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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Tuesday, 9 March 2021

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TUESDAY, 9 MARCH 2021

 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.

ASSENT TO BILLS

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that yesterday, Monday, 8 March, I presented to His Excellency the Governor the Appropriation (Parliament) (2020-2021) Bill 2020 and the Appropriation (2020-2021) Bill 2020 for royal assent and that His Excellency was pleased to subscribe his assent in the name and on behalf of Her Majesty.

Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from His Excellency the Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP

Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

Parliament House

George Street

BRISBANE QLD 4000

My dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 8 March 2021

A bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial years starting 1 July 2020 and 1 July 2021

A bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for departments for the financial years starting 1 July 2020 and 1 July 2021

A bill for an Act to amend the Justice and Other Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Amendment Act 2020, the Mental Health Act 2016, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Public Health and Other Legislation (Public Health Emergency) Amendment Act 2020 for particular purposes

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely

Governor

8 March 2021

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 March 2021, from His Excellency the Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 8 March 2021 [\[257\]](#).

PRIVILEGE

Premier and Minister for Trade, Email Account

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.32 am): Mr Speaker, I rise on a matter of privilege. Recently I have been questioned about the use of private emails identified in an examination of Minister Bailey's emails. There are four. They date back to 2015 and 2016. They

have been examined by the CCC. They found no impropriety—nothing of interest whatsoever in any of them. Last year, Mr MacSporran said at budget estimates that a review of four emails did not re-enliven the CCC's jurisdiction.

I have sought advice from the Solicitor-General in relation to whether the four emails are 'public records' within the meaning of the expression of the Public Records Act 2002. I table that advice.

Tabled paper: Memorandum of advice, dated 8 March 2021, from the Solicitor-General of Queensland, Mr GA Thompson QC, titled 'Public Records Act 2002—Private emails from Minister Bailey' [258].

The Solicitor-General advises that the emails either do not satisfy the requirement of a record or would be exempt within the exception outlined in the act. For completeness, I wish to reiterate that these emails were unsolicited. Furthermore, the emails have also been through the independent right-to-information process. The CCC chairman described calls to investigate these matters further as 'a wild goose chase', 'a fishing expedition' and 'a waste of time'. I heartily agree—especially as our state faces so many critical issues as we recover from COVID-19.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Absence of Members

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received a notification regarding the absence of the member for Pine Rivers from the House for this week's sitting and for the sitting of 23 to 25 March 2021. I have also received a notification and certification regarding possible absences of the member for Stretton for the foreseeable future. The members' notifications comply with standing order 263A.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I table report No. 28 of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly titled *Report on the 2020 budget estimates process*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Report on the 2020 Budget Estimates Process [259].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

Beyond Duty Exhibition

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that this week Queensland parliament is hosting a unique photographic exhibition in the red chamber. The *Beyond Duty* exhibition honours the 34 diplomats from 21 countries who collectively saved 200,000 Jews from Nazi extermination during the Holocaust. The exhibition comprises a collection of photographs of the diplomats whose courage in saving Jews from the Holocaust has earned them the recognition of being declared Righteous Among the Nations by Israel's Holocaust authority, Yad Vashem. It is an honour that the Queensland parliament can take part in such an event which celebrates and recognises the moral strength of diplomats who refused to condone the genocide happening in front of their eyes.

The exhibition is open to all members and staff this week and I encourage all to take the time this week to view the display before it concludes when the House rises on Thursday. The exhibition is being hosted by the Queensland parliament and supported by the Queensland Parliamentary Friends of Israel, the Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies and the Embassy of Israel. A function in honour of the exhibition will be held in the red chamber immediately after the rising of the House tomorrow evening. We will be joined by guests from Queensland's Jewish community, including Holocaust survivor Mr Peter Baruch. We will also be joined by members of Queensland's diplomatic community. I commend the *Beyond Duty* exhibition to the House.

Photographs in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that staff from the communications and marketing team of the Parliamentary Service will be taking photographs of members in the chamber throughout this week. The images will be used for a range of educational and communication publications. Please feel free to wear your best gear.

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Mater Dei Primary School Toowoomba in the electorate of Toowoomba North, Deception Bay State School in the electorate of Bancroft and Indooroopilly State High School in the electorate of Maiwar.

PETITIONS

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

Bushland Beach, Police Station

Mr Dametto, from 831 petitioners, requesting the House to establish a police station at Bushland Beach [\[260, 261\]](#).

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

Kin Kin, Quarry

2,386 petitioners, requesting the House to close the quarry located within the Kin Kin township in the Noosa Hinterland [\[262, 263\]](#).

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

Hay Point Road-Benson Road Intersection

Mr Andrew, from 146 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the T-intersection of Hay Point Road and Benson Road, Hay Point [\[264\]](#).

Anzac Avenue, Marian

Mr Andrew, from 277 petitioners, requesting the House to commence rehabilitation upgrade works on the degradation section of Anzac Avenue, Marian [\[265\]](#).

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

Port of Cape Flattery, Silica Sand Exports

598 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure the only option for export of sand for the proposed Silica Sand Mine near Hopevale from Aboriginal freehold is through the existing Cape Flattery port infrastructure [\[266\]](#).

Gateway Motorway, Noise Barriers

140 petitioners, requesting the House to install a noise abatement barrier along the eastern side of the Gateway Motorway at Bald Hills and to continue the barrier along the Gympie Arterial Road to adjoin the existing barrier [\[267\]](#).

Cannabis

11,460 petitioners, requesting the House to amend legislation to ensure consumers have safe access to cannabis [\[268\]](#).

VP Shunts in Children

2,334 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to ensure that all children with VP shunts who present to emergency departments in Queensland hospitals are immediately given an MRI scan, to be known as Lucas's Law [\[269\]](#).

Brisbane West, Schools

1,561 petitioners, requesting the House to share with the public a strategic plan for primary and secondary education for the western suburbs of Brisbane, ensure enrolment growth without impacting children's safety or quality of education, consult with the community on options for the location of the next school and consider traffic congestion, development near residential areas and protection of green space [\[270\]](#).

Environmental Protection

522 petitioners requesting the House to be proactive in preventing breaches of the Environmental Protection Act 1994 [\[271\]](#).

Cycling Infrastructure

610 petitioners requesting the House to direct Transport and Main Roads to comply with the Cycling Infrastructure Policy on all future projects and to make safe the Old Cleveland Road and Gateway Motorway interchange for people cycling along Old Cleveland Road connecting to and from Mount Petrie Road [\[272\]](#).

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

The Clerk informed the House that the following papers, received during the recess, were tabled on the dates indicated—

26 February 2021—

- [205](#) Magistrates Courts of Queensland—Annual Report 2019-2020: Erratum
- [206](#) Transport and Public Works Committee: Report No. 42, 56th Parliament—Inquiry into Motor Recreational Activities, final government response

1 March 2021—

- [207](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 12 August 2020 and 8 September 2020

2 March 2021—

- [208](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 16 July 2020 and 8 September 2020

4 March 2021—

- [209](#) Report on the administration of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 (reporting period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020)
- [210](#) Annual report on the administration of the Environmental Protection Act 1994—1 July 2019-30 June 2020
- [211](#) Report on the administration of the Marine Parks Act 2004 (reporting period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020)
- [212](#) Wet Tropics Management Authority—Annual Report 2019-2020
- [213](#) Wet Tropics Management Authority—State of Wet Tropics 2019-2020: Creating our climate future

5 March 2021—

- [214](#) Director of Forensic Disability—Annual Report 2019-2020
- [215](#) Coroners Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2019-20
- [216](#) Supreme Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2019-20
- [217](#) District Court of Queensland—Annual Report 2019-20

8 March 2021—

- [218](#) Transport and Resources Committee: Report No. 3, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled 8 September 2020
- [219](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 5, 57th Parliament—Nature Conservation and Other Legislation (Indigenous Joint Management-Moretton Island) Amendment Bill 2020
- [220](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 6, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 8 September 2020

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997:

- [221](#) Body Corporate and Community Management Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 13
- [222](#) Body Corporate and Community Management Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 13, explanatory notes
- [223](#) Body Corporate and Community Management Legislation Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 13, human rights certificate

Electoral Act 1992:

- [224](#) Electoral (Provision of Information on Electoral Rolls) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 14
- [225](#) Electoral (Provision of Information on Electoral Rolls) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 14, explanatory notes
- [226](#) Electoral (Provision of Information on Electoral Rolls) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 14, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon)—

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [227](#) Code of Practice—Aviculture
- [228](#) Code of Practice—Aviculture, explanatory notes
- [229](#) Code of Practice—Aviculture, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [230](#) Code of Practice—Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry
- [231](#) Code of Practice—Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry, explanatory notes
- [232](#) Code of Practice—Captive Reptile and Amphibian Husbandry, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [233](#) Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland
- [234](#) Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland, explanatory notes
- [235](#) Code of Practice—Care of Sick, Injured or Orphaned Protected Animals in Queensland, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [236](#) Code of Practice—Commercial crocodile viewing
- [237](#) Code of Practice—Commercial crocodile viewing, explanatory notes
- [238](#) Code of Practice—Commercial crocodile viewing, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [239](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection
- [240](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection, explanatory notes
- [241](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable lethal take of flying-foxes for crop protection, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [242](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts
- [243](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts, explanatory notes
- [244](#) Code of Practice—Ecologically sustainable management of flying-fox roosts, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [245](#) Code of Practice—Emu farming
- [246](#) Code of Practice—Emu farming, explanatory notes
- [247](#) Code of Practice—Emu farming, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [248](#) Code of Practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts
- [249](#) Code of Practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts, explanatory notes
- [250](#) Code of Practice—Low impact activities affecting flying-fox roosts, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [251](#) Code of Practice—For the harvest and use of protected plants under an authority
- [252](#) Code of Practice—For the harvest and use of protected plants under an authority, explanatory notes
- [253](#) Code of Practice—For the harvest and use of protected plants under an authority, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [254](#) Code of Practice—For the take and use of protected plants under an exemption
- [255](#) Code of Practice—For the take and use of protected plants under an exemption, explanatory notes
- [256](#) Code of Practice—For the take and use of protected plants under an exemption, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update; Coronavirus, Vaccine



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): Queensland has recorded five new cases of COVID since yesterday. All are overseas acquired and in hotel quarantine. There were 5,155 tests performed in the past 24 hours, which is another tremendous result for Queensland. Since the start of the pandemic we have performed more than two million tests.

Fifteen days ago Queensland began vaccinating our frontline hotel quarantine and health workers. In those 15 days 10,092 received their first dose of the vaccine. This is as we planned it. In fact, the numbers exceeded our plans. All six of our initial vaccination hubs are open and working including: Gold Coast University Hospital, Princess Alexandra Hospital, the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Townsville University Hospital and Cairns

Hospital. Delivery of the AstraZeneca vaccine means we can open more hubs. Two opened yesterday at Logan and Bundaberg hospitals and I can announce we will soon open hubs at: Toowoomba and QEII hospitals.

The AstraZeneca vaccine does not require the refrigeration of the Pfizer vaccine. It means we can offer vaccinations to islands in the Torres Strait where people are particularly vulnerable due to their close proximity to Papua New Guinea and its cases. There are 120,000 Queenslanders in the first group to receive their vaccination. They are spread over a distance of 2,330 kilometres. Delivery of this vaccine is historic.

It is anticipated that we will be able to start vaccinating the 1b group by the end of the month. There are more than one million in this group including: those aged over 70, defence, police, fire and emergency service workers, Aboriginal people aged over 55 and remaining healthcare workers. I once again ask for people's patience as we prioritise delivery of these vaccines to match the supply.

By the time it is offered to the bulk of the general public we expect it to be administered like any other vaccination: at pharmacies or your local GP. They are free. When it is my turn, I will be rolling up my sleeve and I encourage everyone in this House to do exactly the same.

Great Barrier Reef, School Excursions

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.40 am): Mr Speaker, I am sure you would agree that every Queensland student should have the opportunity to experience the Great Barrier Reef. Today I am proud to announce that we will invest \$1 million to support more than 6,000 Queensland students to visit the Great Barrier Reef on school excursions.

We are lucky enough to live in one of the most beautiful places on the planet. We have one of the seven great wonders of the natural world right in our own backyard. In a Queensland first, we will provide up to \$150 for eligible students to explore the reef. By supporting Queensland students to experience the beauty of the reef, we are also supporting local businesses.

It is no secret that our tourism operators have been doing it tough over the past 12 months and with the end of JobKeeper looming, things do not look like they are getting any easier. The idea for this program was first mentioned to me at a round table I held with the minister for tourism, the member for Cairns, members of the surrounding regions and local tourism representatives in the Far North. I am proud to say that this initiative, which will begin in term 3 this year, will support local jobs and put cash back into local businesses at a time when they need it the most.

We know that tourism operators continue to do it tough right across this state. That is why we are delivering more than three-quarters of a billion dollars to support this industry to build back better in 2021. We will continue to invest in tourism to safeguard jobs and rebuild our economy.

Screen Industry

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): I have some more huge news for Queensland and for our screen industry in Queensland, which means more jobs for locals. This morning I can officially announce another major international film has been lured to our shores, thanks to my government's Production Attraction Strategy. *Ticket to Paradise* starring Academy Award winners George Clooney and Julia Roberts will film exclusively in Queensland at the Whitsundays, on the Gold Coast and in Brisbane this year. This is great news for Queensland and further evidence of our global reputation as the place to be for TV and film production.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members. Quiet on set!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take that interjection!

Mr SPEAKER: Rolling, Premier!

Ms PALASZCZUK: This big budget blockbuster will inject nearly \$33 million into the Queensland economy and create more than 1,000 jobs for local cast, crew and extras as well as all of the flow-on impacts of jobs for tradies et cetera. Because of our strong health response and through the efforts of all Queenslanders in dealing with the global pandemic, we have emerged as one of the safest places in the world to film. We already had a strong reputation as a screen destination before the pandemic, but we have definitely had more interest from international productions to film here than ever before. That is great because it means a pipeline of work for our local industry.

Queensland is the place to be because of our health response, the range of locations, the weather, our competitive incentives and the world-class talent and crews. Baz Luhrmann's *Elvis* recently wrapped up filming on the Gold Coast, as well as *Young Rock* in Brisbane. Ron Howard starts production this month on *Thirteen Lives*, and *Australian Survivor* is already headed out west to Cloncurry. Universal Studio Group's *Joe Exotic* moves onto the Screen Queensland Studios' lot in April and new teen series *Taylor's Island* will also film on the Gold Coast. This latest blockbuster announcement is further proof that Queensland's production boom is not stopping anytime soon, which is great because it means a pipeline of work and long-term, secure jobs.

International Women's Day

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.44 am): Yesterday we celebrated International Women's Day. It is wonderful to see all the women in this House. In fact, all this week we celebrate Queensland Women's Week, an initiative proudly supported by my government. This is an opportunity to highlight the valuable contribution women and girls make to our society. This year I have dedicated it to the women on the front line of our COVID response: our doctors, nurses and support staff, scientists, teachers, and those in our emergency and essential services.

Women have also led the charge like our Chief Health Officer, Dr Jeannette Young, and Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll. I would also like to acknowledge the strong female leaders in my cabinet—nearly 50 per cent—who have supported Queenslanders over the last year and of course all the women in my caucus and the few women in the LNP. Hopefully there will be a few more next time. Tonight, they will join me as I host my International Women's Day—

Honourable members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: There were so many interjections there, but we will save that for question time. Tonight, they will join me as I host my International Women's Day event here at Parliament House, bringing together 150 people to recognise and celebrate the achievements of Queensland women and girls and also to celebrate the strength, tenacity and perseverance of all Queensland women who have faced incredible challenges this year. I invite all women in this House to attend.

As a government, we have acknowledged the impacts of COVID-19 especially on women. That is why we are delivering a range of initiatives specifically assisting women in our economic recovery plan. In good news, I can confirm that by January 2021 women had recovered those jobs lost during the height of the pandemic, with more than 122,000 finding work, which is back above pre-pandemic levels.

It is not only on International Women's Day but on every day that my government continues to champion the rights and opportunities of women and girls right across the state of Queensland.

South-East Queensland, Urban Development

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.46 am): Queenslanders know that Queensland is the place to be. We have the best communities, the best lifestyle and the best climate. We had the best COVID response that also made Queensland the safest place to live. Amid a terrible pandemic we have established a new normal so we can forge ahead with our economic recovery. The latest ABS data shows an amazing response to what we have achieved. Eighty-eight per cent of all interstate migration gains have been in Queensland while New South Wales and Victoria have gone backwards. One of the secrets of our success has been our teamwork. Our thanks go to the teams of health and other frontline workers for keeping us safe. We have also taken a team approach to our economic recovery. Together, we are building back better. That includes planning and building new communities.

I was pleased to speak last week at the Urban Development Institute of Australia's SEQ Growth Forum. I thank the UDIA for organising this important event. There I was able to outline our plans to address housing supply amid this migration surge, including the formation of a Growth Areas Delivery Team. The Queensland government's State Planner is working with Economic Development Queensland to establish the Growth Areas Delivery Team.

Our state's population is booming. This team will ensure Queenslanders can buy a home, whether it is their first or next home, in the neighbourhoods of the future—neighbourhoods that are livable and sustainable and that offer enjoyable walking, biking and public transport options, housing diversity and a high level of connectivity. The team will pursue partnerships to identify, plan, fund and build Queensland's new growth areas. State and local government and the private sector will work together, meeting the increased demand for land, housing and the necessary supporting infrastructure.

I have asked the team to identify a pilot site, the first new growth area, by the end of this month because there is no time to wait. The Growth Areas Development Team will help deliver exciting new planned communities so Queensland continues to be the place to be.

Economy

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.49 am): Yesterday federal Treasurer Josh Frydenberg met the people of Cairns and gave them absolutely nothing. Two weeks away from the JobKeeper cliff, the Morrison government is still stringing our tourist operators along, denying them the confidence and certainty they deserve. Despite the federal government, not because of it, Queensland's economic recovery remains the strongest in the nation. Last week's ABS national accounts revealed that, even in the midst of a global pandemic, the Queensland economy grew by 2.4 per cent during 2020. This was the highest rate of economic growth of any state or territory. Queensland is the best. Queensland grew twice as fast as Western Australia and, unlike the economies of New South Wales, Victoria and the nation at large, all of which went backwards during 2020, Queensland's economy is larger than it was before the pandemic.

Queensland saw growth in household consumption, private investment, and state and local government investment. Queensland's economy grew in almost every category, except investment in our state by the Morrison government. According to the ABS, national general government gross fixed capital formation fell by \$233 million in 2020 relative to 2019. In other words, the Morrison government invested \$233 million less in Queensland in 2020 than it did in the year before. Make no mistake: Queensland's economic recovery has been signed, sealed and delivered by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

More economic growth means more jobs. Here again Queensland is leading the pack. Over the past 12 months Queensland has added 29,700 jobs. Queensland is the only state to have more jobs today than it did before the pandemic. Every other state went backwards. Our strong jobs performance throughout 2020 meant that the Palaszczuk government has now added 275,000 jobs in the six years since we were first elected. Queensland also boasts the strongest growth in retail turnover, up 12.2 per cent; the strongest growth in housing loan commitments, up 65.1 per cent; and the strongest growth in dwelling approvals, up 18½ per cent, on the east coast.

It is no wonder that Queensland's economy is roaring back in 2021. The Palaszczuk government invested more than \$7 billion in stimulus, representing about 2.2 per cent of our state's total economic output. By comparison, the New South Wales government, the 'gold standard', committed an amount of less than two per cent of gross state product to COVID stimulus and support measures. Our government's support has included \$1.3 billion in tax relief, including payroll tax relief for Queensland businesses. It is worth noting that, unlike the Morrison government's JobKeeper program, which is due to end in just over two weeks, our payroll tax support will be ongoing throughout this year. That is because deferred payroll tax is paid in instalments, meaning that our government will not be receiving final 2020 payments from many businesses until January 2022. Businesses are working well with this tapered approach, with 98.5 per cent of payments due in January 2021 made on time.

The reality is that further payroll tax concessions will be of no help to many businesses, particularly those smaller operators with payrolls of less than \$1.3 million, who do not pay payroll tax. Among these smaller operators, those who depend on international tourists need the federal government's support. Even the LNP's chief economist, Gene Tunney, has said that 'unless it wants to send Cairns into an economic depression' the federal government needs to replace JobKeeper with targeted support.

In the absence of action from the Morrison government, the Palaszczuk government has again stepped up, providing more than \$750 million to help Queensland's tourism industry recover from the COVID-19 downturn. This includes 15,000 free \$200 vouchers to support Tropical North Queensland's tourism industry, \$174 million for tourism related businesses through the industry support package, almost \$75 million in small business adaptation grants, and additional commitments to the Queensland Tourism Icons Program, the Growing Tourism Infrastructure Fund and the Airline Route Support program. Queenslanders know, and Queensland businesses know, that the Palaszczuk government is on Queensland's side.

Cooler Cleaner Schools Program

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.53 am): The Palaszczuk government is investing in world-class educational facilities right across this state—and that includes air-conditioning every classroom, library and

staffroom in every state school by June next year. I am pleased to advise the House that we are on track to achieve this historic milestone, a Queensland first. Our \$477 million Cooler Cleaner Schools Program will see all of our state schools air-conditioned and more solar panels installed under the existing Advancing Clean Energy Schools program.

Importantly, this investment has supported and will support a total of more than 1,500 jobs. Of the 649 schools audited, 533 schools now have had air-conditioning installed and are fully operational. This represents more than 7,000 cooler classrooms, libraries and staffrooms in Queensland state schools, with the remaining 116 schools in the process of design, installation or electrical upgrade. This is a great achievement just 12 months since the Premier and I announced the reset Cooler Cleaner Schools Program in February last year, a truly remarkable outcome.

The feedback has been very positive. For example, Silkstone State School in the Ipswich electorate now has 50 school spaces fully air-conditioned and operational, all finished last month. The P&C president, Darren Richards, said—

We've had very positive feedback about the air-conditioning rollout—from parents, students and teachers. It's been a big issue for us here in Ipswich because it's always that much hotter out here than Brisbane.

What a great outcome. The Palaszczuk government is committed to a clean energy future for Queensland to tackle climate change and, as part of this, has a target of 50 per cent renewables by 2030. Our \$168 million ACES program is designed to reduce energy costs across more than 800 state schools by installing solar and instituting other energy efficiency measures. The ACES program is delivering a reduction in energy costs across Queensland state schools and will contribute 61.4 megawatts towards our 2030 renewable energy target. This program is installing around 190,000 solar panels, creating a virtual solar farm atop our Queensland state schools and contributing enough renewable energy to power 25,000 homes. More than 450 state schools have more than 84,000 solar rooftop panels installed—over half the planned total, all to be completed by June next year.

The Palaszczuk Labor government is providing world-class facilities for our students and staff, generating business and employment opportunities, and tackling climate change to boot—a truly transformational, nation-leading Queensland program.

Coronavirus, Vaccine

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.57 am): The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine is a task of historic proportions. In the first three weeks of our vaccine rollout we brought online three vaccination hubs—at the Gold Coast University Hospital, at Princess Alexandra Hospital and at Cairns Hospital. Last week we opened three more hubs—at Metro North's Surgical, Treatment and Rehabilitation Service, known as STARS, in the Herston Quarter; Sunshine Coast University Hospital; and Townsville University Hospital.

Thanks to the success of training and implementing our six hubs in administering the Pfizer vaccine, from yesterday we have been able to stand up two additional hubs, in Bundaberg and Logan, to administer the AstraZeneca vaccine. We went from delivering 2,030 vaccines in our first week to 8,300 at the end of our second week. Now, after just 15 days, we have already vaccinated over 10,000 people. Next Monday it will be time for Zoe, our first Queenslanders to be vaccinated, to come back and get her second vaccine, making her the first person to be fully vaccinated in Queensland. I cannot wait for Zoe to come back.

As we committed, we have allowed the vaccination hubs to gradually build their capacity to ensure all of the staff have confidence in handling this complex vaccine. I congratulate the administration staff, nurses, doctors and security staff—all of the amazing health workers running our vaccination hubs. I have now had the pleasure of visiting all six of the vaccination hubs around Queensland and seeing firsthand the level of professionalism being displayed. I thank the various members who came along and joined me in those visits.

I must remind everyone what the Chief Health Officer said, and that is that this is a marathon, not a sprint. This is one of the biggest public health undertakings in history. We live in the most decentralised state in Australia, so to protect everyone we can it is crucial we get the logistics right. Vaccinations will depend on the supply from the Commonwealth. As we move from phase 1a into phase 1b and beyond, the vaccination program will be progressively expanded across Queensland. More locations will come online, including more hospitals. GPs and pharmacies will deliver the vaccine to more Queenslanders as safely and as quickly as possible. As the Premier has announced today, we

will be bringing the QEII and Toowoomba hospitals online and we hope to have them commencing from tomorrow, with more sites opening in the very near future. In the meantime, we need to continue the practices that have protected us so well up until now.

As the Premier observed, we have hit another milestone recently, with more than two million COVID tests being undertaken since COVID started. I want to thank all of those pathologists—the public and private pathologists—across Queensland. Two million tests is incredible. I want to thank each and every one of those people for coming forward and getting tested when they felt unwell. Along with good hygiene and physical distancing, it has proven to be one of our most effective weapons against this virus. This is just the beginning of Queensland's vaccine journey and I want to encourage every Queenslanders to get the vaccine when it is offered to them.

Great Barrier Reef, School Excursions

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (10.00 am): Following the extraordinary interest from Queenslanders in the Cairns Holiday Dollars voucher initiative, we know the Great Barrier Reef is a significant attraction up and down the coast. As the Premier announced earlier, by term 3 this year the Palaszczuk government will transform the Great Barrier Reef into Queensland's biggest, most colourful and biodiverse classroom. There is nothing like a firsthand experience to reinforce learning and there is nothing like the world's largest coral reef system to provide young Queenslanders with an immersive understanding of our planet's natural history.

As home to one of the world's seven wonders, Queensland is the place to be to deliver the Great Barrier Reef education experience program. Up to 6½ thousand Queensland primary and secondary school students will have a unique opportunity to learn about marine habitats and take part in reef restoration and conservation activities. This program will provide the hands-on experience to inspire a new generation of Queenslanders to be aware of the Great Barrier Reef's environmental significance and, I hope, some aspiring marine scientists as well.

From the cape to Bundaberg, protecting the Great Barrier Reef for the future is critical to help Queensland tourism not only rebuild but rebuild better. The Palaszczuk government has been working in partnership with reef operators on this initiative since late last year. It is part of our plan for the tourism industry's economic recovery from the global COVID-19 pandemic. We will provide up to \$150 for eligible students to get to the reef. While learning about this living wonder, students will be supporting the jobs of accommodation and transport providers, caterers and reef tour operators. The reef excursion program is similar to our Outback Queensland Education Experience, which has generated almost \$2.5 million for outback communities. From education to economic recovery, everybody wins.

Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.02 am): To see progress, some would say, 'Look to the skyline and count the cranes,' but in Queensland you will need to look deep below the surface as well—in fact, 30 metres below—because right now there is an underground movement creating jobs and shaping Queensland's public transport system, and that of course is the Palaszczuk government's \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail project. This is a 10.2-kilometre new rail line, including six kilometres of twin rail tunnels under the Brisbane River and four new underground stations, driving our economic recovery from COVID-19 and making Queensland the place to be.

At Boggo Road, Wolloongabba, Albert Street and Roma Street, hundreds of workers are right now building the new Brisbane underground tunnels and new stations. From tunnellers, rock bolters, shotcreters to roadhead operators, electricians and mechanical tradespeople, Cross River Rail has the earth moving under our feet and creating 7,700 overall jobs throughout the life of the project.

Last week I had the pleasure of joining the Premier and the Minister for Education to inspect progress at the new Roma Street station. There, the 100-strong crew has already excavated 400 metres of tunnels and caverns and it is quite a sight to see. Among them are 15 apprentices, including two apprentices called Bailey and Grace whom both myself and the member for McConnell had the pleasure of meeting, and I inform the House that we are unrelated! To date, workers have dug a mammoth 128,000 tonnes of earth to make way for the new Roma Street station 27 metres below ground level with 220-metre-long platforms. With tunnel operations taking place 24/7, the station cavern will be complete by the time our two massive tunnel-boring machines break through at Roma Street.

Queensland is the place to be because of projects like Cross River Rail. Our \$56 billion infrastructure guarantee over the next four years is creating thousands of jobs for businesses right across our state. On Cross River Rail alone, more than 800 suppliers and subcontractors have secured work including Heinrich Constructions at Yatala with \$30 million for fibre reinforcing plastic, Greenstock Nurseries at Elimbah with more than a million dollars, John R Keith Contracting at Upper Coomera with \$465,000 worth of drainage and hydraulic works and there are many more who will continue to benefit as we inject more than \$4 million every day into the South-East Queensland economy. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government has a multimillion dollar plan to create jobs, support business and make Queensland the place to be as we recover from COVID-19, building the infrastructure a booming Queensland population needs.

Women and Girls

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.05 am): Yesterday marked International Women's Day which is part of Queensland Women's Week because, here in Queensland, our incredible women and girls deserve more than just one day. This year's theme for Queensland Women's Week is 'Celebrate our present. Own our Future', and there is a lot to celebrate. Queensland women have served on the front line of our COVID response, from our nurses, cleaners and aged-care workers to our teachers. However, women dominated industries have also been some of the hardest hit economically such as retail, accommodation and hospitality. A greater proportion of Queensland women withdrew superannuation during the pandemic and we know that women are already behind on their super balances, so as we own our future we need to keep fighting to remove barriers that prevent women's full economic participation, and that includes creating safe workplaces where women are free from violence and harassment.

Last week I joined Minister de Brenni to attend a Try a Trade Day where schoolgirls were able to visit a work site and meet with the incredible women tradies who are currently forging careers in construction. I am a big believer that you cannot be what you cannot see, so it is crucial that women see themselves in these industries. Currently women make up only five per cent of the building industry, but through days like Try a Trade we will encourage more women into the industry, and at the Cannon Hill site women make up 30 per cent of the on-site construction workforce. Encouraging women and girls to pursue careers in these male dominated industries where pay levels are higher and jobs are more secure will also help close the gender pay gap. We need to create and protect secure jobs for women and to support the skills and training needs of women to grow the skills for jobs of the future.

Our pre apprenticeship support and other initiatives to support women and girls to engage and succeed in male-dominated industries such as STEM and engineering are getting great results. I am pleased to say that there has been a 32 per cent increase in women commencing an apprenticeship through our initiatives. A report released by Australia's Chief Scientist indicates that the pandemic is expected to disproportionately hinder the careers of women in STEM. The report shows that hard-won gains by women in this industry—a minority of STEM professionals—are at risk, and that is why I am pleased the Palaszczuk government is continuing to support groups like Women in Technology to help build their careers. Everyone benefits when women are in a better position to build economic independence and self-sufficiency and contribute to our Queensland community.

Police Resources

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.08 am): The Queensland Police Service is world class and the Palaszczuk government is supporting community safety by providing the Queensland Police Service with record levels of police personnel and resources. Recently the Police Commissioner has announced a raft of significant new senior appointments and is now formalising new boundaries aimed at delivering better outcomes for local communities. Among those chosen for higher duties, Chief Superintendent Mark Wheeler has been promoted to assistant commissioner. As chief superintendent on the Gold Coast, Mark Wheeler was in direct control of the border controls with New South Wales. As chief superintendent he coordinated what would turn out to be a marathon effort by police, making sure the Chief Health Officer's border controls were adhered to.

Chief Superintendent Wheeler was also in charge of the police response at the Gold Coast Airport and the conduct of hotel quarantine. Those multiple police operations played a critical role in helping stop the spread of COVID-19 and helped keep Queenslanders safe. Newly promoted Assistant Commissioner Wheeler has now been appointed to lead the newly formalised northern region. The

assistant commissioner will be based in Townsville and will be in charge of policing in the new region. As an experienced senior officer, Assistant Commissioner Wheeler will make a significant contribution to the Townsville community.

Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll, who grew up in North Queensland and spent many years working there, has a solid understanding of the issues that matter most to local communities. Following the rationalisation under the Newman government of police regions, the Queensland Police Service is now restoring the two discrete police regions: the northern region, with Townsville as its hub, and the far northern region, with Cairns as its hub. The far northern police region will also now have a dedicated assistant police commissioner based in Cairns. Assistant Commissioner Brett Schafferius, an experienced and outstanding police officer, has been appointed the new boss for the far northern region. Assistant Commissioner Schafferius is well known in the Far North and has significant policing experience. Early in his career he spent time in the Cairns Drug Squad and the Mareeba Criminal Investigation Branch as a detective senior constable. More recently, he held the position of chief superintendent and district officer of the Far North district.

The government is delivering the biggest investment in police personnel in more than three decades. This will see the deployment of an extra 2,025 police personnel. The commissioner has stated that this investment will result in the deployment of a minimum of an extra 150 police officers to each policing region across Queensland. With the commissioner's decision to split the north of Queensland into two separate regions, it means that the newly created northern region centred in Townsville will get a minimum of an extra 150 officers, as will the newly created far northern region based in Cairns.

This government has a laser-like focus on governing for all Queenslanders. In the north of our state we are seeing the benefits of that approach. We are seeing sensibly redrawn policing regions, with dedicated assistant commissioners, and the deployment of the biggest investment in police personnel in three decades. We should all be very proud of our government's commitment, not only to the Queensland Police Service but also to the people of the north and, more broadly, all Queenslanders.

PERSONAL EXPLANATIONS

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (10.12 am): I understand that the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill is on the *Notice Paper* and is likely to be debated this week. As per my interests register, I am a significant shareholder in what could be called a craft brewer on the Gold Coast. As such, I advise the House that I will not be speaking to the bill and I will be abstaining from any vote. Cheers!

Comments by Member for Nanango

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.12 am): I rise to make a personal explanation. I refer to a comment made by Mrs Frecklington, the member for Nanango and former leader of the opposition, at a leaders debate on 30 October 2020 which suggested I undertook paid legal work for Legal Aid while I was a member of parliament and chair of the legal affairs committee and that this was an integrity scandal.

In light of this inaccurate and defamatory comment, I instructed my legal team at Fisher Dore to write to Mrs Frecklington. I have now received a full written apology from the member for Nanango for her comments and in her written apology she stated, 'I apologise for any offence that may have been caused as a result of my comments', and 'it was not my intent to suggest that your conduct was found to be corrupt or in any way dishonourable, or that you have done anything whatsoever that could constitute an integrity scandal.' That written apology also recognises that legal advice by pre-eminent senior counsel Bret Walker which was tabled in parliament, makes it plain that there was no impropriety whatsoever.

I can only hope that the inaccurate and defamatory comment by Mrs Frecklington on 30 October 2020 will be the last of its kind by Mrs Frecklington or any member of the LNP.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr RUSSO: I table the correspondence I received from the member for Nanango. I would also note Mrs Frecklington paid for my reasonable legal fees.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 February 2021, from the member for Nanango, Mrs Deb Frecklington MP, to the member for Toohey, Mr Peter Russo MP, regarding comments made at the Leader's Debate on 30 October 2020 [273].

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Your comments were clearly designed to disrupt the member for Toohey in his personal explanation. I was not about to interrupt him as you did.

Register of Members' Interests

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (10.14 am): It has come to my attention that a company and trust in which I have an interest was not declared on my register of interests. I was not aware of this. I should have been and I apologise. These entities have not transacted since 2019 as part of a wind-down process. They hold no assets and transact no business. I am working with the Clerk to correct my register of interests.

ETHICS COMMITTEE

Matters of Privilege

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (10.15 am): As chair of the Ethics Committee I rise to advise the House of certain decisions made by the committee. Upon dissolution of the 56th Parliament the previous Ethics Committee ceased and any matters before the committee lapsed. In accordance with section 105 of the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001, the Ethics Committee of the 57th Parliament unanimously resolved not to continue with two matters, specifically the matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 22 November 2019 relating to the former member for South Brisbane's alleged failure to register an interest in the Register of Members' Interests and an allegation of noncompliance with standing order 262, and the matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 8 September 2020 relating to an alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Everton.

The committee's decision not to continue with these matters does not represent any findings made by the committee. The committee emphasises the relevant obligations of all members of parliament as outlined in the code of ethical standards. Firstly, it is the responsibility of each member to conscientiously comply with the requirements of the register of members' and related persons' interests, including updating the register in a timely manner. Secondly, members may sometimes make incorrect or misleading statements in the House without actually intending to mislead the House. Recklessness by a member resulting in incorrect or misleading statements to the House is in itself a serious matter. Members have a duty to correct the official record in the House as soon as it becomes apparent that their statements were incorrect or could be misleading.

In closing, I advise that the committee has also unanimously resolved to continue with the matter of privilege referred by the Speaker on 13 August 2020 relating to the alleged behaviour of a visitor signed in to the parliamentary precinct and alleged failure by the member for Mirani to adequately supervise the visitor.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Reports and Correspondence

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.17 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee I lay upon the table of the House the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner's report titled *Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, dated December 2020. The report concludes that, during the period covered by this inspection, the Crime and Corruption Commission and law enforcement officers of the Crime and Corruption Commission complied with the provisions of chapter 13 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in all respects.

Tabled paper: Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Commissioner: Report on the results of the inspection of the records of the Crime and Corruption Commission pursuant to section 362 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, December 2020 [\[275\]](#).

I also lay upon the table of the House a certified copy of the *Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2020* and related correspondence.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: Certified copy of the Register of Reports and Recommendations to the Minister for Police, Ministerial Directions and Tabled Ministerial Reasons 2020, pursuant to section 4.7 of the Police Service Administration Act 1990 [\[276\]](#).

The committee received the parliamentary commissioner's report on 20 January 2021 and the register of reports and recommendations on 15 January 2021 and is tabling both reports within 14 sitting days of receipt, as required.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.18 am.

Mason Jett Lee, Ministerial Accountability

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.18 am): My question is to the Premier. The final report into Mason Jett Lee's death was released late on Friday, an hour after the Premier's media conference. Why is the Premier not accountable for the death of Mason Jett Lee?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say to the Leader of the Opposition, as we have said in the House many times, that what happened to young Mason was an absolute tragedy. Every single person feels that across the state. We need to put in more support and more frontline services to make sure that things such as that do not happen again. Since the tragic death of Mason significant changes have been made to strengthen the child protection system in this state. That includes an extra \$200 million for services, including for increasing frontline and support staff numbers, appointing dedicated child safety officers to work with hospital and health services and boosting funding to services that help children and families most at risk. The training and supervision of staff have also been improved. We have committed to an additional 153 new child safety frontline and support positions, which the minister for child safety announced. That is what we need.

The issues that face our child safety workers are some of the most complex. It has changed dramatically over the years. Unfortunately, young children are living in families that have a range of complex issues such as mental health problems and drug and alcohol addictions and, unfortunately, we are seeing more parents involved in the tragic circumstances surrounding ice. The Public Service Commission has released its final report, but the work of child safety always continues. I know that the minister for child safety is absolutely dedicated. She visits child safety officers. She reports back to me about these issues. We know how important this work is right across the state.

Mason Jett Lee, Ministerial Accountability

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Premier. According to the Deputy Coroner, the protection of Mason Jett Lee was a failure in nearly every possible way by the under-resourced child safety department. Why did the Premier not hold former minister Fentiman responsible for these failures instead of promoting her to be the state's first law officer?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I say very clearly that these are very difficult portfolios. I know from when I was minister for disability services that there are very complex issues surrounding nearly every single case that comes across a minister's desk or into a department. I know of the challenges that our frontline workers face every single day as they try to do their absolute best to look after young people and make very hard decisions. Minister Fentiman is an absolute stand-out as Attorney-General in this state. Already she has taken numerous steps—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us go through the reports into this tragedy. There has been a Coroner's report, a child death case review panel, the QFCC systems review and there have been systems and practice reviews and the health service investigation.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I can advise that specifically at Morayfield there are now an extra 13 staff, there is a new ATSI Family Wellbeing Service, there is a new domestic and family violence worker who works with Child Safety and there is also a new Assessment and Service Connect team linking families to appropriate services.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members to my left! The Premier is being responsive to the question as I hear it.

Ms PALASZCZUK: We have just announced an extra 153 child safety support officers across the state.

Ms Fentiman: Which they cut.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. I will take that interjection, although I was not going to go there. I was not going to talk about the cuts that the former government made.

Mr Nicholls: That had nothing to do with it. Read the report.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, you are warned under the standing orders. You can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Clayfield withdrew from the chamber at 10.24 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, you have 44 seconds remaining. Do you have anything to add?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The member for Clayfield was the treasurer of this state when they cut 14,000 jobs—

Mr Dick: And he said it didn't have any impact.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—and he said that that did not have any impact. I can tell the House that cutting workers has a big impact. It has a very big impact.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders. Comments will be directed through the chair. I am having difficulty hearing the Premier's response.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As we enhance staff on the front line to deal with these complex issues, we will always continue. The reform of the child safety system never ends. It has never ended. What we have asked for is for some bipartisan support, to work together and—

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—obviously that bipartisanship is not happening today.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. I ask you to resume your seat please, Premier.

Tourism Industry

Mr HEALY: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is assisting the tourism industry, specifically those areas that are hit hard by international border closures, particularly in the tropical north, and is she aware of any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZUK: There is one thing that drives me every day and that is the people of this state. I am absolutely overwhelmed by what the people do in and give to our community. One thing that gets me is when people feel that they are not getting enough support from the federal government when it comes to the ending of JobKeeper. These are real issues for people who have to put a roof over their family's head, they have to pay school fees and they have to put food on the table. Those people are saying to me that they are in a desperate situation. That is what I have been hearing from the people in the Far North. If members of the opposition went out and listened more they might hear this. They need to think about this a bit more.

I make it very clear that we listened to what the tourism operators said to us and we are delivering on a couple of issues. The first issue is the \$200 holiday vouchers that we announced on Sunday, and it was great to see the member for Cairns, joined by Mark Olsen, Daniel Gschwind and the minister for tourism, Stirling Hinchliffe. From 7 am today more than 74,000 people have registered. There have been over 109,000 visits to the Cairns Holiday Dollars website. At that time Mark Olsen said that this is a really good kickstart at a very important time and that Cairns is the No. 1 region for Google searches for travel experiences. That is important because, as you know, Mr Speaker, at this time of year they would usually be seeing large numbers of international tourists coming to Cairns but that is not happening because the international borders are closed and we support that decision. I 100 per cent support the federal government's decision to close our international borders. However, it is about time that the federal government realised that some targeted support is needed to get people through these tough times. I suggested that the federal Treasurer go to Cairns and he did.

A government member: It had been 1,000 days.

Ms PALASZCZUK: It had been 1,000 days since he had been to Cairns.

Mr Dick: It took him 1,000 days to get there.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Yes, it took him 1,000 days to get there and what did he deliver? Nothing! The federal Treasurer delivered nothing. Today we are encouraging school students to go on excursions and that came directly from the roundtable conversations we had with the tourism operators and the local members. This is about delivering and listening. When we listen to people, we deliver. We will continue to listen to people right across Queensland to get the best outcomes possible.

Mason Jett Lee, Ministerial Accountability

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Premier. In the five years since Mason Jett Lee's death, Labor has had three child safety ministers and two directors-general. Now a review says the resulting disciplinary action against departmental staff was manifestly inadequate. What is the standard for ministerial accountability?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The people responsible for the tragic death of Mason Jett Lee went to jail, as they should have. There have been comprehensive reports and reviews into the tragedy, and the Public Service Commissioner also conducted a review, as I stated earlier.

We do not want to see these tragedies happen. It is an absolute tragedy when a baby or young child loses their life. We can take on board the recommendations that have come out of all of those reports and we can act. That is exactly what Minister Fentiman did and it is exactly what Minister Linard is now doing, ensuring that we have a robust child safety system that puts at the centre the welfare and the best interests of the child. That is absolutely fundamental. As I said, we are increasing the number of frontline workers, which is vital. A number of children coming into the child safety system are coming from more complex family backgrounds. We will continue to enhance the child safety system. We will continue to make sure we have people on the front line working hard to ensure the fundamental protection of the child.

Coronavirus, Prevention

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on efforts to keep Queenslanders safe in the face of new highly contagious strains of COVID-19?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Ipswich West for that very important question. As we know, there is good news emerging in Queensland with the rollout of the vaccine. It is wonderful to see both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca vaccines being rolled out, especially to our frontline health workers and our frontline quarantine workers. However, there remains a big issue and an area of risk for Queenslanders with the highly infectious strains that we are seeing. Hotel quarantine is our last line of defence. Members would have heard me say that in this House time and time again. There are more and more presentations of people testing positive in hotel quarantine—five overnight and I think seven on the weekend—and that, of course, increases the number of people admitted to hospital. That also increases the risk not only to our hotel quarantine workers but also to the community.

I have been very clear about my desire to have a regional quarantine facility in Queensland. We have had several discussions and meetings with the federal government. We need a simple answer from Canberra to the simple question: do they want a regional quarantine facility—yes or no?

I commend John Wagner, a fantastic entrepreneur in the Toowoomba region. The regional quarantine facility would be safe as it would be adjacent to the airport and the staff would be located there as well. We have seen how successful the Howard Springs quarantine facility is. We want a simple answer out of Canberra—yes or no.

What is the threshold issue for the federal government? The threshold issue is: will international flights be able to land at Wellcamp? We still do not have an answer from Canberra. I raised it again at national cabinet. John Wagner has also provided all the information that is needed to the federal government. We just need to know whether or not they want to work with us on this—yes or no. There is no more shifting blame. You either want it or you do not.

Between now and the end of October, until the vaccine is rolled out, we remain in a high-risk situation. We are seeing more contagious variants of the virus throughout the world, especially with the UK strain, the South African strain and the South American strain, and we are seeing more positive cases coming from Papua New Guinea, where unfortunately the virus is now taking hold in that community.

(Time expired)

Mason Jett Lee, Child Safety Staff

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Children. In response to Mason's awful, tragic death the minister said that the department did not meet Mason's needs. Will the new minister for child safety advise how many of the 21 child safety staff identified by the Deputy Coroner for failing Mason Lee have been promoted?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. I would like to start by acknowledging the tremendous tragedy that is the death of Mason Jett Lee. He was let down by the people who should have loved and protected him most, and they have been held to account for that. That is important to note.

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Glass House, you are already on a warning. You can leave the chamber for the remainder of question time.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 10.35 am.

Mr SPEAKER: I remind all members: if you have been warned under the standing orders you will cease all interjections or you will be leaving the chamber.

Ms LINARD: I want to respond to the statement of the member opposite when she was repeating what I said on Friday—that is, five years ago the department did not meet Mason's needs. We are deeply sorry for that. I note the interjections to the Premier's earlier answer when those opposite were saying that no-one has been held accountable. That is just not true. I stood up on Friday in response to that report and said that we are sorry; we did not meet his needs. As minister, I am sorry; we did not meet his needs. The director-general has said that she is sorry; we did not meet his needs. No-one is here trying to deflect. The other thing I would like to say—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, as I hear the answer, the minister is being responsive to the question asked. I will hear the answer and the chamber will listen to the answer.

Ms LINARD: The other thing I would like to say is that no amount of politics in here changes the lives of vulnerable children out there. Investment does that and that is what we are doing—transforming a system, investing in a system. We are putting more child safety staff on the front line. We have already talked about 550 new staff and there has been an announcement of a further 153. We have made many changes to the system. The Premier outlined some of those earlier. We know that we have to remain vigilant and continue to invest in a system that deals with the most vulnerable families in Queensland.

With regard to the staff who were mentioned in the Deputy Coroner's report—my recollection is that 21 were mentioned—they range from the person who answered the intake call to those who had more contact directly with the matter. I understand that the question related to promotions. My advice is that none of those individuals—the Deputy Coroner referred to nine in particular having more contact—have been promoted.

Local Government, Integrity

Mrs GILBERT: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the implementation of the Palaszczuk government's local government integrity reforms, and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Mackay for her passionate support of the Palaszczuk government's efforts to return accountability, integrity and transparency to local government. We have legislated to implement the CCC's Belcarra inquiry reforms. Late last year I increased funding by \$250,000 to the Office of the Independent Assessor to fund three additional staff. We are providing training and guidance to councillors in how they manage conflicts of interest. The department, the OIA and the LGAQ also work together to provide information and guidance to councillors about how they can manage conflicts of interest.

That is because recognising, declaring and managing conflicts of interest is central to good government. I note the statements of the member for Whitsunday in both the *Brisbane Times* and in this House earlier that she did not know she owned shares in Strategic Direction Performance. I table for the benefit of the House the member's inaccurate statement of interests as well as the ASIC extract which clearly outlines the shareholdings of the member.

Tabled paper: Extract from the Register of Members' Interests as at 5 March 2021 [274].

Tabled paper: Data extracted from ASIC, dated 4 September 2019 and 4 November 2019, relating to personal current and historical information for Ms Amanda Camm [277].

I can advise the House that, despite what the member has said, it appears she did know she owned shares in Strategic Direction Performance. I table for the benefit of the House the member's declaration of interests—

Mr SPEAKER: Please table it and not hold it up, Minister.

Dr MILES:—when she was deputy mayor of Mackay where she very clearly says that she has a shareholding in Strategic Direction Performance—the same company she now says she did not know she had shares in.

Tabled paper: Form 2—Register of interests of a councillor and their related persons for the former deputy mayor, Mackay Regional Council, Ms Amanda Camm [278].

Now she does know. Before that she did not know. Before that she did know. Before she did know, she did not know. Before she did not know, she did know. I will write to the Clerk about these inconsistencies.

You would think that, after the member for Broadwater had to apologise for exactly the same mistake, those opposite would be a bit more careful. When he was made Leader of the Opposition he made much of how he would return integrity to the LNP, but you cannot come in here and lecture us about integrity without holding your own team up to the same standard. The member for Maroochydore is meant to be the integrity star. I look forward to her investigation of this matter.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Deputy Premier, you will direct your comments through the chair. Leader of the Opposition, you used a term towards another member which I consider to be unparliamentary. I would ask you to withdraw.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I withdraw.

Dr MILES: While those opposite sit around planning their next taxpayer funded junket retreat—we know they have been to Luna Park, they have been to schoolies, they have been to Margaret River—why not set a session aside before going out golfing to let the member for Maroochydore teach you a thing or two about honesty and integrity.

Mason Jett Lee , Ministerial Accountability

Ms BATES: My question is to the Premier. As patron of Act for Mason, my question is to the Premier. Regarding her private emails, the Premier said that what happened five years ago does not matter. Mason died five years ago. Does that mean—

Government members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members to my right, I will hear the question in silence. I have been very clear about that expectation.

Ms BATES: Regarding her private emails, the Premier said that what happened five years ago does not matter. Mason died five years ago. Does that mean he does not matter to the Premier?

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There are clearly imputations in that question. I ask that it be ruled out of order.

Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

Mr SPEAKER: Yes, I agree with the point of order that has been raised. I will rule that question out of order. There is an imputation on the chair as well. As a reminder, member for Mudgeeraba I have ruled a number of questions out of order. I ask that you reconsider some of your questions prior to asking them. You are experienced in this House.

Economy

Mr BROWN: My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer please update the House on how the government's unite and recover plan is driving economic recovery in Queensland and is he aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Capalaba for his question and for his strong support for our economic recovery plan and creating more jobs in Queensland, which I know he is very keen to do in the Redlands. After being the first state in the country to respond to the impact of COVID-19, the Palaszczuk Labor government's unite and recover plan has guided Queensland's economic fightback. With more than \$7 billion in recovery initiatives underpinning the plan, we are investing in health care, infrastructure, industry and, most importantly, jobs.

The results we are seeing now tell us our plan is working, with our economy leading the nation. Our economic growth is leading the nation and there are more people working in Queensland than before the pandemic. Even the LNP's chief economist, Gene Tunny—the man who literally wrote the book on asset sales—agrees. He said—

Queensland performed better—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr DICK: It is your economist. You should listen.

Mr SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair, Treasurer.

Mr DICK: He stated—

Queensland performed better than the rest of Australia over 2020 and ended the year with the highest through the year growth rate.

I thought I would never say this, but I thank Gene Tunny for his great acknowledgement of our government's work.

While we are focused on a better future for Queensland, the LNP is focused on one thing and one thing alone—themselves. With the new LNP leader we were told that those things were going to change and it was going to be a new dawn for Queensland. The backroom boys would not be back making moves and the infighting would be over. How wrong we were. We have learnt in the last few weeks that the former LNP president had a major row with the former opposition leader over her handling of COVID-19. What was the plan? There was no plan other than open the borders early and hope for the best.

Under the member for Broadwater, what has changed? What is new? It is an accommodation-led recovery not for the tourism industry but for themselves at parliament—their No. 1 priority, the first thing they said in this parliament this year. It is an insider's obsession with parliamentary process, including the estimates committee process, and, of course, an ongoing obsession with five-year-old emails.

Let us look at what their support for the tourism industry was over that five-year period when they were obsessed about emails. Some \$74,546 of taxpayers' money was spent on LNP junkets. June 2017, six LNP MPs went to Western Australia and spent \$45,000. July 2018, 10 LNP MPs and seven of their spouses travelled to Sydney, put their hand in the taxpayers' pocket, looked after themselves and forgot about Queensland. We also had two nights away at schoolies. How could we forget that!

The Queensland tourism industry deserves the support of this government, and we are giving it to them. They deserve the support of the federal coalition, and they are getting nothing. They deserve the support of the LNP at a state level, but they will not get anything from them either.

Mason Jett Lee

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Premier. A whistleblower has told the opposition that Minister Fentiman recommended sacking the director-general of the department of child safety following Mason Jett Lee's death but the Premier blocked this decision. Did the Premier prevent holding her former deputy director-general accountable for Mason's death?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer to that is no—N-O.

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Premier and member for Mudgeeraba, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

Health System

Ms BUSH: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk Labor government is investing in a world-class healthcare system for Queenslanders?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Cooper for her question and note her long-term interest in the Health portfolio. She knows all too well the importance of a strong healthcare system in Queensland. Her constituents of Cooper will be pleased to learn that the STARS health centre at neighbouring Herston is up and running. This is a centre that will benefit not just those in South-East Queensland but those right across Queensland.

Yesterday, the Premier, the member for McConnel and I had the privilege of visiting this amazing facility. STARS is the surgical treatment and rehabilitation service at Herston—a fully digital, state-of-the-art medical facility. The \$330 million project is part of the \$1.1 billion Herston Quarter, expanding the well-known Herston health precinct. STARS is a state-of-the-art facility that supported hundreds of jobs when under construction—and there are more to come—but will now provide Queenslanders with exceptional care for a range of elective surgeries and planned procedures. It is just one of the hospitals across Queensland to benefit from the \$250 million injection from the Palaszczuk government announced in May 2020 to improve elective surgery capacity.

We know that this is an important issue for Queenslanders. With STARS having commenced elective surgery procedures in the last four weeks, we know that we can treat more Queenslanders for non-urgent elective surgery sooner which takes pressure off our other hospitals and those waiting lists. I am advised that STARS will increase Metro North's overall surgical capacity to deliver an additional 12,000 gastroenterology procedures and 14,000 surgical procedures each year. By June this year STARS will open up another two operating theatres which will mean we will have seven fully functional operating theatres.

STARS is one of the largest tertiary rehabilitation centres in the Southern Hemisphere. There will be 128 beds dedicated to rehabilitation geriatric services. When the full complement of beds come online with all of the services, we will not just be nation leading but global leading when it comes to rehabilitation. There will be over 100 beds set aside for rehabilitation geriatric services alone.

I want to acknowledge the three gentlemen that the Premier, the member for McConnel and I met yesterday: a gentleman who had suffered a stroke and was learning to walk again; a gentleman whose caravan had caught fire while he was inside and had 60 per cent burns to his body; and a gentleman who was involved in a horrific truck accident and had to have his legs amputated and is being rehabilitated. Those three individuals are benefiting from the state-of-the-art rehabilitation centre. I wish the three of them all the best going forward in their rehabilitation, which is going to be a very long journey, but it is facilities like this that are going to make a difference in people's lives, like in the lives of those three gentlemen and Queenslanders across the state.

(Time expired)

Premier and Minister for Trade, Email Accounts

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Premier. The Premier asked the Solicitor-General to look at four emails only, not the full contents of her two private email accounts—apbounce11 @ gmail.com and stacia1 @ bigpond.com. In the spirit of openness and transparency, why did the Premier not order all the other emails in her account to be reviewed?

Ms PALASZCZUK: There are RTI processes. The Solicitor-General's report has been tabled in this House. I have no further comments in relation to this.

State Schools, Air Conditioning

Ms RICHARDS: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on how installation of air conditioning is progressing in the schools in my electorate of Redlands and statewide generally, and is she aware of any alternative policies?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Redlands. I am pleased to announce that, of her seven schools, four schools are fully air-conditioned—completed and fully operational. One school is nearly finalised and two are going through the process. They are part of the 533 schools that have had air conditioning completed in the last 12 months. That was due to the slow down due to COVID because we did not want to disrupt learning that much. In spite of that, that is a remarkable outcome. I thank the Minister for Public Works, who has done an excellent job partnering with the Department of Education.

It is interesting that we talk about alternative policies. Those opposite continue to talk about air conditioning, but their own policy did not have air conditioning in schools completed until 2028. They were only going to air-condition classrooms, not libraries and not staffrooms. Yet they have the audacity to sit opposite and criticise. One can understand why I was a bit perplexed recently when, in spite of all of the lovely things we have been reading lately in the *Courier-Mail*, there was a media article—

Ms Palaszczuk: It's a book!

Ms GRACE: It is a book. There is no doubt about it, Premier. I take that interjection. There was a media article in which the member for Moggill was asked about air conditioning and he used the word 'debacle'. We were a little perplexed in our office. Why would he use that word when all of the schools

in his electorate are air-conditioned—every one of them. They are all done, finished, complete. Then we thought maybe he misheard the question. Obviously there is a lot of heat over there at the moment in relation to what we are reading. Maybe he thought they were talking about the attempted political execution and failed campaign by the backroom LNP bosses to rid the member for Nanango which 'has brought the LNP to boiling point'. Maybe that is why he was feeling the heat. That of course would be a debacle. There is no doubt about that.

Maybe after a decade the LNP is a powder keg of distrust and vengeance and 'the level of hatred felt by some key current and former MPs towards the party's organisational wing is red hot'. No wonder he was feeling the heat. Maybe it was Campbell Newman who put the blowtorch on all of them opposite when he said, 'The MPs have to take some blame'—this is about the 2020 election outcome—'They have underperformed on policy. That is a fact.'

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I cannot even recall what the question was about, but I am sure it was not about what the minister is speaking about, so I draw your attention to standing order 118(b) on relevance.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The point of order that has been raised has validity. Can I please give the member some guidance. Using terms like 'boiling point' and 'blowtorch', while they have regard to heat, is drawing a long bow to air conditioning. Minister, you have 21 seconds left. Do you have anything further to add?

Ms GRACE: If I were the member for Kawana, I would be embarrassed too. Maybe it was the alternative policy of the New South Wales government where, in a five-year program, over three years they have completed 112 schools out of 919! That might have been what he was referring to, but he certainly was not referring to Queensland.

Political Donations

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Attorney-General. McHomik Investments, a company owned and controlled by a property developer, donated \$6,000 to the LNP in late 2019, and the Premier said before the election that this 'sounds like a loophole'. Given that the same company has since made another donation to the LNP, what is the Attorney-General's plan to fix this loophole in the developer donation ban?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. Queensland has some of the strongest donation laws in the country. I am incredibly proud of this government's track record. We have changed a lot of the laws relating to disclosure and donations, particularly after those opposite changed the laws where one could essentially walk into an MP's office with a brown paper bag full of \$12,000. That was their legacy around donations. We now have real-time donations. We have banned developer donations and we have some of the strongest laws in this country.

Ms Bates interjected.

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

Ms FENTIMAN: I am very prepared to stand in this House and back our strong laws in relation to developers and in relation to making sure that everyone has to disclose donations. We have done a lot of work to fix what those opposite did when they were in government. We have incredibly strong laws when it comes to donations and disclosure.

Cross River Rail

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on how Cross River Rail will transform public transport connections for commuters?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for Kurwongbah, a great supporter of the Cross River Rail project. It is going to be awesome—twin rail tunnels going past the Gabba for the first time and under the river right into Albert Street—into the heart of the CBD for the first time. It will connect to the Roma Street line and the big busway interchange and come out onto the exhibition line. It will be a full time line and we will have a full-time exhibition station. This is going to be an awesome project—absolutely awesome! It is on track for construction to be finished by 2024. The first services will be in 2025 once testing is done.

I point that out in particular to the member for Chatsworth, my shadow minister. We all know that the member for Chatsworth has a history of overreaching. He did say that it would take 36 years to go back to the full timetable; it took six weeks! We know that they cut train drivers. There was the NGR

debacle. We heard the 'tough love' comment. We know that he overreaches, but I have an even better one. We saw his little Sherlock Holmes routine, saying to the media that he had discovered that there was allegedly a delay with Cross River Rail and that we were a year behind in its opening. The only thing was that the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority had been reporting since the beginning of last year that the opening of services would be in 2025!

Mr Crandon interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera!

Mr BAILEY: That was announced at the beginning of last year. It never seemed to occur to the member for Chatsworth to share this information with the opposition leading up to the election. He did not even seem to think it was a good idea to raise it at estimates. He was a year behind on the announcement and he called a press conference on that basis! It was extraordinary.

I know all of that LNP infighting is probably a bit distracting for him, but there are oodles of Cross River Rail media releases that refer to the opening of services in 2025 and construction in 2024. I suggest that the LNP—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Coomera is warned under the standing orders. Member for Chatsworth, I believe there may be some provocation; however, you will tone down your interjections.

Mr BAILEY: After they cut it once they promised to cut it again. Then they said they would back it, but they attack it every chance they get. This project has created thousands of jobs and they would have been lost if those opposite got into power because this project would never have happened under the LNP. That is the truth of it. This government supports public transport, supports infrastructure and supports jobs—thousands of jobs. We do not believe in robbing people of their jobs; we believe in giving them a job. That is what we do. Cross River Rail is going to be awesome.

Premier and Minister for Trade, Email Accounts

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Premier. The corruption watchdog boss has said that the Premier's private email accounts contain components of government business. The Solicitor-General's advice, tabled today, shows the State Archivist has already decided the four emails are in fact public records to be retained. Why will the Premier not be accountable to honest Queenslanders and release all of the emails?

Mr SPEAKER: Who was yawning? Member for Maryborough, I find it quite juvenile. You are warned under the standing orders. I have asked for silence.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in relation to the question. I ask you to rule if there was an imputation in the question of the Premier's honesty, and I ask that it be ruled out.

Mr BLEIJIE: On the point of order, Mr Speaker, under the standing orders, with respect to that point of order raised by the Leader of the House, the question put by the member for Maroochydore said 'honest Queenslanders'.

Government members: No, she didn't.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, she did. I have a copy of the question, which says 'be accountable to honest Queenslanders'—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, if I could be heard, it says 'accountable to honest Queenslanders'. The question did not reference the Premier's honesty or otherwise. It was talking about Queenslanders in general, and I suspect Queenslanders are honest people.

Mr SPEAKER: With regard to both points of order, I will allow the member for Maroochydore an opportunity to rephrase the question. I believe that it goes to a potential lack of accountability and there may be an inference in that regard, so I will give the member an opportunity to rephrase the question.

Ms SIMPSON: Why will the Premier not release all of the emails?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Maroochydore for the question. I have tabled the Solicitor-General's advice. I would perhaps ask the member for Maroochydore to read that advice.

Ms Simpson: I have.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I do not think so. You are not interpreting it very well. I am not going to be lectured to by someone who threw the television cameras out of this House. I am not going to be lectured to by someone who was never appointed a minister in this House by her peers. I will not be

lectured to by those opposite, who hand-picked their chair of the CCC, who cut funding to the CCC, who sacked the PCCC in the middle of the night and who had electoral donations up to \$12,000. Our government came in and lowered that straightaway.

Ms Bates: Arrogant and out of touch.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will take the member's interjection because I have been out talking to Queenslanders. Let me tell you what Queenslanders are talking about—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They want to know about the vaccine. They want to know about jobs.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, please resume your seat. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are already on a warning under the standing orders. You will leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Mudgeeraba withdrew from the chamber at 11.04 am.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders for persistently interjecting.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Who cut funding to the CCC—

Ms Simpson: Release all the emails. Why the cover-up?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Well, why weren't you ever a minister?

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat. Firstly, Premier, comments will be directed through the chair. Member for Maroochydore, you are warned under the standing orders. I had just called the House to order and you immediately interjected.

Ms Palaszczuk interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Premier, I am giving a ruling. I would appreciate you not interjecting over me. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I suggest that the member for Maroochydore read the Solicitor-General's advice, which was tabled today. What we do know is that those on that side are completely divided. It is a rabble; it has been exposed. There was lots of reading over the weekend. I encourage everyone to have a read of that. We know that on election night they were not there listening to the Leader of the Opposition make their concession speech: they were off on the yacht with Clive Palmer. They had one of their former executives working for Clive Palmer. No conflict there! They also go on holidays and claim taxpayers' funds—over to Perth, down to Luna Park. The member for Maroochydore may want to investigate that first.

Police Resources, Community Safety

Ms KING: My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister outline policing investments that the Palaszczuk government is making in my local community and update the House on any alternative approaches to keeping Queenslanders safe?

Mr RYAN: I thank the member for the question. There are some outstanding investments happening in the Moreton region, where the member is a strong representative. In relation to the Queensland Police Service, there is a mobile police beat on the way to Beachmere and Bribie Island; there is a new region being created, an extra 150 police coming to the north coast region, a dedicated assistant commissioner; and the new watch house at Caboolture is ahead of schedule and on budget. There are massive investments in the Caboolture-Bribie Island region.

When it comes to investments in policing, unfortunately not all houses are equal. While our commitment to the Queensland Police Service and community safety is real and genuine, I cannot say the same about those opposite. In fact, this leads me to raise a very serious matter: a Longman LNP crime forum that was hosted last week. The panel comprised the federal LNP member for Longman, Terry Young; the shadow Attorney-General, the member for Clayfield, Tim Nicholls; a former LNP federal member for Dickson, Tony Smith; and a member of the Queensland Police Service. I will come back to that. There are another couple of things on this invitation that give rise to serious concern. The cost is \$20 per person. A community forum on an important issue like community safety is being turned into a political fundraiser.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members! The Treasurer will cease his interjections.

Mr RYAN: There is another very serious matter. This is on the invitation. 'Note: prohibited donors must instead contact' another person 'to reserve a seat.' They are not only seeking to profit off crime and concerns about community safety but also masquerade a very important topic about community safety as a political fundraiser for the LNP and then reaching out to prohibited donors for a fundraiser.

I think there was a bit of commentary last year about whether prohibited donors should even attend those functions. I think there was a little bit of attention on that. I look forward to hearing the member for Maroochydore's press conference later when she stands up about integrity. I look forward to the member for Clayfield standing up as the shadow Attorney-General—the person responsible for electoral donations—to say why he endorsed this.

(Time expired)

North Stradbroke Island, Camping

Mr LANGBROEK: My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. How will the minister ensure Indigenous Queenslanders can have tourism jobs on Straddie as tent camping is being phased out?

Mr CRAWFORD: I thank the member for the question. It is probably a question that would be better directed to either the environment minister or the tourism minister, but I will say this to the member for Surfers Paradise. If the member is referring to the recent articles over on Minjerribah in relation to camping, there is a strong held process in this country called native title. Traditional owners of various parts of Queensland and Australia have lodged through the Federal Court for native title. There have been court cases held and native title has been granted. That is what we have seen on Minjerribah and on Mulgumpin, where Quandamooka people have been given native title.

What it comes down to now is this: where does the LNP actually sit in respect of upholding that law, upholding the wishes of the Australian people around native title? The member's question is better directed to the Minister for the Environment but I will caution the LNP about where they want to go with native title and where they want to make comments such as this.

Defamation Laws

Mrs McMAHON: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the minister update the House on defamation laws in Queensland and is she aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. Defamation laws in Queensland are vitally important. It is these laws that have allowed the member for Toohey today to stand up in this House and set the record straight on defamatory comments made by the former leader of the opposition, the member for Nanango. It is so important that our defamation laws continue to do what they are intended to do, and that is why the Palaszczuk government has joined every other jurisdiction in the country to progress nationally consistent defamation laws.

One of the objects of the current Defamation Act is to provide effective and fair remedies for persons whose reputations are harmed by the publication of defamatory material, but what would those opposite know about maintaining accuracy in their public comments? All they do—all they know how to do—is throw mud around hoping that it will stick, with absolutely no regard to the truth. They make things up, and today the member for Nanango has been found out. Let us talk about their record on integrity. It was 2017, which we have already heard about today, when \$45,000 of taxpayers' money was spent by the LNP to travel to the Margaret River to talk about representing regional areas whilst literally sipping chardonnay. Come on! They did it again in 2018, spending \$23,000 of taxpayers' dollars on a four-day trip with their spouses to Luna Park.

The member for Broadwater has been spruiking big promises. He has vowed a new approach to politics in Queensland, but his approach is absolutely the same old, tired LNP that we know. Already the member for Broadwater has been running around digging through old stories about emails that are years old, hoping to manufacture an integrity scandal. What is the LNP's record when it comes to emails? In 2014 an RTI application managed by my department found that the then attorney-general and his staff would routinely delete government emails. That is their record on transparency and accountability. Let us not forget the then attorney-general's plan to completely overhaul, if not scrap,

RTI altogether because it was too onerous and it would deter other people from joining politics. If the Leader of the Opposition wants to actually have a new approach to politics, then he should take a leaf out of our Premier's books—start being strong and delivering for Queensland.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, correct titles will be used in the chamber. You are warned under the standing orders.

North Stradbroke Island, Camping

Dr ROBINSON: My question is to the Minister for the Environment. With respect to North Stradbroke Island, the latest government grants report shows over \$22 million of taxpayer funded grants is being paid to QYAC. What will taxpayers get for this massive investment? Is maintaining tent camping a requirement so all Queensland families can enjoy North Stradbroke Island?

Ms SCANLON: I thank the honourable member for the question. When it comes to the reporting of grants that are received, like any organisation that receives grants from the Queensland government, there are rightfully accounting measures to ensure that money is spent correctly. As the member would know, as a native title body corporate there are federal regulations around how this money is administered as well. I understand there has been a lot of public comment already from the member in the paper. When it comes to camping in particular, there has also been a lot of inaccurate information, frankly, in the newspaper recently about Minjerribah, and I think it is important to note—

Dr Robinson interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Oodgeroo, you have asked the question. I would like to hear the answer.

Ms SCANLON: When it comes to camping on Minjerribah and the national park camping on Mulgumpin—so the public campsites—I can confirm that those remain open to tents and the capacity is unchanged. When it comes to Straddie's private campsites, that is administered and managed by QYAC, which is the registered body corporate. I know those opposite, and frankly the Greens as well, have been quite critical of native title holders—

Dr Robinson interjected.

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

Ms SCANLON: They have been critical of native title holders in this state as of late, which is incredibly disappointing given that these representatives have been connected to country for thousands and thousands of years and should rightfully be part of the decision-making and have input into the management of land. I would be curious as to what the views opposite are on camping and all of the management on these islands, given that we have many, many families who are part of the native title process who rightfully should be part of these decisions. I would encourage the member to come and have a briefing around the facts and make sure that he is consulting with the traditional owners of the land which he represents, because frankly some of the comments we have seen from those opposite have been disgraceful.

When it comes to the financial accountability, I have asked my director-general to check in with the allegations that have been made to ORIC, that they have commenced an investigation. I can confirm that the matter is a routine examination that the office looks to undertake every five years into the registered corporation. They do not consider it an investigation into any specific complaints. The organisation that provides the grants may also be contacted for input. We will provide any additional information that ORIC might require but this is an ordinary—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.19 am): I move—

1. That the following bills will be considered during this week's sitting:
 - (a) the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill; and
 - (b) the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill.

2. If any bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 5.55 pm on Thursday, 11 March 2021, Mr Speaker:
- (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration;
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate;
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion; and
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

I note that the motion that has been circulated seeks for the House to debate the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill and the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill this week and for the question to be put at 5.55 pm on Thursday, 11 March if either of those bills have not been completed by that stage. I want to speak very briefly to this motion today and thank the members on all sides—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, I am sorry to interrupt you. Members, please leave the chamber quietly. This is an important motion about the proceedings of the House this week.

Mrs D'ATH: I want to speak briefly to this motion and thank all members on all sides of the parliament for the genuine and productive way that we dealt with the legislation before the House during the last sitting week. That saw us get through the two bills that were before the House and we had additional time for members to make their address-in-reply speeches. Because of the genuine and productive way that all members participated in the debate last sitting week, the motion being put forward today does not seek to allocate fixed times for each of the bills but, instead, lets the parliament decide the progress of those bills. However it ensures that by the end of the week the question will be put regarding the two pieces of legislation.

I hope that we can see the same productive processes and conduct of members that we saw last sitting week. I also hope that additional members will get the opportunity to make their contribution to the address-in-reply debate. I do hope that all members will support this business motion today. It is a sensible business motion. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.21 am): I thank the Leader of the House. She continues to dream and live in hope that one day we will be in this parliament and she and I will agree on the business motion. I would be doing an injustice to the debate and misrepresenting everything I have said for five years if I were to ever agree to this attack on democracy. As I have indicated over the past five years, for the same reasons I never supported the establishment of the Business Committee I oppose the continuation of the Business Committee.

Having been in government before, I understand that the government sets the agenda. However, what we have seen changed over the years is this Labor government setting the agenda but then saying they want to finish early so people can go and do things—the family friendly hours we have talked about. We have seen so many occasions when the parliament has not been able to carry out its duty and do its job and the time has been extended. If we keep breaching the rules and the covenants around why this process was set up in the first place, why are we even proceeding with it or continuing with it?

Under the business program motion that has been moved by the Leader of the House today, we will be debating only two bills this week and continuing with the address-in-reply debate. I ask the question: is it because the government has run out of things to talk about? Is it because they have to, dare I say it, filibuster in debate on bills?

Mrs D'Ath interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: You have spoken. It is my turn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members, I remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr BLEIJIE: Thank you for the reminder, Madam Deputy Speaker. I put to the Leader of the House that the government have run out of things to talk about. We have only two bills to debate so they will fill the rest of the time with the address-in-reply debate. Of course, the two bills we are debating are the craft beer or liquor artisan bill and the waste management bill, which are important to many people across Queensland. I know our shadow minister for the environment will lead the charge in that respect.

There are things missing from this business program motion today. What about transparency and accountability? What about all of the things we talked about in question time today? I love the fact that the government spent the first half of question time saying that emails about issues from five years

ago are not relevant and then finished question time by saying that emails or RTI applications from eight years ago are somehow relevant to today's proceedings. It is interesting that they are picking and choosing which times in history are relevant and no longer relevant. I suspect they only do that when it interests them to pick the time in history.

We would like to be talking about the issues that matter to Queenslanders. The Premier may want to dismiss the email scandal, but it is actually an issue that is relevant to Queenslanders.

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

Mr BLEIJIE: Surely you are not taking this as a point of order. Surely not, 'Mangocube'. Come on!

Mr BAILEY: This contribution by the Manager of Opposition Business has nothing to do with the business actually before the House. I ask you to draw him back to the content of the matter.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, I tend to agree. I will ask you to stay focused on the topic.

Mr BLEIJIE: As we debate this business program motion regarding debate of the waste management bill and the liquor bill, all I am saying is that there should be more on the agenda. What we continually advocate for in the Business Committee is more time for members to have their say on the very important issues that are missing from this motion. With respect to these issues, I am speaking not only about what is on the business program today but also what should be on the Business Committee agenda, and that is the accountability and transparency the government are running from, that the government are hiding from. The government's approach is, 'I see nothing. I hear nothing. I do nothing.' That is what they are running from and they will not answer the questions.

Where is the debate about releasing the emails? Where are all these important issues that Queenslanders do appreciate and do understand? It is not good for the government to come in here and decide that that is of no interest to Queenslanders, because it is. Parliament decides what is of interest to Queenslanders, and those issues are of interest despite the fact that the government may not want to talk about them. I know why they do not want to talk about them. It is why the Premier was getting very angry this morning in question time, and it is because we hit a nerve. We hit a nerve and they do not want to talk about it, but they should.

I still hate the fact that we have a Business Committee. I resent the fact that I have to go to a meeting at six o'clock every Monday night and talk about these sorts of things. At the end of the day—

Government members interjected.

Mr BLEIJIE: I love meetings with the Leader of the House. I just do not like them with the Minister for Main Roads. No matter what government members say in the Business Committee, they will come in here and do what they want anyway and it may not be what we discussed in the Business Committee. We should oppose this motion.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.26 am): Whatever we do, we know we will get more amateur thespian routines from the Manager of Opposition Business. If we have two bills, it is not enough and if we have three bills, it is too many. The member for Kawana may have misled the House in suggesting that the Minister for Health's great goal is to have him agree to something. I do not think the Minister for Health thinks she will ever get the member for Kawana to agree to anything the Minister for Health puts forward to this House because he is au contraire.

This is a sensible motion. It is consistent with the motion that was put last time. To be quite frank, this routine of the opposition taking up procedural time on matters that are straightforward in every other assembly and parliament across the nation is a waste of this parliament's time. The opposition would do well to promote someone with more talent and skill than the member for Kawana to be the manager of opposition business because this is a waste of everybody's time.

Whatever we do here we are not going to get the support of the member for Kawana. In repeatedly making his objections he is using up debating time on a procedural matter that nobody cares about. This is normal behaviour. This is a normal motion in a normal parliament in 2021. I commend the motion.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.28 am): There is a very good reason why we continue to debate this motion. It is about accountability. It is about the opportunity for the opposition to have its say. That is why from the very beginning we have argued this

motion every single sitting week. The Manager of Opposition Business argues the case every week simply because we want to have our say in the people's house. We make no apologies for that. We make no apologies for having our say in the people's house. Everybody who is here who wants to speak should be able to speak.

We saw what happens with this government last Friday afternoon when it came time for the delivery of the Mason Jett Lee report. That report, released in the shadows of Friday afternoon and thus avoiding scrutiny, was a disgrace—

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The contribution of the member has absolutely nothing to do with the content of the motion before the House. The motion is about the order of business and two bills being put before the House. He is straying well off the topic of the business motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I am prepared to give a little bit of latitude, but I remind the member to stay on the topic.

Mr JANETZKI: The question of accountability is what this motion is all about. We saw evidence of the government's arrogance on Friday afternoon. I note that there is a bill on the *Notice Paper* with the words 'child protection' in the title. Wouldn't it have been timely for this government to bring that bill on to be debated today or this week? The child protection bill on the *Notice Paper* could have been brought on today to debate the systemic issues that have been laid out clearly throughout these reports—five years since Mason Jett Lee died—involving three ministers and two directors-general. Time and again we have seen reports redacted and delayed and still no answers or accountability from this government.

Mrs D'ATH: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is a motion about what government business is being brought on for the sitting week; it is not about what reports have been introduced or tabled and when. The member is significantly straying from the motion before the House. I ask that he be brought back to the motion.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I do tend to agree that you are straying. I ask you to come back to the motion.

Mr JANETZKI: We on this side of the House will never resile from holding the government to account, whether it be on the Mason Jett Lee fiasco or on a range of other issues that have popped up just this week and that should be debated today such as government waste or four beds for a prison at Gatton for \$30 million.

Ms GRACE: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. This is almost an abuse of parliamentary privilege and procedure. We are debating a specific motion. Members opposite use this debate to address other topics.

An opposition member: What is the point of order?

Ms GRACE: The point of order is on relevance. I ask that they be brought back—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I remind you that you cannot debate a point of order.

Ms GRACE:—to the topic of the motion. Time and time again, the member is ignoring the ruling of the Deputy Speaker.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Buderim, I remind you not to yell across the chamber. Member for Toowoomba South, I have already cautioned you to stay on topic. I remind you of that once more.

Mr JANETZKI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. The abuse of parliamentary process to which the minister just referred is this government's arrogance in shutting down debate in this House. For so long, in sitting week after sitting week, our opportunities to debate have been curtailed.

I go back to the initial procedural motion that was moved in relation to this motion. They cut out private members' statements and took away the opportunity for members on this side of the House to speak about issues of relevance to us and our constituents. Every time we come into this House we should have the opportunity not just to speak on every bill if our members want to but also to speak about issues of relevance to our communities. The abuse of parliamentary process is by those opposite, who continue to shut down proper debate in this House.

There are two bills on the *Notice Paper* this week to which all of our members could easily have spoken. The two bills before the House, the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill and the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill, will be guillotined at 5.55 on Thursday night. That is the abuse of the parliamentary process that we see.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! I remind everybody that I am trying to listen to the member.

Mr JANETZKI: Our members may wish to speak to these important issues. The abuse of parliamentary process is by those opposite, who continue to curtail our opportunities to speak on issues of relevance to our communities. It is not good enough for those opposite to raise points of order on relevance on issues that we think should be part of the debate this week. We saw it last Friday in relation to the Mason Jett Lee report. What about the wastage of this government or the integrity crises—whether it be emails or anything else—that continue to hover like a dark cloud over this government? They are integrity issues that we should have debated in this House, because it is the people's house. We will never stop fighting for our members' right to speak freely and fulsomely in this House.

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

AYES, 52:

ALP, 50—Bailey, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

NOES, 34:

LNP, 32—Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grr, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pair: Boyd, Lister.

Resolved in the affirmative.

LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 26 November 2020 (see p. 94).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (11.41 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its consideration of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. I note that the committee tabled its report on 12 February 2021 recommending passage of the bill, and I now table the government's response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 4, 57th Parliament—Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020, government response [\[279\]](#).

I want to thank all of those who made written submissions to the committee and those who made themselves available to present at the committee hearing. The bill before the House creates a new 'commercial other—artisan producer licence' under the Liquor Act to support Queensland's burgeoning artisan liquor sector. The artisan producer licence has been developed in consultation with the industry to ensure the continued growth of independent craft brewing and artisan distilling businesses across the state. The licence will authorise licensees to sell their own liquor, made on the licensed premises, to members of the public for consumption at their venues and as takeaways.

For distillers who obtain an artisan producer licence, this means the existing 2.5 per cent restriction on retail sales of their own liquor will no longer apply. Licensees will also be able to sell other Queensland craft beer, artisan spirits and wine for on-premises consumption, up to 30 per cent of total

sales. The measures will reduce liquor licensing fees and streamline processes by removing the need for licensees to obtain a second licence if they wish to sell a broader range of liquor to customers at their venue.

The new licence will also allow licensees to take orders for their own liquor online, improving market access for artisan liquor producers. The new artisan producer licence will further allow licensees to reach new customers via attendance at events. Licensees will be able to apply for a licence condition or a permit to attend promotional events such as farmers' markets and trade fairs to sell samples and limited takeaways of their beer or spirits. Holders of the new licence will also be able to apply for a permit to sell their liquor at public events such as music festivals, street festivals and sporting events.

Eligibility requirements for the licence will ensure it is only available to genuine, independent artisan distillers and craft brewers. To qualify for the licence, an artisan distiller must produce between 400 and 450,000 litres of spirits at the premises each year and a craft brewer must produce between 2,500 and five million litres of beer at the premises each year. The upper volume limits take into account spirits and beer produced by subsidiary and holding companies of the licensee. Additionally, the independence of artisan producer licensees will be protected by a requirement that licensees must not be 20 per cent or more owned by a large distiller or large brewer. The bill defines a large distiller as producing more than two million litres of spirits each year and a large brewer as producing more than 40 million litres of beer each year. In combination, these measures will ensure that large companies are not able to operate pseudo craft breweries or artisan distilleries to take advantage of the licence.

Record-keeping obligations introduced by the bill, including the submission of annual returns which outline production volume and corporate ownership, will help to ensure the benefits of the licence are only accessed by eligible businesses. The government is encouraging eligible producers and wholesale licensees to take up the new licence by waiving the \$1,446 application fee for licensees who transition before 30 June 2021.

The bill also contains amendments to the framework for promotional events which will allow artisan distillers operating under a producer/wholesaler licence to attend promotional events to sell samples and limited takeaways under the authority of a licence condition or permit. This aligns with the authorisations which have been available to craft brewers since 2016. This permit will also be available to eligible artisan producers from interstate. To make sure promotional events are viable for small businesses, the bill also amends the Liquor Act to ensure samples can be sold at promotional events rather than given away for free, which is the current situation.

While the committee recommended passage of the bill, I want to take the opportunity now to address some concerns which have been raised by stakeholders during the committee process. Firstly, some stakeholders are seeking an event permit to be made available similar to the permit available to Queensland wine licensees under the Wine Industry Act. The government considers that the promotional event and public event opportunities being created by the bill are consistent with the authority of the permit which is available to Queensland wineries. Specifically, artisan producer licensees will have the ability to apply for a promotional events licence condition for a one-off fee of \$112.60. This condition will allow licensees to attend events which promote produce from a particular region or the hospitality industry such as farmers' markets, trade fairs and craft beer festivals.

Once the condition is granted, there will be no need to reapply for each promotional event. A similar condition is currently used successfully by approximately 39 craft breweries across the state. Artisan producer licensees will also be able to apply for a commercial public event permit. The permit allows a licensee or a group of licensees to sell liquor for consumption at events like the Noosa Triathlon, Mackay Rodeo or Teneriffe Festival. These measures will ensure artisan producer licensees are fully included under the existing framework for promotional and public events under the Liquor Act, which has been designed to facilitate market access in balance with regulating the sale of potentially harmful liquor products.

Secondly, concerns were raised about the takeaway authority of the new licence, which limits licensees to selling takeaways of their own liquor produced on the premises. The limit on takeaways was discussed with key stakeholders during consultation on the new licence. The government considers that this restriction will ensure the focus of the licence remains the on-site production of boutique liquor products. Thirdly, the committee heard from stakeholders that the sale of artisan liquor from independent grocers across Queensland would benefit the industry. The government considers that the ability for craft brewers and artisan distillers to sell takeaways from their venues at promotional events and via online orders at this time strikes an appropriate balance between industry development and mitigating harm that could arise from liquor outlet proliferation.

Finally, the issue of how multiple sites are licensed under the Liquor Act has been raised by stakeholders. I am advised that the Liquor Act does not contemplate licensing separate premises under one licence, with two minor exceptions. The first is detached bottle shops, which are only available to hotel licensees and subject to an application process. The second is for a producer/wholesaler where office space is separate to the warehouse where the liquor is stored for wholesale purposes. This exception is intended to facilitate wholesale sales. The individual premises licensing framework ensures that appropriate processes, such as a community impact assessment and public advertising, are undertaken as required for each site where liquor is sold and/or produced. The framework ensures that local issues, including the amenity of an area and planning requirements, are considered for each site before a licence is granted. Changing this approach would have flow-on effects for all licensees generally and is outside the scope of this bill.

To help address any ongoing stakeholder concerns or feedback, the government is establishing a Queensland Artisan Liquor Advisory Group once the licence commences. The group is intended to give craft brewers and artisan distillers a forum to share issues they may have about the implementation of the licence. The group will also provide craft brewers and artisan distillers with the opportunity to advise government about how best to support continued growth within the sector. Our government values input from stakeholders and I look forward to the establishment of this important direct link with representatives from industry.

In conclusion, the government considers the authorities of the licence are appropriate for artisan liquor producers at an entry level to the market to help them see their business grow. The base annual licence fee of \$1,050 reflects that the artisan producer licence offers broader authorisations than a producer/wholesaler licence. Should it suit their business needs, artisan liquor producers may apply for a different type of licence with more expansive authorisations, for instance a commercial hotel licence which attracts a base annual fee of \$3,911 which authorises the sale of takeaway liquor of any kind in unlimited quantities and the ability to apply for up to three detached bottle shops. As at August last year, 13 artisan liquor producers conducted businesses under this licence type, indicating the potential for growth in this sector.

Again I thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its consideration of the bill and acknowledge the very valuable contribution of all those who have made submissions on the bill and assisted the committee during its deliberations. The bill provides a robust and appropriate framework to support Queensland craft brewers and artisan distillers and the further development of this important industry. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (11.50 am): 'Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy.' So said Benjamin Franklin. Another favourite saying of mine is from that well-known movie star Jack Nicholson: 'I'd rather have a full bottle in front of me than a frontal lobotomy.' Today we take up the debate on the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. The LNP will be supporting the bill, but we will highlight some of our concerns and reflect on the process that has ever so slowly led to this legislation being put before the House today.

Even a brief history of beer would be perhaps far too long a story to fit within the time limits of debate in this place, but I am going to give it a shot. According to my limited research, the world's first fermented beverages most likely emerged alongside the development of cereal agriculture some 12,000 years ago. The earliest known alcoholic beverage is a 9,000-year-old Chinese concoction made from rice, honey and fruit—it must have been tasty—but the first barley beer was most likely born—

Mr Power: Mesopotamia.

Mr NICHOLLS: We are getting there. As always, member, if you listen to me I will illuminate you in ways you can never imagine.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): I remind you to direct your comments through the chair.

Mr NICHOLLS: If the member for Logan would listen to me he will learn things, as he always does when he listens to me, and realise that it is better to use his ears and his mouth in the correct proportion: listen twice, speak once.

The earliest known alcoholic beverage was a 9,000-year-old Chinese concoction made from rice, honey and fruit, as I said, but the first barley beer was most likely born in the Middle East. While people were no doubt imbibing it much earlier, hard evidence of beer production dates back about 5,000 years to the Sumerians of ancient Mesopotamia. Archaeologists have unearthed ceramic vessels from 3,500 BC still sticky with beer residue, and an ancient hymn to Ninkasi, an ode to a Sumerian goddess of beer, describes a recipe for an ancient brew made by female priestesses. There you are, member for Logan. If the member for Logan listens we will get to it and he will be satisfied.

These nutrient-rich drinks were a cornerstone of the Sumerian diet and might have been, in fact, a safer alternative to drinking water from nearby rivers and canals. Beer drinking also flourished under the Babylonian Empire, but few ancient cultures loved beer as much as the Egyptians. Workers along the Nile were often paid with an allotment of a nutritious sweet brew and everyone from the pharaohs to the peasants, and even children, drank beer as part of their everyday diet. So, member for Logan, there is hope for you.

Many of these ancient beers were flavoured with unusual additives such as mandrake, dates and olive oil, but beer as we know it would not arrive until the Middle Ages when the Christian monks and other artisans began brewing beers seasoned with hops, a new introduction to the brewing process. In fact, ancient German purity beer laws date back to the 1500s and are still in force today. With the coming of the industrial revolution the brewing of beer changed from an artisanal effort to the industrial scale production that we see and know so well today. But now we have seen the re-emergence of artisanal-style small brewers as consumers and aficionados look for new tastes and flavours as well as the rediscovery of older styles and brews.

Having finished with the history of beer I thought I would turn to the history of distilling which, while shorter, is still lengthy. Distilling requires more than just the fermentation of grains, fruits and sugars and as a result it took longer to develop, but by about the 13th century distilling was starting to become understood. The process of taking a fermented mash and heating it to cause the evaporation of the alcohol from the watery base—because we all know that alcohol boils at a lower temperature than water—and later condensing that evaporated alcohol to form a more concentrated liquor was starting to be understood.

In fact, the first proponents of distilling were the alchemists of that time. They were not quite so interested in producing gold from lead as they were in producing a better hit from the mash. Brandy from wine was among the first of the distilled spirits, probably in northern Europe, but this was quickly followed in other parts of Europe where the spirit was distilled from the most popular and readily available source of grain grown locally, and so developed gin, whisky, schnapps and vodka. With the coming of sugar cane followed that most important of spirits—especially here in Queensland—rum.

Famously called aqua vitae, or the water of life, distilled spirits rapidly gained in popularity in the 18th century with advancements in distilling coming from Ireland and Scotland. Of course we all know the stories of moonshine and illegal stills from songs and stories of the past. With the popularity of all forms of these alcohols it did not take long for governments to see the opportunity for revenue raising and taxes on and control of the production, distribution and sale of alcohol and so here we are today debating further laws about the production and sale of alcohol by small artisanal craft brewers and distillers. I am sure many of us will have those operators in our electorates.

I have often pointed out that this government works at a very slow speed. This bill is more evidence of that claim. With one advisory council meeting a year since the implementation of the policy, the Craft Brewing Strategy, we have people such as Mr Jack Milbank of Bargara Brewing Company in Bundaberg saying that all that is happening is the government is doing market research funded by them into opportunities for itself to generate revenue off an industry. The issue became so slow that producers despaired. In August 2020, two years after the release of the Craft Brewing Strategy, stories were running in the media with comments from the Independent Brewers Association that the strategy had run out of puff and producers, desperate to start the recovery from the lockdown, were calling on the government to get a bill into parliament to help the industry recover at no cost to the government. That bill was introduced on the last sitting day of the last parliament and subsequently lapsed. It was reintroduced late last year as the bill we are currently debating.

Now, over a year after COVID-19 swept across the world, the bill is finally being debated. At a time when the craft distillers and brewers have experienced hardship—in fact, last year a decline in sales at craft breweries Australiawide of 67 per cent was experienced—this government has finally acted. In its raft of amendments has the government actually made life easier for small businesses? Has the complexity of the legislation been reduced? Have the opportunities for this sector been improved and been improved to the extent that they could have been? The answer to that question is we do not really know. That is because there was no regulatory impact statement undertaken to give a clear understanding of the costs and benefits to both producers and the community. We are left guessing as to the total value of the improvements. We hope it will work. We hope that we will see those businesses flourish, but we do not know the cost to them of the changes. There is no clear understanding of whether the regulatory changes that have been made, including the changes to penalties, are going to outweigh the benefits of this legislation.

After wading through the explanatory notes, the bill, the committee report and quite a number of the submissions I can tell members that any sane person would need a drink. While the amendments create a new licensing category for craft brewers and distillers and expand the existing promotional event permit framework, provide authorisations for eligible producer/wholesaler licences and encourage the transition from existing classes of licence to the new artisan producer licence—and I note with a fee waiver for the current financial year in place and encouragement to do so because of the carryover of conditions—they do so in a complex and legalistic way that, while being stated to assist the artisanal industry, involve a high level of restriction and complexity.

One of the concerns raised about the new licence category is that it allows for on-premises consumption of other producer's products but not for off-premises consumption. I note that the minister addressed that in some of the comments she made a few minutes ago. The Independent Brewers Association said that 'the proposed prohibition on selling those producers' products as takeaways from the same venues is not logical'. They also stated—

Allowing artisanal producers to sell other take away provides an opportunistic, low risk option to ensure departing customers have the choice to take this product away for future consumption.

And further—

We consider the attempts to prevent artisanal producers selling takeaways is a purposeful and anticompetitive repression of a very small group of producers.

I emphasise that that is the impression of the Independent Brewers Association in relation to limits on takeaways. While allowing consumption of another producer's product on premises, this legislation does not allow it to be taken away. I understand that there will be concerns about allowing products to be taken away, but again we do not really know the limit of that. One has to wonder whether, in terms of boutique products sold in limited amounts from small producers, the impact would be severe.

There are concerns regarding contract and multisite brewing. Again the Independent Brewers Association, the body that represents artisanal brewers, commented on the practise whereby contract brewers who do not own their own equipment brew on the equipment of other brewers. Therefore, the definition of 'licensee's liquor' needs to be amended to include provisions for product made by an artisanal liquor producer under contract or under direction of the licensee at premises other than their own licensed premise. The issue that they raise involves a brewer going to someone else's brew house to make their brew.

One issue of increasing concern relates to the bill's requirement for annual data return requirements to demonstrate continued eligibility for an artisan producer licence. No-one is suggesting that there should not be a reporting regime of sorts to ensure that the licence category is appropriately held by artisanal producers who are not otherwise major producers. However, the producers already provide that information as part of their Commonwealth excise obligations so the requirement to fill in yet another form with exactly the same information would seem to be an excess of red tape and bureaucracy. The question has to be asked: why duplicate an existing reporting mechanism that the department itself, in answer to a question as outlined in the committee report, acknowledges is easily obtained from the licensee's Commonwealth excise return? It seems to be the case that the department is saying to the licensee, 'You must fill in another piece of paper to satisfy our needs rather than simply and perhaps more easily forwarding a copy of the excise return you already have to send to the Commonwealth government in order to meet your obligations.'

According to the IBA, there are flaws in relation to the definition of 'promotional events' and the issue of the ability to support events such as farmers' markets or producers' markets has also been raised. In the committee report the Noosa Triathlon was given as an example of such an event. A craft brewer was invited to sponsor the event and provide their products, but was unable to do so and would still be unable to do so under this particular requirement because it limits the ability to sell small amounts of alcohol at promotional events, farmers' markets, craft brewing display shows and all those sorts of things. This is an area where more work needs to be done. Many local community events would like to be supported by their local craft brewers. I think that local neighbourhood fairs, street festivals and community events would appreciate being able to do that and the brewers would also appreciate and benefit from the ability to do that in a less restrictive way than is being proposed here. More work can be done there and I am not convinced that the department's response is a proper policy response.

Having listened to the brewers and the distillers, I think it is also important to outline the concerns about harm minimisation that have been raised by the Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol. The QCAA expressed caution about waiving the licence application fees for licensees who transition before

30 June 2021. While there is no doubt that this is a legitimate concern held by that organisation, I think the evidence is clear that the harm coming from microbreweries and small distillers is minimal. I would argue that forgoing the licence fee will not have a significant impact on the public health measures that would otherwise come from it. These things are always a question of balance. In my view, the balance has fallen on the right side in terms of waiving those fees, particularly given the trying conditions of the past 15 months.

Another major issue, which as the minister has said involves a far greater policy discussion, relates to the suggestion that artisan producers are able to sell to independent grocers to resell to the public. Of course, this engages a decades-long discussion in relation to what happens here in Queensland versus what might happen in other states. At the moment it is hard to say that what happens in Queensland unreasonably restricts the sale of liquor, that it is not available widely and that it cannot be obtained according to law relatively easily by those who wish to do so. Having said that, the department's answer to many of these complaints was that the suggestions were not part of the bill and the department would not comment any further. I counted at least three occasions when that response was given to the committee in written answers to the submissions made by the IBA and others. If members want to check that they can look at pages 6, 7 and 14 of the committee report, which accurately reflects those statements. The statements are, firstly—

The Department considers the submitter's comments to be outside the scope of the Bill and will not make further comment.

Secondly—

The Department therefore considers the comments made by the submitter to be outside the scope of the Bill and cannot make further comment.

On page 14, for the third time, the department stated—

The Department considers the comments made by the submitter about the definition of promotional events fall outside the scope of the Bill.

Certainly those are answers but they are not very good answers. A department that has spent the better part of two years working on strategies and that has devised a bill surely would be able to come up with better answers than simply saying, 'They're not in the bill and therefore we don't consider we have to answer them.' A proper policy response would certainly enlighten the IBA as to the reasons why the changes that they have sought—and which apparently were part of the strategy agreed to early on in the piece—were not agreed to. If we are going to support, and say we support, the independent brewers and distillers, the artisanal producers, we should at least say why some of the things that they are asking for will not be permitted and why they do not fall within the scope of the bill.

Surely a department that had spent so long devising a bill would have had a better response. The director-general's letters to the committee, including the schedules that he attaches, do not provide that clarity. In fact, in a tacit acknowledgement of those concerns, during the committee hearing on 16 December 2020 departmental officers advised that after the passage of the bill there will be ongoing consultation with the industry 'to iron out any implementation issues or any further considerations that those industries wish to put to government'. However, they already have put them to the government. They did that in the submission process and, to be frank, the answer they received was unresponsive. It was a stonewall. It was, 'We don't not want to discuss this further; this is the bill that we're putting forward.'

They were raised in March 2020 when the original program was put forward. They were raised in the public hearings by the Independent Brewers Association. Indeed, they might have been raised had a regulatory impact statement been done, which is the proper process to allow this to occur. Instead, the government ignores the calls and suggestions of those who are most vitally interested and proceeds with a bill that could have addressed the legitimate concerns that have been raised, especially the concerns of the brewers.

That is not to say that all aspects of the bill are bad or that change is not needed. Indeed, the creation of the new licence category is welcomed, even if well overdue. Making it easier to support an industry that, at last count, employs 1,800 people and has the potential to generate tens of millions of dollars for the economy is a good step. Recognising the very real limitations on artisanal producers in finding markets for their products and generating sales and income is well worth the effort.

I note that at the promotional and trade fair events that are being proposed to be covered by these amendments the limit on selling the products is 150 millilitres. That is 0.15 of a litre. That is somewhat less than half a cup. There is also a discretion vested in the liquor licensing commissioner

to change that and make it even less. I would have thought that less than half a cup is barely enough to whet the whistle, touch the sides or give you a true appreciation of the quality of the beer you are drinking. Nonetheless, they are promotional events; they are not meant to be bars, nightclubs or taprooms, and I understand that, but the reality is that for beer it is, as I say, 0.15 of a litre and for spirits it is only 15 millilitres, which is probably half a nip. It will be interesting to see how that particular limitation plays out at these craft breweries.

The waiver of fees is a good idea, as I have said previously, and the lower fees available, rather than the general licence fees, I am sure will be welcomed, as will the transition provisions to encourage people to move to the artisanal licence provided for by this act. These are good things; we certainly support them.

In general, there appears to be considerable benefit with the passing of this legislation. The full impacts of it, including the very real regulatory impacts and some of the concerns raised by the Independent Brewers Association, have not been tried and tested as they could have been by a regulatory impact statement. These changes amount to some 40-odd pages of additional conditions to the legislation. Liquor licencing is complex—no-one denies that—but this certainly seems to make it more difficult, or not as easy as it could otherwise be, for these small craft brewers, often family businesses or small businesses starting off in a small way on limited funds and trying to get ahead.

My electorate is home to several craft brewers, including the well-known Fonzie Abbott brand. You can get their coffee at the airport on the way out of town if you are lucky to get a flight. After starting with coffee, the team down at Crosby Road now brew beer and distil an award-winning gin as well as, I am told, a very drinkable vodka sold in distinctive tin containers. It is an exciting business, supported by many locals. It has just opened a new taproom, which I look forward to visiting very soon. These businesses are in almost every suburb these days and provide a fun, interesting and local opportunity to experience the best, and sometimes the worst, I have to say, beers and spirits Queensland has to offer. Any brewer who says they have not made a bad batch has not properly brewed.

With these remarks and comments I want to again reiterate our support for the bill. We will certainly watch its implementation and operation closely. We wish all those in the sector the very best with their endeavours to build and grow their businesses, to employ a new generation of brewers and distillers, and to add, through the responsible sale of their products, to the sum happiness of the community.

To finish off, let me quote some more wisdom from entertainment and politics, something that my father said to me a very long time ago: 'I feel sorry for people who don't drink. When they wake up in the morning that is as good as they are going to feel all day.' That, I think, was from the chairman of the board, Mr Frank Sinatra, which would not surprise me, coming from Dad. Also, from someone who is a favourite of mine and who I perhaps quote far too much, Winston Churchill: 'Always remember that I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me.' We will support the bill.

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (12.15 pm): I am glad I am following the member for Clayfield. I thought the start of his speech was an ancient history oral presentation; I was waiting for the palm cards to be pulled out. It is good to have a bit of history about beer here in Queensland.

I am pleased to support the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. As the minister responsible for craft brewing in Queensland, I am proud that this bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to establishing a new licence that better suits the industry and reduces regulatory burden on those businesses. When I commenced in this portfolio last year, one of my first priorities was to introduce this bill into parliament. I can still remember my opening comments on that bill, as I had been waiting my whole adult life to do something like this in this parliament.

After seeing what many in the industry had suffered through in the pandemic, it is more important than ever that this important legislation be introduced. The new licence was a key deliverable under the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy, and today we honour that commitment.

The primary objective of the bill is to make important changes to the Liquor Act 1992 to support Queensland craft brewers and artisan distillers by creating a new artisan liquor licence. The licence will provide opportunities for increasing market access, industry growth and the potential to create and generate new jobs in this industry whilst also being subject to harm minimisation measures, as we have heard today. The Queensland government certainly recognises the benefits local independent craft brewers and artisan distillers offer to the economy and to their communities.

Three years ago we achieved an Australian first for our craft brewers by creating the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy. Last year we established Australia's first brew lab in Queensland and committed \$1.1 million over five years to enable craft brewers to not only develop but also test their beer recipes. Since July 2020, 22 students have undertaken TAFE Queensland's new Certificate III in Food Processing (Brewing) for craft brewers. That course has been in very high demand and applications are now open for the next intake. I have had the pleasure of going to that facility with Minister Fentiman to see the great work and to see the excitement on the faces of the young and older people at the opportunity to get into the craft brewing industry here in Queensland. From what I can understand and have heard, most of the students who have undertaken that course have gone on to become brewers in their local areas.

We are strongly encouraging Queensland brewers to promote their products to more domestic and international networks. I am proud to say that there are 27 Queensland brewers listed on the Queensland Government Food and Beverage Supplier Directory and that Parliament House has six craft brewers on its events menu. That is fantastic to see.

Prior to COVID-19, Queensland was proudly home to approximately 90 independent craft breweries. The sector employs more than 1,700 people here in Queensland and contributes an estimated \$62 million annually to the Queensland economy. Importantly, almost 25 per cent of Queensland's craft brewers are established in regional towns, which is fantastic to see. As the minister responsible, I am trying to get to as many of those as I possibly can.

Like many small businesses, things were tough for the Queensland craft brewing and artisan liquor industry as the global COVID-19 pandemic took a hold early last year. That is why the Palaszczuk government put in place measures to support Queensland's craft brewers to help them through those challenges and put the industry in a position to bounce back strongly. We are seeing the benefits of that already.

Stalwart Brewing Company opened in Nambour in July. Hudson Brewing is now open in the Wynnum area. Revel Brewing has announced a second site in Morningside. Ballistic Beer, established in Brisbane in 2015, has plans to expand sites very soon in Bundaberg and the Whitsundays, creating more regional jobs and helping these regions attract more tourists and investment. In my home town of Gladstone, Auckland House opened last year and Ward's Brewery has plans to open later this year, which is exciting for the Gladstone community.

This sector is innovative, unique and dynamic. This new licence will bolster this growing industry by creating access to new markets and generating jobs for all Queenslanders. Importantly, it will do this by streamlining the licensing system for craft brewers and artisan distillers, slashing red tape and cutting costs. The proposed new licence will allow artisan producer licensees to sell other Queensland artisan liquor for on-premises consumption, provided it does not exceed 30 per cent of total annual sales—all under the one licence, rather than requiring two as was the case before. This means that licensees can operate taprooms and tasting rooms without a second licence and broaden the appeal of their venues.

Licensees will also be able to sell takeaways of their own liquor and take orders for their own liquor online, which we know is becoming very popular. This extends part of our government's COVID-19 support for the industry. Wholesale sales will also be permitted under the new licence type. Artisan producer licensees will be able to sell samples of their products at events such as farmers' markets and sell their products at music festivals and sporting events. The licence will also remove the requirement upon distillers that restricts retail sales to 2.5 per cent of production.

Importantly, the proposed licence is subject to the same harm minimisation measures as other licence categories within the Liquor Act 1992. It is supported by industry, social health stakeholders and peak bodies representing commercial hotels and clubs in Queensland. Extensive consultation was undertaken with the industry, social health stakeholders and peak bodies representing commercial hotels and clubs right throughout Queensland.

I would like to thank all stakeholders for their contributions and acknowledge the work of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. I support the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Before calling the next speaker, I welcome to the gallery students from Mater Dei Primary School in the electorate of Toowoomba North.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.22 pm): I rise to make my contribution to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. Firstly, as the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee that considered this bill, I acknowledge the support for this bill and acknowledge the hard work of the secretariat.

I do not believe anyone in this chamber can interject when I say that liquor production and distribution plays a large role in our economy and, in particular, plays one of the largest roles in the night-time economy. It generates economic activity. It creates employment opportunities. Of course, it brings people together to socialise. To quote Abraham Lincoln—

I am a firm believer in the people. If given the truth, they can be depended upon to meet any national crisis. The great point is to bring them the real facts—and beer.

We on this side of the chamber hope that this bill helps meet the needs of small business brewers and artisan distillers during our current crisis. However, the real fact of the matter is that these amendments have come far too slowly.

In my role as shadow assistant minister for the night-time economy as well as justice, I have travelled from Currumbin to Cairns to talk with small businesses, including artisan distillers and craft brewers, about what they need in order to support the industry, particularly as they try to adapt to the COVID-19 environment. So I can say that these amendments are welcomed, but for some they have come far too late and for others they do not go far enough.

In summary, the proposed amendments: create a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisan distillers called the 'commercial other—artisan producer licence'; expand the existing promotional event permit framework; provide additional authorisations for eligible producer wholesale licensees; and encourage the transition of existing licensees to the new artisan producer licence category. Artisan producer licensees will be authorised to do the following: sell their own liquor products and other Queensland artisan liquor products for consumption on their premises; sell their own liquor products for consumption off their premises; sell their own liquor products wholesale; sell their own liquor products online; apply for a licence condition to sell samples and takeaway of their liquor products at promotional events, subject to volume limits; and apply for a commercial public event permit. These amendments are aimed at assisting the artisan liquor industry with the adverse effects of COVID-19.

Yes, members heard me: these amendments are introduced to help artisan distillers withstand the challenges of COVID-19, but they are being introduced a whole year after the pandemic began. The government has moved far too slowly on this. Industry has been calling for support for almost a year. The government must do better to deliver support at the time that it is needed.

Independent Brewers Association spokesperson, David Kitchen, has described the proposals as too little too late. He noted that in April 2020 nationwide sales at craft breweries were down 66 per cent as a consequence of COVID-19 related business restrictions and closures. These amendments were needed a year ago to allow artisan distillers and craft brewers to adapt and continue their business in the COVID-19 environment. In relation to the impact of COVID-19 on the distilled spirits industry, the Australian Distillers Association noted—

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the distilled spirits industry and its value chain.

I note the measures in this bill and the associated regulatory decision to waive certain fees associated with the new licence to reflect the impacts of COVID-19 are particularly welcomed by industry as it tries to rebuild and as it tries to recover from the pandemic, but they should have come before the House last year. It is really important to note that this was an industry that previously contributed over \$100 million to the Queensland economy and employed more than 1,800 people.

There are currently more than 200,000 Queenslanders unemployed and in need of work. These people are relying on this state government to look after them. Instead of offering some of these unemployed Queenslanders the opportunity to get back into the workforce by working in distilleries or at promotional events and helping to boost our night-time economy and despite the urgency of this matter, the state Labor government waited. As Mr Kitchen noted—

If these proposals had been implemented a year ago, brewers would be in a much better position to withstand the challenges of COVID.

No doubt these same brewers would have been in a much better position to employ more Queenslanders—something that is desperately needed right now. However, these brewers are sadly not in that position. They are only now moving into a position to withstand the challenges and ripple effects of COVID-19. Why? They were overlooked and neglected by this state government for over 300 days. When their industry was crying out for help, this Labor government dawdled on the issue. I guess that even a late step in the right direction is better than no step at all.

Now I will turn to some of the submissions from industry to the committee suggesting where the bill needs improvement. Stakeholders noted that the prohibition of licensees from being able to sell takeaway products from other artisanal producers is restraining the industry from truly succeeding. Similarly, the restriction on multisite brewers from selling their beer, produced at one site and sold at another site of the same company, is constraining.

Also raised was the fact that it is unnecessary to require brewers to provide their annual returns relating to production volume when this information is already available from annual Commonwealth returns. All this added provision does is create an extra level of bureaucracy for brewers to have to comply with. These are the things that this government needs to look at and to improve on—in particular, reducing the paperwork impost on small business and red tape.

In summing up, these amendments are welcome. We hope that they help small business. We hope that they help our brewers and artisan distillers. There is no doubt that these amendments are a late step by this state Labor government but nevertheless a good step, a step that we hope will help brewers and distillers in Queensland to adapt and ultimately thrive.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.29 pm): I would like to speak in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee is a portfolio committee of this Legislative Assembly which commenced on 26 November 2020 under the standing rules and orders of the Legislative Assembly. The Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the committee on 26 November 2020. The committee, in its report No. 4 which was tabled in this assembly on 12 February 2021, has recommended to the assembly that this bill be passed.

The purpose of the bill is 'to strengthen the artisan liquor industry in Queensland by supporting the growth and sustainability of craft breweries and artisan distilleries, while still maintaining appropriate regulatory controls and oversight'. This intention of purpose will be achieved by a number of proposed amendments to the Liquor Act including creating a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisan distillers and providing additional authorisations for eligible producer/wholesaler licensees.

The proposed amendments to the liquor licensing legislation are in response to the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy and recommendations arising from the entrepreneurial pipeline project report. The bill aims to assist the artisan liquor industry with the adverse effects of the coronavirus. It was reported to the committee by the Australian Distillers Association that COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the distilled spirits industry and its value chain, and it is commendable that the government has taken decisive action to help struggling small businesses to not just remain viable but also have a path for future expansion.

Before the pandemic disrupted the industry, Queensland craft brewers and artisan distillers contributed significantly to the Queensland economy and employed over 1,800 people combined. It was anticipated that by 2024 the craft beer industry would contribute over \$100 million to the Queensland economy. Members of the Australian Distilling Association had estimated that another 106 jobs would be created in artisan distilleries throughout the state over the next two years.

In April 2020, the Independent Brewers Association reported that nationwide sales at craft breweries were down 67 per cent as a consequence of COVID-19 related business restrictions and closures. The measures in this bill, and an associated regulatory decision to waive certain fees associated with the new licence to reflect the impacts of COVID-19, are particularly welcomed as the industry rebuilds and recovers from the pandemic. Further, as federal government measures such as JobKeeper are tapered and removed over 2021, the support of the Palaszczuk government is acutely welcomed.

Consultation with the craft brewing industry on general regulatory reform occurred following the release of the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy in November 2018. Between December 2019 and January 2020, approximately 60 per cent of independent craft brewers were surveyed on a legislative proposal relating solely to craft brewers. Public submissions on this previous proposal were also sought in January 2020. Overall the craft brewing industry was generally supportive of amending the Liquor Act to introduce a new licence category specifically for craft beer.

A separate consultation process relating to the recommendations of the entrepreneurial pipeline project report, focusing on support for artisan liquor producers, commenced in November 2019 and concluded in March 2020. Consultation was undertaken with 13 distilleries, three wineries, 25 breweries, two meaderies, one cidery and other stakeholders, including industry representatives and social health stakeholders. General agreement about the artisan producer licence authorisations, and

contained in the bill, was reached at a roundtable meeting attended by representatives from the Queensland Hotels Association, ADA, Clubs Queensland, IBA, government agencies and other stakeholders on 2 March 2020.

The IBA advised the following in relation to the government's consultation on the legislative framework for the artisan liquor licence that preceded the bill: Queensland brewers were instrumental in the development of the original proposal for a new legislative framework and were satisfied with the outcomes of that work. We were confident that, if legislation was introduced reflecting this framework, it would satisfy the need to simplify the liquor licensing process and create market access opportunities for artisan liquor producers as stated in the inquiry overview.

Subsequent to that framework being finalised, it was presented to other stakeholders for comment. While much of the original framework was retained, several critical components were subsequently amended and as a result we now consider these amendments to be a retrograde step that go some way to defeating the intention of simplifying processes, creating better market access and ensuring the continued growth of these industries.

It is important to note during the public briefing that the department advised that after the passage of the bill there will be ongoing consultation with the industry 'to iron out any implementation issues or any further considerations that those industries wish to put to government'.

The bill will create a new 'commercial other—artisan producer licence'. The proposed new artisan producer licence will include subcategories of beer and spirits and will allow licensees to sell craft beer or artisan spirits produced on the licensed premises to the public, apply for an enduring approval to sell samples and limited amounts of takeaways of their craft beer or artisan spirits at promotional events, and conduct online orders for the sale of their craft beer or artisan spirits.

Whilst the committee recommended the bill be passed and notes the comments in the report at 2.1.2.3 that have been referred to earlier in my contribution to the debate, there is obviously work that needs to be undertaken with the Liquor Gaming Regulation Authority. Any tension between brewers and the authority on the interpretation of the Liquor Act needs to be looked at. So I repeat what I said earlier in the debate on the bill: that the continued consultation with the craft brewers will hopefully lead to the tensions referred to in 2.1.2.4 in the committee's report to be resolved.

I would like to thank the members of the committee for their collaboration and input into this inquiry. I would like to acknowledge and thank the secretariat for their commitment. I would also like to recognise the professionalism of the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and thank them for the clear and informative responses they provided. I support the committee's recommendation and I commend the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.38 pm): I rise to speak on the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 which, among other reforms to the Liquor Act 1992, provides for a tailored liquor licence for craft brewers and artisan distillers, making it easier for them to showcase and sell their products at public events. On behalf of Queensland's burgeoning artisan liquor industry, I welcome this bill and the benefits it will bring to the hundreds of 'beerpreneurs', their families and their local communities as they seek to recover from the pandemic's economic tsunami and grow their markets on a more level playing field.

I acknowledge the contribution made by our shadow minister, the member for Clayfield, and also the deputy chair of the committee, the member for Currumbin, who outlined and highlighted a number of concerns in relation to the bill. On balance, the purpose of the bill is to strengthen the artisan liquor industry by supporting the growth and sustainability of craft breweries and artisan distilleries, while maintaining appropriate regulatory controls and oversight.

This bill gives effect to the government's development of the 2018 Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy and the entrepreneurial pipeline project report, which identified the need to simplify the liquor licensing process and create market access opportunities for artisan liquor producers. Consultation with industry and stakeholders took place as part of these initiatives, and on 2 March 2020 a general agreement about new licence authorisations was reached at a roundtable meeting attended by representatives from the Queensland Hotels Association, the Australian Distillers Association, Clubs Queensland, the Independent Brewers Association and government agencies.

I would like to acknowledge and thank the members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their consideration of this bill and the enormous amount of work invested by industry stakeholders. I particularly want to thank the committee for its careful assessment of the bill's harm minimisation regulations and its consistency with tackling alcohol fuelled violence.

As you know, our police do not need more work, but small businesses must be given fair access to their markets. This can be a difficult balancing act when alcohol is involved. Independent craft brewing is a vibrant and dynamic sector with significant potential to expand locally, nationally and internationally. There are 750 craft brewers in Australia, upward of 110 in Queensland, and close to 20 in the Sunshine Coast region. Before the pandemic disrupted the industry Queensland craft brewers and artisan distillers employed over 1,800 people and injected in excess of \$62 million annually into the economy. This figure is projected to grow to \$100 million by 2024. In April 2020 the Independent Brewers Association reported that nationwide sales at craft breweries were down 67 per cent because of COVID related business restrictions and closures.

Legislative change will breathe some life back into the industry by: creating a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisanal distillers; expanding the existing promotional event permit framework; providing additional authorisations for eligible producers and wholesale licensees; and encouraging the transition of existing licensees to the new artisan producer licence category. Artisan producer licensees will be able to: sell their own liquor products and other Queensland artisan liquor products for consumption on the premises; sell their own liquor products for consumption off the premises; sell their own liquor products wholesale; sell their own liquor products online; apply for a licence condition to sell samples and takeaways of their liquor products at promotional events subject to volume limits; and apply for a commercial public event permit. As stated in the explanatory notes—

The proposed new artisan producer licence:

- provides for the subcategories of 'beer' and 'spirits' for applicants/licensees whose principal activity is the production and sale of craft beer and/or artisan spirits on the licensed premises;
- restricts the granting, and continued holding, of the licence to legitimate craft brewers and/or artisanal distillers with:
 - annual production volumes of between 2,500-5,000,000 litres (L) of craft beer or 400-450,000L of artisan spirits;
 - at least 70 per cent of total annual liquor sales comprised from craft beer or artisan spirits produced on the licensed premises;
 - less than 20 per cent ownership by a large brewer (annual production volume exceeding 40,000,000L of beer) or large distiller (annual production volume exceeding 2,000,000L of spirits); and
 - an appropriate licence type within the meaning of the Excise Act 1901 (Cwlth);
- authorises the sale of the licensee's own liquor products, and 'other' Queensland artisan liquor products (including Queensland wine), for on-premises consumption under ordinary trading hours of 10am to 12 midnight;
- limits late-night extended trading hours to 1am to avoid premises operating as bars/nightclubs (other licence categories can apply for extended trading hours until 2am, or 3am if located in a safe night precinct);
- authorises the sale of the licensee's own liquor products for off-premises consumption under ordinary trading hours for takeaway of 10am to 10pm;
- enables licensees to apply for extended trading hours for early morning trading (9am to 10am) for on and off-premises consumption;
- allows orders for the licensee's own products to be taken online;
- authorises the sale of the licensee's own product wholesale;

The Independent Brewers Association specifically requested the removal of clause 30 of the bill to reduce red tape. However, the DJAG data requirement ensures that licence breaches will be more easily identified, as the licence is only available to brewers who produce no more than five million litres of beer annually and distillers who produce no more than 450,000 litres each year. This is believed to be the best way for the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to ensure only legitimate artisan producers have access to the licence. In this way the requirement also prevents large alcohol companies manipulating the system through the ownership of multiple breweries. The Australian Distillers Association supported the new bill and said—

These reforms will encourage new entrants to the Queensland distilled spirits industry, and make it easier for current producers to employ more Queenslanders and boost further investments for future growth.

The Independent Brewers Association raised several concerns pertaining to the restriction of: off-premises consumption and takeaway provisions; contract or multisite brewing restrictions which give rise to a brewery not being able to sell the beer produced at one site at the taproom of another site by the same company; and the restricted definition of promotional events, referring once again to the wine industry regulation as a model.

In relation to harm minimisation, licence holders are required to submit a community impact statement and a risk assessment management plan as part of their licence obligations. The bill also provides for increased power for the commissioner to impose conditions on a licence or permit;

specifically, to limit or specify the sample size and total volume that can be sold at promotional events. This is intended to provide safeguards to limit the amount of liquor supplied and is another provision for harm minimisation within the bill.

I wish to give a shout-out to some of the hard working and popular breweries in my electorate of Ninderry. The Sunshine Coast Brewery, located in Kunda Park, was established in 1998 and happens to be one of the first on the Sunshine Coast scene. In fact, it is one of the oldest running microbreweries in Queensland and is not to be confused with the Sunshine Brewery in Kuluin. There is also a brewery in North Arm, Terella Brewing, that is just as boutique as the town itself. As I reflect on the comments made by the Australian Distillers Association to the committee, I feel they apply to the local breweries in my region too. The ADA said—

We all have a story behind the spirits we are making, be it a story from our region, family or the past.

The artisan community is special and works hard to protect and grow our regions. Whilst we must be careful with liquor licensing, we must also support the emergence of a 'non-binge' culture that elevates our sense of belonging to local produce and ingredients in what we eat and drink and an alternative that transcends the conglomerate liquor market in the same way wineries did decades ago. Testament to this is the visit-and-taste food-to-plate culture that we on the Sunshine Coast know only too well. I support the bill.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (12.47 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. As a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee I would like to acknowledge and thank the secretariat and all those who made such compelling and detailed submissions.

Here in Queensland we are fortunate to now have an exciting craft beer and artisanal liquor industry. Just ask the member for Rockhampton, who I know is extremely proud of the fact that a spirit produced on his patch was named the world's best spiced rum last year. It is perhaps a good thing that the member for Bundaberg does not join us today. It is called the Capricorn Spice Rum and it is in the members' bar if anyone would like to try it. I am sure Barry would be more than happy to take you for a tasting. In my own electorate of Cooper we are very fortunate to have the Newstead Brewing Company—which has become a huge success story and recently secured its first export order to Hong Kong—as well as a number of other fantastic distillers and brewers.

The objective of this bill is to support the growth and development of this growing industry while maintaining appropriate regulatory oversight. These amendments are the result of recommendations arising from the entrepreneurial pipeline project report and government action under the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy as well as consultation with industry stakeholders. As stated in the explanatory notes—

The Bill proposes to amend the Liquor Act 1992 (Liquor Act) by:

- creating a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisan distillers, ('commercial other—artisan producer licence')
- expanding the existing promotional event permit framework
- providing additional authorisations for eligible producer/wholesaler licensees
- encouraging the transition of existing licensees to the new artisan producer licence category.

The need for these changes has been made especially clear by COVID-19. In April last year, the national Independent Brewers Association reported a 67 per cent drop in craft beer sales due to closures related to the pandemic. In response, the Queensland government authorised a range of measures for liquor licensees, including the authorisation to sell takeaways on premises and to allow online orders throughout the pandemic. This bill builds on those changes.

The reality is that, while our artisanal liquor and craft brewing industry is thriving, these small operators generally have a limited number of channels to distribute their products through. At a retail level, the market is still dominated by the major supermarket owned players—such as Dan Murphy's, Liquorland and BWS—and many smaller brewers and distillers simply cannot produce the volumes these chains require. That is a huge segment of the market that is effectively closed to artisan producers, which is why it is important to make these regulatory changes required to open up new sales channels and make it easier for them to utilise the channels already open to them.

One of the key measures included in this bill is a new artisan producer licence that allows these businesses to sell craft beer or artisan spirits produced on their licensed premises for on-premises consumption or takeaway in unlimited amounts. They will also be able to sell drinks produced by another artisanal producer licence holder, as well as wine produced in Queensland under a Queensland

wine licence. The licence also allows producers to sell their products directly to the public online and via wholesale routes. Businesses can also apply for an enduring approval to sell samples and limited amounts of takeaways of their craft beer or artisan spirits at promotional events and can apply for a commercial public event permit to sell their craft beer or artisan spirits at a public event.

Of course, while it is extremely important that we support local small businesses—and that is indeed the core focus of this government—it is also vital that we retain appropriate regulatory oversight and maintain strong harm minimisation practices. The latter is extremely important to me as someone who has been a strong advocate against alcohol fuelled violence throughout my career. This is an area that we have made significant progress in both as a country and as a state. Alcohol consumption has been trending lower over the past decade, and alcohol fuelled violence has followed a similar trend, although there is always more work for us to do as a society.

With this bill, artisan producer licensees are subject to the same harm minimisation obligations under the Liquor Act as other licence holders. As is the case with pubs and clubs, applicants will need to submit a community impact statement and develop a risk assessed management plan. The responsible service of alcohol obligations remain the same as well. It is vital we maintain these standards and that they apply to everyone equally.

Queenslanders deserve to be safe on a night out. That has not changed and it will not change, but this bill does make it easier for artisanal producers to compete with the larger players. That reflects the strong focus this government has on supporting small businesses, as well as our understanding that we need to be supporting emerging industries that create local jobs and support local economies. Jobs really are a key part of this. One of the interesting things about the growth of these artisanal producers is this the of small, locally owned businesses taking market share away from large multinationals and creating jobs right up and down the Queensland coast. Every small town seems to have a microbrewery or distillery these days, and it is estimated the sector employs around 1,800 people across the state. By 2024 it is estimated this industry will be worth around \$100 million a year to the Queensland economy.

As I have the XXXX brewery in my electorate, I really should say that this is not a criticism of our larger brewers and distillers, and certainly not of the jobs they provide in our community. Clearly, there will always be a market for big players but, as in everything, diversity is important. These days Queenslanders are more spoilt for choice than they have been when it comes to quality options for a drink. This bill simply provides a boost for those smaller players and local businesses.

The Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 strikes the right balance between supporting the growth of this sector while maintaining proper regulatory oversight and harm minimisation practices. It was developed with the support of key industry stakeholders, including the Queensland Hotels Association, the Australian Distillers Association, Clubs Queensland, the Independent Brewers Association and of course the relevant government departments. There has also been direct consultation with multiple brewers and distillers in the community. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (12.54 pm): I rise to speak in support of this bill which will be warmly welcomed by Queensland's independent brewers and Queenslanders generally. As other speakers have pointed out, the bill comes in response to the growth of craft breweries and artisanal distilleries across Australia. This has been a welcome innovation in the brewing industry and reflects a shift towards local cuisines and paddock-to-plate experiences. Wine producers have long had this market to themselves, so beer lovers everywhere have been delighted to see the growth in artisan beers which puts us on a more even footing with our wine lovers.

I cannot speak to this bill without mentioning the most famous craft beer in my electorate—Betoota Bitter. Marketed as Western Queensland's favourite beer, the Yulli's Brews website describes it this way—

Artesian bore water. Warrego Barley. Diamantina Hops. Wild Yeast ... A recipe pioneered over a century of true trial and error ... Be the king of your own grass castle.

Queenslanders love taking the micky. While having some fun with the concept of wine snobbery turning into beer snobbery, the review on Yulli's Brews illustrates the value craft brewers have brought to the brewing scene and the way that value proposition enhances other small businesses in the host location.

These artisan breweries are small to medium enterprises, firmly tied to localities. These attributes make them an engine for local growth. While not exactly in its infancy, it is an industry which is still growing. It is nowhere near its peak of development. Even so, before the pandemic gathering restrictions in Queensland had such a huge impact on our tourism and hospitality sectors, craft brewers

and distillers employed over 1,800 people. Pre COVID-19, it was anticipated that the craft beer industry would contribute over \$100 million to the Queensland economy. Beyond that industry specific measurement is the value enhancement that successful craft brewing brings to local employers, especially tourism and local events. The success of craft brewers—both in product and venue terms—magnifies and supports the success of other locally based small businesses and events, such as local produce outlets, farmers' markets and festivals.

Among the biggest challenges faced by the brewers is that our legislation has treated them exactly the same as multinational and national brewers, such as Castlemaine Perkins, which is owned by Lion Nathan, or Carlton & United Breweries, CUB—the old green can. The sustainability and growth of craft breweries and distilleries is much more fragile and needs active fostering. The proposed amendments contained in the bill are in response to the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy.

This is actually the second bill attempting to underwrite that strategy. The first bill lapsed prior to the last election. Part of the reason is the lack of sitting days and short hours when parliament does sit. The impact of this on the business of parliament has become increasingly clear to many stakeholders. With an October election date set in law, the Independent Brewers Association became increasingly nervous. On 25 August 2020, their spokesman publicly warned that the bill would lapse if it was not promptly introduced to parliament. It did lapse, underscoring the inability of the Labor government to address the needs of commercial realities promptly. The LNP is relieved to see that the necessary amendment bill has finally made it to the stage of debate and the LNP will be supporting these amendments. However, the minister should not be surprised that the Independent Brewers Association has described this bill as 'too little, too late'.

It is sad to contemplate that, if these changes had been introduced much earlier in the last parliament, craft breweries and distilleries would have been much better placed to deal with the coronavirus gathering restrictions and the severe impacts they had on the industry. These COVID-19 impacts fell very heavily on the infant industry that was still competing on the same terms as large, global multinationals without anywhere near the same resources. If the Labor government had responded in a timely fashion to the clearly stated industry case for legislative reforms, these COVID impacts would not have been so extreme.

The key change in this bill is that it amends the Liquor Act 1992 by creating a new licensing category for legitimate craft brewers and distillers. The bill will also expand the existing promotional event framework. This is absolutely necessary if the industry is to fully grow. It addresses the issue of the distillers being able to promote their product at farmers' markets and local festivals. In doing so, this will help those events as well. I can just about recall when towns had their own soft drink bottling plants, so it is not hard for me to imagine the day when some of our iconic hotels in the electorate of Gregory may want to start moving into craft brewing, and I hope they do.

Finally, before I wrap up, I would like to congratulate Peter Brown from Rubyvale—a fantastic tourism advocate for the gem fields. His sons are opening up their own craft brewery at Rubyvale straightaway. If you are heading on a holiday, come and grab a beer from the gem fields as well as a Betoota Bitter. We would really appreciate it.

Debate, on motion of Mr Millar, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Child Protection

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): It is clear to all of us that the government sees child protection as nothing more than a political problem. What we saw in question time today was an absolute failure from the Premier and her cabinet to accept responsibility for the death of a young boy. The Premier can be sombre all she likes, but in the end you can show empathy without having capability, you can show emotion without undertaking action and you can show likeability and still lack leadership.

Leadership is having the ticker to stand up and face issues that are uncomfortable. For a Premier of this state to front a media conference on a Friday afternoon knowing full well not only what was in the report but also that it was going to be released by another minister so she could wash her hands clean, who was able to take one for the team as though somehow the death of a young boy did not matter, was a disgrace. That is not leadership. That is putting politics ahead of the life of a child.

What we have seen displayed again today is a failure to take accountability. Do honourable members know what it looked like? It looked like three child safety ministers, two DGs and 21 staff members—and some of them have been promoted—and no-one is accountable. Today I will tell honourable members what we have. Rather than discuss, as the report says, the manifestly inadequate behaviour, a failure in nearly every possible way, what did the Premier do today? After being sombre, she proudly said that the offenders have been brought to justice. No-one here is denying the disgraceful behaviour that was undertaken with regard to this little boy, but that is not what this is about. It is about the environment that was allowed to fester. It is about a culture within the department of not wanting to address action that led to the death of this boy. Of course we want to see perpetrators brought to justice, but wouldn't it be great if we could have a debate and a conversation about fixing a system so that maybe some others do not fall into the same category?

If media reports are correct, we have seen 18 children in the last half a decade who were known to Child Safety—who died in suspicious circumstances—13 since Mason, so do not tell me about somebody being held accountable in a situation he should not have been in. Do not give me the sombre voice. Give us action. Show us what leadership looks like. Front up to the messes you have created. Do not do a Friday afternoon dump when no-one is looking.

While I am on the subject of being accountable and transparent, I want to talk about acting with integrity. People do not need to be a minister or a former minister to know what integrity looks like. A backbencher in this place is just as entitled to ask a question as anyone sitting on a front bench. I say to the Premier that if she wants to double down and try to besmirch the character of a person who has been in this building since 1992 with an unblemished record because her questions are getting under the skin of the government, she should try again because we are not backing away from this.

Integrity matters. We have a shadow minister for integrity and I intend to have a minister for integrity when we are sitting over there because it matters. We will continue to put forward quality people who will ask quality questions. They will be marked on the questions they ask—and I hope answered—not based on their title. This is not some sort of hierarchical game where only certain people are valued, where only certain questions are answered, where there is a time limit on democracy and integrity. 'That was five years ago.' No, that does not cut the mustard. Things are valid. I will tell honourable members what was not five years ago. The cover-up was not five years ago. Not knowing there was a second email account was not five years ago. We are going to continue to ask those questions. The member for Maroochydore will be a fine minister for integrity.

In my remaining time I wish to make some comments, as we promised we would when we visited the Far North. We said to the people of Cairns and the Far North that we would take their fight to the floor of the parliament, and we have done that. I want to acknowledge the Deputy Leader of the Opposition as well as the shadow minister for small business and the shadow assistant minister for night-time economy, who spent the week in Cairns in one shape or another. It is a city that is hurting. It is hurting for a range of reasons and the majority of them are beyond their control. What they need is for all levels of government to do more.

Today from opposition we have secured a small win. The idea about allowing school students to go and experience the Far North makes a lot of sense. It makes a lot of sense from an economic point of view because there is a short-term stimulus there. It also makes a lot of sense in terms of creating a generation of tribal warriors for the Great Barrier Reef. We want to see that program become business as usual not just for Cairns but also for the Whitsundays, Bundaberg and all the way across the Great Barrier Reef. We think it makes a lot of sense.

A program of this ilk, as well as incentives for travellers to go to Cairns, is not going to be the panacea to fix that city. An investment of a few million dollars is a start, but let me assure honourable members that we have a long way to go. Contrary to what we have heard, both in this place and outside it, it is not just the role of the federal government to continue a subsidy scheme. That has to happen. Not only have we advocated for it here; the deputy leader has spoken directly to the federal Treasurer in a responsible and mature way. It actually produces far better results when we do things like that, when we are forceful. It is a much better approach than childishly ripping things up and giggling. That is what advocacy looks like, not hysteria.

It is not just the federal government. There are things that fit within the purview of the state government and they need action now. What do I mean by that? There are marina operators in Cairns who are paying exorbitant fees for those berths. We want to see that reviewed. That has been well delayed, but we also want to see a waiver of those fees right here and now. We want to know that when

the next round of payroll tax becomes due there will be some breathing space. We want to see infrastructure brought forward and real jobs. We want to see people in hard hats who will then put money back into that economy. That is absolutely essential right now in their hour of need.

Cairns is a wonderful city. The Far North is a wonderful region. Now, during this time when things are tough, is the opportunity for the government to bring forward new products. We have spoken about ecotourism in this state for a generation, but it has not been delivered in the way it must be.

I look to the likes of Tasmania and New Zealand. I have seen them steal a march on us in being able to use their natural assets in a respectful way. It is not about just protecting the environment; it is about enhancing it. It is about making some money out of it that you can put back into improving it. It is about giving a young kid a job at night. We in this state have found reasons not to do it when in fact there is an opportunity to do it. There needs to be new product. The Far North has a magnificent point of difference in the tourism space. It has a bright future, but right now it needs a hand up. It needs a bit of love for a short period of time. It needs the federal government to look at ways of directly supporting those businesses that are at ground zero, but it also needs a state government that is serious about investing—investing in projects for today to get people in work, investing in projects for tomorrow to keep a new offering—and, above all, about making sure it can work right across the spectrum to deliver for the region.

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (2.10 pm): What a low point it is when the Leader of the Opposition comes into this place twice today and tries to use the death of a child for political gain. It is disgusting.

Honourable members interjected.

Dr MILES: Even you are above that.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Deputy Premier, comments will come through the chair.

Dr MILES: Yes, Mr Deputy Speaker. Anyway, I rose today to speak about something the Leader of the Opposition and I actually agree on—that is, the fact that the LNP is unelectable in its current form and that the party is deeply broken. I am sure all members on both sides of the House will have followed with intrigue the series of articles by experienced journalist Peter Gleeson in the *Courier-Mail* exposing the truth of the LNP: the merger of the Liberal and National parties has failed. The telling point I think is that when we talk to Libs in the city they say, ‘Oh, the party was ruined when the Nats took over’ and when we talk to Nats in the bush they say, ‘The party was ruined when the Libs took over.’ The truth is that it was the Christians and Clive who took over!

We have learned of the deep, irreconcilable rifts between the executive and the parliamentary wing. We have heard how deep Clive’s power goes into the LNP. Why did its executive spend election night sipping champagne on Clive Palmer’s boat? You can never hope to get votes in Townsville when you act like that! They know that they take on Clive at their own peril, because who else will bankroll their negative election campaign?

An LNP source recently shared with me what some of their branch members were saying. He said—

After dissecting the abysmal results with business peers and friends, we all agreed that we witnessed the most disjointed, boring and uninspiring LNP campaign in the history of ... politics.

The messaging was incoherent and pointless and the bland policies some bonehead conjured had up no cut through with the electorate. No wonder you couldn’t sell them!

Watching this campaign was like watching a footy club raffle a meat tray, you know you’re not going to win but you support the club because it’s the right thing to do.

The member goes on to provide some constructive feedback.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Dr MILES: These are not my words, member for Mermaid Beach, but he said—

In all my years of involvement with the LNP party I have never met a more **unworthy** person to represent an electorate than you. I have done more for this community in 3 weeks than you have done in the past 10 years—

Mr Mander: Name the source.

Dr MILES: You have the email. The email continues—

Please take the sentiment of this next sentence with ... serious pause and thought, "can you please seriously consider how suited you think you are to represent the electorate of Mermaid Beach"?

I table a copy of this email.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 4 November 2020, titled 'LNP and its Culture of Failure' [\[287\]](#).

Members will note that it was copied to all members opposite, so they all have it and they all know the source.

He is not alone in his anger. Peter Gleeson says that the *Courier-Mail* received hundreds of emails and texts from former or current members of the LNP applauding him for blowing the whistle on division within the party. Even their mates are fed up. The producer of the *Alan Jones Breakfast Show* on Sky said—

Queenslanders are seeking an alternative government that is rid of dead wood and reflects modern-day Queensland, not one releasing half-baked policies like police rounding up children in Townsville, the political version of dog catchers, or talking about the Bradfield Scheme but only promising \$20 million for a feasibility study, or, the best of the bunch, the \$300 car registration rebate, not means-tested, costing over \$1 billion.

There is a pretty good summary of where it all went wrong. Let us be clear about what is going on here, because they are setting a test for the Leader of the Opposition. The party elders and former leaders such as the member for Surfers Paradise, the member for Clayfield, Lawrence Springborg and Rob Borbidge are creating space to see whether the new leader will take on the executive. They are giving him the opportunity. They have run the campaign. They have opened up the space. Now will he take it or will he chicken out? That is the test for the Leader of the Opposition. He has form in knocking off women for jobs that he wants. This time he has to take on the executive of the LNP. Let us see if he can.

Health System, Performance

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.15 pm): I rise today to speak about the state of Queensland's public health system. For more than 12 months the reporting of key metrics associated with the performance of our state's hospital system has not been available to the public. For 12 months we have simply not known the health of our health system. It was widely reported that in the middle of last year, as the COVID-19 pandemic entered full swing, our hospitals were not seeing as many patients coming through their doors. People stayed home and heeded the warnings that were given, but as 2020 moved on stories began filtering through of increasing pressure on our doctors, nurses and paramedics on the front line. This all came to a head last week, when we heard media reports of patients being treated in the bathroom and people lying on ambulance stretchers for more than seven hours when they had not even been seen by a doctor or a nurse. That is just not good enough.

These stories painted a sobering picture of how our public hospital system is being run under this government. Last Friday afternoon we learned that the state of our public health system is more parlous than first thought. The performance data which has been hidden for 12 months was conveniently released at 2 pm on Friday. The numbers released by the government do not lie. Here is the headline figure: 34 per cent of patients in our public hospital system waited on an ambulance stretcher for more than 30 minutes after arriving at hospital. I repeat for the benefit of the House: during the 2020 December quarter more than one in three people waited on an ambulance stretcher for 30 minutes or longer, and these people had not been seen by a doctor or a nurse in that time.

Members of this House will know that I have been keeping a keen eye on these statistics for a long time now, but I have not seen ambulance ramping numbers this bad for years. It is deeply worrisome. With the member for Redcliffe at the helm of Queensland Health, ambulance ramping at our public hospitals is back. Speaking of Redcliffe, some of the most troubling ramping figures across the state are reserved for the hospital in the member's own electorate. Nearly one in every two patients arriving at the Redcliffe Hospital by ambulance wait more than 30 minutes on a stretcher before being seen. That is an eight per cent increase from December last year.

In fact, the numbers across the whole of the Metro North HHS are concerning. At the Prince Charles Hospital and the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital, 41 per cent of patients are ramped— an increase of 18 per cent and 17 per cent respectively from December last year. At Caboolture it is 34 per cent. If the largest and best resourced HHS in the state cannot cope, how can others expect to? It does not matter where we look across Queensland, the numbers do not get much better. At Logan,

Rockhampton, Ipswich and on the Sunshine and Gold coasts nearly one in two people is waiting on an ambulance stretcher for more than 30 minutes. It is little wonder that the emergency department performance numbers across the state are stubbornly high.

Nearly one in four people who presented at a public hospital emergency department in the 2020 December quarter did not get seen within the clinically recommended time frames. The worst numbers for emergency department performance were again at the Logan and Ipswich hospitals where 40 per cent of patients were not seen on time. Two years ago in March 2019 South-East Queensland's public hospital system was brought to its knees, with code yellow orders placed on several facilities. I fear we could again see these code yellow situations if the government does not clean up its act and sort out these problems quickly.

To conclude, we know why these figures were kept hidden for so long. It is because Queensland's public hospital system is sick. If the system is sick, we deserve to know and, more importantly, Queenslanders deserve to know. For the doctors, nurses and paramedics who day in and day out strive to keep us healthy and well, this is not good enough. The mismanagement by Labor in running our public health system is not good enough and I am now beginning to wonder why the member for Redcliffe is not good enough to run Queensland Health. These problems need fixing, and they need fixing quickly. For Labor to stand idly by is not good enough.

(Time expired)

Rural and Remote Queensland, Health Services

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.20 pm): Remoteness is one of the many contributing factors affecting social and economic outcomes for communities from Cape York to the Torres Strait Islands. When it comes to health, research clearly shows that locality plays a big part in determining health outcomes for people in rural and remote areas. On 1 March I had the pleasure of visiting the Weipa Integrated Health Service in western Cape York and was shown around the health service by the director of nursing and midwifery, Kindee Lawty, and senior medical officer William Horwood to inspect works that are currently underway, meet staff and hear about the wonderful service being delivered in the community. The Weipa Integrated Health Service was officially opened on 30 April 2009 by then Labor member for Cook Jason O'Brien. Coming across this plaque was a wonderful reminder of the good work of all Labor governments and is evidence that Labor is committed to delivering vital services and infrastructure to all people, no matter where they live. Whether we are in 2009 or 2021, Labor governments deliver.

I met John, a young man in his late 20s from Mapoon receiving his renal dialysis treatment at Weipa Hospital. John tells me that he travels an hour each way on the unsealed road between Mapoon and Weipa three times a week to receive his dialysis treatment. John told me that he has three young children, a partner and a beautiful home in Mapoon and is very grateful to be receiving treatment closer to home and not having to sacrifice the life he has built to move to Cairns. My visit to the Weipa Integrated Health Service comes almost 12 years after the official opening of that facility. It was wonderful to visit last week to inspect this state government's investment in the health service for the benefit of all communities in the western cape. The Palaszczuk government is investing \$8.86 million worth of works currently underway for the refurbishment of the medical imaging department to house Weipa's first CT scanner, the creation of a new primary healthcare clinic and the establishment of a birthing centre as well as relocating and upgrading the hospital pharmacy and the renal dialysis unit. I also got to hear how this investment will upgrade the hospital air-conditioning and chiller systems.

The CT scanner project was announced last year and has been funded by a \$1.15 million partnership between Rio Tinto and Old Mapoon Aboriginal Corporation, together with a \$1.35 million contribution from the Queensland government. The new CT scanner means that 40 to 50 patients a month from Weipa and the wider western cape region will no longer need to travel out of the region for clinical investigation. With the scanner on site, Weipa doctors and visiting specialists can perform more services in Weipa. This will allow the continued delivery of high-quality health care within the western cape region and faster access to potentially lifesaving scans for cancer, stroke and other medical conditions.

Plans for the \$25 million new birthing service were announced last year and will include two additional doctors, five midwives, two health workers and an administrative officer by the time the unit is fully operational. In addition, service capacity will increase the number of general nursing, operational, administrative and allied health staff to support the new birthing and other services. It is expected that

the birthing unit will deliver up to 70 babies a year, servicing Cape York communities including Weipa, Aurukun, Coen, Kowanyama, Lockhart River, Mapoon and Pormpuraaw. Expectant women will no longer be required to travel to Cairns to have their babies and can now have the option of having their babies closer to home. Of course, women with higher risk pregnancies will continue to travel to Cairns.

On top of the millions already invested into the health service, the Palaszczuk government recently announced that funding will be committed this financial year for an additional 30 all-weather car parks to be constructed to address the congested parking issue at the hospital which will allow safe and easy access for visitors at the hospital. I am proud to see vital funds invested into the Weipa Integrated Health Service because it will make a world of difference for people like John, who no longer has to make that big decision to leave his home, family and community behind to receive treatment in Cairns. Hospital upgrades formed part of the package of more than \$100 million worth of capital works projects for the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service's region either completed in the past three years, underway or in the planning stages. From 2009 to 2021 Labor has delivered. I could not be any prouder to represent a government that truly delivers to the needs of people, no matter where they live.

North Stradbroke Island

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (2.25 pm): I rise to address the worrying and deteriorating situation on North Stradbroke Island and to respond to the government's head-in-the-sand attitude to my referral of government spending on Straddie to the Queensland Auditor-General's office. Life on idyllic Straddie has become more dysfunctional in recent years with things like the surf school children being turned away from tent camping grounds; low-income families with tent bookings at Easter being cancelled; campers outraged as grounds and beaches are closed; the unpopular development being forced at a pristine part of Point Lookout headlands; Quandamooka leaders in dispute with the state government and having to set up a very public tent embassy to stop an unpopular development at the beautiful headlands site; closures of popular beaches and iconic areas to the public; secret land plans that may involve Chinese government backed developers; hikes in four-wheel drive beach access fees; mass job losses; cuts to marine infrastructure like the Howard Walker Jetty in Dunwich; cuts to funding to the chamber of commerce, and more.

What is clear is the Palaszczuk government failed to plan for the economic transition post resource industry and failed to listen and consult widely and communicate clearly on the changes coming through from that and native title and, as a result, the 'Trad-broke' Island plan, as it has become known on Straddie, has created a mess. In short, the beautiful Straddie is in a mess—a mess of the state government's making—and the government still has not learned that tourism is not a tap. It cannot be just turned on and off. Premier, it is not good enough and I call on the Premier to get involved personally and fix her mess.

This morning the minister had a chance to admit the truth and fess up to the mess. However, in question time I asked the environment minister, Minister Scanlon, a question about the latest government grants of around \$22 million—taxpayer funded grants—being paid to QYAC and what taxpayers were getting for this large amount of public moneys. The minister could have proudly proclaimed all of the things the government built, but she could not because there is little to show for it. The answer is either poor administration or maladministration or potential corruption. The fitness of QYAC to continue to co-govern is under question.

I further asked the minister if maintaining tent camping was a requirement so that all Queensland families can enjoy Stradbroke island. The minister in her answer seemed to suggest that reports of Straddie camping restrictions were not accurate. What we saw in the parliament was an out-of-touch environment minister in an even more out-of-touch long-term state Labor government. The minister could have owned up and said that, like the government's child protection system is broken and needs fixing, the government's plan for Straddie is in a mess and needs cleaning up, with a commitment to do it better and different to clean up the mess it made. Instead, the minister stuck her head in the sand—no pun intended—but it is not Straddie sand, because if it was she would have been close enough to hear the shouting of Straddie locals through the sand for this government to start listening to them.

The minister in her answer also mentioned the investigation by ORIC, the federal investigation—she called it an investigation—into the finances of QYAC. After calling it an investigation, she then contradicted herself and downgraded it to a routine examination with the impression that there is nothing to look at. It would be a pity if the ORIC audit was kept to very narrow terms of reference as the minister wants and, as a result of the narrow scope itself, it found nothing. I can only hope that ORIC investigators will allow all of the financial information, especially from the Queensland hearings in 2020,

and all of the financial facts to be looked at, so it was interesting that the minister talked down the ORIC audit. Was she hoping to intimidate the state Auditor-General to stay out of it in case he investigates and finds something?

The government obviously would fear the Auditor-General independently looking at the claims by Quandamooka leaders and other community leaders of a lack of outcomes for the massive millions invested through QYAC and in QYAC's performance and claims of financial irregularities. I note that when these questions have been asked and financial documents produced, a former QYAC CEO denied all claims and then surprisingly and without warning resigned and left his post at a critical time. Was he running when the axe was about to fall? There are many questions being asked by Quandamooka leaders about the operations of QYAC, but no-one is providing detailed answers, just glib denials. The CEO came out of hiding today and made a dismissive statement that it was just muckraking. Well, CEO, it is not muckraking. If anything, we are cleaning up your muck.

The government has refused to act, so I have. There seems only one way to get to the bottom of things and restore confidence and that is a performance audit by the Queensland Audit Office. If it finds serious irregularities then QYAC's chair and senior board members should follow the CEO and resign so we can have a fresh start. I table this document.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 5 March 2021, from the member for Oodgeroo, Dr Mark Robinson MP, to the Auditor-General, Queensland Audit Office, Mr Brendan Worrall, regarding a performance audit of the Quandamooka Yoolooburrabee Aboriginal Corporation [\[280\]](#).

Coronavirus, Economic Recovery

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (2.30 pm): Queensland truly is the place to be. Our economy continues to bounce back strongly, restrictions are easing, and slowly but surely our communities across the state are getting to our new normal. We are keeping Queenslanders safe, and we are keeping Queenslanders in jobs. The latest ABS figures reveal that we are the only Australian state to have more jobs now than in March last year prior to the pandemic, with Queensland adding 19,100 more jobs. That is compared to 13,700 less in Victoria and a huge drop of 48,300 in New South Wales. A big part of this jobs growth is our ongoing renewables boom, with the Sunshine State under the Palaszczuk Labor government fast on its way to becoming a renewables superpower. We are committed to cleaner, cheaper electricity right across the state.

Since 2015 we have backed \$8.5 billion in investment in 44 large-scale renewable projects that have supported 7,000 jobs in construction alone. We are driving forward and creating more highly skilled jobs, and many of those are in regional Queensland. We have committed \$145 million for three renewable energy zones across Northern, Central and Southern Queensland. These zones have already attracted interest from more than 190 proposals that represent a potential investment of more than \$93.5 billion and 60 gigawatts of renewables. In addition, our \$500 million Queensland Renewable Energy Fund will allow our proudly publicly owned generators to increase Queensland's ownership of renewable energy assets and infrastructure. It complements our renewable energy zones and supports significant renewable investment and progress in our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030.

Our renewables boom is joined by our rapidly developing hydrogen industry. We have already exported green hydrogen, made from Queensland sunshine, overseas, thanks to our support of the QUT Redlands Research Facility. In an Australian first, Hydrogen Park Gladstone will blend renewable hydrogen into an entire city's gas network for residential, commercial and industrial customers. We are also supporting green hydrogen export projects in Townsville, hydrogen powered cars, electricity generation and 100 percent renewable smelters. These are just some of the projects supported by our \$25 million Hydrogen Industry Development Fund. It is particularly fitting to mention our commitment to becoming a world leader in both hydrogen and renewables today, given it is the first day of the World Hydrogen Summit. At this virtual global summit of hydrogen leaders, the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen will showcase Queensland on the world stage, sharing our success today alongside our plans for tomorrow, demonstrating to the world that Queensland is the place to be when it comes to jobs and investment.

That very much includes our local community in Ipswich and Bundamba. Recently I proudly welcomed cabinet to the Rheinmetall Defence Australia facility at Redbank, confirming our commitment to bring the \$27 billion Land 400 phase 3 contract to Queensland, a project that will create around 500 jobs in addition to the 450 highly skilled positions already being brought to Queensland as part of the phase 2 win. Rheinmetall will soon be joined by a state-of-the-art \$1 billion Coles distribution warehouse. This continues the massive industry investment in Redbank, which is already home to the biggest Australia Post mail facility in the country.

We are also welcoming the safe return of community sports and cultural events. Yesterday I was proud to attend the Zonta Club of Ipswich which hosted hundreds of people at its International Women's Day breakfast. Last weekend we hosted the very first Ipswich Indigenous All Stars versus Ipswich All-Stars Rugby League game, showcasing local league legends, Ipswich Jets icons and plenty of top-grade experience. Members of our historic Ipswich Little Theatre have returned to the boards for the first time in 12 months, and in May *The Gathering* will be held at our brand new Ipswich Events and Entertainment Centre. This celebration of Celtic music, culture and performance is expected to attract about 5,000 people with the support of our Celebrating Multicultural Queensland Program. Queensland really is the place to be as our strong and safe recovery continues.

Floods, Litigation; Paradise Dam

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (2.35 pm): In the summer of 2011 Queenslanders experienced a major flooding event—in fact, it could be called a disaster—that affected the lives of thousands and thousands of people. It destroyed lives, it destroyed property, it destroyed businesses and community organisations. Many of those memories are still with us today. These memories were made worse for the victims with lengthy court cases and Sunwater and Seqwater deciding to appeal the decision. The victims, and there are more than 6,500 of them, have had to fight so hard and for so long. It was interesting to hear the member for Ipswich not mention these people in his speech.

On 29 November 2019 the Supreme Court found that the plaintiff and group members suffered loss and damage as a result of the negligent operation of Wivenhoe and Somerset dams during the 2011 floods. It has taken eight years to win this landmark case. After this win it has taken more than another year for a settlement to be reached with Sunwater. I said at the time of the class action decision that the Premier had the power to direct the government owned corporations not to undertake appeals. It has been a cruel action which has cost taxpayers even more so that these entities could carry on defending themselves in court.

Finally, on 26 February 2021, there was a partial settlement with two of the defendants, the State of Queensland and Sunwater for \$440 million—only half of the liability for those damages. However, Seqwater, which owes another \$440 million, continues to appeal. To make matters worse, the Queensland Audit Office report by the Auditor-General reveals that Seqwater's financial statements do not include liability and a matching expense for the \$440 million it owes in damages. That report has been discussed by the parliamentary committee. I thank the members of the opposition who are on that committee who demanded of Seqwater an answer as to why the Palaszczuk government has decided to be so negligent by not forcing that government owned corporation to have the money sitting there ready to pay out those poor people who have suffered such tremendous loss which was determined through the court. In fact, the report says—

The judgment created a financial obligation for the group members that can be estimated and is likely to require payment. Under the accounting standards, Seqwater should have recognised a liability and a matching expense. SunWater has appropriately recognised a \$330 million liability and expense.

I plead with the government to remember these people who have lost so much.

I will briefly mention Paradise Dam because I do not think I could make a speech in this parliament, particularly as the shadow minister for water, without mentioning the debacle that is going on at Paradise Dam under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Just a few weeks ago I talked about what we learned in the estimates process in relation to Paradise Dam. We learned that Labor is refusing to guarantee that the Bundaberg Scheme will be returned to its original capacity, or allocation for that matter.

At that time I highlighted that, according to Sunwater's own forecasts, levels in Paradise Dam will drop to zero by June 2021 unless there are significant inflows. I need to update the House on that statement. Revised figures now show that it will be empty—I repeat: Paradise Dam will be empty—by the end of March. That is just three weeks away. Where are the local members? They are absolutely silent on this issue. I congratulate the good people of Bundaberg and the farmers and business owners, as well as the member for Burnett who continues to fight the good fight and the great former member for Bundaberg, David Batt, who also continues to fight the good fight. Where is the—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is time for the Palaszczuk government to front up, stop covering up and listen to the people of Bundaberg and the farmers of Central Queensland about their needs.

(Time expired)

Maryborough Electorate

 **Mr SAUNDERS** (Maryborough—ALP) (2.40 pm): A lot has happened in the Maryborough electorate since the 2020 state election when the Palaszczuk government was resoundingly re-elected. There are many happy faces in the Maryborough electorate and in the neighbouring seats of Bundaberg and Hervey Bay. It is very good to work as a team for the whole of the Wide Bay district, not just the Maryborough electorate.

Mr Power: Team Wide Bay.

Mr SAUNDERS: I take that interjection from the member for Logan. It is Team Wide Bay because we are all working for the benefit of our constituents, rather than putting other things first. Over the past couple of weeks I have had some great news for the Maryborough electorate. Last week was a fine week when we announced a \$1.9 million subsidy for the Isis Central Sugar Mill to purchase more trailers to take cane grown in Maryborough to the Isis mill to be processed. It was unfortunate that MSF Sugar closed the Maryborough sugar mill. I thank the state development minister for ensuring that minimal harm was done to the community and that workers were able to seek work elsewhere. He and his department have done a fantastic job, on top of the \$1.9 million subsidy for 36 new trailers. That will make the industry viable in not only Maryborough but also Childers because the 500,000 to 600,000 tonnes of cane coming from Maryborough will keep the Isis mill alive. We know that that cane will now be transported safely on the Bruce Highway thanks to 36 new trailers provided by the Palaszczuk Labor government. I acknowledge the work done with Canegrowers Isis and, in particular, Peter Russo, who is a man of his word. It was very pleasing to work with him to get this result for both the Burnett area and the Maryborough electorate.

The other day I had the good fortune of having the Assistant Minister for Health in the electorate to announce funding of \$5.3 million to reroof the whole Maryborough Hospital complex. That is a fantastic achievement and I thank the assistant minister. She was quite impressed by some of the heritage buildings at the Maryborough Hospital. The Chief Executive of the Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service was very pleased with that announcement from the government because it does not take money away from health care. This is state government money allocated to help maintain hospitals; it does not come out of the Health budget. That is not all we have done at the Maryborough Hospital. The A&E department has received \$12.4 million. There has been funding for air conditioning, rewiring and car parks. We have spent a lot of money on the Maryborough Hospital to improve services. As a government we returned the pathology unit to the Maryborough Hospital and we have also installed new X-ray and scanning machines. The X-ray department at the Maryborough Hospital is very modern thanks to the Palaszczuk Labor government.

It is good news week from the Palaszczuk Labor government. We cannot stop the good news rolling out. There is more good news for Hyne. Maryborough is a timber and train town. Hyne has expanded its factory at Tuan, meaning 50 extra jobs—I repeat: 50 extra jobs. That was made possible because of a grant for the Glulam factory in Maryborough that was delivered last year by the Palaszczuk Labor government, which is reinvesting in regional Queensland.

We hear the other side talk. We saw the new Leader of the Opposition sneak into Maryborough at three o'clock one afternoon. He told the TV stations not to take a photo inside the room. He parked his Merc down the street so that no-one could see it, walked around and then said that nothing is happening in Maryborough. I am inundated with people saying that there is heaps happening in Maryborough.

While I am on my feet I want to thank the transport minister and member for Miller for the new traffic lights that have been installed at schools in my electorate, such as Riverside Christian College where new lights became operational just after the last state election. This month lights will come online at the intersection of Alice and Pallas streets. The big news is the installation of lights near the Maryborough Skate Park. A lot of kids cross the road from the skate park to the store to buy a can of coke or whatever they want to buy. Kids were running out in front of the traffic. Now we have lights there, which I am looking forward to turning on on Friday. That will make the children, young adults and everyone else who goes to that skate park much safer. That is what a Labor government does. We reinvest. We make sure that no-one gets left behind. I can say that no-one in the Maryborough electorate has been left behind by the Palaszczuk Labor government.

Education System

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.45 pm): After six years it is time for the Labor government to recalibrate, having so comprehensively failed to learn any lessons from a series of its own scandals and failings involving our Queensland state education system. Having promised to air condition every

classroom, library and staffroom in Queensland state schools, late last year Queensland students and staff discovered that air-conditioning units were being installed seemingly for decorative purposes only as they were not able to be turned on due to network capacity issues.

Today in a ministerial statement I heard the Labor Minister for Education say that 533 of 649 schools have been air-conditioned. What she failed to mention was the myriad problems with units being installed that could not be turned on and network issues. There are 116 schools still to be air-conditioned and that needs to be done in the next few months. Given the myriad problems up to this point, it will be interesting to see whether those schools will be done. And this is before we get to Labor waste.

Last weekend the Queensland Academy for Science Mathematics and Technology threw valuable educational resources into skip bins and there was a backflip by the government in relation to that. Today we learned that over four days \$8,000 of taxpayers' money was spent on taxi vouchers that had to be provided to teachers at the Brisbane South State Secondary College because the car park was not ready. This goes to the heart of the government in relation to waste and not being able to deliver projects on time and on budget.

We know that in December of last year Queensland students were let down when 24,000 year 12 students incorrectly received an email advising them that they would not be ATAR eligible. That created heartache for those students and their families.

Mrs Frecklington: Distress.

Dr ROWAN: It created distress; I take the interjection from the member for Nanango.

The Palaszczuk state Labor government has also failed to submit its homework when it comes to ensuring the safety of Queensland's dedicated and hardworking teachers. From 2015 to 2019, attacks on state school teachers skyrocketed. The number of suspensions for attacks with objects increased by 29 per cent to almost 2,000 incidents whilst the number of attacks on teachers without objects jumped by 50 per cent to more than 3,300 reported incidents. There must be zero tolerance with respect to violence, bullying and intimidation in our schools and the Labor government must do a lot better and a lot more. They must develop a comprehensive and sustainable strategy to deal with this issue. Certainly from my meetings with the Queensland Teachers' Union and the Teachers Professional Association of Queensland I know that they are calling upon the state Labor government to do more to eliminate that from our schools in Queensland. The Liberal National Party opposition will always stand ready to assist in regards to this important workplace safety issue.

The Labor government would also have to receive a fail grade when it comes to its lack of support for Queensland's 250 independent public schools. The future of the Queensland independent public schools program continues to remain uncertain despite the well documented success of our independent public schools and the student outcomes that they are achieving. Those matters and the resolution of other significant public policy education issues can assist with the delivery of a world-class public education system here in Queensland.

We all know that education underpins our future, our success and the prosperity of Queensland for many generations to come. It is a system which every Queensland student, parent and teacher deserves and one which forms the foundation of a knowledge-based economy. With an annual budget of more than \$14 billion for the Department of Education, Queenslanders deserve better from the Palaszczuk state Labor government, especially after a raft of accountability, integrity and departmental cultural issues which were highlighted during the estimates process in December last year. That is before we get to botched public consultation which is taking place with respect to the new Brisbane inner west primary school. I continue to be contacted by residents across the western suburbs of Brisbane with their concerns about this government's botched public consultation processes, traffic congestion with respect to proposed localities, loss of green space and a loss of suburb ambience. The government needs to do a lot better when it comes to that as well as high school infrastructure planning and investing in our high schools, whether that be Kenmore State High School or a new high school for Karana Downs and Mount Crosby, and investing across the western suburbs of Brisbane. A well-resourced, visionary, functional and free public education system is critical for our future prosperity and economic success, and all Queenslanders deserve nothing less.

Weather Event, Community Recovery

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise to provide an important update to the House on our community's recovery from the severe hailstorms that hit our region on 31 October last year. As many members would be aware, a number of severe storm cells hit the Ipswich and Logan regions,

directly impacting the suburbs of Springfield Lakes, Springfield, Rosewood, Greenbank and Boronia Heights. The hailstones from this storm were incredibly large—some 14 centimetres in diameter, described as shot-puts—so big, in fact, that they have been the subject of ongoing research by the University of Queensland.

I have previously spoken in the House about the initial community recovery efforts, including the establishment of a dedicated community recovery centre, support from the department of housing, Tenants Queensland, Energex, as well as our wonderful local businesses and community organisations, and, of course, our emergency services who were incredible during the initial recovery—our hundreds of SES volunteers, QFES, rural fire brigade and the Queensland Police Service, who instigated additional patrols through the affected areas, including bringing in mounted police.

Since the initial storm recovery, our community recovery team has continued to provide ongoing support within our community. In fact, in the three months from November 2020 to 29 January 2021, the Community Recovery Hotline received 1,804 calls, providing assistance and support on disaster specific recovery information, support referrals or financial assistance. Some 180 ready reserves have also been deployed on the ground, providing support to the community. The department of housing has supported our community, with 96 emergency housing assistance requests completed. Its work is continuing.

In the three months reported, the Queensland government has also provided more than \$1.5 million in personal hardship assistance payments. This has included our emergency hardship assistance grants, which are not means-tested and were available to all affected residents for immediate support. For those who were not insured or were underinsured, our government has also provided additional funding through a range of grants such as essential household contents grants, structural assistance grants and essential services safety and reconnection grants. These grants continue to be available and will stay open for two years. I urge anyone who needs this support to contact my office or the Community Recovery Hotline.

The mental health of our community has been tested, particularly for our young children who continue to feel residual trauma and fear from ongoing storm activity. The Queensland government has engaged Lifeline and Uniting Care, and to date these services have provided over 1,200 instances of psychological support to community members.

Immediately following the event, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services completed initial damage assessments of affected homes. To track and monitor reconstruction progress of homes in these areas, the Queensland Reconstruction Authority undertook its first damage assessment and reconstruction monitoring assessment in February 2021. This involved going door to door and collecting information on the progress of reconstruction to individual properties, including accessibility to water and electricity, structural damage and insurance matters. The results of this first assessment are now available and show that, of the 2,065 assessments, 478 properties have been repaired and 1,297 remain damaged. Of the damaged properties, 704 remain tarped and 341 are uninhabitable. Of those uninhabitable properties, work is underway on 151, which is 44 per cent. In comparison, the QRA has advised that at the same stage following Severe Tropical Cyclone Debbie work had commenced on 38 per cent of uninhabitable properties. The QRA will continue to assess the progress of recovery. This is really important, because we need to identify where the greatest need exists and help state agencies provide assistance to the most vulnerable in our community.

One of the most critical issues that continues to affect our community is ongoing concerns with insurance. My office has been supporting many frustrated residents with these issues and directly advocating to the Insurance Council of Australia for further support. They heard our concerns for the community and last week held an insurance forum in Springfield Lakes to address policyholders. I attended this forum and heard directly from our affected residents, many of whom are continuing to live in damaged and sometimes unsafe homes and with ongoing uncertainty due to insurance and building issues. Getting available and competent tradespeople as well as building supplies is an additional issue, particularly given the recent boom in the housing market in Queensland and also COVID concerns. Our government is continuing to work with insurers to address these concerns, and I also know that the Queensland Building and Construction Commission has had compliance officers in the community undertaking checks to ensure that building work is being done properly and to Australian Standards.

I urge anyone in our community who continues to be affected and is not sure who to contact to contact me. Our government, my office and I are here to help to ensure our community can and will recover from this devastating storm.

LIQUOR (ARTISAN LIQUOR) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 343, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.55 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. At the outset, pursuant to standing order 260, I declare that my husband owns and runs a small craft brewing business in Queensland.

As we all know, Queensland is a great state. More and more people are moving to Queensland each and every year for our wonderful lifestyle. This includes entertainment venues and the array of new boutique craft brewing venues across our state. As the Attorney-General advised in her speech, Queensland has around 90 independent craft breweries in Queensland and employs more than 1,700 Queenslanders. We know that, even during COVID-19, craft breweries are still a popular choice. The bill before the House today, introduced by the Palaszczuk government, will support these small and medium sized businesses to grow even further. I know that Queensland brewers and industry representatives in Queensland will welcome these proposed changes. With those brief comments, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.57 pm): I, too, rise to address the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. At the outset, as a new member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I acknowledge the work of the committee in preparing the report. I particularly want to acknowledge the efforts of the secretariat. It is great to see them at work again firsthand and to experience their skills and knowledge. I acknowledge the other members of the committee—the members for Toohey, Currumbin, Noosa, Cooper and Caloundra—and I acknowledge the bipartisanship in which the committee's report was prepared. I have one disappointment, though. It has been almost a decade since I have participated in committee work, but I understood that there might be an opportunity to partake in a study tour to better understand the craft brewing and artisan liquor industry—

Mr McDonald: What a sensible idea!

Mr POWELL: I take that interjection. It would have been a very sensible idea. Clearly, the chair and member for Toohey is more of a Canadian Club man than a craft brewing man and we were not able to get out and partake of too many artisan liquor outlets. Having said that, my wife kindly stepped in and filled the void and for Father's Day last year purchased me a Sunny Coast craft brewery tour in which I was able to partake during January while the committee was looking at this particular issue. Knowing that for such an event I needed a good mate to come along with me, I grabbed one of my buddies and off we went. We visited four of the 17 craft breweries on the Sunshine Coast: Moffat Beach Brewing Co, Your Mates, Sunshine Coast Brewery and 10 Toes. I will admit that if people have a weak constitution they should stay away from nitro stout at Your Mates Brewing. It is not recommended for those with a weak constitution.

Mr Bleijie: In Kawana.

Mr POWELL: It is in the electorate of Kawana.

Mr Bleijie: We breed them tough in Kawana.

Mr POWELL: They clearly have more access to personalised transport than those of us west of the highway in Glass House.

I want to acknowledge the local craft brewery in the electorate of Glass House—Brouhaha in Maleny. It epitomises the artisan liquor movement in that it showcases not only craft brewing but also local produce. They have beers like the Maleny Lager, Middle of the Road, Milk Stout and Raspberry Saison. They are proving popular throughout the electorate and popular with the many people who have been coming into the electorate over the last 12 months due to COVID-19 as they get away from Brisbane and environments further south.

I turn now to elements of the bill. The purpose of the bill is to strengthen the artisan liquor industry in Queensland by supporting the growth and sustainability of craft breweries and artisan distilleries, while still maintaining appropriate regulatory controls and oversight. The bill proposes to amend the Liquor Act 1992 by: creating a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisan

distillers—a commercial other artisan producer licence; expanding the existing promotional event permit framework; providing additional authorisations for eligible producer/wholesaler licensees; and encouraging the transition of existing licensees to the new artisan producer licence category.

We were told by the government that this legislation was one of the things that finally came out of the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy. I have heard a number of members talk today about how that strategy was in response to COVID. That is not entirely correct. That strategy was in response to the then minister responsible, Minister Dick, inviting and paying for a Scottish brewing company—BrewDog—to establish in Brisbane. When that occurred, members should have heard the cries of alarm from Queensland's artisan liquor operators, and rightly so. Why should Queensland taxpayer dollars be used to bring in a Scottish brewing company when we have so many of our own throughout our state that we should be promoting? What we are debating today is the end result, albeit a very long one, of a kneejerk reaction, albeit a good one. This is what the government had to do for craft brewers across Queensland.

On a lighter note, I need to acknowledge that I learnt a new term during the committee's consideration of this bill. We all know that you make beer in a brewery, rum in a distillery, wine in a winery and cider in a cidery. Do you know where you make mead? It is made in a meadery. There you go. That is a bit of an education for everyone. In Queensland we have two meaderies. I am again disappointed that the committee did not take it upon itself to do a study tour of our meaderies.

Mr McDonald interjected.

Mr POWELL: There is not one in Glass House, member for Lockyer—not yet anyway. We might work on that one. There was wide support for the changes to the legislation. In many cases, the industry worked hand in glove with the government to achieve these changes. The Independent Brewers Association said that they were instrumental in the development of the original proposal for a legislative framework and were satisfied with the outcomes of that work. What they then went on to say is that as the government consulted more broadly with a number of other stakeholders they were very concerned that the original framework was watered down. Whilst the results we are seeing today are good, they are potentially not as good as they could have been.

I will touch on a number of particular aspects of the bill. As other members of the opposition have said, one of the concerns we have is around the amount of work required to demonstrate eligibility for the ongoing licence. To demonstrate eligibility, artisan producer licensees will be required to lodge annual production and sales data returns and to notify the commissioner for liquor and gaming if these cease to meet the eligibility requirements for the licence. We are concerned that that creates an onus on the artisan liquor licensees. We will be monitoring that very closely to make sure that that does not become too onerous on licensees. We would hate to think that in freeing things up we have actually made it a lot harder for them.

There were some concerns expressed by the Independent Brewers Association around the requirement to have takeaways. They were hoping to match what a lot of cellar doors at wineries have and that was not achieved. The IBA explained—

In terms of amenity and harm minimisation, there is no difference between purchasing from an existing bottle shop or a brewery/taproom. The cost of our products also do not provide for 'buy and scull' beverages.

The take-away provisions for artisan spirits, wines and other craft beers (originally shown in the Agenda Item 3) should be re-instated. Arguments against takeaways raised by other stakeholder groups are about protecting their own markets and not about improving market access and promoting growth of the artisanal liquor industry as a whole.

When we questioned some of these operators we found that one of the other things that this legislative change does not address is the ability for them to sell their product through third parties. One of the proposals we saw put forward by independent grocers, the IGAs, during the election campaign was a partnership between local craft breweries or artisan distilleries and local IGAs to sell their product through the local IGA with a particular licence. That has not been addressed.

I know there were a lot of objections to that from the Queensland Hotels Association, Woolworths and Coles which pretty much have the alcohol situation sown up. I think there is an opportunity to have that discussion if we can all sit down as adults. I think there are ways we can promote Queensland produced alcohol through some of our smaller operators and find a way that addresses the investment that Queensland hotels and Woolworths and Coles have made in their stores and their markets. This would allow for growth in some of the smaller markets. There is an opportunity to look at that into the future.

The bill is generally very positive. As has been said by the shadow Attorney-General, the LNP will be supporting it. I hope that as we continue to monitor this as a parliament we look for opportunities to continue to promote Queensland made, particularly in the burgeoning field of artisan liquor production. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (3.06 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill. Craft brewing and artisan distilling has been a rapidly emerging industry in Queensland, and one where Queenslanders' ability to innovate is being rewarded. Indeed, with support from the Palaszczuk government, it is rapidly becoming another Queensland success story.

Queensland launched Australia's first craft brewing strategy in December 2018 to support the industry's rapid expansion. The strategy focused on three key areas: investing in people and infrastructure; improving access to markets; and ensuring appropriate regulation and planning is in place to facilitate a supportive environment. What we have seen emerge in Queensland is a craft beer industry estimated to be worth around \$62 million a year, with more than 90 independent craft brewers employing over 1,700 people across the state from Port Douglas in the north to Burleigh Heads in the south.

Growth is being driven by shifts in consumer preferences, with innovative product lines contributing to the increased demand we are seeing for craft beer. The Palaszczuk government is putting its money where its mouth is with the Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water and my Department of Agriculture and Fisheries investing a combined \$2.3 million over five years to establish a collaboration to operate the BrewLab at the Health and Food Sciences Precinct at Coopers Plains. This investment includes supplementary BrewLab services to be delivered in Toowoomba and Cairns.

DAF is well placed to deliver food science capability relevant to the emerging craft beer industry through the agrifood and data sciences team at the Health and Food Sciences Precinct, the Leslie Research Facility in Toowoomba and a Cairns based food technologists and microbiology lab. Backing the innovation being shown by Queensland entrepreneurs, the key research and development capability areas to be delivered by the BrewLab are new product development, sensory and consumer science and quality assurance, both raw materials and finished product.

The establishment and commissioning of the BrewLab has also allowed TAFE Queensland to access the site to fulfil the training element of the Queensland Craft Beer Strategy over a five-year period. An initial certificate III offering was oversubscribed. TAFE commenced a second course in October 2020. TAFE currently books the BrewLab brewing facility three days a week for 40 weeks a year. Twelve students completed their certificate III in December 2020, and I am pleased to say the majority are now actively employed within the craft beer industry in South-East Queensland.

The BrewLab has regular communication with the Queensland Chapter Secretary of the Independent Brewers Association. BrewLab staff also attend quarterly IBA meetings. It is important to note that the BrewLab concept is providing benefits beyond the Greater Brisbane area. BrewLab has been in contact with Gold Coast brewers and attends IBA chapter meetings on the Gold Coast. The BrewLab has been engaged with Sunshine Coast brewers via the Food and Agribusiness Network based on the Sunshine Coast. The network has over 20 local brewers as members within its broader remit of food manufacturing in the region.

Further industry engagement has taken place with industry representatives in regional areas including Toowoomba, Charleville, Cairns, Bundaberg and Townsville. The BrewLab has commenced direct consultancy activities with local brewing industry participants. These activities include pilot-scale brewing activities, sensory science and quality determinations including chemical analysis and microbiological testing. The BrewLab has also provided many brewers with advice on how to conduct their own quality determinations under 'industry best practice' laboratory standards.

The BrewLab has worked very closely with Queensland Health and IBA to impress upon the industry the importance of ensuring their products comply with the Food Standards Code and, specifically, the requirement for accurately reporting the alcohol content—alcohol by volume, or ABV—on the packaging of their beer products. The DAF team based at HFSP are working with artisan liquor and craft brewing businesses to explore the current research and development requirements their respective industries require in order to establish a coordinated research program.

The Palaszczuk government has demonstrated its commitment to the development of the craft brewing industry, and this bill is a further contribution to the industry's success. The creation of a specific artisan licence to allow producers to sell their own product on premises and through promotional events is an important step that recognises both the current importance and the future potential of this industry going forward.

Estimates are that, with continued support from the Palaszczuk government, through these reforms and ongoing support through the BrewLab, we could see this industry create more than 100 extra jobs and grow to a \$100 million industry within three years. That is a lot of craft beer and artisan spirits to be produced in Queensland which will be a perfect complement to the wonderful foods of all kinds that this state produces.

In my own electorate of Ferny Grove there is a brewers club that meets at the local bowls club involving people who are passionate about making beer and sharing their stories. With the right support, you never know where Queensland's next great craft or artisan brewer will come from. That is Queensland—the place to be. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (3.12 pm): I am pleased to rise to speak to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill. I want to give a great shout-out to some of our wonderful local businesses on the Sunshine Coast who are innovative craft brewers. They are small business people who have seen an opportunity. They took a risk and put themselves forward with a great product. They are certainly fighters because, as we know, during COVID, right throughout Queensland extra challenges have been faced by many such as markets having been disrupted because they were not able to set up in a COVID-safe way to continue to sell. It has been a challenging time but they have been fighting back.

I believe there is much that is positive in this bill even though, as we have alluded, there are still opportunities to improve the regulations around this industry so that we are able to better support our artisan liquor producers and our great food manufacturers. There is an explosion of innovation and entrepreneurialism in the area of food manufacturing. Food and manufacturing may not always go together in people's minds, but the reality is that to get food products to market, and to get them into people's hands and homes, there is often a manufacturing process involved.

If we are to expand that network of opportunity and see this expand beyond the local experience—the wonderful tourism experience of coming to our areas and sampling these magnificent products locally—to other markets, and ultimately the export market is a terrific objective, there has to be, I believe, a bigger vision and a bigger strategy. That is what the industry is looking for. I hand it to them because we see not only great local businesses but also leadership within industry emerging and speaking up for what they want to see to take this industry further into the future.

I give a big shout-out to the Sunshine Coast Brewery—to Greg Curran and family. When I first started talking with Greg a few years ago about his wonderful brewery, it was brought to my attention that they were about to be hit with nearly a tenfold increase in their fire levy. This increase in the fire levy was about to be put on this magnificent emerging and dynamic industry. The industry had been around but it was starting to shoot out of the blocks and take off after all of those hard years of investment. The state Labor government, without warning, hit them with a terrible increase—nearly a tenfold increase—in the fire levy via new regulations.

Fortunately, by working together with industry, we were able to lobby the government and get them to back down on that increase and change the way that regulations were increasing bills that were landing in their mailboxes. However, one thing it highlighted was the importance of industry being listened to and consulted with. There is much in this legislation that indicates that industry is being listened to, but there is also an opportunity to go further.

I support the comments of my colleague the member for Glass House, who spoke before about some of the work that was being done with independent grocers. There is a lot more opportunity for us to see the craft brewing or artisan liquor industry being able to join together with other retail opportunities such as food that is produced locally. This is not about unleashing a multitude of de facto corner bottle shops in addition to what we have already. It is about enabling opportunities for people to market their artisan liquors as well as their local produce from that area. I think there is a lot more opportunity for us to see a marriage of these two great industries, with a local focus to expand that wonderful experience for people.

I give a big shout-out to the industry. There are others in my area—10 Toes Brewery also has a magnificent product. There is a long list. While my boundaries may be more confined to the coastal side of the highway, I know that there is a lot in the hinterland as well. Wherever they are, they have worked really hard during COVID to fight back, to rebuild and to look for opportunities going forward.

This legislation improves, as I said, the regulations, but perhaps there is an opportunity to go further forward so that this industry can continue to expand in a way that recognises the specific needs they have as manufacturers of a magnificent product but also that recognises that it has quite an onerous regulatory framework. There is a need for regulation, but there needs to be more adaptation to ensure that it meets the needs of emerging markets.

I want to touch on another organisation that has been at the forefront in supporting our food manufacturers and our artisan liquor producers, and that is FAN—the Food and Agribusiness Network—on the Sunshine Coast. As I said at the outset, food and manufacturing in the one sentence might seem strange but that is how we are going to see more products launched. People need to realise that it is not only the agricultural side but also marrying it with the manufacturing process to deliver these magnificent products locally and beyond our shores.

Government investment and support for the food manufacturing sector will see this industry really expand, not only for craft brewers and other liquor producers but also for the magnificent foods that are being produced on the Sunshine Coast and surrounding area. I call on the state government to support manufacturing hubs through something like the Food and Agribusiness Network on the Sunshine Coast. I believe there is goodwill and bipartisan support for this because it cuts across not only many LNP electorates but also Independent and Labor electorates through the Sunshine Coast and Moreton Bay areas.

We need the support of this government for these food manufacturing hubs as they seek to expand their processes. There may be common infrastructure that enables them to produce, deliver or package their products with laboratory support. The FAN group has been working on a detailed business plan with industry and government. There is a great opportunity to take us beyond where we are today because the future for Queensland is not just being good at what we do today. We have wonderful artisan brewers and manufactured foods being delivered to market that are so different from some of the traditional products that come through the larger retail sector. There is a great opportunity for us to take these clean, innovative and wonderful food products to the world, but they need support now.

As we come through this time of COVID we want to support these businesses and help them reach the world so we have to change the way we do business. Having the same regulatory framework with the heaviness of negotiating through different silos has to change. There has to be coordination across the three tiers of government. Here in Queensland we have to start by supporting our food and agribusiness manufacturing hubs. Today we are talking about our artisan brewers, so cheers to the industry. They are doing an awesome job, but we want to see them do better in the future. We want to see all of those small business owners who work their heart and soul out to not only produce but continue to make a bob—which they need to do to be here tomorrow—and prosper. That is why we have to continue the process of regulatory reform and lift the burden of unnecessary regulation to help them create jobs and prosperity in our local areas.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.22 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020—a bill which will support the growth and development of the Queensland artisan liquor and brewery industries. The Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and consequently referred to the committee on 26 November 2020. The subsequent report from the committee, which was tabled in the Assembly in February 2021, recommended that the bill be passed. The committee invited stakeholders to make written submissions on the bill on 1 December 2020, and three submissions were received prior to the committee's public hearing.

The bill's objective is to strengthen the artisan liquor industry by helping craft brewers and artisan distilleries grow; furthermore, to make that growth sustainable in the long term while maintaining some required oversight. The amendments to the Liquor Act would include: a new liquor licence category for craft brewers and artisan distillers; expanding the existing promotional event permit; and providing extra authorisations for those producers and wholesalers who are eligible.

It is sobering to think—no pun intended—that pre COVID Queensland craft brewers and artisan distillers employed over 1,800 people and the craft beer industry was on track to contribute \$100 million to the Queensland economy. The pandemic has taken its toll on the industry—a fact that will make these changes all the more welcome. Nationwide sales from craft breweries are down 67 per cent as a consequence of the pandemic. The bill will respond to this by waiving certain fees associated with the new licence. As the federal government tapers or removes its COVID response measures, the support offered by the Palaszczuk government has been well received by the industry.

The consultative process for the craft brewing industry began in December 2019 and when completed in January 2020 had surveyed around 60 per cent of independent craft brewers. This indicated a generally favourable reaction to the idea of amending the Liquor Act with a particular emphasis on a new and specific category for craft beer. For the artisan liquor sector the consultative process concluded in March 2020 after consulting with distilleries, wineries, cideries and—as we now know thanks to the member for Glass House—meaderies. The final stage involved a meeting attended by the Queensland Hotels Association, ADA, Clubs Queensland, IBA and the relevant government agencies.

The Independent Brewers Association advised they were confident that if the legislative was introduced reflecting the framework proposed it would simplify the licensing process and create marketing access opportunities for producers. However, they also indicated that some critical components were subsequently amended to the extent they believe the changes were not in keeping with the intention of simplifying the process and creating better market access. DJAG advised there would be ongoing consultation with the industry to ameliorate any implementation issues.

The new artisan producer licence will: provide for the subcategories of beer and spirits for applicants/licensees whose principal activity is producing and/or selling craft beer and artisan spirits; restrict the granting and continued holding of the licence to craft brewers and/or distillers with an annual production of up to five million litres of craft beer or 450,000 litres of artisan spirits who produce at least 70 per cent of their total sales on the premises and are less than 20 per cent owned by larger breweries, being those that produce more than 40 million litres of beer annually. It will authorise the sale of the licensee's own liquor products and other products for consumption between the ordinary hours of 10 am to 12 midnight. It will avoid the vendors operating as bars or clubs by limiting the extended hours to 1 am. It will authorise the sale of the licensee's own products for off-premises consumption between 10 am and 10 pm and allow the licensee to take orders for their product online. It will further authorise the sale of the licensee's own product wholesale. In more good news for the industry, the licence will enable the licensee to sell craft beer or artisan spirits produced onsite for public consumption or takeaway in unlimited amounts.

These amendments are supported by the Australian Distillers Association, which indicated that they welcome the work of the Palaszczuk government as they seek to bring down barriers to growth and encourage new entrants into the distilled spirits industry. The ADA also indicated that their industry is happy to promote the brand—that is, Queensland—while helping to create jobs, job creation being a priority of the Palaszczuk government at every opportunity, and this bill will be no exception. These amendments are geared towards support for small independent producers and guards against larger companies manipulating the system through ownership of multiple craft breweries.

In consultation with some of the local craft brewers and distillers in my electorate I can state that their response to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 is largely favourable, although naturally they would like to see some of the proposed changes go even further. If I could finish now on a note of quite shameless parochialism, I would like to draw attention to the Moffat Beach Brewing Company in my own electorate, who at the very recent Royal Queensland Beer Awards took out the champion session beer, the champion pale ale and the champion pub brew. Congratulations to the Moffat Beach Brewing Company. I commend the proposed changes to the House as yet another job-creating project designed to grow some small businesses.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.27 pm): 'Down under in the scrub stands the Ettamogah Pub'. That was a song my family sang in the late 1980s when my uncle opened the Ettamogah Pub on the Sunshine Coast. Mr Deputy Speaker, I am happy to sing the rest for you in private at a show later. Tickets will be available online. All members are cordially invited. It is five bucks a show.

In the late 1980s my family moved from New South Wales. My Uncle Cooper started, owned and operated the Ettamogah Pub on the Sunshine Coast. We came from Albury, where he built the first Ettamogah Pub. My Uncle Cooper and Auntie Sonya loved the crooked pub with the car on top as depicted by the artist Ken Maynard in the old *Australasian Post* magazine, so they decided to build it. They built the first Ettamogah Pub in Albury and in the late 1980s we moved to Queensland and built the Ettamogah Pub up here, so I have always been in the pub industry.

I have to say that, if you were at the Ettamogah Pub when it opened in 1989 on the Sunshine Coast drinking Powers, XXXX or Castlemaine, you could imagine the jokes around the bar at the thought that they would be drinking rhubarb craft beers in 2021. I think it was the Minister for Main Roads who was telling me in the Business Committee yesterday that one of the breweries in his own

electorate has a chocolate flavoured craft beer. You could imagine the men and women in the Ettamogah Pub in 1989 thinking that we would now be drinking chocolate flavoured beer—or, as the member for Glass House said, nitro mulberry stout, which they brew at Your Mates in my electorate of Kawana.

Here we are in 2021 and we have this great industry in the craft brewing and artisan land. It is very good to be able to talk positively about this industry. We would have liked to have seen legislation earlier, and the member for Glass House referenced some of the issues and how long this has been going on. The *Courier-Mail* had an article on 25 August 2020 with the headline ‘Independent brewers are frothing over a lack of legislation to give them better market access’. The industry was saying way back in 2020 that this legislation should have been passed and that they had no idea when it was going to be passed. Anyway, here we are in March 2021 debating that legislation.

I support the industry. I recall when I was the attorney-general responsible for liquor licensing that the LNP government set out to reduce red tape. We were not setting up a binge-drinking culture, as members have indicated today, even in the craft beer industry; it was about regulation and red tape for business. The reality is that craft brewers, distillers, artisan manufacturers and those in our hospitality and liquor industry are businesses and a lot of them are small businesses. They struggle with red tape just like every other business in Queensland. I can recall we moved legislation in this chamber so that school fetes and shows would not have to apply for community liquor permits, which saved them \$57 per application.

Mr Powell: That was the Monto amendment, wasn't it?

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes, the Monto amendment. That saved them the \$57 community liquor permit application and allowed show societies to get on with the job of fundraising—and guess what? Many years later the concerns that people had at the time that show societies and our local school fetes would have alcohol running rampant in them have not eventuated. We knew it would not but it was good to get rid of the liquor red tape with respect to that. I can also remember that I moved legislation to allow two standard drinks in nursing homes. That went quite well in the nursing homes. We allowed retirement villages a little more flexibility with how they manage the affairs in their community centres and their happy hours, which they continue to enjoy.

We had this legislative framework. Sometimes it does concern members of parliament—particularly on the Liberal National Party side—when we debate legislation which is introducing regulation, because we should be trying to get rid of regulation or red tape, but in this situation it is needed. I note the comments from members saying that they are supportive of a lot of the regulation in the craft beer industry and they would like to see further support in the future. Talking about support, it does concern me that there are large multinational companies getting millions of dollars in government grants yet our small business craft brewery operators cannot get anything from the state government for support, particularly during COVID. I know my local breweries on the Sunshine Coast have had that. They see a big multinational in Brisbane getting millions of dollars in state government support but they are not able to access state government support.

I want to give a shout-out to two breweries in Kawana. I know the member for Caloundra just mentioned one, but he failed to mention that the Moffat Beach Brewing Co. have just moved to Kawana to a bigger premises on Caloundra Road. They have seen the light but they have still kept their Moffat Beach brewery and they are also now on Caloundra Road. I congratulate Matt and Sharynne on that expansion. They now employ 30 staff with their two breweries. They have won awards. They have the Moffatt mango, which is one of their award-winning brews. As I said, they employ 30 staff. They have local food suppliers that come in, including Pizza Coppola recently. These are local businesses giving it a go, having a crack, which I love to see. Again, to Matt and Sharynne, thank you for expanding your operations on the Sunshine Coast into the Kawana electorate. I wish you success. We also have Your Mates Brewing, which the member for Glass House noted he spent a little time at.

Mr Powell: A little too long.

Mr BLEIJIE: I take that interjection. It was a bit too long, hey? Keep spending money in Kawana. You are always welcome and bring your mates—of course, that is why you bring your mates to Your Mates! Matty Hepburn and Christen McGarry started that dream back on what they say was an old blue futon over a couple of cold beers, and now they have a wonderful brewery in Kawana with Your Mates. It is also award winning. They won a top-five beer in Australia with Your Mates Larry. That is a great craft beer and they are expanding.

It is also great to see local businesses in our hospitality industry and the pub industry being supportive by putting these craft beers into the pubs. I note Suncoast Hotels and Scotty Armstrong and the team have put Your Mates Larry in. I know it is the same at NightQuarter, where I recently featured as Elvis Presley with my wife. Members can see it on YouTube. It has had over 50,000 views on social media—again, I will be selling tickets for that later—with 49,000 of those being me and my wife watching the dance. NightQuarter have also got Your Mates Larry. It is great to see our local hospitality industry supporting locals that give it a go and have a crack. They are putting these craft beers in their shops for all on the Sunshine Coast to enjoy. I congratulate Your Mates and Moffat Beach Brewing Co. Of course, Your Mates were on *Shark Tank* in 2015. They actually rejected the offer, and now look at them! They are expanding. They are doing all of their brewing in Kawana. It is great to see them going from strength to strength.

As I said, we want to have small businesses supported more on the Sunshine Coast. We have situations where it is easy for the state government to look at the international companies because they have the lobbyists and all the groups to go to the government for money, but the state needs to be helping small businesses like Your Mates and Moffat Beach Brewing Co. because these people are small businesses on the Sunshine Coast employing Sunshine Coast locals. As I said, Moffat Beach Brewing Co. has over 30 employees and they have just expanded into two operations on the Sunshine Coast.

I support the legislation. I also support commentary with respect to having a watching brief on this in the future, seeing where we can further support our small businesses in the artisan market and the craft beer industry. They are doing amazing things on the Sunshine Coast. I do not want to detract from the other brewers on the Sunshine Coast, because I know my colleagues have some wonderful craft brewers in their electorates, but I wanted to focus on the two standouts in the Kawana electorate—the Moffat Beach Brewing Co. and Your Mates. They are doing wonderful things and I wish them all the best. Keep supporting those local business.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.38 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. I believe the bill before us acknowledges the craft brewing industry's growing economic contribution to the Queensland economy. The Palaszczuk government is of course supporting the industry through our comprehensive Craft Beer Strategy. I would like to acknowledge the Treasurer who, as manufacturing minister, led this important work at the time. We know that by investing in emerging industries like independent craft brewing we are well placed to capitalise on tomorrow's opportunities, creating jobs of the future and of course building a strong and diverse Queensland economy.

The Queensland Craft Beer Strategy identified three key priorities that support the independent craft brewing sector to develop its capability and capacity, access new markets and increase economic contribution. These are: investing in people and infrastructure, improving access to markets, and appropriate regulation and planning. The bill before us has a clear purpose in addressing all three of these priorities.

The bill is aimed at strengthening the artisan liquor industry in Queensland by supporting the growth and sustainability of craft breweries and artisan distilleries while still maintaining appropriate regulatory controls and oversight. Of course in 2021 the industry is in a different place to where it was when our Craft Brewing Strategy was developed. As indicated in the committee's report, before the pandemic disrupted the industry, Queensland's craft brewers and artisan distillers contributed significantly to the Queensland economy and employed over 1,800 people combined. It was anticipated that by 2024, the craft beer industry would contribute over \$100 million to the Queensland economy. Members of the Australian Distillers Association estimated in the report that another 106 jobs would be created in artisan distilleries throughout the state over the next two years.

In April 2020 the Independent Brewers Association reported that nationwide sales at craft breweries were down 67 per cent as a consequence of COVID-19 related business restrictions and closures. I have certainly seen this within my local electorate as well. The Jordan electorate is fortunate to have the outstanding Ballistic Brewery in Springfield Central. This brewery has been a welcome and popular venue and business within our local area. I would like to acknowledge David Kitchen and all of the staff who work there. I saw the impact that COVID-19 had on the brewery during the lockdown in March 2020 and also following the two significant local outbreaks in the Springfield area. The brewery certainly worked hard to adapt, offering takeaway options during the lockdown period and also trying to attract patrons to return to the venue when people were understandably still nervous.

The bill proposes to amend the Liquor Act 1992 by creating a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisan distillers, expanding the existing promotional event permit framework, providing additional authorisations for eligible producer/wholesaler licensees and encouraging the transition of existing licensees to the new artisan producer licence category. The bill is directly aimed at assisting the artisan liquor industry with the adverse effects of the coronavirus disease, and I know this has been welcomed by the industry.

Our government is committed to ensuring that our independent craft brewing industry and distillers can keep delivering jobs for Queensland while contributing to regional economic growth and accelerating opportunities in domestic and overseas markets. In this vein, I was really pleased to join the Treasurer and the member for Cooper recently at Newstead Brewing Co. to celebrate the news that the company had just secured its first export order with nine different brews—four from their popular core range and five special limited release beers being shipped to Hong Kong. This export deal followed Newstead Brewing Co. attending the major food and beverage exhibition Hofex 2019 as part of Trade & Investment Queensland's Taste of Queensland trade mission. As Newstead Brewing chair and co-founder Peter Howes said, the company was grateful for Trade & Investment Queensland's support in securing the deal. By working with Trade & Investment Queensland to participate in Hofex it gave the company an early chance to talk to local distributors and clients in Hong Kong, which helped immeasurably in gaining this deal. Newstead Brewing Co. believes this export breakthrough is just the beginning of what will become an important part of their business over the next two to five years.

The bill before us has been carefully consulted on and I think the actions proposed to improve the regulatory environment for independent craft brewers and distillers by streamlining the liquor licensing process and incorporating particular authorisations desired by craft brewers is most welcome. I commend Ministers Fentiman and Butcher for their work in relation to this bill and their ongoing commitment to supporting our very important craft brewing industry.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.42 pm): In speaking to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020, I note the objectives of the bill are to support the growth and development of the Queensland craft and artisan liquor industry. This will be done by amending the Liquor Act 1992 by creating a new liquor licensing category. The new licence will allow craft brewers and artisan distillers to expand their capacity to sell their product online and at promotional events. The bill will finally bring this niche industry in Queensland into the 21st century and place them on a level playing field with other states.

Until this bill was introduced, the development of the craft and artisan liquor industry was stagnated as they struggled to compete with interstate rivals. This bill has been a long time coming, and the opposition could talk for hours about how it should have been introduced earlier. However, both sides of government had ample opportunity to introduce legislation over the past decade or more and failed to do so until now. I would rather congratulate the government on introducing this very worthwhile piece of legislation and I look forward to the development of the industry.

I like a cold beer and the odd spirit. Like any proud Queenslanders, after a game of footy I love the XXXX Gold. However, craft and artisan liquor offers an alternative for many Queenslanders to the mainstream brands. A lot of the time legislation looks after the big boys and the major corporations. Today we are looking after the little guys and giving them a fair go.

There are three distilleries in my electorate: Wild River Mountain; the Mount Uncle Distillery, which is right on the border; and the Bingil Bay Distillery, which I visited last year. I was so impressed by the massive amount of work that they put into starting their business. However, the growth in their business was stunted by restrictive liquor licensing. Since then I have been working closely with Paul and Lynda Williams from Bingil Bay Distillery in supporting them and the Australian Distillers Association to lobby the government for legislative change.

The creation of a new licence will now allow distillers to significantly grow their business through online sales. Because of COVID we saw a significant shift in the way we shop and buy our products with a massive increase in online sales during this period. The bill will allow distilleries in Queensland to capitalise on this change in buying patterns to significantly increase income for their businesses.

With an increase in sales comes an increase in job opportunities for rural and regional Queensland. I know Australian Distillers Association Queensland president David Ridden has been one of the driving forces behind getting this legislation over the line. I would like to read his statement from a recent media article on the bill which best sums up the impact this bill will have on the industry. The article states—

'It will allow ... small artisan producers across Queensland, to sell direct to the public with no restrictions and to be able to continue to sell online,' Mr Ridden said.

He went on to say—

Before COVID, we had about five people on staff and a couple of part-timers—today we have 10 people on staff ...

This is the effect this legislation will have on the industry in Queensland. I support the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to speak to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill. It is a pleasure to talk to this bill. I have travelled with the industry for some years on this journey. I have always said to them that they work with a science; it is a science for everyday working Queensland men and women. We can also have a good conversation about science with Queenslanders if we talk about the processes of brewing and distilling because everyone knows a bit about it. Everyone is interested and nearly all Queenslanders have some experience or expertise in brewing. As I say to people in the industry, they are science and technology educators for ordinary Queenslanders.

The bill recognises one of the greatest and newest manufacturing industries in Queensland. We have heard how they employ about 1,800 people throughout the state and generate \$62 million annually for the Queensland economy. We found it is very well organised and it has many enthusiastic leaders and champions.

Importantly, as I always like to say, craft brewing and distilling is a huge part of the Queensland events and tourism destinations economy. For example, they are an integral part of food trails festivals, regional weekend visits and the like. I also point out that they are a hugely important part of community life in many Queensland communities. For example, they provide new places for people to meet, small places for people to meet, opportunities for local networking and often form important parts of the local chambers of commerce as well.

I want to pay tribute to the Queensland champions of the craft brewing and distilling industry whom I have met over the last few years as a committee chair. I have been happy to back them wherever I can in their journey towards this bill. I will mention some I have met. I will start with Adam Gibb, the founder and head brewer from White Brick Brewing, formerly at North Lakes. I met him before he started getting his establishment going. He created a real community centre. We often held events there. He was always a great host. It was a great place for the community to come together.

Unfortunately, White Brick Brewing did not survive COVID-19. As we heard, there was a 67 per cent drop in sales during COVID-19. I add that I think he was dealt a cruel blow by his landlord. It is a shame that not everyone in our community helped our community, especially our businesses, during COVID-19. I count him as a true friend. He is still in the industry, and I look forward to seeing another iteration of White Brick Brewing in the years to come.

I also pay tribute to Matt Kirkegaard, or 'BeerMatt' as he appears on Google. He is a beer educator and writer, someone unique in Queensland. He showed me how you can actually match beer and food. It was a revelation. It is a wonderful match made in heaven.

Mr Harper interjected.

Mr WHITING: Yes. If you get a chance to go to one of his events, member for Thuringowa, I urge you to take it up. He is a true ambassador for these Queensland businesses. I also pay tribute to Russell Steele, who works in the regulatory field for brewers and distillers. He is certainly a fierce advocate for the industry and I always listen to him. One day I ran into him in Bunnings and we had a long chat. I also pay tribute to David Kitchen, head of Ballistic Beer. Once again, he is a true voice and champion for his industry. He runs a great establishment. I wish him all the best as Ballistic Beer's footprint expands throughout the state.

I also welcome the elements of the bill that others have spoken about today. I mention the new licence category, which has been pursued for many years. I agree with some of the previous speakers that it will increase market share for these businesses as well as increase Queensland jobs. There is a change as to how they can operate at promotional events. There are changes involving the selling and retailing of other artisan products. There is a great camaraderie amongst the industry even though they are rivals. There is the waiving or lowering of fees. I especially welcome the fine work of BrewLab. This represents a more than \$1 million investment by the Palaszczuk Labor government to help develop the products and the workers in this industry for many years to come.

I also welcome the signal that there will be ongoing work and consultation between the department and the industry to further improve regulations over the years. I would certainly welcome that and encourage both sides to keep improving this marvellous industry. I pay tribute to and thank the ministers involved—Attorney-General Fentiman and Minister Butcher—and also Treasurer Cameron Dick, who played his part in helping us get to where we are today. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.51 pm): I rise to briefly address the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. I note at the outset that the shadow Attorney-General has stated that the LNP will be supporting this bill as it seeks to provide appropriate regulatory control whilst supporting the growth and sustainability of craft breweries and artisan distilleries across the state. In my capacity as the shadow minister for small business I have had the opportunity to meet with many small business owners over recent months, including a number of microbrewers and hospitality businesses that will directly benefit from the implementation of the reforms in this bill.

As I am sure many members appreciate, over the past 12 months business owners have been required to make considerable changes to their longstanding business models just so they could survive the impact of COVID-19 restrictions and the associated business interruption. We have heard from a number of speakers that the Independent Brewers Association reported that nationwide sales of craft breweries were down 67 per cent because of COVID-19 business restrictions and closures.

During a recent visit to Bundaberg I spoke to a business owner who explained the impact that the current licensing restrictions were having on their craft brewing and restaurant business. They explained that the COVID-19 social distancing requirements meant that their restaurant business was barely viable and that their revenue had been impacted considerably while their cost base had in fact increased. The long-term viability of their restaurant business was being supported by their craft brewing business; however, their ability to make the most of this aspect of their collective business had been constrained by licensing requirements, particularly in relation to their ability to sell takeaway products. They made the point to me that the changes contained within this bill needed to be implemented as soon as possible because it could make the difference between a business surviving or dying.

It is reassuring that this bill is now being debated; however, given the state government has been talking about these changes for two years, a more proactive approach was needed. Such an approach may have saved businesses that have unfortunately otherwise folded. As David Kitchen from the Independent Brewers Association stated, if these proposals had been implemented a year ago brewers would be in a much better position to withstand the challenges of COVID.

I note the additional points raised during the committee process in relation to the desire to sell takeaway products from other artisan producers and the requirement to provide annual returns in relation to production volume. On the face of it, though, I am satisfied that the provisions contained within the bill strike an appropriate balance and are justified.

In conclusion, these are welcome reforms which will hopefully simplify the regulatory arrangements for artisan producers across the state and drive investment in new and diverse hospitality offerings as we recover from the economic impact of COVID-19.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (3.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. Today we raise a glass to Queensland craft brewers and say 'cheers' to our artisan distillers. The introduction of this bill is part of the Palaszczuk government's ongoing support of this booming and innovative industry, supporting the jobs and economic growth that go with it. It delivers on a commitment under the Craft Brewing Strategy to establish a new licence that better suits the industry by directly providing the authorisations desired by craft brewers. Under the new licence, our artisan producers will be able to operate taprooms and tasting rooms without a second licence, while also increasing their ability to sell takeaway liquor and to boost general retail sales.

The hospitality industry has been one of the hardest hit during the COVID pandemic, and that impact has been felt by the more than 100 craft brewers and distillers across the Sunshine State. We are supporting them as part of our commitment to promote Queensland-made artisan products and increase opportunities to innovate, expand and employ.

The bill will amend the Liquor Act by creating a new liquor licence category for legitimate craft brewers and artisan distillers; expanding the existing promotional event permit framework; providing additional authorisations for eligible producer/wholesaler licensees; and encouraging the transition of existing licensees to the new artisan producer licence category.

The bill was widely consulted on and has received significant support, not least from the Australian Distillers Association. The Queensland Coalition for Action on Alcohol made submissions around important issues including minimising the risk of large alcohol companies owning multiple craft breweries under this framework. The bill ensures the artisan producer licence can be accessed only by genuine independent craft brewers and artisan distillers via yearly minimum and maximum production volumes. Licensees will also be required to submit an annual return under section 203 of the Liquor Act.

Regarding sample sizes, the bill introduces a head of power to prescribe sample sizes by regulation. A size limit of 150 millilitres of craft beer and 15 millilitres of artisan spirits will be prescribed in the liquor regulations to commence with the bill. The bill strengthens our artisan liquor by supporting growth and sustainability of our craft breweries and artisan distilleries whilst maintaining regulation and oversight in line with community expectations.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's final report unanimously recommended that the bill be passed. It is about strengthening the industry for the future and continuing to work our way back from the pandemic. Prior to COVID, our burgeoning craft beer industry employed more than 1,700 people, pouring an estimated \$62 million into the Queensland economy each and every year. That figure is expected to increase to well over \$100 million by 2024, energising economies across the state.

Almost 25 per cent of our craft breweries are based in regional towns. While tourism and foot traffic continues to return to these centres, craft connoisseurs are backing their brews with online orders and other initiatives to help ensure the longevity of their favourite frothy, from 4 Pines in Coolangatta to Hemingway's at Port Douglas.

Like the craft beer scene, our artisan distilling industry also continues to expand, with more than 30 independents across Queensland. About 40 per cent of our distillers are in the regions and they now have the potential to create more jobs in manufacturing and front of house. More jobs means more support for our local regional economies and more opportunities for our distillers to sell their products—a clear win for all involved.

This bill is the latest shout in the Palaszczuk government's commitment to craft brewing. Last year we launched Australia's first ever BrewLab, a \$1.1 million facility at the Coopers Plains Health and Food Sciences precinct, that allows craft brewers to test their products and develop new recipes without interrupting their own production lines. The state-of-the-art facilities include a sensory lab and quality assurance services where brewers get their beers tasted and tested for elements such as acidity and alcohol volume. They can also get brewery staff trained in the precise identification and tasting of aromas, flavours and tastes.

To further futureproof the industry, BrewLab is home to Queensland's first TAFE course in brewing. The Certificate III in Food Processing (Brewing) is a collaboration between TAFE and BrewLab that takes hands-on training in production, fermentation, filtration and packaging. It means Queenslanders can access the training they need to fill highly skilled brewing jobs, ensuring our businesses continue to grow.

BrewLab has the tools on tap to produce the best possible beer, and that is what we have right across our state. Our top shelf beers are now being enjoyed around the world, bringing a taste of Queensland to a highly competitive market. Brisbane's Newstead Brewing Co. recently secured its first export order, with nine different brews touching down in Hong Kong on 15 February. The deal follows Newstead's attendance at the major food and beverage exhibition, Hofex 2019, as part of Trade & Investment Queensland's Taste of Queensland trade mission. Newstead now employs 45 people and the business continues to demonstrate resilience, innovation and determination while conditions and markets change through COVID. I am very pleased to hear that the brewery has major export plans for the next two to five years as it identifies more opportunities to take its tipples to the world.

It is not just Newstead products proving hot with beer lovers. The Great Annual Beer SpecTAPular Hottest 100 Craft Beers of 2020 saw five of the top 10 brews come from Queensland. Our Ipswich representative, Ballistic, enjoyed an outstanding result, placing sixth, 39th, 55th and 97th in the countdown. This national vote once again shows the strength and success of our craft brewing industry. Our latest artisan local is 4 Hearts Brewing in the heart of the Ipswich CBD where you can enjoy delicious preservative-free brews while relaxing at the Pumpyard or Dovetails Restaurant. It is an industry that we move further to support today, along with that of our artisan distillers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (4.02 pm): I rise to speak on the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020, the objectives of which the government says are aimed at supporting the growth of the emerging artisan liquor and craft beer industries in Queensland. More specifically, the explanatory notes say that the bill is aimed at expanding the capabilities of these producers to sell their craft and artisan liquor products at promotional events, giving the example of farmers' markets and town fairs. There are quite a few of these craft breweries in North Queensland and they are becoming more and more popular with young people in Mackay, Rocky and surrounding regions. In fact, this morning I read that before the pandemic the industry was employing more than 1,700 people and is expected to contribute around \$62 million to the Queensland economy every year.

The industry is particularly exciting for farmers, as a growing craft brewing industry could create a demand for more premium ingredients from the agricultural sector like malted barley and hops, which are used in craft beer. I also give a shout-out to the local distillery in my electorate that in 2019 won the excellence award in the Australian Tourism Awards, and that is the Sarina Sugar Shed. It makes some of the best rum that we have. In fact, in my electorate within Rockhampton—and the member for Rockhampton will vouch for this—there is the Capricorn rum distillery which won the second best award in the world, so that just goes to show how good it is. We should have one of those after this! It also value-adds in that industries such as hospitality and tourism could greatly benefit from the booming craft beer market in North Queensland. Reducing red tape must therefore be a key priority for the craft brewing and artisan liquor industries, as it is for many small businesses in Queensland.

A bill that streamlines regulation and reduces the burden of time-consuming and unnecessary paperwork would have enabled craft brewers to speed up growth and give artisan distillers the confidence to launch successful start-ups. Unfortunately this government has remained true to form in that this bill sets up the framework of onerous record keeping and with delegated powers for secondary regulations at a later date, setting the stage for further expansion of overreach by the government down the track.

Under the bill's provisions, artisan distillers and craft brewers are required to keep track of every single detail of samples sold at an event, with the strong hint that these will be expanded at a later date to include full details of each individual who buys the product. As usual, a set of hefty penalties are waiting for these small business operators if they get it wrong. If we add to that the mandated and strict limits imposed on the amount they are allowed to sell laid down by the other provisions in the bill, I find it very difficult to see how attending these events can possibly be economically viable for some of these little businesses at this time. Presumably they will have to cover the costs of staff, logistics, stock, stall fees and also security which, together, would in no way be a small feat given the strict limits placed on how much they can sell to anyone.

The proposed penalties in this bill are outrageous and should be deleted. The bill imposes a 350 penalty unit offence of \$38,000-plus for an admin failure that serves no purpose. If we compare that to the 250 penalty units that someone gets for selling liquor to a minor, it is hard to see the logic of it. There is a lot more to say on the bill, but I will close by saying that entrenching red tape and imposing heavy regulatory burdens and penalties run counter to everything the government says the bill is trying to achieve. It is hard to understand what it was thinking with this, to be quite honest. However, the bill does have one or two great provisions and will be moderately beneficial. For that reason, I have decided that I will be supporting the bill.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.06 pm): Queensland has long been known as the food bowl of Australia, producing fantastic agricultural produce—from carrots in Kalbar all the way to coffee beans in Far North Queensland. Indeed, in my former life at Restaurant II we had just begun to stock some of the fantastic Queensland boutique liquors on offer from Far North Queensland. However, I do note that COVID-19 supercharged the natural evolution of this burgeoning industry and many breweries like Sumner's very own White Lies expanded from craft beers into a craft distillery as well, and some even took a temporary sojourn into hand sanitiser. Parts of the hospitality industry, as we know and as we have heard, have been very hard hit by COVID-19 and this legislation will go a long way towards giving these craft breweries and distilleries easier access to additional markets.

One of the key innovations of this bill is the ability for these boutique retailers to sell and take orders online, and that is fantastic. I do note the concerns raised by some stakeholders particularly around the need to safeguard against excessive drinking with regard to the impacts of the bill. I do believe that that has been well addressed in the end result and I am glad that we took the time to get that right. My general experience after working behind the bar in a high-end venue is that if somebody wants to drink to excess they would rarely select the artisan option. Rather, they would usually economise and go for the cheaper options. For this reason, this is specifically aimed at items that are artisan, high end, small scale and not cheap to purchase. Compared to major producers, artisan producers are not in a position to offer those lower prices that are attractive to binge drinkers, as many studies have shown, and that is a good thing.

Craft brewers rightfully raised concerns that the benefits in these bills should not extend to those seemingly small craft breweries which are owned by large multinational companies that may own several. This legislation ensures that larger companies will not be able to take advantage of these changes through so-called 'craft washing' their products by marketing their products as a craft brewing option when they are part of a large portfolio and hold a significant portfolio of beverages.

This is important for two reasons: firstly, large multinationals are in a position to be able to offer lower prices on their boutique beverage options because of the economies of scale that they have in their production, their marketing, so on and so forth. This would potentially make their product more attractive to binge drinkers. It would also have the twin negative impact of the lower prices of non-genuine craft brewers compared to genuine ones and that would put genuine craft brewers at a market disadvantage. That is not the desired effect. We have taken the time to get this legislation right and address that concern. I know that craft brewers and craft distillers will be pleased that this concern has been clearly addressed in the legislation.

As I said earlier, concerns were also raised about easier access to alcohol as a result of provisions in the bill. We all know that alcohol addiction is a serious issue. These concerns were weighed carefully in considering the legislation being introduced. I believe that the legislation gets the balance right between removing red tape and ensuring that problem drinkers do not have ready access to excessive amounts of cheap alcohol.

Like many members in the House, in my view genuine craft breweries and distilleries, like the aforementioned White Lies brewery in my electorate of Mount Ommaney, are not venues that encourage binge drinking, nor are their products pitched at a price that encourages binge drinking. White Lies Brewing is located in a suburban industrial estate. They welcome families with attractions aimed at young kids, such as giant Jenga games, pinball machines and a lot of board games. They also welcome pets. They very much encourage families to come down and celebrate together rather than just encouraging adults. It is not a place that I have ever seen people go to to drink to excess. It is a family venue through and through. I always notice that drinkers are on their best behaviour. It creates an environment that normalises moderate consumption of alcohol in a society that can sometimes encourage binge drinking.

In my view, all venues should strive to create the family-friendly atmosphere that exists in our micro venues or, at the very least, if you do prefer a more grown-up drinking experience, to ensure that the focus is on the quality of the product you are drinking rather than the quantity. I think this legislation is a wonderful step forward for our craft brewers and craft distillers and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (4.11 pm): You can get it cleaning a beach, you can get it writing a speech; you can get it debating a bill or running up a hill. You can get it any old how, but I am going to pull up right now before I get done for copyright! Like everyone else in the House, I have been frothing to get up today to talk on this legislation in relation to the advancement of Queensland microbreweries and artisan distillers in this state. Right now we are combating the crap that is coming out of Victoria—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock.

Mr DAMETTO: I withdraw. We are combating the craft beer that comes out of Victoria. We have a great product here in Queensland and this legislation will go a long way towards enabling those small businesses to compete against the other states when it comes to producing some of the best beer. I make reference to some of the small distilleries and artisan breweries in the greater Townsville region. We have Bottle Tree Distillery and Tiny Mountain Brewery in the middle of Townsville and I often hear the member for Townsville speak about the Townsville Brewing Co's Townsville Bitter, a great drop. The opportunity for microbreweries to get up and running in Queensland off the back of this legislation could lead to great things. The Great Northern Brewing Co in Cairns—which the member for Cairns would be pretty proud of—started in 1927 and has grown into the large company that it is today.

The objectives of this bill are to give liquor artisans the opportunity to grow and develop their businesses here in Queensland and to streamline the legislation by cutting red tape. In May 2017 the Queensland government, on behalf of the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council, commissioned the University of Queensland to undertake a review of the issues impacting the industry. This legislation was developed off the back of that review.

We did see a large dip in the ability of these breweries and small artisan distilleries to produce and also market their product during the COVID period. We have given some latitude to these business to get back up and running and market their product, but also to entice people to buy their product, which is a great thing. This bill has been supported by industry bodies as well as businesses across Queensland. I could speak on this bill all day, but for the love of beer I hope everyone in this House votes for this bill. The KAP supports the bill.

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (4.15 pm): I am pleased to rise to support the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting Queensland's growing artisan liquor industry. This bill supports that growth by creating a new commercial artisan liquor producer licence to support independently owned artisan distilling and craft beer businesses.

Independently owned artisan distillers and craft beer businesses employ local people. They are a fast-growing part of our economy as more and more people seek out unique and different beers and spirits. There are approximately 90 independent craft brewers in Queensland employing around 1,700 people and 34 independent artisan distillers who are anticipated to create up to 106 distillery jobs over the next two years.

More significantly, artisan liquor producers are making an important contribution to the economies of Queensland's regional areas. Almost 25 per cent of Queensland craft breweries have established themselves in regional towns and 38 per cent of artisan distilleries are located in regional towns. It is anticipated that by 2024 the industry's contribution to Queensland's economy will be well over \$100 million. They are a growing part of our local Ipswich economy as well. In the heart of Ipswich, at 88 Limestone Street, the 4 Hearts Brewing Company has established an innovative craft brewery which takes pride in making unique craft beer out of locally sourced ingredients. Since its doors opened several years ago, locals and craft beer tragics from far and wide have made 4 Hearts Brewery, with its Pumpyard Bar and its restaurant, a regular haunt, adding much needed vibrancy and life to the Ipswich CBD. I was pleased to take the member for Gladstone, the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water, along to meet the owners last year. I would like to acknowledge both he, Minister Fentiman and the Treasurer for their work on this bill.

4 Hearts Brewery was the first brewery to open its doors in Ipswich in over 100 years. The owners, James and Tracey Long, were careful to lovingly restore the old George Brockwell Gill designed technical college where 4 Hearts Brewery is now located. 4 Hearts Brewery employs up to 34 people in its Pumpyard Bar and restaurant and it is just one of the many great small businesses in the Ipswich area that is enriching our local economy and creating job opportunities for locals.

Another great local artisan distillery, Imbibus, is based just outside of Ipswich. It is making a name for itself by producing handcrafted artisan spirits like gin and brandy from locally sourced Queensland produce. The company, operating out of the old Warrego Winery, also sources all of its bottles, labels, casks and cartons from South-East Queensland. When COVID hit last year Imbibus quickly pivoted to make hand sanitiser, teaming up with another local brewery, Ballistic Beer Co, at Springfield.

The booming growth in our independent brewery and distillery sector means that we also need to pivot to ensure these innovative entrepreneurs can operate successfully and get more of their product out to customers. Our new artisan producer licence introduced by this bill will allow licensees to sell any Queensland artisan liquor for on-premises consumption provided the sale of their own liquor constitutes at least 70 per cent of total yearly sales. Independent brewers and distillers will also be able to sell unlimited takeaways of their product, accept online orders for their liquor and sell their liquor wholesale.

The artisan producer licence also means that craft brewers and artisan distillers can sell their product at farmers' markets, allow operation of on-site tap rooms and tasting rooms and allow brewers and distillers to apply for permits to sell their product at commercial public events such as music festivals. Our government is doing this because we believe in removing barriers for small business and making it easier for entrepreneurs to get their foot in the door to sell their products to the public.

Supporting small business is something that the Palaszczuk government is committed to, which is also why we are making sure that artisan producer licensees must not be more than 20 per cent owned by a large brewer or large distiller. Small businesses are the backbone of our state and they are significant job creators, especially in the regions. The artisan producer licence opens up many more opportunities for local independent craft brewers and artisan distillers to do business in Queensland, creating new sales opportunities and ultimately helping to strengthen innovation in this sector.

The impact of COVID-19 on independent brewers and distillers in Queensland has been devastating, which is why this legislation is urgently needed. In April 2020, at the height of the pandemic, the Independent Brewers Association reported that national sales at craft breweries were down 67 per cent because of COVID related business restrictions and lockdowns. Craft brewers and artisan distillers in Queensland do what they do because they take pride and joy in their final product. They dedicate long hours and effort to creating a product that is unique and exceptional. Those businesses are often built out of a labour of love and passion. The people who run them are dedicated to innovation and selling a product that evokes an experience and creates a connection between the seller and the buyer, rather than just an impersonal transaction.

Our government is firmly behind our craft brewers and artisan distillers and we want to see the industry grow. In Ipswich I can already see the achievements of this industry with the 4 Hearts Brewing Company and Imbibus making an impact locally. I anticipate that the new artisan producer licence will provide an entry path for budding new craft brewers and artisan distillers in Ipswich so that they can hone their trade. I support this bill wholeheartedly and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (4.21 pm): It gives me great pleasure to rise to speak to this bill, which is very similar to a bill that was introduced to the House prior to the election of 2020. We had a very hard year in 2020 with the coronavirus and the COVID restrictions. Debating the bill now before the House is a very positive step forward for our boutique and artisan brewers. I am very supportive of the bill before the House.

There is no doubt that over a long time the people involved in the boutique and artisan brewing industry have had difficulties sorting themselves out from the general supplier of liquor to the community. To see the industry regulated in this way—and I think there will be a maximum of 450,000 litres of production—is a positive thing for the community. The industry is part of a new social movement with brewery visits and distillery visits now a big part of the tourism industry, which needs all the help that it can get at the current time. I reflect on the opening of the Burleigh Brewing Company, which was co-founded by Peta Harding and recognised as one of the top operators on the Gold Coast. Whilst I do not imbibe too much of their particular product as it is not my cup of tea, it is a very popular spot on the Gold Coast and attracts lots of tourism buses. I think it is going very well as a business in Burleigh.

Closer to home, at the Bundaberg Region Promotion Night held at Parliament House a very good distiller of gin, Kalki Moon, was exhibiting their products. I approached them to buy one of their bottles of gin, which is a very good product. I thought I was doing the right thing. They said, 'Sorry, we can't do it. The regulations are against us.' The Kalki Moon gin is an excellent gin. I note that the Speaker has chosen Kalki Moon to produce the Speaker's Gin, which we can buy here at parliament. I thoroughly recommend it as a good drop to members who may have an occasion to celebrate with someone who is keen on that spirit. In the Bundaberg/Bargara area, Kalki Moon Distilling and Brewing Company is a popular tourist attraction. If I go back that way I will make a visit or two to Kalki Moon. It is amazing how the gin industry has grown over the past few years with distilleries popping up left, right and centre. You only have to go to Dan Murphy's to see that.

This bill circumvents the concerns that the operators represented by the Queensland Hotels Association have with the competition coming from artisan liquor producers and the fear that they might take away some of their business. The legislation outlines parameters of 400 to 450,000 litres as the limit for production, which I think protects the interests of hotel and bottle shop operators while giving further strength to the growing tourism industry relating to artisan distilleries and breweries. This was highlighted to me a couple of years ago when I was visited in my office by a distiller who had opened his business in the beautiful electorate of Mermaid Beach. He had copped a \$6,000 fine from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation for a minor transgression of the fine print around what he could and could not do as a distiller.

The business is Granddad Jack's, which is located in the Miami area of the beautiful electorate of Mermaid Beach. A Channel 9 program, *My Way*, did a feature on Granddad Jack's. Operator Dave Ridden and his son put their savings into that wonderful distillery, which is quite a large attraction. Dave Ridden has had great input into this legislation as it has progressed. I am told that Dave Ridden's Granddad Jack's product—and I am sure the Attorney-General would be very impressed—makes an excellent espresso martini. I will table that document for the benefit of the Attorney-General. Granddad Jack's is now a household name in the distilling industry. They are going from strength to strength in the tourism industry following the Channel 9 program, which highlighted the great products that they make in the fabulous electorate of Mermaid Beach.

Tabled paper: Document, undated, containing images depicting Granddad Jack's coffee liqueur and contact details [\[281\]](#).

There is another issue that I would like to highlight in relation to this legislation and I acknowledge the assistance of the Attorney-General in this matter. I was hoping to move an amendment to the legislation to overcome a problem that was brought to my attention by Terri Lew who runs a wonderful gallery at 19 Karen Avenue in the electorate of Mermaid Beach. The OLGR turned up on her doorstep one day and said that she could not serve complimentary wine at an art show. The former attorney-general and her then chief of staff, the current member for Stafford, were assisting me in trying to change that legislation. As that had not occurred I thought it was appropriate that we try to amend the situation through this bill, just as our Attorney-General did by allowing flower shops and hairdressers to serve complimentary wine without getting into trouble with the OLGR. I was hoping that I could move an amendment to this bill, but that did not occur.

The gallery does a wonderful job showcasing contemporary artists. Terri Lew does a fabulous job promoting young artists in the electorate. The Attorney-General has assisted through the OLGR. Although we have been a bit short on time with this bill, the Attorney-General has assured me that at

some future stage an amendment will be moved so that serving complimentary wine at an art show or art gallery will be a non-prosecutable offence. I look forward to that amendment coming forward in another piece of legislation.

I cannot help but support the wonderful piece of small business legislation that is before the House. It is timely that we enable people to promote their products whenever they can and to support the tourism industry. They are all good small business operators. I am sure that this legislation will give them improved incentive to expand upon their businesses by giving them certainty. I will certainly be supporting this bill in the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.29 pm): I give my wholehearted support to this bill. It is something that is very close to my heart. There are a couple of terrific craft brewers in my electorate, including Scenic Rim Brewery at Mount Alford, and they have been instrumental over the last few years in pushing the government towards making it easier for craft brewers to get on with business. They are mostly small businesses. That is one of the fundamental reasons why bills like this should be supported, because it gives an additional level of assistance to small businesses in our community who sometimes need all the help they can get to compete against large brewing companies that are inevitably very hard to bring down a peg in the market. It is also difficult for smaller brewers to get into major retailers like those owned by Coles, Woolworths and other similar big units. If the government can bring in legislation and regulation that makes it easier for craft brewers to sell their wares in the community in a responsible manner, whether it is at their premises, at markets or at other similar community events—

Mr Stevens: Parliament House.

Mr KRAUSE:—at Parliament House, as the member for Mermaid Beach suggests, then all well and good, and we should support that. It is something that way back in 2014, during the tenure of the LNP government, we were progressing, even at that stage, but I am pleased to see that even as early as 2015 when there was a change in government—and I was on the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in that term—the government brought in legislation to change those regulations for smaller brewers.

But there needs to be a caveat on all of this. It is all well and good to draft good legislation and legislation that has the intent of making it easier for small business, but it also needs to be implemented in a fair-minded, reasonable and practical way by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. We have seen in the past when that did not occur where small businesses of the type that are being affected by this bill still had to jump through enormous regulatory hoops to meet the provisions that are meant to benefit them. That should not be the case.

When legislation comes in, it should be handed down to the departments—the OLGR is the governing body here—to make it easier for those people who are subject to regulation, such as Scenic Rim Brewery, the Tamborine Beard and Brau brewery or even the 4 Hearts Brewing Company in Ipswich which does a lot of brewing for our local area and is the place where one of my favourite craft brews, the carrot beer, is brewed occasionally by the people who own Kalfresh Vegetables, carrot processors at Kalbar. It is called Wabbit Saison and it is a wonderful beer.

An opposition member: What was that again?

Mr KRAUSE: Wabbit Saison. It is a good beer. It is made from beautiful carrots from Kalbar and the Fassifern Valley in the Scenic Rim. They are small businesses and Scenic Rim Brewery is a small enterprise which contribute enormously to the local tourism market around Boonah.

I digress for a moment there in talking about Wabbit Saison, the carrot beer. It is a good thing to see bills like this brought in. I just hope that the good intention of this bill translates into less regulation, less costs and a practical leg-up for small businesses that are independent brewers and artisan distilleries. As we know, small businesses are huge job generators in Queensland. Over 90 per cent of businesses in my electorate are small businesses, as would be the case in many parts of the state. Craft breweries and artisan distilleries are just a small part of that. If they could each get a bit of a leg-up and employ one or two more people, then that would make an enormous difference to the employment situation in those parts of the world where they are located.

We will be supporting the bill. I hope the government can bring in more red-tape-cutting legislation in relation to this industry and many others into the future.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (4.34 pm): I rise in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. The bill represents an important step in the Palaszczuk government's efforts to stimulate local industry and assists small businesses as they drive economic recovery across the state and make it easier in general to do business in Queensland.

Queensland is home to more than 452,000 small businesses. They are the backbone of our economy. When the pandemic was first declared, the Palaszczuk government kicked in with support. Having just come to the end of our small business roadshow—17 stops across the state—and talked to probably over 1,800 small business owners and operators, I have heard yet again how important our support was in helping businesses through what was possibly some of the most challenging times they will ever face: the COVID adaptation grants, interest-free loans, the appointment of the Small Business Commissioner and a number of other measures including pertinent to businesses most interested in this bill, a change to regulations to effect the ability of licensees to sell takeaway liquor, the ability to order takeaway liquor online, plus a number of initiatives and grants to support small businesses like independent brewers.

At this point of the COVID economy, it is now important that we not only help businesses to survive but also, where it is possible, that we help them to grow. That is why measures to make it easier to do business in Queensland as part of the \$140 million investment in Big Plans for Small Business formed a centrepiece of our last state budget, and why any measures by government to remove unnecessary barriers for emerging industries to grow and employ is absolutely crucial to our economic recovery. That is exactly what this bill does; it helps remove barriers to growth. It will support craft brewers and artisan distillers to establish and grow successful businesses in Queensland.

This bill introduces a practical solution to help artisan distillers and brewers now and into the future. A new artisan liquor licence tailored to industry needs will provide an immediate boost to these businesses to support business recovery, enable jobs growth and ensure the long-term viability of these industries. It addresses the opportunities identified by both the Queensland Small Business Advisory Council and the Queensland Craft Brewing Strategy in relation to improving the regulatory environment for artisan producers, enhancing the sustainability and growth of those sectors and improving market access for artisan producers.

I was very pleased to see that an artisan licence advisory group will be established to provide advice on implementation, comprised of the Independent Brewers Association, Artisan Distillers Association, Queensland Hotels Association and Clubs Queensland.

This bill introduces a new licence that will directly provide the authorisations desired by industry within a framework of the safe distribution and supply of alcohol. Artisan producers will have access to a broader range of authorisations to help them overcome some of the challenges they face in selling their products. They will be able to sell their artisan products via new avenues with appropriate restrictions.

Key changes to improve market access include allowing the sale of the licensees' own product online and at promotional events like farmers' markets, and allowing licensees to sell other Queensland craft or artisan alcoholic beverages for onsite consumption.

The bill also removes unnecessary restrictions to business growth that artisan distillers have previously faced. They will now be able to sell their products on site without restrictions as to the proportion of revenue that can be earned through retail sales, and they will be allowed to sell takeaway products other than their own by applying for a bottle shop licence in addition to the artisan licence. These changes will help the independent craft brewing and artisan distilling sectors to cross-promote their high quality artisan products and grow their businesses.

I cannot talk about assistance to small business without talking about training because the two are so inextricably linked. In this instance, I must mention the Certificate III for Food Processing for craft brewers which we introduced, with 12 students commencing training in 2020 through TAFE. No-one will be surprised to hear that this course was very heavily subscribed. In fact, we had about 300 applicants for a 12-person course. Two of those students have been offered employment in the industry and are completing their studies while working. Three more students have secured jobs starting right about now. Due to high demand, a second part-time course began in October 2020, catering to 10 students who will finish in September 2021. Applications are open for the next course.

I cannot talk about this bill without also mentioning some of the businesses from my local community that are stars in the craft brewing space. I mention in particular James Grugeon from social enterprise, the Good Beer Co; Rebel Brewing where my family and I have had many a craft beer; and Cannon Hill Brewing where I was the other day and learnt what a wort is. I am grateful for that information. Now is the time to support Queensland made artisan products and our emerging industries. This bill will create a greater incentive for business expansion, job creation and the establishment of new artisan businesses in Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (4.39 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. As the shadow minister for science, I will say it is good to see some legislation come through in support of one of my favourite microbes—*saccharomyces cerevisiae*. That is, of course, the yeast which since ancient time has given us bread, wine, beer and even the Gardasil HPV vaccine.

I turn to the substance of the bill. I am proud to speak in support of these changes and, like practically every member of this House, talk about a craft brewer in my electorate—that being the fast-growing Black Hops II brewery in Biggera Waters, which last week celebrated its second birthday. Black Hops is a craft brewing company set up by three mates—Dan, Eddie and Gavs. They have made an impressive start in the industry from sitting around and chatting about the idea in 2014 to where they are now. I cannot remember the last time I went into a bottle shop and could not find their beers there. My personal favourite is the Hornet IPA, which I recommend to every member in this House.

They launched later that year and opened their first taproom in Burleigh in 2016. In mid-2018 they started planning the expansion of Black Hops II. It is in the old Riviera boat building sheds off Pine Ridge Road behind Harbour Town at the back of Biggera Waters. They opened in March 2019 with a much bigger space and capacity to grow their business. Late last year Black Hops opened their third taproom in East Brisbane. At the end of last year they were awarded Beer Cartel Australia's Best Craft Brewery for 2020.

This quick growth in their business is similar to the industry-wide growth we have seen and heard stories about from practically all members in their contributions today. As many have acknowledged, this growth in the craft brewing and distillery industries has been to the benefit of both urban and rural areas across Queensland. Prior to the pandemic, they employed over 1,800 people and it was estimated that the craft beer industry would contribute over \$100 million to our state's economy. In the craft brewing industry alone there has been close to 10 per cent annual growth.

Broadly, I think these amendments are positive. One of the owners of Black Hops said that these changes are long overdue. When they first opened their brewery there was not a lot of clarity around what they were permitted to do and what parameters they could operate under. Hopefully this bill will help with that and make it easier for other breweries and distilleries to establish their operations. The owner also said that it gives the opportunity for local brewers to support one another through stocking each other's products and offering customers a more diverse range. He is already talking about collaboration with Gold Coast distillers and is looking forward to the new partnership opportunities this will provide.

It is unfortunate that some of the earlier versions of the legislation which would have allowed venues to sell each other's products as takeaway have been removed as this is clearly something that the industry would have liked to see. The additional permits to sell at promotional events is a good addition. However, I note the Independent Brewers Association's concern that the definitions are too rigid when it comes to what events are permitted and what are not.

I think it is important we hear the genuine concerns about creating unhelpful drinking cultures at events. Given the department has responded to these issues to clarify that the Liquor Act will still apply to the sale of alcohol at these events and the commissioner will have the ability to limit the hours in which liquor can be sold, it would seem that there should be greater flexibility on what events are included. The limit on events permitted was pointed out by the IBA. Music festivals, regional events such as the Noosa Triathlon and multicultural festivals are not included. If part of the aim of this bill was to reduce the disparity between the wine and brewing industries, it would seem right that similar regulations around events should be in place between the wine and artisan liquor industries.

I welcome the waiving of application fees to transition to the new licences because it not only helps smooth the transition but also helps businesses that suffered last year because of COVID-19. I look forward to seeing these industries grow further in Queensland and further supporting thousands of jobs across our state—not to mention providing us with great drinks that we all enjoy. These changes are a step in the right direction and I welcome these reforms.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (4.44 pm): It is a great pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. We see in this new framework a good example of the Palaszczuk government's deliberate approach to bring the community and industry with us throughout this reform. We see in this bill the government bringing together industry, key stakeholders and their peak bodies, emerging businesses and the regulator to deliver this innovative new framework. It encourages new business development and growth in this emerging industry. It gives support and provides an important signal to the market to provide the confidence that emerging businesses want to make the investment to start or expand their facilities.

In addition to the economic benefits of this reform, an important aspect of this government's reform is the contribution it makes to helping to change the culture around alcohol fuelled violence. I of course want to again recognise the ongoing policy and research leadership of Dr Anthony Lynham in tackling alcohol fuelled violence. As I have said before, he has already returned to the public health sector, with a particular focus on trauma research and prevention.

This bill and the new framework it delivers is consistent with the strong reforms the government implemented in its first term and cemented in its second. We have a strong commitment to reducing harm and delivering reforms based on evidence based policy. That is why we are continuing to deliver a nuanced, research based approach. Tackling alcohol fuelled violence at its core is about changing behaviour and reducing harm. It encourages responsible and safe practices. That is what this legislation delivers. It backs jobs not just in infrastructure and the production process but also ongoing jobs in services and hospitality as we see the development of the facilities as destinations—destinations worth travelling to and local destinations worth supporting; supporting local jobs, local skills and local produce.

There are many great examples right across the state of innovative and attractive locations that are turning their brewing and distilling expertise into great destinations. One such local destination is tucked away in the Stafford industrial estate where Shane and the team at Happy Valley Brewing Co. have established a brilliant venue, great beers, good local food options paired to the variety of brews and a great social hub in our community. In fact, they recently won three of four medals at the recent industry awards for some of their latest brews. For fans of north side local history, Happy Valley is the original name of the suburb of Stafford. It is quite fitting that the brewery is a couple of hundred metres from the electorate office.

I wish them and innovators right across the state luck and trust that the sensible, supportive framework this bill delivers can continue to support industry development and local jobs. I commend the Attorney-General for managing the passage of the bill through the House. I also want to give recognition to Minister Butcher for his work in this space previously. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (4.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. It is interesting to have a bill that we all agree on and that is about the manufacture of beer. That is a great start.

I am someone who grew up with home-brew that my dad was making under the stairs at home. I grew up in England surrounded by different ales, bitters, stouts and other things. When I first came to Queensland in 1988 I was pretty disappointed by the beer options available. Slowly I got used to them—Powers, XXXX and VB. I struggled my way through them all while I was at university, both drinking and serving them. As people know, I was involved in the industry for a very long time. I have seen Hahn Ice, 303 and several other brews come forward from the big companies. It has been really interesting in recent times to watch small local manufacturers put their time and local produce and their heart and soul into brewing and manufacturing in lots of areas across Queensland, but particularly in Toowoomba.

Toowoomba, interestingly enough, had a brewery many years ago called the XXXX Brewery, which was ultimately bought out by Castlemaine Perkins and then shut down. It is good to see that proper craft brewing is alive and well. I have to say that most of the craft brews I have tasted taste a lot better than the brew I made when I was at university. I was really trying to manufacture for alcohol content. These guys are actually manufacturing for taste.

In my patch, Adrian at 4 Brothers Brewing does a great job. I was first introduced to it at the opening of the new radio station in town. We also have Volcanic Brewing, and soon to open at Highfields is Monty Brewing, which looks like it is going to be a fabulous establishment. I hope that their beer lives up to the building they have built because it looks really good. We also have Pechey Distilling, which is in the member for Condamine's electorate but I am going to claim it anyway because they make vodka and gin and I do not mind either of those on the right occasion.

It is good to see that Queensland is developing a mature alcohol industry not only in terms of manufacturing and brewing but also in terms of consumption. For years we have seen that binge culture happening—get as much into you as quick as you can. Harm minimisation is very important. I see that this was raised in the report. I think it is important to address it because what I see from the craft brewing and the boutique distillery industry is very far from that practice. Therefore, it should be incumbent on this House to make sure that we do not overregulate this industry because the process of distribution and the process of manufacture and service delivery is different. I think it is to be encouraged so that we all have good choice of brews and local produce. It is great to see the matching of local brews and food being delivered in our restaurants and cafes. I also have to give a shout-out to Burleigh Bighead, which is not in my patch unfortunately, but they make a zero-carb beer which has been serving me quite well. I am hoping that continues.

It would have been useful to have had a regulatory impact statement. Whenever we introduce legislation in this place, we need to understand the economic impact of it. As someone who was in the liquor industry for many, many years, sometimes regulatory changes come through this place that do not have the desired effect and are a massive impost on first the business and then that obviously gets passed on to the consumer. We have all seen the growth in on-premise price compared to off-premise price which I think has been one of the drivers of the preload drinks culture that we have seen which has not been helpful. This is moving in a different direction and that is to be commended.

I think there is more we can do, but it would be useful to monitor the regulation and see where we can wind back some of this regulation in a safe and sensible way. There is an opportunity that still exists going forward for local Queensland manufactured produce to be distributed in independent grocers with complementary food from the area as well. This is not about opening up hundreds of additional bottle shops but about making sure that independent grocers have an edge in this space where they can present local produce. It is something that Tasmania has managed to achieve quite well with local production. It is something I encourage the government to look at as an opportunity for those small businesses to be able to distribute locally manufactured and locally produced goods.

In Toowoomba there is a great opportunity around the Carnival of Flowers. It is currently called the Festival of Food and Wine. I am going to recommend that we change that and add 'craft beer' on the end. There has been plenty of beer available, but it has been difficult for those people to be able to distribute it at that event under the previous legislation. It has been a complicated process that has meant that if you are craft manufacturer it is not an easy process and there are plenty of hoops to jump through. I think this bill will be helpful.

As we see our tourism industry open up, I think there will be a lot of European visitors in particular who will very much appreciate that we have more than a couple of beers available. It has also put pressure on the large manufacturers to make sure that they up their offering and that they offer more diversity and different tastes and flavours. I think that is a good thing because a drinking culture should be about enjoyment, pleasure, socialising and friends. It should not be about slamming down as much alcohol as you can in the shortest possible time. I think these changes are sensible and something to be encouraged going forward.

I think we should look at the industry overall and look at how we distribute alcohol. This was an amendment to the bill from 1992, if memory serves me correctly. That bill has been amended several times. There have been several changes to legislation and increasing regulatory performance. I encourage the government to continually look at that with the objective of encouraging sensible, moderate consumption for people's pleasure in a social setting, rather than where we ended up and where parts of the industry still are, and that is having a binge culture which is both harmful in the short and long term and is nothing that I think anyone in this House wants to see.

With the right amount of consultation with stakeholders going forward, there are further opportunities to bring sensible changes to the Liquor Act. One of those would be around independent grocers and one of those would be about overregulation that is not increasing harm minimisation but rather is sometimes driving towards that binge culture that we do not want to see.

I think this is a good start. Let us keep on the journey. We all enjoy a nice brew from time to time. To have choice and opportunity in our local areas for both manufacturing and distribution jobs I think is great. I look forward to going to Monty's when it opens at Highfields and enjoying a locally made from local produce brew matched with local produce available in our area. The Darling Downs is a great food and beverage area—something that should be encouraged going forward. I encourage everyone here to go out and visit one of their local breweries.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.57 pm): I am delighted to rise to support the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020 because in this bill we have listened to small business. Small businesses in the artisan liquor industry right throughout Queensland are doing remarkably well and we have responded to the issues that they have raised. I think this bill does a lot to support the growth and the development of the artisan liquor industry in Queensland.

Consistent with the government's commitment to tackling alcohol fuelled violence, the bill also provides measures to minimise the risk of alcohol related harm which I think is really important, particularly in my electorate where I have some of the largest safe night precincts throughout the whole state—Fortitude Valley, upper Caxton Street, Petrie Terrace and the city. Some of the largest of those are in my electorate. It is great to see that we are still minimising the risk of alcohol related harm.

This new licence was endorsed at a roundtable meeting on 2 March attended by representatives from the Independent Brewers Association, the Australian Distillers Association, the Hotels Association and Clubs Queensland. It is great that they are all on board. The objective of this bill is to create a new 'commercial other—artisan producer' licence and a multiple licence is not required to operate. This is really good to see because it is about developing and growing this industry.

Clearly we want it to remain in the small business, craft brewing sector. I think it is a very good idea that we make this available to only genuine boutique producers. We do not want them to be competing with some of the multinationals. We want craft brewers. They must produce between 2,500 and five million litres of beer on their premises to be eligible for the licence. I think that is great because it contains it to the small business, craft brewing sector we really want it to relate to. The bill includes cost-saving measures such as transitional licences. We are going to waive the fee for producer/wholesaler licensees who transition to the new licence before 30 June 2021.

I am blessed as the member for McConnel because I think I have some of the best small businesses in Queensland in my electorate. I know that a lot you will disagree with me, but I am sorry: I would have to say that some of the best are in my electorate. I would like to give a shout-out to the craft breweries in my electorate. The Newstead Brewery in Doggett Street is right across the road from my electoral office and has a fantastic product in the Teneriffe-Newstead area. The Green Beacon Brewing Company in Helen Street is one of Michael Grace's favourite craft breweries and they do a great job. Felons Brewery Company at the Howard Smith Wharves is going from strength to strength. It is an incredible craft brewery that is doing very well, and Range Brewing and the City Winery are also excellent. These are just a few that I know of the others that have been mentioned in this House of the 90 independent craft breweries in Queensland.

We know that these independent craft breweries are growing. They are becoming very popular. My understanding is they employ more than 1,700 people throughout Queensland and they contribute tens of millions of dollars annually to the Queensland economy. These changes are not only great news for the businesses in my electorate but great news for small and local businesses recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. Although I must admit that, while some of the liquor outlets obviously had to restrict patronage, a lot of the others did very well. This is going to help them even further because they will be able to sell their own liquor products and other Queensland artisan liquor products for consumption on their premises, which is excellent. They can also sell their own liquor products for consumption off their premises, which is also great. They will have the ability to take orders online, which is excellent, and sell samples and takeaways of their liquor products at promotional events such as farmers' markets. If you have never been down to the Powerhouse farmers' market, that is a good reason to go. It is probably one of the best markets in Queensland. I am sure that in the future we will see some of these terrific craft brewers down there as well. As we said, they can apply for a commercial public event permit to sell their own liquor product at public events. This is also a cost saving for them because they do not have to get as many licences to operate, which is terrific.

I welcome the formation of the artisan liquor advisory group, which is a representation from the broader industry. This group will have the great challenge of ensuring that the group grows and prospers under these new laws. I am sure we will welcome any suggestions they may have in the future. It is great to see this bill has bipartisan support. This is great legislation. This is what we do to assist small businesses in this state. Congratulations to the ministers involved. I know that Minister Butcher introduced this before the election. The Attorney-General has it now in her portfolio and we are bringing this bill back for discussion. I look forward to passing the bill.

I look forward to visiting all those craft breweries in my electorate to ask them how they find the new laws. I am sure they will welcome me with open arms. I have to confess that I am not a big beer drinker, but the member for Toowoomba North mentioned there is a craft brewery that makes a low-carb beer. Maybe he and I can share a low-carb beer one day. If I can taste it maybe I will like it, because if it is low in carbs, member for Toowoomba North, you may have me on side as well. This is great legislation and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (5.04 pm): I too rise to make a contribution to the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill—Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report No. 4 for the 57th Parliament—a great piece of legislation that I do certainly fully support. As my electorate is on the Gold Coast a lot my constituents work in the tourism industry. This is something we welcome because it gives employment opportunities in this industry to up-and-coming individuals and diversifies the tourism industry on the Gold Coast.

I recently had a discussion with a constituent who was a former student at one of my schools. He has been dabbling in this area, and this bill is certainly welcomed by him because he has a true passion in developing new flavours of beer et cetera, which I think is a credit to him. Whilst he is certainly not in a position to manufacture, he will be looking into those areas in the future and I wish him all the best with his future endeavours. The craft brewing industry is certainly a fast growing part of the Queensland economy. The old Albert electorate encompassed the Power's brewery up at Yatala which I visited many times.

Mr Crandon: It's in the Coomera electorate now.

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, it is in the Coomera electorate. It is a massive manufacturing facility that, under the previous legislation, would make it very difficult for any of these craft brewers to compete with. They manufacture a wide range of beer up there including Peroni, Carlton Midstrength and quite a few other brands. I remember that back in my youth my neighbours and I used to drink a lot of Carlton Cold. I must say that was not the best product out there—no disrespect to Carlton Cold and Victorians. Our craft brewers here in Queensland produce a far better and more palatable product. It would be good if we could support other small businesses such as IGAs and mix breweries and their unique tastes with locally produced food, therefore supporting local farmers and other industries. There is nothing better than an avocado and salmon salad—

An opposition member: You have to have avocado!

Mr BOOTHMAN: Yes, I had to put avocado in there because avocado is a very important food for us, it is a good industry and we should be supporting the avocado industry. But I digress. It is very important to put these different foods and craft breweries together to enhance the stay of tourists who come to the Gold Coast region. This will drive research and development and encourage brewers to get out there and experiment and develop new and unique tastes and products. I certainly support this legislation. It is a long time coming.

I want to take up the comments of the member for Toowoomba North in relation to excessive drinking. I must say that is one of my concerns, but these brewers seem to have a unique clientele in their bars and it does not seem to be an issue in these areas. Excessive drinking is a major problem in our society. My wife is Japanese and, although I have not been to Japan for quite a few years, I have visited on a few occasions. It is interesting to see the way the Japanese treat alcohol compared to Australians. For instance, at a train station you can buy beer and spirits from a vending machine, yet I did not see a single individual walking around a train station intoxicated. It just shows you the cultural differences between the two countries. We need to control our drinking in Australia because of the health side-effects.

I wholeheartedly support this bill. It will help diversify the tourism industry on the Gold Coast. I hope that the local theme parks will also jump on board to support the local breweries by giving these small businesses a go through selling their products.

It would also be lovely if we could get another NightQuarter for the Gold Coast. A great location which I have mentioned to them is the Dreamworld car park. It could certainly spruce up the life of the Dreamworld car park for night events, providing a massive venue for the different breweries, local farmers and small producers from the Gold Coast hinterland and the Scenic Rim to showcase their products.

I will leave my comments at that. I thank the current minister and the previous minister, the member for Gladstone, for their work on this bill. This is a good bill and it will help my local small businesses. It will also develop this industry and give young people looking to enter this industry an opportunity to expand their horizons.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (5.10 pm): I rise in support of the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. What this important legislation means in my region is jobs, support for mum-and-dad businesses and markets for our unique products. In the Sunshine Coast hinterland there are many artisan brewers and distillers. I speak of Sunshine & Sons, Diablo Co in Woombye, Terella Brewing at North Arm, Sunshine Coast Cider in Palmwoods, Copperhead Brewery and 20 20 Distillery in Cooroy. I would also like to mention Adam Tomlinson and family, who operate Stalwart Brewing in Nambour, which is a popular venue for boutique beer and local music.

It is also commendable to note that in most cases the ingredients in the beer, cider, gin or vodka are locally grown. It is local producers and entrepreneurs working together. It is also worth noting that this amended legislation allows for our artisans to operate pop-up events and sell some takeaway from

the premises or online. This is evident in Woombye where Diablo Co have a pop-up bar with live music at the Big Pineapple. I thank Sunshine & Sons for their pop-up bar at my office opening in Nambour recently.

I would like to invite all Queensland and interstate tourists to visit on the weekend of 21 to 23 May. Beer, Bikes and BBQ will be on at Stalwart Brewing in Nambour, while the Big Pineapple Music Festival will be happening in Woombye. This is a great opportunity for all, including the members present, to sample these products whilst being entertained by local, state and Australian music artists. Did I mention that there will also be hot rods and motorbikes?

I thank the ministers, members and stakeholders included in the formation of this bill—including those in the industry, social health stakeholders, hotel and club peak bodies and the Small Business Advisory Council. I would like to mention the member for Clayfield for his history on the origins of brewing and distilling. It was interesting and entertaining. I would also like to shout-out to the member for Bonney with his bit of science. I had no idea what the microbe was involved in yeast, so a great learning has happened in this chamber.

I thoroughly concur with the member for Hill on his sheer enjoyment and enthusiasm for beer. I ask: what is better than an ice-cold beer after a hard day's yakka? I could think of some but they cannot be mentioned in this chamber. I lament with the member for Glass House on the need for a good mate to drive as you tour around and sample. It is a big place and that is not the best job, but this legislation is about jobs and it is working. It is a pleasure to enjoy bipartisan support for a bill that is providing work, business and protections against abuses. I reiterate on keeping the weekend of 21 to 23 May free. Enjoy responsibly. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.14 pm): I rise to support the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. In doing so, I will be highlighting the experience of two particular businesses in my electorate of Bundaberg. We of course all know that when it comes to distilling spirits Bundy does have the distinct head start over every single other electorate in our great state. However, I will not be talking about that particular well-known drop today. Rather, I will be focusing on the artisan distillers and craft brewers in my electorate. It is through my conversations with the owners of Kalki Moon Distilling and Brewing and Bargara Brewing Company that my support for this bill is formed because, at the end of the day, this is a bill that promotes business, business innovation, investment throughout Queensland and of course jobs for Queenslanders.

Early last month, I sat down with Rick Prosser and Jack Milbank, who are the owners of Kalki Moon and Bargara Brewing Company respectively. I note that Bargara Brewing Company has since been purchased by Ballistic Beer Co as recently as yesterday. As this bill is ultimately about supporting business, I felt as though it was important to understand Rick and Jack's businesses under the current legislation and how the amendments before this Assembly will enable future growth and expansion for artisan distillers and craft brewers alike.

For some background, Rick of Kalki Moon established his artisan distillery in 2017. Kalki Moon produces gin, vodka and liqueurs and has rum now coming into age. It is timely to note their rum because Rick comes from Bundaberg Rum himself, and they have given him their blessing to make sure they are in that industry as well. It is good to see local businesses in the same industry supporting each other and working together. As the member for Mermaid Beach also touched on, Kalki Moon is the Speaker's Gin. I know quite a few members in this House enjoy that drop responsibly—always responsibly. Kalki Moon was the winner of the hottest 100 gins in 2019. It also provides another great tourism experience by allowing people to come in and watch the distilling and make sure they get a bit of history and knowledge about it as well. I think the member for Nicklin might be interested to come along as well because he does love learning.

The Bargara Brewing Company, which I stated earlier has been purchased by Ballistic Beer Co, is also a story of a family business that invested into the local Bundaberg region and located its business in the Bundaberg CBD. The Brewhouse is located within the brewery itself and acts as a popular restaurant, bottle shop, and event and retail venue. It is another key contributor to tourists wanting to stay in the Bundaberg region for those few extra days of their holiday.

Both Rick and Jack are proud of what they have achieved with their businesses, but they noted to me their feeling of restriction when it comes to being commercially competitive under the current legislation around liquor licensing. In particular, their concerns have previously been the inability to sell their craft and artisan products at food and drink festivals and promotional events, the restrictions around selling the products of fellow brewers and distillers at their own venue, as well the sale of takeaways for off-site consumption.

Both Rick and Jack shared with me their experience of a few years back when they attended the taste festival expo in Maryborough. Rick and Jack went to this festival. They were able to hand out samples but they were not able to sell their product. That is an hour and a half drive from Bundaberg and it is time spent setting up and giving out samples, but they were not able to sell their products for a commercial benefit. At the same time, the wine representatives at the exhibition were able to provide samples as well as sell their products. On top of this, they still had to pay for licensing fees and for their staff to hand out samples. As a result, both Rick and Jack have decided not to go back to those events again because the cost outweighs the commercial benefit for their business.

The amendments proposed by the Palaszczuk government in this bill are so important, because they will promote innovation and local investment throughout regional Queensland and create jobs. If there is one thing that we on this side all know we stand for it is jobs, jobs and more jobs.

The ability for craft brewers and artisan distillers to sell takeaway products at festivals and promotional events provides the incentive to support those very same festivals and events. These festivals and events are aimed at promoting businesses so they can grow and expand into new markets across the state. By amending the current restrictions around artisan distillers and craft brewers in Queensland, the Palaszczuk Labor government is backing in Queensland businesses.

I know that Rick and Jack would still like to see a future discussion of legislation that seeks to amend the licensing around selling takeaways of their peers' products from their own venues. I am very open to continuing those discussions with distillers and brewers into the future. However, I commend the amendments contained within this bill. This is a bill that frees restrictions on innovators, investors and businesses wishing to expand their business and create more local jobs. They are all more than welcome to come up to Bundy and enjoy some of our fine products. I might even shout them; we will see how we go. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (5.20 pm): With two very innovative inner city microbreweries in my electorate, I rise to very strongly support the bill. The bill amends the Liquor Act 1992 to create a new commercial artisan liquor producer licence to support independently owned artisan distilling and craft beer business which are a booming industry and add much to our state. Importantly, the bill also provides measures to minimise the risk of alcohol related harm consistent with the government's commitment to tackling alcohol fuelled violence. Across Queensland there are approximately 90 independent craft breweries employing more than 1,700 Queenslanders and pumping an estimated \$62 million into our economy each year. Two of those breweries are in my electorate of Miller being Helios and Slipstream, both of them in Yeerongpilly.

Mr Butcher interjected.

Mr BAILEY: Indeed. The member for Gladstone has been to both of them. Very well done. These two breweries, both established in 2017, are fantastic local businesses employing Queenslanders, putting money back into the local economy and sourcing plenty of their building supplies from local industries as well. I had the opportunity to drop in to Helios Brewing recently and I spoke again with the owner, Scott Shomer, who is also a former environmental engineer. He told me how they are using renewable energy in their brewing processes to keep their emissions and costs down as well as making excellent and quite exotic beer. Using Queensland's fantastic climate, they combine solar PV with state-of-the-art solar water heating to produce their beer. That means that their energy costs are one-tenth of other similar sized breweries and they believe they are one of the least emission-intensive breweries in the country.

We also spoke about how the business adapted during COVID, operating as a drive-through bottle shop to maintain social distancing with very strong support from the local community who like to buy local. I am proud to be part of a government that has supported local businesses like Helios and Slipstream over the past 12 months. Throughout the pandemic the Palaszczuk Labor government has provided unprecedented support for businesses, including \$1.3 billion in payroll tax relief, a billion dollars in concessional loans, \$200 million in grants and \$100 million in power rebates. As we continue to lead the economic recovery from COVID-19 in Queensland, we will continue to support Queensland businesses.

This legislation will establish a new licence for breweries like Helios and Slipstream. Currently, many independent breweries operate under a producer/wholesaler licence and some seek a second liquor licence to meet their business needs, which can be costly to them. Under the new scheme, independent brewers and artisan distillers will be able to sell unlimited takeaways of their own liquor, except online orders, and sell their liquor wholesale. They will also be able to sell any Queensland artisan liquor for on-premises consumption. This legislation is all about supporting innovative Queensland businesses and industry because that is what we do on this side of the House.

I certainly recommend a visit to Slipstream. They have recently expanded and taken over the panel shop at the front. They have a fantastic outside beer garden that has expanded considerably and the locals have well and truly found it. I look forward to their continued success in Yeerongpilly.

We have kept the Queensland economy safe by not listening to those opposite in terms of borders and by protecting Queensland businesses. It is because we took that expert health advice and managed the health response in a world-leading way that we have been able to focus on our economic recovery. We support artisan brewers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.24 pm), in reply: I thank all honourable members for their contribution to the debate on the Liquor (Artisan Liquor) Amendment Bill 2020. Before I address some of the issues raised during the course of this debate I want to give a shout-out to Dean Forte and his team at Monkey Tree Brewing in Underwood in my home community of Logan. They do fantastic work supporting the local community. I am very much looking forward to how happy Dean will be when these amendments pass the House. I will now address some of the matters raised in the debate.

Members of the opposition have raised concerns about the regulatory impact process for the new licence created by the bill. The Queensland Productivity Commission assessed the new licence proposal. It determined that there would be limited benefit in undertaking further analysis in the form of a regulatory impact statement in light of the extensive consultation already undertaken since November 2018. In addition, further regulatory impact analysis would have further delayed the implementation of the artisan producer licence at a time when businesses are recovering from the impacts of COVID-19.

The artisan producer licence authorisations, which are reflected in the bill, are the culmination of extensive consultation. General agreement about the licence authorisations was reached at a roundtable meeting held on 2 March last year, which was attended by representatives from the Australian Distillers Association, the Independent Brewers Association, the Queensland Hotels Association, Clubs Queensland, and relevant government departments. Between December 2019 and January 2020, the former department of state development, manufacturing, infrastructure and planning surveyed approximately 60 per cent of independent Queensland craft brewers about a new licence category for the industry.

The honourable member for Clayfield also raised concerns that the artisan producer licence will not allow licensees to sponsor commercial events, specifically the Noosa Triathlon. However, the bill will give artisan producer licensees the ability to apply for a commercial public event permit in line with other licence types such as commercial hotels and nightclubs. I understand a commercial public event permit has previously been issued for the Noosa Triathlon.

I also note that artisan producer licensees will be able to apply to the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to sell takeaways at events under the authority of a public event permit. The authority will give craft brewers and artisanal distillers the opportunity to increase the visibility of their products at public events, including the Noosa Triathlon.

Another issue raised during the debate was the ability for artisan producers to sell liquor from independent grocers. Takeaway liquor sales in Queensland are predominately limited to specialised outlets to control the availability of liquor and minimise alcohol related harm. Currently, takeaway liquor is primarily available at bottle shops operated under a commercial hotel licence. The artisan producer licence, however, will improve craft brewers' and artisan distillers' takeaway liquor sales ability in a manner consistent with the existing legislative framework.

Opposition members also raised concerns about the departmental response to the submission made by the Independent Brewers Association. In particular, the department considered the takeaway authority of the licence, the licensing of multiple sites under a single licence and the availability of a permit similar to what is available to wine licensees to be outside the scope of the bill. The bill reflects the licence authorisations, which were generally agreed to at a roundtable meeting I mentioned earlier attended by the key stakeholders including the IBA and the Distillers Association. The position reached at this meeting was subsequently endorsed by the government. Accordingly, we did not comment on policy matters that had already been determined.

Further, licensing multiple sites under a single liquor licence would represent a fundamental shift in how venues are licensed under the Liquor Act, which generally requires each premises to obtain a separate licence. Changing this approach would have had wideranging impacts for all licensees, not just boutique producers. The government also considers that the artisan producer licence will offer artisan liquor producers a similar ability to sell their products at events as is now allowed under a wine permit.

Some members raised the intention to limit sample sizes of liquor at promotional events as a potential issue with the bill. Sample sizes of 150 millilitres of craft beer and 15 millilitres of artisanal spirits will be set by amendments to the Liquor Regulation. As the member for Clayfield noted, sample size limits are intended to prevent pop-up bars developing at promotional events. The bill allows artisan producer licensees to sell takeaways of their liquor, up to a carton of beer and two bottles of spirits, to customers who wish to purchase liquor after sampling.

The takeaway sales ability of an artisan producer licensee will ensure the focus of the licence remains on the production of genuinely boutique liquor on licensed premises. Artisan producer licensees will be permitted to sell unlimited takeaways of their own liquor to the public from their venue and via online orders, removing the current 2.5 per cent restriction. These measures combined significantly enhance the ability of craft brewers and artisan distillers to sell takeaways of their own liquor without relying on large liquor retailers.

The obligation to submit an annual return will help to ensure the licence benefits only those small, independent liquor producers. While the annual return will encompass some information that must be provided to the Australian Taxation Office as part of an excise return, the return also collects information specific to the licence. The information provided will be used by the OLGR to ensure only legitimate artisan liquor producers are accessing the licence, ensuring the benefit of the licence is provided only to boutique liquor producers and not the larger players.

Members of the opposition have also raised concerns about the delay in passing this bill as small businesses recover from COVID. At the height of the pandemic, patronage at licensed venues was prohibited or limited due to public health restrictions. In response, the government made emergency amendments to the Liquor Act to allow licensees to sell takeaway liquor in these changed circumstances. For example, the 2.5 per cent restriction on retail sales which applies to producer/wholesalers was lifted under a temporary takeaway liquor authority. The authority allowed artisan distillers to sell unlimited amounts of their liquor directly to the public and via online orders. Further amendments to the Liquor Act have extended this provision for distillers until the artisan producer licence becomes available.

The government also waived the 2020-21 annual licence fees for all Queensland liquor licences to remove unnecessary financial burdens on businesses. As venues are starting to return to business as usual, the bill will provide a timely and needed boost for our state's artisan liquor producers.

Concerns have also been raised that the bill does not go far enough in terms of allowing multiple sites under a single licence. As I mentioned earlier, the bill is not intended to alter the fundamental framework in the Liquor Act which defines the production of liquor and how liquor producers are licensed, as to do so would have broader impacts. The new licence aligns with this existing approach by linking liquor production to one licensed premises.

Concerns were also raised about the penalties for not keeping accurate records. The penalty is consistent with other penalties under section 217 of the Liquor Act for offences such as not maintaining a transactions record or failing to establish accurate accounting records.

To address any outstanding concerns about the licence authorisations, the government has committed to establishing a new Queensland Artisan Liquor Advisory Group once the new licence commences. The group will provide a forum for craft brewers and artisan distillers to provide the government with feedback about how the licence is being implemented and create the opportunity to discuss the future direction of this growing sector.

In regards to the sale of liquor by art galleries, I have been advised that a representative from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation has been in contact with the owner of Gallery 19 and ascertained liquor is being gratuitously supplied to guests of the gallery as part of semi-regular art exhibitions held at the premises. OLGR is in the process of discussing options with the owner to ensure an appropriate outcome is achieved.

In conclusion, I once again thank all honourable members for their contributions during the debate. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 32, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.34 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.34 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

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

Motion agreed to.

WASTE REDUCTION AND RECYCLING (PLASTIC ITEMS) AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 3 December 2020 (see p. 323).

Second Reading

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (5.35 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

Last Sunday was Clean Up Australia Day and anyone who was out in their community with their neighbours collecting rubbish, like I was, would be especially aware of the importance of the bill before us today, the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020.

Plastic pollution is spoiling our streets and parks, escaping into our ocean and waterways and killing our iconic wildlife. Half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once, and it is then thrown away. Items such as straws, stirrers, cutlery, plates and cups are used and discarded rapidly and often thoughtlessly. As a result, at least eight million tonnes of plastics end up in the sea each year. That is like dumping the equivalent of more than 170 wheelie bins of plastic into the ocean every 60 seconds.

We have all seen the horrific images of birds and marine life tangled in plastic debris or the disturbing video of sea turtles with a plastic straw lodged in their nostril. Turtles have a 20 per cent chance of dying if they ingest just one piece of plastic, and over 70 per cent of loggerhead turtles found dead in Queensland waters have ingested plastic.

Sadly, the most common ailment the staff at the Reef HQ Aquarium Turtle Hospital in Townsville see is 'floating syndrome' caused by ingested marine rubbish which leaves the turtle unable to dive for food and at risk of starving to death. This is something I witnessed at the Fitzroy Turtle Rehabilitation Centre earlier this year. This needs to stop. That is why the Palaszczuk government takes its responsibility to protect our world renowned Great Barrier Reef and beautiful and unique environment extremely seriously.

That is why this government has taken strong action. First, we banned lightweight single-use plastic shopping bags in 2018. Then we introduced the very successful container refund scheme, which has seen nearly three billion containers returned for refunds across the scheme as a whole and more than 700 jobs created across Queensland.

Now we are taking the next step. In 2019, we released the Waste Management and Resource Recovery Strategy, a critical shift in the way we manage waste in Queensland, which identifies further action to improve the management and recycling of plastic. In response to this issue, on 7 November

2019 the *Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's plastic pollution reduction plan* was released. The plan identifies the environmental and economic impacts of plastic pollution and maps out what actions need to be taken to reduce plastic waste. A key action in the plan is the introduction of legislation enabling a ban on the supply of specific single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery.

This bill represents an important milestone that demonstrates this government's commitment to tackling plastic waste and pollution for the benefit of our environment and future generations, but this is just the start of our war on waste. During the extensive consultation, there were many suggestions of other items that could be banned. Importantly, this bill signals a way forward, allowing for additional single-use plastic items to be banned by regulation following a consultation process. This will enable us to be responsive to emerging issues while allowing the views of the community and impacted sectors to be heard and considered before any future decisions are made.

For example, the Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan identifies that the next stage of consultation seeks to include items like coffee cups, other plastic cups and heavyweight plastic shopping bags. We know that this is something that Queenslanders want, and this bill is the result of overwhelming community and business support for the ban of single-use plastics. Many cafes and takeaway stores all over Queensland have already stopped using single-use plastics, and major companies such as Coles and McDonald's have embraced Queensland's example.

Just last week the federal government announced that it would join our fight against plastic waste by banning polystyrene products. Unfortunately in its haste to play catch-up with Queensland's groundbreaking legislation, its announcement was panicked, without wide consultation and confusing for businesses and the community. In contrast, the measures outlined in this bill are clear and straightforward, robust but flexible when required and hugely supported by the people of Queensland, with nearly 20,000 contributions to our first phase of consultation.

While this bill makes it an offence for a business to sell or give a banned item to another person, it also includes some important exemptions for places like healthcare businesses and schools. These exemptions cater to members of our community, including our school community, who may require access to a single-use plastic item, such as a plastic straw, due to permanent or temporary disability and healthcare needs. By providing a safe environment for a person to access these items, the government is mindful of protecting people's human rights, including the right to privacy and the right not to be discriminated against. We heard from the disability and aged-care sector that this option was preferred over the 'straw on request' approach where a person would have to ask for a straw when they visit a cafe, pub or restaurant.

The bill also exempts compostable single-use plastic items from the ban as long as they comply with Australian standards for home composting or industrial composting. In exempting compostable items, the bill requires that information about the compostability of an item be provided. This must include information about whether the item is suitable for home composting or composting in an industrial process. A maximum penalty of 50 penalty units or \$6,870 applies if false or misleading information is given about the compostability of items. This penalty is consistent with the same offence under the single-use lightweight plastic shopping bag ban.

The ban will commence by proclamation which will allow businesses to plan for the ban in line with this government's resolve to provide every aid possible for the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. It also allows businesses to work through their current stock on hand of these items and provides time for a comprehensive awareness and engagement program to be rolled out. After consulting with industry representatives, it is the government's intention for the ban to come into effect on 1 September 2021. This acknowledges the impacts of the pandemic and, in listening to our stakeholders, provides sufficient time before commencement.

The former committee that considered this bill recommended that the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill be passed and that the bill be amended to include expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers in the first tranche of banned single-use plastic items. As part of the 2020 state election, the government committed to consult on a ban of single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and I am pleased to announce today that I will be seeking to amend the bill during consideration in detail to include single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups in the first tranche of this ban. Consultation for the consideration of single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups was undertaken between 30 November 2020 and 15 January 2021. During this time more than 6,800 responses were received, an overwhelming 98 per cent of which supported the inclusion of these items in the ban. A consultation report outlining these results is published on the Queensland government website.

This government is determined to help business unite and recover from the restrictions and impacts that the COVID-19 pandemic has had and continues to have on businesses, particularly in the food services industry such as cafes, and we will continue to work with the stakeholder advisory group to ensure awareness and support in the lead-up to and following commencement of the ban. The former committee recommended that the Queensland government work with other stakeholders within the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to accelerate support for businesses to transition away from single-use plastic items, including expanded polystyrene products. This recommendation is supported. The Department of Environment and Science is already working closely with the Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation to implement the national packaging target that 100 per cent of all Australian packaging is reusable, recyclable or compostable by 2025.

The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation will be invited to participate on the Single-Use Plastic Items Stakeholder Advisory Group to build on this collaborative working arrangement. The Australian Packaging Covenant Organisation will join business and brand owner representatives from the Australian Food and Grocery Council, the Chamber of Commerce & Industry Queensland, the National Retail Association, the Queensland Hotels Association, the Restaurant & Catering Industry Association of Australia, the Master Grocers Association and the Queensland Tourism Industry Council to ensure that appropriate sector specific engagement and messaging is developed. Collectively, these peak bodies represent thousands of individual businesses. Working through these peak organisations ensures equitable representation across sectors and avoids potential conflicts of interest that might occur with individual businesses.

The stakeholder advisory group continues to play a pivotal role working in partnership with the department to co-design messaging and delivery of the engagement processes. As part of the two-year review of the ban, the former committee's report recommended that the Department of Environment and Science review the exemption of schools and the penalties for providing false or misleading information. The bill provides for a review of the ban to start within two years of commencement of the ban and these issues will be included as part of that review process. The review serves to assess the efficacy of the ban and will consider how different sectors and community groups have been affected, including the availability of single-use plastics for the healthcare and disability sector and the voluntary uptake of alternative items within schools.

It should be acknowledged, however, that schoolchildren are often the strongest advocates for change and promoting effective messaging throughout their communities. Indeed, the former committee saw evidence of this when it spoke with Ms Molly Steer, an inspiring 11-year-old school student who is a great advocate for change in schools and the founder of the Straw No More campaign. The Queensland Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan includes an education program for schools to build on this interest amongst schoolchildren for improved environmental outcomes.

In developing an engagement strategy for the ban, the Department of Environment and Science will also look to identify links with sustainable schools initiatives and programs such as Wave of Change developed by Plastic Oceans Australasia in partnership with Container Exchange for schools. Launched on the Sunshine Coast last year, the program is designed to educate primary and secondary school students on the impact of plastics and the importance of recycling, providing an important resource in our fight against plastic pollution.

This bill also provides a local economic opportunity. Many of the single-use plastic items subject to this ban are sourced from overseas markets. The banning of these single-use items presents opportunities for many alternative products to be made locally in Queensland or Australia using locally sourced materials. Many of these local materials could also be sourced from by-products that may have ended up in landfill. The Department of Environment and Science has undertaken to work with the stakeholder advisory group to develop a list of suppliers and sustainable products. One of the criteria to help businesses make decisions regarding appropriate alternatives will include options for the management of these items, including availability of organics, collection and processing services. This bill is ultimately about leaving a better environment for future generations. To the school students who lobbied almost every MP in this House, this is for you. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.47 pm): As the shadow environment minister, I am proud to begin the opposition's contributions on the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I will be outlining some concerns the opposition has with the government in this space. The Liberal National Party will be supporting this legislation because it is good, practical environmental policy and because businesses and the community are already overwhelmingly taking action on this issue.

Over the last several decades plastic has become a huge part of our lives. Its flexibility and durability has been immensely positive, with essential innovations in medicine, electronics, transportation, food storage and myriad other fields. As well as these features, it is incredibly cheap to produce, but the downside of that is that we now have an overdependence on plastics. We live in a world that is producing almost as much plastic waste as the weight of the entire human population combined.

Some of the latest Australian data shows the extent of the problem. A total of 3.5 million tonnes of plastic was consumed in Australia in 2018-19, which equates to 100 kilograms per person. Some 84 per cent of that plastic used is sent to landfill and at the moment only 13 per cent is recycled and Australia uses around 70 billion pieces of soft plastics such as food wrappers each and every year. The problem is not going away. We are using more and more plastic and worldwide that is expected to double by 2040. Single-use plastics are some of the most prolific. One million tonnes of Australia's annual plastic consumption is made up of single-use plastics. There are two ways we can cut down our use of single-use plastics—by reducing litter and by working towards a circular economy. On the first of these, eight million tonnes of plastic ends up in our oceans each year, with an often quoted 2016 study reporting that by 2050 there will be more plastic than fish by weight in our oceans.

On top of that, 99 per cent of seabirds worldwide are expected to have ingested some amount of plastic by 2025. That is a staggering statistic. If you look at our nation alone, around 130,000 tonnes of plastic leaks into our marine environment every year. Just a few weeks ago baby flatback turtles were washing up on the west coast of Keppel Bay in Central Queensland. They were found with hard and soft plastics inside them. There was, in fact, one turtle which was only eight centimetres long but it had consumed a piece of plastic film that was five centimetres by two centimetres in size.

The bill before us is a big step towards stopping a huge amount of further plastic from making its way into our waterways, onto our beaches, our streets, our parks and our bushland. The initial items included in this legislation are some of the most littered, but importantly they do have viable and less environmentally harmful alternatives.

On Sunday for Clean Up Australia Day I and a team of volunteers paddled over to Wave Break Island. One of the main pieces of rubbish that we found was plastic drinking straws. I will take a moment to thank all of the local volunteers who got up early on that Sunday morning to remove two boatloads—or one ute load of my mighty Mitsubishi Triton—of rubbish from our beautiful Broadwater. In particular, I will give a shout-out to our school leaders who joined us: Angelina Inthavong, Bitu Mahani and Elis Williams from AB Paterson College; Musgrave Hill State School's environmental captain Sabella Sinda and their school council president Kaiki Wabo; and, of course, Elliot Omrod, who is vice-captain at Arundel State School.

Most of the straws we found were from McDonald's and as a regular customer I should thank them for replacing those straws with paper ones late last year. I am told that it was quite a research and development effort to figure out an alternative made of paper that would work, although some people who I know enjoy a frappe or frozen drink still have some issues and think that it needs a little bit more work. It is good to see such a huge corporation recognising that they are one of the largest sources of rubbish and taking action ahead of this parliament passing laws to stop it.

The second driver for this change is to work towards a circular economy: looking at the waste we produce as a resource and as an opportunity. The reality is that plastic will still be a necessary material in a number of ways for a long time to come. One of the difficulties with and opportunities of plastic is that it is very durable. It does not break down in landfill as other materials do. We have an opportunity to view plastic as a valuable resource that we can re-use and recycle into new products. There is more and more innovation going into recycling in order to recycle plastics into the creation of new plastic items. In fact, Coca-Cola is now making all of its bottles under 750 millilitres from 100 per cent recyclable plastic. They have managed to do that while allowing their packaging to hold the pressure it needs to and to be transported safely at the same time as having a lesser impact on the environment.

I noticed before I rose to give my contribution that the bottles of water that we are given in this House are also made from 100 per cent recycled plastic. As industry invests in research and development there will continue to be progress made towards a circular economy. This legislation deals with items that have viable alternatives so the single-use way of producing these things can be eliminated in the first place.

The contents of this bill are relatively simple. It involves banning the single-use variety of items such as plates, bowls, items of cutlery, straws and stirrers. The last minute amendment circulated by the minister is a welcome addition. Polystyrene food containers and cups will be included in the ban.

This came after many calls from stakeholders, the research that the minister referred to and a recommendation in the first committee's report. I note that in the Australian government's recently released National Plastics Plan expanded polystyrene will largely be phased out in 2022. Given this direction, it is good to see this included in our own bill.

Curiously, items that are not banned if they are a single-use plastic item and are part of a shelf ready product include a straw attached to a juice box, a fork included in a pre-packaged salad, a spoon attached to a yoghurt container and a plate forming part of a frozen meal. Alternatives exist for a number of these and there is a six-month transition period built into the legislation so I would welcome clarification from the minister about the potential exclusion of these items and clarity on whether there is active consideration about dealing with them through regulation.

Further to that, there are clear parameters on how additional single-use plastic items can be added to the ban. This can be through regulation but, importantly, can only be after carrying out consultation with the public about the proposed change, examining whether there have been voluntary measures to achieve the objects of this part that have not been effective and whether there is availability of alternative products to the single-use plastic item proposed to be banned. These clauses are important to make sure that any new items added are with consideration and consultation, which is very important to give businesses certainty. As the ones purchasing, selling or dispensing these products, we need them to be part of this change and although I have pointed out they are already leading the way, they need to not have any surprises from the government.

There are some exemptions to the bill that are important for particular parts of our community. The bill allows for exemptions for businesses to sell to a healthcare business or undertaking—including a clinic or facility that provides care to persons with a disability or healthcare needs, a dental clinic, a hospital, a medical clinic, a medical supply business or undertaking, a pharmacy—or a school, or a business or undertaking prescribed by regulation for this definition that involves the sale or supply of banned single-use plastic items for use by persons with a disability or healthcare needs. There are also exemptions for certifiable compostable products.

There are a number of elements of this bill that I think are worth noting in more detail. Firstly, on commencement, I thank the government for the delay in the start date. To say that last year was a difficult time for those in the retail and hospitality industry is a massive understatement, as we all know. Delaying the start date until September will hopefully allow ample time for businesses to exhaust their current supply and anything they may have on order. I note that they will be able to use up their existing stock, but, talking to the National Retail Association and the Australian Food and Grocery Council, it is clear that many retailers have orders and contracts in place in some cases anywhere from six to 12 months out. As the campaign about these changes rolls out, it is essential to have clarity for them around these issues. It is no help to the environment if existing plastics end up dumped directly into landfill to avoid some sort of penalty or infringement.

In terms of the definitions, education is going to be essential when it comes to this bill. For some time now stakeholders have been working with the department to pin down what exactly the definitions of items will be and they are thankful that this is almost complete. The fear was that without knowing exactly what will and will not be allowed it will be impossible for businesses to prepare adequately and adjust their stock. It might seem obvious what these items are, but when we come to things like bowls and plates it turns out there are a number of possibilities.

Questions were raised in particular over lidded bowls and the size of plates and whether they would include platters used in catering services. One example that came up was sushi containers or takeaway laksa bowls and things like that. There have been significant discussions to ensure the guidelines are clear and I thank all the stakeholders who have contributed to this. Whilst the big retailers have been at the table for these discussions, the difference between big and small businesses on these matters is like night and day. Education in relation to small and medium businesses will be essential to ensure supply is phased out and that alternatives are found in time for the commencement of these changes.

Turning to the exemption of schools, the bill states that schools are identified as exempt from this ban, recognising that some students, teachers and other staff may have healthcare and disability needs that require the continued provision of single-use plastic items like straws and cutlery. Of course I want to see all students and staff facing these challenges supported. However, I could not understand from the bill or from either of the committees' reports why schools had this exemption. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Association of Australia has advocated against it, stating that schools should not be allowed to distribute, sell or use banned plastic items unless it is to persons who require these products due to a disability or medical requirement.

Last year in my electorate I participated in the Arundel State School Clean Up Australia Day and there were a large number of straws, forks and other single-use plastic items littered all around the school. Just like across the general public, these are some of the most littered items and including them in this ban could make a big difference.

Often our young people are the best advocates for our environment. They have inspired older generations through their actions, including on the very laws that we are discussing. They too will want to understand why they are not included in the ban. I ask the minister to give a clearer explanation of that. If an exemption is necessary for the care of a staff member or student then we should absolutely allow it, but the majority of students should not be treated any differently to businesses or broader community groups that are not exempt. If this is a matter of cost it would be helpful for that to be acknowledged.

I understand that many P&Cs run their tuckshops at little profit and adding this cost could place a major strain on them. If that is the case it would seem more appropriate for the government to provide some sort of funding support to help with the transition, rather than exempting a huge user group of single-use plastics. Other community groups and not-for-profit organisations are not exempt, except in the case of medical or healthcare needs. I note that this will be up for review after two years and I welcome that inclusion. I certainly encourage all schools—and I know some have already—to voluntarily move away from these items where possible, particularly if that move is driven by their incredible young people.

In terms of waste facilities, compostable plastics are exempt from the bill so it is important to look at where Queensland is at in terms of composting facilities and whether people know how to dispose of those items. There is no benefit if the items end up in landfill and if they become litter they are still harmful to the environment because they will take many years to break down. We need to ensure that we have the right facilities and education so that those plastics are disposed of in appropriate ways.

Queensland's own waste strategy notes that an absence of policy certainty and strategic direction has inhibited investment in the recycling and resource industry in Queensland. In particular, insufficient investments in recycling and resource recovery infrastructure have restricted Queensland's ability to improve waste recovery performance. Improved onshore reprocessing capacity will be needed to contend with a growing stock of recyclable materials.

Disappointingly, Queensland is the only state that has not announced how it will match and invest in the federal government's substantial commitment to the Recycling Modernisation Fund. Nationally, that initiative is worth up to \$600 million. It is designed to co-invest in critical recycling infrastructure as a response to the COAG waste export ban agreed to in March 2020. We are lagging behind and it is not good enough. National Waste and Recycling Industry Council CEO Rose Reed has been critical of Queensland trailing behind other states and territories that are already using the fund, saying that this is no time for Queensland to be complacent.

According to the *National waste report 2020*, in 2018-19 Queensland's resource recovery rate was 48.7 per cent, well below the national average of 63 per cent for the same period. Queensland makes up 17.8 per cent of Australia's waste generation but is sending more than 26.8 per cent of the 22 million tonnes total to landfill. Being innovative with our waste will help us greatly to reduce our carbon footprint. This is not an area in which we want to fall behind. With such a precious environment to protect, Queensland's waste industry should be leading the nation and not lagging behind.

In terms of future items added, in these matters I am very aware that it can be easy to go for what looks like the right direction rather than the right action. As we go forward we need to ensure that we maintain a holistic view when it comes to environmental benefit or impact. For example, the waste hierarchy model suggests that re-usability is preferable to recyclability. A plastic takeaway container may actually be better for the environment than a recycled paper box that can be used only once. A good way to put it is that not all plastic is evil. Of course that will not always be the case, but as future items are added to the ban we need to ensure that we are making the best decision by looking at the whole life of a product.

I thank the committee for their work on this bill. I understand that much of the bill is the same as the one introduced in the last parliament, but the work of the committee has been important nonetheless. I thank the members of the former committee who prepared the very detailed report on the first bill. In particular, I acknowledge the members from our side: the members for Buderim and Condamine and the former—and hopefully next—member for Bundaberg, whom I am told was a driving force in that excellent report.

Government members interjected.

Mr O'CONNOR: I have heard some interjections so I acknowledge members opposite. I also thank government members for their contributions. In particular I thank the committee for pushing for expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers to be included in the first tranche of banned items. This is the right move for Queenslanders. It is a move that many businesses have already started to make. At large businesses such as McDonald's as well as local cafes in my own electorate—such as Crafty's at Harbour Town, which is our local sports bar—you will struggle to get a plastic straw. At Crafty's, Dave Galvin has made every effort to reduce the plastic that is used in the restaurant, swapping out their straws and increasing their compostable and recyclable products. That is just one local business doing their bit to make a big difference.

Around Queensland industry is already working hard to reduce their use of plastics, and they are well and truly at the table as we debate this bill. Across Australia the use of plastics is being closely watched. The National Plastics Plan, which was released last week, has a clear path forward for reducing waste in Australia and works hand in hand with the National Waste Policy Action Plan. I commend the brilliant Assistant Minister for Waste Reduction and Environmental Management, the federal member for Brisbane, Trevor Evans MP, for his work in this area. He is ready to take Australia forward and wants Queensland to be a big part of it.

The bill before us needs to be just one tranche of the legislative and practical action taken to reduce our waste. Queensland needs to sign up to the Recycling Modernisation Fund. We need to ensure we are the hub of innovation for new technologies that drive a circular economy and deal effectively with our waste. I am proud to support this bill and I ask the government to do everything they can to support businesses and our community in the transition.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (6.06 pm): I rise to support the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. The waste reduction and recycling bill will amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to provide for the introduction of a ban on single-use plastic items. Before I continue with my contribution on the bill, I point out to the member for Bonney that I will be asking my federal member, who has delivered nothing in Townsville, to bring something from the \$600 million federal recycling fund that the member spoke of.

An honourable member interjected.

Mr HARPER: I take the interjection. To say that we have no strategy is amazing. Of course we have the fantastic Containers for Change program, which is a great investment. We continue to back Queenslanders in this space. This is good, commonsense legislation. It is good for our environment. It is good to get plastics out of our marine environment. We have all seen Queenslanders embrace the ban on plastic bags.

A government member interjected.

Mr HARPER: Yes, they are gone and we thank the former environment minister for that. I consistently forget to take my material bags so I have a great collection of Coles and Woolworths bags, as well as the occasional BWS bag, both at home and here at Parliament House. If any member needs a material bag, I am happy to sell those off at a discounted price.

I thank the former committee, the Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee, for their extensive and comprehensive work on this bill in the 56th Parliament. That committee tabled their report in August 2020. Given their outstanding work, our committee agreed to consider the subject bill and include the former committee's report as part of our report. I thank the member for Bancroft and the other members of that committee for their work, which was very good.

The bill was referred to our committee on 3 December 2020. We tabled our report on 12 February 2021. I thank the secretariat and the stakeholders who provided submissions as we worked over the Christmas period. On Monday, 7 December we invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions and we received 13. We also received a briefing on the bill from the department. The principal objective of the bill is to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act to ban the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers—there are a few stirrers in this House—plates and cutlery. The bill seeks to achieve a reduction in plastic pollution resulting from single-use plastics by 20 per cent by 2023, which seems to me to be a pretty good strategy.

At its very core, the ban will commence with single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates, with provision made for additional items to be banned in regulation following a robust consultation and assessment process. *Tackling plastic waste: Queensland's plastic pollution reduction plan*—obviously the member for Bonney was not listening or considered that—released on 7 November 2019, identified and prioritised actions to reduce plastic waste and pollution in Queensland. That plan included a

commitment to introduce legislation in 2020 to ban the supply of single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates in the first instance, and, following further analysis, extend the ban to include coffee cups, other plastic cups and heavyweight shopping bags. The Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to consult—that is what we do—on the inclusion of single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups in the first tranche of the single-use plastic items ban.

I want to talk about the consultation on the bill. I note that the stakeholder advisory group, an interdepartmental committee, was established in February 2020. They did good work. That stakeholder group included peak bodies representing the retail, hospitality, tourism, food service, disability, aged care, local government and environment sectors. The public consultation received significant public support in March and April 2020. This was followed with the release of the single-use plastic items consultation regulatory impact statement, which put forward four options including the introduction of the ban on single-use plastics. Some 94 per cent of the 20,000 respondents showed overwhelming support for the introduction of the ban. The consultation regulatory impact statement, the submissions to the parliamentary committees, a public online survey and targeted retailer consultation all supported a ban on single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. The minister has flagged that she will propose amendments to the bill during consideration in detail to include expanded polystyrene takeaway containers and cups in the first tranche of the ban.

Single-use plastics create challenges for our waste management and resource recovery systems, the environment and the community. Plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates are consistently among the top 10 littered items found on beaches and in the marine environment. There was also strong support during consultation for the inclusion of single-use expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. When littered, these plastic items break up into increasingly smaller pieces that persist in the environment and act like sponges, collecting pollutants from the environment. When mistaken for food they pose a threat, as we have heard, to the wellbeing of our wildlife. From a recycling perspective, these single-use items are also difficult to recycle and can contaminate recyclable items collected through kerbside collection services, leading to the disposal of otherwise recyclable resources.

The ban introduced by this bill will eliminate a substantial amount of single-use plastic items from use and avoid the environmental impacts that result from the waste items entering the environment. The availability of suitable alternatives was one of the considerations in selecting single-use plastic straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery as the first items for the ban and also expanded polystyrene containers and cups, as mentioned. I note that the parliament has already well and truly, like many in the hospitality industry, introduced paper straws and bamboo cutlery, which is good to see.

Single-use plastic items are increasingly being replaced on supermarket shelves with a greater range of sustainable alternatives made of paper, bamboo, metal and compostable plastic. Initiatives such as the Plastic Free Places program, run by Boomerang Alliance—it was initially piloted in Noosa then expanded to Cairns and Townsville and now has planned further expansion to Rockhampton and Livingstone—help to support cafes, markets, restaurants and events to move away from single-use plastic products to better environmental alternatives. I support the bill.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.14 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill. While my role on the committee was not that substantive because we were simply reviewing a committee report that was being re-presented from the previous term, nonetheless I am a supporter of this bill. I think the changes proposed within the legislation are sensible steps forward; however, I have to foreshadow a few concerns.

All legislation has unintended consequences. The sad thing about this legislation is that it probably does not go far enough. If the House will indulge me with something of a walk down memory lane, it might shock some members of the House to know that back in the seventies as a young high school student I was packing groceries at Woolworths. We were only using recycled cardboard boxes and brown paper bags. There were those wonderful moments out in the parcel pick-up area when condensation started to form on the outside of the ice-cream container, the bag would then get wet, and the next thing, while we were carrying the bag out to someone's car, the bottom would fall out and we would say, 'Oh, gosh, if only we had plastic bags.' Be careful what you wish for!

I think all of us in the House would agree that any steps forward we take in this respect are good steps for the environment in the future. I think it is fascinating that we are going to ban plastic straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery, because I remember a time when we did not have any plastic straws. As a kid in primary school, one of the frustrations of sucking the flavoured milk out of a glass bottle through a wax-covered paper straw was that the straws would often snap, bend or whatever. That is why they invented plastic straws, to try to overcome some of those challenges.

These are good steps forward; however, one of the challenges with any legislation is the unintended consequences. While I applaud the ban that we put on plastic bags in supermarkets, I think it is incredibly sad that so many people still do not remember to take bags with them when they go in, so they end up buying more and more of these plastic bags. I see it in people's homes; I see it even with my sons and some of their mates. The new garbage bin liners are not the cornstarch bags or the biodegradable grey plastic bags that we had in supermarkets previously but are more and more becoming these multi-use bags that have a longer life and perhaps do not break down as quickly. I think it is sensible for us to be looking at these reforms, but we perhaps need to be having another look across the board at what other reforms we can be making. Even while we all supported that as a policy, I am not sure that we are getting the intended results. Perhaps we have a long way to go with educating people around the need to use multi-use bags sensibly and wisely, not using them as garbage bin liners to end up in landfill and creating even greater problems.

I am concerned about the disturbing trend we see in supermarkets with pre-packed food. We now have all these wonderful meal programs where you order a box—I have not done it, but my kids have told me about it—and have all your meals for the week delivered. Some of them are weight-loss programs; others are programs where retailers are encouraging greater variety and greater convenience. However, often with greater convenience comes more and more packaging.

The days of buying loose fruit seem to be more and more a thing of the past when shopping at Woolworths, Coles or ALDI now, although I note that Woolworths has just introduced into its fruit section a pack of three re-usable fruit bags that you can buy—for \$5 by the way, which is a little bit exy—and the idea is that you put your loose fruit in the bags, get them weighed, take them home and then you re-use those bags, but I am not sure that people will remember to do that either.

We need to keep pushing forward. That is where I want to go in my comments today. Life is always about the sum of the parts. We are never going to get everything absolutely right—we are not going to achieve perfection—but if we do not keep striving with sensible reforms, raising awareness around these issues in our communities and encouraging our kids to step up and think about other ways to do things then we will not improve. I do think these are sensible steps forward.

I note, as have the member for Bonney and other members in this House, that many of the coffee shops and retailers in my electorate have already stepped up in this space. Todd Corr from Parc-Bah in Alicia Street, Gabriel and Elly from Blendlove on Ferry Road and Ellie Doyle from Vector Coffee in Southport basically got rid of plastic straws a long time ago. They did not wait for the legislation to come into effect. They have stepped up and embraced the need for more compostable and biodegradable cups and to get rid of plastic straws. I commend them and the many other businesses in the electorate that will have to embrace these changes.

As always, I want to thank the committee secretariat for the work they have done in preparing the report for the House. I also acknowledge my fellow committee members for the work they do. As a member of this House, I am proud of the fact that we are making these changes. As I often say to my kids and to some of my constituents, the better we do today the brighter the future is for all of us. We all need to be looking at ways we can incrementally improve things.

While Containers for Change has been a great initiative, and certainly my community has embraced it, we do not always implement these things well. Sadly, in my electorate I have ended up with two Containers for Change outlets about 500 metres apart—one in an industrial area, appropriately located and well supported, and another that was rushed through and put into a residential area and for which council planning laws and normal planning instruments were overturned. That centre has created enormous issues for my local community. It has taken the best part of two years for council, the department of environment, the planning department and a range of other organisations to work through the challenges associated with that. There have been some compromises reached which have improved the noise issues that came. On the one hand we are wanting to save the environment from waste bottles and to encourage people to recycle but on the other hand we completely ignore the environmental issues of a local community in terms of noise pollution. With any measures we undertake in the future there needs to be great execution and a lot more thoughtfulness around planning. We have to be a lot more considerate of our local communities.

There are so many other things we can do. One thing I am particularly proud of—I think the City of Gold Coast can be proud of this—is that about 20 years ago the city took a decision to undertake a city greening program. It was initially about protecting waterways. All of the catchments across the city have seen significant volunteer programs and revegetation programs to clean up the waterways. The outcomes of that are seen in the water quality reports on the southern part of Moreton Bay and the

Broadwater, where we have absolutely pristine water quality. It is those sorts of initiatives that we need to continue fighting for and looking for. Change is the sum of the parts. The little things that every one of us does every day of the week and every week of the year lead to better outcomes for the environment and a better future for our kids.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.23 pm): It is always delightful to listen to the member for Southport as he wanders off the long title of the bill. It is really wonderful to hear how committed he is to the environment. I hope that all of his colleagues on the other side of the House follow his great lead. Then perhaps we can get some climate change commitment from that side of the House. I thank the member for Southport.

I am delighted to stand to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. I am so proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government, because our government is committed to reducing plastic pollution and the devastating impact it has on our environment. The magnificent Moreton Bay Marine Park borders my electorate, and we Baysiders are justifiably proud of this magnificent marine park, as we are of the Ramsar listed wetland and bird roosts. Whether enjoying a lovely walk or a ride along the foreshore, dragon boating with the Manly Dragon Boat Club, dining in one of the many sensational cafes and restaurants, sailing, kitesurfing or stand-up paddleboarding, my community love the bay, and we love the wildlife that relies on a healthy environment. From dugongs to turtles, from sugar gliders to the Ramsar listed birds, it is so important that we protect this important system.

The Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan is a commitment to ban the supply of single-use plastic items starting with straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. This bill will deliver that positive next step. It also makes it possible for other plastic items to be banned in the future following a consultation process. Consultation for the plastic items covered in this bill saw strong community support across the state, with nearly 20,000 submissions received. Some 94 per cent of those submissions supported the introduction of the ban.

Across Queensland I know that small businesses and communities have embraced sustainable alternatives to single-use plastics, whether it was the Straw No More campaign in Cairns and Townsville or the Boomerang Alliance's work with the Plastic Free Places program in Noosa, Townsville and Cairns. Many of my local traders have embraced environmentally friendly food container options. Queensland is embracing a sustainable way forward.

This bill will continue their great work and reduce the impact plastic has on our waterways, marine life and the environment. This is the next step in our war on plastic waste. At my Clean Up Australia day event at Wynnum Creek on the weekend we saw locals come out to pick up rubbish and litter. It was great to see a marked decrease in plastic bags, cans and plastic bottles in the rubbish that was collected. As a follow-on from the good work in banning single-use plastic bags and the Containers for Change program, we now need to remove single-use plastic items that too often end up as litter in the environment or in landfill. We collected plenty of them from Wynnum Creek on the weekend. That is why this bill introduces a ban on some of the most common single-use plastic items in our community.

The bill also recognises that continued access to a single-use plastic item such as a straw is important for some members of our community with a permanent or temporary disability to meet their healthcare needs, so exempt businesses including pharmacies, hospitals, schools and medical and dental clinics will be able to continue purchasing and providing single-use plastic items to those who need them.

The Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 will amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to provide for the introduction of a ban on single-use plastic items. The ban will commence with single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates, with proposed amendment to the bill to include expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. The bill also provides for additional items to be banned in regulation following a robust consultation and assessment process.

The consultation regulatory impact statement released on 13 March 2020 initially proposed a start date of 1 July 2021 for the ban. This was supported through the initial consultation in mid-2020 by 90 per cent of the submissions. This date was identified before the full extent and impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic were known and fully appreciated. Through the more recent consultation conducted from 30 November 2020 to 15 January 2021 there was again strong support for the ban to commence this year, proposing that this take place no earlier than 1 September 2021. It is envisaged that this would provide the community and businesses a minimum of six months to prepare for the ban, as advised by the stakeholder advisory group, which includes, among others, representatives from the

retail and hospitality sectors. This period would ordinarily allow businesses to source alternatives, decrease stock on hand of the banned items and not incur unnecessary compliance costs if they are not able to sell or give away the banned items to exempt businesses.

Just over one year into the pandemic, COVID-19 impacts on businesses continue and Queensland businesses are still recovering from these impacts. Business closures due to the pandemic would have limited the ability for businesses to appropriately manage the stock on hand in preparation of the ban, and of course the COVID pandemic has also impacted on global supply chains. This may also impact the availability of businesses to source alternatives where alternatives are not locally available.

The bill recognises these impacts and enables the commencement date of the ban to be fixed by proclamation. As part of the government's plan for economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic, the start date for the ban is flexible and will be no earlier than 1 September 2021. Like young Theo, who helped me clean up last weekend, I want to make sure that our environment is clean, it is safe and it is free of single-use plastic items to protect our local wildlife for future generations. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (6.30 pm): I rise today in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020 and commend the government for this important step towards achieving an overall reduction in plastic pollution of 20 per cent by 2023. Plastic is now in every aspect of our marine food chain. Putting the health of our oceans first, with this bill's strong commitment to the goal of eradicating plastic waste in Queensland, will reap enormous benefits for all Queenslanders now and in the future.

According to the bill's explanatory notes, the principal policy objective of the bill is to amend the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. Here in Queensland we produce over 11 million tonnes of waste each year, with Queensland councils primarily responsible for managing and operating more than 450 waste and resource recovery facilities.

Einstein said that matter can neither be created nor destroyed. What he meant was that we are governed by the laws of energy and mass which say that matter cannot be made to disappear—only change its form. Following this rule, we must change the form of our waste to create reusable components of its various parts. Plastic can become plastic again and steel can return to steel. Burying things should be the last option. Queensland urgently needs to develop the end-use technology to recycle and change the initial component parts into a product that can be re-used.

Waste is an increasing threat to Queensland's environment and none more so than the waste generated by our renewable energy industry. Research shows that materials used in the manufacture of solar panels and plastics poses one of the largest future environmental threats to the state's ecosystem and the Great Barrier Reef. Solar waste disposal, in particular, leaches all sorts of hazardous materials, such as lithium and lead, into the environment and soils. This is creating an environmental disaster that is affecting our marine ecosystems, and it will only get worse as solar and battery waste is also expected to become a major contributor to national waste volumes in the decades to come. Lead has already been outlawed in California, and we should address this and understand how what we do with our waste affects our ecosystems.

Renewable energy companies, industries and advocates are notorious for hiding and minimising their environmental and human health impacts. They demand and receive exemptions from health and endangered species laws that apply to other industries. That has to change. Everyone should be equal in that space. Government must take action to make it mandatory for all companies to clean up their waste, particularly the waste being generated from our renewable energy industry and from batteries.

In 2019, Queensland companies exported more than 265,000 tonnes of waste to overseas companies because it was more profitable than recycling it here. Full bans on Australian exports of waste plastic, paper, cardboard and tyres will be in place by July 2024, triggered by a range of countries, including China, announcing they intend on progressively banning imports of the world's waste. The new law will hopefully provide an incentive to local manufacturers and facilitate the growth of a jobs-generating recycling industry within the state. It may also lead to an upswing in local demand to re-use these recovered materials in infrastructure, packaging and products as we move towards creating a 'circular economy' here in Queensland.

The waste dilemma is one that must be effectively, efficiently and sustainably dealt with by the state that creates it. No-one is going to put up with our garbage anymore, and shipping it off to other countries to deal with is no solution for a state that wishes to be seen as clever. Many submissions to

the committee also identified a need for the government to undertake education activities to ensure that the ban is properly implemented. I agree with this. There needs to be state investment in education and communication on the bill, not just with the key stakeholders and businesses but also with the public, particularly our younger generation. This legislation is a positive step forward in reducing Queensland's waste and litter problem and will go a long way towards the ultimate goal of protecting the state's unique marine environment.

We have a twinning arrangement with Vanuatu, which is where my family is from, and also with Papua New Guinea. If the minister would indulge me, it would be great if we can take this legislation to those islands or push it through our twinning arrangement so that those island nations adopt this legislation and adapt their practices to save their marine environments and also their ecosystems going forward. It is a good place to be.

In Vanuatu they always drink cava from coconut shells and they also use them to eat out of. In the past they never did; they used different things. There is an opportunity here. I have seen some businesses in Queensland coming up with some novel ideas of making knives and forks out of coconut shells. They are re-useable. They do not absorb the bacteria that other items do. I think it is a great place to be. I think we need to share this through our twinning arrangements with Pacific nations. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.36 pm): I am delighted to rise in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill 2020. This bill delivers on key values of the Palaszczuk Labor government to protect our ecosystems, waterways and wildlife and reduce waste by banning single-use plastic items. It is the logical next step in our work banning lightweight plastic shopping bags and introducing the container refund scheme that has now seen 2.5 billion containers saved from landfill and created 700 jobs right across Queensland.

Protecting our waterways and wildlife are truly matters of heart in my beautiful electorate of Pumicestone. Last weekend I and 30 or so volunteers joined the Pumicestone Passage chapter of OzFish Australia for their Clean Up Australia event along the Sylvan Beach foreshore. Thanks to the work of the Palaszczuk government, those 30 volunteers found almost no refundable cans or bottles. We also found very, very few lightweight plastic bags. In the Pumicestone Passage this government's reforms have reduced the risks to our loggerhead turtles, dugongs, pelicans and other bird species that are posed by lightweight plastic bags and single-use drink containers—and that is great news.

What we did find as we cleaned up the Sylvan Beach foreshore were hundreds and hundreds of single-use plastic items that will be banned under this bill. Sacks of single-use plastic straws, cutlery, plates and expanded polystyrene takeaway packaging were collected by volunteers and weighed in by OzFish, leaving our foreshore litter free. With the ban due to start in September, by this time next year my hope is that there will be hundreds of kilos less of plastic waste to be cleaned up from Pumicestone's beautiful beaches thanks to the Palaszczuk government.

I was privileged to consider this bill in my role as a member of the Health and Environment Committee. I thank my chair and my fellow committee members. I also acknowledge the 56th Parliament's Natural Resources, Agricultural Industry Development and Environment Committee for their detailed consideration of the legislation.

The bill amends the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to ban single-use plastic items, beginning with single-use plastic straws, stirrers, cutlery and plates. Proposed amendments to the bill will extend the ban to include expanded polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups after community consultation showed strong support for including those items. The bill also provides for further plastic items and similar items to be banned by regulation subject to a strong community and stakeholder consultation and assessment process. Importantly, this work has been done while listening to stakeholders and the community.

In February 2020 the Palaszczuk government established a stakeholder advisory group to discuss how best to implement the proposed ban. The stakeholder advisory group offered some key considerations for exemptions from the ban. As a matter of equity and human rights, the government's priority is to ensure that people with disability and healthcare needs can continue to access the single-use plastic items they need when no suitable re-useable or non-plastic alternative exists. The public is with us on this, with 78 per cent of the almost 20,000 submissions received in the initial consultation supporting options that are responsive to people's disability and healthcare needs. Other key considerations were creating exemptions for plastic products that are compostable to Australian standards and for plastic items that are integral to pre-packaged food items while alternatives are developed.

Single-use plastic items are essential for day-to-day life for many people with disability and healthcare needs. This is a real concern in my electorate of Pumicestone, where people experience more than their share of disability and health challenges. Since the Palaszczuk government announced we were taking the next step to ban single-use plastic items people often ask me whether they will still be able to get the items they need to care for their spouse, child, brother or sister, parent or client with disability. I am glad to confirm that this legislation puts the needs of people with disability front and centre.

Persons with a Disability Australia, a peak body for people with disabilities, gave evidence that all current alternatives to single-use plastic straws have at least one flaw for people with disability: metal and bamboo straws can be difficult to use; pasta and paper straws can create choking risks; and glass and paper straws cannot cope with hot drinks. Under the exemptions contained in this bill people with permanent or temporary disability and healthcare needs will be able to obtain single-use plastic straws from pharmacies, hospitals, dental and medical clinics and medical supply businesses. Those same businesses, institutions and organisations will be able to purchase and supply otherwise banned single-use plastic items to those who need them. These exemptions will ensure that the most vulnerable people in our communities are not disadvantaged by this ban and can continue to access the plastic items they need to give them dignity in their everyday lives.

I note with interest the concerns raised by the member for Southport and his comments that the legislation does not go far enough. While his trip down memory lane was a great exercise in nostalgia, I do note that anecdote does not equal data. Built into this legislation is a pathway for the phasing out of future plastic items and settings that encourage innovation and the development of further products that are environmentally responsible. This bill incentivises the development of cleaner, greener plastic alternatives such as compostable plastic. The exemption for compostable plastic items recognise the success of the Plastic Free Places program, which has reported the elimination of over 6.8 million pieces of plastic across Australia as at the end of 2020. Plastic Free Places is a partnership between the Boomerang Alliance and the Australian Packaging Covenant and is supported by the Queensland government. Plastic Free Places is working directly with food retailers, events, markets and organisations in the community to support a transition from single-use plastic items to re-useable or compostable items.

The exemption also recognises that compostable plastic items currently available offer good alternatives to banned items. The stakeholder advisory group we set up noted the need to ensure that compostable items are clearly labelled and meet Australian standards. The bill defines those items as being compostable under Australian standard AS4736 for industrial composting or AS5810 for home composting. Compostable plastics under these exemptions will need to be clearly labelled or come with written information explaining how to compost them. These requirements will ensure that manufacturers, distributors and consumers have clear information on whether compostable products are a suitable substitute for single-use plastic items.

The bill also contains exemptions for otherwise banned items that are part of pre-packaged products such as that bane of every parent's existence: the plastic straws that attach to juice poppers. Through the Australian Packaging Covenant organisation, manufacturers are working hard to design more sustainable packaging. They are looking at alternatives to items like plastic spoons in pre-packaged yoghurts and instant noodle cup packaging which are integral to those shelf-ready products. The Department of Environment and Science will keep working with the Australian Packaging Covenant organisation and other key stakeholders to find suitable alternatives.

As we implement these world-leading laws to reduce plastic waste and protect waterways and wildlife right across our state, we are making sure that Queensland is the place to be now and for the future. I could not be more pleased to commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.44 pm): I am delighted to have an opportunity to speak to this bill, which aims to ban the supply of what has come to be called single-use plastics. I congratulate the minister, the previous minister and the department for the effort they have put into developing the definitions in the legislation that we rely on. I also sincerely thank all of the stakeholder industry members who, at the cost of their time and effort, have assisted in the development of these definitions. It has involved having to think about different containers and how we best define them. When does a large plate become a platter, for instance?

I have some concerns that I am sure the minister and the department will be able to fix up for small businesses and groups across the seat of Gregory who do not have the same knowledge of the bill. In order to assist them, I do ask the minister to ensure that a statewide publicity and education campaign about the new laws is conducted well before they commence. In this regard, the department

needs to publish a list of the banned items on a website. These items are in such common use that more will be needed, including mainstream and social media campaigns, directing people to that website. With so many different forms of plastic, including modern bioplastics and compostable plastics, it is not clear to the average person what is allowed plastic and what is prohibited. Clarity of communication is really going to be the key to get this going.

The bill particularly targets straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. In order to demonstrate which of these are banned, the department's website should indicate practical alternatives to the banned items. Many of our restaurants and hotels in the seat of Gregory have managed to survive the coronavirus restrictions by selling takeaways as an alternative when limited seating capacity was imposed. This change in business model has been warmly received and some would say it was a godsend. Many of these small businesses, which have never done takeaways before, are suddenly thinking that it is a good business model to continue those takeaways and they would like to retain the takeaway sideline well after the pandemic restrictions are lifted. However, these small business people do not have the time or resources to research what is banned and what are safe alternatives in terms of user safety from burns and spills and 'safe' as in meeting the requirements for food safety and COVID safety requirements as well as 'safe' as in permitted under this new legislation. The laws are also likely to have some impact on community groups such as tuckshops, cake stalls, food charities, junior sports groups, youth groups and church groups.

In recognition of the wideranging impact of the laws not only must the publicity and education campaign be well executed but it must also be timely. As I said, those larger stakeholders who have been in consultation with the department will be well aware of the new laws, but the situation is different for everyone else, including small businesses, community groups and the general public. Without knowing well in advance exactly what will be banned it will be impossible for businesses and community groups to prepare. They need time to run down their existing stocks and replace them with permitted items.

With regard to waste, I do want to raise with the House an understanding of the size of Gregory. We are 460,000 square kilometres in size. We go from Duaranga all the way to Birdsville. In Western Queensland many small towns are excluded from the container exchange program altogether—even Birdsville, where around 15,000 visitors attend just two events in a good winter season. Of course I am talking about the Big Red Bash and the Birdsville Races. I am sure you have seen the pictures of them all hanging out at the pub with cans sitting around the Birdsville pub. Do they have a beverage container exchange? No, they do not. It goes off to landfill somewhere in the pristine Simpson Desert. I would like to see some sort of opportunity for these big events.

We also have the Way Out West Fest, which is a big attraction for many people in our tourism industry during the season. I would like to see the minister and the department work with Diamantina Shire, Winton Shire and all those RAPAD shires that are going to experience one hell of a tourism season—and thank God because they need it. I see the member for Cairns there. Hopefully Cairns gets to pick up some of those tourism dollars too because they desperately need it. We are going to have a decent tourism season.

When it comes to recyclables, the environment and what we are trying to achieve, this is good legislation but we have to try to adapt that legislation to these isolated communities that do not have container exchange programs. We also have to make sure the education process gets out there. I ask the minister, the department and the government to work with those shires because they are more than willing to work with you. I certainly commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (6.49 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. It was my great privilege to serve as the minister for environment and the Great Barrier Reef during the last term of government and to introduce this bill, which Minister Scanlon is now bringing forward for debate. She is already a fantastic environment minister for bringing forward some amendments to this bill that will make all the difference.

Queensland's Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan set out a path forward for reducing single-use plastics, including banning items such as straws, cutlery, plates and stirrers. Of the 20,000 submissions received when we undertook public consultation on this plan, an overwhelming majority—some 94 per cent—supported the introduction of a plastics ban. In fact, many Queenslanders wanted the ban to go further to include other products like polystyrene takeaway food containers and cups. Like everybody else in the House, I am absolutely delighted to see that amendments will be moved to include polystyrene in the items banned under this legislation.

Research has also shown that seven in 10 Queenslanders are already taking steps to reduce their consumption of single-use plastics when away from home. We know that Queenslanders care about the environment and want to ensure our beautiful state is protected for future generations. Plastic has an enormous impact on our environment. About 300 million tonnes of plastic waste is produced every year, and half of all plastic produced is designed to be used only once and then thrown away. Our wildlife feel the direct impacts of plastic waste. Disturbingly, around 90 per cent of all seabirds have ingested some kind of plastic debris, as have about 30 per cent of sea turtles.

It is these drastic impacts on our environment that got the attention of two remarkable young girls—Molly Steer from Cairns and Emily Walker from Townsville—who are Straw No More ambassadors and have been calling for action for several years. I first met Molly in 2017. She has done a remarkable job in raising awareness of the impact of single-use plastic straws on the environment and in particular the Great Barrier Reef. Her movement has had international reach, asking everyone to simply say no to plastic straws.

In 2019 I met another young ambassador for Straw No More, Emily Walker from Townsville, who had an incredibly enthusiastic approach to this issue and for seeing real change around single-use plastics. She told me she wanted to see a legislative solution to the impacts of single-use plastic in our environment. I was delighted when she was named by the Premier as Queensland Young Citizen of the Year in Townsville earlier this year.

It is because of Emily and Molly and other very passionate campaigners like them who want to protect the environment that we are at this point today debating this vital piece of legislation. It is also thanks to wonderful programs across Queensland—like the Plastic Free Places initiative in Noosa, Cairns and Townsville, which have modelled a single-use-plastic-free society and shown us that it can be done and that a small change can have a huge impact.

The Palaszczuk government recognises that action is needed to tackle single-use plastics, and this bill adds to the work we have been doing for years as we tackle the war on waste. In 2018 we introduced the ban on single-use lightweight plastic shopping bags—a move which Queenslanders have embraced. We also implemented the Container Refund Scheme, in which billions of containers have been recycled, millions of dollars have gone back to Queenslanders and hundreds of jobs have been created. I note the enthusiasm now of those opposite for the scheme. There was certainly a lot of not-so-enthusiastic support for the scheme previously, but it is great to hear it now—including the expansion of the scheme into other locations across Queensland. More and more Queenslanders are getting on board to reduce waste and protect the environment, and this legislation will ensure Queensland remains a leader in combatting the war on waste.

We have set the policy settings to support the reduction of single-use plastics in our state and promoted a circular economy along with the jobs it creates. The investments in a circular economy innovation lab as well as the various policies that members on this side of the House have mentioned in their contributions to the debate on this bill are all playing their part in ensuring that we are reducing waste in our environment, in particular the impact of single-use plastics. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (6.55 pm): I thank the minister for not filibustering for the last five minutes because I was hoping to fit my speech in. I rise to contribute to the Waste Reduction and Recycling (Plastic Items) Amendment Bill. This bill has the principal objective of banning the supply of single-use plastic items, starting with straws, stirrers, plates and cutlery. I would also like to put on record my congratulations and thanks to the shadow minister for the environment, the member for Bonney, who has done a fantastic job in this space.

Recycling is something that the LNP has supported for a long time. We will always support practical environmental initiatives, like those that have led to the end of single-use plastic bags. In fact, we went to the 2017 election with that policy—

Ms Pease: How did that go?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take the interjection from the member for Lytton over there. The member for Lytton appears to think that our constituents do not have a voice in this House, but I will give a little bit of a history lesson for the member for Lytton.

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Members, I remind you that the member for Nanango has the floor and you will put your interjections through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: The people of the opposition and the crossbench—

Mr Power: Address the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, the people of the opposition and the crossbench—

Mr Langbroek interjected.

Mr Power interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Logan, I will caution you to stop interjecting.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: He is struggling, Madam Deputy Speaker. In relation to the constituents that we represent, we may not be in government but we have been elected into this great place—just like the member for Lytton and just like the Premier of Queensland—and we have the same right and ability to represent our constituents. Whether the member for Lytton likes it or not, we have been elected into this place.

The arrogance and the hubris that comes from those opposite with those types of statements is what will be the undoing of the Palaszczuk government. I look forward to continuing to stand right here representing my constituents, who support a piece of legislation like this, who support the ban on single-use plastic bags—that was our policy—and who support the container deposit scheme. I was about to talk about an extremely successful container deposit scheme in the electorate of Nanango, but the former environment minister would be sitting there mortified by one of the backbenchers carrying on like this, because it was the Cherbourg MRF—which I will declare my husband had a great deal to do with—that was given an award by the former environment minister.

Ms Pease interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Madam Deputy Speaker, I have no clue what the member for Lytton is going on about but obviously I am not taking her interjections. I am more than happy to if she speaks up.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Members, we have one minute to go.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: In relation to the LNP support for practical environmental measures, we have been leading the charge. That is why we took the benchmark container deposit scheme policy to 2017 election, and guess what happened? The Palaszczuk government adopted it. I was the LNP's policy that we took to that election.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Frecklington, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Hope in a Suitcase

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.00 pm): Hope in a Suitcase is a charitable organisation spreading rapidly across Australia partnering with child safety agencies and caseworkers to assist in helping children to feel worthy, loved and hopeful. Many children in foster care move from home to home with only a few belongings that they carry in a plastic bag which is then dragged around with them to each placement. The mission of Hope in a Suitcase is to provide children entering or currently living in foster care and/or out-of-home care something to call their own to send them a message that they are important and cared for by the community.

In December I sponsored a group of local mothers to come together with their children and pack suitcases for Hope in a Suitcase, South-East Queensland region. These local mothers wanted a chance to empower their children to think of others and appreciate their good fortune by shopping for and packing essential items into suitcases that I provided. Essentials we take for granted like toothpaste, toiletries, clean underwear and a teddy to cuddle are just a few of the items included in each suitcase.

I am pleased to say that in December over 35 full suitcases plus boxes of extra items were provided to Karen Germon, the local coordinator, to be distributed across the Gold Coast. Australian founder Rachael Clancy states—

The effects of 'hope in a suitcase' go beyond the direct impact of the resources they provide. Its empowering and makes room for positive change within our community in a way that nothing else can.

Children with a strong sense of self worth feel competent to cope with the basic challenges of life and feel worthy of success and happiness. It gives them a solid foundation for their learning and development. It is empowering and makes room for positive change in a way that nothing else can.

Lets move from a plastic bag of embarrassment, hurt, shame, fear and insecurity to a suitcase full of HOPE.

Chinese Lunar New Year

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.03 pm): For some cultures the Lunar New Year, also known as Chinese New Year, is the most important holiday across Asia. It is a time of great cultural and historical significance and it is a time to honour the ancestors, the household and heavenly deities. It is also time to bring families together for feasting.

The time for festivals and celebrations coincides with the start of the lunar calendar and falls within the period 21 January to 20 February each year at the time of the new moon. This is a time of the year I relish and I look forward to attending the many celebrations that are held across my electorate. Last year due to COVID-19 many of these events and functions were cancelled, so celebrations this year were especially important.

I would like to acknowledge and honour the many associations and organisations across my community who held ceremonies for the start of the Year of the Ox and 2021. There was much laughter, happiness, exchanging of red envelopes and feeding of the lions who danced across Brisbane's south side and even here in this building.

One of the functions I attended was the Chinese Service Centre Brisbane. They planned a Chinese New Year gala night especially organised for recently arrived migrants. The theme of the gala night was 'new home' with the main purpose to provide a platform for new migrants to network with local community and to boast integration into society where they will feel like they are at home. The event definitely brought a sense of inclusion, cohesion and recognition.

Another event held during the Lunar New Year celebrations was the Southside United Multicultural Association and its monthly cuisine dinner invitation. SUMA was established with the main aim of helping international students living in Brisbane during the COVID-19 lockdown. SUMA liaised with various other community associations to provide and deliver food packages to people in need during the lockdown. Since the end of lockdown SUMA has decided to hold regular meetings at local ethnic restaurants where SUMA not only shares different foods but also shares and partakes in cultural exchange. SUMA focuses on sharing and learning amongst different cultures on the south side of Brisbane with the goal of fostering a deeper understanding and respect for all different cultures.

Whitsundays, Zonta Club

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (7.06 pm): Zonta is an amazing organisation that empowers women through service and advocacy. The Whitsundays Zonta Club embodies this, and last Saturday it hosted the 17th Whitsundays Zonta Club annual International Women's Day event, which I quite proudly attended. You could not feel anything but empowerment to be amongst those fabulous and resilient women of the Whitsundays.

I would like to highlight two young leaders in our community who were past recipients of the Zonta Young Women in Public Affairs Award and who came and gave us an update some years after receiving that bursary. Cassidy Heywood, who attended university and started with engineering before changing to become an environmental scientist, has a passion for conservation and natural resource management. There is no better place to work than our Whitsundays, looking after our islands, coastlines and waterways. She currently works for Reef Catchments and has developed a leadership program where school students come together to engage and undertake environmental conservation projects and initiatives that aim to showcase opportunities and career pathways through experience. Cassidy is committed to sharing her passion and showcasing her leadership through this initiative and I commend her for her effort.

Tia Gibbs has almost completed a diploma. She has been accepted into RMIT to next year undertake a Bachelor of Fashion. Tia showcased her inspiring wearable art, which can be seen at our annual Great Barrier Reef Festival. Her passion, creativity and innovation amazed us all. My favourite, which was an absolute highlight of her presentation, was the recycling of a trampoline as a dress after Cyclone Debbie. It was extraordinary and the most amazing couture.

Mez Bowen, who is the president of Zonta Whitsundays, inspired us all with a presentation of the amazing women who hold political leadership roles all around the world. Given that it was International Women's Day yesterday and the celebrations continue this week, I think it is timely for us all to be encouraged to choose to challenge, no matter our political persuasion or the level of government we represent.

In total they raised \$14,000 on the day with the support of our amazing local business community made up of many tourism operators who are doing it very tough but still donated so kindly to our local club. This club contributes to our local community with the funds raised as outlined. It continues to deliver bursaries to support our next generation of women leaders. Zonta Whitsundays needs to be congratulated on its effort in improving the lives of women each and every day across our community.

Bundamba Electorate

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (7.09 pm): Our local Ipswich community is once again enjoying a productive and successful year. On Saturday we hosted the inaugural Rugby League Ipswich All Stars game at the iconic North Ipswich Reserve. The clash between the Ipswich All Stars and Indigenous All Stars had humble beginnings late last year.

It was an idea first floated by former players Corey Kirk and Craig Wehrman to raise money for our local clubs that did it tough during a COVID interrupted 2020. Fast-forward a few months, and all of the hard work has paid off. Much more than a celebration of sport, the weekend was all about coming together through community and culture. It is a theme we continue to focus on as a government that is committed to walking the path to treaty and building on our foundation of respect, agreement and truthfulness. That is what our local community is all about. We dig deep for each other, we lend a helping hand and we share successes.

I am proud to say that our Ipswich residents continue to show that very same spirit. Our Citizen of the Year, Bundamba local Glen Smith, is a passionate arts advocate who co-owns small business Vintage Advantage. Glen is president of Arts Connect and was also part of the Community Event of the Year, a cent auction that raised \$3,300 for the Pine Mountain and Districts Rural Fire Brigade. Young Citizen of the Year Blake Wesbro is one of the driving forces behind Riverview's successful Black Coffee network. Blake works with Wesbro Services, an NDIS registered Aboriginal disability service provider that continues to deliver vital support across our community.

This year we have also celebrated the success of self-taught Bundamba illustrator Emma Cracknell. Emma produced the pictures for *Is This Your Egg?*, a children's book that is now part of the State Library of Queensland's Stories for Little Queenslanders program, fostering a passion for reading among our families.

On the subject of literacy and learning, our schools are having a busy start to the new year. I was proud to attend the student investiture at Ripley Valley State Secondary College, and I recently spoke with students at Goodna State School as part of Heroes Day. I had the pleasure of joining my local federal colleague the member for Oxley, Milton Dick, in presenting new flags to students and staff at Goodna State Special School. The school's new \$11.1 million general learning building is now open as part of our ongoing investment in world-class education.

I also caught up with our newest crossing supervisor, Brenton Wratt, at WoodLinks State School in Collingwood Park. Brenton started in term 1 as part of our \$4.2 million commitment to increase the numbers of crossing supervisors across the state. Of course, we are also delivering record numbers of teachers and teacher aides in Queensland schools as our safe and strong economic recovery continues.

Coronavirus, Queensland Border

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.12 pm): I rise in the House tonight to fight for the devastated tourism operators in the border community of my electorate of Currumbin. These businesses need this government's help and targeted industry support. It is no secret that tourism operators have struggled immensely throughout COVID-19, so it was good to see the small win for Cairns tourism this week, but there are other businesses in exactly the same economic position in the border community that also need state relief.

Gold Coast business operators are extremely reliant on international tourism and are desperate for targeted support—and they need it now. It has not been viable for tourism operators such as the Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary and the TreeTop Challenge to keep their doors open seven days a week. The sad reality is that they can operate only a few days a week because the visitors are not there. Take a local favourite and tourism dependent business, Gold Coast Skydive. A massive 55 per cent of its business relies on international tourism. Monday to Friday it is struggling.

Tourism businesses on the Gold Coast need targeted help from this state government to see them through this crisis. The ripple effects of COVID-19 threaten to wipe out many ailing businesses in my community and, just as disaster relief flows to businesses affected by a natural disaster, COVID-19

is a disaster that has hit this community. It requires the activation of targeted relief to kickstart the recovery of businesses impacted by border closures and COVID-19 restrictions. Do not get me wrong: there are businesses on the border doing really well, thriving in fact. These are businesses whose trade has been based in and filled by the Currumbin community. But there are tourism operators, just as there are in Cairns, who are on their knees that this government must also help.

Quite frankly, part of the reason tourism businesses on the border are bleeding out is their proximity to the border. People are not coming close to the border because of the uncertainty around border closures. Just as Cairns is struggling to attract tourists by air, on the border businesses are also struggling to encourage people to visit. We need the government to step up and support these Gold Coast businesses with targeted relief to encourage the domestic market to explore their brilliant tourism offerings. This government's losing major tourist events such as the WSL Corona Open to New South Wales does not help. This is millions of dollars in lost revenue, and it is the businesses on the border that are bearing the brunt of this, suffering the cost of this choice by this government. This is no fictional television show. Winter is actually coming. These businesses need the state government to step up and support them with targeted relief.

International Women's Day

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.15 pm): This year's theme for International Women's Day is, of course, Choose to Challenge. It celebrates the extraordinary strength, dedication and passion of women everywhere to shape a more equal future in the midst of the pandemic. In my electorate of Algeria, many women are making a positive impact in our community every day. They own the present, speak their truth, embrace leadership for change and are passionate about building a better future.

As part of International Women's Week activities I had the privilege of being part of Calamvale Community College's Women in Leadership breakfast and Q and A panel. On the panel I joined the inspirational Dr Elise Stephenson, who has travelled globally and written extensively spreading awareness about female empowerment, and Kaylee Clark, who is the finance manager at Clark's Logan City Bus Service and advocates strongly for young people to enter the transport industry.

The discussions and stories shared were thought provoking and inspiring and provided real-life examples of how women can bring about positive change every day for the future. Following the panel discussion I spoke with school captains Disha Rabari, Erica Ventura, Raha Foroughi and Rabia Farooq, four enthusiastic and driven young women who are passionate about owning their futures. Their questions and their insights were full of hope and aspiration but also reflective of the concerns many women have about the future of women's leadership in this country.

As we bear witness to the events currently playing out in our federal parliament and the pressures that seem to be unique in many ways to women in leadership—certainly the treatment of leaders such as former prime minister Julia Gillard was discussed in this panel during this breakfast—many of the girls and women present questioned whether things had in fact really changed all that much. One question asked on that day has stayed with me in conversation since: 'Who inspired you to put your hand up for leadership?' I thought about my grandmother, a Kaantju woman who endured unspeakable discrimination under successive government policies, and my mother, one of the strongest women I know. I thought about the women of Quandamooka who fought for our native title determination for over 15 years and today continue to fight for Quandamooka people to exercise their native title rights and interests in the face of great challenges, including what appears to be the deliberate actions of the LNP and the Greens to foster division of families to serve their own agendas. It is the right of First Nation people to determine their own futures, and that is spoken through native title determination. It is not the place of politicians to get in the middle of families. As we choose to challenge, the women of Quandamooka will continue to do just that.

Road Safety

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.18 pm): There is an horrendous situation happening on our roads throughout Queensland with the absolutely tragic death toll we have seen emerge. In the last few months alone we have seen more than 50 fatalities as a result of crashes within Queensland. This is 18 fatalities more than for the same period in the previous year and 11 fatalities more than the previous five-year average for the same period. This story means that many families have been ripped asunder by tragedy in terms of losing loved ones, having other loved ones suffer hospitalisation and by the ongoing impacts of injury.

Something has to happen and we have to focus on this, because while there has been a need to concentrate on the COVID response there has also been a stripping away of traffic police for many regions. On the Sunshine Coast alone I have been told that there have been times when there has only been one traffic police vehicle in operation across a region of 340,000 people. That is probably replicated in many other areas, and I call on the state government to put the resources back into our policing force on the roads. There has been an explosion of hooning across many communities. Some people may think that this is harmless, but where we do not address dangerous behaviour on our roads this will continue to grow and people who are doing the wrong thing and driving dangerously—not just in a noisy way which is destroying the amenity, which in itself is offensive, but driving dangerously—are putting lives at risk.

The road toll is out of control and is a disgrace, but we have to see the return of resources to our police who have been doing a magnificent job in enforcing the law across the multitude of their responsibilities. We know it is a tough job, but they need to have the resources to do it. The road toll demonstrates the need for resources for our transport officers. I call on the state government to fund those joint operations between transport officers and police that used to be so effective. Police officers say they want that because transport officers understand and are able to enforce the law with regard to illegally modified vehicles, but I understand that those joint operations cannot occur because those resources have not been made available to bring transport officers back. We need to police this, get the road toll down and get on top of this problem.

Springwood Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (7.21 pm): I have a lot of fond memories from growing up in Logan, but sitting in traffic on the M1 is not one of them. Today around 150,000 commuters use the M1 between Eight Mile Plains and Daisy Hill each day, but by 2041 that is tipped to reach around 202,000. That is why the Palaszczuk government is delivering the most significant infrastructure project our community has seen. We are building a better M1 right now. We are delivering the current stage—a \$750 million jointly funded project that supports 721 jobs at a time when jobs are needed the most. We are building arguably the highest capacity stretch of motorway in the nation, with a busway and veloway through to Loganholme as well. However, upgrading our roads is not just saving our commuters and families time; it is saving local businesses money too, and that translates to local jobs.

Once complete, we will deliver a \$28.3 million economic benefit just in travel time reliability alone for our local community, because knowing when goods are going to arrive is a crucial part of running any business. Transport reliability equals business confidence and that delivers jobs. We are also delivering the South East Busway extension from Eight Mile Plains to Springwood as part of stage 2 of the upgrade and later on we have announced our commitment to continue through to Loganholme. New park-and-rides will be constructed as well, with the first at Rochedale to cater for more than 400 vehicles. All of this means faster travel times, less competition with buses and cars on our local streets and room for an additional 1.7 million public transport passengers.

Not to be outdone is the major schools investment we have secured in our community as well. Along with the member for Mansfield, we are delivering great local schools which are extremely popular. There will be new halls at Rochedale State High and Rochedale South State School. The growing popularity of these schools means that massive pressure has been placed on local roads, in particular the Rochedale Road and Priestdale Road intersection. Our community called for action from the federal government and local councils on this intersection, and a Queensland government initiated investigation found that a signalised intersection was the only viable option for resolving traffic congestion and of course addressing student safety. Our community has been working to bring Logan City Council and Brisbane City Council together and they have delivered a great outcome, so this Saturday a community information session will be held at the Rochedale fruit markets. There will be an opportunity to meet the project team and ask questions around the proposed designs. Like everyone, I want to see this project done, but I want to see it done right. That is why I will be at the information session myself and I hope many members of our community will join me to have their say.

Finally, I want to acknowledge a number of local activists who, like me, are not afraid to stand up for the local infrastructure our community deserves. They include Alia Smith, the Rochedale State High School P&C, the Rochedale State and Rochedale South State School P&Cs and of course local Logan city councillor Lisa Bradley.

Hotel Grand Chancellor, Biosecurity Breach Report

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to talk about the recent report on the Hotel Grand Chancellor. This report details some issues, findings and recommendations following the biosecurity breach in quarantine—something which, as the member for Toowoomba North, I continue to raise as a serious concern if this facility were to arrive on Toowoomba's doorstep. Quite simply, this report finds that the systems and processes are not watertight and, as such, I am not satisfied that the community will be safe should a biosecurity breach occur within a facility in Toowoomba. I have repeatedly sought information from both the Premier and the Minister for Health about the plan for a facility and have received nothing.

The report even notes that there are 'heightened levels of anxiety within the broader community and the need for vigilance and rapid action to control the spread'. If this is acknowledged, why have the findings of the report not been discussed with the people of Toowoomba? Why has the detail for the planned facility and the management plan for the facility not been released or discussed in Toowoomba? The system has cracks in it, from infection prevention and control processes to communication, culture and quality assurance. These basic elements need attention. When I ask constituents what they believe the source of transmission was for the biosecurity breach, some believe it was aerosol. In fact, the report details the following—

With the absence of a scientific determination, the cluster is most likely to be the 'result of multiple weaknesses in infection prevention and control practices'.

The infection at the hotel is most likely to be from contact with a surface that was contaminated by virus shed.

Factors associated with infection prevention and control systems likely contributed to the transmission of infection.

Finally—

The review team notes that there was no virus detected on swabs of the air-conditioning systems ... and that accordingly, 'on advice from the hotel, there is no system that "shares air" between ... rooms ...

This does not demonstrate that the system the government wants to bring to Toowoomba is required, but it does certainly need improving. There is no recommendation for a regional centre. A single consistent approach to infection prevention and control across the quarantine hotel system is required. There needs to be installed quality assurance systems to ensure compliance, yet it was reported that no personal hand sanitiser was provided to support hand sanitisation between glove changes when cleaning guests' rooms.

What about communication? Case 5 stated that they found out about the results in the news media. A PowerPoint presentation to the hotel staff was shown to one, not all of the staff. Before we need to look at relocating and changing the built environment, let us look at the system that is in place, let us get it fixed and then let us have an open discussion with the people of Toowoomba about the built environment that this government wants to create in Toowoomba.

Housing and Construction Sector

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.27 pm): The Queensland housing and construction sector is booming. At dawn in my area of Bancroft, local traffic is nearly all tradies' utes and builders' trucks. In December and January at North Harbour in Burpengary East over 100 home sites were settled, and over the course of 2020 some 250 home sites were settled in this new township. It is the same all over Queensland. New housing approvals are 70 per cent higher now than they were in March 2020. New loan commitments for owner-occupiers are now 51 per cent higher than in March 2020.

We are experiencing the highest investment in new homes since 1994 and this means more jobs for Queenslanders. We have the strongest jobs recovery in the nation, with 224,000 jobs returning since May last year. The total number of full-time jobs has now recovered to pre-pandemic levels. There are now 275,000 additional jobs in Queensland compared to when the Palaszczuk government came to office. This housing and jobs growth is not an accident; it is from the hard work of the Palaszczuk government. The Palaszczuk government's strong health response has been the platform for our economic recovery. We have created an interstate migration boom. Some 88 per cent of interstate migrants, as we heard today from the Treasurer, are coming to Queensland.

Mr McCallum interjected.

Mr WHITING: This is the place for them to be—I take that interjection—and this is fuelling construction and confidence in our great state. We have helped create that confidence through our administration of the HomeBuilder program, our First Home Owners' Grant and our regional Building Boost. That is why consumer confidence is rising in Queensland and that is why our streets are filled with builders' trucks and tradies' utes.

Every time we talk about the economic recovery under the Palaszczuk government we hear members of the Queensland LNP saying, 'Thank you, ScoMo. Thank you, Prime Minister, for that.' Let us give those opposite a reality check. The states have done their fair share of heavy lifting to build our national economic recovery. The state share of national debt will rise from an average of 13 per cent 10 years ago to 29 per cent by 2024. We have borrowed and invested and we have stimulated the economy. We can do this because state government debt was lower before the COVID-19 recession.

During the address-in-reply debate LNP members have constantly bemoaned the size of our debt, yet this was the economic instrument that has built the platform for economic recovery across Australia. Those opposite forget that the federal Liberals doubled the federal debt before the pandemic.

The House adjourned at 7.30 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting