Road has been at the centre of broken LNP promises for over a decade. I am pleased to say that I am not promising; I am getting on with the job of delivering the duplication of the Cleveland Redland Bay Road—part of our Palaszczuk government's plan to duplicate the road starting with stage 1 of the \$60 million duplication at Anita Street.

I would like to tell the House why we cannot trust the LNP. They make promises and they break promises. Their track record on this road speaks volumes. In 2014 under Campbell Newman, with the member for Nanango at his side, they cut funding committed to the Anita Street intersection with Cleveland Redland Bay Road. Not only did they cut the committed funding, the then member for Redlands went on to report to the community in the local paper that the government had no plans to look at Cleveland Redland Bay Road until 2025. That is right—2025, five years away. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Long wait likely for Cleveland-Redland Bay Road upgrade' [1375].

In 2016, just before the local government elections, the mayor of Redlands went on to promise to fix the Cleveland Redland Bay Road. I table her promise in the lead-up to the election as well.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Karen Williams Will fix Cleveland-Redland Bay Rd' [1376].

In 2017 the then member for Redlands went on to promise to dual-lane Cleveland Redland Bay Road yet again from Thornlands to Redland Bay with just \$45 million. That was an impossible feat—I know now, having secured \$60 million—as it is estimated to cost closer to \$200 million to dual-lane this stretch of road. I table his literature.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Easing the cost of living & cheaper electricity' [1377].

I am proud to have spent two years working to secure funding for this road upgrade. It was never an election promise and I am getting on with the job.

I also want to further reinforce why we cannot trust the LNP as it relates to the green sealing of the Southern Moreton Bay Islands roads. These are local council roads. Our federal LNP member does not seem to be able to get his story straight. One minute he is committing \$2.2 million, the next it is \$2.5 million, and in reality it is just \$500,000. I table for the House two recent advertisements placed by the federal member in our local paper.

Tabled paper: Newspaper advertisement titled 'The fixers' [1378].

Tabled paper: Newspaper advertisement titled 'Island Ultimatum: Kim Richards: "Seal our dirt streets"' [1379].

The first ad says he is delivering \$2.2 million and council is delivering \$1.5 million. I will correct the record for him on this. The council have spent \$2 million annually over the last six years. The second ad—headlined as 'The Fixers'—states that he is now delivering \$2.5 million. The truth is that he has only provided \$500,000 in an agreement with the Commonwealth under the community development grants scheme, confirmed in an email to me by the mayor. Our Palaszczuk government is getting on with delivering on our plans to duplicate the Cleveland Redland Bay Road and deliver funding for the SMBI green sealing of roads. Those on the other side of the House are just making desperate election time promises, and I think their track record speaks volumes.

I want to finish on our schools and what we have been able to achieve in two years in the Redlands as compared to 10 years under the LNP. Across our schools we have new classrooms, library upgrades, new halls and hall upgrades, new learning precincts and a new \$2.4 million vocational school about to open. We have new air conditioning and solar for all of our Redlands schools, and work on one of our largest projects, the Victoria Point State High School, is about to get underway. That is in stark contrast to the LNP's promise of—

(Time expired)

Regional Queensland, Projects

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.37 pm): Queenslanders today pay some of the highest electricity charges in the world. In the past 10 years, we have seen rises of 70 per cent in electricity for residential households and 90 per cent for some industries. Anything that can be done to reduce these sky-high energy costs should be the No. 1 priority of this government. Top of the list should be the lifting of Queensland's tight restrictions on 'energy saving' products, like air conditioners and refrigeration that use hydrocarbon refrigerants. As a zero ozone-depleting substance that generates almost no CO₂ emissions, hydrocarbons are far more energy efficient than any other refrigerants and have been estimated to save consumers up to 54 per cent in energy costs.

For the elderly or those on a pension, this represents a saving of hundreds of dollars each year. That amount can easily be the difference between having the heating on during winter or not. With some initiative, a whole industry could be set up to manufacture hydrocarbon products in one of Queensland's regional centres. Hundreds of millions of dollars could be made through export related sales to nearby Asian and Pacific countries, where low-energy refrigerant products are desperately needed.

There are many other wealth and job-creating projects like this that the government should be sponsoring. In my own electorate of Mirani, we are pushing for a proper rehabilitation of the historic Mount Morgan Mine site area that will revitalise the heritage areas and the town of Mount Morgan and create hundreds of jobs for the region. A leader in mine rehabilitation has prepared a best practice option for fixing the mine's toxic legacy, turning it into a world-class tourist attraction and a money-making mine again.

Fifty per cent of the funding needed has already been secured from the private sector and all we are asking is for the Queensland government to match it. Twice now I have tried to arrange a Zoom meeting with Minister Lynham, but I am still waiting on a response back from him. It is actually laughable that this government chose to spend \$8 million creating a Rehabilitation Commissioner, but when it actually comes to doing something constructive and positive about mine rehabilitation in Queensland the earthworms in my front yard are making more noise.

Another priority area is fixing the many stability and loss issues affecting our power grid. Currently, Queensland's energy system in regional areas is an absolute shambles. The Australian Electricity Market Operator, AEMO, issued warnings to 12 renewables last month, saying that if they did not significantly curtail their output they risked having it slashed to zero.

In regional areas, power outages are now a regular occurrence. Yesterday saw yet another mass power outage, stretching all the way from Blackbutt to Cadarga, which left 20,000 people without power. If the LNP are wondering why the member for Callide, Col Boyce, crossed the floor on Tuesday, they need only take a drive north or out west.

People in regional Queensland have been crying out for someone to take a stand on their behalf for I do not know how long. Right now, though, we need to focus all our attention on driving growth, jobs and cheaper energy in this state. Without those, we will continue to backslide economically.

Mount Ommaney Electorate, Small Business Awards



Ms PUGH (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.40 pm): It was a nervous few weeks in Mount Ommaney recently when we awaited the results of COVID testing following a nearby case of COVID-19. Can I thank the many locals who had the slightest symptoms and did the right thing and got tested in their thousands. Can I also thank the amazing team at 13Health who took phone calls from members of the public and directed them to their nearest testing facility. It is worth noting that this hard work has been going on for months now and, as we have sadly seen in New Zealand, there is no end in sight for our hardworking frontline workers. From the bottom of my heart, can I thank them for their ongoing commitment to keeping Queenslanders safe.

Can I also thank the girls, Sophie and Jess, at Sol Bakery, who followed all medical advice and isolated for a week following brief contact with a confirmed case. The outpouring of support they and their business received from the community was fantastic to see. I know that this support for local businesses will be replicated right across the electorate in droves by Mount Ommaney locals. That is because it is that time of year again. It is time for the Mount Ommaney Small Business Awards. Last year we had over 5,000 votes cast for fantastic local small businesses. These awards, which are co-sponsored by the Centenary Chamber of Commerce, are a great way for small businesses to learn how to promote themselves, gaining new markets and new customers in the process.

It is always great to see the regulars pick up their promotion packs, like Just Poppy's and Robson's Pools. It is also incredible to see first timers see the benefits and get involved in these awards for the very first time. It was fantastic to see Paloma from Florals by Blush design pick up her pack. I want to give her kudos for her innovation. I love getting flowers, but I hate when they die. Paloma has fixed the problem; all her arrangements are dried Australian natives. They are everlasting; they last as long as you like. I bought myself some for Valentine's Day—no shame—and they are still going strong six months later.

I was also visited by Stephen from the Jindalee Jungle children's play centre. He and his wife took over the centre pre COVID. I reckon as first-time entrants they are a dark horse in this year's Small Business Awards race. They are a local Jamboree Heights family and I cannot wait to take my little girl for a visit next year when she is actually big enough. Many previous and new nominees also received the state government adaption grants recently, including Oxley Pilates, where I am trying a class next week with Davina, and Little Big feet in Corinda—

Ms Boyd: Go Jess!

Ms PUGH: It is a pregnancy class. Little Big feet in Corinda specialise in podiatry shoes for little kids.

Mount Ommaney businesses are working really hard to unite and recover through COVID-19. Recently Milton Dick and I visited Value Added Meats. We sat down with Ken and the team to discuss how the Palaszczuk government's QRIDA loan helped them stay in business and get through the worst of COVID. One of their employees told me they would not be here if it was not for that grant. I am backing small businesses—

(Time expired)

Caloundra Electorate

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (2.43 pm): I rise today to talk about the congestion-busting initiative launched by Deb Frecklington last week at Caloundra along with the LNP candidate Stuart Coward. We have committed \$35 million to fast-track the conclusion of the Bells Creek Arterial Road. That road joins Caloundra Road heading south to the Bruce Highway. That commitment will bring the works forward by 10 years and eliminate between three to five minutes in travel time. It also means congestion on Caloundra Road will be reduced.

This is a great initiative because the people in Baringa, Nirimba, Bellvista Bells Reach and areas yet to build in the Aura development will not have to access Caloundra Road when heading south to Brisbane and get off the Bruce Highway before the intersection of Caloundra Road and the Bruce Highway to get home. That is a great initiative but it also helps everybody in Caloundra using that access to get down to Brisbane and back from Brisbane. Congestion on Caloundra Road will be reduced because of that. It will save them time and it would be 10 years in advance of what was the time line. This is real congestion-busting planning by the LNP. I congratulate Deb Frecklington, the Leader of the Opposition, and in particular Stuart Coward, the LNP candidate who is working very hard to make this an effective battle and, more importantly, to help retain the seat of Caloundra on behalf of the LNP.

Last week in conjunction with the LNP, again Stuart Coward and I announced \$200,000 will go into putting flashing 40-kilometre-per-hour signals, pedestrian crossing warning signals and pedestrian crossings outside Caloundra City Private School. This school has been there since 2005. This happened because of Will Hendey, the head petitioner of a petition filed in this House this week. We could not wait for the government to make up their mind, and the LNP announced \$200,000 to put in place protection for children crossing very busy Pelican Waters Boulevard to ensure they get to and from school safely.

In addition, I want to thank the P&F of this school, which works very hard. They had over 700 people sign the petition online and also in hard copy. That takes a lot of effort. They made certain they got the signatures required but, more importantly, they convinced us and in particular Stuart Coward that this was an initiative we had to put in place immediately to ensure children are safe.

Stuart Coward is a candidate who is working very hard each day. He is working well with the team. He is working well with me. I can assure honourable members that Stuart Coward will be making more announcements in Caloundra to ensure the best outcome for Caloundra is for it to be retained by the LNP and for the LNP to become the state government on 1 November 2020.

Works for Queensland

 **Mr KING** (Kurwongbah—ALP) (2.46 pm): I rise to talk about the great Works for Queensland program, a \$200 million program partnering with councils to deliver 520 community infrastructure projects and over 4,600 jobs across our state. COVID-19 has turned 2020 into a year of devastation—devastation of people's lives, businesses and the way community activities are carried out; devastation of our economy and life as we have known it. It has never been more important for governments to step up and invest in the community, to work together to unite and recover. That is what Works for Queensland is about.

I want to thank the Moreton Bay Regional Council for adding to our funding—just over \$3 million in extra funding—to deliver more projects in our region. I also want to express my appreciation to the mayor, Peter Flannery and councillors Mick Gillam and Darren Grimwade for working with me to allocate just over \$1 million to five shovel-ready projects across the Kurwongbah electorate.

The first project I am most excited about is a \$300,000 amenities block and change rooms for the Narangba Rangers Rugby League Football Club. Everyone knows I love my footy and I am a big fan of the Rangers. At a time when some sports clubs have had to make really difficult decisions about cancelling seasons, the Rangers have mustered up over 20 teams. That is a huge credit to the executive, volunteers and players and a testament to Narangba's love of footy. This funding is well deserved and will benefit a huge number of families. It will mean junior players will not have to trek up to the main clubhouse through the carpark to use a bathroom or get changed anymore.

The second project in my electorate is a \$120,000 playground renewal at River Oak Way Park at Narangba. This is great news for local families, who might have noticed the old equipment starting to deteriorate. It is very timely as the weather warms up and we start to seek more outdoor activities for the kids.

Down in the southern part of my electorate, Petrie residents are set to benefit from \$75,000 worth of footpath renewal in Young Street. With a five-platform train station, the new Sunshine Coast University campus, The Mill development, our \$30 million intersection upgrade at Petrie roundabout and a plethora of coffee shops, Petrie is fast becoming the place to be, and we want to make sure residents and visitors can continue to enjoy it on foot.

Still in the south, Works for Queensland is delivering 1.4 kilometres of extra pedestrian and cycle pathway in Ron Thomason Park at Lawnton. This half a million dollar project will connect the park to the bridge. I encourage any locals who have not discovered this park to check it out. It has been a hidden gem for too long and I am hoping our investment will change that to the benefit of local walkers, pets and families. Finally, we are building a new bus stop shelter on Station Road at Burpengary. Burpengary has an excellent local bus loop, and this \$22,000 addition will further enhance its appeal. Now more than ever it is time for governments to step up and work together. With this funding in my electorate that is exactly what we are doing.

Burdekin Electorate, Health Services

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (2.49 pm): My fight for First World health services in areas of my electorate continues. Despite the work of groups such as Doctors for Clermont, generous contributions by mining companies and the approaches that I have made to both the Queensland Minister for Health and the federal Minister for Regional Health, little has changed. Today we have a shortage of doctors in Clermont and there are serious concerns about the adequacy of medical and emergency services in Moranbah. In a complete slap in the face for the Queensland health minister and the Premier, the concerns surrounding Moranbah are echoed today by the CFMMEU. To the credit of the federal government, additional funding was made available for doctors in Clermont. Whilst it did not single-handedly solve the problem, we made some progress.

Where is the Queensland government? Where are Minister Miles and the Premier when it comes to playing their part? People in Clermont, Dysart and Collinsville do not have the luxury of shopping around for a doctor like the Minister for Health and the Premier do. If the doctor is busy or called away, their only option is to drive to the nearest town, and that can be a 300-kilometre round trip. That is simply not good enough for any Queenslander, let alone in a region of Queensland that generates such a huge proportion of the royalties that this state receives. Whilst the federal government has at least taken some action, this health minister and the Premier have done nothing.

I will move on to the situation in Moranbah. Every member in this House knows of recent incidents in Moranbah and other mining towns in the Central Highlands. Every member in this House knows that the Minister for Natural Resources has dropped the ball when it comes to ensuring the safety of miners who work in Moranbah or anywhere else in Queensland. Despite claim after claim from this government in response to the tragic deaths that have rocked Queensland's resources sector, today we are faced with knowing that—and this is confirmed by the CFMMEU Queensland president—the victims of the Grosvenor mine incident were lucky that an ambulance was in the area at the time of the incident and lucky that a visiting doctor was at the Moranbah Hospital.

Under Minister Miles and the Palaszczuk government, being sick or injured in many parts of regional Queensland is a lottery for your life. Some are lucky, as the miners in Moranbah were, but what if luck is not on your side? This Labor government is happy for your health and very survival to come down to luck because you dare to live or work outside the south-east corner. No other conclusion can be drawn when the Minister for Health, the Deputy Premier of this state, fails to act on this crisis. The people of regional Queensland would be wise to remember that on 31 October this year. People who live in rural and regional Queensland deserve the same level of access to medical services as our city cousins have in the south-east corner of the state.

Townsville, Water Infrastructure

 **Mr STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (2.52 pm): There is no doubt that water is so important to every single community. Everyone in this chamber knows how important water security is. That is why the Palaszczuk government committed \$215 million to stage 1 of the Haughton water pipeline. That created a thousand local jobs with 420 local businesses. It had a 100 per cent success rate for local jobs. During the program we realised that by building stage 2 immediately after stage 1 there would be a saving of between \$45 million and \$55 million on that project. On 5 November 2018, a media release by the LNP Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, said—

The Liberal and Nationals' Government will invest up to \$200 million to secure Townsville's long-term water supply.

...

Up to \$195 million will fully fund Stage 2 of the Haughton Pipeline extension and \$5 million to compile the project's business case.

The press release later stated—

Funding committed through the City Deal for the Townsville Eastern Access Rail Corridor's (TEARC) development will be re-allocated to enhance opportunities for Townsville's development, including to support Stage 2 of the Haughton Pipeline.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 5 November 2018, titled 'Funds flow for Townsville Water' [[1380](#)].

The member for Herbert was elected on that promise—elected by the people of Townsville to deliver that funding for stage 2 of the Haughton water pipeline. However, when the time came to stump up for stage 2 the LNP said, 'Oh, sorry, that will come out of the state's GST allocations.' In fact, the state government would end up paying for it. In the *Townsville Bulletin* of 3 June, the member for Herbert said that the deal had been struck. The article states—

... he had spoken to the Deputy Prime Minister and Infrastructure Minister, Michael McCormack, and said a final draft for the agreement had been agreed to.

"He and Minister (Anthony) Lynham have reached their agreement through their long, drawn out debate, and it is positive, the money is ready to roll," Mr Thompson said.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 3 June 2020, titled 'Haughton pipeline stage two firms up as discussions come to head' [[1381](#)].

When I spoke to Minister Lynham he said that he has never heard of the deal. He has not had a phone call, a text message or an email—absolutely nothing. We are sick of the argy-bargy from this LNP government. What did we do? The Palaszczuk government stepped in and committed \$195 million to the project to get it going. What do we have? We have an LNP broken promise—again—to the people of Townsville. Does that sound familiar? Campbell Newman said that no public servant needed to fear him. Then 14,000 jobs were cut. The member for Herbert said on ABC Radio that the \$195 million will stay in Townsville, but that afternoon he changed his tune again to say that he would fight to keep the money in Townsville. I table the *Townsville Bulletin* article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Townsville Bulletin*, dated 4 August 2020, titled 'Townsville MP promises to spend \$195m in his electorate' [[1382](#)].

Why is it that Townsville people do not trust the LNP? We just heard why from the member for Redlands. We are sick of hearing these broken lies—promises.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr STEWART: I withdraw.

Mental Health, Thompson Institute

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.55 pm): Our community's understanding around the mental health challenges faced by many Queenslanders on a day-to-day basis has increased considerably in recent years; however, the topic of mental health—more particularly suicide—remains a difficult and uncomfortable topic for many. Despite the advances we as a community have made, it is very clear that much more needs to be done. Across Queensland we still hear heartbreaking stories of people taking their own life. On the Sunshine Coast, each week one person dies from suicide. That is higher than the national average. Given the fact that there would be very few Queenslanders who have not been personally touched by friends or family taking their own life, it comes as no surprise that for every person who dies by suicide another 100 people are affected.

In my community on the Sunshine Coast, a number of community groups and organisations have come together under the leadership of the Sunshine Coast Mind & Neuroscience—Thompson Institute to form the Alliance for Suicide Prevention. The alliance seeks to create an integrated network of connected community organisations with an aim to improve mental health and resiliency to suicide and its precursors. It is an important initiative that drives awareness, delivers training and provides important information for the entire community. Members of the alliance include local schools like Matthew Flinders Anglican College and Sunshine Coast Grammar, community groups like Bloomhill Cancer Care and STEPS, the Queensland Police Service, and local hospitals and businesses.

Recently I visited the Thompson Institute along with the member for Burnett in his capacity as the shadow minister for veterans. I thank Professor Jim Lagopoulos for showing us the world-leading neurological research and clinical outreach services that the Thompson Institute delivers. Everything that the Thompson Institute does is based on the best available scientific evidence. While located on the Sunshine Coast, the Thompson Institute is at the cutting edge of scientific research, punching well above its weight particularly when viewed in the light of the relative financial support it receives from government.

I have spoken before about the fact that the work of the Thompson Institute is far reaching and that all Queenslanders will benefit from the research, discoveries and treatment improvements it delivers. I have been disappointed by the current Labor government, because it has not sought to engage with or understand the work of the Thompson Institute, despite a number of requests both from me and from the Thompson Institute directly. To date, the Palaszczuk Labor government has not provided a single dollar of funding to support the work of the Thompson Institute.

It is incumbent upon all levels of government to step up to the mark and tackle the insidious challenges associated with mental health and suicide. I again ask the government to engage in good faith and provide meaningful support to assist the Thompson Institute to continue its work for all Queenslanders. I also call on the government to bring forward debate on the bill introduced yesterday by Minister Grace to address the issue of workers compensation and the PTSD onus of proof. If the government is genuine about tackling this issue the bill will be debated before the election in October before it lapses.

Coronavirus, Economic Response; Nudgee Electorate, Small Business Grants

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.58 pm): We all know the global economy has been hit hard by COVID-19. As Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said, we as a state are currently in an enviable position with our economy able to reopen more quickly because Queenslanders came together with a strong health response, but there is a long road to recovery ahead. Our government is not waiting to see what this pandemic will do next. We are acting now to deliver the necessary investment and economic activity required to keep Queenslanders in jobs and to create more jobs in more industries to stimulate growth, business confidence and investment.

As outlined earlier this week by our Queensland Treasurer, recent data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics shows signs of a tentative improvement in our domestic economy. Retail sales in Queensland increased by 1.5 per cent over the 12 months to June, the largest increase among eastern states and in contrast to the 2.4 per cent decline nationally. While the number of jobs has fallen by 5.6 per cent across Australia since mid-March, the five per cent fall in Queensland is the smallest fall among eastern states, and Queensland was the only state or territory to see a fall in its unemployment rate in June.

There are signs of a tentative improvement in our domestic economy but with a long road ahead. Now more than ever our economy and businesses need support and stimulus to generate economic activity and encourage growth. Our economic recovery plan is about just that: bringing forward investment in infrastructure, buying locally in Queensland and supporting Queensland industries and businesses because that means Queensland jobs. The Queensland small business adaption grants are one very practical example of how our government is supporting small businesses impacted by COVID-19. These grants help businesses to adapt and sustain their operations and build resilience.

Last week I took the opportunity to visit a number of the many local businesses in my electorate that have received a Queensland small business grant. In Banyo I dropped by Explosive Sportswear to catch up with Tony, Brett, Waldon and Kye to see how they are coping. This small team manufactures on site and experienced a significant downturn when club sport was unable to go ahead due to restrictions. Business has since picked up and I wish them all the very best as they continue their road to recovery.

Last week also at Banyo I dropped in to see Steve, the owner of the Photo Booth Guys. Locally based but operating Australia-wide, the members of this team are experts in awesome visual experiences. From capturing magical party and wedding moments to putting something bespoke together, Steve used his \$10,000 grant to diversify his business through the use of new technology to adapt and sustain operations.

Last month I visited Bells Property Services in Virginia which secured \$10,000 to cover legal costs for a new technology service it is seeking to launch later this year to augment its existing building facade inspection services. The Village Social in Nundah is another to receive a \$10,000 grant, as is RampAttak Indoor Skatepark in Geebung, Fick Brewing in Northgate and Zillmere Dentists, among many others.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committee, Referral of Auditor-General's Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm): I advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's report No. 1 of 2020-21, *Family support and child protection system*, be referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee.

ROYALTY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Reconsideration

 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Stewart): Honourable members, I wish to advise that an error occurred during consideration in detail on the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill. The question on the Treasurer's amendments should have been that amendments Nos 4 to 7 be agreed to; however, only amendment No. 7 was put.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order!

A government member: That's a reflection on the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is actually a reflection on the chair; correct. Therefore, the bill will need to be recommitted for the purposes of considering clause 97 and the Treasurer's amendments Nos 4 to 6.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.02 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders:

1. the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill be recommitted to consideration in detail for the purposes of reconsidering clause 97 and the Treasurer's amendments Nos 4 to 6; and
2. following the reconsideration of the clauses and amendments, the questions for the third reading, as amended, and the long title, as previously amended, shall be re-put.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Consideration in Detail

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Stewart): Pursuant to the resolution agreed to by the House, the House will reconsider clause 97 of the Royalty Legislation Amendment Bill and amendments circulated by the Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning.

Clause 97—

 **Mr MANDER** (3.03 pm): This is an absolute embarrassment for this government. This is what is technically called—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a reflection on the chair. The Deputy Speaker has already made a statement that this was an error of the Speaker and to now be criticising this error is a reflection on the chair.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House. That is absolutely correct, member for Everton. It was not made by the minister; the error was made by the person in the Speaker's chair.

A government member: You were saying?

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Thank you.



Mr DICK (3.04 pm): Speaking of no judgement, I move the following amendments—

4 Clause 97 (Insertion of new ch 6, pts 1–7)

Page 71, line 14, 'producer.'—

omit, insert—

producer; and

5 Clause 97 (Insertion of new ch 6, pts 1–7)

Page 71, after line 14—

insert—

(c) the petroleum is not supply gas.

6 Clause 97 (Insertion of new ch 6, pts 1–7)

Page 91, line 2, before 'hedge'—

insert—

average

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 97, as amended, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (3.04 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Infrastructure and Planning) (3.05 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Mines Inspectorate



Hon. AJ LYNHAM (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Natural Resources, Mines and Energy) (3.05 pm): I rise to update the House about the independent Mines Inspectorate. The Labor Palaszczuk government has delivered the most significant suite of reforms to mine safety and health in the past 20 years. Queensland now has the toughest mine safety and health laws in the world. The inspectorate is a critical part of maintaining the health and safety of mineworkers. In May we set a record of 48 inspectors—a record. Currently, there are 44 mine inspectors. The acting chief executive advises that recruitment is being conducted as a priority, as it always is. Candidates must have specialist qualifications and operational experience and specialist recruiters are actively contacting potential qualified applicants. I do not intend to provide running commentary from the sidelines while the board of inquiry is underway. I respect the board and its members. I respect mineworkers and their families. I ask the member for Burdekin to do the same.

HEALTH LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2082, on motion of Dr Miles—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.06 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill before the House. I want to first of all thank my fellow committee members for the work that they have done on this bill and in particular the secretariat, which worked very hard to put together the agenda and the hearing list, the affidavits and the documentation we referred to during the hearings.

I turn to the amendments to the Ambulance Service Act and the Hospital and Health Boards Act contained in clauses 4 and 9 of the bill. They in fact mirror each other in that they are to ‘collaborate’ with regard to each other. What I find difficult is this: we have a bill in the House that legislates that the HHSs—that is, the hospital and health boards—have to collaborate with the QAS in relation to the work that they do. These two bodies work daily together at one of the most important interfaces for the public in relation to health services and here we have a bill that says that they have to work together. That is unusual. What is the necessity that brings this about? I would have thought that organisations that work in this environment and work together daily would collaborate as a matter of necessity, as a matter of common sense.

In fact, I had a look at the documentation in relation to the organisational structure of Queensland Health and right at the top is the health minister. At the very top is the health minister and feeding into him are the HHS boards and also the Department of Health. The Department of Health has the Queensland Ambulance Service as a component thereof. Why does the minister have to pass legislation in relation to two organisations he already controls to in fact make them collaborate together? With regard to the report relied upon by the government which is titled *Advice on Queensland Health's governance framework*, at page x—Roman numeral 10—the second recommendation states that to acknowledge that the Queensland Ambulance Service is a critical part of the public sector health system the act must be amended to make them collaborate.

We have a report that states we have to acknowledge that the Queensland Ambulance Service is a critical part of the public sector health system. By definition they are an important component of the health system in this state, but we need a document that actually makes that very clear. That is a nonsense. In addition, at page 6 the report says—

However, the Minister has overall responsibility and accountability for Queensland's public health system, through the Department and the 16 HHS Boards.

As I said, the department already contains the Queensland Ambulance Service. Why does the minister have to actually pass legislation through this House to make these two bodies collaborate?

Ms Bates: Because he can't get them to work together.

Mr McARDLE: I will take the interjection. The problem is that the health minister cannot get these two bodies to work together. The only reason that I can see for legislating that these bodies have to collaborate is to get them to work together. There is something wrong and it rests with the health minister. He has the obligation. He is the head man. He is top of the tree and he controls the whole shebang, and he cannot do so. The buck stops with him.

In a report in 2012 entitled *Metropolitan Emergency Department Access Initiative* there are recommendations contained at page 17 that empower the HHSs and Queensland Health to work with the EDs and the Queensland Ambulance Service to achieve the outcomes. Back in July 2012 it was made very clear that cooperation had to occur. We are now eight years down the track and they still cannot work together. They still cannot get their act together. That explains why there are so many people waiting on trolleys, waiting on beds, waiting on chairs within the ED: because this minister cannot get them to work together.

Ms Bates: Palaszczuk's patio!

Mr McARDLE: What we have, in essence, is Palaszczuk's patio—resting. Now we are going to make them collaborate. We are going to force them to collaborate. That is a sad indictment on the health minister, the department and the health system in this state. They interface every day.

I want to turn to the conversion therapy issue contained at clause 28. I note that the amendments put into the House by the minister do amend to an extent the provisions as they sat in the bill as put into the House some months ago. However, it does not solve the basic problem that here we have a

criminal act being proposed within the bill but there is very scant evidence that the actions contained within the clauses are being undertaken by health service providers. If I take members to the dissenting report, Mr Despott states—

When we think of what happens today, like I said, 99 per cent of the conversion practices we see happen in this realm of pastoral care.

He qualifies pastoral care by saying—

I'm just not referring to pastors but they would be included. I'm talking about a situation where there is one person seeking support from another or being offered support from another, and that person has some kind of authority or there is a power differential or there is some understanding that they have some ability to help and care for that person.

Mr Despott was not referring to healthcare providers. He was referring to religious or other situations that exist where practices of that nature occur, and he was making it quite clear that 99 per cent of conversion therapy practices occur in that particular setting.

The Health Ombudsman in his letter of 10 February 2020 deals with this issue I think very succinctly. He states—

I consider I would have power to deal with a complaint regarding a registered practitioner (such as a psychiatrist) who sought to treat sexual orientation as a disorder through conversion therapy (as it's defined in the Bill). Additionally, I consider I could also deal with a complaint involving an unregistered practitioner who sought [to] address sexual orientation through a range of health services such as psychological counselling, hypnosis or psychotherapy.

He then says—

However, I expect complaints regarding actions by churches, ministers of religion or other spiritual healers that purport to 'cure' same-sex orientation through activities such as prayer, 'laying of hands', exorcism, spiritual direction or pastoral care are likely to be outside the OHO's jurisdiction.

Finally, he says—

As the office is yet to receive any complaints concerning any type of conversion therapy, this jurisdictional issue remains untested.

The Health Ombudsman is saying quite clearly the act gives him the power to deal with the scenario as outlined in the bill, so why are we imposing a criminal sanction when authority exists with the ombudsman to deal with that? Anybody who knows the act understands very clearly the ombudsman has very wide reaching powers and very wide investigatory powers.

The Queensland Law Society, when looking at clause 28, in particular the provisions dealing with the offence, carved up that section. They carved it up like a chicken being carved up for dinner. They were analytical and went through it piece by piece and they absolutely made clear that it was a nonsense provision. The amendment put into this House today continues to make a criminal offence of a set of circumstances that clearly falls under the Health Ombudsman's provisions and there is no rational reason as to why this amendment and this clause should be continued to be supported by this House.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.17 pm): I would like to acknowledge the previous speaker and join with the member for Mudgeeraba in wishing him well into the future. I have had the pleasure of serving with him on two committees now and he has always made a fantastic contribution.

I support the entirety of this bill, although my contribution will focus mainly on the so-called conversion therapy. I say 'so-called' because it neither converts nor is it therapeutic. I think one of the key lessons that we should have learned during this recent global pandemic is the importance of listening to and basing our practice on clinical evidence. We have seen governments around the world that have chosen to ignore clinical advice and that has had devastating consequences for their citizens. I know it is difficult at times for people who are not from a clinical background to understand clinical evidence, but it is certainly incumbent on all health professionals to try to help people to understand that.

Recently I was approached by a constituent raising concerns around 5G and asking me where I stood on that particular issue. I said I would really have to read some clinical evidence to make a definitive statement on that. The constituent responded by saying, 'Well, all the research is biased.' I tried to take the constituent through a research paper—not about 5G but a general research paper—and explain to her the different segments one looks at and how one tests whether a paper is biased or not. Unfortunately I could not get that constituent to a level of understanding about that. The whole system of clinical evidence and research is designed so that you can spot bias and you can correct bias with future research. When it comes to gay conversion therapy there is no evidence that it works. In fact, there is quite considerable evidence that it does harm.

Mr Hunt interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): Order! Member for Nicklin, it is your turn next. The member on his feet is not being provocative. You will hear him in silence.

Mr KELLY: It is easy to throw barbs across the chamber at me but perhaps more difficult to throw them at the American Psychological Association which reviewed all available research on conversion therapies and asked that a task force provide recommendations to the association on their efficacy.

The task force found that none of the research conducted between 1999 and 2007 would permit any conclusions to be drawn about the safety or efficacy of conversion therapy given the limited amount of methodologically sound research that is available. Cornell University also considered all available research on conversion therapy in relation to both the benefits and the harms of the therapy. Many of the research articles that claim benefits of conversion therapy trace back to a study done by Dr Robert Spitzer in 2001. That study is often cited as proof of the efficacy of the therapy because the study concluded that reparative therapy is effective at curing same-sex orientation. In May 2012 Dr Spitzer recanted his research, noting that it was methodologically unsound. He later went on to apologise to the individuals who had undertaken conversion therapy on the basis of his statement as to its efficacy. The research into the benefits of reparative conversion therapy notes that most of the positive effects would be achieved by any type of competent psychological counselling, so there is little weight to be applied in relation to those conclusions.

The research done at Cornell University around the harms was quite extensive, including a variety of mental health impacts, depression, anxiety, shame, guilt, suicidal ideations, attempts at suicide and a range of other problems. The British Royal College of Psychiatrists went so far as to make an apology for sexual reorientation therapies, stating—

Studies that once purported to have a 'cure' to homosexuality, or indeed to classify it as an illness in the first place, have now all been disproven and debunked. Studies which once showed conversion therapies to be successful have all been exposed as seriously methodologically flawed. In this day and age, there is no feasible scenario in which a fully trained mental health professional would administer such a treatment.

Given that there is no basis in evidence for a fully trained health professional to practise a therapy that is known to harm a patient, it should attract a criminal sanction.

Moving beyond the evidence, I grew up in a culture and environment where homosexuality was not tolerated and was often discriminated against. I came from a family that did not encourage or tolerate any type of intolerance, but because of our deep religious views homosexuality was not discussed or even considered in our house. Certainly boys at my school who were of a same-sex orientation had a particularly difficult time. I apologise if I was in any way involved in their difficult years. Certainly it would have happened. Luckily, I went on to become a nurse and was exposed to people with a whole range of different ways of living their lives. I became friends with several people who are gay. I had the great privilege of nursing a number of young men who died of AIDS, which was another eye-opening exposure for me to people of the homosexual persuasion. It helped me as a nurse to relate to people first as people. The reality is that it was the culture that was causing the discrimination and I was able to change my views. That did not happen overnight and, realistically, that change is probably still occurring.

I support what is being put forward in this bill, but I do not think it goes far enough. Queensland banning this practice is certainly acceptable and is something that I support. However, the reality is that we know that children are being taken overseas for this particular therapy. As a nation we have worked together to stop young girls being taken overseas to be subjected to the abhorrent practice of female genital mutilation. We have stopped children being taken overseas for marriage. I think we can do the same here for children and adults. I call on the minister to do that.

I will finish by reading a statement from one of my constituents, who will remain anonymous. They state—

At 14 years-old, my parents found out about my homosexuality and sent me overseas to undergo conversion therapy. They told me that I was being sent to a religious institution in my country of birth in order to repair my homosexuality. For five days I underwent face-to-face therapy with the head of the religious institution who informed me that he was a licenced counsellor and had a degree in psychology. He proceeded to tell me that my sexuality was disgusting and reprehensible; that it was not normal. I was told that my sexuality was an illness that needed to be cured like depression or anxiety. He told me that 'my aura was negative' and that I was not homosexual because everyone is inherently and naturally 'heterosexual'. I was forced to recite and memorise scripture that condemned my sexuality every day. I sobbed into my pillow every night. I was left alone with no one I knew in a place I was not familiar with. I acted as 'straight' as I possibly could and began agreeing with what the counsellor was saying just so he would stop. I was eventually released early because I was able to act my way through it.

Ever since coming back to Australia, I have grappled with thoughts of guilt and shame surrounding my sexuality. I have had to act as someone I am not in front of family just so they never have to send me back to that place ever again. The relationship that I once had with my parents no longer exists as I can now no longer be myself in front of them. I was disgusted with myself and believed that all the problems in my life was the result of divine punishment. It was not until a few months ago I reached out to my GP and started seeing a psychologist about my feelings. I am recovering with the help of supportive friends and family who have helped me come to terms with my sexuality and love me unconditionally. But it is still a long road to recovery. I still have feelings of shame and guilt and to be perfectly honest, I do not think that these feelings will ever leave.

I've experienced this therapy, and I still grapple with the effects of it to this day. My life is and never will be the same because of it. As a survivor of this insidious practice, I hope that no LGBT+ persons ever have to undergo this practice; Not in Queensland nor anywhere else in the world.

This should be a happy day for people in the LGBTI community and it should be a happy day for health practitioners. This practice, which has no evidence base and is for a disease that does not exist, is being outlawed. It is being ruled out. That is something that this parliament, our community and our society should be proud of. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr HUNT** (Nicklin—LNP) (3.26 pm): With the greatest respect to the member for Greenslopes, and while I would not necessarily disagree with a lot of what he said, the last part of his contribution probably highlights my thoughts on the problems in this bill in that it does not address that at all. It is more of a virtue signal to send a message rather than an attempt to address the problem itself. In making my contribution, along with my colleague from Caloundra, I thank the committee members and the secretariat for their work in what has been a very busy few years for our committee.

This bill contains mostly sound amendments, but clause 28 is essentially scaring the life out of medical practitioners everywhere in Queensland as it seeks to constrain their practices and criminalise what they might otherwise think is sound health care. Once again, what might be reasonable intent is not being transferred into good legislation. That is a typical mistake made by this Labor government, which suffers from a confirmation-bias style of research that leads it to listen only to those who might agree with its philosophical point of view.

In the current pandemic, this government is totally reliant on health advice. We all see the Premier claiming a lot of credit, but we know where the credit actually lies. The credit lies with the people behind the scenes who know what they are talking about when it comes to handling health crises and pandemics. Those people are health professionals who should indeed be listened to when dealing with people's health matters—as this bill does—and taking advice about what are and what are not effective treatments. In that respect the committee heard no evidence of any concerning practices by health professionals but received more of a general message that the government is apparently trying to send to non-health providers or religious groups they cannot legislate against or, as the member for Greenslopes mentioned, practices overseas. This bill does not deal with any of that, which is where the problem lies.

In their submission, the Queensland Law Society pointed to the lack of any evidence of the mischief to be addressed by this clause and asserted that current laws and discipline procedures should adequately deal with those matters. However, that has not stopped the government from their virtue signal that achieves nothing in practice. This is a solution desperately seeking a problem to solve and, as the member for Greenslopes pointed out in his contribution, the problems lie historically or elsewhere. This bill does not go any way towards achieving solutions to any of those perceived problems.

I have perused the foreshadowed amendments, circulated by the government earlier today, to the definition of 'conversion therapy' in some attempt to alleviate the concerns raised by the health practitioners. The definition, I will contend, is still vague. It contains examples which would already be covered by other laws and will no doubt not fully alleviate the concerns of medical practitioners and healthcare workers.

In making my contribution on this clause I will be relying heavily, as we all should, on the advice and submissions of the health experts in this field. I will start with the National Association of Practising Psychiatrists. In their submission they note—

... now conversion practices include 'an attempt to change a person's sexual orientation or gender identity'. Gender identity has been added to the previous definition of conversion practices that related to change of a person's sexual orientation. Sexual orientation and gender identity can involve different considerations in the clinical setting. Unless conversion practices are narrowly and clearly defined in Queensland regulations—

which I contend that, even with the amendments, they are not—

then doctors (including psychiatrists) using established approaches to assessing and treating patients with gender dysphoria may be in breach of the new Queensland legislation outlawing conversion therapies.

They go on to say—

Medical diagnosis requires a thoughtful, comprehensive and detailed assessment of the presenting clinical condition and the underlying possible alternative explanations and/or causes of those conditions. With gender dysphoria this means exploring and understanding the reasons why an individual has come to the belief that their gender is different to the gender assigned at birth.

Medical and psychiatric disorders identified in this process will need appropriate treatment (with consent) in order to enhance the well being of the patient.

These conventional and ethical actions of the physician must never be regarded as conversion therapies under Queensland law.

Any denial of patients presenting with gender dysphoria of the appropriate assessment and treatment of conditions leading to gender dysphoria or associated with it is an abjuration of the legitimate care of these individuals.

We can see their concern that what they have always done in a clinical setting is now captured in this criminal offence. They conclude their submission by stating—

NAPP supports freedom of speech so that scientific matters can be debated and people can speak with their health care providers honestly, or if they chose, to tell others publicly of their experience without being prosecuted by the state.

Importantly, the submission from the Australian Medical Association states—

AMA Queensland is opposed to the amendments recommended in the *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*, on the basis that the legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals providing evidence based practices and have the potential to limit therapeutic approaches supporting children and adolescents presenting with gender dysphoria. Our main concerns are:

- i. *The legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals providing evidence based practices.*
 - ii. *Potential for the legislation to limit therapeutic approaches supporting children and adolescents who present with gender dysphoria*
 - iii. *Definitions in sections 213E and 213F*
- i. The legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals providing evidence-based practices.

AMA Queensland is concerned that the wording of the legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals ... As one of our members ... wrote in his submission ...:

'the legislation effectively puts any psychotherapy and family therapy practitioners at risk of offending if not "affirming" the child's (or even adults) gender preference. Even Gender Clinics who do comprehensive evaluations of family and dynamic drivers of the child's gender feelings could be vulnerable, especially if they identify powerful parental dynamics heavily influencing the child's expression.'

I understand that these health professionals have been listened to. The government is trying to desperately get this through this parliament so it has made amendments to the definition that I do not believe go far enough or alleviate the concerns of the medical practitioners. When you are changing a piece of legislation like this so dramatically to address concerns, best practice is that it should probably go back to the healthcare professionals and the Queensland Law Society for further submissions to see if their concerns have been alleviated.

This is just a bad piece of legislation. As I said, it is a solution seeking a problem. It is poor legislation that will restrict medical practitioners in trying to deal with this issue. Whilst I appreciate the intent of the bill and whilst I appreciate the contribution of the member for Greenslopes about the way we have historically treated people with gender dysphoria or LGBTIQ people, this legislation is not the answer. This legislation does not address the problem; it does not even identify the problem.

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (3.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. While the bill addresses several areas, I will discuss the amendments to the Health and Hospital Boards Act regarding health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by delivering a responsible, capable and culturally appropriate healthcare system.

As members would be aware, there have been numerous improvements in the health system to address the inequities that exist between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and non-Aboriginal and non-Torres Strait Islander Australians. Under the National Indigenous Reform Agreement, states and territories have committed to achieving six targets for closing the gap in health, education and employment outcomes. The two health-specific targets are to close the gap in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander life expectancy and to halve the gap in mortality rates for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children under five.

In Queensland, the life expectancy gap is currently estimated at 7.8 years for males and 6.7 years for females. The three leading drivers of the life expectancy gap between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders and other Queenslanders which, taken together, explain over half of the gap are: cardiovascular disease—an estimated 21 per cent of the gap for males and females; cancer—an estimated 20 per cent of the gap for males and 18 per cent for females; and diabetes—an estimated 13 per cent of the gap for males and 18 per cent for females.

This bill requires the hospital and health service to have a strategy in place for achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and, importantly, to have one or more Aboriginal persons on the board. Through these amendments, health and wellbeing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will be at the forefront of the delivery of health services.

I take this opportunity to thank our health and hospital services staff across Queensland and also our QAS staff for the great job they do each and every day in looking after Queenslanders. I also thank the committee secretariat and other committee members. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (3.38 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. I support the bill's administrative provisions and its continuation of the vital and incomplete project to close the gap when it comes to Indigenous health outcomes. In the words of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council, these changes take important steps to reduce institutional racism within the health system and improve access to health care in Queensland.

The element of the bill, as we all know, that drew the most attention and the most submissions to the inquiry, and the one that I would particularly like to affirm my support for, is the ban on conversion therapy. Clause 28 of this bill and the amendments tabled by the minister earlier would amend the Public Health Act 2005 to prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers in Queensland. I am proud, and I think we should all be proud, that Queensland would be the first jurisdiction in Australia to do so, although the issue is live in many other states and territories. I hope and expect other jurisdictions will follow Queensland's lead here. As a member of the health committee that conducted the inquiry on this bill, I had the benefit of participating in the hearings, which reaffirmed for me the importance of this legislation.

In putting this bill forward, we want to protect the LGBTIQ+ community from the harm caused by conversion therapy. We want to send the strong message that being queer is not a disorder requiring treatment or correction. Conversely, conversion therapy is underpinned by the belief that queer people are somehow broken. It views sexual orientation and gender identity as something able to be cured, eliminated or suppressed. Its practices include running ex-gay camps, exorcisms—the sorts of practices we heard described by the member for Greenslopes a moment ago—group therapy and bogus psychiatric treatments. Conversion therapy is condemned by the medical community in Australia and overseas, but, despite that, conversion therapy practices continue to exist in Australia today.

The submission to the inquiry from the LGBTI Legal Service said there are around 10 organisations providing conversion therapy services in Australia today, that they were aware of. Two of those are based in Queensland. As the Queensland AIDS Council pointed out in its submission, although the focus of conversion therapy has traditionally been on changing a person's sexual orientation, gender identity conversion therapy is becoming more common.

The Queensland Greens' policy on sexuality and gender identity is and has been clear. People have the right to their self-identified gender, which is integral to people's lived experiences as citizens and members of the community. Society should be free of harassment, abuse, vilification, stigmatisation, discrimination, disadvantage or exploitation on the basis of the actual or assumed sex, sexual orientation or gender identity of a person or someone they are associated with. All people, including intersex and gender diverse people, have the right to bodily autonomy and physical integrity. A ban on sexuality or gender conversion therapy has long been part of our platform and something we absolutely support.

Among the submissions to the inquiry, one key fact emerged. Those at the coalface of supporting LGBTIQ+ community members support this bill. The Queensland Human Rights Commission pointed out that LGBTIQ+ people are currently vulnerable to harm from practices seeking to suppress or change their sexuality or gender identity. There is ample research to indicate the mental health of LGBTIQ+ is significantly worse than the broader population.

This fact is often relied on to assert that poor mental health is inherently associated with being queer. We know this to be blatantly false and I would suggest it is nothing more than bald faced homophobia and bigotry. The issue is with how LGBTIQ+ people are treated. People who have been exposed to conversion therapy have reported experiencing self-hatred, shame, grief, the loss of intimacy, connection and pleasure, mental health problems and self-harm.

As the commission pointed out, regardless of the prevalence of conversion therapy in Queensland, the extent of the harm justifies a strong legislative response. In the view of the LGBTI Legal Service, there is even more to do to ensure survivors of conversion therapy are supported. Supporting, rather than oppressing or disparaging, someone's sexuality and gender identity will improve their wellbeing and allow them to flourish in their communities.

Disappointingly, right now the bill focuses solely on health practitioners, failing to address the fact that the bulk of gender and sexuality conversion therapy is most likely occurring in informal and religious settings. The ban on this type of therapy should be extended to religious institutions and funding for specialised support for survivors prioritised.

I also agree with the Australian Association of Social Workers's suggestion that the bill could use more affirming terminology—namely, the term 'gender affirmation' rather than 'gender transition'. This better reflects the experience of many transgender people who do not perceive themselves to be changing from one gender to another but rather being able to start living in their true gender identity. The Association of Social Workers also recommended increased penalties for offences against vulnerable persons and amendment of the Criminal Code to criminalise the provision of conversion therapies, which I support.

Opponents to this legislation and the predictable response drummed up by the Australian Christian Lobby and their ilk rely on shameless, harmful misinformation. They assert that medical practitioners will not be permitted to treat a child in any other way, except to affirm the child's wish to transition gender, under threat of criminal sanction.

The terms of the bill are clear: conversion therapy does not include practice that, in a health service provider's reasonable professional judgement, is necessary to provide a safe, appropriate health service. It is clear. The amendments that we will see introduced shortly make it even clearer. Any health practitioner who exercises reasonable professional judgement in providing safe, appropriate health services has nothing to fear. We have so much further to go when it comes to supporting members of the LGBTIQ+ community, but I commend this bill as an important step towards ending discrimination and harm against them.

I will take a moment before I wrap up to, as always, thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat. We have not had a dull moment at all on the health committee over the last 2½ years. I do want to make particular mention of the member for Caloundra who will not be joining us in the chamber next parliament, irrespective of any election outcomes. As a new member in this House and as a new participant in the committee process, I found his contribution to be always very well considered and very carefully put. He certainly helped me to understand the way this process works.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 amends five health portfolio acts and two regulations to implement policy initiatives and to improve the effective operation of the acts. Critically, the bill amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to strengthen networked governance in Queensland's public health system and to strengthen health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and the Public Health Act 2005 to prohibit health service providers from performing conversion therapy in Queensland.

This bill speaks volumes of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to Queenslanders in making significant reforms to health legislation to improve and protect the health of Queenslanders. These changes will enable the public health system to be more inclusive of diversity, to strengthen its governance structure and to prohibit barbaric laws that discriminate against a person's sexuality and/or gender identity.

I commend the Deputy Premier and Minister for Health, the Hon. Steven Miles, for his strong leadership throughout this term in his role as the Minister for Health and for his ongoing commitment and passion to make a positive difference to people's health and wellbeing into the future. I want to put on record today my thanks to the minister for all his hard work and unwavering support for the Cook electorate to ensure that people have access to quality health care no matter where they live.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into the Queensland parliament and referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for their consideration and examination of the bill. The committee received an overwhelming response in its call for public submissions. The committee accepted 152 written submissions, with a further 15 received after the closing date. The bill strengthens networked governance in Queensland's public health system by amending the Hospital and Health Boards Act: requiring hospital and health services to have regard to the effective and efficient use of resources for the public sector health system as a whole and the best interests of patients and other users of health services throughout Queensland; and recognising hospital and health services and the Queensland Ambulance Service have mutual obligations to collaborate.

The bill strengthens the commitment to health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people by amending the Hospital and Health Boards Act to include, as a guiding principle, a commitment to achieving health equity and delivery of responsive, capable and culturally competent

health care to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; to require each hospital and health service to have a strategy for achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; and to require each hospital and health board to have one or more Aboriginal persons as members. I would like to echo the sentiment of the minister in his introductory speech to this bill, stating—

This government is committed to making sustainable changes in health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and ensuring they have a seat at the table at the highest levels of governance.

As a First Nation woman and a member of the Palaszczuk government, this makes me feel extremely proud to represent a government committed to giving visibility to First Nation people and acknowledging the ongoing importance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health as a government priority.

The bill also prohibits conversion therapy by creating an offence under the Public Health Act for health service providers to perform conversion therapy. On 28 November 2018, the Minister for Health convened an Ending Sexual Orientation Conversion Therapy Roundtable meeting and concluded that the government should consider legislation making it an offence for health practitioners to perform conversion therapy.

The committee heard that conversion therapy is a treatment or practice that attempts to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity and that therapy practices continue to exist in Australia today, with around 10 organisations known to still be operating, leaving significant long-lasting trauma and mental health impacts on individuals. I support a world that is fair and where all people are treated equally. I support the prohibition of conversion therapy so that all people can live together in a society that is equal and accepting of each other.

In closing, I would like to acknowledge the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee; the chair, Aaron Harper; the committee secretariat; and all of the committee members for their hard work and input into this very important health reform. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (3.51 pm): As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for communities, disability services and seniors and as the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I rise to address the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. As has already been foreshadowed by my colleague the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for health and ambulance services, the Liberal National Party will be opposing clause 28, as originally drafted, with respect to potential unintended consequential outcomes which I will outline later in my contribution as part of this legislative debate.

The Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced to the Queensland parliament by the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services on 28 November 2019, and subsequently referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for its examination, before the committee tabled its report on 21 February 2020. As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, I wish to first address those amendments pertaining to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. As per the bill's explanatory notes, amendments will be made to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 to—

- strengthen the commitment to health equity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people and strengthen the capability and effectiveness of Hospital and Health Boards by:
 - including as a guiding principle a commitment to achieving health equity and delivery of responsive, capable and culturally competent health care to Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - requiring each Hospital and Health Service to have a strategy for achieving health equity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people; and
 - requiring each Hospital and Health Board to have one or more Aboriginal persons and/or Torres Strait Islander persons as members;

I note that submissions were received from the Queensland Human Rights Commission, the Australian Healthcare and Hospitals Association, the Royal Australasian College of Physicians, the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union, and the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council and that all of those organisations, in principle, supported the proposed amendments. So, too, does the Liberal National Party, as we continue to reaffirm our commitment to ensuring that genuine and practical progress can be made in improving the health, economic, educational and social outcomes for Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. To that end, I acknowledge and commend the Morrison federal coalition government's Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt, for his work in steering and delivering a historic reformed Closing the Gap agreement and framework, with 16 revised and amended Closing the Gap targets.

This legislation also proposes amendments being made pertaining to the disclosure of root cause analysis reports, as well as other amendments to the Private Health Facilities Act 1999 and Private Health Facilities Regulation 2016. I have spoken to a number of private hospital operators and these amendments seem fair and reasonable, particularly given the alignment with the Australian Health Service Safety and Quality Accreditation Scheme.

In relation to the elements of the bill that pertain to the Queensland Mental Health Commission, the recommendations made by the relevant steering committee, as a part of the Queensland Mental Health Commission review, will further strengthen the functioning and operation of the Queensland Mental Health Commission, particularly the ability to appoint the commissioner for a term of up to five years.

Previously, as a specialist physician representative on the Queensland Mental Health and Drug Advisory Council, under the auspices of the Queensland Mental Health Commission, I certainly appreciated the opportunity to contribute to the vital policy and clinical work of the commission. I commend the current Queensland Mental Health Commissioner, Ivan Frkovic; his predecessor, Dr Lesley van Schoubroeck; and all staff on the work that they have done to date in driving ongoing reform and improvements with respect to an integrated evidence based and recovery orientated mental health and substance misuse system.

I now wish to address clause 28 of this legislation, as originally drafted—a clause which the Liberal National Party has previously indicated it would not be supporting. I want to be very clear: there is absolutely no place for gay conversion therapy. There is no place for any health service provider or anyone else to provide gay conversion therapy.

One of the very first issues that arises with this legislation is the fact that there is little to no empirical evidence that conversion therapies are being offered in Queensland, let alone being provided by health service providers. As Fair Go for Queensland Women stated in their submission—

We note that the documents referred to in the *Explanatory Notes* do not provide current evidence of conversion therapy practices being undertaken by health service providers in Queensland, or significant occurrences in Queensland. We query the necessity of this legislation on that basis.

I note that similar concerns were also stated by the Queensland Law Society in its submission. I note that, whilst emphasis has been placed on the 2018 report from La Trobe University as justification for implementing these measures, as the distinguished President of the National Association of Practising Psychiatrists, Professor Phillip Morris, told the public hearing into the inquiry of this legislation—

I have read that report ... it says that there are no studies of the prevalence of conversion practices in Australia. There is absolutely no data that we have that is of any scientific validity about what is happening in Australia with conversion practices. In other words, we are completely blind at the moment as to what the problem is. Is there a problem?

The next issue that arises with clause 28, as originally drafted and introduced into this House, is the concern again expressed by many experienced medical professionals in this area that this legislation may promote gender-affirming treatment as the only form of treatment. As the committee reported on page 25, some 30 submissions raised concerns that this legislation, once enacted, will require doctors to provide hormone treatment or surgical treatment and potentially prevent doctors from adopting a so-called 'watchful waiting' approach. These concerns were significantly more pronounced for the impacts that could be had with children and the lifelong effects and side effects of significant treatment, surgeries and medications prescribed from a young age.

This leads me to the further unintended consequences of this legislation; namely, the significant potential criminal penalties that will be applied in what still remains a very ambiguous area. As the Australian Medical Association of Queensland provided in their submission—

AMA Queensland is opposed to the amendments recommended in the *Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019*, on the basis that the legislation could lead to the prosecution of health professionals providing evidence based practices and have the potential to limit therapeutic approaches supporting children and adolescents presenting with gender dysphoria.

No-one disputes the importance of ensuring health treatment to Queenslanders who need support to understand their own sexual identity, but this legislation, as drafted, remains flawed. In fact, it is a view effectively endorsed by the parliamentary committee itself, which said—

While the intent of the provisions in clause 28 are supported, it is not clear whether they will achieve what they are intended to.

Accordingly, the committee also suggested that there may end up being 'significant unintended consequences'.

Whilst I note that the minister at the eleventh hour has introduced amendments that he intends to move during consideration in detail, the immediate feedback I have received in the last few hours is that there still remains considerable medical, professional and legal concerns, particularly given there appears to be very limited consultation on the drafting of these amendments and that such amendments may not resolve the issues as identified by the parliamentary committee, its inquiry and those who provided submissions, particularly with respect to medical professionals.

In concluding, I thank the committee for its examination of this bill, including the deputy chair and member for Caloundra, Mark McArdle MP, and the member for Nicklin, Marty Hunt MP, as well as other elected representatives who serve on the committee and the more than 150 individuals and professional organisations and other stakeholders who provided submissions on this bill. The work that this committee has undertaken in examining this legislation has been extremely important.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 and the amendments moved by the Deputy Premier, the member for Murrumba. I acknowledge that this bill has some components in relation to acts that it alters, but in terms of my commentary today I would like to make a contribution specifically around the gender conversion therapy practice to which the bill relates.

We know that conversion therapy is a dangerous and discredited practice. Health authorities across Australia oppose it and the untold damage that it does to people. Evidence shows that conversion therapy has long-lasting mental health impacts and increases the risk of suicide for people who undergo it. All Queenslanders expect that health professionals will not use treatments that are harmful and not based on evidence. As it stands, it is legal for people to administer electric shock therapy or provide nausea-inducing drugs as part of gay conversion therapy. It is a practice which is allowed to happen here in Queensland, and we know that it is happening. It is fundamentally wrong and it needs to change.

By introducing this legislation we have sent a very clear message to all members of the LGBTIQ community, particularly young people, that there is nothing wrong with you. You are not sick. You do not have a disease that requires treatment. You cannot be fixed because there is nothing wrong with you. You are loved and you deserve to be treated with respect. This is a government that supports you.

It has been deeply saddening to see some of the worse elements of our society come out and attack young people for the people they love and for their gender identity. It is graceful that some media commentators and elements of the radical right use this legislation to attack young people who are struggling to figure out who they are. They have lied and misrepresented this legislation as something it is not, and they have done it to the detriment of people in the LGBTIQ community.

I want to clear up one thing: no health practitioner will be required to provide treatment to people of the LGBTIQ community, but they will be prevented from engaging in dangerous and ineffective practices. Queensland is leading the way to ensure that this protection is for all in our community. I support the bill.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (4.03 pm): I rise to support the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, specifically the provisions relating to gay conversion therapy—gay conversion therapy being an overarching term to describe treatments that claim to change someone's sexual orientation or their gender identity.

Conversion therapy belongs in the Dark Ages. In fact, when I first flagged to my community that we had introduced this legislation people could not believe it is still happening. In the past, people identifying as LGBTIQ have been tied to beds and forced into electric shock aversion treatment. They have been made to sniff ammonia, beaten, hypnotised and abused in the hope it would change their sexuality or gender identity. Gay conversion therapy is simply appalling and it is outrageous.

Without any regard to your beliefs or values, the cold hard facts about it are that there is no medical evidence whatsoever to show that it is possible to change a person's sexuality or gender identity with therapy. Not only that, but the medical experts, including the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychologists, say those treatments can cause more harm than any perceived good. The Australian Medical Association and the World Health Organization oppose its use as harmful and unethical. Clinical and social science research has found overwhelming evidence that conversion therapy is psychologically harmful and linked to high rates of suicide, self-harm and other adverse health outcomes. Despite medical consensus on the dangers of conversion therapy, it is currently not illegal for health service providers to perform those therapies in this state or any other Australian state.

We believe there are at least 10 organisations in Australia and New Zealand offering so-called gay conversion therapies. Studies in the United States found that more than half—or 350,000—of the people taking part in conversion programs in that country are children and adolescents who are there at the behest of their parents. Adolescence can already be a difficult time for many young people who are working out what career they might pursue, the pressure of study and negotiating relationships with their peers, let alone their gender identity.

The college of psychologists' concerns about conversion therapy include exacerbating mental distress and the stigmatising of young people who identify as LGBTIQ. The Australian statistics around mental health for people who identify as LGBTIQ are really horrifying: 16 per cent of young Australian LGBTIQ people aged 16 to 27 report they have attempted to take their own lives, which is five times the rate of the general Australian population; 48 per cent of trans and gender diverse Australians aged 14 to 25 have tried to suicide, more than 11 times the rate of other Australians in that age group; and almost a third of LGBTIQ people aged 16 and over have been treated for a depressive episode in the last three years. We cannot say with any certainty that any of the people mentioned in those statistics have undergone conversion therapy, but what they do reflect is the depth of discrimination that still exists for Australians who identify as anything but a straight man or woman.

The very existence of gay conversion therapy normalises discrimination, and many of us still remember how physically brutal LGBTIQ discrimination was in this state in the 1970s and 1980s when gay-bashing was almost treated as a sport. For me, the most important thing in this whole question is the entire premise of gay conversion therapy; that is, that being homosexual, bisexual or trans is somehow something that needs fixing and that being homosexual, bisexual or trans somehow means that you are a lesser human being. People who identify as LGBTIQ do not need fixing because there is nothing to fix.

Homophobic and transphobic attitudes have no place in Queensland, and there are laws to make this blatant type of discrimination illegal in the workplace and society in general. The prohibition of gay conversion therapy by medical professions in Queensland sends a strong message to the community that the Palaszczuk government considers that being LGBTIQ is not a disorder that requires correction or treatment. I note some of the contributions from members opposite about whether there is or is not gay conversion therapy occurring in Australia. My response to that is: whatever the facts do or do not say about that, this bill is a statement about who we want to be as a society. In that sense, I am so proud to support this bill.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset, and as advised by the LNP opposition shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba, we will not oppose the bill; however, the LNP will oppose clause 28 in relation to conversion therapy. I acknowledge that a number of concerned constituents have contacted my office in the last couple of days in relation to the issue of conversion therapy, and I acknowledge the concerns they have raised.

No-one disputes the importance of ensuring health treatment to Queenslanders who need support to understand their own sexual identity, but this bill goes a whole step further. At a time when we should be working with doctors to keep Queenslanders safe, this bill treats doctors like criminals. Labor's changes are a blunt tool that targets the wrong practice. The LNP will oppose clause 28 of this legislation.

The bill also amends the Hospital and Health Boards Act to strengthen the governance and the commitment to health equity for Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people. I note in early 2019 an expert panel provided advice on Queensland Health's governance framework as established by the Hospital and Health Boards Act. Whilst the panel noted the devolved governance model provided for in the act is generally operating well, there was an opportunity to enhance the model. It should be acknowledged that the formation of the hospital and health boards was an LNP initiative under the stewardship of the former LNP minister for health, Lawrence Springborg.

The bill also deals with the membership of hospital and health boards. What the bill does not say is that a person must be resident in the HHS area in which they seek membership, and this is particularly important in regional communities. Board members who are resident in their HHS area bring an added strength to the HHS model because they are accessible to people in the community. It is not always possible to find persons who are willing to take on that membership position or willing to do the associated travel as a board member. Unfortunately, in some regional areas, some communities end up with board members who are not residents and are fly-in fly-out appointments. This is not well accepted by the local communities and is detrimental to the hospital and health service outcomes. It should be about obtaining good outcomes for the residents who live in that area. Any fly-in fly-out HHS board membership appointments should be discouraged in the future.

The bill also deals with correcting a drafting error in relation to requirements for water risk management plans. This is as a result of a legionnaire's disease fatality at the Wesley Hospital in 2016, which I remember well. Where we have hospitals and aged-care facilities that operate on bore water, for some unknown reason there seems to be a more frequent detection of the legionnaire's bacteria. Legionnaire's seems to like the bore water and it is difficult to eliminate in the water system. There needs to be constant vigilance on this matter.

I wish to raise an issue that is also impacting the South West Hospital and Health Service in relation to the border bubble. We currently have nurses in New South Wales who live south of the border bubble and cannot get a permit to travel to the Mungindi Hospital to work. They work for the South West Hospital and Health Service—one of our HHSs—and this is impacting on the health services of the border community of Mungindi.

I have also been contacted by a pregnant mother, Olive, who is a resident on the Queensland side of the town of Mungindi who has applied for an exemption but has heard nothing from the Labor government in relation to that. She stated—

I am pregnant, and have already waited 3 weeks, with another 2 to go, for an appointment with my doctor in Moree, due to the shortage of maternity doctors and an overload of patients.

Mr WHITING: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe this is not relevant to the long title of the bill.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Pugh): I have been listening closely to the member's contribution. Member for Warrego, I am struggling to see the relevance to the bill. If you can bring it back to the long title of the bill, that would be fantastic.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: There will be no chatter about the ruling. The member for Warrego has the call and will be heard in silence.

Ms LEAHY: There is no maternity care in the HHS area at the Mungindi Hospital, so Moree becomes the preferred doctor and hospital. That is particularly frustrating for this constituent who will have to go to a different HHS area to receive her treatment. She is unfamiliar with those people.

Mr WHITING: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I again refer to relevance.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am continuing to listen closely and I ask the member for Warrego to bring her contribution back to the long title of the bill. I am really struggling to see a connection.

Ms LEAHY: Before I conclude, I would like to acknowledge the member for Caloundra and the work that he has undertaken on the health committee. He has done a considerable amount of work on this committee and also previous committees. His contribution has been commendable and I know he will be sorely missed in the future by this House.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (4.14 pm): I rise to commend the bill to the House. I will speak on just one aspect of the bill before us today—that is, the prohibition of conversion therapies by health service providers, a provision that I fully support. Queensland is the first jurisdiction to propose such legislation, and I say that with pride.

As many speakers have said and it was certainly in the committee report as well, there is a considerable body of evidence showing that conversion therapy is harmful and does not offer clinical or therapeutic benefits. That is very clear. Even the United Nations General Assembly stated that conversion therapies have been found to be unethical, unscientific and ineffective. I will not just take their word for it; I will also take the word of people like a dear friend of mine. I have known him and loved him as my own since he was four years old. My friend is trans and identifies as queer. He supports wholeheartedly the banning of conversion therapies by health service providers. My friend has had experience with many issues surrounding gender conversion therapy, and he gave me a great insight into how his journey has been handled previously.

He went to a faith based high school and he was given religious counselling at the school when he did come out at school. He also gave me a great insight on how his journey has been handled by GPs. He found that some GPs did not give him the information on his options. He was told that they could not do anything about his gender issues and he just had to live with it. If he had got the right medical advice earlier, he said that he could have got hormones earlier and avoided a lot of the issues and problems around puberty for him. My friend said that we need to educate GPs and medical professionals and that there needs to be more respect for trans people and people's gender diversity. He said that conversion therapy is very hurtful and the fact that it still exists is horrible. He said that it does not have a place in modern medicine and that you cannot change gender identity or sexuality by talking people down. He said, 'It is not my medical issue; it is your issue of faith.'

I appeal to everyone regardless of their faith and regardless of their ideology. I appeal to everyone challenged by this because of their faith. I say to them to just love the people around you. Support them as they go on their gender identity journey. Know that it takes them an enormous amount of courage and strength to speak out and go down this path, and we should respect them and be proud of them because of that courage. The best thing we can do is to not try and change them, just love them and support them.

To my friend who will always have a corner of my heart, I just want to say that I am proud of you. I am in awe of your strength and clarity of vision. I am proud that this government is making your life and the life of your friends better and easier for you. I hope it can lessen any discrimination and pain that you may face in the future. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.17 pm): I rise today to speak to the Health Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill, in most parts, is fairly straightforward. Many of the amendments are remedying inefficiencies, aligning the act to other legislation and repealing redundant legislation. As these will help to ensure our health system is run as efficiently as possible, there is not much to comment on. Of course I will say a huge thank you to everyone at the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service. I am proud to have the Gold Coast University Hospital in the great electorate of Bonney and to represent many of the staff who work within it. They are always exceptional and have proven that even more so during this pandemic.

The prohibition of conversion therapies under the Public Health Act was the focus of most submissions to this bill. I think there are very few people who would endorse the disgraceful practice of conversion therapy. Where people are subjected to pain, humiliation and denigration because of their sexuality, we should rightly call out those who are putting them through it. The stories of some of those conversion therapies are horrific. No-one should ever think it is appropriate to inflict this on another person. When this is undertaken by a health practitioner, there is a further issue with the trust and power they hold, as well as the overwhelming medical and scientific evidence against these practices. It is right for so many in this House to call it out, and I stand with them.

That does not mean we cannot call into question the specifics of this legislation and whether the amendments will actually help those who are most vulnerable. We do not want medical practitioners who are genuinely trying to help people with medically endorsed therapies—such as those dealing with gender dysphoria—to pull back from providing that help because they are scared of criminal prosecution. The lack of clarity that surrounded clause 28, section 213F, was not helpful and today we have seen an effort to correct this with the amendments that have been put forward.

The inclusion of the new subsections under 213F define what is, or rather is not, considered conversion therapy and even removes 'treatment' and retains 'practice' to distinguish it from genuine medical treatments. As the member for Moggill outlined earlier, there are still some real concerns from practitioners. Whilst I wholeheartedly am happy to call out these heinous practices, I think valid questions are raised in terms of the evidence of how much these practices are still happening in Queensland, particularly by so-called health service providers. There seemed to be little to no evidence of these practices occurring in Queensland and bodies like the Queensland Law Society and AMAQ were critical of the inclusion of the amendment without any data to justify treating it as a criminal issue. The President of AMAQ submitted—

... we recommend in sections 213H and 213I the removal of the indictable nature of the offences for health professionals. AMA Queensland believes there are insufficient grounds, nor evidence supporting data, for offences contained within the bill to be prosecuted under the Criminal Code and believes these offences should be managed by health regulators as previously outlined.

It is unclear why the legislation goes this far and I am concerned about the unintended consequences. There are genuine questions about what this legislation will do for the treatment of gender dysphoria in children, and a number of submitters raised this. The issue with making this a criminal offence is that the risk for actual healthcare providers may be deemed too high. They may simply avoid offering any legitimate therapies for those who need it. By treating this as a criminal issue, fear and risk are brought on to the table for medical professionals instead of just considering the health of their patient.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (4.21 pm): I rise to support the legislation before the House. I would like to begin my contribution to this debate by thanking each and every health worker right across Queensland for all of the work they have done over the past six months. I would also like to thank all the hardworking healthcare professionals who live in my local community of Miller on the south side of which there are many given the proximity of the PA Hospital and the Mater Hospital, which is not too much further, and to the south, the QEII Hospital. I am very proud to represent an electorate with so many healthcare workers who do such a fantastic job. It has

all been through the hard work of our doctors, nurses and pathologists that Queensland has been doing so well managing the health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because we have done such a good job managing the health impacts of the pandemic so far, we have also been able to manage the economics as well—in fact, better than most—supporting our economy and creating jobs for Queenslanders.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to delivering the best healthcare system we can for Queenslanders and this legislation will work towards that commitment. This bill will also strengthen governance systems in our public health system by requiring health and hospital services to ensure that the best interests of patients are taken into account when using resources. Health and hospital services will also need to consider the effectiveness and efficiency of using resources for the public health system as a whole.

The legislation before the House will also strengthen this government's commitment to health equity for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, introducing guiding principles and mandating strategies to achieve culturally appropriate health care. These are important reforms that will strengthen our healthcare system and ensure that we are delivering the best health care that Queenslanders can receive and which they deserve. That is what we on this side of the House are committed to.

When those opposite were last in government, of course, the member for Nanango, as Campbell Newman's assistant minister, took the scalpel to Queensland's health system. Queensland will never forget that the LNP sacked 4,400 health workers, including 1,800 nurses and midwives.

Ms Bates: Cut the long-wait medical list from 67,000 down to zero.

Mr BAILEY: They do not like to hear it, but that is the truth. Queenslanders will never forget that it was the LNP that shut down nursing homes across Queensland and tried to sell off the land. Due to Labor's election and their defeat in 2015—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Order!

Mr BAILEY: Queenslanders will never forget that cut, sack and sell ideology of the LNP. We know they will do it again if they get a chance. We know it is in their DNA.

Ms Bates: Don't forget \$17 billion worth of asset sales either.

Mr BAILEY: We know when they interject, that is exactly what they have in mind. The Palaszczuk government have increased health funding by over \$4 billion, and thank God we have, given the events of the past six months. We have strengthened our healthcare system. We have brought in the people and the resources we need. We have invested in our system and, I might add, in places we are unlikely to ever represent as the Labor Party. I speak of places like Roma and Kingaroy. We have invested there because we are governing for all of Queensland. That is what we do. Those communities know that it is actually a Labor government that invests in the Kingaroy Hospital and the Roma Hospital and that those opposite had three years to do that and they did not. That is their record.

We have restored frontline health services that those on the other side so callously slashed. We remember their terrible relationship with our doctor community. We remember those meetings of doctors at the Pineapple Hotel in Brisbane after the assaults on them, metaphorically speaking, from the premier of the day and the government of the day. Imagine what would have happened to Queensland over the past six months if the LNP were in power: fewer healthcare workers, less funding for the health system and open borders.

Ms BATES: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On relevance, can I ask you to bring the minister back to the long title of the bill?

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Minister, I have been following where you were going on this. If you could return to the long title of the bill, that would be great.

Mr BAILEY: Certainly. The Palaszczuk government will always support our healthcare workers, we will always support our health system and we will always support Queenslanders. This bill is part of that commitment, part of a consistent record of boosting resources and boosting our healthcare system—not cutting, not sacking and not selling. It is actually about supporting our healthcare system; it is part of 5½ years of reform under Labor. People know what they are getting with us. We keep our election promises. We are sincere about the commitments we make to the electorate. We do not get elected and then junk our promises soon after, like those opposite. We keep our commitments. This health bill is consistent with that. I am proud of a government that invests in our healthcare system. Queenslanders understand, particularly this year, how important it is that a government does exactly that.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak on this bill. I would like to speak first to the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011. I am fortunate as the member for Gregory to have two electorate officers who have worked in the Gregory office for many years—since well before my time. They tell me that under the former Bligh Labor government it was not uncommon for them to have constituents in tears in their office because of the inability to receive treatment for their health conditions. Some of these conditions would be simply treated by a competent practitioner, but Queensland Health was so centralised and so broken that basic treatments as necessary as dentistry for abscessed or broken teeth had not been delivered in parts of Gregory for years. I ask for indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, in allowing me to recall some of these events. They are directly relevant to the bill, as I will show.

Under Labor, Queensland Health was not seen as just a poison chalice; it was seen as a toxic chalice. The Labor Premier said at that time that it was broken and she intended to dismantle the whole department. While all of Queensland suffered during this time, regional and rural Queensland suffered the most. Remote Queenslanders were slightly better off because of being air evacuated to Brisbane, but Queenslanders in our provincial cities and country towns had to like it or lump it, and lumpy it was as poor health outcome statistics for these Queenslanders show.

This is why I approach Labor's health legislation with a little bit of suspicion. This history also demonstrates why the amendments to the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 is a disastrous idea. The concept of local hospital and health boards with the power to deliver local health services in a way that reflects local priorities was key to former minister Lawrence Springborg's successful reforms in Queensland Health. Unlike Labor's preferred model of a centralised bureaucracy doling out favours, this model actively seeks to serve local needs. It lets local communities have a say in how their local health services are delivered. In itself this provides a further check on the sorts of outrageous failures we saw under the previous Labor government.

This bill amends the act so that the hospital and health service must have regard to the effective and efficient use of resources for the entire public health system as a whole and the best interests of patients and other users of health services throughout Queensland. In other words, we are back to a centralised system. The Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service cannot prioritise offering mental health counsel or renal dialysis or whatever the local need is because there might be more patients requiring that in Caboolture. Of course, renal dialysis is something for which I have been calling for both Longreach and Emerald. This leads to the minister skipping around Queensland doling out favours like the tooth fairy doles out gold coins. This is just pork-barrelling, another Labor specialty. This one innocuous change will undo all the good work achieved to repair Queensland's hospital and health services. Eventually, it will return us to the worst of the bad old days but with an additional layer of bureaucracy. The hospital and health service will still be in place but no longer in charge.

I would also like to briefly mention the amendment that enshrines in law a mutual obligation between the hospital and health service and the Queensland Ambulance Service. This is a direct result of ramping issues at the Logan Hospital and shows the power of the Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union. Even the union is no supporter of the devolved governance model of the HHS system. The fact that the minister needs laws to force nurses to work with paramedics should be of great concern. Such legislation has never been required before.

I now move to the laws concerning conversion therapy. The government has stated that the amendments to the Public Health Act prohibiting conversion therapy aim to protect Queenslanders from the harm caused by conversion therapy, but where is the evidence of the risk? I note a report by respected journalist Bernard Lane in the *Australian* on 20 January this year. He writes—

Explanatory notes for the bill use the word "torture" six times, but at a briefing last month Queensland Health director-general John Wakefield admitted data on conversion therapy in Australia was "very scant". He cited the 2018 La Trobe report as the "most detailed work".

The article then points out—

That report focuses mostly on religious "gay conversion" stories, some back in the 1980s, as told by 15 interviewees.

This bill does nothing to prevent such religious conversion therapies; however, it does risk driving mental health professionals from treating at-risk children and adolescents because of the risk that the therapy may be deemed criminal. The health system already has systems in place to deal with rogue practitioners, so why criminalise this one area of practice? Why would any government legislate therapeutic prescriptions in such a complex medical area?

The treatment of mental health issues in children and adolescents is far too complex to be reduced to such a simplistic point of view. Yes, there has been a trend of young people presenting with complaints of gender dysphoria, but this trend is so far unexplained. A therapist must seek to untangle the often complex underlying issues for each patient, because adolescence is a time when such issues often emerge. These may include serious mental illnesses such as bipolar illness, teenage-onset schizophrenia, anxiety and depression.

It can also be a time when standing diagnoses such as autism begin to express themselves differently in a patient's life, because life is suddenly expanding for young people at that age. Other emergent issues that rear their head and seek validation and resolution at that time in an individual's life can include bullying, harassment, child abuse and family trauma such as being a child witness to extended domestic violence. This is why therapists do not just treat a patient's self-reported diagnosis; they tread carefully to see what the underlying issue is. They do this in a sincere attempt to help patients resolve these issues and achieve a better life.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (4.32 pm): I, too, rise to make a contribution on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Those on my side who spoke before me gave very lucid and fulsome accounts about the LNP's position on this bill. I do not intend to go into the detail that they have to cover old ground, but I share the concerns expressed on behalf of the LNP by the shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba, in talking about clause 28 of the bill. From the committee process—and therefore this parliament—we are aware that there is a considerable body of evidence to state that the process of conversion therapy—abhorrent, unnecessary and medically lacking in ethics as it is; it is something I certainly do not support

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Whiting): Under the provisions of the business program agreed to by the House and the time limit for this stage of the bill having expired, I call the minister to reply to the second reading debate.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.34 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the debate on the Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This is an important opportunity to make significant reforms to health legislation to protect and improve the health of Queenslanders. I particularly thank the member for Cook for her support of our new proposals for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation on health boards. As the world's only Torres Strait Islander member of parliament, she knows just how important representation is. The bill will strengthen the governance of Queensland's public health system to ensure it delivers the best care to Queenslanders regardless of where they live. It will also embed the right of our First Nation peoples to receive culturally appropriate health care.

If the bill is passed, Queensland will become one of the first jurisdictions in Australia to ensure that LGBTIQ individuals who receive health services are protected from the harmful and unethical practice of conversion therapy. Much of the debate today has focused on the provisions that prohibit the practice of conversion therapy by health service providers. I thank the member for Greenslopes for his strong support for the banning of gay conversion therapy. I note that he raised instances of people being sent overseas for the practice. This bill would not prevent that, but I hope that it sends a strong message that the practice is unacceptable. I commit to the member that I will consider this issue and get back to him.

I also note the emotional contribution of the member for Bancroft and thank him for his deliberation and deep consideration of this bill. It is disappointing that in 2020 there are still members of the House who will not stand up for the rights of all Queenslanders. Instead of doing what is right and supporting these important legislative protections, some members are more interested in mischaracterising the bill and preying on people's fears and misperceptions in order to score political points. The provisions in the bill to prohibit conversion therapy should not be controversial. The provisions will prohibit health service providers from engaging in a narrow class of practices that offer absolutely no therapeutic benefit and have the proven potential to inflict severe emotional and physical harm.

We heard repeatedly from those who oppose these measures that more evidence is needed, but the evidence is clear and compelling. We know from the round table I convened in 2018 that these practices are occurring in Queensland, among both registered and unregistered health practitioners. The committee received submissions and testimony confirming this fact. The committee also heard directly from survivors of conversion therapy, like Nathan and Roe—about the severe psychological pain they experienced as a result of these practices, often over the course of many years.

As the Human Rights Commission pointed out, even if the practice is not widespread the severity of the harm justifies a strong legislative response. Since existing regulatory schemes have not proved effective, the introduction of an offence is appropriate and necessary. Of course, the reality is that no amount of evidence would convince some members of this House to support the bill. There are those who are simply unwilling to recognise that LGBTIQ people are entitled to the same dignity and respect as other members of our society. Rather than admit their prejudice, they seek to sow confusion and promote hysteria.

As I have previously explained, the bill does not impose on health service providers any new requirements or obligations whatsoever. It does not prohibit legitimate treatment decisions or in any way interfere with reasonable professional judgements about how to provide the most appropriate care to patients. The amendments passed during consideration of the bill will remove any potential for doubt on this point. The amendments will also assist in the operation and enforcement of the provisions.

The member for Caloundra said that the Office of the Health Ombudsman already had the power to deal with this practice, but I would like to correct him. We asked the Health Ombudsman if that was the case, and he informed us that he did not have the power to act. I understood that correspondence was tabled at committee hearings at which the member was present. It is already unethical for health service providers to engage in these practices. To protect vulnerable members of our community, it should be illegal as well. I commend the bill to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



Dr MILES (4.39 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title.

Leave granted.

Dr MILES: I move the following amendment—

1 After clause 19

Page 13, after line 7—

insert—

Part 3A Amendment of Medicines and Poisons Act 2019

19A Act amended

This part amends the *Medicines and Poisons Act 2019*.

19B Amendment of s 31 (Meaning of *authorised way*)

Section 31(c), note, 'at the places'—

omit.

19C Amendment of s 44 (Offence to carry out pest management activities)

Section 44(2)(d)—

omit, insert—

(d) a person who carries out a pest control activity using a household pesticide to control a pest, including a pest on an animal, if—

(i) the activity is carried out—

(A) at residential premises; or

(B) incidentally when performing other activities at another place, using a minimal amount of the pesticide; and

(ii) the activity is not carried out for a pest management business.

Examples for paragraph (d)—

- using a household pesticide to kill cockroaches at a house
- using a household pesticide to control fleas and ticks on a dog
- spraying a household pesticide on a water meter box in a nature strip before working on the box

19D Amendment of s 63 (What is a *manufacturing licence*)

Section 63(2)(b), 'manufacture, and'—

omit, insert—

manufacture of, and

- 19E Amendment of s 92 (Definitions for part)**
Section 92, definition *substance management plan*, 'at the regulated place'—
omit, insert—
at, or in connection with, the regulated place
- 19F Amendment of s 93 (Requirements for substance management plan)**
Section 93(2)(a)(iv), 'at the place'—
omit.
- 19G Amendment of s 157 (Application of division)**
Section 157(2), after 'enters'—
insert—
a place
- 19H Amendment of s 224 (Chief executive to keep database)**
- (1) Section 224(2)(b), from 'the requirements'—
omit, insert—
any applicable requirements under the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law; and
- (2) Section 224(2)(c)—
omit, insert—
- (c) to facilitate—
- (i) the assessment or investigation of health service complaints under the *Health Ombudsman Act 2013*; and
- (ii) the investigation or monitoring of persons subject to actions or orders under that Act; and
- 19I Amendment of s 240 (Regulation-making power)**
Section 240(2), before paragraph (a)—
insert—
- (aa) dealing with S5 and S6 poisons and matters related to dealing with those poisons;
- 19J Amendment of s 242 (Definitions for part)**
Section 242, definition *medicated animal feed*, 'food-producing'—
omit, insert—
food producing
- 19K Amendment of s 271 (Requirements made by Health Act inspectors)**
Section 271(1), '(each an *enforcement provision*)'—
omit.
- 19L Amendment of s 272 (Requirements made by Pest Management Act inspectors)**
Section 272(1), '(each an *enforcement provision*)'—
omit.
- 19M Amendment of s 279 (State analysts)**
Section 279(1), 'an'—
omit, insert—
a
- 19N Amendment of sch 1 (Dictionary)**
Schedule 1, definition *standing order*, after 'place'—
insert—
or in stated circumstances

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and a statement of compatibility with human rights.

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, explanatory notes to Hon. Dr Steven Miles's amendments [1383].

Tabled paper: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Dr Steven Miles's amendments [1384].

Amendment agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 27, as read, agreed to.

Clause 28—



Dr MILES (4.39 pm): I move the following amendments—

2

Clause 28 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 16, line 7 to page 17, line 20—

omit, insert—

- (1) **Conversion therapy** is a practice that attempts to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

Examples—

a practice attempting to change or suppress a person's sexual orientation or gender identity by—

- inducing nausea, vomiting or paralysis while showing the person same-sex images
- using shame or coercion to give the person an aversion to same-sex attractions or to encourage gender-conforming behaviour
- using other techniques on the person encouraging the person to believe being lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or intersex is a defect or disorder

- (2) **Conversion therapy** does not include a practice by a health service provider that, in the provider's reasonable professional judgement—

- (a) is part of the clinically appropriate assessment, diagnosis or treatment of a person, or clinically appropriate support for a person; or
- (b) enables or facilitates the provision of a health service for a person in a manner that is safe and appropriate; or
- (c) is necessary to comply with the provider's legal or professional obligations.

- (3) Without limiting subsection (2), the following are examples of the types of practices to which that subsection may apply—

- (a) assisting a person who is undergoing a gender transition;
- (b) assisting a person who is considering undergoing a gender transition;
- (c) assisting a person to express the person's gender identity;
- (d) providing acceptance, support or understanding of a person;
- (e) facilitating a person's coping skills, development or identity exploration, or facilitating social support for the person.

Examples of the types of practices—

- exploring psychosocial factors with a person or probing a person's experience of sexual orientation or gender identity
- providing a speech pathology or gender transition service for a trans-gender or gender-diverse person wishing to alter the person's voice and communication to better align with the person's gender identity
- advising a person about the potential side effects of sex-hormonal drugs or the risks of having, or not having, surgical procedures

3

Clause 28 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 18, line 19, 'treatment'—

omit, insert—

service

4

Clause 28 (Insertion of new ch 5B)

Page 18, line 23, 'treatment'—

omit, insert—

service

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

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 36—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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Robinson; Power, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—That clause 28, as amended, be agreed to.

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 36—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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Robinson; Power, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 28, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 29 to 41, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.48 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

AYES, 47:

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

Grn, 1—Berkman.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 41:

LNP, 36—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, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Rowan, Simpson, Sorensen, Stevens, Watts, Weir, Wilson.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

NQF, 1—Costigan.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Pairs: Pegg, Robinson; Power, Nicholls.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (4.51 pm): I move the following amendment—

5 Long title

Long title, after '*Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011*,—
insert—

the Medicines and Poisons Act 2019,

Amendment agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.52 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. This morning the member for Oodgeroo made comments about me and alleged I was currently being actively investigated by the Crime and Corruption Commission. For completeness, I have never been contacted by the CCC in relation to matters which were raised in the *Courier-Mail* and referenced by the member for Oodgeroo this morning. As such, I am unaware of any alleged active complaint against me at the CCC and I find it surprising that the member for Oodgeroo claims to know.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions I was unable to be in the chamber this morning during question time as I usually would under normal arrangements. As such, after reviewing *Hansard* at the earliest opportunity today, I ask the member for Oodgeroo to withdraw his statements about me as they are untrue and I find them personally offensive. If the member fails to do this I will write to you, Mr Speaker.

CRIMINAL CODE (CHILD SEXUAL OFFENCES REFORM) AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 27 November 2019 (see p. 3876).

Second Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (4.52 pm): I move—
That the bill be now read a second time.

On 27 November 2019, I introduced the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 into this House. The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee for consideration. The committee tabled its report on 7 February 2020 and made one recommendation only—that the bill be passed. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the committee for its timely and detailed consideration of the bill. A total of 26 submissions were received by the committee in the course of its inquiry. I extend my thanks to those individuals and organisations that provided submissions and gave evidence before the committee. I would also like to thank my department for their tireless work on this bill.

Released by the royal commission in August 2017, the *Criminal justice report* contains 85 recommendations aimed at reforming the criminal justice system to provide fairer and more effective responses to victims of child sexual abuse, including institutional child sexual abuse. Since the release of the *Criminal justice report*, the Palaszczuk government has conducted a comprehensive examination of each recommendation. Thorough and extensive consultation has also occurred to determine the best way to implement these recommendations in Queensland.

The bill before the House contains several important reforms to our criminal justice system in response to certain key recommendations of the *Criminal justice report*. I will briefly outline for members the nature of the amendments and address key issues raised during the committee inquiry. The royal commission took a favourable view of Queensland's offence under section 229B of the Criminal Code relating to maintaining a sexual relationship with a child, but considered it could be improved by having retrospective application given the lengthy delays in reporting that is a common feature of child sexual abuse. Consistent with recommendation 21 of the *Criminal justice report*, the bill amends the Criminal Code to retrospectively apply the current section 229B offence of maintaining a sexual relationship with a child.

Retrospective operation of the maintaining offence, which was introduced in 1989, will have the effect of altering the way in which unlawful sexual conduct toward a child is relied upon by making the 'relationship' an offence. I acknowledge that some submitters to the committee suggested that the title of this offence should be changed to 'persistent child sexual abuse' given it fails to adequately reflect the illicit nature of the offending and trivialises the sinister nature of such conduct.

As the royal commission acknowledged, the maintaining offence in Queensland is a model provision for effectively dealing with persistent child sexual abuse and has been the subject of High Court consideration. It is imperative that any change to the provision does not compromise its operation or ability to effectively hold offenders to account or have any unintended impacts, particularly given the concept of 'persistent child sexual abuse' is not referred to in the offence itself. While I am not proposing to make any changes to the title of the offence in section 229B of the Criminal Code at this time, I will continue to monitor this issue, including developments in other jurisdictions.

The bill expands the current offence of grooming a child under 16, in section 218B of the Criminal Code, to conduct directed towards a person who has the care of the child, which is broadly defined to include a parent, foster parent, step parent, guardian or other adult in charge of the child, whether or not the person has lawful custody of the child. In implementing recommendation 26 of the *Criminal justice report*, this amendment in the bill better acknowledges the wide array of manipulative measures employed by offenders to gain sexual access to a child.

Recommendations 33-35 of the *Criminal justice report* relate to the introduction of a criminal offence targeted at reporting to police. The royal commission observed that children are likely to have fewer opportunities and less ability to take steps to protect themselves, leaving them particularly in need of active assistance and protection by adults. Consistent with a number of other jurisdictions, and to send a clear message to all of the community that child sexual abuse is not something that you can turn a blind eye to, the bill amends the Criminal Code to create a new offence mandating that all adults 18 years and over, unless they have a reasonable excuse, report to police information gained by the adult that causes the adult to believe on reasonable grounds, or ought reasonably to cause the adult to believe, that a sexual offence against a child under 16 or a child aged 16 or 17 years who has an impairment of the mind, is being, or has been, committed. This new reporting offence will carry a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

While the new offence will only apply to information received on or after commencement, it will have some retrospective application where the information relates to a child sexual offence that occurred before commencement. Without limiting what may constitute a reasonable excuse, the bill provides that a reasonable excuse exists where the person has already reported the information, or believes on reasonable grounds that the information was or will be reported by another person, under existing legislation, including the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 and the Child Protection Act 1999. The reasonable excuse provision in the failure to report offence in the bill operates to reverse both the evidential and legal onus of proof to the accused person. An explicit provision is also included excusing liability where a person reasonably believes that disclosure would endanger the safety of a person.

Consistent with recommendation 35 of the *Criminal justice report*, the failure to report offence applies to information gained by the adult during, or in connection with, a religious confession. This aspect of the offence has consistently raised strong views. A large number of submitters voiced concerns that negating the sanctity of religious confession represents a significant and unwarranted intrusion into the right to freely practise faith and religion. The Palaszczuk government acknowledges that the right to practise religion is a fundamental human right and understands the strongly held views on maintaining the sanctity of religious confession. However, these concerns must be weighed against the need to protect children from sexual abuse.

The royal commission heard comprehensive evidence in relation to the issue of religious confessions. It ultimately concluded that there should be no exemption or privilege from the failure to report offence for clergy who receive information during religious confession that an adult associated with the institution is sexually abusing or has sexually abused a child. The bill reflects the position that the requirement to report child sexual abuse is one that should rest with every adult in the community and is too important to be fettered by reason of religion or anything else.

There was some concern expressed to the committee by certain submitters, including the Queensland Law Society, that the obligations in the failure to report offence might negate legal professional privilege and, despite usual rules of statutory interpretation, that this issue should be put beyond doubt via an amendment to the bill. However, the Palaszczuk government is concerned such an amendment to the bill in relation to legal professional privilege may have unintended consequences

for other similar provisions across the statute book and create uncertainty in relation to other privileges. I note that the explanatory notes for the bill already make it clear that there is no intention to override legal professional privilege and I can give that assurance again to members today.

Consistent with recommendation 36 of the Criminal Justice Report, the bill contains a new offence of failure to protect a child from child sexual abuse. This offence is focussed on abuse in an institutional setting and ensuring that practices of moving around and covering up known child sexual abusers in institutions do not continue. The failure to protect offence will apply to an 'accountable person'—that is, an adult aged 18 years or over who is associated with an institution—where the person knows there is a significant risk that another adult who is associated with an institution or is a regulated volunteer will commit a child sex offence and the accountable person has the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk and wilfully or negligently fails to reduce or remove the risk.

A 'regulated volunteer' is an adult, in the home of certain people who care for children in their homes, who requires a blue card under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000. These include all adult household members of family day care residences, home-stay providers, home based standalone care services, and foster and kinship carers.

The failure to protect offence will apply to a child who is under the care, supervision or control of an institution and the child is either under 16 years or is 16 or 17 years of age with an impairment of the mind. A maximum penalty of five years imprisonment will apply to the new failure to protect offence.

In response to issues raised before the committee, I have considered the need to amend the bill to include an immunity provision in similar terms to the report offence. However, I note no other jurisdictions have included such a provision in their similar failure to protect offences.

Also, distinct from the report offence, the failure to protect offence includes an element that an accountable person must have the power and responsibility to reduce or remove a significant risk of a child sexual offence being committed by another adult in relation to a child and that they have wilfully or negligently failed to remove or reduce a risk in relation to a child. This would negate the need for any such similar immunity provision. The operation of the offence will continue to be monitored in relation to this issue. Similar to the failure to report offence, the failure to protect offence applies to knowledge gained in, or in connection with, a religious confession.

When confronting the scourge of child sexual abuse, we need to examine why such abuse was able to flourish, unimpeded by law enforcement, even in cases where members of our community knew it was occurring, even when they could have done something to stop it. We need to examine why it is that, instead of doing something to stop the abuse, some institutions acted to protect the abuser instead of ensuring justice for the victim. I hope the offences in this bill end the culture of silence and cover-up of child sexual abuse in our community once and for all.

Some concerns were raised before the committee about the implementation of the new failure to report and protect offences. These offences will commence on a date to be set by proclamation. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General is working closely with other departments, including the Department of Education, the Department of Child Safety, Youth and Women and the Queensland Police Service, to support effective implementation through a comprehensive communication strategy.

While there are no limitation periods that apply currently to child sexual abuse offences in Queensland, there is potential for the application of repealed limitation periods to apply to historic offending. Sections 212, 'Defilement of girls under 12', which has now been repealed, and section 215 of the Criminal Code, 'Carnal knowledge of children under 16', in the form that existed prior to 30 March 1989, applied a limitation period of six months within which a prosecution could be commenced. The repeal of this limitation period was prospective, which means that any immunity already arising in relation to offending prior to that time would continue. To implement recommendation 30 of the *Criminal justice report*, the bill gives retrospective effect to the amendments that removed these limitation periods. This will ensure that victims are not prevented from seeking justice for pre-1989 offending.

Recommendations 59 and 60 of the *Criminal justice report* relate to the establishment of an intermediary scheme to help prosecution witnesses with communication difficulties in child sexual abuse matters. The amendments in the bill support the introduction of a pilot intermediary scheme in Queensland at all levels of courts in the prescribed locations. The aim of the intermediary scheme pilot is to ensure better quality evidence for police and courts to assess child sexual abuse cases and to reduce the stress experienced by vulnerable witnesses.

Intermediaries are professionals who are typically speech pathologists, occupational therapists, psychologists and social workers. Some other jurisdictions have also used teachers and nurses according to need. They will provide communication support to prosecution witnesses in child sexual

offence prosecutions who are children under 16 years, persons with an impairment of the mind, persons who have difficulty communicating or persons of a class prescribed by regulation. Intermediaries will be appointed as impartial officers of the court. Their functions include assessing witness communication and writing court reports on the witness's communication needs.

Although the bill focuses on those amendments necessary to implement the scheme during the court process, it is envisaged an intermediary will be used throughout the prosecution process, including at the initial police interview. These amendments will also commence on a date set by proclamation. Significant implementation work is required to support the establishment of the pilot, including procurement of suitably qualified intermediaries for a panel. Consultation will continue to occur with stakeholders through the implementation process prior to the commencement of the pilot scheme and during its operation.

Often, and particularly in institutional settings, the good character of offenders, and the position of trust and authority that they hold, allows them to perpetrate offences. The bill implements recommendation 74 of the *Criminal justice report* by amending the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 to provide that reliance on good character as a mitigating factor is prohibited where it assisted the offender in the commission of the offence.

The royal commission also noted that applying historical sentencing standards can result in sentences that do not align with the criminality of the offence as currently understood. Accordingly, recommendation 76 of the *Criminal justice report* provides for child sexual offenders to be sentenced according to the sentencing standards at the time of sentence, whether in legislation or by way of guidance in other decisions, rather than those that existed at the time of the offence. The bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to implement this recommendation. However, the amendments are not intended to affect the maximum penalty for the offence.

Recommendation 65 of the *Criminal justice report* requires jurisdictions to review and, if necessary, appropriately reform legislation to restrict the giving of particular common law directions. In this respect, the bill amends the Evidence Act 1977 relating to what is known as the Longman direction. This jury direction concerns the impacts on an accused person as a result of the delay in a complaint.

The bill inserts a new section to provide that in a criminal proceeding if a judge, on the judge's own initiative or on the application of a party, is satisfied the defendant has suffered a significant forensic disadvantage because of the effects of delay in prosecuting an offence, including a delay in reporting the offence, the judge must inform the jury of the nature of the disadvantage and the need to take the disadvantage into account when considering the evidence. However, the judge must not warn or suggest to the jury that it would be 'dangerous or unsafe to convict' or 'the complainant's evidence should be scrutinised with great care'. The judge need not give a direction under this new section if there are good reasons for not doing so.

On 20 July 2017, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council publicly released its report which contains 16 recommendations relating to child exploitation material offender sentencing and related matters. QSAC's review arose from recommendation 4.11 of the Queensland Organised Crime Commission of Inquiry report dated 30 October 2015. Consistent with recommendation 1 of the child exploitation material report, the bill amends the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 so that the language used in that act to frame sentencing considerations for child exploitation material offences is consistent with the language used by the Criminal Code. Further, the Penalties and Sentences Act will be amended to specifically require a court sentencing a child exploitation material or child abuse object offender to consider an offender's conduct or behaviour in relation to the relevant child exploitation material or child abuse object.

The bill will also introduce a statutory requirement for the court to consider any relationship between an offender and a victim child in circumstances where the relevant offending is contact sexual offending against a child or a child exploitation material offence.

The bill will also establish a statutory power for a court to order that a report tendered at a sentence be provided to Queensland Corrective Services or the Department of Youth Justice in a timely manner, irrespective of the nature of the offence which has been committed. Reports of these types may yield valuable information which may support an offender's rehabilitation or information otherwise relevant to an offender's health and wellbeing.

In recent years, anatomical replications of pubescent and prepubescent children designed for sexual gratification—known as child sex dolls—have been detected arriving in Australia and have been located in Queensland. That child sex dolls have been found here and that there is a market for them is disgusting, and those who participate in this behaviour deserve to face the full force of the law.

The bill amends the Criminal Code to create new offences which criminalise the production, supply and possession of child abuse objects. The maximum penalty available for these crimes is 14 years imprisonment. However, where an offence of producing or supplying a child abuse object is for a commercial purpose, the maximum available penalty increases to 20 years.

The bill also provides for the serious organised crime circumstance of aggravation in the Penalties and Sentences Act to apply to these new offences. This enables the prosecution, with the consent of a Crown Law officer, to allege that the defendant committed the offences while a participant in a criminal organisation which, if proved, results in the mandatory imposition of a cumulative term of imprisonment.

The definition of 'child abuse object' is intended to capture dolls, robots or other objects a reasonable adult would consider as being representative of or portraying a child, or part of a child, under the age of 16 years. A doll, robot or other object which gives the predominant impression that it is a representation or portrayal of a child under the age of 16 years, despite the presence of adult-like anatomical features, may, under this definition, be a child abuse object. The definition also requires that a reasonable adult would consider that the doll, robot or other object be intended for use in an indecent or sexual context, or has been used in an indecent or sexual context.

Specific defences are also included for the new child abuse object offences which provide a person will not be criminally responsible if they can prove they engaged in the prohibited conduct for a genuine artistic, educational, legal, medical or public benefit purpose and the conduct was, in the circumstances, reasonable for that purpose. A similar defence is available for other existing child exploitation material offences in the Criminal Code.

The bill represents the Palaszczuk government's unwavering commitment to protecting Queensland children from the scourge of child sexual abuse, improving the accountability of child sexual offenders and enhancing survivors' access to justice. The bill will make a significant positive difference to the experience of many sexual abuse survivors of the criminal justice system.

I am proud to be a part of this Palaszczuk Labor government that has done so much work to implement the recommendations of the royal commission. The reforms that we have implemented in this bill and the bills that have come before it will make Queensland a safer and more just place for survivors of the past and all of our children into the future. Our work is not done. The royal commission demonstrated just how pernicious child sexual abuse in our institutions has been. In order to ensure that such horrors can never occur again, we need to remain vigilant. These laws are a form of vigilance. They ensure our laws learn the lessons of the past and they reflect our collective commitment to prevent such abuse from occurring in the future.

As I did in my introductory speech, I acknowledge all of the survivors who have advocated for so long, who advocated for the royal commission, who supported the work of the royal commission and who have continued to advocate and campaign for change since the royal commission's recommendations came down. I acknowledge all of those who are no longer with us who were victims, and the pain and the suffering that they have all gone through and their families and friends as well. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (5.13 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate regarding the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. First and foremost, I confirm that the opposition will not be opposing the bill.

Child sex offending is an abhorrent act of evil and the law must adequately punish offenders for their crimes. This parliament must always denounce this type of offending, which tragically impacts too many vulnerable children. Child sexual offending is a heinous crime which has devastating consequences for the victim. The sickening nature of child sex crimes demands that there be stricter penalties, greater accountability and further safeguards to protect children from this type of offending. This is what the bill largely achieves.

The objectives of the bill are to implement key recommendations of a series of reports. In 2017, the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse made a total of 409 recommendations aimed at making institutions safer for children. Prior to this, the *Criminal justice report* was released. It contained 85 recommendations aimed at providing a fairer response to victims of child sexual abuse. Lastly, in 2017, the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council published its report *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes*, recommending changes to sentencing guidelines.

The bill has many initiatives to respond to child sexual offending, such as extending the grooming offence in section 218B of the Criminal Code to certain persons other than the child and excluding good character as a mitigating factor at sentencing where that good character facilitated the child sexual offending. I note that on 7 February 2020 the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee recommended that the bill be passed.

The bill inserts a new offence, 'failure to report belief of child sexual offence committed in relation to a child', which will be a new section 229BC of the Criminal Code. I note that this adopts the royal commission's recommendation that all Australian jurisdictions introduce legislation to create a criminal offence of failure to report. The offence requires an adult who gains information, including information gained in connection with religious confession, that causes the adult to believe on reasonable grounds that a child sexual offence is being committed or has been committed against a child or a person with an impairment of the mind by another adult, to disclose the information to a police officer as soon as reasonably practicable. There will be exceptions where the adult has a reasonable excuse, such as where the adult believes the information has been disclosed to police, the adult has reported the information under regulation or believes someone has, the adult gains the information after the child becomes an adult, and where disclosing the information would endanger a person's safety. Any person who commits this offence will face a maximum penalty of three years imprisonment.

A majority of submitters commented favourably on the intent of the offence. However, some submitters raised concerns about the mandatory reporting regime's use of information gained during or in connection with a religious confession. For example, the QLS said—

... it may be difficult for an ordinary member of the community to ascertain whether the information gained should raise suspicion.

PeakCare noted—

There is a range of circumstances which would impact on a person's capacity to reasonably believe sexual abuse was occurring ...

The Brisbane Rape and Incest Survivors Support Centre stated—

... a failure to report may not be a result of wilful ignorance, negligence, or a desire to prioritise reputation over a child's safety. Rather, there may be a lack of suitable social, emotional, financial and housing supports available to enable a woman to safely and appropriately report the child abuse in a domestic violence context.

While I note these concerns, my hope is that the offence will help uncover sexual offending which is going on unreported. Any measure that stops sexual offending against children is worth pursuing and I trust the government will take measures to mitigate the concerns raised by these stakeholders as much as possible.

The bill inserts a new offence of 'failure to protect a child from child sexual offence', imposing a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. This offence is another measure adopted from the royal commission's recommendations and one which is being implemented in the majority of Australian jurisdictions, including Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. Entities such as schools, hospitals, government agencies, religious organisations, childcare centres, licensed residential facilities, sporting clubs and youth organisations will be subject to this offence.

Under the offence, a person associated with an institution commits a crime if the person knows there is a significant risk that another adult associated with an institution will commit a child sexual offence against a child or a person with an impairment of the mind who is under the care, supervision or control of an institution and the person wilfully or negligently fails to reduce or remove the risk. As with other provisions of the bill, submitters were generally supportive of the policy intent of the failure to protect offence. The Anglican Church Southern Queensland agreed that a failure to protect offence is necessary, noting—

The examples in evidence at the Royal Commission of known perpetrators being moved on to other roles following complaints only for other children to be abused are compelling reasons for reform. Even though such behaviour would be an unthinkable outcome for any institution in the wake of the Royal Commission, providing a standard and a criminal sanction is an important means to eliminate this culture.

The Queensland Catholic Education Commission was not opposed to the offence but was most concerned about the use of multiple legislative reporting regimes which will likely cause confusion and stressed that harmonisation across the relevant legislation would be preferable to avoid misinterpretation of reporting and protection obligations. Specifically, the Queensland Catholic Education Commission highlighted that the offence refers to an accountable person knowing there is a significant risk that another adult will commit a child sex offence whereas under the Child Protection Act the chief executive must be advised when there is a reasonable suspicion that a child may be in need of protection, and the Education (General Provisions) Act 2006 requires a report to be made when there is a reasonable suspicion that a child is likely to be sexually abused.

As I have already stated, this offence came out of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The offence came about after substantial consideration and information gathered through public hearings, private sessions, research, written accounts, round tables, public consultations and issues papers. The commission went on to uncover the impacts of child sexual abuse and the impacts of institutional responses to that abuse on victims and their families. For many victims the abuse has profound and lasting impacts. They experience deep, complex trauma which can pervade all aspects of their lives and cause a range of effects across their life spans. As one victim put it—

As a victim, I can tell you the memories, sense of guilt, shame and anger live with you every day. It destroys your faith in people, your will to achieve, to love and one's ability to cope with normal everyday living.

On this point, I note that some have questioned this aspect of the bill and that it breaks the seal of the confessional. I note that Archbishop Coleridge in his submission to the committee raised a number of concerns including that respect for the seal of confessional and the protection of children are not mutually exclusive. Archbishop Coleridge, whom I hold in very high personal regard, argued that applying the reporting requirement arguments to confession would not only be ineffective but also counterproductive as abusers do not confess their sins and if they did it prevents abusers from confessing their crime, stopping the abuse and reporting themselves.

Archbishop Coleridge also submitted that the bill interferes with freedom of religion as it prevents people from practising their faith by accessing the sacrament of penance according to the church's own discipline. To quote the archbishop—

It sounds tough, uncompromising, common-sense. But it's also the kind of thing you do when you don't understand the problem you are trying to solve. That's what we are witnessing here: irreligious people trying to address a religious problem with brute secular force. That might make perfect intuitive sense to the staunchly secular mind, but we need more than intuition and declarations of secular supremacy here. What matters is what works. And taking an axe to the confessional box won't work. It might even make things worse.

Archbishop Coleridge concluded by mentioning that it is not the intention of this proposed legislation which troubles the Catholic Church and others but it is its unintended, indeed, counterproductive effects.

It is necessary to note that in Queensland there is no statutory privilege applying to religious confessions. In addition, it is unlikely or at least arguable that the common law religious confession privilege exists. This means that priests may not already be exempt from the requirement to give evidence concerning a confession that relates to an offence. I acknowledge the archbishop's concerns. However, the royal commission found evidence of disclosures of child sexual abuse were made in religious confession by both victims and perpetrators. Further, the royal commission was satisfied that confession is a forum where Catholic children have disclosed their sexual abuse and where clergy have disclosed their abusive behaviour in order to deal with their own guilt.

In just one example, in 2003 Catholic priest Michael McArdle swore an affidavit stating that during confession he had disclosed more than 1,500 times that he was sexually assaulting children. He swore that he made this confession to 30 different priests over 25 years. Nothing was done until ultimately a child went to the police.

The royal commission therefore, in my opinion, appropriately concluded that there should be no exemption from the failure to report offence for clergy who receive information during religious confessions. Similarly, the Council of Attorneys-General concluded that confessional privilege cannot be relied upon to avoid obligations to report beliefs, suspicions or knowledge of child abuse. While I accept that there are varying views on breaking the confessional seal, the underlying objective that this offence is trying to achieve is too great to be ignored. The offence aims to uncover institutional child sexual abuse and, in some cases, it may even save a child from being a victim. Of course, one child being spared as a victim of sexual abuse would mean this offence has done its job.

I welcome the amendments to the current child grooming offence in section 218B of the Criminal Code to extend it to the grooming of parents or carers of children under 16. I note that it was an LNP government that first introduced the offence of child grooming back in 2012 under the criminal law amendment bill. I recall an article in which Detective Inspector Jon Rouse, who runs the Australian Centre to Counter Child Exploitation, warned that single mothers are often targeted by paedophiles on online dating apps—warning mothers not to share any photographs of their children online. He said children who have a single parent are more at risk of being targeted by predators. He went on to say that predators will always look for vulnerable children and, in many cases, single parent children are more vulnerable. This is no doubt appalling conduct and at the very least predatory in nature, which rightfully needs to be criminalised.

Conduct which is also appalling and which must be stamped out is where offenders use the internet to misrepresent their age or identity and arrange to meet with a child. While this conduct is similar to that of child grooming, there is an offence known in South Australian and federal law as Carly's Law, which ultimately gives police the power to act immediately—even before the predator has a chance to groom the child. The LNP has recently announced its commitment to introduce Carly's Law which has been adopted by both the Commonwealth and South Australian governments. I note that these jurisdictions also have the offence of child grooming in their criminal law framework. The opposition will stop at nothing to keep children safe from sexual predators. I cannot think of a better piece of legislation which will give police additional, enhanced powers to act swiftly and early against child sex offenders.

Lastly, I welcome the new offences that criminalise the production, supply and possession of child sex abuse objects. Childlike sex dolls are an emerging form of child abuse material. The federal coalition government has spoken about the need to criminalise this conduct to reduce the risks that these behaviours may escalate the risk posed to children. The Minister for Home Affairs cited at the time contemporary research by the Australian Institute of Criminology which reveal that, among other things, it is possible that the use of childlike sex dolls may lead to the escalation in child sex offending—for example, similar to the way that viewing online child abuse material may lead to additional sexual offending. I especially welcome the tough penalties spoken of by the Attorney-General which will see offenders, depending on the offence, imprisoned for between 14 and 20 years.

Taken together, this bill sends a strong message of a society that hates child sexual abuse and any practices that serve to perpetuate it. On occasions, that may mean limitations are applied to certain freedoms or rights. However, I believe that any such limitations that might be adopted in the pursuit of the protection of our most precious children are completely justified. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.29 pm): I rise this evening to support the passing of the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. The Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 27 November 2019. The committee reported to the Legislative Assembly by 7 February 2020.

On 3 December 2019, the committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions on the bill. Twenty-six submissions were received. The committee received a public briefing about the bill from the Department of Justice and Attorney-General on 10 December 2019. The committee received written advice from the department in response to matters raised in submissions. The committee held a public hearing on 17 January 2020. The submissions, correspondence from the department and transcripts of the briefing and hearing are available on the committee's webpage.

The objectives of the bill are to implement recommendations of the *Criminal justice report* of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse; implement recommendations of the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report on the *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes*; and create new offences criminalising the possession, production and supply of anatomically correct, life-like child replicas used for sexual gratification.

From 2012 to 2017, the royal commission undertook a comprehensive inquiry into institutions' responses to allegations of child sexual abuse in Australia and made 409 recommendations across various reports. The *Criminal justice report* was released in August 2017, ahead of the royal commission's final report in December 2017, and contained 85 recommendations for reforms to the Australian criminal justice system that were aimed at providing fairer and more effective responses to victims of child sexual abuse, including child sexual abuse in an institutional context.

In June 2018 the Queensland the government response to the royal commission's recommendations accepted or supported in principle more than 240 of the recommendations, including some of those from the *Criminal justice report*. The bill contains amendments to implement a number of key recommendations from the *Criminal justice report*.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council was tasked with conducting matters that included the sentencing guidelines in section 9(7) of the Penalties and Sentences Act to see whether any further factors should be added and the classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council published its report in July 2017, making 16 recommendations for legislative reform and changes to operational practice. The bill implements recommendations 1 and 3 of the report by amending the Penalties and Sentences Act. Recommendation 1 advocated three amendments to section 9(7) of the Penalties and Sentences Act to insert further sentencing guidelines for a judge to consider when sentencing an offender for child

exploitation material offences, in relation to an offender's conduct or behaviour and any relationship between an offender and a child, and to ensure that the Penalties and Sentences Act employs language reflective of the broad types of materials which may be covered by child exploitation material related criminal offences. Recommendation 3 supported giving expert reports tendered during sentencing proceedings to Queensland Corrective Services to further inform offender program and treatment delivery so as to enhance the success of rehabilitation efforts.

The bill does not contain an amendment to create a new position of authority offence in Queensland. The relevant recommendations in the royal commission's *Criminal justice report* in this area are recommendations 27 to 29. The Queensland government response to the royal commission noted recommendation 27 of the *Criminal justice report* and stated that Queensland's Criminal Code currently has no position of authority offence. Recommendations 28 and 29 were noted and are under further consideration and consultation. The submission from knowmore also drew the committee's attention to the terminology, commenting—

As a final point, we note that the Tasmanian Government has recently released a consultation paper that includes a proposal to change the name of the comparable offence in Tasmania from 'maintaining a sexual relationship with a young person' to 'persistent child sexual abuse'.

The submission from Bravehearts supported the retrospective application of the removal of limitation periods and immunities from prosecution for certain child sexual offences, noting that the amendment will 'remove any doubt around immunity from prosecution based on limitation provisions'.

In regard to the issue of retrospectivity, the department advised that in relation to this issue the explanatory notes for the bill state—

The Bill amends the Criminal Code to retrospectively apply the offence in section 229B to unlawful sexual acts committed prior to the inception of the offence in 1989, including the maximum penalties that applied at that time.

The Bill also amends the Criminal Code to apply the offence in section 229B to unlawful sexual acts committed post 1989, except the maximum penalty and applied those maximum penalties in place at the time the offence was committed.

This approach recognises that persistent sexual abuse of children commonly results in the child being unable to distinguish between particular episodes of abuse, especially if the conduct is the same or similar on all occasions and reflects the delays in reporting associated with child sexual abuse. Retrospective application of the maintaining offence ensures a consistency across all time periods and appropriately affords victims of historic abuse the same access to justice as all other victims of persistent child sexual abuse.

I commend the bill to the House. In closing, I would like to send a note of sympathy to all of the victims of the perpetrators of these horrible offences.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (5.36 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. I am a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, along with my honourable friend the member for Toohey and my honourable friends the members for Mansfield, Macalister, Mirani and Currumbin. I note that, prior to the member for Currumbin joining our committee, her position was held by the member for Lockyer, who sat with me during the consideration of this bill.

I would like to add my sympathies and deep regrets on behalf of the people of Southern Downs, as expressed by the member for Toohey, for all of those who have suffered sexual abuse as children, be it an institutional setting or otherwise. It is a terrible thing. Being a member of parliament and having to consider this material has given me a better understanding. I would like to particularly thank Mr Kelvin Johnston from the Queensland Child Sexual Abuse Legislative Reform Council, who is a constituent of mine and who has taken me by the hand and led me through the complexities of government and societal responses to these problems. Thank you very much, Mr Johnston.

The bill aims to achieve the implementation of key recommendations of a series of reports; namely, the *Criminal justice report* of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which contains 85 recommendations aimed at providing fairer responses to victims of child sexual abuse, and the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council's report titled *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes*, recommending changes to sentencing guidelines.

The bill makes amendments to the Criminal Code and the Penalties and Sentences Act. It creates a number of new penalties—which, as my honourable friend the member for Toowoomba South said in his shadow minister's response, the LNP will be supporting: the failure to report belief of child sexual offending, the failure to protect a child from sexual abuse in an institutional context, grooming a child or parent or carer of a child under 16, and an offence relating to child sex abuse objects.

I would like to go back and confine my comments to the question of failure to protect a child from sexual offences in an institutional context. The royal commission recommended that all Australian jurisdictions implement legislation to create a criminal offence of failure to report targeted child sexual

abuse in an institutional context. The bill inserts a new offence, section 229BB, 'failure to protect child from child sexual offence'. A person associated with an institution commits a crime if the person knows there is a significant risk that another adult associated with the institution will commit child sexual offence against a child or a person with an impairment of the mind who is under their care, supervision or control. An institution includes entities such as schools, hospitals, government agencies, religious organisations, childcare centres, licensed residential facilities, sporting clubs and youth organisations. It does not matter that the knowledge was gained by the person during, or in connection with, a religious confession. I would like to talk about that for a moment.

The shadow Attorney-General spoke well about the contribution made by His Grace, the Archbishop of Brisbane, Archbishop Mark Coleridge. He made a very thoughtful and thorough submission to the committee during its consideration of this bill, and I too hold him in very high esteem. I am a practising Anglican—I am not Catholic myself—but he is a man for whom I have great respect. I too regret the impact this has on those Catholics who are very committed to practising their religion in a traditional way in terms of the sanctity of the religious confession. I understand and sympathise with the arguments that the Archbishop made in his very thorough submission to the committee.

It is, however, my view that the constituents of my electorate of Southern Downs take an overwhelming view that any exemption along the lines of a religious confession is unacceptable. I have had concerned Catholics approach me, saying that they wish to see religious confession exempted from the provisions of this bill. I am sorry to disappoint them in that; however, I would ask that they understand that I believe on the balance of public interest it is necessary that there shall be no exclusions, because the safety of children and their interests must be prime over every other consideration. I am sure no-one in this House would disagree with me in saying that. Other than that, I would like to support the bill and I look forward to hearing the contributions of other members.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (5.42 pm): I rise to speak on the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This is the latest development in the Palaszczuk government's quest to ensure justice for survivors of child sexual abuse. It also reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to evidence based policymaking, something that the Palaszczuk government engages in with absolute commitment.

The bill arises from the comprehensive Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, and the bill was subject to a rigorous committee process where affected stakeholders were able to make their views heard. This approach has defined the Palaszczuk government's approach to policy formulation and will ensure that justice can be achieved. The bill builds on the Palaszczuk government's already proud record in this space, including: the removal of the statutory limitation on commencing civil claims for child abuse, whether it be sexual, physical or psychological; making it easier for survivors of child sexual abuse to commence actions against institutions; and ensuring Queensland's participation in the National Redress Scheme. Finally, it also ensures it is clear that institutions have a duty to take all reasonable steps to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

These reforms build upon that proud legacy by creating a stronger criminal law framework not only to hold abusers to account but also to ensure that we build a culture of collective responsibility when it comes to stamping out child sexual abuse. The collective responsibility that our community holds to protect our most vulnerable manifests in this bill. In particular, the new failure to report and failure to protect offences recognise that historically child sexual abuse has been perpetrated because of the silence of others.

The new failure to report offence in section 229BC of the Criminal Code is based on the royal commission's recommendations and acknowledges that child sexual abuse is often conducted in a secretive or clandestine environment and is less likely than other forms of serious physical abuse or harm to be witnessed by other people and reported to police. A person must report information to the police where they believe on reasonable grounds that a child sexual offence has been committed against a child under the age of 16 years.

The failure to protect offence applies to an accountable person—an adult associated with an institution other than a regulated volunteer—as opposed to the reporting offence, which applies to all adults. An accountable person commits the offence: if they know there is a significant risk another adult will commit a child sexual offence; the other adult alleged offender is associated with an institution or is a regulated volunteer; or the child is under the care, supervision or control of an institution and is under 16 years or is a child under 18 with an impairment of the mind; and the accountable person has the power or responsibility to reduce or remove the risk and wilfully or negligently fails to reduce or remove the risk.

The royal commission in the *Criminal justice report* stated, in relation to the intention of the offence, that unlike a duty to report, a duty to protect is primarily designed to prevent child sexual abuse rather than to bring abuse that has occurred to the attention of the police. A failure to protect offence can apply to action taken or not taken before it is suspected that child sexual abuse is being or has been committed. While reporting to police may be one of the steps that could be taken to protect a child, it may not be sufficient to reduce or remove the risk. In some circumstances it may be criminally negligent not to take other available steps, particularly if the risk is immediate and other steps are available that will allow an intervention to occur more quickly. It is not, and should not, be sufficient to wait until abuse occurs and then inform the police.

I trust these changes will ensure that as a society we recognise that we all have a role to play when it comes to the protection of children and the betterment of our community more generally. The bill also addresses some of the contemporary challenges of tackling child sexual abuse, including the rise of the use of child sex dolls. These repulsive creations are used to cater to, and profit from, the perversions of particular individuals. By criminalising the supply and possession of these dolls we are able to crack down on this behaviour before it escalates any further and prevent the normalisation of the sexual abuse of children.

Finally, the bill also adopts various recommendations from the QSAC classification of exploitation material report. In particular, the bill implements reforms that will assist the heroic police officers from Task Force Argos who are tasked with bringing individuals with child exploitation material to justice. The Palaszczuk government will always support our frontline police officers.

I thank my fellow committee members, all the submitters who took the time to contribute to this report, and I acknowledge the victims of child sexual abuse. I am proud to be part of a government that addresses these serious crimes against our most vulnerable—our children. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (5.49 pm): I rise today to speak on the Criminal Code (Child Sexual Offences Reform) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. Although the introduction and committee consideration of this bill predates my time in this place, I had experience prosecuting child sexual offences during my career as a former federal prosecutor where I was part of a team that busted and prosecuted paedophile rings.

The key policy objective of this bill is to improve the responsiveness of the criminal justice system to child sexual offending and the victims of child sexual offences by implementing the key recommendations of a series of different reports—the report from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which made a total of 409 recommendations aimed at making institutions safer for children; the *Criminal justice report*, which contained 85 recommendations aimed at providing a fairer response to victims of child sexual abuse; and the Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council report titled *Classification of child exploitation material for sentencing purposes*, which recommended changes to sentencing guidelines.

In order to achieve the objectives, the bill amends the Queensland Criminal Code in a number of ways. It provides for retrospective application of the offence in section 229B, under 'Maintaining a sexual relationship with a child'. It extends the grooming offence in section 218B to certain persons other than the child. It provides for retrospective application of the removal of limitation periods on prosecutions for certain child sexual offences. It creates a new offence of failure to report a belief of a child sexual offence that requires all adults to report child sexual abuse to police. It creates a new offence of failure to protect a child from a sexual offence that applies in an institutional context. It ensures that the new offences of failure to report or failure to protect apply to information or knowledge gained during, or in connection with, a religious confession.

The bill also amends the Penalties and Sentences Act to exclude good character as a mitigating factor at sentence where that good character facilitated the child sexual offending. The amendment to the Penalties and Sentences Act will also provide that, when sentencing offenders for historic child offences, the court is to sentence the offenders in accordance with the sentencing standards at the time of sentencing, not the sentencing standards at the time the offence was committed.

It is important to note that the majority of Australian jurisdictions—the ACT, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania—have recently passed laws that criminalise the failure to report belief of a child sexual offence targeted at sexual abuse in an institutional context. Further, late last year, state and federal attorneys-general agreed to standardise laws making it mandatory for priests to report child sexual abuse revealed during a confession. On this side of the chamber, the LNP has always

acknowledged that the protection of our most vulnerable should prevail over the interests of offenders. This is part of the reason I joined the LNP. During my time as a prosecutor prosecuting paedophiles, I saw firsthand how these atrocious crimes devastate the lives of children. We must do all we can to protect our vulnerable children.

The LNP will always support more laws and stronger penalties aimed at child sex offenders to send a message that these types of crimes will not be tolerated—will never be tolerated—in our communities. That is why when the LNP was last in government we instituted a number of reforms. These included the introduction of mandatory life imprisonment for repeat child sex offenders with a minimum non-parole period of 20 years—known as the two strikes policy. This meant that recidivist offenders were punished harder if they were convicted of more than one offence against a child.

The LNP increased penalties for child exploitation material offences and inserted a new offence of grooming into the Criminal Code and introduced a mandatory sentence of one-year imprisonment for a sex offender who tampers or removes their GPS monitoring bracelet. In opposition, the LNP has also fought hard to strengthen laws and penalties aimed at child sex offenders. In my community, there is overwhelming support for increased penalties for offences against children. When I was first elected, I distributed a survey that asked the community if it supports tougher measures to deal with offences against children. A whopping 95.7 per cent of the community supported stronger penalties for those who commit offences against children. That is why the LNP will continue to fight for tough laws.

The LNP has committed to introducing a public sex offender registry to allow parents to check the background of anyone who has regular unsupervised access to their children. This is an important tool that will give parents some peace of mind when it comes to their kids. I know as a mum with two young kids that I would be using this register to check the background of anyone I do not know who is having unsupervised contact with my kids without me present. The LNP has also committed to introduce Carly's Law. Carly's Law will give police the tools they need to stop sexual predators—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I respect the views of the member for Currumbin, but this is not relevant to the bill and I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Currumbin, I would ask you to come back to the long title of the bill and speak to the bill.

Mrs GERBER: Thank you for your guidance. In late 2018, Labor passed changes to the Child Protection (Offender Reporting) Act to ensure child sexual offenders will continue to be monitored even after their supervision orders have expired. However, Labor's weak laws when it comes to sex offenders have meant that not one post dangerous violent or child sex offender has been ordered to wear a tracking device.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is now referring to previous legislation before this House. It is unfortunate that she has chosen to make this debate political when others on her side have all been very respectful in the debate. I ask that the member be brought back to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, do you have anything to contribute to the long title of the bill?

Mrs GERBER: These criminals have destroyed the lives of children with their actions. We should all be doing everything in our power to keep our communities safe from them. Labor's laws are that weak that sex offenders must engage in concerning conduct—and this includes things like inviting children to their house—before the police can apply for them to wear a GPS tracking device.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, for the third time, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member is ignoring the ruling of the chair in relation to speaking to the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Currumbin, the bill is for particular purposes so I would ask you to come back to the bill.

Mrs GERBER: The LNP believes that these measures are necessary in order to crack down on sexual offenders. Only the LNP can be trusted to deliver a criminal justice system that favours victims over offenders.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (5.58 pm): I rise tonight to speak in support of this bill. In doing so, I speak in support of not only those organisations and individuals which contributed to the consideration of this bill—the submitters and the many wonderful organisations that work within the community—but also all those young people who have had to come forward, often in extremely difficult

and trying circumstances, to try to seek justice. Victims dealing with the criminal justice system face many barriers, but it is certainly lamentable that the many barriers that have been before our youngest and most vulnerable for years and years have meant that many did not feel comfortable reporting. That has unfortunately meant that in many instances offenders have continued to prey on additional children. It is commendable that a bill such as this seeks to remove such barriers.

I thank all those submitters and the committee that contributed to discussion of this bill. This bill is a result of a number of reports that have proposed improvements to the criminal justice response to what is considered the most heinous of offences in our society, child sexual offences. The esteemed reports informing this bill include the *Criminal justice report* into institutional responses to child sexual abuse. The *Criminal justice report* contained 85 recommendations and this bill contains amendments to implement a number of the key recommendations. Recommendation 21 applies to retrospectivity, that is, that section 229B of the Criminal Code, the offence relating to the maintaining of a sexual relationship with a child—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Weir): Member for Macalister, I would ask you now to adjourn the debate.

Debate, on motion of Mrs McMahon, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.00 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege. The member for Redlands, Kim Richards, rose on a matter of privilege today demanding an apology from me about the question that I asked in question time today. The question I asked referred to media reports that an ALP member had made a complaint to the Crime and Corruption Commission about financial irregularities in electoral funds and bullying in Kim Richards' ALP Redlands branch. I stand by the questions raised and table the media report that my question refers to.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 20 June 2020, titled 'Shock claims: Dodgy accounts, sexism in Qld ALP branch' [[1385](#)].

The report is a *Courier-Mail* article titled 'Shock claims: Dodgy accounts, sexism in Qld ALP branch'. I invite the member to take the advice of the Attorney-General and use her opportunity to withdraw from the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. My point of order is the member is debating the matter. If he has a matter of privilege—

Dr Robinson: I'm finished.

ADJOURNMENT

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.01 pm): The Palaszczuk state Labor government was inadequately prepared for such a health and economic crisis as we have seen with the COVID-19 pandemic. Even before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Queensland Labor government has had either the highest or second highest unemployment rate of any state jurisdiction, and today unemployment under Labor is 8.8 per cent. Business confidence under Labor has been the lowest of any state, and Queensland has had the highest number of bankruptcies and the highest rate of business failure. This has all been due to the incompetent Palaszczuk state Labor government. What about debt? Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, debt in Queensland under Labor was heading to \$91.8 billion, with it now projected to reach \$100 billion. This is a shameful legacy that this Labor government will leave for future generations.

Apart from its economic and jobs failure, the Palaszczuk state Labor government continues to fail on health, education, roads, public transport, cost of living and in many other important areas. This is certainly clear to the residents of the electorate of Moggill and more broadly right across the western suburbs of Brisbane. Significantly, the Liberal National Party has policies, plans and solutions to address these issues. The LNP has already announced funded solutions to bust traffic congestion, including \$245 million for the Centenary Motorway, funding to upgrade the Kenmore roundabout and,

importantly, public transport and cost-of-living support for seniors and students. The Liberal National Party has also committed \$4 million for a much needed new school hall at Kenmore State High School. There is also the LNP's \$225,000 commitment to local creek catchment groups in the electorate of Moggill, as well as \$150,000 to invest in a multipurpose community centre at the Brookfield Showgrounds, and there is still so much more to come.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships, can I also take this opportunity to highlight the state Labor government's failure to deliver practical measures and solutions to close the gap. It truly speaks volumes that for Queensland's Indigenous communities, Labor has now had its fourth Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships in just three years. With such a high rotation of ministerial responsibility and accountability, it is little wonder that the Palaszczuk Labor government has had such a poor track record on ensuring child welfare and community safety, particularly in Cape York. Even the Cape York Institute has had to commission the Hon. Pru Goward because concerns have been raised by Indigenous leaders regarding this Labor government's lack of response to tackling youth sexual violence in Cape York. Labor has also failed when it comes to closing the gap. However, recently the federal Minister for Indigenous Australians, the Hon. Ken Wyatt MP, announced a revised set of 16 Closing the Gap targets.

A Deb Frecklington LNP government will work collaboratively with all levels of government to deliver the best outcomes for Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, unlike this state Labor government, which would rather play politics and pick fights with Canberra. It is only a Frecklington LNP government that can get Queensland working again.

Correction to Record of Proceedings; Toon, Mr BC

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.04 pm): During my contribution to the cognate debate of the Treasurer's bills yesterday I referred to Treasurer Cameron Dick in relation to the 2019-20 fiscal and economic review. I should have said 'former treasurer Jackie Trad'.

Bernard Charles Toon, known as Bernie, was born on 6 March 1934 and grew up in Mackay the eldest son of three children of Frederick and Louisa Toon. Bernie Toon was a pioneering communicator, a champion of people, professionally an influencer of industry and political leaders, and a keen sportsman. At an early age he experienced the family home being destroyed by fire and faced struggle with poor eyesight. These issues did not dampen Bernie's zest for life. Instead, it defined Bernie's mission in life to extend an extraordinary capacity to care for others.

Bernie was an A grade school student as well as a keen sportsman. He excelled at cricket. It was through cricket that Bernie's career took some interesting turns. At the tender age of 13 he set about to find a job. He wanted an apprenticeship but he was too young. He found a job with Roadmaster before moving to Hollis Hopkins. Bernie started a new career with Australian National Airways. The manager Tom Garvan was a cricket fan and was aware of Bernie through his cricket reports in the *Daily Mercury*. Bernie played first grade cricket in Mackay and became a bowler to remain competitive because as a batsman he could not pick up the sight of the ball quick enough.

Cricket led Bernie on a pathway to his ultimate professional career—journalism. He started at the ABC Radio in Mackay doing weekend sport reports and reading local news. Bernie married his beloved Heather in 1958. They celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary four days before he died. Soon after their first child was born in 1959, Bernie became a news freelancer, earning the equivalent of 40 cents for a story read on the local news, 70 cents for state news and \$1 for the national news. He set himself a target of eight stories a day, which he met with ease, causing a unique challenge for the *Daily Mercury* which offered him a graded job, bypassing the usual requirements of a cadetship.

After working in newspapers in Kyogle and Lismore in northern New South Wales, Tamworth and Bundaberg, Bernie made a big decision in 1970 to join the department of primary industries in Rocky in a newly created role as regional information officer. He excelled in the role, becoming a champion for the Central and North Queensland beef industry and challenging outdated and out-of-touch rules set by the Public Service in Brisbane. The history of Bernie's work in the beef industry has shaped Rockhampton's famous Beef Week, which led to an honorary membership of the Rockhampton Show Society. Bernie was seconded to the state minister's office as a ministerial media adviser, a role in which he continued until his official retirement when he was able to devote more time to his passions: golf, grandchildren, church and supporting his wife, Heather, who in 1988 was ordained—

(Time expired)

Theodore Electorate, Tamborine Oxenford Road

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.07 pm): Last year I wrote to the department of main roads about a proposed new fuel station along Tamborine Oxenford Road, Upper Coomera. I expressed the concerns of multiple local residents about the proposed location and the impact it would have on this road infrastructure. The department of main roads replied explaining that they were following the guidelines which are set out for them and they did not see any problem with it.

The opening of this new fuel station has dramatically increased the precarious situation for motorists exiting Charlies Crossing Road and those heading west along Tamborine Oxenford Road. The problem I found with Main Roads was they failed to factor in the increased traffic that this new development would bring to the local area. Therefore, it is causing no end of headaches for those motorists coming out of Charlies Crossing Road. Adding to the local businesses already in the area, there are increased traffic movements, cars reversing out onto a major road and people doing illegal U-turns across double lines. There are also line-of-sight issues because of where the cenotaph is located. It is only a matter of time before a serious accident happens in this area.

I also thank the local residents for their response to the petition to fix exit 57. It has been an overwhelming success. Many people went online to sign the petition to vent their frustration at what has happened at this interchange. As I said at the last sittings, the government's own statistical information predicts that 15,000 people will move into the area in and around Oxenford. As residents keep saying, we need a permanent solution. We do not need short-sighted, bandaid fixes that fail to address population growth in this area. Therefore, we need bypasses and flyovers that allow for the continual movement of traffic in this area. Unfortunately, most residents are not happy with the proposed design and are desperate to see some forward planning.

I give a big shout-out to my local Sikh community. During the COVID crisis they have been helping out my local community by cooking meals. They have made many thousands of meals at their own expense, helping those in need. To Surjit and his Sikh community, thank you so much. On behalf of all on the northern Gold Coast, you have done a fantastic job and you should be very proud of what you achieved in this time. Keep up the good work. I hope to see Surjit again in the very near future.

Morayfield Electorate; Small Business COVID-19 Adaptation Grant Program

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.11 pm): For many years now I have been running a very regular coffee catch-up and business networking event for small businesses in the Morayfield electorate. Every couple of months, except during COVID, I catch up with small businesses and talk about what small businesses are doing with networking, innovating, growing their businesses and creating more jobs in our community.

At the most recent networking event that I held—COVID-safe plan in place—a number of businesses told me how tough the COVID-19 pandemic had been on their business but how they had hope for the future and were grateful for the support of the Palaszczuk government. I particularly highlight a number of examples where small businesses in the Caboolture and Morayfield area received some support from the Palaszczuk government during the COVID-19 pandemic, not only to support their business and help pay some bills but, more importantly, to keep people employed. Of course, we know that that is very important.

In the Caboolture-Morayfield area, 41 businesses received almost \$360,000 in the Palaszczuk government's small business COVID-19 adaptation grants. That is a significant injection of support in our community. I know that a number of businesses are extremely grateful. In fact, just last week I had the opportunity to catch up with a number of them. I know that Richard and Sharon from Fitness n Motion at Morayfield are really grateful for the support. That funding has helped them not only continue to meet the expenses they have incurred as a business during the COVID-19 pandemic but also to invest in the COVID-safe resources they need to continue trading.

Troy and Kelly from Northside Embroidery also received one of the small business adaptation grants. Pleasingly, the number of orders they are receiving is increasing and they are very pleased that the community and, more broadly, Queenslanders and Australians are supporting their business. Justin from Eye Envy Optometrist at the Morayfield Shopping Centre is grateful for the grant he received and for support from the local community. He said that he has been very busy and that this has been one of the busiest Julys he has had in a number of years. Phil from Infinity Martial Arts bore the brunt of it because he had to close down his martial arts school, but he has reopened. He is trading again and people are coming back. All in all, well done to our small businesses. I wish them well.

Bonney Electorate, Local Legends

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to pay tribute to the many people in my community who stepped up during this pandemic period to help those around them. I ran a Local Legends competition to honour those who went above and beyond. I received over 70 nominations and want to give the recipients a shout-out in parliament for their actions.

Joseph Prospere from Study Gold Coast and Hussain Baba from the Islamic Society, along with their organisations, provided thousands of meals to international students and others doing it tough. Cornelia Babbage and her team at MFO did hundreds of birthday drive-bys delivering presents to children stuck at home. Laura Fullarton created the Facebook page 'Got Your Back—Gold Coast', with its now 10,000 followers, giving a place for people to request and get help from community members.

Working with those doing it tough we had both Amber Ford and Ru Taylor helping the homeless. Amber also worked with victims of domestic violence and the elderly. From our schools, we had Julie-Anne McGuinness, Principal of Musgrave Hill State School; Murray Gleadhill, Principal of Coombabah State School; and Cheryl Rowe, the Deputy Principal at Labrador State School. Jarlath Scannell and Elaine Whybrow at Southport State High School were also nominated for their passion for their students' learning. Shannon Lataxes is a cleaner at Labrador State School. Zoe Lowe is the beloved Arundel State School wellbeing teacher. Carol Sproule has been looking after the sick bay at Arundel and Sally McWilliams runs the tuckshop brilliantly at Musgrave Hill. All are highly valued members of staff who have shown compassion and care to their school communities during this time. Janine Victor, whilst also being a teacher, also rents out party hire goods and donated a frozen party to a family with foster kids who had never had a proper party.

Maree McIntosh runs Specialcise, offering personal training for kids with special needs. Deb Frugtniet, the local publican at the Arundel Tavern, cared for her staff and community as it underwent a massive renovation. At local Thai restaurant and cafe Thaiger, Ben and Mickey donated meals to struggling households which I was proud to deliver myself.

Jenna Schroder is a Labrador legend. Even in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* today, she talked about the city plan. She created the 'Labrador 4215' Facebook group which encourages a fantastic sense of community in this very special suburb. Samuel Heijst is a nurse at GCUH. His nominee said of him—

He's possibly the greatest human I've met and gives out way more than he receives.

Denise Bills from Musgrave Soccer and Bruce Curtis from Labrador Hockey, the mighty Tigerstix, dealt with all the restriction changes for sports, and both have volunteered in their roles for many years. Byron Bindley is a local JP who offered his services when many other JPs had to stop offering theirs. Finally, Krystal Cooper works in aged care and took in another family who were escaping a domestic violence situation. All of these people selflessly cared for others. I am proud to represent and acknowledge them as champions of our community.

Gender Equality

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.17 pm): Several months ago I had the great pleasure of hosting a joint virtual office with my colleagues Teri Butler, the federal member for Griffith, and Kara Cook, the councillor for Morningside. We were delighted to get a request to take part in the meeting from a young girl called Malia, who is eight years old. As the Minister for Women, I was especially delighted that she had a gender equality issue she wanted to raise. I subsequently met with her and her very proud mum. I promised her that I would read out a letter that she sent to me which really highlights the issues about which she is concerned. I table the letter.

Tabled paper. Letter, undated, from a constituent to the Minister for Child Safety, Youth and Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Hon. Di Farmer, regarding representation of women in public places [1386].

I will not have a chance to read out the whole letter, but I will read out a few excerpts. The letter states—

My name is Malia ... I am 8 years old and I would like to know why in every park I go to I am only seeing plaques, pictures and statues of men.

WHERE ARE ALL THE WOMEN? I first noticed this when I was at Sherwood Aboretum Park and read out all the names that were engraved on the plaques on each tree.

I asked my mum why these names were on the plaques and my mum told me that these were important people back from 1925 who had the honour of planting the trees.

I asked my mum why only 2 of the trees that I counted were planted by women and the other 72 were planted by men. My mum told me that things were very different back in 1925 and women didn't get as many opportunities to achieve the things they do today.

I then said, but it is 2020 now and I know lots of amazing women who have accomplished so much and done so many remarkable things for our country; where are the trees planted by these women?

It seems that every park I go to here in Queensland they are full of statues, plaques and pictures of men. I rarely see women.

...

Did you know:

Only 3% of statues in Australia honour real women

There are only 3 statues of real women in Brisbane.

In Australia, there are more statues of animals than there are of real Australian Women.

And these are just the statistics for statues. I'm sure if you did an audit on every park in Queensland you would see that the statistics would be the same for plaques and pictures.

They say seeing is believing and I don't want young girls like me who are constantly seeing important men to start believing that only men are important. Girls my age need to be seeing strong female role models.

...

This is NOT about fundraising or petitioning just to get a couple of extra female statues.

This is about breaking the 'bronze ceiling' once and for all and making sure it stays that way for me, my daughters and their daughters to come so that we are seeing and believing that women ARE important!

As the Minister for Women, I speak all the time about how important it is that we start with our young people, regardless of whether they are a young boy or a young girl, in that they should be the ones who believe that women and men should have the same opportunities. I want to commend Malia for her great spirit.

Dairy Industry

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (6.20 pm): I rise to again warn about the potential collapse of the statewide dairy industry. The Queensland dairy industry was smashed by deregulation, drought, rising prices in supplementary feed, high water costs and the devastating effects from the \$1-a-litre milk price war. In 1981 on the Atherton Tablelands there were 268 dairy farmers. However, today there are only 52. In the year 2000 there were 1,500 dairy farms in Queensland. While the focus this year has been on COVID-19, the number of dairy farms now left in Queensland has quietly slipped below 300 farms. None of these farmers has a Mercedes parked in their driveways. Their businesses are trimmed to the bone and they have mortgages to the hilt. Some are getting loans just to pay off their bills. As I said, the number of dairy farms has gone from 1,500 to now below 300.

After both major parties voted against the KAP's fair milk price logo bill in 2016, to its credit the government then acknowledged that a logo to identify milk sold in supermarkets that provides a fair price to farmers was a good idea and an effective way to help dairy farmers. The Queensland Dairyfarmers' Organisation was provided with start-up funding for the development and release of a Fair Go logo which identifies milk sold in supermarkets that pays a fair price to dairy farmers. Consumers will now have an opportunity to choose to purchase milk that they know supports our dairy farmers. I have worked closely with QDO and the minister on this issue. However, despite indicating that they would participate, the major supermarkets then wrote to the state and federal governments and then the ACCC, lodging a complaint against the release of the Fair Go logo, citing that it was anticompetitive.

In an extraordinary show of disdain towards our dairy farmers, the ACCC took up the major supermarkets' complaints. QDO has since had to fight a long battle to clear the way for the launch of the Fair Go logo. These are again despicable stalling tactics from the major supermarkets because they are terrified that consumers will now have a way to identify what milk sold provides a fair price to farmers. This is an enormous opportunity for the government to stand up to the major supermarkets for all of our dairy farmers. While I appreciated the initial funding provided to the QDO for the development of the Fair Go logo, more is needed. I will be presenting a proposal to the minister for agriculture for a relatively small amount of funding. This funding will launch a statewide advertising and marketing campaign to encourage Queenslanders to support our dairy farmers and only buy milk which has the Fair Go logo on it. I urge the minister to commit to the proposal and help save this valuable industry.

Rockhampton Electorate, Political Campaigning

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (6.22 pm): With so much going on around us, one would think that this might be the year that we could put gutter politics behind us. Sadly, that has not been the case in Central Queensland where we have seen some disgraceful behaviour. The worst example would be Dominic Doblo, a prominent local businessman and close ally of the mayor, who has been going around spreading disgusting slurs. I have been told by three well-known members of the community that Mr Doblo has said to them words to the effect of, 'The only reason someone would put their signs on schools like Barry has is if they're a paedophile.' The signs he talks about are the same as those that have been put up by other MPs of all stripes across the state. He is free to criticise that if he likes, but his behaviour is cheap, nasty and pathetic. I talk about gutter politics. This descends to the level of the sewer. I tried to take it up with him in person but, as is typical of people who behave the way he has, he took the cowardly route and did everything he could to avoid me.

On top of this, One Nation candidates have lowered themselves to putting up personal attacks against the member for Keppel and me on corflutes. To be honest, I find these more amusing than offensive. They are just childish antics of campaigns that have little to offer beyond attacks on our strong COVID response, but I can assure the local candidates that it is turning people off. On a positive note, I had a good conversation with my LNP opponent, Tony Hopkins, recently where we both agreed to focus on issues, not personal attacks. He is a genuinely decent man and though we disagree on a lot of things we can debate these respectfully, and that is how it should be.

Local Government, Councillor Conduct

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (6.25 pm): I have concerns with the administration of local government by this Labor government, especially the rules regarding the conduct of councillors. Councillors are democratically elected representatives and should be expected to represent constituents and have council make decisions in line with these overarching duties. I know many councillors are frustrated with how they are hemmed in by these complex and often confusing rules, and residents have similar frustrations. It can bring ridiculous outcomes. I table various documents in relation to Supreme Court proceedings between the Office of the Independent Assessor, the Councillor Conduct Tribunal and Mr Nigel Waistell, a former councillor of the Scenic Rim Regional Council.

Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding legal proceedings between the Independent Assessor, Councillor Conduct Tribunal and Nigel Waistell [[1387](#)].

The Supreme Court action has been brought by the OIA because the government seemingly failed to provide any way for the OIA—a party not unlike a prosecutor—to withdraw proceedings against a party where it sees no public interest in continuing. The CCT claims that the OIA cannot withdraw a proceeding. How much of Queensland taxpayers' hard-earned dollars is being wasted because of this government's failure to get it right? Surely if the OIA does not wish to proceed it must be able to withdraw. It just makes sense. Related to all of this is public confidence in local government and how it is diminished by rules that stifle the ability of a councillor to do their job to keep council accountable as servants of the people while unelected officers are perceived to really be running councils. The tabled documents show that a system meant to root out misconduct of councillors has been misused to punish councillors for actions that surely must be considered trivial. It is there in black and white.

Former councillor Nigel Waistell was deemed to have committed misconduct under the Local Government Act by answering a constituent's inquiry because he did it in the simplest way possible—forwarding an email from an officer inside council to a constituent. This was considered a breach of section 2 of the council's acceptable requests guidelines that are made by council and misconduct under the Local Government Act. Who would want to be a councillor faced with such stupid rules? It is no wonder people lose faith in local government sometimes. As a member of parliament, each year I forward countless emails and letters from government to constituents. It is part and parcel of representing and responding to electors and, as public bodies, correspondence sent to me from a department is able to be forwarded on to interested parties, and so it should be for councils too.

Councillors are not employees of the council. They should be servants of the people. Policies of the government and councils should not be allowed to interfere with that. Mr Waistell's case, in my view, demonstrates that it is too easy for councillors to be hauled over the coals for such simple things as forwarding an internal email outside of council, the contents of which were not controversial or confidential but merely responding to an inquiry. Are councillors not paid to ask questions and respond to residents? Making this action amount to misconduct only serves to make a mockery of the term

'misconduct'. The government should bring legislation to parliament to fix this bizarre Supreme Court showdown and look again at councillors' roles to make sure that they are truly representatives of the community, not council's representatives in the community.

Redcliffe Electorate

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice) (6.28 pm): It is always a privilege to rise in this chamber as the member for Redcliffe, not only to represent my constituents but to talk about the wonderful community of Redcliffe. I am pleased that Queenslanders—in particular, the Redcliffe community—have pulled together to make sure that we work to unite and recover through COVID-19 and to not only practise COVID hygiene measures, such as washing hands and keeping us safe by practising social distancing and also staying home when they are sick, but also rally around each other and support local businesses and restaurants.

I am very thrilled that over \$2.6 million of grants and funding will go into our community to not only support our local schools, businesses and community organisations but also support jobs as we continue to unite and recover. I am advised that over \$1.63 million will be provided to our Redcliffe schools for upgrade and capital works programs, not only revitalising our students' learning spaces but also providing job opportunities for local builders and tradies. Some highlights include the refurbishment of the Clontarf Beach State High School gym and sports courts and upgrades to outdoor learning spaces at Kippa-Ring State School. Over \$800,000 of small business adaptation grants has been provided to nearly 90 businesses in the Redcliffe community to support them adapt and change their business models and way of doing things due to COVID-19.

While there are too many to mention, I give a quick shout-out to Nick and Virginia Tzimas and the team at the Golden Ox at Margate; the Bramble Bay Bowls Club and Sports Club at Woody Point; New Image Kitchens and Joinery in Clontarf; and the fantastic folk at the Coffee Club at Kippa-Ring who are just some of the small businesses receiving these grants. When I speak to these small business operators right across the Redcliffe Peninsula they are so thankful and grateful to the community and to the government. Every single one of them said to us they welcomed the decision of the Premier on the borders and many asked that I personally thank her for that decision which has allowed our economy to continue because we are taking such strong measures to control outbreaks of COVID in our communities.

There are 12 deserving community organisations and not-for-profits that received funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund, sharing in over \$230,000, including Deaf Sailing Queensland, Clontarf Beach State School, Clontarf Beach State High School and our very own Peninsula and District Football and Sporting Club, better known as Peninsula Power—and congratulations to them for winning the men's game against the Roar in their first home game the other week. I give a shout-out to 99.7 Bridge FM through Moreton Media Group which also received a grant and to Travis. Travis is trying to get more followers, so please get on to Travis's Twitter and Facebook and follow him so that he can get to double digits.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Batt, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Costigan, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, 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, Sorensen, Stevens, Stewart, Trad, Watts, Weir, Whiting, Wilson