



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT

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TUESDAY, 11 OCTOBER 2016



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Peter Wellington, Nicklin) read prayers and took the chair.

For the sitting week, Mr Speaker acknowledged the traditional custodians of the land upon which this parliament is assembled.

ASSENT TO BILLS



Mr SPEAKER: 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 P.W. Wellington MP
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

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: 23 September 2016

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Constitution of Queensland 2001 and the Parliament of Queensland Act 2001 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Australian Crime Commission (Queensland) Act 2003, the Fire and Emergency Services Act 1990, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, the Weapons Act 1990 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Child Protection Act 1999 for particular purposes"

"A Bill for an Act to amend the Criminal Code, the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011, the Public Health Act 2005 and the Queensland Institute of Medical Research Act 1945 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 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

23 September 2016

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 23 September 2016, from his Excellency the Governor advising of assent to certain bills on 23 September 2016 [[1761](#)].

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports




Hon. MC BAILEY (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (9.31 am): I rise on a matter of privilege. On 13 September 2016, I released a media statement about the vote on a motion about federal road funding held in the House on that day. I had interpreted the LNP opposition's failure to express support for the motion as opposition to the motion.

Having reviewed all relevant circumstances, I now understand that my interpretation and statement that the 'LNP Opposition ... voted against' the motion, contained in paragraphs two and 11 of the media statement, was inaccurate. I apologise unreservedly for this error.

REPORT


Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General report No. 2 for 2016-17 titled *Forecasting long-term sustainability of local government*. I table the report for the information of members.


Tabled paper: Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 2: 2016-17—Forecasting long-term sustainability of local government [[1762](#)].

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


National Amputee Awareness Week

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise that today is the final day of National Amputee Awareness Week. Limbs 4 Life has invited members to wear a red ribbon on their lapels today to show their support for amputees. This campaign aims to reduce the stigma and social exclusion often experienced by amputees and to raise awareness of the growing incidence of amputation among our diabetic and Indigenous population.

Microphones in Chamber

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I remind honourable members of the importance of ensuring that their microphone is not activated when they are not speaking in the House. Having more than two microphones activated at once can create feedback and can make it difficult to hear the member who has the call. I ask members to ensure that their microphone is turned off when they resume their seat after speaking and to be careful not to place items on the microphone button on their desks.

Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House by a Member, Correspondence

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 15 September 2016 I made a ruling regarding an allegation by the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services of deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Surfers Paradise. In accordance with practice, at that time I also tabled documents relating to that matter. Unfortunately, the documents tabled at that time did not correctly reflect all the correspondence I received on this matter. This was an error. I now table the correct correspondence related to that matter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 8 August 2016, from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services, Hon. Cameron Dick, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [[1763](#)].

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 September 2016, from the member for Surfers Paradise, Mr John-Paul Langbroek MP, to the Speaker, Hon. Peter Wellington, regarding an allegation of deliberately misleading the House [[1764](#)].

PETITIONS

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

Pinjarra Hills, Footpath

Dr Rowan, from 56 petitioners, requesting the House to install a cement footpath from the RSL Care Fairview Retirement Community Pinjarra Hills to the new shopping centre being built at the old CSIRO development [[1765](#)].

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

The Spit, Master Plan

Mr Langbroek, from 554 petitioners, requesting the House to facilitate the creation and implementation of a community driven Master Plan for The Spit [[1766](#)].

Coomera, Foxwell Road, Roadworks

Mr Crandon, from 982 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake the essential and necessary roadworks to upgrade Foxwell Road Coomera, between the Pacific Motorway at Exit 54 and Coomera Railway Station [[1767](#)].

Petitions received.

TABLED PAPERS

PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS

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

16 September 2016—

- [1553](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 33, 55th Parliament—Consideration of the Auditor-General's Report 17 for 2015-16: Results of audit—local government entities 2014-15
- [1554](#) Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee: Report No. 34, 55th Parliament—Annual Report 2015-2016
- [1555](#) Response from the Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Trad) to a paper petition (2620-16) presented by Mr Cripps, a paper petition (2621-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), and an ePetition (2569-16) sponsored by Mr Cripps, from 4,271, 175 and 4,310 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to not support the Vegetation Management (Reinstatement) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill in its current form and reject any amendments that would water down existing property rights, remove opportunities for sustainable agricultural production, or jeopardise job creation in regional communities
- [1556](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 18, 55th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General's Report 11: 2014-15 Maintenance of public schools
- [1557](#) Agriculture and Environment Committee: Report No. 23, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 May 2016 and 14 June 2016
- [1558](#) Response from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) to a paper petition (2619-16) presented by Mrs Smith, and an ePetition (2581-16) sponsored by Mrs Smith from 57 and 7,090 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to observe international evidence-based best practice and ensure children are six years of age or older to commence being formally taught an incremental age-appropriate national curriculum; all learning prior to age six, including prep, is play-based; and the data collection and reporting burden on teachers is reduced to maximise engage teaching time
- [1559](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Hinchliffe) to an ePetition (2580-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3), from 212 petitioners, requesting the House to expand bus services to Woodlands and the Vale Estates by the end of 2016
- [1560](#) Controlled Operations Committee—Annual Report 2015-16

19 September 2016—

- [1561](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 25, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 10 May 2016 and 14 June 2016
- [1562](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 19, 55th Parliament—Inquiry into Auditor-General Report to Parliament 2: 2015-16 Road safety—traffic cameras, government response
- [1563](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 39, 55th Parliament—Review of the Auditor-General's Report to Parliament 4: 2013-14 Follow up—Management of offenders subject to supervision in the community
- [1564](#) Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee: Report No. 40, 55th Parliament—Report on various Auditor-General reports referred to the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in 2015 and 2016

21 September 2016—

- [1565](#) Surveyors Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1566](#) Valuers Registration Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1567](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on a visit to the United Kingdom by the Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport (Hon. Pitt) to attend meetings, 8 August 2016—10 August 2016

22 September 2016—

- [1568](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport (Hon. Pitt) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Motor Accident Insurance Regulation 2004
- [1569](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 18, 55th Parliament—Consideration of Auditor-General's Report 11: 2014-15 Maintenance of public schools: Erratum
- [1570](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Continuous quality improvement standard (version 3)
- [1571](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Credentials and clinical privileges standard (version 4)
- [1572](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Ethics standard (version 2)
- [1573](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Infection control standard (version 3)
- [1574](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Information management standard (version 4)
- [1575](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Management and staffing standard (version 6)
- [1576](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Minimum patient throughput standard (version 5)
- [1577](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Patient care standard (version 5)
- [1578](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Physical environment standard (version 5)
- [1579](#) Private Health Facilities Act 1999: Specialty health services standard (version 5)

26 September 2016—

- [1580](#) Office of the Information Commissioner—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1581](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Hon. Donaldson) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Regulation 1998 and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Regulation 1999
- [1582](#) QRAA—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1583](#) Queensland Agricultural Training Colleges—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1584](#) Safe Food Production Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1585](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries—Annual Report 2015-16

27 September 2016—

- [1586](#) Auditor-General of Queensland: Report to Parliament No. 1: 2016-17—Strategic procurement
- [1587](#) Queensland Ombudsman: An investigation into the action taken by Queensland Corrective Services in response to overcrowding at Brisbane Women's Correctional Centre, September 2016
- [1588](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 19, 55th Parliament—Grammar Schools Bill 2016
- [1589](#) Response from the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Hon. Donaldson) to a paper petition (2627-16) presented by Mr Knuth, from 920 petitioners, requesting the House to research and develop a long-term management solution into Navua Sedge; establish a Navua Sedge pilot program on the Atherton Tablelands and continue spraying roadsides and verges at the minimum rate of five per year
- [1590](#) Education, Tourism, Innovation and Small Business Committee: Report No. 20, 55th Parliament—Gene Technology (Queensland) Bill 2016

29 September 2016—

- [1591](#) Annual Report of Electorate and Communication Allowance Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2015—30 June 2016
- [1592](#) Annual Report of General Travel Allocation Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2015—30 June 2016
- [1593](#) Annual Report of Air Warrant and Alternate Travel by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2015—30 June 2016
- [1594](#) Annual Report of Travel Benefits Afforded to Former Members of the Legislative Assembly—2015-16
- [1595](#) Screen Queensland Pty Ltd—Financial Statements 2015-16
- [1596](#) Letter, dated 13 September 2016, from Linda Apelt, Chair, Screen Queensland Pty Ltd, to the Premier regarding the Screen Queensland Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2016
- [1597](#) Commissioner for Mine Safety and Health: Queensland Mines Inspectorate—Annual Performance Report 2015-16
- [1598](#) Board of Examiners—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1599](#) Coal Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1600](#) Mining Safety and Health Advisory Committee—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1601](#) Queensland Parliamentary Service—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1602](#) Response from the Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Ms Grace) to an ePetition (2608-16) sponsored by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(4) from 154 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the strong animal welfare and integrity measures that are now in place in the Queensland racing greyhound industry; the determination to maintain high standards against those caught live baiting; and to continue working with registered owners, trainers, breeders and greyhound racing clubs to ensure a bright future for the industry in this state
- [1603](#) Tourism and Events Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1604](#) Department of Tourism, Major Events, Small Business and the Commonwealth Games—Annual Report 2015-16

30 September 2016—

- [1605](#) Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1606](#) Department of Environment and Heritage Protection—Financial Statements 2015-16
- [1607](#) Department of Education and Training—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1608](#) Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1609](#) Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1610](#) TAFE Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1611](#) Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1612](#) Public Safety Business Agency—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1613](#) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1614](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1615](#) Anti-Discrimination Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1616](#) Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Corporation—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1617](#) Legal Practitioners Admissions Board—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1618](#) The Public Trustee of Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1619](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Annual Report 2015-16

- [1620](#) Department of State Development—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1621](#) GasFields Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1622](#) Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1623](#) Crime and Corruption Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1624](#) Prostitution Licensing Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1625](#) Building and Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1626](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1627](#) WorkCover Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1628](#) Queensland Rail—Annual and Financial Report 2015-16
- [1629](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Hon. Hinchliffe) to a paper petition (2628-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 187 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately and permanently remove Swan Street, Wylah Street and Creek Road Noosaville from bus routes
- [1630](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 26, 55th Parliament—Public Health (Medicinal Cannabis) Bill 2016
- [1631](#) Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1632](#) Department of Housing and Public Works—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1633](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1634](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1635](#) Board of Architects of Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1636](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1637](#) Stadiums Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1638](#) QIC—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1639](#) QIC—Statement of Corporate Intent 2015-16
- [1640](#) QIC Limited—Consolidated annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2016
- [1641](#) QIC Private Capital Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2016
- [1642](#) QIC Properties Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2016
- [1643](#) Queensland Competition Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1644](#) Queensland Productivity Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1645](#) Queensland Treasury Corporation—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1646](#) Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1647](#) Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1648](#) Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1649](#) Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1650](#) Office of the Governor—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1651](#) Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Report No. 97—Review of the Crime and Corruption Commission, interim government response
- [1652](#) Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1653](#) Building Queensland—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1654](#) Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1655](#) South Bank Corporation—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1656](#) Board of the Queensland Museum—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1657](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1658](#) Queensland Art Gallery—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1659](#) Queensland Performing Arts Centre—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1660](#) Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1661](#) Department of Premier and Cabinet—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1662](#) Public Service Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1663](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) to a paper petition (2613-16) presented by Mr Seeney, from 280 petitioners, two paper petitions (2629-16 and 2630-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 619 and 9 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reject the Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill, a paper petition (2616-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 252 petitioners, requesting the House to vote against the Abortion Reform Bill, and a paper petition (2626-16) presented by the Clerk in accordance with Standing Order 119(3) from 521 petitioners, requesting the House to reject any changes to current Queensland abortion legislation
- [1664](#) Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Annual Report 2015-16

- [1665](#) Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Financial Statements 2015-16
- [1666](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1667](#) Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1668](#) Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1669](#) PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1670](#) Sunshine Coast Health Foundation—Annual Report 2015-16
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- [1700](#) Queensland Law Reform Commission—Annual Report 2015-16
- [1701](#) Notice under sections 44(5) and 52(5) of the Financial and Performance Management Standard 2009 regarding the Queensland Racing Integrity Commission's financial statements and annual report for the period 1 May 2016 to 30 June 2016
- [1702](#) Racing Queensland—Annual Report for Queensland All Codes Racing Industry Board 2015-16
- [1703](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Annual Report 2015-16
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- [1736](#) Sunwater—Statement of Corporate Intent 2015-16
 - [1737](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Mr C R Dick) to a paper petition (2635-16) presented by Mr Last, from 1,256 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the return of services, particularly maternity services, to the Bowen Hospital providing a safer maternity model for Bowen families
 - [1738](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Ms D'Ath) to an ePetition (2591-16) sponsored by Hon. Trad, from 433 petitioners, requesting the House to remove the potential for provocation to be used in defence of an individual who has committed an act of murder, by enshrining in legislation that an alleged unwanted homosexual advance cannot be used as an application of the provocation defence
 - [1739](#) Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 27, 55th Parliament—Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
 - [1740](#) Response from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Dr Miles) to an ePetition (2596-16) sponsored by Mr Perrett, from 732 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately excise Corella SF700 from the Curra State Forest, or issue a lease to the local council for a sporting shooters range complex
 - [1741](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games (Mr Hinchliffe) to an ePetition (2593-16) sponsored by Mrs Stuckey, from 530 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure thorough community consultation regarding the route proposal for light rail in Palm Beach with residents who live in this location
- 10 October 2016—
- [1742](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Education (Accreditation of Non-State Schools) Regulation 2001
 - [1743](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Grammar Schools Regulation 2004
 - [1744](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the University of the Sunshine Coast Statute No. 1 (Making and Notifying University Rules) 2004
 - [1745](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Major Events (Hon. Jones) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the University of the Sunshine Coast Statute No. 2 (Review of Payment Demand for the Removal and Detention of Vehicles) 2004
 - [1746](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 24, 55th Parliament—Major Sports Facilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016
 - [1747](#) Transportation and Utilities Committee: Report No. 25, 55th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 25 May 2016 and 14 June 2016
 - [1748](#) Finance and Administration Committee: Report No. 30, 55th Parliament—Portfolio subordinate legislation tabled between 11 May and 14 June 2016
 - [1749](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Housing and Public Works (Hon. de Brenni) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Architects Regulation 2003, Building and Construction Industry Payments Regulation 2004, Manufactured Homes (Residential Parks) Regulation 2003, Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003, Standard Plumbing and Drainage Regulation 2003, Professional Engineers Regulation 2003, Queensland Building and Construction Commission Regulation 2003 and Residential Services (Accreditation) Regulation 2002

- [1750](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services (Hon. Byrne) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Corrective Services Regulation 2006
- [1751](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on an Official Trade and Investment Mission to Indonesia and China by the Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries (Hon. Donaldson), 4-10 September 2016
- [1752](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef (Hon. Dr Miles) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Coastal Protection and Management Regulation 2003 and the Nature Conservation (Macropod) Conservation Plan 2005
- [1753](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Coal Mining Safety and Health Regulation 2001
- [1754](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Explosives Regulation 2003
- [1755](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Regulation 2001
- [1756](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Regulation 2004
- [1757](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Petroleum Regulation 2004
- [1758](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Stock Route Management Regulation 2003
- [1759](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines (Hon. Dr Lynham) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Water Regulation 2002
- [1760](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills (Hon. D'Ath) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Associations Incorporation Regulation 1999, Casino Control Regulation 1999, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999, Fair Trading (Code of Practice-Fitness Industry) Regulation 2003, Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Regulation 1998, Introduction Agents Regulation 2002, Liquor (Approval of Adult Entertainment Code) Regulation 2002, Liquor Regulation 2002, Retail Shop Leases Regulation 2006, Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulation 2004, Tourism Services (Code of Conduct for Inbound Tour Operators) Regulation 2003, Tourism Services Regulation 2003, Trust Accounts Regulation 1999 and the Wagering Regulation 1999

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Aboriginal Land Act 1991—

- [1768](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2016, No. 166
- [1769](#) Aboriginal Land Amendment Regulation (No. 4) 2016, No. 166, explanatory notes

Animal Care and Protection Act 2001—

- [1770](#) Animal Care and Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 167
- [1771](#) Animal Care and Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 167, explanatory notes

Water Reform and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2014—

- [1772](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 168
- [1773](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 168, explanatory notes

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Geothermal Energy Act 2010, Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, Mineral Resources Act 1989, Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004—

- [1774](#) Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Regulation 2016, No. 169
- [1775](#) Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Regulation 2016, No. 169, explanatory notes

Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014—

- [1776](#) Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Transitional Regulation 2016, No. 170
- [1777](#) Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Transitional Regulation 2016, No. 170, explanatory notes

Keno Act 1996—

[1778](#) Keno Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 171

[1779](#) Keno Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 171, explanatory notes

Environmental Protection Act 1994—

[1780](#) Environmental Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 172

[1781](#) Environmental Protection Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 172, explanatory notes

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994—

[1782](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 173

[1783](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 173, explanatory notes

Public Safety Business Agency and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016—

[1784](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 174

[1785](#) Proclamation commencing certain provisions, No. 174, explanatory notes

Food Act 2006, Private Health Facilities Act 1999—

[1786](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) Regulation 2016, No. 175

[1787](#) Health Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) Regulation 2016, No. 175, explanatory notes

Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, Mining and Quarrying Safety and Health Act 1999—

[1788](#) Mining Safety and Health Legislation (Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 176

[1789](#) Mining Safety and Health Legislation (Coal Workers' Pneumoconiosis and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 176, explanatory notes

Commonwealth Games Arrangements Act 2011—

[1790](#) Commonwealth Games Arrangements Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 177

[1791](#) Commonwealth Games Arrangements Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 177, explanatory notes

Fisheries Act 1994—

[1792](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 178

[1793](#) Fisheries Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 178, Explanatory Notes

Forestry Act 1959—

[1794](#) Forestry (State Forests) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 179

[1795](#) Forestry (State Forests) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 179, explanatory notes

Education and Care Services Act 2013, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Overseas Students) Act 1996, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005, Education (Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority) Act 2014—

[1796](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 180

[1797](#) Education Legislation (Fees) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 180, explanatory notes

Industrial Relations Act 1999—

[1798](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 181

[1799](#) Industrial Relations Amendment Regulation (No. 1) 2016, No. 181, explanatory notes

Agricultural Chemicals Distribution Control Act 1966, Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988—

[1800](#) Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 182

[1801](#) Agriculture and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2016, No. 182, explanatory notes

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994—

[1802](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 183

[1803](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Primary Industry Productivity Enhancement Scheme) Amendment Regulation 2016, No. 183, explanatory notes

MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services (Hon. CR Dick)—

[1804](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. CR Dick) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996, Health Regulation 1996, Mental Health Regulation 2002, Pest Management Regulation 2003 and the Transplantation and Anatomy Regulation 2004

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled—

Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. MC Bailey)—

[1805](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply (Hon. Bailey) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Planning and Coordination Regulation 2005

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Kowanyama

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.35 am): Last Friday, I was in North Queensland as reports came in of a tragedy unfolding in Kowanyama. Like all Queenslanders, I was saddened and horrified to hear that the woman who lost her life and another 25 people, who suffered horrific injuries, had been attending a funeral for another member of the community.


While this incident is subject to an ongoing police investigation, I want to acknowledge the grief, suffering and resilience of the Kowanyama community. On behalf of the government, I want to express my support for the community. I have spoken directly to the mayor, Michael Yam, to reaffirm our support.

The Treasurer in his capacity as Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the member for Morayfield as assistant minister and ministerial champion for Kowanyama travelled to the community yesterday. I thank them for that. The Treasurer and the assistant minister relayed to me the community's gratitude for the quick and professional response from key agencies and that they wished to reassure other Queenslanders that the community is working together to support each other.

Additional officers from the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and the Department of Education and Training also travelled to Kowanyama yesterday to provide support for the community. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the local member for Cook and his representations on behalf of the community. I thank the Queensland Police Service for coordinating on-ground efforts with the council. I also thank the staff of the Royal Flying Doctor Service and Queensland Health for attending to the injured. Eleven people were treated in Kowanyama, while another 14 people were airlifted—10 to Cairns and the other four to Townsville. I am advised that five of those treated in Cairns have now been discharged. There is capacity to provide nursing staff to relieve those at the Kowanyama Primary Health Care Centre.

On behalf of the government and the people of Queensland, I wish those injured a full recovery and a safe return to Kowanyama. The injuries suffered are not all physical. There has been a significant impact on the emotional wellbeing of local residents. It will be essential for my government to continue to work with the community to ensure that its residents are supported in the weeks and months ahead.

Rio Paralympic Games, Welcome Home

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.38 am): From 12.30 pm today at King George Square we will welcome home our 2016 Australian Paralympic team. At this event, co-hosted by my government and the Brisbane City Council, Queenslanders will have the opportunity to meet their Paralympian heroes. There will be a public signing with the Paralympians, followed by a presentation by me and the Lord Mayor to the athletes. We will also have Brisbane's Tony Dee performing. Tony was the face and voice of the *Yes I can* song that provided the soundtrack for the viral video *We're the Superhumans* promoting the 2016 Rio Paralympic Games. I will also be co-hosting a private reception with the Lord Mayor, dignitaries, our Paralympians and, of course, their guests.


Celebrations such as these, including the welcome home event for our Olympians in September, are an opportunity for us to show our support for the athletes who have represented our country on the world stage. I am so proud of our Paralympians and honoured to be welcoming them home today.

Australia achieved outstanding results at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. That included 22 gold, 30 silver and 29 bronze medals. Our very own Queensland athletes took out 26 of these medals: seven gold, eight silver and 11 bronze—more than 30 per cent of Australia's total medal tally. Forty-one Queensland Paralympians competed across 10 sports, all of them proudly supported by the Queensland Academy of Sport. Each of our athletes are an inspiration to each and every one of us.

They represent determination, dedication and the true Australian spirit. They should be incredibly proud of their achievements, because we certainly are. Today will be a very fitting celebration to honour those heroes.

I will be reminding the members of the Paralympic team of the opportunity to compete at the Gold Coast Commonwealth Games. Gold Coast 2018 will host the largest parasports program in the history of the Commonwealth Games. We will host up to 300 parasport athletes and 38 medal events across seven sports—an increase of 45 per cent in terms of athlete numbers and 73 per cent more medals compared to those awarded at the Glasgow 2014 Commonwealth Games.

North Queensland

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.40 am): I understand how important it is that the voices of Queenslanders be heard. That is why last week I spent the week working from Townsville alongside my Deputy Premier, the minister assisting me on North Queensland and local members, the member for Townsville and the member for Thuringowa. You cannot make decisions that affect people's lives if you have not been out and about and talked to them.

I had the opportunity to visit Kirwan State High School, along with education minister Kate Jones and the member for Thuringowa, to inspect the new \$2 million bus stop, the new drop and go and car park area, with a \$1.4 million shade structure over the quadrangle to be built and \$600,000 to upgrade the arts building. I met with the Townsville Strikeforce team to hear firsthand about the progress of deployment of extra police officers into the Townsville region and to thank them for their incredibly hard work to date. I travelled to Palm Island with the Deputy Premier and met with Mayor Alf Lacey to discuss initiatives around water security.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, someone is interjecting. Your interjections are disorderly and I will take the appropriate action if I can identify who the person is.


Ms PALASZCZUK: I think it was the member for Kawana.

Mr SPEAKER: If it is the member for Kawana—whoever it is—I ask if you want to interject to be identifiable.

Ms PALASZCZUK: They just do not want to listen to the good news; that is what it is. They do not want to hear any good news. They hate good news. I will start again. I travelled to Palm Island with the Deputy Premier and met with Mayor Alf Lacey to discuss initiatives around water security and the design work to begin next month for a \$16.5 million primary healthcare facility on the island. Also there were Minister O'Rourke and the member for Townsville in his capacity as the local member who had been urging both the Deputy Premier and me to attend. I thank him very much for organising that. I addressed the Townsville business community at the annual CEDA lunch where I spoke about unlocking North Queensland's potential and attended a business forum on the Townsville Stadium and Queen's Wharf projects that was attended by more than 250 business.

The Townsville Hospital's children's ward will receive a \$6.6 million expansion and refurbishment to that space. I thank the Minister for Health for all of his work in this area. I had the opportunity to meet with families and children at the children's wing. I saw my friend Lucy, who was being cared for after stepping on a pufferfish, and also met Cooper and his family. We announced \$14 million for the construction of stage 1 of the Waterfront Promenade with up to 60 jobs expected to be created as part of our Advancing our cities and regions strategy. Townsville has so much to offer. It is a vibrant community. I will work hand in hand with Mayor Jenny Hill, our hardworking local representatives, business leaders and the community to ensure Townsville's future is bright.

Tourism Industry


 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (9.43 am): My government has more great news for Queensland tourism. Hong Kong Airlines will fly two additional services into the Gold Coast and Cairns from December, delivering an extra \$70 million in overnight visitor expenditure to Queensland. These extra flights will boost the highly successful route between Hong Kong, the Gold Coast and Cairns, increasing the number of inbound flights from three to five per week. These additional weekly services have the potential to bring an extra 30,000 inbound passengers and, combined with the existing service, deliver 59,000 seats each year.

The additional flights were secured through the government's Attracting Aviation Investment Fund. I commend the Minister for Education and Minister for Tourism and Events Queensland for her leadership in this area and the work of Tourism and Events Queensland to maximise the benefits from

this fund. These additional flights reinforce the commitment we made in our budget in June for the \$33.5 million Advance Queensland: Connecting with Asia strategy. We know that increasing our airline capacity is key to growing tourism in this state. Already we have secured more than 600,000 extra seats with the potential to bring an extra \$480 million in tourism expenditure into the economy. These flights will deliver more tourism jobs for Queensland. These flights will help achieve the goal of our Queensland Asia Tourism Strategy 2016-2025 to deliver an increase in overnight visitor expenditure from Asian markets to \$6.8 billion and support up to 30,000 additional jobs by 2025.

These extra flights came about through our partnership with Gold Coast Tourism, Cairns Airport, Tourism Tropical North Queensland and Gold Coast Airport. My government works in partnership with business and industry and tourism is an excellent example of the cooperative and partnership approach of this government. In August in Cairns we hosted the very successful Connecting to Asia Forum and we will hold the DestinationQ forum in Mackay on 25 October. We are looking forward to going to Mackay. We are expecting up to 400 tourism industry leaders will join my ministers and key stakeholders at the annual tourism forum.

Infrastructure

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.45 am): I was delighted to join the Premier to announce the Advancing our cities and regions strategy in Townsville last week. This important plank of our economic plan for Queensland will provide major development opportunities, revitalise local communities, help industry, including small to medium enterprises, and provide an income stream that can be reinvested into other infrastructure projects. I want to make clear this is not about asset sales.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Nanango. I understand your sentiments.

Ms TRAD: Queensland governments from both sides of the political spectrum have been buying and selling, leasing, developing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, members. Thank you, member for Callide. You will have ample opportunities to speak and to ask questions if you wish. I ask you to hear the Deputy Premier.

Ms TRAD: Queensland governments from both sides of the political spectrum have been buying, leasing, developing, using and selling land and buildings as part of their normal business activities since 1859.

Mr Seeney interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Callide, if you persist with your interjections you will be warned under the standing orders, and that applies to other members. You will have ample opportunity to question the government today or to speak on matters that you are passionate about.

Ms TRAD: As I was saying, Queensland governments from both sides of the political spectrum have been buying, leasing, developing, using and selling land and buildings as part of their normal business activities since 1859 when the state was created.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr Watts interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have made a number of comments already in relation to interjections. Member for Nanango, you are warned under standing order 253A and, member for Toowoomba North, if you persist you will follow. You are formally warned under 253A.

Ms TRAD: Our plan is about underutilised and surplus state property—property that government departments and agencies no longer need and property that is costing taxpayers to secure and maintain without any return to the state.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, you are now warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Ms TRAD: This is property that Chris Mountford of the Property Council of Australia quite rightly describes as land parcels currently growing weeds. It is about partnering with private industry, communities and local government to renew and repurpose unneeded land into active development opportunities for the benefit of all Queenslanders. It is about providing jobs, creating economic growth and generating an income stream to reinvest into infrastructure across the state.

The Palaszczuk government will never waver on its commitment to keep Queensland's income-producing assets, including electricity, water infrastructure and ports, for all Queenslanders—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I would urge you not to push it too far.

Ms TRAD: The Palaszczuk government will never waver on our commitment to keep Queensland's income-producing assets—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Burleigh, you are warned under 253A. If you persist, I will take the appropriate action.

Ms TRAD:—including electricity, water and ports for all Queenslanders in public ownership, unlike those opposite. The response from industry to the strategy has been overwhelmingly positive, with the Property Council of Australia—

Mr Krause interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause a moment, Deputy Premier. Member for Beaudesert, you are warned under 253A. I will take the appropriate action. I am happy to name everyone if you want to persist and then I will take the appropriate action. Member for Beaudesert, you are on the list.

Ms TRAD: The response from industry to the strategy has been overwhelmingly positive with the Property Council of Australia describing it as a win for—

Mr Crandon interjected.


Mr SPEAKER: Member for Coomera, you are now warned under standing order 253A. I will take the appropriate action if you persist. This is a ministerial statement. You will have ample opportunities, as I have already indicated, to speak on matters that you are passionate about and to question ministers of the government if you choose.

Ms TRAD: The Property Council of Australia described it as 'a win for taxpayers, a win for employment and a big win for local communities'. Master Builders sees our plan as a clear path to delivering an injection of demand to industry and essential services to the community. The Chamber of Commerce and Industry Queensland says that this will be good for our economy. I could not agree more.

To achieve the aims of this strategy, eight economic and community development zones have been identified across Queensland. Those eight zones include innovation and economic development opportunities associated with Cross River Rail; South-East Queensland and regional cities urban renewal projects; health and knowledge precincts at university campuses throughout Queensland; housing renewal and regional liveability precincts; and renewable energy sites. Priority will also be given to four targeted specific place based opportunities in Brisbane through Cross River Rail, the Townsville Waterfront PDA, the Rockhampton CBD revival and the Mill at Moreton Bay.

I have tasked Economic Development Queensland, within the Department of Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning, with leading this initiative. EDQ will ask important questions about key state landholdings that we already have, such as, 'Is this idle or underutilised resource being used to maximise economic and community benefit?', and 'Are there opportunities for unlocking further value for the community that have yet to be explored?' The answer to these questions will help inform our new approach, focused on how we might better use state property to breathe new life into Queensland communities right across the state. EDQ will also collaborate with communities, councils and industry on projects to ensure that they are meeting local needs. The Advancing our cities and regions strategy will grow Queensland's economy and will create jobs, while growing our world-class cities and regions for all Queenslanders.


Kowanyama

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.53 am): I wish to briefly add my thoughts to those of the Premier on the recent incidents in Kowanyama. As the House has heard, yesterday I travelled to the community with the assistant minister and member for Morayfield. We met with the mayor, representatives of the council and service providers to thank them for the work they did following the incident and to assure them that the state government is ready to support their community. I have spoken with the federal Minister for Indigenous Affairs, Nigel Scullion, who has assured me that the federal government stands ready to provide support.

It was clear that people in the community want, as much as possible, to get back to normal. Both men's and women's groups met yesterday following the funeral. A community barbecue will be held tomorrow to assist in the healing process and to bring everyone together. Next week, lifeguard training will kick off at the local school.

The people of Kowanyama have gone through a very traumatic episode and that is going to be something that people will carry with them for some time. Queenslanders and the government will do what we can to help them through this very difficult period.

United States, Overseas Visit

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport) (9.54 am): Last week I was in the US for Queensland Treasury Corporation's post-budget investment trip. The point of the trip was to promote the strong fundamentals of the Queensland economy and our improved economic position delivered over the last two state budgets. We met with institutional investors in both domestic and offshore markets to build on our trusted relationships with existing investors and to diversify Queensland Treasury Corporation's investor base by meeting with new investors. QTC's investors include central banks, sovereign wealth funds, domestic and international banks, fund managers and asset managers.

The engagement in the US was very encouraging and the feedback about Queensland was very positive. Groups we met with included Jane Street, a global proprietary trading firm trading a wide range of financial products; Prudential Financial, which has US\$1.27 trillion in funds under management; and BlackRock, which manages over \$31.5 billion in equity and debt assets and investor commitments.

The key points I raised were our budget and ABS figures that underline the fact that our economy is growing strongly and our economic plan is working to deliver on the government's central commitment to create jobs. They show strong performances in the areas of job creation, residential dwelling approvals, construction activity and consumer spending. State final demand figures show our state's domestic economy growing for the first time since December 2013.

No matter what the evidence, there are some who prefer to stick to a monotonous monologue of doom and gloom, or find or manufacture negativity among all the positive indicators. The reality of our strong and growing state economy and the opportunities it offers are recognised here and abroad by those who deal in the facts. That is what I found on my recent visit to speak with investors, analysts and bankers in the United States.

While I will be providing a full report on the trip, I specifically want to mention one highlight. Our economic plan includes a more aggressive approach to attracting new investment, new businesses and new jobs to Queensland. In the US, I found business operators receptive to the idea of establishing a presence in Queensland given our strong and growing economy, our advantages in lifestyle and living costs, and a supportive government. The incentives we offer include our Industry Attraction Fund, which allocates \$40 million over four years, and our Business Development Fund, which involves the government partnering in new ventures with private sector backers.


In Boston, I visited the premises and laboratories of medical technology developer Cocoon Biotech Inc. and met with Dr Ailis Tweed-Kent, who is the founder and CEO of that company. It was an enlightening meeting and I saw Cocoon's cutting-edge work in exploring new treatments for osteoarthritis. Cocoon's laboratory work so far has developed a special silk fibre that can be loaded with protein therapeutics and injected into joints to provide long-term pain relief or slow the progress of osteoarthritis. This work offers the potential to improve the treatment of the disease and potentially other degenerative joint disorders.

Arthritis Australia estimates the cost to our health system through various treatments and procedures, such as hip replacements, at around \$5.5 billion a year. This figure is projected to grow to \$7.6 billion by 2030. There are enormous potential benefits to individuals from the sort of work Cocoon is doing and massive potential savings to the wider community. Dr Tweed-Kent said—

Cocoon is excited to explore opportunities to establish a presence in the state of Queensland. A partnership with Australia will enable Cocoon to accelerate our pipeline of products into the clinic, improving the lives of patients living with osteoarthritis both in Australia and around the world.

I will be following up with Dr Tweed-Kent and other investors in the US as part of our government's drive to innovate our industries, further diversify our economy and deliver jobs.

Townsville

 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (9.57 am): Last week was a huge week for Townsville as the members for Townsville and Thuringowa and I welcomed the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the cabinet to our wonderful city where the focus is squarely on jobs. Today I am pleased to inform the House that the feedback from on the ground has been absolutely positive. To have the Premier and the cabinet come to Townsville and announce so many huge initiatives was a much needed shot in the arm for our local economy and our city's morale.

We met with local stakeholders, including the mayors and councillors from Townsville and Palm Island, Townsville Enterprise, the local chamber of commerce and Indigenous community groups. I was pleased to join the Premier, Deputy Premier and Minister Lynham at the major project series forum held by the Department of State Development. The forum showed local businesses and contractors how they can benefit and be involved in key projects such as the North Queensland Stadium and even projects happening here in Brisbane such as the Queen's Wharf development.


While in Townsville, the Premier and Deputy Premier joined me to visit some of the patients and staff at the Townsville Hospital children's ward in my electorate. It was great to hear that the \$6.6 million expansion of the children's ward will commence shortly, which will benefit sick kids from across the region and create construction jobs for our local tradies in the process.

I also welcomed the housing minister to my electorate where he inspected the construction of another great local project. I am pleased to say that work is progressing well on two Queensland government-led apartment projects currently being built in Townsville. The projects are worth \$4.9 million and support 80 local jobs.

I was also absolutely delighted to join the Premier and Deputy Premier to announce a new \$28 million waterfront promenade that will link tourist hubs and completely revitalise our CBD. The project is part of our Advancing our cities and regions strategy. The first stage will be underway in the coming months, creating up to 60 local jobs.

To top it all off, we closed out the week with the Townsville port announcement of more than \$1.6 million to expand the port, boosting this vital link to trade and investment while supporting approximately 170 construction and 180 operational jobs. There is no doubt times have been tough for our region, but we are starting to see the green shoots appear. I will not stop advocating for my region to keep the momentum so that we can see the north truly reach its full potential.

Mental Health Week

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.00 am): As I am sure many members are aware, this week is Mental Health Week. The theme for this year focuses on the value of mental health. This may mean dollar figures or monetary value for some people, but I think the real message is about the importance of good mental health and wellbeing.


Mental health does not discriminate. About one in five Australians will experience a mental illness in any given year, and almost half will experience a mental health problem at some point in their lives. That is why it is so important to talk about mental health openly and regularly so that those people who need extra support can feel encouraged to talk about their problems and access the help they need. This support needs to come from all levels and we all have a role to play as members of the community, but as a government we need to lead the way.

This government is doing just that by investing strongly in the mental health of Queenslanders. This week I was proud to release Connecting Care to Recovery, a five-year plan guiding our investment in mental health and alcohol and other drug services. This additional investment of \$350 million over five years will be used to expand mental health, alcohol and other drug services in order to optimise the level and mix of services available to Queenslanders.

In the immediate future, \$3 million of this funding will be used to urgently support existing state funded alcohol and other drug treatment services to meet current demand. The plan also highlights the importance of working collaboratively with non-government and community organisations across the system so that Queenslanders can access the care they need when and where they need it. As good mental health is integral to overall good health and wellbeing, Connecting Care to Recovery follows the guiding principles set out in our strategic plan, Advancing health 2026, which aims to ensure Queenslanders are among the healthiest people in the world by 2026.

I intend to make further announcements this week as to how else this government intends to support Queenslanders with their mental health, particularly with regard to providing support to young people. In closing, I encourage anyone who needs support to phone 13HEALTH on 13432584, the Alcohol and Drug Information Service on 1800177833, or Lifeline on 131114.

Kowanyama


 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services) (10.02 am): I join the Premier in expressing my condolences to the community and the families affected by the terrible incident in Kowanyama. I am pleased to report to the House that our state's health system rose to the challenge of responding to this terrible incident.

In an hour of need and in the hours following health services from across the state united in a way that can only be described as outstanding. I wish to formally acknowledge: the Royal Flying Doctor Service; the Apunimpima Cape York Health Council; Lifeflight; the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service; the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service; the Townsville Hospital and Health Service; and the countless nursing and medical staff, counsellors and volunteers. These groups rushed to the aid of Kowanyama and they gave their all. A total of 14 patients in all were airlifted out of Kowanyama—10 to the Cairns Hospital and four to the Townsville Hospital. It took the system a matter of hours to clear 14 seriously injured patients from one of the most remote communities in the cape.

Amid the chaos, numerous names of those working behind the scenes have emerged and are worthy of mention. I would like to acknowledge some of those today. They are: the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service Chair, Mr Bob McCarthy; the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service Acting Chief Executive, Clare Douglas; and the Townsville Hospital and Health Service Chief Executive, Dr Peter Bristow, and Chair, Mr Tony Mooney. I also wish to acknowledge the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service emergency response team: Mr Michel Lok, the health service Chief Executive; Lyn Wardlaw, the Executive Director Nursing and Midwifery; and Dr Kate McConnon, the executive director of medicine. Mr Josh Stafford, the Remote Director of Nursing, southern sector, flew to Kowanyama in the early afternoon on Friday to help coordinate the response.

I also acknowledge: the Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service nursing staff; the Pormpuraaw nursing team; the RFDS flight staff and medical officers; the QAS field officer living in Kowanyama, Ms Melissa Keune, whose response as an individual clinician was outstanding; the Weipa health service; the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service and the Townsville Hospital and Health Service doctors, nurses and other medical teams; and all those who helped where they could. In the days and weeks to come, as the community works towards recovery from this tragic event, Queensland Health will continue to assist and support the community in any way it can.

Safe Work Month

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (10.04 am): Last week I officially launched Safe Work Month at a free breakfast in King George Square that was attended by hundreds of city workers. The breakfast included plenty of giveaways, information and health checks, but it had a serious message—that is, that workplace safety must be a priority for every Queenslanders.

Queensland Safety Ambassador, Shane Webcke, and Asbestos Safety Ambassador, Trevor Gillmeister, were also there to spread the message about workplace safety. Both know too well what can happen when things go wrong in the workplace. They both lost their fathers to work related incidents—Shane's father in a farm accident and Trevor's to mesothelioma. Shane Webcke will be travelling throughout Queensland during Safe Work Month, attending a series of breakfasts and other events to remind workers and businesses about the need for vigilance in the workplace.


The tragic events at Eagle Farm racecourse last week, which claimed the lives of two construction workers, is a stark reminder of the need for vigilance, particularly on dangerous construction sites. My heart goes out to the family and friends of those who tragically lost their lives. On

behalf of the government and members of this House, I express my deepest sympathy to all of those affected. Workplace Health and Safety Queensland is now conducting a thorough investigation into these events and I expect to receive a report on the investigation as soon as possible.

I have personally spoken with the families of both of the victims and offered them any assistance and support, including access to relevant information. The government will consider any course of action available to avoid a repeat of this tragedy. In recognition of the impact these events can have on families, friends and co-workers, Workplace Health and Safety is providing access to free counselling services. I also want to thank all emergency services personnel who were first on site following this tragic accident.

In addition, support is also available through the Victims Families Support Committee, chaired by Michael Garrels, which was set up by the Palaszczuk government to deliver improved assistance and information to families of workers injured or killed at work. While Queensland's statistics are trending in the right direction, there is far more work to be done. I want to encourage all Queensland workplaces to get behind Safe Work Month and to participate in the events that are taking place throughout the state. Everybody deserves to come home safely at the end of each working day, which is the clear message being spread during Safe Work Month.

Electricity, Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (10.07 am): Two weeks ago an extreme one-in-50-year weather event resulted in South Australia losing power. Before the storm had even passed, some politicians sought to opportunistically use this disaster to push a political agenda when they should have been focused on helping people on the ground impacted by the event.

Without waiting for the facts around what happened—in fact, within hours of it happening—politicians, including later in the day the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister and some of those opposite subsequently, turned South Australia's disaster into an unjustified attack on Queensland's renewable energy target. They pushed the panic button to generate an energy crisis across Australia when there was not one.

I assure the House and the people of Queensland that, as the Palaszczuk guides Queensland's increased use of renewables as a clean, modern source of energy generation, we will maintain a secure and reliable electricity supply. The 2016 electricity statement of opportunities published by the Australian Energy Market Operator shows that Queensland continues to have a secure and reliable electricity supply up to the model period of 2025-26. There is no forecast lack of reserve capacity for Queensland under any scenario modelled by AEMO.


Queensland is different from South Australia. We have a substantially different and more diverse energy generation fleet. The state's diverse mix of electricity generation includes coal generation capacity of about 8,000 megawatts, gas generation of about 2,700 megawatts, hydro generation of about 500 megawatts and bagasse generation of about 700 megawatts. Even as the share of renewables grows, we will continue strong supplies of traditional baseload generation capacity, of which 65 per cent is owned by the people of Queensland.

No power system will be unaffected if a weather event is severe enough, as Queenslanders in Yeppoon and Rockhampton know all too well from the category 5 Cyclone Marcia last year and, of course, North Queenslanders with Cyclone Yasi. The Palaszczuk government is committed to maintaining system security and reliability as we plan to transition towards 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. We know that achieving this target will be challenging and requires careful planning. That is why earlier this year the Palaszczuk government engaged an independent Renewable Energy Expert Panel, chaired by former Macquarie Capital executive Colin Mugglestone, tasked with ensuring that our transition is sustainable and cost-effective and also creates jobs.

The expert panel has engaged closely with the Energy Market Operator to ensure that system security and reliability are at the forefront of our planning. That draft report providing credible pathways to meet a 50 per cent target by 2030 will be released soon. I outlined this last week at the COAG Energy Council's meeting, where it was agreed that Chief Scientist, Dr Alan Finkel, will conduct an independent review of system security and reliability in the national electricity market for the advice of the COAG Energy Council early next year. The Finkel review provides the opportunity for the necessary move towards a more integrated approach to energy and carbon policy. While some of the usual suspects have used the opportunity to undermine renewables, perhaps the one good thing to come out of the

South Australia's recent extreme storm is a strengthened resolve amongst all ministers to manage an effective transition to a sustainable and clean energy future that safeguards a reliable and affordable electricity supply.

Child Protection

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.11 am): On Saturday I visited the Boondall home of long-time foster carer Kerrie Gorman to announce that the Palaszczuk government will hire an additional 82 permanent front-line child safety workers. These new workers, who will be in place by March, will bring down caseloads in Queensland and help to keep our children safe. They are over and above the 166 additional front-line staff in the department since two years ago and will be on top of the 47 extra staff announced in this year's budget.

These additional workers bring our 2016-17 investment to a total of 129 new child safety staff. This new investment means 48 front-line child safety officers, 20 front-line child safety support officers, seven front-line senior team leaders and seven front-line support administrative officers for Queensland. We are restoring front-line and front-line support roles after the LNP's fiscal repair cut 225 workers from the child safety department.


Our child safety staff are dedicated and hardworking Queenslanders. The work they are doing is increasingly complex. Staff are spending more time working with families and it is taking longer to get results. It is only reasonable in the wake of tragedies like the death of Tiahleigh Palmer that Queenslanders have concerns about our child safety system. The reality is that our child safety system has been under pressure for many years. As the Minister for Child Safety, I take responsibility for restoring Queenslanders' confidence in the child safety system. I am responsible for making sure that the system has the resources and the hardworking staff it needs to keep our children safe.

Queenslanders can be confident that these additional front-line workers will help us provide more timely responses to at-risk children and provide more support and casework for children in out-of-home care. We currently have ads on Seek and are conducting a nation-wide search to recruit new staff to come to work for our dynamic department. I am confident that we have the existing partnerships with TAFEs and universities to attract workers to work here in Queensland.

Just last week in Toowoomba at the child safety service centre I met a young social work undergraduate who was working at the centre who was very keen to commence work with the department. I know we will attract the brightest students and they will make a huge difference in supporting some of our most vulnerable families and children. These new workers are a game changer for Child Safety. Caseloads will immediately be reduced to 17 on average across the state, which is the lowest they have ever been in Queensland's history. In addition to our early intervention family support programs and record investment, we will see real outcomes for vulnerable children and families right across Queensland.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports

 **Mr SPRINGBORG** (Southern Downs—LNP) (10.14 am): I table the Crime and Corruption Commission's 2015-16 annual reports to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee in relation to aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000; authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001; and authorities for assumed identities regarding criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2015-16 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [[1806](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2015-16 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [[1807](#)].

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2015-16 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities regarding criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [[1808](#)].

NOTICE OF MOTION

Water Infrastructure



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (10.15 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its failure to cooperate with the federal government to take advantage of proposed funding for vital water infrastructure in Central and Northern Queensland.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Crime



Mr MANDER (Everton—LNP) (10.15 am): Two weeks ago the police minister announced something that was painfully obvious to all Queenslanders—that is, in the last 12 months this soft-on-crime Premier's approach to crime has led to a six per cent increase in crime. Car thefts have increased by 10 per cent, assaults have increased by 12 per cent and robberies have increased by four per cent.

Over the last two or three weeks the shadow Attorney-General and I have been visiting the state and everywhere we go law and order is the most important issue brought up. We attended a crime forum hosted by the member for Currumbin which involved local police, Neighbourhood Watch, chamber of commerce members and community group members. Without any prompting, the biggest issue they had was the fear of the return of the bikies. Families are fearful that they will not be able to eat in restaurants in their local streets—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. There is a bill currently before the House in relation to these matters.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need assistance, members. I urge the member for Everton to make sure he does not canvass the issues currently before the House.

Mr MANDER: I will not do that. Local businesses are concerned about extortion by bikie thugs coming back again.

Then we went to Townsville. The fear in the community in Townsville is palpable. They are scared. They have people literally sleeping with their car keys under their pillows because they are concerned about the crime rates, but there was no problem in Townsville! Then we had the most innovative crime fighting strategy in Queensland's history introduced—a doorknocking campaign by 15 police recruits, reminding North Queenslanders that it is their fault that their houses are being broken into and that their cars are being stolen. Then, when they saw the negative community response to that, they decided to have a helicopter but not the police helicopter—an emergency services helicopter, without any recording gear, without any cameras. We literally have police hanging out of the helicopter with binoculars to see whether they can find any potential criminals. It is an absolute joke.

The most recent announcement was the 30 police for 30 days—a sugar hit, and after 30 days everything else will go back to normal. Policing is not the issue in North Queensland or in this state; the issue is the law. It is no coincidence that since this government and this soft-on-crime Premier changed the laws the crime rate has spiralled.

Mr Power interjected.

Mr MANDER: There is nothing more frustrating for police than to arrest a young offender on Friday night for stealing a car and then on Sunday night getting the same offender again for break and enter. Policing is not the issue; the law is the issue. They have changed the law. This is a soft-on-crime Premier. It is in her DNA.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Logan, you are sitting right at the back but I can certainly hear you. You will now join the other members with your first warning under standing order 253A. If you persist, I will take appropriate action.

Community Safety



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (10.19 am): After that contribution from the member for Everton, it is somewhat ironic that I am going to be speaking about clowns today. The Palaszczuk government is


focused on keeping Queenslanders safe, as all sensible Queenslanders know. While we understand that Queenslanders have a robust sense of humour, the idea that we have people dressing up as clowns with the intent to scare others is a dangerous and stupid notion that deserves outright condemnation from this House.

The Queensland Police Service work tirelessly to ensure each and every one of us feel safe in our homes and within the community, and I cannot thank them enough for their dedication and efforts. That is why the Palaszczuk government condemns the recent clown craze that has hit our state and the antisocial behaviour associated with it. What we are seeing here in Queensland, following a craze originating in the United States, is people dressing up as clowns and attending public places in an attempt to scare and threaten people. Unfortunately, what we are seeing are these people dressing up and attending locations where young people are present, and, as highlighted in media reports, this behaviour is causing a huge concern.

We understand that the Queensland Police Service has received reports of concerning behaviour involving people dressing up as clowns with the specific intent to frighten. The message I would send to anyone taking part in this clown craze is that our police do an important job in keeping our communities safe, and the last thing our state needs is for our policing resources to be wasted due to people running around dressed up as clowns intimidating and scaring members of our community. Police have made it clear that they will not tolerate anyone engaging in intimidating or antisocial behaviour. I am also advised that police and department of education staff are working closely together to ensure the safety of Queensland staff and students. The education minister also advises that, like police, principals will be taking a tough stance against any student found to be associated with these activities and will impose disciplinary consequences in line with their schools' responsible behaviour plan.

Everyone deserves the right to feel safe, and we hope that people considering taking part in this craze stop and think about the impact it is having on members of their own community. I understand that this craze has been prompted by a movie series called *The Purge*, which has a disgraceful socio-economic undertone with part of it being murdering homeless people. It represents a prostitution of society's character. It affronts all that egalitarian and inclusive Australia represents. This craze should be condemned.

Cross River Rail

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (10.22 am): We see another week in Queensland parliament and another week of the failure of the Palaszczuk Labor government in relation to 'Cross River Fail'.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Would you like to table that?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Yes, I am more than happy to table the front page of the *Courier-Mail* that clearly outlines another 'Cross River Fail'.

Tabled paper: Front page of the *Courier-Mail*, dated 4 October 2016, with the headline 'Cross River Rail Fail' [1809].

Labor have failed to deliver their own delivery authority that is meant, by their own words, to deliver their No. 1 infrastructure project, Cross River Rail. It is all because of the inaction of the member for South Brisbane. I am not sure what we would expect after we heard about six secret new taxes—Labor's new taxes on property owners and the ticket levy are yet to be ruled out—a quoted cost of \$5.4 billion that only includes the tunnel, not trains or auxiliary stations and no plan from Labor on how it will fill the financial black hole of Cross River Rail; and no mention of the \$5 billion of operating costs and how they are planning to pay for this.

In a statement on 7 April—and I am happy to table it—the then acting premier talks about the delivery authority that she has failed to set up. She says, 'We have fast-tracked the business case for our No. 1 priority infrastructure project and announced plans to establish a delivery authority to ensure the project will be built.'

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 11 October 2016, by the Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment, Hon. Jackie Trad, and the Minister for Transport and the Commonwealth Games, Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, titled 'Palaszczuk Government will establish new authority to deliver Cross River Rail' [1810].

That was back in April. She then goes back to her office and completely forgets. Six months later there is still no action in relation to this.

Mr Nicholls: Just like Building Queensland.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection; just like Building Queensland. We see the leaked business case. Of course, the Deputy Premier is more interested in who has leaked it rather than what it actually says. There is a reason why she would be so concerned, because it is her own leaked business case that clearly sets out that in October she was meant to deliver the delivery authority that was to deliver this supposed No. 1 infrastructure project. It is clearly outlined that it is to occur in October. They need to be clear, open and accountable, like the Premier is always going on about. I am happy to table that time line.


Tabled paper: Document, undated, titled 'Executive Summary, Cross River Rail—Detailed Business' [1811].

This Deputy Premier cannot even stick to her own delivery authority that is meant to deliver Queensland's supposed No. 1 infrastructure project. The Deputy Premier, due to her inaction, cannot even deliver her own delivery authority.

An opposition member interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I take that interjection. She is absolutely too busy on West Village that she cannot even deliver her own delivery authority that is meant to be delivering Queensland's No. 1 infrastructure project.

Sale of Public Assets

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.26 am): The Palaszczuk government went to the last state election promising not to sell Queensland's income-producing assets. We went to the election promising to stop the Leader of the Opposition's desperate sell-off of our ports, our electricity generators, our poles and our wires. The Premier also promised to make job creation, economic growth and diversification this government's top priorities. Our Advancing our cities and regions strategy is about delivering on that commitment. Government land that is underutilised, surplus and with no clear community and social benefit will be used strategically to generate economic activity and build world-class cities and regions for Queenslanders in partnership with councils, industry, the business community and the broader community.


Our approach to managing government land could not be more different from the approach taken by Campbell Newman and the Leader of the Opposition during the last term. As the then treasurer, the member for Clayfield set sales targets for each department to meet with no consideration of the needs of local communities. That led directly to their outrageous attempts to sell off critical land necessary for the future growth of the state. Let us never forget what they tried to do with Balmoral State High School or Whites Hill State College ovals—sell them off. There was a government that tried to sell the site needed for a new high school at Calliope which we have now committed to building. This was so wrong that even Michael Duggan, the LNP candidate for Gladstone, said at the time, 'In my opinion it would have adverse effects on the community and future generations to rezone and sell this parcel of land.' He went on to say that his position was 'not in line with LNP policy'.

In contrast, ours is a government that will use surplus and underutilised government land to grow jobs and deliver a social and economic dividend. This is in stark contrast to those opposite. For example, Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct will replace the athletes village at the Gold Coast, creating 20,000 jobs. We are also partnering with Consolidated Properties to develop Yeerongpilly Green, ensuring \$30 million of community amenity throughout the development including 1.8 hectares of parkland and open space.

We recently saw the former member for Ashgrove in the paper talking about how much he got wrong—how the way they managed land they got wrong. We intend to do something better.

(Time expired)

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (10.28 am): Since last we met in this place we have seen a remarkable return to form by a Labor government and none more so than the announcement last week in a feat of unparalleled hypocrisy by this Labor government when they announced a mass sale of assets here in Queensland. They can dress it up with any weasel words they want. They can dress it up with their spin doctors. They can try to put words into their own policy document that were not there. The Premier can try to deny that. When she was asked at a press conference, 'Does this include the sale of land?', she said, 'I tell Queenslanders I won't sell your assets.' They can try to deny what was recorded by the Deputy Premier when she sat here. They can try to deny the comments that the Premier made here, but Queenslanders know—

Mr Furner interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I know the Leader of the Opposition has a loud voice, but the member for Ferny Grove also has a very loud voice. You are now warned under standing order 253A. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Mr NICHOLLS: My apologies, Mr Speaker. I did not see you rise. Queenslanders know that this Premier has deceived them and has been dishonest with them. She went to the last election promising one thing and now because of their failed fiscal plan, because they have no funds left after having raided the hollow logs, after having hit the superannuation funds, after ramping up the debt on the government owned corporations, they have no money left. What they have done now is to engage in a mass sale of assets—something they promised not to do, something on which the Premier stakes her reputation. They dusted off the old plans that were in the drawer. The only difference between this and the previous government's plans is that this time around it was not being driven by the Treasurer and it was not a plan by the Treasurer; it was a plot by the Deputy Premier.

This is the Deputy Premier exercising control over this government. She knows that the Treasurer does not have the wherewithal. The whole of this side of the House knows that the Treasurer does not know where to find the money, so they have now gone to the Deputy Premier to find out. I feel a return of the old 'mythbusters'. I see the old 'mythbusters' coming back again. We have no choice.

There is another return to form, and that return to form is in relation to government advertising. Government advertising standards are set by the government code of conduct. That code of conduct is clear on what can and cannot be done, and I table a copy of that code of conduct.

Tabled paper: Department of the Premier and Cabinet: Queensland Government Advertising Code of Conduct 2013 [\[1812\]](#).

What we have seen with the government's progress report tabled by the Premier in this place is a total of 31 breaches of that code of conduct where mention is made specifically of Labor and political promises in direct breach of the government's advertising standard. We know this Premier has form. Last time around in government she was forced to repay money. This is a government returning to form.

Tabled paper: Queensland Government: Progress report on government election commitments, June 2016 [\[1813\]](#).

(Time expired)

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will finish at 11.32 am.

Government Advertising Code of Conduct



Mr NICHOLLS (10.32 am): I refer to the documents I have just tabled in relation to the government's progress report. Does the Premier concede that this new breach represents a pattern of improper behaviour prohibited by the government's code of conduct and the Fitzgerald principles?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I have only just seen the documents that have been tabled. First of all, I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. It relates to the Queensland Government Advertising Code of Conduct. I am happy to have a look at this. If the Leader of the Opposition has a specific question relating to a specific advertising standard can he please let me know? I am more than happy to follow it up.

Government Advertising Code of Conduct

Mr NICHOLLS: In response to the Premier's request for information, given the progress report clearly breaches the government's own advertising code of conduct and in particular section 6, which states—

Advertising must not:

- (a) mention the party in Government by name;
- (b) directly attack or scorn the views, policies or action of others such as the policies and opinions of the other political groups;

and given the progress report clearly breaches that standard, will the Premier undertake to repay the costs of production and distribution from her own pocket as she has been required to do in the past?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I am happy to take that question on notice. The member is referring to documents. There are about 30 pages. I am happy to have a look at it and get back to him on a specific question that he is asking today. I am more than happy to do so.

Ms Trad interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. Members opposite want to talk about advertising and the cost of advertising. We know how much was spent on the Strong Choices campaign—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order. My question is: does the Premier take the question on notice under standing order 113?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I said I will take the question on notice. However, I have set standards—

Mr NICHOLLS: I rise to a point of order again. I believe that the Premier has not answered the question in relation to taking the question on notice in respect of section 113. It was a pretty straightforward question.

Mr SPEAKER: When do you anticipate you will come back to the House?

Ms PALASZCZUK: Within 24 hours.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you.

Redcliffe Peninsula Rail Link

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier provide details on how the Redcliffe Peninsula rail link has been received by the local community?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Murrumba very much for that question. I was absolutely delighted to be at the opening last Monday of the new Redcliffe Peninsula line. I want to thank the Minister for Transport. The Deputy Premier was there as well as all of the local members. The member for Redcliffe herself was there.

This project is an outstanding example of what happens when three levels of government work together in the interests of the community. What we saw very clearly with the opening of that more than \$1 billion project was council working with state and working with federal to deliver this outstanding project. It was lovely to see many residents coming out on the day to board that first train. I understand that a ballot was undertaken which was highly subscribed. It was good to see the joy on the faces of those people hopping on that train. That train line was 100 years in the making and it took three levels of government working together to deliver it.

I can also advise the House that in the first week of operation almost 23,000 people used that line. That was in just four days of normal operations. It is really good news that the people of the Redcliffe peninsula are utilising that. I do want to pay tribute to all of the organisations that have been involved in actually building that train line. It will provide a consistent 55-minute journey from Kippa-Ring to central station. I know that the people of that region will definitely be utilising that much needed public transport.

We also know that when we see examples of three levels of government working together so much more can be achieved. So much more can be achieved throughout our state if we continue to work in that partnership. We need to see the federal government come on board and support projects such as the Cross River Rail, which we know is Infrastructure Australia's No. 1 project. Of course, we would also like to see the Prime Minister come on board with the funding of the M1 Motorway. We are sick and tired of people from down south not understanding Queensland. If we had that 80-20 partnership we would be able to deliver that upgrade of the M1 in time for the Commonwealth Games and get it done in the interests of the people who live down the coast. It might be a nice time for the Gold Coast members to stand up and start fighting for something they believe in. There is nothing more important than public transport, getting people connected and getting communities on board.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the Deputy Leader of the Opposition I am informed that we have students from the Dirranbandi State School in the electorate of Warrego observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Sale of Public Assets

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: My question without notice is to the Premier. Given that the Palaszczuk government is now selling Queensland's assets, will the Premier admit that she was dishonest and deceived Queenslanders just like former premier Anna Bligh?

Ms PALASZCZUK: The answer to that question is no. I went to the election on the key platform of creating jobs in this state. Unemployment is coming down and youth unemployment is coming down in the regions. I have just spent a week in Townsville talking about job-generating projects—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Nanango, you have already been warned. You have asked the question. I would urge you not to push me to the point where I ask you to leave the chamber. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The first day after I was sworn in I stopped the sale of \$37 billion worth of assets that those opposite wanted to sell. Queensland now has the largest energy company in Australia, \$23 billion worth, which is owned by the people of Queensland. Did we sell our ports?

Government members: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No! Did we sell our electricity network?

Government members: No!

Ms PALASZCZUK: No!

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, I have just made some comments to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. Those comments were not intended to set a precedent that I will now start issuing second warnings to people who have already been warned. I call the Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: What I want to know from the Leader of the Opposition is what his plans are for those \$37 billion in assets that Queenslanders now own. He is too afraid to ask me the questions in the parliament because that was his plan. Whisperings have begun that they want to sell off our \$37 billion of income-generating assets on a 50-year lease. That is what they are plotting and that is what they are planning.

Let us put some facts on the table because I think it is very important. Those opposite promised that public servants had nothing to fear, and what did they do? They sacked workers in this state! Everywhere I go families talk to me about the need to create jobs, and where I can partner with councils and the private sector to generate jobs for Queenslanders that is what we will do.

North Queensland, Medical Research

Mr STEWART: My question is of the Premier. Will the Premier outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to advance medical research in North Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Townsville very much for his question because, as we know, last week we were able to spend the whole week in Townsville. I want to place on record my thanks to the Townsville community for their hospitality and level of engagement. On Friday I had the pleasure of looking at the new James Cook medical research facility, and what an amazing institute it is. We have had the opportunity to generate translational medical research centres in the south-east, but we have not had the opportunity to generate one in Northern Queensland. I want to thank Minister Leanne Enoch and Minister O'Rourke for also attending, because as part of our Advance Queensland agenda we want to do everything that we possibly can to combat disease in the Tropical North and Queensland has the ability to lead that work.

We had the opportunity to look extensively at the new facility and speak with researchers. We now have some of the world's best experts in that facility looking at issues such as tuberculosis, and this week researchers have moved in to begin this research. We also know that because we are so close to Papua New Guinea there is drug-resistant tuberculosis on our doorstep, and this translational research centre will prove invaluable in the fight against it. They will also be looking at other areas such as dengue fever and Q fever, and of course we will be working in partnership with other universities as well. In relation to the James Cook University and translational research centre, I toured the \$31 million Townsville building. It is one of three facilities: the Cairns facility is under construction and there will be a third facility built on Thursday Island which I look forward to visiting.

Mr Cripps: It is lucky we funded all of this!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let us talk about that for a moment, because once again it is governments of both persuasions supporting Advance Queensland in this state jointly between the Commonwealth and the state. I was very pleased to be there to cut the ribbon. I want to thank Professor Sandra Harding and all of the team involved for their hard work. This facility is going to be focused on the prevention and treatment of tropical diseases. We look forward to hearing of the research which happens there. Once again it fits in with our Advance Queensland agenda.

Child Protection

Ms BATES: My question without notice is to the Minister for Child Safety. Will the minister explain why according to the March data more than 3,000 children suspected of being abused had no case officer assigned to them? Is this putting children at further risk of abuse?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. We welcome transparency and accountability in the Palaszczuk government. Our data is released quarterly, and the next round of data will be released on time this month. What I do know is that investigations and assessments are not where they need to be. That is why this government is listening to staff on the front line, hearing from them about the challenges they face and investing in more front-line staff than ever before. I am happy for this government's legacy on child safety to stand against their legacy on child safety. The audacity of the member for Mudgeeraba! She was not there for all of the budgets, but she was there for the first budget where 225 full-time staff were cut from the department of child safety.

Ms BATES: I rise to a point of order. My point of order is relevance. The minister is not answering the question. I asked a very specific question about 3,000 children suspected of being abused having no case officer assigned to them in the March data. I asked the minister if she believes that is putting children further at risk: yes or no.

Mr SPEAKER: The minister's answer is relevant. I call the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: By delivering 129 full-time permanent child safety staff this financial year we will see a huge improvement in investigation and assessment time lines and staff will have more time to spend with children in out-of-home care.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the incredibly hardworking front-line child safety staff. As I travel across Queensland—according to the published diaries in just 18 months I have visited more child safety service centres than the previous child safety minister did in her entire term—we are listening to child safety staff and hearing from them about the great work they do with families. We are absolutely responding to, listening and valuing our hardworking staff. When I talk to hardworking front-line staff they tell me about the challenges they face in not making it home at night to tuck their own children into bed because they are working with children whose own parents cannot safely look after them at home. These are remarkable, hardworking Queenslanders and this government is listening to them, valuing them and supporting them in doing their job.

I am proud of our record in child safety—in restoring and rebuilding Child Safety Services and supporting our incredibly hardworking staff. Our legacy on child safety is more staff, more resources and continuing to implement all of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry, which until quite recently enjoyed bipartisan support. We have the staff onside. We have the sector onside. I would call on the LNP to stop playing politics with child safety—to get on board with the reform agenda or get out of the way.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Greenslopes, Minister for Education, you are warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. They were disorderly. Member for Mudgeeraba, you are also warned under standing order 253A for your interjections. You asked the question. Your interjections were repetitive. If you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Cross River Rail

Mr KELLY: My question is of the Deputy Premier. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the Cross River Rail project?

Ms TRAD: I thank the honourable member for the question. It gives me great joy to report to the House on the Cross River Rail project. I do want to acknowledge that the member for Greenslopes is deeply interested in public transport, as is every single member on this side of the House. We are interested in public transport and its contribution to great city-making initiatives. Cross River Rail presents an enormous opportunity for us to do exactly that.

I have spoken about Cross River Rail in this House for a long period of time. I am pleased to report on the fact that the Palaszczuk government has moved this project forward faster and further than any other government. We have rescoped the project. It is out for public inspection. We have done an independent business case—it is with Infrastructure Australia—and we are liaising with the federal government around funding.

We have committed \$850 million—more than any other government in this state—to make this project a reality. Today I am very pleased to report to the House that—on time and on schedule—we will be introducing into this House the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority bill. The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority bill—

A government member interjected.

Ms TRAD: Yes. The Cross River Rail Delivery Authority will be an important part of ensuring not only that this project delivers the public transport infrastructure that our city needs but also that we take full advantage of all of the economic development opportunities that come with this once-in-a-generation public transport infrastructure project.

This is an opportunity for our city and our region like never before. The one question that remains is: what will those opposite do? Will they support it? What is their plan? Will those opposite lift a finger to advocate for and support public transport infrastructure in this state with their political colleagues in the federal government? Those opposite need to detail exactly what their plans are for the city of Brisbane and the South-East Queensland region when it comes to a second heavy rail river crossing. We know that when they were in government they did nothing. In fact, they did more than nothing; they damaged the Cross River Rail project. They walked away from a deal with the federal Labor government for an equal funding partnership for this once-in-a-generation project. They stand condemned for those actions. They need to answer: what is their solution?

Child Protection

Mr EMERSON: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Will the minister guarantee that the June data for investigation response times for suspect child abuse will not be worse than for March?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question. What I can guarantee is that the data will be released on time: four months from June—the same time lines in which the LNP released the data. I am not going to guarantee what the data will show. The data will be the data. What I will say is that the data will show that there is more work to do. That is why this government is investing in more staff—129 more full-time staff.

Members should not just take my word for the fact that our reforms are underway and on track and we are doing more to support our hardworking staff and get better response times. In fact, the sector has been very vocal in its support of what we have been doing in child safety and have been calling on the opposition to stop playing politics. In an unprecedented move, we have seen key stakeholders and child safety advocates issue media releases calling on the opposition to stop playing politics with child safety and commending this government for continuing its work implementing the reforms from the commission of inquiry. In fact, David Swain, the chief operating officer of Churches of Christ Care, one of the biggest non-government organisations running services in child safety, supporting vulnerable children and families, said—

This reform is not tinkering around the edges, it is wholesale system re-design. That sort of thing isn't achieved overnight. Unfortunately, there are those in the opposition ... who are attempting to destabilise the great work that is currently underway, and who are trying to make a crisis out of a change process. What we are embarking on through the Child and Family reform process is too important to sabotage, whether for short-term political gain or media sensationalism. There are lives at stake, and I can tell you that far more lives will be saved through continuing with the reform process than blowing it up.

I table the media release from David Swain from Churches of Christ Care.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 23 September 2016, by Churches of Christ Care titled 'No crisis in out of home care' [[1814](#)].

I call on the opposition to stop playing politics with child safety, to stop blowing up the reform process that has until now had bipartisan support. We have the support of the hardworking child safety staff. We have the support of all of the key stakeholders and child protection advocates. The LNP need to get on board or get out of the way.

Queensland Economy

Mr POWER: My question is for the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer advise the House of any information or events since the last sitting that highlight the strength of the Queensland economy?

Mr PITT: I thank the honourable member for the question. I certainly outlined a number of things that we have—

Mr Emerson: Tell him to stop being acting Acting Premier.

Mr PITT: The member for Indooroopilly has been acting for years. I thank the honourable member for the question. As I outlined in a ministerial statement, so much has been happening in the domestic economy—the state final demand figures that I outlined. I do want to talk about a couple of other things that have happened since the House last sat.

The government is very keen to attract new business and industry. It is also about supporting our existing industries. That includes our manufacturing sector. Our manufacturing sector has been one of the mainstays of the Queensland economy. It is a very big employer in this state. We have tasked the Queensland Productivity Commission—

Mr Nicholls: They are doing something? I had forgotten about them.

Mr PITT:—with looking at the state of manufacturing in Queensland, including the viability of reshoring some activities in Queensland. I hear the member for Clayfield interjecting. He must still be sore about the fact that he has asked questions today that obviously relate to election commitments and they never delivered on any of their election commitments.

The Queensland Productivity Commission being tasked with this manufacturing inquiry is all about us delivering on an election commitment, ironically. I table an Australian Industry Group response to our manufacturing inquiry.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 22 September 2016, by the Australian Industry Group titled 'Acting Premier's Breezway visit highlights importance of QLD manufacturing industry' [\[1815\]](#).

Ai Group state director Jemima Dunn said that she welcomed the Queensland Productivity Commission inquiry. She said that Australian Industry Group believes the inquiry is 'potentially a game changer for manufacturing jobs in Queensland' and that 'when it comes to further diversifying the economy this government means business'. That is a resounding great third-party endorsement for this government and the work that we are doing. We are delivering on our election commitment. It also welcomed our focus on advanced manufacturing as well as recognising our traditional strengths in making sure that we continue to bring it forward as part of our innovation agenda. The work that is being done by the Minister for State Development in terms of the future road map for advanced manufacturing was also welcomed. I thank it very much for its kind words of support.

We also attended the opening of the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China. The ICBC is the world's biggest bank. It has assets totalling \$4.4 trillion, five million corporate customers, 496,000,000 personal customers and has a footprint in 42 countries around the world, and it has chosen to set up its latest branch in Queensland. Why has it done that? The ICBC chairman said that it was the bank's 'growing confidence in the state of Queensland' that prompted the new branch to come to our state. That is a great third-party endorsement again for our state.

Those opposite wish to continue to be negative and wish to talk the economy down. They do not wish to believe what we on this side of the House are saying. At least they should start listening to people who are investing their time, energy and investment, including their dollars, into the state of Queensland, because this is a great place to do business.

(Time expired)

Child Protection

Ms DAVIS: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety, and I ask: with the issue of the backlog in child abuse investigations being known to the minister as far back as October 2015, why are the specialist backlog investigation teams announced by the minister not starting until January 2017?

Ms FENTIMAN: Specialist investigation and assessment teams commenced in the middle of this year. That work is currently underway and, as I have travelled to many Child Safety Services centres, I have had the pleasure to speak with some of these new specialist teams that are focusing directly on investigation and assessment for some of our critical cases. I have said a number of times that this is a system under pressure, and it has been a system under pressure for many years. A certain way that would create further pressure for front-line staff is when 225 full-time staff from the department of child safety were cut from the department by those opposite, and that is not to mention the over \$400 million cut from the department of child safety in fiscal repair. In fact, in the three years that the LNP was in government, it ripped more from Child Safety in fiscal repair than it put back into it. That is the legacy of those opposite. This government is investing in front-line services—restoring funding to organisations such as Bravehearts, to Foster Care Queensland, to PeakCare, to peak bodies that had experienced funding cuts by those opposite. Once again I would say this to the opposition: please stop playing politics with child safety. We welcome transparency and accountability—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. I cannot hear the minister.

Ms FENTIMAN: We welcome accountability and transparency, but there is no room for politics in child safety. It is not just David Swain of Churches of Christ Care who has come out calling on the opposition to stop playing politics with child safety. PeakCare Queensland's Executive Director, Lindsay Wegener, in a media release on 3 June said—

The Government is to be congratulated for putting its money where its mouth is and maintaining its commitment to implementing recommendations of the Carmody Child Protection Commission of Inquiry ...

The QATSICPP CEO, Natalie Lewis, in a media release on 22 July concerning politicisation and scrutiny of the system said—

... I am deeply concerned that in the process of politicising tragic events, there is a significant risk that reactive, risk averse policy responses will emerge that undermine the intent of the Carmody recommendations ...

Who could forget that Carmody himself came out and said that the government's reforms were on track and the way to actually ease pressure in the system is to support front-line staff and to invest in early intervention family support. That is exactly what we are doing.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Gladstone, member for Aspley, you are warned under standing order 253A. Your interjections are disorderly and if you persist I will take the appropriate action.

Mental Health Week

Mr BUTCHER: My question is to the Minister for Health and Minister for Ambulance Services. Considering that it is Mental Health Week this week, will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting mental health and how this compares to other approaches?

Mr DICK: Earlier today in delivery of a ministerial statement I was delighted to announce a new plan—our Connecting Care to Recovery plan which is all about delivering improved services to Queenslanders who need help with mental health and also services to support people dealing with issues relating to alcohol and other drugs. That will be an investment over five years of \$350 million additional to what we are currently funding in mental health, drugs, alcohol and other health services in that space. The member for Gladstone will be pleased to know, as other members of this House will be pleased to know, that those services will be delivered across the length and breadth of Queensland—not just in the south-east but across all regional cities and through rural and remote parts of our state.

The difference—the contrast—between what our government commits to and the members of the LNP could not be starker. We are required to do this plan not only because it is a good thing for Queensland but because, as a result of the LNP government and the cuts driven by the Leader of the Opposition when he was treasurer, funding for mental health services in Queensland dropped to record lows. The Newman government was the first government ever in Queensland to record a cut in mental health spending. Its former leader said, 'I got it wrong.' I can tell members what he got wrong: he got wrong the cuts to mental health, and those opposite did it two years in a row. That is not my assessment and not the Queensland Labor government's assessment but the national Productivity Commission has made that determination. We must never forget that those opposite closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre without replacement, and they closed it even though their own expert report recommended against that course of action. It continues at a federal level. I raised cuts to mental health funding at the COAG health ministers' council last Friday. Of course, the Turnbull government cut the National Partnership Agreement Supporting National Mental Health Reform. There were 200 extremely vulnerable Queenslanders without any support following those cuts and we were forced, with two months notice, to jump into that breach and to fund those individuals and their families.

We are making a difference. We have opened new residential rehabilitation services for young people in Townsville—an election commitment we have delivered. We have fixed the botched rewrite of the Mental Health Act—the LNP's botched rewrite of the Mental Health Act. We are going to build a new mental health facility for adolescent young people to replace the Barrett centre. Guided by our new plan, we are going to deliver to Queenslanders the mental health services they deserve.

Child Protection

Mrs SMITH: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Can the minister guarantee the safety of the 1,124 children the subject of potential child abuse reports in the past year whose cases were closed without any investigation?

Ms FENTIMAN: In fact, the member for Mount Ommaney is incorrect: the 1,124 were recorded with no outcome. In fact, an investigation commenced but what usually happens with these cases is that families move interstate and there is an interstate alert. We work with the police and our interstate counterparts to then locate those families in other states. Sometimes no outcome is recorded because the information that Child Safety receives is incomplete or in fact it could be incorrect, but the number of cases with no outcome recorded is consistent with previous years given the increasing notifications that the department is receiving.

While on my feet I want to talk about some of the positive initiatives that this government is progressing in the child and family reform space. Not only are we increasing the number of front-line staff to better support our hardworking Child Safety officers; since coming to government we have created 230 new jobs in the non-government sector to support vulnerable children and families, and in the next two years there will be an additional 430 new staff created in the non-government sector—

Mrs SMITH: I rise to a point of order. My question was very clear. I asked the minister if she could guarantee the safety of the 1,124 children whose cases were closed.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Mount Ommaney. I did hear your question. It was clear. The minister is answering the question and she is relevant.

Ms FENTIMAN: Not only do these new positions in the non-government sector support families earlier before they come into crisis to keep children safe but also it means that we are creating jobs in the communities sector, which is a growing and most important sector in the Queensland economy. Not only are we continuing to implement all of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry; in fact, we are going further than some of the recommendations in the commission of inquiry. We funded a \$2 million campaign to work with NAPCAN to remind everyone in the community that protecting children and stopping child abuse and neglect has to be more than just when the child safety department steps in. We need absolutely everyone in our community and every member of this parliament to step up and play their part. We have to normalise families being able to ask for help. If we see a family struggling, we have to normalise asking them if they are okay and recommending them to support services. That is how we reduce the number of families who are coming into the child protection system.

We have a huge investment in early prevention, hands-on, in-home family support. We are getting on with the job of delivering more front-line staff and making sure that those hardworking staff have the resources that they need to do the job. If we are really going to make a dent in tackling child abuse and neglect, we need absolutely everyone in our community to step up and play their part. That is why I am so pleased that we are partnering with NAPCAN on a \$2 million community campaign to raise awareness of this issue and make sure that every Queenslanders knows that they can play their part, because it is everyone's responsibility.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Keppel for her question, member for Mount Ommaney, you asked the question. You are now warned under standing order 253A for your continual interjections. I realise that you did not like the answer that the minister gave, but my ruling was that it was relevant. That does not give you an open invitation to continually talk over the top of the minister.

Kindergarten, Funding

Mrs LAUGA: My question is to the Minister for Education. Kindy is a vital start to education for all children. Will the minister outline what the government is doing to encourage greater participation in kindy and to keep costs low for Queensland families?

Ms JONES: I thank the honourable member for Keppel for her question and her passionate advocacy on behalf of young people right across Queensland to have access to education. I last saw the member for Keppel yesterday at the funeral of Veronica Swarten, the mother of a long-serving member of this House, Robert Swarten. Veronica Swarten was a life member of the Labor Party but she also dedicated her life to delivering fairness for the Queensland community. She was acknowledged, with her husband, with an Order of Australia medal for that.

Yesterday, at the funeral of Veronica Swarten, we learned of her passion for education. All members of the Labor Party fundamentally believe that education is the primary way in which we can improve the circumstances and the life outcomes of young Queenslanders. That is why at every single turn, whether it is early years education at kindergarten—the very foundational years of learning—right through to tertiary education, we will always fight for greater funding, because we see it as an investment in our future and an investment in our country.

That is why, when we saw under the national partnership agreement a \$40 million cut to kindergarten funding in the 2015-16 financial year by the Malcolm Turnbull government, I have been vocal in our opposition. Not only was I vocal in our opposition but also I did what the former treasurer of Queensland failed to do, which was to go to the Treasurer of Queensland and get that funding out of state funds to fund the shortfall, because the consequences of the shortfall from the federal government means increases in kindy fees. We know that, at a state level, we provide subsidies of between \$1,600 and up to \$2,000 to reduce the costs for families to put their child into kindergarten. We know that that cost can be problematic and lead to people choosing not to put their children into kindergarten. We know the educational impacts of that.

Members can imagine my surprise, when the former LNP government in Queensland accepted the \$40 million cut from the federal government and did not backfill it like we have done with an extra \$43 million, to get a letter from Fiona Simpson, the member for Maroochydore, saying, 'What are you doing about kindy fees?' I will tell members what I am doing about kindy fees. I am subsidising them out of our budget, which her leader failed to do.

I am also lobbying Simon Birmingham. I am going to fix this letter and write, 'Dear Simon' and I am going to even fund the dollar to send the letter to Simon, the federal member, to say, 'We will not accept the \$40 million cuts to kindergarten in Queensland.' I was hoping that we would have bipartisan support on this issue. We will stand up and say that we will not allow one child not to have access to kindergarten, because of the failure of the federal government in walking away from the national partnership agreement. I acknowledge the Treasurer of Queensland, who has found the \$43 million—

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: I remind members to refer to other members by their correct title. Before I call the member for Mansfield, I am informed that we have more students from Dirranbandi State School in the electorate of Warrego observing our proceedings. Welcome.

Child Protection

Mr WALKER: My question is to the Minister for Child Safety. Why did it take 18 months and the public reporting of two deaths to prompt the minister to seek the additional funding for the department, announced as late as Saturday of last week?

Ms FENTIMAN: We have 166 more front-line and front-line support staff than we did two years ago. Since I came to be the Minister for Child Safety, I have been rebuilding and restoring the child safety department after serious, damaging cuts by those opposite—225 full-time staff. Of course, that has an impact on front-line staff. Those members opposite sat around the cabinet table when fiscal repair to Child Safety equalled a cut of 225 full-time staff and over \$400 million ripped from the department.

Since I became minister, I have been rebuilding the child safety department and continuing the child and family reforms. At the end of last year, I directed the director-general and the department to reallocate front-line staff to where there were high areas of demand. In this year's budget, we allocated 47 new, permanent, full-time front-line staff. Just on the weekend, after extensive consultation with staff working on where there was high demand, we announced an additional 82 front-line staff.

We have not just been rebuilding and restoring front-line staff in the department; we have been rebuilding cuts made to NGOs. Let us not forget that not only did the LNP rip funding from bodies like PeakCare, Foster Care Queensland, Bravehearts and the Create Foundation but also they gagged them in their funding agreements so that they could not advocate on behalf of the most vulnerable children and families whom they represent. That is the legacy of the members opposite on child safety.

Not only are we continuing the reforms from the commission of inquiry, which up until recently had bipartisan support, but also, as I have said, we have gone further. For the first time we have given Queensland parents access to universal parenting through Triple P parenting—a \$6.6 million investment that goes beyond just the recommendations of the commission of inquiry, because we know that, if we can get parents to ask for help, to get help earlier before small problems become big problems, we are going to reduce the number of families who have to come within the child protection system.

This government is very committed to supporting vulnerable families and children. We are committed to continuing to implement all of the recommendations of the commission of inquiry and we are going further with a community campaign for everyone to play their part, with Triple P parenting and restoring vital funding to our peak bodies that advocate every day on behalf of vulnerable children and families.

North Queensland Stadium

Mr HARPER: My question is to the Minister for State Development. Will the minister advise the latest progress in relation to the construction of the North Queensland stadium?

Dr LYNHAM: I thank the member for Thuringowa and I thank the people of Townsville—the people of North Queensland—for a wonderful week that we had up there governing from the north. It was terrific. I also went out to Georgetown with the member for Mount Isa and it was lovely to meet the people in the gulf country.

Some further good news for Townsville is that not only do we have a rebound in the resources sector but also we have the announcement that the Queensland government has short-listed four companies to tender for the principal consultant role for the \$250 million North Queensland stadium. We have invited BVN, Cox, Hassell and Populous to submit a design concept and site master plan for the 25,000-seat stadium in the Townsville CBD. All four companies have proven track records in major stadiums. Most importantly, the four short-listed teams include more than 20 local companies. We made it clear that we wanted local jobs, local businesses and local alliances to be included in the submissions and that is exactly what has happened. The locals involved include Tippet Schrock Architects, 9Point9 Architects, Architects North, i4 Architecture, Stephen de Jersey Architect, as well as subconsultants with Townsville offices: Northern Consulting Engineers, SMEC and Arup. We will announce the successful team by the end of the year along with their concept design.

Developing this design is just the beginning of an exciting couple of years for Townsville. Local businesses will have plenty more opportunities for work once the managing contractor is appointed next year and trade packages start rolling out. We estimate that 750 valuable jobs in the Townsville and North Queensland region will be created with this stadium. The Department of State Development has been running workshops and advising local businesses to ensure that they are ready to put their best foot forward to tender for these opportunities. I urge local businesses up north to go to the Department of State Development's North Queensland Stadium web page to find out how to register their capabilities and put in expressions of interest for the work packages. The expressions of interest will be available to major contractors as part of the future managing contractor bidding process. Local companies can always contact my department by phone for advice. Long after it opens in time for the start of the 2020 NRL season, this stadium will continue to generate jobs in Far North and North Queensland.

Minister for Child Safety

Mr POWELL: My question without notice is to the Premier. Does the Premier still have confidence in her Minister for Child Safety?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for the question. The answer is yes, because this is a minister who is dedicated to improving the lives of some of the most vulnerable children in our state. This is a minister who has been working side by side with the stakeholders and with her department to address fundamental issues going to the protection of children and child safety. This is a minister who has been restoring front-line services in this state—just last Saturday announcing an additional 82 positions—because of the savage cuts we saw under the former LNP government. This is a minister who announced a positive parenting program, making sure some of our most vulnerable families are looking at the way in which they can deal with their children in a holistic way.

Today what we have seen from those opposite is a lack of understanding about the realities of child safety. The fact is there should be no cuts made to the department of child safety which deals with the most vulnerable children in our society. Over the course of this hour we have seen those opposite playing politics when there are tragedies that have happened in this state that are currently under police investigation. I say to those opposite: it is about time that you came into this place and started acting with dignity.

Even when the minister was answering questions those opposite were interjecting, heckling and did not even give her the courtesy of listening to her when she was addressing serious issues about child safety. Over the last two years we have seen 166 extra positions, an extra 47 positions that will hopefully be introduced by the end of this year and a further 82 front-line service staff with a backup of support staff to deal with the most vulnerable people in our community.

My government understands that there are serious issues in child safety. It is not unique to Queensland. These issues impact on vulnerable families not just in Queensland but across the nation. It is about time that those opposite worked with the government in relation to this issue so that we can achieve the very best outcome for the benefit of children in our state.

Aviation Australia, Training Facility

Ms LINARD: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills. Will the minister please inform the House about the recent opening of new facilities at Aviation Australia?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. I recognise her ongoing interest in the training sector and the opportunities it can provide for Queenslanders. Recently, in my capacity as Minister for Training and Skills, I had the great pleasure of officially opening Aviation Australia's new training facility and launching the Thales LifeFlight Simulation Centre. I congratulate and thank the key stakeholders involved in establishing this impressive new facility, particularly Brisbane Airport Corporation and BNE Property—who had the foresight to see the benefit in having these training facilities situated on the airport precinct grounds—Thales, Gaskin Construction Services, Adco Construction and, of course, LifeFlight and Aviation Australia.

In an internationally focused industry, heavily reliant on high-tech and expensive equipment, it is now more important than ever for government, industry and training providers to work together to ensure the aviation industry's newest professionals are able to be trained using the latest standards of equipment. The LifeFlight simulation centre is absolute state-of-the-art technology and is one of only three of its kind in the world and the only one training in this particular type of helicopter. I am pleased to advise that there has already been significant interest in the use of the simulator from overseas such as the attraction of a facility such as this. It also means that LifeFlight will no longer have to send their pilots halfway around the world to get this training. We will be delivering it right here in Brisbane, with many pilots from the Asia-Pacific region coming here to do their training using these amazing facilities. This is training that you cannot have without a simulator. As was explained at the official opening, you cannot go into a real-life situation and practise these sorts of scenarios because they are extreme and lives would be at risk doing that. They can simulate the worst weather conditions and circumstances and the most difficult rescues out to sea and in deep bushland, which is so important in Queensland.

I acknowledge Aviation Australia's world's best standard training. Its school of excellence in Saudi Arabia is recognised worldwide. I also thank Thales. Not only have they invested \$20 million in this simulator in Brisbane but on the day they donated new thermal imaging equipment that means LifeFlight will save lives. I thank everyone who has been involved. In terms of training, this puts Queenslanders ahead of the rest of the world and all involved deserve to be congratulated.

Category H Weapons

Ms LEAHY: My question without notice is to the Minister for Police. Ahead of the national meeting of police ministers on 21 October, will the minister rule out a Queensland-wide ban being introduced on all category H weapons used for primary production purposes?

Mr BYRNE: I thank the member for the question. It is interesting that the member would want to talk about that at this critical moment. I have had extensive meetings, as recently as the last couple of weeks, with all the stakeholders in industry, including AgForce and other representatives that undertake recreational shooting or use weapons for production purposes.

The matters that are being considered for the National Firearms Agreement do not include that matter. That is not a matter that has been brought to me and it is not a matter that has been included in any of the discussions that I have been appraised of. I have said from day one that Queensland's position has always been consistency with the National Firearms Agreement. I do not know how many times I have to say that over and over and over. There are those who are seeking to exploit or misrepresent the government's position. This government has always supported the lawful use of firearms for recreational purposes or for commercial purposes within—

An opposition member: Rat shooting.

Mr BYRNE: It is nice of the member to reflect on that. They never let it go, do they? That is the way of life.

The policy positions on this matter have never wavered. I am happy to have a sensible discussion with people, but I can tell the House this much: over time I would like to see the National Firearms Agreement actually become a national firearms agreement. Many jurisdictions have parts that are not consistent with the intent of the National Firearms Agreement.

I have had sensible discussions with the federal minister. I know that sounds bizarre, but on these issues they can happen with governments of different persuasions. Each jurisdiction comes to its own conclusions because we carry the regulatory and legislative oversight. However, the truth is that we did not bring it into the election campaign to deal with these issues. We did not say anything about these matters going forward. We have always supported the lawful use of firearms for recreational purposes, sport or industry purposes. I have reinforced those views to a variety of stakeholders. At this moment in time, there is nothing on the table about the matters raised in the question of the member for Warrego. It is purely speculative to even put the question on the table in this place, because it has no validity whatsoever.


An honourable member: End the speculation.

Mr BYRNE: I have just said that it is not part of the National Firearms Agreement discussion at this point in time. It is not a matter that we are taking forward and I have been very transparent about where I stand on these matters.

Mr SPEAKER: The time for question time has expired.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Further Answer to Question; Government Advertising Code of Conduct; Queensland Economy

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Arts) (11.31 am), by leave: I undertook to come back to the House with a response to the question of the member for Clayfield on the advertising code of conduct. At the outset, I thank the opposition leader for providing me with an opportunity to speak about election commitments. Today I can proudly advise the House that, in our first 18 months, we have delivered 336 of our 553 election commitments. To put that in context, in 18 months we have delivered on more of our election commitments than the former government did in its first 26 months.

In relation to our progress report on election commitments, I wish to make a few points. Firstly, the report is a faithful reproduction of the commitments Labor made in the lead-up to the 2015 state election. In addition, it is presented in a format virtually identical to that adopted by the former Newman-Nicholls government when it produced regular updates on election commitments. I table an extract from the former government's six-monthly action plan, which clearly contains a reference to the LNP government.

Tabled paper: Extract from Department of the Premier and Cabinet: January—June 2014 Six Month Action Plan Final Report, p. 7 [\[1816\]](#).

Secondly, I have received advice from the director-general of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet that this report does not represent government advertising. The director-general advises—

... our understanding is that the opposition question refers to a progress report on election commitments published online (June 2016).

As a convention, similar reports have been prepared by previous governments and have been published online.

The content in this particular report has been drawn directly from the wording of the actual election commitments.

The advertising code of conduct refers to the development of communication campaigns, including newsletters and brochures.

On this basis, we believe the document subject of the question is a report, not an advertising campaign, and thus is not subject to the advertising code of conduct.

The reality is that the report was posted on the DPC website when it was released and was not the subject of any paid advertising anywhere in Queensland or elsewhere. Finally, I draw the attention of the House to the opposition leader's Strong Choices final plan, which was produced at taxpayer expense and the subject of a \$20 million multimedia advertising campaign.


While on my feet, I am also pleased to advise the House of more good economic news for Queensland. The NAB monthly business survey for September has been released and Queensland's business confidence is still the equal highest in the nation. In the month Queensland was the only state to record an increase in business conditions in trend terms. Well done, Treasurer!

I have even more good news for Queensland. A few moments ago, Glencore announced it will recommence operations and hire up to 200 people at its joint venture open-cut mine near Bowen. Coal has been mined at Collinsville for almost 100 years. In December, Glencore cut production, citing declining thermal coal prices. The 230-strong workforce was reduced by 180, 140 of whom were redeployed to other Glencore operations.

We have been advised that Glencore's recruitment will now focus on locals. Our regional resource communities have been doing it tough and positive developments such as this impact the whole community and local businesses. Over the past few months it has been encouraging to see the green shoots appearing, showing in both global prices and within the industry itself in Queensland. I thank the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines for working so closely with industry. We anticipate more good news in the coming weeks.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.36 am): What an exceptional past couple of weeks it has been for this asleep-at-the-wheel Labor government, even by their own low standards. I was listening to them before and they gave every excuse under the sun for not having done something. It has taken 18 months to take action in relation to child safety, an enormous amount of time to understand that the Adani mine in North Queensland needs to get going and an enormous amount of time to make sure that the state's finances are on a sound footing. It is well and truly the case that this government's motto is that they are slow but they are rough. That is all one can say about this government.

Any skerrick of credibility that the Premier might have had left was lost when she jettisoned her one core election promise and finally admitted that her government was going to engage in a fire sale of Queensland assets. The Premier has broken just about every promise she made to Queenslanders during the 2015 election campaign, and she did not make many.

The Premier promised to uphold the Fitzgerald principles, then implemented the biggest overhaul of Queensland's voting system in a generation with 18 minutes notice. Now she complains loudly about the fact that the system might cause her political pain because of those changes. There is a simple answer to that and I have issued this challenge on a number of occasions: the Premier can come back into this House and introduce legislation to reintroduce optional preferential voting, which was the system that was in place and was recommended by Fitzgerald. The Premier changed that system without taking it to cabinet or her party room. She changed that system without even referring it to her own director-general. That is a simple change that the Premier can make.

The Premier promised no new or increased taxes, but shattered that pledge with a new investment tax on the property industry. Only last year the Treasurer stood up and said that there will be no surcharge on property investment in Queensland, but only this year he changed his mind and broke that promise, as well. That promise lasted barely 12 months.

The Premier promised to reduce the size of her ministry. Do members remember that? Because those opposite were all such geniuses they were going to do it all, but they found that there is no genius over there. Not one of them could actually do the work in their ministry, let alone two or three ministries. The Deputy Premier was overworked and the Minister for Education was overworked. The poor old member for Sandgate was not worked at all and still is not working. The AWU did not have enough spots getting the lovely lolly, so they signed up and broke that promise, as well.

Mr Cripps: They still wouldn't give Scott Stewart a go, though.

Mr NICHOLLS: No, he is still waiting up there. I do not know how long he will wait. The member for Townsville—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: No. Unrequited virtue up there; he is sitting there quietly waiting for the call to come.

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS: Yes, he is in the wrong union. There is nothing as frustrating as a prophet not recognised in his own time or by his own party. That is the problem that they have with the member for Townsville.

We are used to this government breaking promises. They have been breaking them from day one. Remember their promise to combine all the power companies and create two generating companies. They cannot do that. The Treasurer did not understand the competition rules in Australia despite Rod Sims writing to him explaining that it was not going to happen. Remember the promise that he was going to use all the dividends to pay down debt. It has already been spent so he increased the dividends and borrowed the money. If a private company did that those responsible would go to prison—in fact, Alan Bond did. This Treasurer goes down that path. That is another broken promise from their list of election promises.

The grand-daddy of all the broken promises was the promise that was broken last week by Annastacia Palaszczuk, the Premier of Queensland. She broke her promise not to sell assets. I was listening to all the weasel words and the spin about income-producing assets, assets that are employing people and all those sorts of things. I went back to the fiscal strategy debt action plan—

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The level of conversation and interjections from across the chamber are quite extraordinary. I am having quite a bit of trouble hearing the Leader of the Opposition. Could members please keep their conversations to a minimum.

Mr NICHOLLS: I went back to the document 'Our state, our assets', Labor's fiscal strategy and debt action plan. What does it say? It states—

It is a measured, modest and responsible plan that does not involve selling the assets that are so important to Queenslanders.

That is the second paragraph in that action plan. That promise is clear and unambiguous. There is no mention of income-producing assets. There is no mention of underutilised land. There is no mention of that whatsoever. It was a clear and unambiguous promise. On the first page of the plan it states—

A future Labor government will implement a plan to pay down debt while retaining assets in public hands. This will be achieved by not engaging in a short-sighted fire sale of assets owned by the people of Queensland.

They did not say income-producing assets—nothing else. There were no other qualifications around it. This is a pure and simple rejection of that in the policy that they are now adopting. We should have seen it coming because the platform for this duplicity was laid with the typical ham-fisted actions of the Treasurer of Queensland. As the shadow Treasurer says, he was the acting Acting Premier on the day.

What did he do? He went out and tried to politically capitalise on some commentary in relation to asset sales—the old myth buster himself. I have not forgotten about the myth buster—the myth that he can actually do something with the finances of Queensland and has any authority in this government. It was reported on 22 September that the member for Mulgrave refused to rule out Labor changing its stance on asset sales if there was 'evidence Queenslanders would support such a shift'. I table the story in the *Courier-Mail* on 22 September.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 22 September 2016, titled 'Assets sales: Queensland acting premier Curtis Pitt refuses to rule out change in Labor's stance' [\[1817\]](#).

He refused to rule out Labor changing its stance on asset sales if there was evidence that people would support a shift. He was asked about it and questioned about it. He told reporters the Palaszczuk Labor government would 'consider all evidence based outcomes'.

How long did that position remain unchanged? How long was the Treasurer actually going to wait to consider evidence based outcomes? It was less than 24 hours until we had a statement from the Acting Premier and soon-to-no-longer-be Treasurer, Curtis Pitt. He realised he had made a blunder. I presume the Premier rang him from wherever she was on holidays and said, 'You've got this wrong. Again! You had better send out a statement.' He did not front the media. There was just a statement. There was not even an interview or a press release but simply a statement which led to this headline 'Pitt leaves the door ajar for asset sales sell-off'. We should have seen it coming. I table those documents.

Tabled paper: Media release, undated, by the Treasurer, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships and Minister for Sport, Hon. Curtis Pitt, titled 'Statement from Acting Premier Curtis Pitt' [\[1818\]](#).

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 23 September 2016, titled 'Pitt leaves door ajar for sell-off' [\[1819\]](#).

He obviously knew what was coming. He obviously did not want to deceive the people of Queensland. He thought, 'After all of the other statements that I have made and promises that I have made are broken, the one shred I have left is that I know this is coming. I cannot stop it because the member for South Brisbane is making it happen.' We know that anyone on that side who gets in the way of the member for South Brisbane gets steamrolled. Just ask the member for Stafford how that is all going over there.

Clearly we have, yet again, Labor reverting to form—Labor reverting to the form that we saw with Anna Bligh, Andrew Fraser, Paul Lucas, Annastacia Palaszczuk, Curtis Pitt, Kate Jones and Cameron Dick; they were all there; they all sat around the cabinet table—

Government members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Member for Clayfield, could I ask you to refer to members by their correct titles.

Mr NICHOLLS: Indeed. I should have said the Premier, the Minister for Education, the Minister for Health and the Treasurer were all sitting around that table. Indeed, Madam Speaker, you might have been in that government at that stage of proceedings when they made those decisions. The member for Sandgate was there. The Minister for Transport—

An opposition member interjected.

Mr NICHOLLS—formerly the member for Stafford. It is hard to keep track of the hopping around. This Labor government has reverted to form. They say and promise one thing before an election, they deceive the voters of Queensland, they put their hands on their hearts and claim to be true to their word and as soon as reality hits they turn around and change their position. That is what we have seen this time around.

We have seen a dishonest government dishonestly take a plan to the people of Queensland that they knew could not be delivered. They have turned around and are now engaging in a sale of assets, no matter how they wish to dress it up and whatever weasel words they use. Their hypocrisy is astounding and the people of Queensland will know that this is the case. This is a desperate government with desperate measures, willing to say and do anything to remain in power to fund their failure.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Townsville, I remind members that when you are speaking you should keep the Speaker in your line of sight so that if someone in this chair is asking you to resume your seat or to cease speaking so that they can make a point, you actually know it is happening and we do not have to repeat the request. I am not identifying one person or another because it happens right across the chamber. Please make sure that you actually have the Speaker in your line of sight.

Mr LANGBROEK: I rise to a point of order, Madam Deputy Speaker. Can I ask for clarification from you? Is that something that is going to be applied by the Speaker during question time and at all times during the parliament? As I understand it, this is a precedent for you to make this ruling and that, in speaking to you now, I am not supposed to gesture or look to my left because I would not have you in my line of sight. This is a very unusual ruling. I would ask you for clarification about its source and whether it is going to be applied across the parliament, at all hours of the day, in all debates and to all members, including government members. Some members of the government, ministers especially, turn their back on the Speaker at every opportunity.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a new ruling at all. If the Speaker makes a request then the member needs to actually acknowledge that request immediately. It is a matter of respect for the Speaker. If somebody happens to not notice that the Speaker has asked them to stop speaking then the Speaker needs to call them to that. I am not suggesting that people cannot speak across the chamber, but you need to notice when the Speaker is making a request of you. It is a question of order.

Mr LANGBROEK: We will wait and see.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: I hope the member for Surfers Paradise was not reflecting on the chair with that comment?

Mr LANGBROEK: No, Madam Deputy Speaker. I am accepting the guidance that I understand you have given to the chamber. I am looking forward to seeing the outcome through the debate as it continues.

Townsville, Community Cabinet



Mr STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (11.49 am): It gives me great pleasure to stand in this chamber today and speak openly about the impact of having the Premier and the Deputy Premier in Townsville last week and to have the cabinet meet in Townsville last Tuesday. Madam Deputy Speaker, once the announcement was made about the visit, the buzz around the city was amazing and very positive, as you can imagine. People wanted to know what announcements could be expected and the businesspeople were asking me what the Premier and the Deputy Premier will be doing to help the Townsville economy. I can safely say that the people of Townsville were certainly not disappointed, particularly when the Premier outlined in her CEDA speech on Thursday the government's commitment to the Galilee Basin. I will quote the Premier directly from her speech—

No-one should doubt the resolve of my Government to ensure the development of the Galilee Basin. We know how important that project is to regional economies like Townsville, but for the state economy as well. When we came to government in February 2015, it is fair to say that there was a long way to go with the approvals that Adani needed before they could start construction ... Adani has now obtained all the necessary primary approvals for its mine, rail and port project—and most importantly, we have granted the mining leases. And we have increased resourcing for the Land Court and appointed a new President to streamline some of the legal challenges.

Adani have also publicly said that they expect to begin initial construction early next year, which is great news for Townsville and for North Queensland. The Premier then went on to outline the infrastructure development work that is happening in the Townsville region that brings jobs to local people and includes investment in projects like the \$18.9 million primary school at the North Shore estate; section 4 of the ring-road, a \$200 million project that is creating 300 jobs; the new \$6.6 million paediatrics wing at Townsville Hospital; the \$30 million Riverway Drive duplication, which will start next year; \$55 million berth 4 upgrade to the port of Townsville, supporting 100 jobs during construction; the \$10 million Arnot Creek bridge upgrade, supporting 31 jobs; and the \$6 million Hervey Range Road widening works, supporting 19 jobs. That is not to mention the tens of millions of dollars of regular maintenance money being spent in Townsville.

The Premier also spoke of the additional front-line services that the government has invested in after the atrocious culling of some 14,000 jobs by the previous Newman-Nicholls government. In Townsville we have seen under the Palaszczuk government extra nurses, extra doctors, extra health professionals, extra teachers and teacher aides, extra paramedics and extra police.

The Premier also spoke of the Advancing our cities and regions strategy that provides opportunities to reassess what we have right in front of us and to look at ways to unlock economic growth opportunities. That kind of development means one thing above all others: it means more jobs. This thinking has led the Palaszczuk government to consider how we can create new partnerships with the private sector and with other levels of government and transform state land across Queensland. Advancing our cities and regions will see underutilised state property renewed and repurposed, breathing new life into communities across the state and, more importantly for Townsville, into our city.

Townsville has been singled out as one of the four priority projects under the Advancing our cities and regions strategy. The Townsville transformation project encompasses a range of renewal opportunities that will play a key role in the Australian first Townsville City deal. It includes the Townsville City Waterfront Priority Development Area, incorporating the North Queensland stadium, which is the most comprehensive economic development project in the city and one of the largest urban renewal projects currently underway in Northern Australia.

The Deputy Premier announced the first project of its kind under the Advancing our cities and regions policy. The Palaszczuk government is co-investing in the new \$28 million waterfront promenade, as well as opportunities like the JCU health and knowledge precinct and strategies to release surplus land on campus for renewal and development so local people get local jobs to build their local infrastructure projects that will build a strong local economy.

Minister for Child Safety



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (11.54 am): For months, Queenslanders have watched in disbelief as the embattled, incompetent Minister for Child Safety has bumbled and fumbled from one crisis to the next as she desperately clings to her portfolio. They have watched as she ignored the pleas of her department, who were crying out for extra resources to protect our kids. They have watched as the minister responsible for the protection of Queensland children has demonstrated time and time again that she is completely out of her depth and not up to the task. The result of this is that more than 60 per cent of Queenslanders have no confidence in this minister's ability to manage the child protection

system. Queenslanders can see that this minister is a phoney, they can see that this minister is a fraud and they can see that this crisis began under her watch. They can see that she has no plan to fix it and they can see that she has to go.


This is a minister who ignored all the warning signs of backlogs in her department and refused to take action until she was dragged kicking and screaming by the opposition and by the media. There can be no doubt that the minister was warned time and time again that her department was at crisis point. There can be no doubt that time and time again she ignored all the warning signs. She was warned by the child death review annual report of 2014-15. She was warned by her department, who briefed her last October—a year ago this month. She was warned by December 2016 data which showed the slide was continuing on her watch. She was warned by the ROGS data in January 2016. She was warned by the March performance data this year, which again showed a slide back to the bad old days before the Carmody reforms. What did this minister do? Absolutely nothing.

Now we have a system which under this minister's watch has gone from improving over time to sharp decline. After the terrible deaths of children who were known to Child Safety, we have it confirmed that this minister simply shut down a record number of suspected child abuse cases with no action or no outcome recorded. We have 1,124 cases closed without follow-up, without any attention, whilst children waited for Child Safety to come knocking on their door. We have a record number of cases taking longer than the required 60 days to finalise—more than 7,692 cases taking longer than they should. We have more than 3,254 cases languishing on waiting lists with no case worker assigned. We have 343 urgent cases of suspected abuse not actioned within the 24-hour response time. That is 10 per cent of all urgent cases which need to be actioned today, right now, sitting on a desk and nothing being done. We have 71 per cent of cases requiring a five-day response not actioned in time. We have 78 per cent of cases requiring a 10-day response not actioned in time. We have more children in need of foster care than foster carers able to look after them.

Where is the Minister for Child Safety as this crisis continues to unfold? She is constantly making excuses, ordering reviews or rehashing and rebadging glossy announcements. She refuses to reveal the true picture of caseloads for child safety service centres. She is refusing to detail the regions at greatest risk. She is painting over the reality that only 21 new child safety officers have been hired in 2015-16 and only 17 promised in the 2016-17 budget. She is promising 40 additional staff who will not spend a single day on the front line out in the community protecting our kids. She is refusing to lift the freeze on backfilling front-line child safety officer positions which continues to see more positions left unfilled. She is fudging the figures and making hollow promises. She is desperately trying to hold onto her position to the detriment of our children.

Queenslanders are not blind. They are watching. They are watching as more cases emerge with no-one to address them. They are watching as more kids lie waiting with no-one coming to help them. They are watching as this minister plays catch-up with children's lives. Behind every one of these numbers is a Queensland child who someone thought was in danger but who may never be rescued by this broken system under this failing minister. Queenslanders have no confidence in this minister to do her job, they have no confidence in her ability to protect our most vulnerable children and they have no confidence in her ability to turn it around. Our state deserves better. Our kids deserve better. This minister has to go.

Backpacker Tax

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (11.59 am): Every member of this Queensland parliament should be concerned over the federal government's position of introducing new taxes which will affect the Queensland economy. The coalition government's decision to increase taxes on international backpackers and those travellers leaving or entering our shores will see dramatic long-term effects on this state. We know the Turnbull government's backpacker tax will also hurt regional Queensland. Those opposite who are regional members should be standing up to this federal government about this particular tax.

Our agricultural and tourism industries rely on backpackers for seasonal jobs like fruit picking, harvesting and hospitality, and we do not want to see these industries put at risk. I know that the Minister for Tourism constantly advocates axing this tax. Backpackers spend money in our state. They are worth more than \$900 million to our tourism economy. Since the coalition federal government started talking about the backpacker tax 18 months ago, we have seen working holiday visitor nights reduce by nine per cent. By June 2016, Queensland had recorded 12.3 million visitor nights reduced from 13.5 million over the 12 months since June 2015. Concerns have been expressed across our nation from growers suggesting that 40 per cent fewer backpackers are knocking on their doors this year than

every other year. Growers have indicated that Australia's reputation as a working destination has been damaged, and New Zealand and Canada are seen as more attractive to people who have already booked their flights.

I refer to an article in the *Rural Weekly* by Ian Groves, who reported that, although the proposed 19 per cent is still a little on the high side for his liking, he is really concerned about the effect on his business, Groves Grown Tropical Fruits, located outside of Yeppoon. He indicated that he wished the government would come to a conclusion soon. He did not think it would take so long. He also mentioned in the article that New Zealand and Canada have a tax of around 15 per cent. I table that document.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Rural Weekly*—Central Queensland Edition, dated 7 October 2016, titled 'Has lower backpacker tax gone far enough?' [1820].


While the Palaszczuk Labor government has been closely working with the tourism industry on many fronts and attracting record numbers of international and national tourists to our state, the Turnbull government's new tax is having the direct opposite effect, as we know. The Prime Minister heads a government in disarray—a government captured by the extreme far right of the LNP. The likes of George Christensen, member for Dawson, pulls the puppet strings of this Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull. The last thing our tourism industry needs is a new tax. We should be making it easy for people to holiday and work in Queensland, not harder.

I listened to a question in estimates that was directed to the agriculture minister, the Hon. Leanne Donaldson. It was about her travelling around the state and meeting with business owners. One thing they continue to make clear to her is that they do not want this backpacker tax. We on this side are in tune and in touch with the community of Queensland, particularly the regional community, as to what people are experiencing as a result of this insidious tax. Businesspeople have made it clear that backpackers will simply stop coming, predominantly to the regional communities they like to go to, because of this tax. This means that international backpackers who come to work on farms or spend their money in regional establishments will not come here at all. They have already indicated that they will go to countries like Canada and New Zealand where the tax rate is lower.

The honourable minister went on to mention that federal LNP member Michelle Landry said that she would like to see the backpacker tax gone. Maybe she should stand up in parliament in Canberra and advocate that like the member for Dawson did. The proposed tax is now 19 per cent which our regional growers are saying is not good enough. They want it gone. Even the National Farmers Federation has said that it has real concerns about this tax and has spoken against it.

I call on the LNP members opposite to have one ounce of courage and one ounce of conviction to pick up their phones and call their federal coalition government partners to axe this new tax. It is time they showed some backbone and stood up to the people in Canberra. They are silent. They sit on their hands and do not refer to anything they introduce. They are quiet in this chamber. They are quiet down there. It is about time they stood up and showed some intestinal fortitude and made sure that these new taxes which were never promised leading into the 2016 election are not implemented. It is about time they got some backbone.

Townsville, Community Cabinet

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (12.04 pm): Last week there was an emergency meeting of the Queensland cabinet in Townsville. Despite all the political rhetoric from ministers, particularly the Premier, this morning about it all being about jobs, jobs, jobs, we know that it was a political emergency. They had to dispatch the full Queensland cabinet to Townsville because the government is bleeding in North Queensland and in Townsville, in particular, because of unemployment and crime issues. They are continuing the short-term bandaid solutions on crime, particularly youth crime, in Townsville. We saw this press release from the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland, 'Strong start to concerted effort against youth crime in Townsville'. It has been well reported that there has been an increase in arrests in Townsville since the strike force was deployed during the last sitting week of parliament. What we have not seen is how those offenders, following being charged, are being dealt with by the courts. We know that in June this government dismantled the youth justice reforms introduced by the former LNP government.

We had the Premier and her ministers wandering around Townsville associating themselves with initiatives of the former LNP government. I will give a couple of examples. This press release by the government announced the opening of the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine. Of course, that is a wonderful asset for Townsville, North Queensland and the tropics. This is the press release from 20 December 2012 announcing the commitment by the former LNP government of

\$42 million to build the Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine in Townsville, Cairns and the Torres Strait Islands. We also had members of the government—local Townsville ALP members—promoting stage 4 of the Townsville ring-road. That was also a project which the former LNP government funded in Townsville which they are now associating themselves with.

Then the Premier, the Deputy Premier and the Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland talked up the progress being made for development within the waterfront priority development area. This is the press release dated 3 September 2014 from the former deputy premier who announced the Townsville waterfront transformation process had begun under the PDA that he instituted. There is a lot of hot air and a lot of pretence that the government is progressing economic development opportunities and job creation opportunities in North Queensland.

We had to wait until Sunday for the biggie to come along, and that was the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines announcing that secondary approvals associated with Adani's Carmichael coal project would be declared critical infrastructure. This followed some tough talk by the Premier at the CEDA lunch in Townsville where she told business and industry leaders that no-one should doubt her government's resolve to open up the Galilee Basin and progress the Adani Carmichael mine project. We could be forgiven for wondering if this was the same Premier who leads the same government that has done everything it possibly can to frustrate and delay the progress of the Carmichael mine project in Central Queensland since it came into office.

Let us go through what has happened over the last 18 months. When they arrived in office, they intervened in the approvals and assessment process for the expansion of the port at Abbot Point. They withdrew the application, made up a new one and put another one in which reopened the assessment and approvals process to significantly deliver progress on the port at Abbot Point. They delayed the signing of the mining lease for the Carmichael coalmine project even after it had an environmental authority approved by the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. That process in particular was a blow to the confidence of communities in Central and North Queensland who were screaming out for some certainty and a vote of confidence from the government.

During the last sitting of the parliament we saw new environmental legislation introduced by the Palaszczuk government—another piece of environmental legislation that will capture Adani's Carmichael coal project in another assessment and approvals process which increases the uncertainty for that project. The challenge for the Minister for State Development and Minister for Natural Resources and Mines will be to outline exactly what this declaration of critical infrastructure will be, how regularly the Coordinator-General will intervene to facilitate and fast-track secondary approvals for the project and how they will limit frivolous and vexatious objections from green activist groups. This is the big one: will this minister ensure that a project that has been through a full environmental impact assessment process will not be subjected to a second round of assessment and approvals under the legislation introduced by his colleague the environment minister?

China, Economy



Mr PEGG (Stretton—ALP) (12.08 pm): In our media and the public discourse in Australia, China is often talked about as though it is a monolithic political, cultural and economic identity. It is very easy to gloss over the very real differences within China. Different areas of China have different cuisines, economies, cultures and religions. Historically, they have spoken different languages. In the coastal regions of the east we find cities like Shanghai, Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Beijing. These are the advanced regions and they are what first comes to mind when we think of China.

One of the most common examples of Chinese economic growth is the coastal city of Shenzhen. In 1989 Shenzhen was a sleepy fishing village on the border of Hong Kong. It had a population of no more than 30,000. Under Deng Xiaoping's economic development policies, it was designated as a special economic zone and exploded in wealth and population. In 2015 it had a population of over 10 million and a GDP per capita of US\$25,000, slightly over a third of Australia's GDP per capita.

Shanghai is another one of these miracle cities. I am sure that many members present will be familiar with the famous photographs of the Pudong region. Thirty years ago we could stand on one side of the Huangpu River and look over onto a small rural area with some villages and mudflats. Today we can look across that same river and see a gleaming metropolis, the financial centre of mainland China. Those are the images that stick in our mind when we think about the Chinese economic transformation, and these are very real achievements. However, there is the plot twist in the story of Chinese economic growth. The GDP per capita of Shanghai is US\$16,000. For Shenzhen it is US\$25,000. For Hong Kong it is about US\$38,000. However, the GDP per capita of China as a whole is around US\$6,000. The story of Chinese economic transformation is true, but it is also incomplete.


China possesses areas at vastly different stages of economic development. For starters, there are what are called the second tier cities—Wuhan, Chengdu, Chongqing—which are closing in on the top tier. These cities are further inland but they are also major population centres in their own right. There are other inland provinces that are substantially underdeveloped. Anhui, Gansu and Guizhou fall into this category. While coastal cities are increasingly moving up the value chain developing substantial financial, media, trading and cultural economies, many areas in the interior still rely heavily on natural resource and agricultural production. Because of this disparity we have to ask the question: is taking a monolithic approach to China adequate? Real consideration should be given to how we reflect the reality of economic disparity in China in trade and investment strategies. One approach may be to develop an overall strategic road map to China which sets out the challenges and opportunities common to trade and investment across China: linguistic, legal, cultural. Nested under the overall strategic road map would be a series of regional strategies that address at a more detailed level the economic opportunities on a region-by-region basis. For example, there could be an overall China strategy but then more detailed strategies for investors dealing in coastal China, inland China and the special administrative regions. We should also look to engage our existing human resources and sociocultural networks.

My own electorate of Stretton has very high levels of cultural and economic engagement with mainland China and Hong Kong. We should look to leverage these existing networks. Likewise, Australia possesses a substantial expatriate network in Asia. A recent report by PricewaterhouseCoopers found that by 2030, 450,000 Australians will be living, working and studying in Asia. We should also examine how business can be supported to get better and smarter at leveraging our existing person-to-person networks. Rather than reinventing the wheel, we need to figure out what assets we already possess and get better at using those.

Finally, the disgraceful conduct of the LNP in supporting One Nation cannot be allowed to go unremarked. We cannot expect to trade with and invest in China while the LNP get into bed with far-right-wing xenophobia. My community is a vibrant, strong example of multiculturalism in action. It is a cultural strength, and properly leveraged it will also be an economic strength. The LNP-One Nation alliance does not represent Queensland and we cannot allow their cowardice to distort our engagement with China. Fear driven politics is not the answer.

Mr SPEAKER: Before I call the member for Kawana, I point out to members that there are a number of members who have been warned this morning by the Speaker and they need to be aware of not getting any further warnings.

Alcohol Fuelled Violence

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (12.14 pm): We know that the member for Redcliffe, the Attorney-General, is out of her depth. She has too much on her plate and cannot make a decision. We saw indecision from the Deputy Premier about setting up agencies for Cross River Rail. We saw the Attorney-General, who is responsible for Jobs Queensland, only recently appoint a full-time board to the position. We know the Attorney-General is overworked and cannot handle everything on her desk. We know things are sitting on her desk. We know that she is not up to the job. As I said, her record speaks for itself. We know that the time for her to commit to her portfolio is just too onerous for the member for Redcliffe. Whether it is the training sector, law and order, our courts or our democracy, time and time again we have seen example after example of a bungling Attorney-General who is overwhelmed by all these portfolio responsibilities.

Today I want to focus on another area of bungling and incompetence and that is in relation to the government's alcohol fuelled violence laws. Those opposite say they are comprehensive, yet implementation has been, as one would describe, not so good. I do not know what the member for Stafford thinks about his grand plan for alcohol fuelled violence and the chaotic implementation of this policy. He must be shaking his head in shame at the policies, although we have seen him turn and tumble on their alcohol fuelled violence policy. He was advocating for lockout laws and now he opposes them and says they do not work. He manages to get them introduced—

Dr Lynham: Rubbish!

Mr BLEIJIE: Last time in the parliament I tabled his comments where he said lockout laws do not work. He said it himself. I tabled the document in parliament. Now I want to quote another doctor—not the member for Stafford, who introduced the Labor policies. I want to quote from the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital emergency specialist Dr David Rosengren. The article states—

... David Rosengren, who has practised in emergency departments for more than 20 years, said anyone who thought the laws would have a major impact on emergency departments was "naive and ignorant".

'Naive and ignorant', the doctor says—not the doctor opposite, but this doctor, Rosengren—'anyone who thought these laws would work is naive and ignorant'. I quote from this story, which I will table. It states—

The legislation was never going to have a major impact on the number of people that we see turn up in our emergency departments, the workload or the patterns of behaviour.

However, that is exactly what the doctor opposite said would happen; it would all reduce. He said lockdown laws would fix all this, yet we have not seen hospital admissions decline since the laws were introduced. Now we have seen doctors come out and oppose these laws and say that people were naive and ignorant if they thought they would work. I table a copy of that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 22 August 2016, titled 'Queensland lockdown laws: Hospital presentations remain constant' [\[1821\]](#).

Now we have the LNP's strong stance on alcohol fuelled and drug related violence in relation to ID scanners. Then the Labor Party said they were reviewing them; they were looking at it. They then introduced their legislation which included that ID scanners would be implemented across Queensland. Now I table an article from the *Courier-Mail* entitled 'Queensland lockdown laws: Nightclubs in limbo as State Government halts ID scanner rollout'.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail* online, dated 5 September 2016, titled 'Queensland lockdown laws: Nightclubs in limbo as State Government halts ID scanners rollout' [\[1822\]](#).

Now we are seeing ID scanners rolled out. I am also going to table a little secret email from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to all licensees. It states—

The outcomes of this consultation—
on ID scanners—

are still under consideration and the Attorney-General has stated that while the ID scanning legislation commenced on 6 September 2016, licensees' obligations under the provisions will not be enforced ...

They introduce legislation for ID scanners that started on 6 September and yet the Attorney-General has decided that the laws are in, the legislation is there, but they are not going to enforce them. What is the point of having a policy? What is the point of having lockdown laws? What is the point of having ID scanners if the Attorney-General is not going to implement the laws? I table a copy of that.

Tabled paper: Email, dated 22 August 2016, from the Manager, Media and Strategic Communications, Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation, Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Ms Helen Ainsworth, circulating correspondence sent to licensees located in safe night precincts [\[1823\]](#).

The Attorney-General should implement the laws because the good old doctor opposite has relied on the New South Wales experience. Every speech he has made in this place has been along the lines of 'lockout laws work in New South Wales, Kings Cross' and the other parts of New South Wales. Perhaps they should read the recent September report of the Kings Cross ID Scanner Review. I bet they do not refer to this report from New South Wales which said under 'key findings'—

Overall stakeholders consulted by the review consider ID scanners to be an appropriate and effective way to reduce alcohol-related crime and violence in Kings Cross.

It goes on—

NSW police confirmed that ID scanners play an important role ...


I table a copy of this report.

Tabled paper: Document, dated September 2016, by Liquor and Gaming New South Wales titled 'Kings Cross ID Scanner Review Report' [\[1824\]](#).

Members opposite cannot have it both ways. They cannot say the New South Wales laws are great and copy them and then not implement them or introduce them in this state. Only the LNP have the most comprehensive way to deal with alcohol fuelled violence, not the Labor Party.

(Time expired)

Townsville

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (12.20 pm): I would like to share with the parliament the positive impact that our Premier and cabinet ministers had—and left on the Townsville community—after spending last week governing Queensland from our fine and proud city of Townsville. Last Tuesday I had the pleasure of meeting the Premier and Minister for Education, Kate Jones, at the state's second largest state high school with over 2,200 students—

Ms Jones: Kirwan is a great school!

Mr HARPER: I will take that interjection; it certainly is. It is also well known as a school of excellence. Indeed, NRL legends Sam Thaiday and Jason Taumaolo attended Kirwan State High. We looked at some recent maintenance work. There was an announcement in the last state budget of \$2 million for shade sales and synthetic turf, for the school's music and art facilities to be upgraded and the parent drop-off area to be improved to ensure safety around this very busy school. The minister knows that I am working very hard with the school community and the P&C to deliver more important facilities at Kirwan State High School. From there we went to Thuringowa's magnificent Riverway precinct, where the Premier and ministers spoke casually with locals. The fact that the Premier and ministers were so approachable left a lasting impression on the locals. In fact, I heard this many times throughout the week wherever I went. We also met with Townsville city councillors and the mayor, Jenny Hill, to discuss local issues. I know that councillors very much enjoyed the opportunity to engage with the Premier and her ministers.


As the local MP, I know that our city has issues around unemployment and youth crime. We also know that, through funding for a \$240 million capital works program, the \$250 million North Queensland stadium, the \$100 million in regional funding for the Back to Work initiative and things like the \$30 million Riverway Drive and the \$6.2 million Hervey Range Road upgrades, we are indeed delivering initiatives to counter our city's challenges and I know they are being well-received. We know that through our initial government strike force response—30 extra police for Queensland Police Service Operation Oscar Merchant—and our Stronger Communities whole-of-government initiative, we are getting on with the challenging job of tackling youth crime. The Palaszczuk government's attention to these matters during the week through engagement, interaction and announcements has left a lasting and positive impression on our city. I commend the Premier for meeting with our Indigenous elders, who are acutely aware of the high percentage of Indigenous youth in detention centres. They want to help, and it was a great opportunity to sit down and discuss ways to go forward.

Only a short time after the Townsville cabinet meeting my electorate of Thuringowa proudly hosted a community leaders' forum at the Tony Ireland Stadium, which is located within the Riverway precinct. Over 170 local leaders from across our city gathered to hear from the Premier on our government's plans to address not only employment issues but a range of other challenges. They also spoke of initiatives which will be delivered throughout the week to help stimulate Townsville's economy. This was perhaps the busiest week I have had since my election, because when the Premier and cabinet come to town there is no rest. The same night we met with over 250 businesspeople who came to hear from Minister Anthony Lynham on state development opportunities like the Queens Wharf development—which, as we heard, is an opportunity for all Queensland—and the Townsville stadium, which we know will begin construction in mid-2017 and bring much-needed jobs to Townsville. Let's not stop there! The Premier also announced co-funding for the Townsville waterfront promenade, which is a \$28 million development that will connect our beautiful Strand to the stadium and create more jobs.

The Premier give a stirring State of the State address at the CEDA lunch, where we also heard of Sun Metals' bold plans to expand and invest over \$400 million in the Townsville Sun Metals plant, which means more jobs. This is another demonstration of positivity and confidence. Together we are getting on with turning Townsville's economy around. Best of all were the positive comments we heard concerning the Adani and Galilee Basin development. We know the importance of job creation in the mining sector, and the nearly 200,000 people of Townsville and I welcomed the Premier's positive comments around Adani. We are indeed getting on with job creation in Townsville.

The Premier chose to stay on in Townsville on Friday night to attend the Cowboys presentation ball and I know she also had the opportunity to attend the Broncos NRL presentation dinner, so it was a great way to end the week. She also spoke to over 800 people about the Adani and Galilee Basin project.

Health Services

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.25 pm): It is clear that the Queensland Health system has flatlined under this asleep-at-the-wheel Palaszczuk Labor government. Today the Minister for Health announced that mental health and drug and alcohol services will supposedly be enhanced because he is going to spend more money. That is what we always hear from this government. Health budgets are always record budgets because we have a growing population. We on this side of the House are concerned about outcomes for students in our schools, patients in our hospitals and taking

care of stakeholders like teachers, doctors and nurses. I am very concerned that Queenslanders do not forget Labor's track record when it comes to health. We have already seen it with the most recent budget overruns in Cairns. The Health payroll bungle, one of the worst examples of administration failure—which cost over \$1 billion—and the fake Tahitian prince all happened under Labor's watch, and it has not got better under the current minister.


With regard to the Health payroll debacle, now we hear that debt collectors are being sooled onto constituents who may have worked for Queensland Health. They are simply asking that Queensland Health—for amounts as little as \$320—prove they were overpaid that amount, and instead they are being threatened by debt collectors. All of these things have happened under Labor. Labor created the Health payroll crisis, and now innocent Queenslanders have to come to LNP members of parliament to say, 'I'm being chased by Queensland Health. I'm being made out to be a criminal, and a debt collector will be put onto me if I don't repay the amount I was supposedly overpaid', but Queensland Health cannot always provide details about overpayments into their bank accounts.

It is obvious that Labor have not learned from their mistakes. When it comes to outcomes for patients, just last week I received a report that a nine-year-old boy waited four hours for an X-ray on a broken leg at Caloundra Hospital, and there were reports that at the same time the Nambour hospital was not taking any more patients. Last month we saw an entire health board take the fall for the minister's incompetence and mismanagement at Cairns Hospital. The former minister for health in the LNP government, Lawrence Springborg, has advised me that he had weekly or fortnightly budget meetings with all of the HHSs so that he was advised about what was happening in the HHSs. Where is the member for Woodridge when it comes to watching over Cairns Hospital? Cairns Hospital has been run into the ground after a largely Labor appointed board blew its budget by \$20 million last year, 2015-16. Now, only a couple of months into the new financial year, we have a forecast deficit of almost \$80 million this year, yet this is something that I raised at estimates in July. I asked the CEO of the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service whether newspaper reports were true that, because of prospective budget deficits, they were turning off lights and air-conditioning to try to save money, yet the minister was supposedly concerned that I did not ask him enough questions. I would have thought he would take the cue to find out what was happening at the Cairns and Hinterland Health Service, but they now have a board which has fallen on its sword and a minister who will not release the Ernst & Young report into the Cairns HHS finances in full or even explain why he failed to act until the hospital was in crisis mode.

We have seen issues arise at Rockhampton Hospital. From turning patients away in July this year to allegations last week that a deceased patient was not discovered for up to an hour after their death, it is obvious that patient care has been jeopardised due to the minister's lack of oversight. We also saw a government slow to act after the death of a baby and the serious injury of three others at Rockhampton Hospital. Only 14 of 35 recommendations from an independent report into obstetrics and gynaecology services at Rockhampton Hospital were implemented two months after receiving it, but locals deserve to know what is happening. They are being kept in the dark.

I would like to go on about other issues that have arisen, but time eludes me. Contrast things like ambulance ramping to the LNP's delivery on health. We eliminated dental long waits; we openly and transparently provided statistics such as waiting lists, waiting times and surgery statistics for our hospitals and we delivered the surgery wait time guarantee. We lowered the long wait surgery list from 6,500 to 30. The LNP delivers on health; Labor just loves to talk about it.

Advancing Our Cities and Regions Strategy

 **Mrs LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (12.29 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Palaszczuk government's Advancing our cities and regions strategy, which is already creating renewed confidence across the state and in particular in the electorate I represent in this place, Keppel. Last week in Yeppoon I announced that Economic Development Queensland will begin master planning the old railway station site from Queensland Rail—a 2.8-hectare prime Yeppoon CBD site which has sat dormant for decades.

It is an exciting time for Yeppoon which, like many other regional areas, is seeking similar transformational projects which will bring benefits through their innovative range of job-creating urban renewal plans. Last Friday's announcement sent a buzz through the Yeppoon community, which is now excitedly looking forward to the engagement process which will help to formulate and develop the property to its significant potential. This project runs parallel to the redevelopment of the Yeppoon

foreshore and central business district, into which this Palaszczuk government has invested \$25 million. Work is set to start on this project by the end of this year. This foreshore redevelopment will create a world-class tourist destination, contribute to a strong economy and support a vibrant and livable community.

I am confident and buoyed by the public and social media support that the Palaszczuk government's new strategy to maximise the use of state owned land is already a winner. Further, I believe that the advancing our cities strategy will prove to be a trail-blazing catalyst for the Keppel region and other regions throughout Queensland. We have enormous opportunities in front of us to deliver smart urban renewal projects which will redefine our regions, deliver better community facilities and more affordable housing and unlock significant economic growth and jobs for Queensland. Creating more jobs for Queenslanders has been the mantra of this Palaszczuk government since we came to government. It will remain so as we continue to grow Queensland.

I have worked with EDQ on many occasions, and I am looking forward to a partnership where we will collaborate with other state agencies to identify land renewal and repurposing possibilities within priority economic and community zones including regional cities, urban renewal precincts, health and knowledge precincts, housing renewal and integration precincts, Queensland renewable energy sites and regional livability precincts.

As a town-planner by profession I back this Advancing our cities and regions strategy, because I am confident that this strategy will deliver a key component of our state's fabric: urban renewal, which is fundamental to the sustainability and livability of regional towns and cities and creates an opportunity to deliver better access to health, community and jobs—the critical trifecta in our regions. As a planner I also applaud the Palaszczuk government's Advancing our cities and regions strategy because of its innovative approach to renewing underutilised state land for the benefit of all Queenslanders. Innovation has been a fundamental and deliberate planning element in this government, and this management strategy to make maximum use of dormant government land should be applauded by all Queenslanders who value the creation of significant social and community outcomes with a specific focus on jobs and long-term economic growth. In Yeppoon specifically, the innovative plan is to take the underused state land that is the former railway site and turn it into an attractive, vibrant area to attract further economic activity.


Aside from the significant benefits outlined, the potential is there to create a long-term funding stream for local communities, whilst taking some of the financial burden from the government to continue to maintain these dormant properties. The Advancing our cities and regions strategy goes one step further—a major step which those sitting opposite failed to achieve in their brief foray in government; that is, to partner with the private investment sector to introduce investors into new areas and create social infrastructure which then becomes the heart of further economic development.

This innovative project from the Palaszczuk government lays out a clear and achievable platform for future economic growth where this form of development also provides additional income for reinvestment in future infrastructure projects. Since the announcement last week, people in my community have been so excited about the opportunities that the old Yeppoon railway station site provides. The site is prime CBD land in Yeppoon. I think the advancing our cities strategy is good planning, good economic management and good government.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): Order! The time for matters of public interest has expired.

CROSS RIVER RAIL DELIVERY AUTHORITY BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. JA TRAD** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.34 pm): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): The message from His Excellency recommends the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

CROSS RIVER RAIL DELIVERY AUTHORITY BILL 2016

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

I, PAUL de JERSEY AC, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to establish the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and to amend this Act, the Economic Development Act 2012 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes.

GOVERNOR

Date: 11 October 2016

Tabled paper: Message, dated 11 October 2016, from His Excellency the Governor recommending the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016 [\[1825\]](#).

Introduction

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.34 pm): I present a bill for an act to establish the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority and to amend this act, the Economic Development Act 2012 and the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016 [\[1826\]](#).

Tabled paper: Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016, explanatory notes [\[1827\]](#).

Cities and metropolitan regions are becoming increasingly important foci of opportunity, productivity and economic growth. It is vital that we invest in the necessary infrastructure and city shaping that makes great Queensland cities like Brisbane even better. Population growth in the coming decades means that we will have more people seeking to access jobs and more people seeking access to quality and affordable housing. To access jobs and housing we need to maintain and improve access to those places where people work and where they live. We need to address our growing road based congestion in South-East Queensland. All this will see greater demand for public transport, and it is great public transport that is a hallmark of great cities.

Predicted population growth will see our rail system needing to account for an additional 45,000 passengers in the morning two-hour peak period by 2026. This is the equivalent of 100 fully seated trains. By 2036 this will expand to an additional 83,000 passengers, or 185 full train loads. This drives the need for South-East Queensland to be better designed and better connected, with better integration of land use, infrastructure and transport. The Cross River Rail project delivers this for Queensland.

A new rail connection across the Brisbane River will transform Brisbane, providing much needed congestion relief on the rail network and rail service access to new locations around the centre of Brisbane, opening up access to jobs and opportunities. Cross River Rail will improve connectivity and frequency of services between Brisbane and the rest of South-East Queensland. It will also provide the catalyst for major urban renewal opportunities around new station precincts. This supports more compact urban forms, more vibrant centres and access to housing choice, jobs, education and leisure opportunities. Critically, it will better link residential growth areas to key employment hubs. It will double rail capacity across the Brisbane River and through the CBD from the south. It will provide new or upgraded stations for the inner city's key employment and urban renewal areas. It will connect knowledge infrastructure, which is important to realise the entrepreneurial and innovative vision of this government's Advance Queensland initiative.

This government is also planning to capitalise on the government's investment in Cross River Rail to generate wider economic benefits by establishing nodes of major economic activity which are centred around the Cross River Rail stations. These nodes can then link to hospitals, universities, sports and entertainment venues and other government services and commercial activities. Importantly, income generated from developing sites within the corridor will be retained by the authority for reinvestment in the project.

The authority will work with other government agencies including Economic Development Queensland to fully integrate transport and land use associated with Cross River Rail and transform South-East Queensland. The authority will be responsible for finalising the funding model, leading procurement and managing the delivery of both the Cross River Rail infrastructure project and the wider economic development associated with the Cross River Rail innovation and economic development corridor.

The authority's powers are not new powers. These powers are already carried out by a number of agencies across state government. However, by combining these powers into a single independent statutory body, the authority will have the necessary support to deliver both the below-ground infrastructure and the above-ground development required to fully realise this project's city transformation opportunities. The authority will ensure that Cross River Rail stays on track and is not derailed by politics. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. JA TRAD (South Brisbane—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister for Trade and Investment) (12.39 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Farmer): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 16 August (see p. 2763).

Second Reading

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.40 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

This bill is the next stage of legislative reforms to implement the recommendations of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland. It includes important amendments to simplify processes for police so they can provide enhanced protection immediately to victims and, for the first time ever, children through expanded police protection notices; clarify that the court may make a domestic violence order when a victim has been threatened or has fears for their safety or wellbeing; provide for the future implementation of automatic recognition of DVOs across Australia under a national domestic violence order scheme; ensure courts consider if more tailored conditions need to be included in a DVO; ensure protection orders remain in place for a minimum of five years unless the court is satisfied that there are reasons for a shorter order being made; require the courts to consider any family law orders when making a DVO to minimise inconsistency between the orders and may use their powers to modify family law orders if necessary; and establish a comprehensive information-sharing framework to ensure that agencies providing specialist domestic and family violence services and prescribed entities can share information appropriately with each other to assess and manage risk.

The bill was referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee and the committee's report was tabled on 4 October 2016. I thank the committee for its thorough report. I also thank everyone who made a submission to the committee for taking the time to do so. The committee received 20 submissions on the bill. These included submissions from the Queensland Domestic Violence Services Network, Micah Project's Brisbane Domestic Violence Service, PeakCare Queensland, the LGBTI Legal Service, the Queensland Law Society and UnitingCare Queensland. Our partners in the domestic and family violence and legal sectors play a vital role in protecting women and children from potentially fatal violence. As always, their expertise and insights have helped to ensure the quality and workability of the bill. I table the Queensland government's response to the committee report.

Tabled paper: Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee: Report No. 27—Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, government response [\[1828\]](#).

The committee made two recommendations, and I will address each of these in turn. The committee's first recommendation is that the bill be passed, and I thank the committee for this recommendation. All of the stakeholders that made submissions to the committee expressed their support for the bill and believe it will improve the legal and justice response to domestic violence in Queensland. The second recommendation is that a minor drafting error in clause 63 of the bill be corrected. Subclause 63(6) refers to the 'Domestic and Family Violence Act 2012' rather than the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. The Palaszczuk government accepts the committee recommendation to correct this oversight and I will move the necessary amendment during consideration in detail of the bill.

The committee report includes a statement of reservations of non-government members. This raises issues about the impact on police and courts of more victims reporting domestic and family violence and seeking protection. Police officers play a vital role in protecting victims of domestic and family violence and their families. Violence that occurs behind closed doors is a crime, just like violence that occurs elsewhere. The hard work and dedication of officers dealing with domestic violence cases saves lives. It is difficult and critically important work. We know that domestic and family violence is under-reported. We want victims to come forward, report violence and get the protection and support they need. Increased rates of reporting are a key measure of the success of justice system reforms under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and their Children 2010-2022 which all Australian governments are signatories to. The bill includes important reforms to improve the tools police have to protect victims while streamlining administrative processes for front-line officers.

As the committee found, the proposed changes to police protection notices will provide officers with the necessary tools to respond more effectively and provide more victims and their families with immediate protections. We know that domestic and family violence takes an incredible toll on children who witness it or experience it, so it is essential that for the first time children and other members of the family will be able to be included on police protection notices. At the same time the bill will make it quicker and easier for police officers to issue the notices and make them enforceable to protect victims. The government agrees that increased rates of domestic violence reporting raises resourcing issues for police, courts and the broader domestic violence system. That is why our government announced a \$198.2 million package in the budget to address domestic and family violence, including \$42.4 million over four years to rollout further specialist courts, building on the learnings from our trial at Southport. The budget also provided my department with \$89.5 million over five years to implement the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy. This includes funding for new and enhanced services to address current service gaps and to establish new integrated high-risk teams.

The special task force recommended extensive legislative policy and practice changes to improve the response to domestic violence. We are well on our way to implementing all of these recommendations. The Palaszczuk government is committed to monitoring and evaluating the ongoing long-term implementation of all of the task force recommendations. This will ensure that our actions are effective as we continue to identify opportunities for improvement and the impacts on resourcing. As recommended by the task force, we are developing a detailed evaluation framework to assess the overall impact of the reforms. An evaluation of the Domestic and Family Violence Specialist Court at Southport is already underway.


The committee brought one fundamental legislative principle issue to the attention of the House. This relates to the information-sharing provisions in clause 44 of the bill, in particular the new section that enables entities to share both facts and opinions. The committee said that this was potentially incompatible with the principles of natural justice and due process in particular circumstances. These are when a person is identified as an alleged perpetrator of domestic violence and they have not had the chance to answer those allegations in a court. The committee also raised a concern that people's recollection of events could be impacted by other people's opinions that are shared with them and this might adversely affect the evidence they give to a court if they are subsequently called as a witness. The information-sharing provisions in the bill will enable government and non-government organisations to share information for the specific purpose of assessing and managing domestic violence threats. The framework in the bill relies on police officers, doctors and other front-line service providers exercising their professional judgement and experience when determining whether a person is experiencing domestic violence and what information should be shared to help either assess the threat or respond to a serious threat.

Allowing facts and opinions to be shared is consistent with the approach of other Queensland legislation. The Child Protection Act and the Information Privacy Act already allow both to be shared. The bill also establishes a requirement for the court to consider any family law orders in place to

minimise inconsistency between it and the domestic violence order they may put in place. It also clarifies that magistrates may use their powers to modify family law orders if necessary. This is an important step forward. Anyone who has heard Rosie Batty's story understands the additional pressure put on her due to inconsistencies and a lack of connection between the courts. I have spoken with and received correspondence from so many women who tell us that a major barrier to them leaving a violent situation is their concern for their children's safety. They will not save themselves while any danger to their children remains real or perceived, so we must make it abundantly clear that family law orders can be varied to reflect a domestic violence order where the magistrate sees it appropriate to exercise their power to do so.

Again, I would like to extend my thanks to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for its quick and effective examination of what is an extensive and technical amendment bill. I would also like to thank the research staff of the committee for their hard work in assisting the committee to consider the bill.

This bill is another important step in our ongoing work to confront and end domestic and family violence in Queensland. The bill will ensure that the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 provides a robust and contemporary legislative framework. As we implement the other task force recommendations and the changes in this bill, we will continue to consider whether further amendments to the act are required. I look forward to hearing members' contributions to the debate of the bill. In conjunction with the ongoing reforms being implemented by the Palaszczuk government, this bill will help improve the lives of those experiencing the devastating effects of domestic and family violence. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (12.50 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As I have said many times in this place, domestic and family violence is an insidious and, sadly, all too common crime in our communities that we as members of this place have a responsibility to address. We cannot sit idly by as members of our community struggle with a system that is not there for them when they make the courageous decision to leave their toxic relationship. That is not a decision that is ever taken lightly and for many victims of domestic and family violence in our community it means uprooting their entire life—their entire emotional and financial support structure—to leave a situation that is beyond their control.

That is why the former LNP government initiated the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland which, in 2014, delivered the landmark report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. As I have done so many times in this House, I want to begin my contribution by thanking my friend and colleague the member for Aspley for all that she did during her tenure as the minister to bring forward this landmark initiative, which continues to make a difference in the lives of so many men and women throughout this state. Today, we debate the latest piece of legislation introduced into this House to implement the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report and move towards a society where domestic and family violence is no more.

When it comes to tackling the scourge of domestic and family violence, we know that the government is not the ultimate answer. Nonetheless, we must do all we can to give victims the resources and framework that they need when they make the choice to stand up for themselves. We all play a role in stemming the tide of violence but, as members of parliament, we are uniquely placed to stand up for the most vulnerable of those whom we represent. This bill continues with this important work. It was introduced on 16 August 2016 and was referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for detailed consideration. The committee reported back to parliament on 4 October 2016. As a former member of that committee, I thank the committee for its work in examining this bill.

The stated policy objectives of this bill are to provide victims of domestic and family violence with access to earlier and more tailored protection; ensure that victim safety is at the forefront of the justice response to domestic and family violence; require police to consider how immediate and effective protection can be provided to victims pending a court's consideration of an application for a domestic violence order; provide for the automatic mutual recognition of domestic violence orders made in other jurisdictions through the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme; and hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and encourage them to change their behaviour.

To do that, the bill has a number of key components that, when enacted, will serve to enhance the protection available to victims of domestic violence immediately, including changes to police protection notices and related powers to require police to consider what action to take to provide victims with immediate and effective protection from domestic and family violence while also expanding and

simplifying the use of PPNs; enhance requirements for courts' consideration and imposition of DVOs to support stronger and more tailored protection for victims and other named persons and to clarify that victim safety must be at the forefront of all decision-making; introduce new information-sharing provisions to facilitate information sharing for risk assessment and responding to serious domestic violence threats and to enable the QPS to make referrals to specialist DFV service providers where a serious threat is identified; implement COAG model laws for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs across Australia and New Zealand to underpin Queensland's participation in the NDVOS; enhance perpetrator accountability and encourage behavioural change through amendments that increase penalties and requirements associated with PPNs and release conditions; place greater emphasis on respondent compliance with voluntary intervention orders—VIOs—and to allow the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the QPS to obtain copies of DVO court documents that are relevant to a related criminal prosecution and for courts to provide documents to police where they are relevant to a related police investigation.

Police protection notices are a key mechanism for the Queensland Police Service to provide immediate protection to victims of domestic and family violence before a DVO can be issued by a court. Police protection notices, which were introduced by the then LNP government in 2012, are issued immediately following an incident of domestic and family violence where police are called and need to take immediate action to protect the victim. PPNs were one of the reforms introduced by the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act in 2012 to enable police officers to provide quick and effective responses for victims of domestic and family violence.

A PPN is also an application for a protection order that provides short-term protection until the application can be heard by a court. That is important, because courts can take up to five business days and, in some rural and remote areas, even up to 28 days to hear a case and issue a DVO. The changes to PPNs and associated police powers proposed in this bill seek to require police to consider what action to take to provide victims with immediate and effective protection from domestic and family violence; expand the protection that can be provided by PPNs; streamline administrative requirements associated with PPNs; and provide more flexibility in the issuing and service of notices, including expanding the existing power available to police to direct a person to remain at a specified place to also enable a person to be directed to move to another place for the issuing, service or explanation of a PPN.

Clause 19 of the bill specifically seeks to improve police procedure to remove the current requirement for a police officer to be present at the same location as the respondent to issue a PPN. It also provides that a police officer can issue a notice to a respondent who is not present at the same location if attempts have been made to contact the respondent by phone. These amendments are imperative in that they provide more discretionary powers to police to provide immediate support to victims of domestic violence at the scene of the incident. These amendments allow police, who are tasked with protecting those in these awful and often unpredictable situations, to have the powers that they need to be able to provide immediate protection to those on the receiving end of domestic and family violence.

Police are such an important resource to our community and especially in our fight against domestic and family violence. It is vital that we not only recognise the significant role they play as first responders to domestic and family violence and in recording the incidents that have occurred but also give them the tools they need to keep people in these situations safe from harm before a court can step in on a more permanent basis. By doing so, we can ensure that a mechanism is there to help victims—right then, right there at the scene—for those who are tasked with protecting them.

I note that these new powers will be coupled with checks and balances to ensure that the system works in that police officers at the scene will also require their supervisor's approval before a PPN is issued. Further, a police officer will also explain to those whom they suspect have committed a domestic or family violence offence why they reasonably believe that an offence of this nature has been committed as well as explaining what constitutes domestic violence so an alleged perpetrator will know why this action is being taken against them.

I note that broad support for these amendments was given from stakeholder groups during the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's consideration of this bill. PeakCare Queensland in particular, as well as a number of other submitters, noted their particular support for provisions expanding the range of persons who may be protected in a PPN as having the potential to 'more effectively and quickly afford protection to victims ... their children and other family members'. UnitingCare Queensland submitted that the provisions to name children

were an especially 'significant and necessary' reform, given that Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety has identified that 61 per cent of women who experienced domestic and family violence had children in their care at the time the violence occurred.

This bill also makes changes to the next stage of the protection process for domestic violence orders. The bill amends provisions guiding courts' consideration of protection orders to clarify that courts may make DVOs when a victim has been threatened or fears for their safety or wellbeing within the current definition of 'domestic violence'; require courts to consider whether additional DVO conditions beyond the standard condition that the respondent be of good behaviour and not commit domestic violence are necessary or desirable to better tailor protection for the victim or another named person; require courts to focus on the protection required by the victim in determining the appropriate duration of a protection order and increase the minimum standard duration of a protection order from two years to five years; require courts to consider noncompliance with a voluntary intervention order when making or varying a DVO and clarify that, although courts may also consider compliance with a VIO, compliance with a VIO must not be the sole reason a court decides not to make or vary an order; and require courts to consider any existing family law order they are aware of and whether it needs to be varied or suspended if it is inconsistent with the protection needed by victims.


Debate, on motion of Ms Bates, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.30 pm.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.31 pm): These are important reforms which seek to balance the way in which the court deals with victims of domestic and family violence and the mechanisms for protecting them through our legal system. It will require the courts to consider all possible mechanisms for protecting a victim of domestic violence and consider the best way to protect the victim and ensure that they can remain safe from harm under the law and under any order imposed by a court. It will ensure that DVOs are no longer a one-size-fits-all approach by requiring courts to consider all conditions being imposed by a given DVO, giving courts the ability to tailor DVOs and ensure that they contain the most appropriate conditions to a person's situation. We know that every case of domestic and family violence carries with it its own unique situation, its own distinct set of considerations and its own pair of individuals who may require different provisions in their DVOs to ensure the continued safety of the victim from the perpetrator. We recognise that courts need the discretion to be able to determine the appropriate length of DVOs, but this bill, by increasing the minimum standard duration of a DVO from two to five years, recognises that perpetrators of domestic violence do not easily forget. The risk of retaliation does not fade away after a mere 24-month period. It recognises that this risk can remain beyond that point and it is appropriate that the minimum standard duration be increased to reflect this sobering reality.

I was particularly moved by the confidential contributions to the inquiry of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee by two brave parents who recounted the experiences of their daughter in the years after she experienced domestic and family violence at the hands of her partner. In their submission they told the committee—

It has become very clear that our daughter's ex-partner (the perpetrator and respondent to the DVOs) has no intention of ever, even attempting, to change his behaviour.

Thus our daughter will likely have to continue to apply for DVO protection for many years to come and possibly the remainder of her life. This will come at considerable expense, both financial and emotional.

It must be reasonably common and highly likely that perpetrators of domestic violence who are recalcitrant and reluctant to change their behaviour will continue the same behaviour for many years after separation, even after moving on to any new unsuspecting partner.

These words speak for so many who have had to reapply for DVOs years after experiencing domestic and family violence to ensure that they can remain safe from those who can never change. These sentiments were echoed by Resound who, in their combined submission, told the committee—

The fear of your abuser does not simply dissolve in two years especially if you have continued contact due to parenting orders.

I would probably go as far as to say that that fear will never leave.

I receive specialised therapy for PTSD to help reduce the impact of my trauma, but I don't think that I will ever feel safe around the man that abused me.

Thus I need to make sure that I minimise contact and will probably be forever renewing that order.

If this process is made easier by allowing less resistance by the court to grant longer order durations, than the trauma of reapplying and facing my abuser is decreased greatly.

This bill also takes into account the unfortunate truth behind voluntary intervention orders: that perpetrators of domestic violence can comply temporarily with a VIO in order to gain access to those they have already harmed. It is important that we allow the courts to take into account when a perpetrator has made a meaningful effort to better themselves and right their wrongs, but we must also recognise that simply serving out a voluntary intervention order does not mean aggressors have become better people. It does not mean they should automatically have access to their victims once again. It does not mean they have become fully functioning members of society and it certainly does not mean they should have their domestic violence orders lifted.

Equally, we also need courts to take into account the fact that a breach of a voluntary intervention order is a startling admission from a perpetrator of domestic violence that not only have they committed a terrible crime and betrayed those who once trusted them, they have also made no effort to better themselves and right their wrongs. Those aggressors who perpetrate violence against those in a domestic or family situation who then breach their voluntary intervention order should have this additional blight on their record rightfully considered as a court considers making or varying their domestic violence order. It is only right that if a perpetrator clearly shows no sign of improvement an order can be put in place which notes that they remain a threat in order to continue to protect those they have harmed. Similarly, Family Court orders should be taken into account when considering the actions of a perpetrator, including whether these need to be varied or suspended if it is inconsistent with what a victim now needs in light of domestic or family violence. During the committee's inquiry there was a general consensus that supported the bill's strengthening of obligations to require courts to always consider any Family Court order of which they are aware in making a DVO. This is an area of contention and is further being examined by the Australian government review of the Family Court.

I would like to flag during this second reading debate that I shall move an amendment during this bill's consideration in detail that amends clause 17 to insert a subsection (4) in the proposed new section 97 to require courts to give reasons when it makes a protection order for a period of time that is less than five years. I am moving this amendment for a number of reasons, including to deliver greater accountability and certainty for victims of domestic and family violence, align the level of accountability required of courts in making protection orders to that required when considering ouster conditions, ensure courts provide reasons when making protection orders with an operational period of less than five years and ensure where a protection order is made the court must give reasons which are not prescriptive and do not impact on the finalisation of proceedings.

This amendment was generally supported by those who made submissions to or appeared before the committee, including Community Legal Centres Queensland. I would like to particularly acknowledge the Women's Legal Service Queensland for its advocacy in suggesting that a judge should give reasons if he or she makes a domestic violence order for a period of less than the minimum standard time frame of five years. This is an issue which they raised during the public hearing of the committee on 14 September 2016. I would like to thank Julie Sarkozi and Gail Shearer, solicitors from Women's Legal Service Queensland, who appeared before the committee to voice their concerns which have informed the amendment which I will be moving today.

As not only the shadow minister for the prevention of domestic and family violence but also as the shadow minister for women, I am proud to have taken into account the concerns of the Women's Legal Service Queensland and ensure that women's voices are heard loudly and clearly as we consider this bill. It is unfortunate that despite the concerns of the Women's Legal Service the Minister for Women did not seek to move this important amendment herself. However, I am pleased the minister has accepted the amendment. I note the department's opinion that a requirement to provide written reasons in relation to the duration of a protection order could have a significant impost on courts and is likely to delay proceedings which is not in the best interests of the party. However, I also note that there is no hard evidence to support this assertion. In fact, under the amendment I am moving, there is no specified manner in which the reasons need to be given. This amendment provides the same level of accountability on courts as that required of them when considering ouster conditions. Contrary to the department's opinion, there is no reason why this clause would delay proceedings given the general nature in which the reasons can be given. The proposed amendment continues to balance the flexibility

of the courts in determining the length of protection orders whilst ensuring victims are afforded adequate reasoning when orders are made that are not for five years. This amendment ensures confidence in the court process for victims of domestic and family violence.

Another provision in this bill is the provision for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs made in other Australian jurisdictions through the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme. This is in line with recommendation 90 of the *Not now, not ever* report which recommended the development and implementation of the NDVOS to achieve automatic mutual recognition and enforcement of domestic violence related orders across jurisdictions. The Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act currently does not expressly enable information to be shared between government agencies and/or non-government organisations that provide domestic and family violence services. The information sharing-framework proposal provides an approach that allows information sharing to occur for risk assessment purposes. However, this will be limited to those specialist services with the necessary expertise to assess domestic violence and family violence related risks. It is crucial that we work with other states and territories to ensure that we are aware of information relating to domestic and family violence that occurs in other states so that our courts and our police can be aware when individuals have a questionable track record from outside Queensland.

New part 6 of the bill provides for national recognition of DVOs by: establishing a national recognition scheme for DVOs, including providing for local orders to vary orders made in other jurisdictions and for those variations to be recognised in other jurisdictions; defining interstate orders and registered New Zealand orders and designating those as recognised interstate orders; providing for recognised interstate orders to be enforced in the same way as local orders; providing for the standardised administration of all DVOs, that is, local and recognised interstate orders, in the manner agreed to by COAG; and enabling the exchange of information between issuing authorities and interstate law enforcement agencies for the purpose of exercising the functions under the part or for a law enforcement purpose. These amendments are vital, as providing for national recognition of DVOs and encouraging the sharing of information by law enforcement authorities throughout the country will allow for a streamlined approach to domestic violence. It will give the police and other Queensland authorities a greater capacity to access relevant information to make informed decisions, particularly as we are enhancing their capacity to provide protection to victims of domestic violence prior to a DVO being issued by a court.

Finally, this bill has important provisions to increase the accountability of perpetrators. The bill looks to improve perpetrator accountability and support behavioural change, including increasing the maximum penalty for breaches of PPNs and release conditions to achieve consistency with the penalty for breaching DVOs; amending the Weapons Act to provide that any weapons licence held by a respondent named in a PPN is suspended for the duration of the notice in the same way as currently occurs when courts issue TPOs; amending the name of VIOs to intervention orders to clarify that, once an order has been agreed to by the respondent, compliance with the order is not voluntary and, further, to strengthen requirements surrounding a court's consideration of compliance with VIOs, chapter 4.4; and allowing the ODPP and the QPS to obtain copies of DVO court documents that are relevant to a related criminal prosecution and enabling courts to provide documents to police where they are relevant to a related police investigation. These are significant amendments and recognise the fundamental role we have to keep victims safe by holding perpetrators accountable.

By increasing the maximum penalty for breaches of PPNs, we are ensuring that, as police gain greater capacity for issuing PPNs at the scene of an incident, checks and balances exist to deter aggressors from breaching them. There is no point in heightening powers for police to issue PPNs if there is not an adequate penalty for breaching them. By raising the maximum penalty, we can work to ensure that victims can be confident in the PPN that is handed down by police officers. In taking away a perpetrator's ability to carry a weapon, this bill also works to ensure that a perpetrator is not able to carry a deadly weapon, decreasing the risk of another violent crime or even murder, after police are called in to assist a victim of domestic and family violence. Whilst amending the name of the VIOs to remove 'voluntary' from the name is a verbal gesture, we need to reinforce that VIOs are not in fact voluntary after they have been agreed to by a perpetrator. In fact, it is a strict agreement that needs to be enforced by a court and we can strengthen those orders by ensuring perpetrators understand that they have an obligation to follow through on their commitment to behavioural change.

As part of a broader commitment to information sharing to tackle domestic and family violence amongst our law enforcement authorities and courts by allowing the Director of Public Prosecutions and the Queensland Police Service to obtain copies of DVO court documents that are relevant to a criminal prosecution, we can ensure that one's behaviour is appropriately documented when a

prosecution occurs. Domestic and family violence is rarely an isolated incident and an accurate picture needs to be painted of perpetrators when they are being prosecuted, so a court can fully understand the extent of their crimes.

Broadly, the bill takes a step forward in providing protections to victims of domestic violence when they need it most, enhancing mechanisms for police court orders to be enforced and increasing the accountability measures that exist for offenders. However, we also know that this government has made serious errors in its provision of domestic violence services in our community. Whilst we work to implement the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report as quickly as possible and provide legislative changes to domestic and family violence policy in this state, it is disappointing to see the government drop the ball on domestic and family violence services. We have already seen that this Labor government is failing to address the lack of crisis domestic and family violence accommodation and services are swamped by an increase in demand that has occurred as a result of the heightened public profile of this issue in our community. This Labor government should have known there would be an exponential increase in the rate of reports of domestic violence as media and political attention has given so many victims of domestic violence the courage to do something about it and seek support.

We know from data released by the government that in the last year thousands of victims of domestic violence were forced into crisis motel accommodation, as services were stretched to the limit. Questions I asked the minister revealed that, in 2015-16, 9,000 nights of motel accommodation were provided to 9,000 women and 13,393 children escaping domestic violence. That is a 240 per cent increase in just 12 months. It is abundantly clear that the minister, despite all her rhetoric, has been caught completely unprepared for the inevitable spike in domestic and family violence reports. We knew that would happen, especially given the huge public exposure of this insidious issue affecting Queensland communities throughout our state. However, the minister did nothing to alleviate the concerns or provide additional support for domestic and family violence services. We have seen only two new domestic and family violence shelters established in rural and remote areas, but those services simply will not reach residents of Brisbane, the Gold Coast and so many other communities throughout the state. Those services will not do anything for the hundreds of women on the Gold Coast who are being warehoused in motels because shelters are full. It is unacceptable to have victims languishing in motels if there are no wraparound supports, as it will push victims to return to their violent homes.

In the past 12 months, DVConnect has seen a doubling in calls with the service fielding more than 4,000 calls a month. I thank Di Mangan and her team for all their hard work in not only acting as a referral service but also, due to a lack of support from this government, acting as a front-line support service for victims of domestic violence. We know that the Gold Coast is considered to be the domestic and family violence capital of the state and that this government has turned its back on us. My local police are telling me of massive jumps in callouts to domestic violence incidents and the resulting reports that need to be lodged by our hardworking police officers.

Labor still has not put forward a real plan to reduce domestic violence in our communities. It has talked it up to a point where it has reached crisis point, but it has no plan to address the issue. Domestic violence is now a priority. It is now time to stop talking and start acting to tackle the problem. As a victim and a survivor of domestic violence, I know that if we do not do something strong now we will be having the same conversation in 20 years time and it will be the same conversation that I heard as a 15-year-old child. I repeat: domestic violence is now a priority and it is time to stop talking and start acting to tackle the problem.

Equally concerning is that across Queensland thousands of victims of domestic violence are still being left to wait for justice as new figures show some court jurisdictions are taking months to issue final protection orders. Regional Queensland courts have some of the longest wait times for final protection orders to be issued. On the Gold Coast and in Beenleigh, victims are waiting between 36 and 46 days to get final protection orders. Government figures released after questioning from this side of the House show that, in 2015-16 across Queensland, there were more than 32,221 applications for protection orders. These figures show a system that treats victims differently, depending on where they live and the courthouse in which the application is lodged. That is not good enough. This government needs to provide adequate resources to our courts to ensure that those in our community receive the legal support they need to escape domestic and family violence situations.

Tough action is also needed on breaches of domestic violence orders if the system is to deliver protection for victims of this terrible crime. This issue was raised in the committee's examination of the bill, with a number of submitters calling for the improved resourcing of courts to ensure victims are able to access justice efficiently and in keeping with the broader legislative objectives of providing immediate

and tailored protection. Bill Potts, the president of the Queensland Law Society, noted that the court system is currently struggling to cope with a significant spike in applications and breaches, which is delaying justice for some victims, especially in remote and regional areas. Mr Potts submitted that increased resourcing for the front-line response to domestic violence means that police are prosecuting every case, which is a good thing. However, he said—


If you just put that into one end—you put those resources—the courts bank up, the processes are delayed and then all of these intervention programs, unless they are properly resourced, do not meet the purposes of it, which of course are to deal with the issues.

Domestic violence orders are not worth the paper they are written on if the consequences of breaching those orders are not enforced. This is a clear indication that those who breach an order are often getting away with a slap on the wrist and courts are struggling. This year alone there have been nine deaths across the state, which all Queenslanders would agree is nine deaths too many. No-one should have to live in fear of violence, so if those orders are not being complied with we need to do more.

The government and this minister have had this report for more than 12 months so we have to question why it has taken this long to see these changes brought forward. Domestic violence is an insidious crime that touches the lives of Queenslanders every day. Whilst this legislation is taking appropriation action to increase the penalties for breaches of police protection notices, we need to do everything we can to ensure breaches of domestic violence orders are also treated seriously under the law.

In closing, I am pleased to see that this bill will continue to implement the road map begun under the former LNP government, which initiated the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland and the resulting *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* final report. These are important reforms and we must continue the work we are doing to balance the scales of justice and provide more mechanisms to protect victims of domestic and family violence.

I thank the police and our domestic and family violence services for the work they do on the front line to stem the tide and to help victims. They are doing important work for our community. I know that in an ideal world free of the scourge of this horrific violence the jobs of domestic and family violence service workers would become obsolete.

 **Ms LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. Already this term four priority bills have been debated and passed in this House to improve our current legal and justice system response to domestic and family violence. The bill before the House builds upon these reforms, further strengthening the police and justice response to domestic and family violence and demanding further accountability for perpetrators. The bill before the House, like the four that preceded it, gives effect to recommendations contained in the *Not now, not ever* report, in this case to introduce enabling legislation to allow information sharing between government and non-government agencies within integrated service responses, to require courts to consider family law orders when making a domestic violence order and to develop and implement the national domestic violence order scheme to achieve automatic mutual recognition and enforcement of domestic violence orders across jurisdictions. The bill implements the remaining recommendations of the task force, including the outcomes of the review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act.

The objectives of the bill are: to provide victims of domestic and family violence with earlier and more tailored protection; to ensure victim safety is at the forefront of the justice response to domestic and family violence; to provide for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs made in other jurisdictions; and to impose greater accountability upon perpetrators and encourage behavioural change, including through increased penalties and requirements associated with personal protection notices and release conditions.

I would like from the outset to acknowledge and thank the minister and her department for their assistance to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee during our consideration of the bill. The bill contains many technical aspects. The assistance provided by departmental officers in both written and verbal form has assisted the committee greatly to understand the content and application of the bill.

I want to deal firstly with the issue of mutual recognition of domestic violence orders. Currently, an aggrieved person must manually register an order made in another jurisdiction in Australia or in New Zealand with the Queensland Magistrates Court in order to have that order recognised and enforced in Queensland. If a victim does not register their order, they are left without protection in their new jurisdiction.

When speaking on a previous bill in relation to domestic and family violence reform I spoke of a constituent who had contacted me who was a survivor of extreme domestic violence. Her reflections on how her life and the lives of her children was daily impacted by violence and on how difficult it had been to leave with nowhere to live, no car, no money and two very young children was significantly compounded by the fact that when she did leave the perpetrator followed them from house to house and state to state. I know this story experienced by my constituent is not an isolated one, but rather is one all too common when dealing with violent, fixated partners. I spoke then about the need to progress national model laws. I am so pleased to see this bill give effect to removing the manual registration process and provide for the automatic recognition of interstate orders.

We need to make the journey easier where possible. The bill will streamline processes and improve safeguards for victims by treating the contravention of an interstate domestic violence order as if it were a Queensland domestic violence order, recognise any disqualifications attached to an interstate domestic violence order, such as firearm or weapon licence restrictions, and allow for the exchange of information about domestic violence orders among Queensland and interstate courts and police. I understand other jurisdictions are in the process of implementing the same laws so that Queenslanders who move interstate have the same protection and that the model laws will be supported by a national information sharing system.

As cited in our committee report, the importance of information sharing between agencies to support risk identification, early intervention and integrated, holistic responses to domestic and family violence was a key theme of the task force report. Currently, the Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Act does not expressly enable information to be shared between government agencies and/or non-government organisations that provide domestic and family violence services.

The complex overlay between information privacy, privacy, child protection, corrective services acts and confidentiality requirements of professional associations, including those applied to social workers and various health professionals, creates confusion and uncertainty about what and how much information can be shared when, with whom and for what purpose. The nature and dynamics of domestic violence are often complex and information sharing is critical to assessing and managing potentially fatal risks. Confusion and uncertainty serves to delay or prevent agencies from being able to adequately assess such risk and the results can be catastrophic.

The bill enables government and non-government organisations, in defined circumstances, to share information about victims and perpetrators to assess and manage serious domestic violence threats. The bill provides that prescribed entities and specialist domestic and family violence service providers that are non-government entities funded by the state or Commonwealth may exchange information if they reasonably believe a person fears or is experiencing domestic violence, and giving the information may help the other relevant entity assess whether there is a serious threat to the person's life, health or safety because of the domestic violence. Support service providers, non-government organisations other than specialist domestic and family violence service providers, such as general practitioners, counsellors and sexual assault services, may also provide relevant information to prescribed entities and specialist domestic and family violence service providers in the same circumstances.

Information can only be shared to the extent necessary to assess the threat or take action to lessen or prevent the threat. New section 169B importantly provides that as an underlying principle a person's consent to sharing information should be obtained wherever it is safe, possible and practicable to do so. I want to recognise this as a very important principle. Information is often of a personal or highly personal nature and should be protected. However, the new section also enables information sharing without consent, recognising the safety and protection of victims and their families as the paramount concern. I believe the bill strikes the right balance and places the emphasis where it should be, which is on protecting the victim.

Stakeholders widely supported the proposed changes as critical to assessing and managing potentially fatal risks. Micah Projects, which provide invaluable specialist domestic violence support services in my electorate—having also recently opened a new wellness centre at Zillmere—commented in their submission that the current confusion over information exchange acts as a barrier to referral for

support for aggrieved people and can hinder enforcement of orders. Micah Projects submitted that the proposed changes will support a more effective system response to issues of domestic and family violence. UnitingCare Queensland submitted that the amendments will enable service providers to deliver more individualised services in order to achieve better outcomes for victims and their families, the very objective of the bill.

A large component of committee questions related to safeguards to prevent the inappropriate sharing of information and to protect people's privacy. The bill contains a number of limits on the information that may be shared, by specifying circumstances in which the information may not be shared. This includes where the information is about a person's criminal history that relates to an expired conviction other than a domestic violence conviction.

The act also safeguards the confidentiality of information once obtained and specifies that police officers may use the information for threat assessment or threat management purposes only to the extent necessary to perform their functions. Officers cannot use the information for a criminal investigation or proceeding unless the use would be in the best interests of the victim. Penalties of up to two years imprisonment or 100 penalty units apply for the inappropriate use or disclosure of information.

The whole is indeed greater than the sum of its parts in this regard. Agencies, whether Health, police, the courts, counsellors and medical practitioners, often hold discrete pieces of information that when shared may form a far more dynamic and complete picture of the situation at hand. Better information sharing will provide a more integrated and complete response to those who are experiencing domestic and family violence and will no doubt save lives.

Personal protection notices were one of the reforms introduced in 2012 by the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act to enable police officers to provide quick and effective responses for victims of domestic and family violence. A PPN is issued by a police officer at the time of an incident and is also an application for a protection order which provides short-term protection until an application can be heard by a court. The task force report found that PPNs play an important role but that they are currently underutilised by police due to the limited protection they offer and the restrictions and service requirements surrounding their use.

The bill includes reforms to provide victims with access to earlier and more tailored protection, including expanding the operation of police protection notices, streamlining administrative requirements associated with PPNs, providing more flexibility in the issuing and service of notices, and requiring police to consider how to provide victims with effective protection prior to a court determining the application for a protection order. Currently, the act states that a police officer may take any of a number of prescribed actions in such circumstances. The bill amends section 100 'Police officer must investigate domestic violence' to insert a new subsection that requires police officers to consider what action is necessary and desirable to immediately and effectively protect a person if the police officer reasonably believes, after investigation, that domestic violence has been committed. By specifying that police must consider whether to take any of the prescribed actions, the new subsection is intended to help set a clear expectation that victims will be provided with protection as quickly as possible.

The bill also expands the range of people able to be named in a PPN, which currently only allows protection for the victim but not their children or other relative or associate of the aggrieved who can now be included. The bill expands the conditions that can be included to include, in addition to the mandatory standard condition, a cool-down condition, requiring the respondent to leave stated premises and not approach or contact the aggrieved for 24 hours; a no-contact condition, prohibiting the respondent from approaching or contacting an aggrieved or attempting to locate them if their whereabouts are not known to the respondent or asking someone else to do so; an ouster condition, prohibiting the respondent entering, attempting to enter or remaining at stated premises; and a return condition, allowing the respondent to return to and remain at stated premises for the purpose of recovering or removing stated personal property.

The bill also removes the requirement that an officer must be in the same location as the respondent to issue a notice. This means that a notice can be issued where the respondent has fled the scene before police arrive. The proposed amendments provide that a police officer can issue a notice to a respondent who is not present at the same location if the police officer has made a reasonable attempt to locate and talk to the respondent, including by telephone, to afford the respondent natural justice in relation to the issuing of such a protection notice. Hence, police will still have to personally serve notices on respondents, as notices will continue to be court applications for DVOs. However, to ensure that this requirement does not delay victims being protected, respondents

will commit an offence if they breach a condition that a police officer has told them about, even if personal service has not yet occurred. New subsection 113(2) clarifies that the respondent may be told by the officer about the existence of a PPN in any way, including by telephone, email, SMS, message or other electronic means. This is consistent with the approach currently adopted for DVOs and will assist with holding perpetrators to account where they actively evade and frustrate service.

The bill also increases the maximum penalty for breaching a police protection notice or release condition to a maximum three years imprisonment or 120 penalty units. This ensures the penalty for breaching a notice is consistent with the penalty for breaching court issued DVOs, penalties introduced by this Palaszczuk government last year. The bill preserves the current safeguards and court oversight that apply to police protection notices.

The bill includes a range of amendments to court processes and requirements intended to enhance victim protection. These changes include enabling courts to make protection orders that last longer and requiring courts to consider including conditions to tailor a DVO to better meet a victim's protection needs. Currently, protection orders can only last for up to two years, unless there are special reasons for courts making a longer order. The bill expands court powers so orders can be made that last for as long as necessary to protect victims. At the same time, the amendments set an expectation that orders will last for a minimum of five years unless there are reasons for making a shorter order.

In addition, courts will also have to consider whether more specific conditions should be included in DVOs in addition to the standard condition that the respondent must not commit domestic violence. Currently, the act provides that a court may also impose any other conditions that it considers are necessary in the circumstances. The amendment will require that a court must consider whether additional, more specific conditions should be included in the order, in so doing, prioritising protection of the victim and any named individuals while removing any reference to consideration of the interests of the respondent.

The bill also seeks to address the issue of DVOs and family law orders containing inconsistent terms in regard to contact between parents and children. The task force report recommended that when making a DVO the court is required to consider any existing family law order. While family law orders made in the Commonwealth jurisdiction will continue to prevail, the bill requires the court to always consider any such family law order that they are aware of and whether to exercise their powers to revive, vary, discharge or suspend the order if it conflicts with the proposed DVO.

The bill also clarifies the weight that should be given to a respondent's compliance with voluntary intervention orders. The current provisions enable courts to consider a respondent's compliance with the program in deciding whether to make a protection order and its duration. Consequently, a victim's protection can be diminished if the respondent has complied with the program even if there is no evidence of a change in their behaviour.

The bill seeks to address this issue by specifying that in making or amending a protection order courts may consider a respondent's compliance with a voluntary intervention order or behaviour change program or counselling but must consider a respondent's failure to comply with a voluntary intervention order and must not refuse to make a protection order or decide to vary a domestic violence order merely because the respondent has complied with a voluntary intervention order previously made against the respondent. The amendments seek to ensure that a victim's access to protection focuses on what is needed to keep them safe and does not depend on whether or not a respondent complied with a voluntary intervention order.


The bill also contains a number of additional amendments to enhance perpetrator accountability and encourage behavioural change including increasing the maximum penalty for breaches of personal protection notices and release conditions to achieve consistency with the penalty for breaching domestic violence orders, which I spoke of earlier, and amending the Weapons Act to provide that any weapons licence held by a respondent named in a PPN is suspended for the duration of the notice, among other amendments outlined by the minister in her introductory speech.

Submitters generally welcomed the suite of amendments intended to better hold perpetrators of violence to account and encourage them to change their behaviour, with the majority of submissions focusing on the proposed increase in the maximum penalties associated with PPNs and release conditions—which included support from Micah Projects, Protect All Children Today, the Australian Association of Social Workers, among others.

In closing, I would like to thank those stakeholders and individuals who made submissions and appeared at the committee's public hearing. Many of the groups represented make a significant ongoing commitment in the area of domestic and family violence prevention including the Queensland Domestic

Violence Service Network, the Women's Legal Service, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service, Community Legal Centres Queensland, the LGBTI Legal Service, the Queensland Family and Child Commission, the Association of Social Work, Protect All Children Today, Micah Projects, UnitingCare Queensland and so many others. Thank you for the work that you do in supporting victims of domestic and family violence each day in our communities. I would also like to acknowledge the minister's continued leadership in the area of domestic and family violence prevention law and policy reform. She is a passionate advocate for victims of domestic and family violence and of the need to make their journey a safer, more integrated and responsive one.

Finally, I thank our hardworking inquiry secretary, Lucy, and my fellow committee members for their contributions in consideration of the bill. The bill strengthens the police and justice response to domestic and family violence and demands further accountability for perpetrators. They give our police the powers and flexibility they need to better protect victims and the courts the guidance and processes to do the same. They give our hardworking domestic and family violence integrated response teams and services the information they need to do their job. These reforms have the capacity to make an appreciable difference to victims of domestic and family violence. Accordingly, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.08 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the bill before the House and commence by acknowledging my fellow committee members who reviewed the bill, the witnesses who gave evidence, departmental staff and committee staff. The bill is one of a number of bills derived from the *Not now, not ever* report from an all-party committee chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce, the terms of reference being set by the LNP government in September 2014 and a report being tabled in 2015.

The report is a major document in understanding, dealing with and punishing domestic violence across many subsets. The bill's policy objectives have been spoken of by both the minister and shadow minister. I do not intend to traverse that ground again. There are, however, a number of comments I wish to make and questions I would like the minister to consider in her summing-up. We deal with domestic violence in this state it appears every day, whether it be an act of domestic violence or the breach of an order. In fact, we in this House have all met people who are victims of domestic violence. Yet how many of those victims were children when that violence occurred?

In a study titled 'Child Witness to Domestic Abuse: Baseline Data Analysis for a Seven-Year Perspective Study', published in the *Journal of Paediatric Nursing* in January 2015, the authors stated—

Empirical evidence exists that children exposed to partner violence have more emotional and behavioural problems when compared to children who don't witness abuse. More specifically, children who witness partner violence show more signs of internalising, for example withdrawal, anxiety, depression and externalising, for example aggression, attention disorders, rule-breaking behaviours. There is also evidence that increasing severity of violence against the mother and frequency of witnessing the violence are associated with more externalising and internalising problems in children.

The consequences for children are therefore immediate, but there is a possibility that witnessing such violence may well have long-term mental and physical impacts, robbing these children of a happy, balanced life and hindering them forming and entering meaningful relationships. As a consequence, they may suffer long-term impacts which haunt them, taking away the prospects of a career and an understanding of what it means to belong to a family, a community and, sadly, becoming a victim or perpetrator themselves. How much more difficult is it for Indigenous children who live in remote communities which do not have access to local assistance in the same way that we do here in the south-east corner and where in their case distance becomes a major barrier?

As is often the case, it is the children who suffer, and that suffering may bridge the years and rob them of a happy life. Importantly, we as a society need to tackle the impact of domestic violence on children as part of the response to its consequences. It is clearly in their interests—and, indeed, everyone's—to understand more about the impact on children and not just protect them from abuse but arrest the negative impacts. At the same time there are organisations across the state that are working to provide shelters in their local community. In Caloundra we have the Zonta Club of Caloundra which is conducting the RISE project to build a local refuge. Land has been donated and they have raised all but \$90,000 to commence the build. The project has not been easy but they have persevered. I would like to acknowledge Marilyn Holness, who has been the driving force behind the project; Kelly Callaghan, the President of Zonta Caloundra; and Jillian Scott, together with all the women who are so passionate about this important program.

This House has passed a number of bills as a consequence of the Bryce report, and this bill implements recommendations 140, 99, 78, 90 and 112. The various bills, including this bill based on evidence put to the committee, have placed strains on the legal system. In particular, Mr Bill Potts, the President of the Queensland Law Society, stated on 14 September—

My local court is the Southport Magistrates Court, and you must have heard some reports about the massive spike in material in terms of applications and breaches coming before that court. I want to tell you that it is a war zone in that court and that it is becoming something of a sausage factory, not because the magistrates do not care—there are significant resources—but that to some degree is the Rolls Royce version.

When asked about the impact over time across the state, he said—

As it is being rolled out throughout the state, unless there are better resources for the courts you are going to see some of the delays that Ms Awyzio refers to. Again, to some degree, with all the will in the world and with all the legislation in the world and with all the good intent in the world, it is not much use unless you actually put the resources in.

The bill, as do earlier bills, places a greater burden on our court system. In fact, between 1 January 2014 and 30 April 2015, 495 applications were filed in the Caloundra Magistrates Court. Between 1 May 2015 and 31 July 2016, a further 578 were filed. The words of Bill Potts, coming as President of the Law Society, should be a salient warning of the need to review the capacity of our courts not only to deal with the volume of matters flowing through the courts but also to have the technology and infrastructure to provide for the protection of applicants including entry and exit to the court, safe waiting rooms and the giving of evidence.

The statement by Bill Potts is supported by comments reported in the *Courier-Mail* of 1 October by Police Commissioner Ian Stewart, who said, 'I think ultimately we'll see domestic violence rates drop off over a period of time but I'm talking years not 12 months.' Given the impact of this and earlier bills on the court system, can the minister or the government update the progress made in our courts' capacity to deal with the increased flow of applications?

In the same article in the *Courier-Mail* it also highlights a 38 per cent increase in breaches of domestic violence during the 2015-16 period. Police involvement in breaches occurs at the time of reporting, investigation and prosecution of any offence. The increase in breach numbers brings with it an extra case load for police officers, and the implication of implementing this bill will bring extra obligations. Police have always been the front line against crime. Given the increased workload, can the minister or the government outline what steps have been taken to boost training for police, boost safety for police, boost prosecutor numbers and boost training for police prosecutors?


Clause 11 of the bill amends section 78(1) of the act. The current section states that when making an order under the act it 'may' take into account the terms of a family law order and may vary the family law order. The amendment states that the court now 'must' consider the impact of a family law order. However, the court will not be required to amend the order. The concern I have exists with the language in the explanatory notes at page 18 which, when referring to this amendment, state—

It sets a clear expectation courts will use their powers to revive, vary, discharge or suspend family law orders that conflict with a proposed DVO.

The amendment does not change the right of the court to use its discretion into an obligation. The wording in the explanatory notes leaps to a major conclusion that is clearly at odds with the section and the intent of the amendment. Often family law orders are made after significant court proceedings including preparation of reports by social workers, psychologists or psychiatrists and lengthy legal hearings. Even what appear to be simple questions as to the point of changeover for contact or who will be present at changeover can be a significant dispute between the parties. Magistrates will now have the power to amend the orders, but I believe, given their workload, lack of access to relevant documents and time constraints, magistrates will be cautious in exercising the power, particularly when it is hearing an ex parte or interim application or where proceedings are still on foot in the Family Court.

The bill at clause 44 allows sharing of information between prescribed entities as defined in what will be section 169C. The concern I have is the security of the information that will be sent by and to the various entities. Information that can be sent includes data from the Police Commissioner which could include details of convictions and the facts of a domestic violence offence. It could include data from a hospital touching on general health matters, injuries, infections and the like or it could include information from a school about a child or data from a service provider funded by the state or Commonwealth. Thus there is a significant amount of sensitive and personal data which will flow which is not the subject of review or even consent, nor scrutiny for accuracy. Data of this nature clearly should be kept for the eyes of those who need to see it. I ask the minister or the government to advise what security will be in place to ensure that it is stored safely and access is limited to essential personnel.

My final point is to say that the bill provides additional layers of protection that are needed in our modern society but brings with it obligations that are additional to those imposed upon our courts and our police. It is essential that we keep them resourced and up to date with the best equipment, infrastructure and capacity to deal with the flow of applications and breaches that are going through our jurisdiction. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.18 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am exceedingly pleased to be in a parliament which has shown bipartisan support on this very important issue. I think that bipartisan support reflects the very deep desire of people in our community to say 'not now, not ever' to domestic violence.

I have seen that demonstrated in my own community. We held a memorial last year to remember the two women who were publicly murdered and also to remember the two women who are murdered each week who do not make the news. Over 400 people showed up with just a few days notice. Out of that we responded to the minister's challenge to hold community leaders' round tables. We are about to hold the third of those now. We have had a tremendous response from people in the community—from government departments, from organisations you would expect to come along like Zig Zag Young Women's Resource Centre and Women's Legal Service and, more broadly, from sporting groups like the Holland Park Hawks and service clubs like the Holland Park Lions.

Even business owners have expressed an interest in being involved. A local funeral director has joined the group and become involved because, sadly, she is tired of organising funerals for victims of domestic violence. This group has identified three critical areas: the justice response, the crisis response and cultural change. The group believes that the cultural change is where they can work. I am hopeful and confident that together we can achieve that.

We have seen great cultural change in our lifetime. When I started work just under 30 years ago, sexual harassment was still common in the workplace. These days it is much less common. More importantly, what has changed is that the vast majority of people in the workplace understand that it is unacceptable; there are policies and processes to deal with it when it occurs; and managers, for the most part, in my experience do a good job of responding to it when it is identified. I think we can take hope from that so we can say not now, not ever to domestic violence and make it a thing of the past in our communities.

This bill is not really about cultural change; this bill is about the justice response and the crisis response. I think it achieves some very important things. The purpose of the bill is to enhance information sharing and justice system processes; support more immediate, tailored and effective responses; prioritise victim safety; hold perpetrators more accountable; and encourage and change their behaviour. That is really crucial because if a person goes through our criminal justice system and emerges with no behavioural change, no increased ability to avoid using violence for whatever reason, we really have not changed anything. This bill meets these objectives. I would like to commend the minister and the department for their work on this bill. I would like to thank the committee chair and other committee members and particularly the submitters and witnesses who have taken the time to have input into this process.

Recently I had the great pleasure of representing Minister Byrne in awarding the national and Queensland Police Service medals. Coming from a family that has quite a significant number of serving police officers, I thought I was reasonably well versed in some of the things that police officers deal with. During the ceremony the citations were read out as to the reasons these officers were receiving awards and several of the incidents described involved domestic violence situations. I must say that they were quite shocking. They involved accounts of incredible bravery on the part of the officers and demonstrated that they were prepared to go to significant lengths to protect the members of our community at great personal risk to themselves. I already have a very high level of respect for officers, but this ceremony and these stories reinforced my understanding of the commitment of police to ending domestic violence. They understand the realities of the situation and they have a good insight into what these laws will mean for those realities.

I am really lucky. I have no personal experience of domestic violence. I have had no experience of the legal mechanisms or the processes. I have never had any great personal accounts in terms of friends being involved in domestic violence. As a result, I needed to speak with police officers as to what are the practicalities of this bill and understand their thoughts on it. I am particularly thankful for the officers who shared their thoughts with me.

The bill requires police to consider what action will provide effective and immediate protection until a court can consider an application for a protection order. This was greatly welcomed by the police. They actually identified this as one of the most important parts of this legislation in their view. They can now give someone on the spot a piece of paper, technically a police protection notice, or a PPN, that has the same impact as a judgement handed down at a later date. There is no delay in letting a perpetrator know that they need to cease their current behaviour and there is no delay in letting a perpetrator know that any attempt to repeat this behaviour will carry serious penalties.

The police to whom I spoke welcome the obligation and the authority to do this. They believe they have the experience, the knowledge and the understanding of the situation to act appropriately on the spot. The legislation includes provision to ensure that this power is well monitored and properly authorised with judicial review to follow as soon as possible.

The PPNs expand to people who can be named and affected by the order. This provides greater capacity for police to provide immediate protection, particularly to children, but also to other family members and associates. It was evident from those stories that I heard at the medal ceremony that domestic violence situations frequently involve complex networks of people. Children are significantly impacted by domestic violence. According to ANROWS, Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety, 61 per cent of women affected by domestic violence have children in their care at the time of the incident. These orders go a long way to providing greater protection for children in those situations, which by the sounds of it is 61 per cent of the time.

These changes were supported by many of the submitters including the Women's Legal Service, the Australian Association of Social Workers, the Queensland Council of Unions and Micah Projects. While there was support generally, submitters also noted the need for training of officers, and the officers to whom I spoke agreed with this. I was pleased to see that the department is developing a training package to support the rollout of this legislation.

Police also told me that the parts of this legislation that deal with separating people involved in domestic violence situations are crucial. They welcome the expanded power to be able to direct a person to remain at a specified place or move somewhere else. The legislation talks about a cool-down period—quite simply, getting people to go away, calm down and leave the aggrieved alone. It is ironic because my children learn in school from a very early age that one of the best ways to deal with aggressive and angry situations is to do that: go away, calm down and cool down. I do take on board the views of the Queensland Domestic Violence Service Network that domestic violence is not simply a conflict but is much more about power and control. While that motivation for violence is driven by power and control, unless we address this the violence will recur. I also consider that the violence occurs in a tense and agitated situation. I think removing the parties, defusing the situation and allowing other actions that move towards dealing with the real cause of domestic violence are all helpful, and this bill achieves that.

The bill also allows police to refer a victim or perpetrator to a specialist DV service without consent. That is always of some concern. However, the police I spoke to said they felt confident in their ability to identify where a domestic violence situation involved a very high risk to the victim. They feel incredibly frustrated by current situations where they have to have consent. It is really easy to imagine a battered person being too frightened and stressed to make a rational decision. In these situations I believe these individuals need an advocate. I believe police are very capable advocates.


Submitters generally supported these provisions as well. They raised concerns that the provisions may lead to victims being involuntary clients of DV service providers. As a health professional, I fully understand the need to obtain consent. The department provided advice in relation to this. Service providers will ultimately still need to obtain consent to provide a service. However, these provisions will increase the opportunities that a victim has for being made aware of services and support available.

The specific sharing of information in relation to referring a person of high risk to specialist DV services highlights the potential benefits of enhancing information sharing. We live in an incredible age of information technology. We can use it to play games, sell real estate and move money. I think it would be really nice if we actually used it to protect victims of domestic violence and help perpetrators to get treatment. This bill greatly enhances the capacity for information to be shared internally between government agencies and externally with non-government agencies. Police and other people to whom I spoke from other government agencies and NGOs told me of stories of failings in communications that ultimately facilitated ongoing abuse of some victims. Having said that, many submitters did raise

concerns about information sharing. We know that information is power and it can be abused, so I am pleased with the safeguards that have been built into this bill which will allow us to gain the benefits of information sharing while protecting people.

Finally, I want to speak about the provisions in this bill that will allow Queensland to participate in the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme. I note that submitters were supportive of these provisions. Police told me that the days of habitual offenders doing a runner interstate would be over and people could not clear out and expect to find a clean slate. Like improvements in information technology, transportation has improved to the point where moving interstate or even overseas is cheaper and easier. These provisions recognise this, and it is commendable that COAG has sought to establish uniform procedures throughout Australia.

I believe that we can say 'Not now, not ever' to domestic violence. I really do believe that, and I am committed to doing what I can to work with community leaders in Greenslopes to achieve this cultural change. I am pleased to be part of the Palaszczuk government which is implementing every one of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations. This bill is another important step in our bipartisan community response to domestic violence, and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRAMP** (Gaven—LNP) (3.31 pm): I rise today to contribute to this debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As stated in the explanatory notes—

The objectives of the Bill are to:

1. provide victims of domestic and family violence with access to earlier and more tailored protection
2. ensure victim safety is at the forefront of the justice response to domestic and family violence
3. require police to consider how immediate and effective protection can be provided to victims pending a court's consideration of an application for a domestic violence order (DVO)
4. provide for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs made in other Australian jurisdictions through the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme (NDVOS), and
5. hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and encourage them to change their behaviour.

I know that all members of this House agree that domestic and family violence is an absolute scourge on our community and it should never, ever be tolerated or accepted. The task force on domestic and family violence in Queensland was chaired by the Hon. Quentin Bryce AD CVO and was established by the previous LNP government in 2014 in response to concerns about the ever-increasing number of domestic violence incidents being reported in Queensland. In February 2015 the task force released its final report entitled *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The task force report included 140 recommendations which were designed to set a new direction for Queensland's strategy to stop domestic and family violence. This legislation serves to continue a consistent framework of regulation to both protect the victims of domestic and family violence and provide our incredible men and women in the Queensland police force with the legal tools they need to adequately perform their role in what is certainly an extremely challenging and sometimes difficult situation.

In my role as a community representative, domestic and family violence is an issue that I have faced with my constituents in the Gaven electorate. It has also been focused upon and spoken about on several occasions by many members in this House. Listening to constituents and other members speak about their experiences as children or partners in domestic and family violence situations encouraged me to reflect on my own experiences. Although I have previously spoken about this issue in the House, up until now I have refrained from sharing my own personal experience with domestic and family violence in parliament. However, I have been inspired by hearing my friend and colleague, the member for Mudgeeraba, speak in this House about her own experience and also by a courageous woman from our own Gaven community. Like me, Naomi Drew had chosen not to share her own experiences publicly, but that was up until a few weeks ago at the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence breakfast launch for Sexual Violence Awareness Month. I attend this event each year and, whilst I am always moved by the words of survivors at these events, there was something special about hearing Naomi speak about her experiences for the first time. Afterwards I spoke with Naomi, and she said that for the first time in her life she felt empowered enough from the support around her to finally speak out. After listening to the member for Mudgeeraba and Naomi speak about their experiences, I do see how a negative situation can be a source of power to assist others facing the same issue.

I also endured domestic and family violence from the age of 11 until I moved out of home at 15. Growing up as a teenager in a household where alcohol fuelled domestic and family violence was a regular occurrence I was always apprehensive about being home, especially on Friday and Saturday

nights. I would lock myself in my room with my little brother and sister, secure the bolt lock on our bedroom door, get my siblings to sleep and then wait for the violence to start before jumping out of my bedroom window and running next door to ring the police. What I would have given for a mobile phone in those days! I was always grateful for the bolt lock on my bedroom door which held on so many occasions and for the police officers who would help me back in my window so the perpetrator never found out. For some time I thought that this situation was accepted as normal, as the situation seemed hidden or not spoken about by those around me. To hear our communities and ourselves, as community representatives in this House, speak out so strongly against domestic and family violence and say that it is never, ever okay to abuse your partner or children fills me with passion and purpose to do all I can to play a positive part in outcomes for victims.

As a member of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee, I had the privileged opportunity to contribute to and review this legislation. I take this opportunity now to thank the members of my committee for their dedication and hard work through a busy schedule to ensure that what we produced was qualitative to assist our colleagues in this House. This legislation, like all legislation that our committee reviews, weighs heavily—and obviously in this case very heavily—on each member of the committee. Although there are occasions where we may differ in our views on particular matters, we always diligently work through them to ensure the best possible outcome. I would also like to thank our very hardworking secretariat who, through all their hard work, amazingly continue to smile and be good-natured regardless of our relentless questioning. Upon completion of the review process the committee provided the following recommendations—

The committee recommends the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 be passed.

The committee recommends that new section 610(4) of the *Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000*, as inserted by clause 63 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, be amended to refer to the *Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012*.

It must be noted, however, that whilst the non-government members of the committee agreed to these recommendations, we did provide a statement of reservation to the report. The statement of reservation acknowledged the fact that the outcomes of domestic and family violence can be horrific on many occasions and the protection of victims, both partners and children, is absolutely essential. In particular the statement noted that the need to ensure resourcing of police and the courts is critical to ensure the laws are enforced. As stated in our statement of reservation, the non-government members of the committee noted comments made during the public hearings, particularly by the president of the Queensland Law Society, Mr Bill Potts. On 14 September 2016 he stated—

My local court is the Southport Magistrates Court, and you must have heard some reports about the massive spike in material in terms of applications and breaches coming before that court. I want to tell you that it is a war zone in that court and that it is becoming something of a sausage factory, not because the magistrates do not care—there are significant resources—but that to some degree is the Rolls Royce version.

Within that comment and acknowledging Mr Potts' position, applications across the state are increasing and therefore, as I noted previously, the resourcing of the courts is critical if they are to deal with applications and breaches coming before them. Mr Potts further stated when specifically referring to the Magistrates Court at Beenleigh that there had been 150 to 160 applications a week. Mr Potts said—

And they are struggling and they need better resources.

When Mr Potts was asked in his capacity as president of the Queensland Law Society whether the question of resourcing becomes exacerbated the further you get away from the more populated areas, for example Cairns and Townsville, Mr Potts responded—

I agree entirely and I endorse it.

Proper resourcing of courts will need to be a main—if not the main—priority with regard to protecting victims, who of course include children. It is therefore important that the government outline a very clear time line and funding principle to ensure the terms of this bill and earlier bills concerning courthouses are properly resourced.


The resourcing issue also extends to police prosecutors. If the number of applications continues to grow, the number of police required to prosecute matters will need to be addressed by the government. It will be important for the government to outline a clear strategy as to how the courts are going to cope with the expected growth in applications that will flow as a consequence of not just this bill but also earlier bills.

As a committee member I was personally very concerned about the added responsibilities and potential extra workload for our police officers as a result of some of the key elements of this bill. This was noted in the non-government members' statement of reservation, mainly in relation to the heavy burden faced by police officers in regard to their obligations to protect those who are the subject of domestic violence.

As a former ambulance officer and now as a member of this legislature who is in liaison with local law enforcement and as somebody who has personal experience in this area that I do not wish upon anybody, I wholeheartedly endorse the non-government committee members' position in the statement of reservation that the government need to acknowledge, and more importantly outline how they are going to deal with, the increasing time spent by our police on this very important issue while they are still dealing with other matters such as robberies, drink-driving, serious assaults and the like. We as regulators must do all we can to provide a strong legal framework to empower our law enforcement and enable our social care workers.

I am very proud to see, as the member for Greenslopes noted, bipartisan support for such a serious concern. Very importantly, as servants of our communities we must also do all we can to support our community groups and support networks. We in Gaven have tremendous support networks. I conclude by noting the work that Naomi Drew—I was inspired by her to speak today—is doing alongside a team of other passionate women in our area to raise awareness of violence against women. That work will be revealed at a very special event in only a few weeks time. On 28 October the first Teal Sock Day will be held on the Gold Coast. Teal Sock Day has been established to have a positive impact on the lives of children and families who have been affected by domestic violence and sexual violence. Teal Sock Day will achieve this by improving awareness, raising funds and partnering with specialist organisations, including the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence, to deliver support programs tailored to the needs of the individual. This event is proudly supported by the Kiwanis Club of Pacific Pines in the Gaven electorate.

The Teal Sock Day 2016 awareness campaign will focus on the message of safe touch, with the key emphasis on this being through two Guinness World Records attempts at the event. The records the event has been approved for are: the longest massage chain—the current record is 1,600 participants and our goal is 2,000; and the highest number of qualified massage therapists massaging clients at the same place at the same time. I would not have thought that the current record is 641 therapists and 641 clients, but we will aim for 1,000. I take this opportunity to encourage everyone to go to Teal Sock Day's Facebook page and sign on, especially those who are qualified. I note this event because I do believe that, out of something so negative, we can see so much positive, especially led by all of the people in this House and the efforts we are all making to see change throughout this state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, just as I have done on all of the bills relating to the implementation of the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* task force and have been very proud to do so. The objectives of this bill are: to provide victims of domestic and family violence with access to earlier and more tailored protection; ensure victim safety is at the forefront of the justice response to domestic and family violence; require police to consider how immediate and effective protection can be provided to victims pending a court's consideration of an application for a DVO; provide for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs made in other Australian jurisdictions through the national domestic violence order scheme; and hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and encourage them to change their behaviour.

I pay tribute to the member for Gaven, who has just given us a very raw and emotionally honest account of his own experiences. I would just like to say how brave he was to do so, as have been a number of members in this House. I of course mention the member for Mudgeeraba. In fact, I note that both the members for Mudgeeraba and Gaven have been members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee when these inquiries have been brought before it. It must have been extremely difficult for them—more difficult than perhaps for other members—to have to go through that and relive their own experiences.

Before I make some points on this bill, I want to speak about what has already been achieved by this government in terms of implementing the *Not now, not ever* task force recommendations. We know that 121 of those recommendations have been aimed at government action. I was really disappointed in some of the words that the member for Mudgeeraba used earlier when she went through the bill in detail and, unfortunately, I think became quite political in the way she was referring to the government's actions about this bill—that the government had dropped the ball, that we should have foreseen all of

the demand, that we were not resourcing properly, that we had not thought it through. I found that really outrageous, particularly in light of the fact that the organisations that are working in this area and the families of those who have been either injured or killed because of domestic and family violence do not want us in this House to be political about this issue. In fact, they are begging us not to be political. They are praising us when we are bipartisan. In fact, the minister this morning, when she was very intelligently and ably responding to some of the accusations from the opposition about child protection, was reading out letters from people working in this space who were begging the opposition not to politicise the child protection issue because it is so important. That is the case here.

I think it is important to list the actions of the government in this regard. I will read out some of the things the submitters wrote about the government's actions in this space. The Queensland Law Society said—

The Society applauds the Government's commitment to rapid action on the issue of domestic violence and initiatives being undertaken to reduce the impact of this scourge on our community.

The Australian Christian Lobby said—

It is encouraging that the Queensland government is taking strong action on this serious issue of public policy concern and supporting the social good of families.

The Anglican Church and Queensland Churches Together said—

We offer our support for the concerted effort of the state government in tackling this serious problem in our society.

UnitingCare, which is the largest provider of community services in Queensland, said—

We welcome continued action by the Queensland government to reduce domestic and family violence.


I do not say this because I think it is important for the government to claim credit; it is just important that we acknowledge the good work that has been done and that we speak positively and constructively about this. It is all about solving the issue.

To reiterate what has already been achieved by this government in this space, we have established a domestic and family violence death review board and established two new domestic violence shelters in Brisbane and Townsville and funded the establishment of two more in Roma and Charters Towers. We have increased funding for Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Month and we have developed Respectful Relationships programs which are now available to all schools—public, Catholic and private—statewide. We have developed workplace training programs around recognising, responding to and referring domestic and family violence for the Public Service and made it available for the business and community sector as well. There has been a rollout of duty lawyers to 13 locations across Queensland and \$200 million of domestic violence funding was announced in the last budget which is a record spend on domestic violence, in particular \$43.1 million over four years commencing in 2016-17 for new and enhanced domestic and family violence services to be directed to existing service delivery gaps. This funding is on top of the \$31.3 million which was initially committed to implementing the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. In addition, regional services are being enhanced through the rollout of \$49 million over five years from 2014-15 for domestic and family violence services supporting child and family reforms.

In addition, the legislative agenda has already addressed recommendations 119, 121 and 133 with the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Act 2015; recommendation 8 with the Coroners (Domestic and Family Violence Death Review and Advisory Board) Amendment Act 2015; recommendations 99, 117, 129 and 131 with the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Another Act Amendment Act 2015; and recommendations 118 and 121 with the Criminal Law (Domestic Violence) Amendment Act 2016. These are significant achievements and show an absolutely determined effort to ensuring that these important recommendations are implemented. Whether I have the great honour of representing the minister or talking to the groups that are working in domestic violence in my own electorate, I do not meet one single person who does not spontaneously say to me that they are so pleased that this minister is the minister who is working in this space and that they wish she could be their minister forever. I hear those words over and over again. Anyone who says that this minister is dropping the ball is doing it for a story, and that is what those opposite are doing. They are trying to get a story out of child protection and they are trying to get a story out of this one as well.

There are a couple more points that I want to speak to, but I specifically want to speak to the expanded PPNs and police powers. I want to reiterate the point that most people have made today—that is, it is absolutely vital that our police are given the tools they need in order to carry out their job, and that includes in this case their ability to adequately protect a suspected victim or victim of domestic and family violence. There is so much to say about this issue, but we know that this bill is going to

simplify the current range of police responses to domestic and family violence, it is going to give police more flexibility to issue them and it is going to streamline the administrative processes for police. I want to thank everybody in all of the organisations that work in this space. I want to particularly thank the parliamentary committee for its excellent work.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (3.53 pm): This afternoon I rise to make a contribution to the debate in relation to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As I begin I want to pay tribute to the courage of the member for Gaven who shared his personal story with us this afternoon. Those memories that he held may be 30 years old; however, they are exactly the reason why this bill is so necessary and why it is so important for us to say 'not now, not ever'.

Dedicated domestic and family violence legislation has been in force for over a generation in Queensland and this bill is an appropriate and logical next legislative step in the ongoing battle to address domestic and family violence offences in Queensland. In February 2015 the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland released its report, *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The task force report proposed a number of specific amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 to enhance the protection offered by Queensland's domestic and family violence framework. Police protection notices will be expanded to protect a victim's child, relative or associate. Additional conditions will allow for the exclusion of a perpetrator from the family home and prevent them contacting the victim or children until a court hearing. The bill provides that any weapons licence held by the perpetrator is suspended during the duration of the notice and the surrender of a weapon.

Greater flexibility to issue and serve notices will also support police efforts. The Queensland Police Service is customarily the first responder to domestic and family violence incidents, with officers being obliged to now consider taking action to secure the immediate safety of persons affected by domestic violence. Submitters to the committee process largely supported the proposed amendments to extend the operation of the police protection notices framework in this way. Moreover, representatives of the policing community that I have spoken with are equally supportive of the proposed amendments. There will be powers to direct a person to move and remain at a particular location. Such powers will aid police to de-escalate domestic violence situations by separating the parties. It will enhance opportunities for respondents to understand the documents that may at that moment be served upon them. It will also grant police the opportunity to reinforce the seriousness of the violence that has occurred.

Definitional clarity has also been appropriately introduced in the bill. The current phrase, which states 'has committed domestic violence', might be interpreted that an act of physical violence must occur before a victim may obtain a domestic violence order. Going forward, section 37 of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act will be amended to clarify that courts may issue domestic violence orders on the basis that victims have been threatened or have a fear that the respondent will commit domestic violence. This amendment will allow the issuance of a domestic violence order on the basis that a victim has been threatened or otherwise holds a fear for their safety or wellbeing. The bill also introduces the ability to tailor conditions in domestic violence orders. The bill requires that courts consider whether additional, more specific conditions should be included in the order. It goes further in requiring courts to consider what other conditions are necessary or desirable to protect the aggrieved person or any named person from domestic violence.

Significant changes to the bill relate to the duration of orders. Varying approaches on this matter were tendered to the committee. Under the bill, unless otherwise specified, protection orders will remain in force for five years. A court can only make an order for less than five years if satisfied there are good reasons for doing so. An amendment is proposed in relation to these matters, as has already been addressed by the shadow minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, earlier this afternoon. To better integrate the family law system, courts will be obliged to always consider any family law order that they are aware of and must always consider whether to exercise their powers to resolve any inconsistency between the order and the proposed domestic violence order. Regulation around alleged noncompliance with voluntary intervention orders has been enhanced. There has been a name change from 'voluntary intervention orders' to 'intervention orders'. The court must consider a respondent's noncompliance with an intervention order when deciding whether to make a protection order or vary a domestic violence order. Courts must not refuse to make a protection order or vary a domestic violence order merely because a respondent has complied.

There are tremendous practical hurdles to be faced to reduce the impacts of family and domestic violence and there is no higher hurdle than the lack of information sharing. The bill now provides a framework that enables certain government and non-government service providers to share victim and perpetrator information in certain circumstances.

Privacy in many contexts and for many purposes is important. Although consent will always be preferred, the primacy of the safety and security of victims will be paramount at law and in practice. One only needs to reflect on the telling findings of the coroner in connection with the 2011 death of Queensland woman Ms Noelene Beutel to understand the imperative of prompt and accurate information sharing. Mr Hutton, the coroner, commented—

... that when a member of the community has a range of contact with police, hospitals, general practitioners, and domestic violence agencies, all within the six months preceding her death, and all relating specifically to her experience of domestic violence, then all of these system contacts form relevant circumstances to her death.

In this regard, the task force commented that all of these service providers knew that Ms Noelene Beutel was suffering from domestic violence but that each one had different information.

Police will also be enabled to share a limited range of information with specialist domestic and family violence providers if there is a domestic violence threat to a victim's life, health or safety or if the person has committed domestic violence. This will assist in overcoming the deficiencies, as evidenced in Noelene Beutel's case, in a lack of information sharing, a lack of a coordinated response and a lack of a common risk assessment tool.

Work on the national automatic recognition of interstate domestic violence orders continues. A nationalised approach to the management of domestic violence matters is necessary. Violence and threats of violence do not respect state borders. Contraventions of an interstate domestic violence order will be treated as if it were a Queensland domestic violence order. The Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission is due to deliver an interim national information sharing platform in 2017. National platform implementations are always fraught affairs, but it is critical that such a platform is delivered as soon as possible. The national approach will recognise any disqualification attached to an interstate domestic violence order—for instance, in holding a firearm—and will permit the exchange of information about domestic violence orders among Queensland and interstate courts and police.

Despite dedicated family and domestic violence legislation being in force in Queensland for over a generation, it is obvious that changing a culture of disrespect and violence towards women is taking far longer. On too many occasions we hear news of horrific acts of violence against women and children in their homes—a place where peace and security ought to reign supreme at all times. Preventing such tragedies will only ever be partly solved by the best legislative intentions of lawmakers. Queensland needs a cultural change that will take time to filter through to our young men.

The Queensland community's clear commitment to drive this change is obvious. In the Toowoomba community, a range of initiatives and leaders are standing up to be counted, standing up and speaking with one voice, not now, not ever. Last Wednesday and Thursday, 5 October and 6 October, this shining community leadership was on full display, where my city hosted representatives of the Queensland Domestic and Family Violence Implementation Council. The council visited Toowoomba in its ongoing work to raise awareness of domestic and family violence issues across Queensland. Attendees included the Hon. Quentin Bryce AD CVO, Rugby League legend Darren Lockyer, businessman Mr Lance Hockridge and Chief Magistrate Ray Rinaudo. The clear message from their visit was that, although we are making strides, we can never assume that the box has been ticked. Cultural change does not work like that. Meaningful change requires consistency, persistence and courage. We have changed culture with campaigns like Slip-Slop-Slap, Every K over is a killer, and the Bloody Idiot driving campaign and we need to do it again.

While in Toowoomba, council representatives spent time at the Toowoomba Police-Citizens Youth Club where stakeholders discussed the implementation of, among other things, the sporting community in advocating for domestic violence victims and speaking out against domestic violence, especially among young men. Meetings were also held with a range of community organisations that work on the front line in the battle in supporting those suffering family and domestic violence and on the front line of the cultural change battle. Groups such as the Queensland Police Service, CatholicCare, the MDA, the YWCA, Mercy Community Services, Indigenous health organisations and Indigenous elders and respected persons play an important role in staring down domestic and family violence.

I also note the role played by the Domestic & Family Violence Prevention Service, co-located with Relationships Australia Toowoomba, which provides crisis support, counselling, court support and assistance with domestic violence protection orders. The service offers training in domestic violence

matters to community groups and government agencies, including police and schools. Toowoomba's community is also working harmoniously together, unifying voices and resources through organisations such as Toowoomba Together and Safer Toowoomba Regional Partnerships. Toowoomba Together is a community organisation that was established to address domestic violence in the community. It was formed earlier this year and evolved out of Toowoomba Says No to Violence and the outcome of a locally convened domestic violence summit held in late 2016, which attracted nearly 250 participants from across the Darling Downs. Toowoomba Together aims to coordinate awareness and educational activities in Toowoomba and develop local solutions to domestic and family violence issues. It will focus on areas that empower a culture where a man thinks it is acceptable to commit violence on a woman. It is driven by specific values based education for Toowoomba's young men. The message will be spread through workplaces, sporting clubs, community organisations—everywhere there is an ear ready to hear the message and change the future. Toowoomba Together is led by Mr John Minz, a long-time campaigner against domestic and family violence. When he was the CEO of Heritage Bank, Mr Minz was the Queensland winner of Australia's CEO Challenge race for his passionate campaigning against domestic and family violence. As John has said, 'Only together with sustained focus will we change minds and hearts'.


Another group is Safer Toowoomba Regional Partnerships, which is a partnership between the Toowoomba Regional Council and a range of community volunteer and not-for-profit organisations to promote safety and peace through crime prevention projects. Although the partnership has an overarching crime prevention and community building focus, domestic and family violence has been identified as a key area of interest. It is led by Councillor Geoff McDonald with the deputy chairman being Darling Downs District Officer, Superintendent Mark Kelly. The Mayor of the Toowoomba Regional Council, Paul Antonio, is also deeply committed to this cause and a number of years ago led over 1,000 men to gather to form one large white ribbon and together swear an oath to never commit, excuse or be silent about violence against women. My community is committed to tackling domestic and family violence and I know that every other community around Queensland shows a similar commitment.

Already, in 2016, Queensland Police Service statistics have revealed that approximately 12,000 breach offences have been recorded. It follows that we face significant challenges in ensuring that our court system is properly resourced, trained and aware of domestic violence issues. During this period, the Southport and Beenleigh courts top the list for the highest number of applications for domestic violence protection orders. Southport is a specialist domestic and family violence court that was established in September 2016. Initially, it was part of a six-month trial in response to recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report. However, its swift facilitation of domestic and family violence matters has meant an extension of its capabilities to 30 June 2017. The President of the Queensland Law Society, Mr Bill Potts, has noted that the extension was a massive demonstration by the justice system in response to the overwhelming number of domestic violence cases. Specialist courts work and I encourage the government to continue resourcing towards more specialist courts in regional and rural centres throughout the state. This encouragement has been formalised in a statement of reservation from non-government members which calls for the appropriate resourcing of Queensland's court system.

Admittedly, although this is a federal concern, I also have concerns about the under-resourcing of the federally funded Family Court system. Rather than waiting long periods of time—sometimes in the order of two to three years for a final Family Court order—in some circumstances an expedited final hearing may obviate the need for a domestic violence order. Timely justice matters.

There also remain challenges for victims seeking access to affordable justice. A Toowoomba practitioner recently brought to my attention a matter that exemplifies the challenges facing victims seeking justice. As a consequence of an unexpected decision in a domestic violence family protection application in the Toowoomba Magistrates Court, instructions were given by the practitioner's client to appeal against the decision. The client is female and had made an application for an order and a temporary order was made in her favour. However, the husband made a cross application which was successful. The practitioner's client is seeking to appeal the decision. However, the cost of the appeal is \$1,200. Vulnerable clients and women like her have no opportunity to seek a waiver of the fee from the registry despite compelling grounds for appeal and a lack of personal means. I encourage the government to consider a process to empower a registrar to waive fees on merit in circumstances of this nature.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 strives towards a worthy ambition of delivering better protection to victims of domestic and family violence. It will also empower the Queensland Police Service and the courts to do more to protect victims and deliver justice wherever and whenever it is needed. Together with the resolve of a Queensland community that is sick and tired of tragic stories of violence and the callous disregard for the rights of women and families and small children, this bill forms part of a sustained focus to ultimately change hearts and minds. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Minister for Environment and Heritage Protection and Minister for National Parks and the Great Barrier Reef) (4.12 pm): The Palaszczuk government announced last year that we will implement all 140 recommendations in Dame Quentin Bryce's landmark *Not now, not ever* report into domestic and family violence. All 121 government recommendations have been accepted and the 19 non-government recommendations will be actively supported. I am proud that this parliament has been so strong on this issue. This House has already passed four priority bills to improve how the legal and justice system deals with domestic and family violence. This bill builds on priority legislative changes already enacted and is the next stage of legislative reforms to implement the Queensland government's response to the task force. However, we are continuing to see deaths as a result of domestic and family violence. We all know that domestic violence is abhorrent. We were all shocked and horrified when we heard about Tara Brown, Karina Lock and Michelle Reynolds. I know that these very public deaths were just the tip of the iceberg for domestic violence in this state when the Queensland police are receiving close to 200 complaints a day.


For something that is so prevalent it is disturbing how misunderstood this issue really is. What the research says, and certainly what service providers and women themselves have been telling us for a long time, is that domestic violence is all about control. We often think about the campaign image of the woman with a black eye, but we need to realise that abuse is not just physical violence. Domestic abuse almost always starts when the perpetrator systematically erodes a person's confidence, their support networks and their independence. Often it is just the threat of physical aggression that does the work of controlling a partner. That is not to downplay the horror of physical violence. This kind of behaviour often escalates to violence, but we must accept that it starts with isolation and control. That is why saying 'he just has a bad temper' is misguided. Violence is not about anger; it is a tool—one of many that abusers use to control their partners. That is why we need stronger laws that recognise just how dangerous and life-destroying domestic violence is for its victims.

This bill will allow police protection notices to be enforceable in the same way as domestic violence orders. It also increases the maximum penalty for breaching a police protection notice or release condition to a maximum of three years imprisonment or 120 penalty units. This ensures the penalty for breaching a notice is the same as the penalty for breaching court issued DVOs—penalties that the Palaszczuk government increased last year from two years to three years for breaching a DVO and from three years to five years for subsequent breaches.

The bill also includes a range of reforms to strengthen the justice response to domestic violence, such as allowing courts to make protection orders last longer and tailor DVOs to meet a victim's protection needs. The Palaszczuk government is committed to making changes to the system to protect vulnerable people. That is only one piece of the puzzle. Domestic violence will remain a problem for as long as our attitudes towards women remain a problem. I say women because it is about women. Let us be clear about this: 87 per cent of domestic violence victims are women. When some men's groups claim that men are abused just as much as women and that it is a silent epidemic, that is absolute rubbish. Men do suffer at the hands of both female and male partners and they too need support, but studies have repeatedly shown that it is not as prolonged and that men are less likely to be living in fear. They are also far less likely to be murdered. Men kill women in four out of five intimate partner homicides. When women kill their partners it often follows a history of being subjected to domestic violence. Murder is the most extreme example of male entitlement, but there are many other examples we see every day and rarely do anything about.

We have come a long way, but not enough to become complacent. When Eddie McGuire and Sam Newman casually joke about drowning a female colleague we are sending a powerful message to young men and women about women's status in our society. Just last week we heard that Donald Trump, a presidential candidate, talked about groping and sexually assaulting women. More worrying still is his explanation: it is just locker room talk; it is normal. It is not normal and every single casual groping and lewd comment that goes unchallenged or is explained away as locker room talk is eroding our standards. The standard you walk past is the standard you set. I hope that men in this place and

men across the state and this country will start calling out this kind of behaviour, start teaching our sons that jokes about assaulting women are not funny, stop asking, 'Why doesn't she leave him?', and start asking, 'Why does he feel the need to control her?' Lead by example and challenge others because I for one want my two sons to treat their future partners with adoration and respect and I never, ever want my daughter to experience fear or intimidation. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mansfield—LNP) (4.18 pm): Frequently people in this House rise and say they are going to make a short contribution to the debate. I am, in fact, going to make a short contribution to the debate, not because it is not a serious matter, but it is very clear that from the time the former government set up Dame Quentin Bryce's committee, the recommendations came down and both sides of the House accepted them, that we have a degree of unanimity in this House which is both encouraging and great to see and I would only be repeating what others were saying were I to go through the bill in detail. I particularly want to say that I speak from far less raw experience than others in this House have. I particularly note the speech of the member for Gaven today and commend him for his bravery in what he has said.

I was only going to speak to that part of the bill that related to the amendment proposed by the member for Mudgeeraba. That has become less important now because I understand that the minister accepts that amendment and so it is not going to be a matter of contention. I did just want to run through the reason for that amendment and where it has come from. In the submissions to the committee, both the Women's Legal Service and Community Legal Centres Queensland put forward an argument that the amendment proposed by the member for Mudgeeraba should proceed.


In their submission dated 9 September 2016, the Women's Legal Service states—

WLSQ supports an increase in the duration of Protection Orders. WLSQ notes that an order may be made for a period less than five years if the court is satisfied there are reasons for doing so. WLSQ recommends that the Court must give reasons if an order is made for a period less than five years.

That was repeated by the relevant lawyers Julie Sarkozi and her colleague Gail Shearer, who appeared before the committee to give verbal evidence. Similarly, in the Community Legal Centres Queensland submission dated 12 September, James Farrell supported the Women's Legal Service submission and noted that they recommend that the court must give reasons if the order is made for less than five years.

It seems to me that there is a very good reason for doing that, which is that, as the standard moves from two years to five years, it is very important that this House makes it clear to the courts that it expects the five-year standard to be the norm, but there was some doubt about that in the debate and submissions made to the committee. I think it reinforces the fact that five years is the norm if the court is asked to give an explanation as to why it did not apply a five-year period. The court is free to apply a lesser period and I think that is an acceptable outcome. However, to require the court to justify a lesser period gives the court a clear direction as to where this House stands on the matter and where it expects the court to go.

The interesting response from the department with respect to these suggestions was that courts will ordinarily state the reasons upon which their decision is based, but they went on to say that a requirement to do so is likely to have a significant impost on the courts and is likely to delay proceedings, which is not in the best interests of the parties. Those two statements seem contradictory to me. If it is the fact that courts ordinarily give reasons in this matter, I cannot see why this House should not make that express and, therefore, courts should be required, if they want to give a protection order less than five years, to do so with express reasons given as part of the judgement. Not only do I support the bill but also I particularly support that amendment. I congratulate the member for Mudgeeraba for moving it and I commend the minister for accepting it.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. As a family law solicitor with over 20 years experience and having represented hundreds of domestic violence victims, I am honoured to speak in support of the bill. The bill is one of a series of bills that enact the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report by Quentin Bryce. The bill has two objects: firstly, to implement the outcome of the review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012 as recommended by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence, which was *Not now, not ever* recommendation No. 140; and secondly, implementing the model laws endorsed by the Council of Australian Governments, otherwise known as COAG, to enable Queensland to be part of the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme, which will provide for automatic mutual recognition of domestic


violence orders made across Australia to increase accountability of perpetrators of domestic and family violence, and increase the protection of victims of domestic and family violence, which is recommendation No. 90 of the *Not now, not ever* report.

Every one of us has a right to feel safe and be safe in public and at home. Domestic and family violence is often perpetrated at home in private, but it should be just as concerning to the community as crimes committed in the streets. Despite efforts to reduce domestic and family violence, on average two Australian women die each week in Australia at the hands of a violent partner, husband or father. I repeat: two Australian women die every week at the hands of a violent partner, husband or father. The bill improves protections for victims and strengthens the justice response by the Queensland Police Service and the Queensland courts.

Under this bill, when confronted with a domestic violence situation police will be required to consider what action they should take to provide victims with effective and immediate protection until a court can consider an application for a protection order. It also expands the protection order that can be provided by police protection notices to better protect and safeguard victims and their families. The bill expands the existing power available to police to direct a person to remain at a specified place. This will enable the police to direct a person to move on or remain at another place, to allow the police to serve and explain an application, a personal protection notice or a domestic violence order, or to issue a personal protection notice. The provisions of the bill will enable the Police Service to refer victims and perpetrators to specialist domestic and family violence service providers where a threat to the person's life, health or safety is identified.

The bill improves the court process by requiring courts to consider whether additional domestic violence order conditions, beyond the standard condition that the respondent remain of good behaviour, are necessary or desirable to better tailor protection for the victim or another named person. It requires the court to focus on the protection required by a victim in determining the appropriate duration of the protection order. The bill requires courts to consider any existing Family Court order they are aware of or whether that order needs to be varied or suspended if it is inconsistent with the protection needed by the victim. The bill clarifies what a court must consider noncompliance, and may consider compliance, with a voluntary intervention order when making a protection order or varying a domestic violence order, but must not refuse to make a protection order or vary a domestic violence order merely because the respondent has complied with a domestic violence order.

The bill facilitates information sharing between key government and non-government entities to enable both risk assessment and management of serious domestic violence threats. Importantly, it also provides for automatic mutual recognition of domestic violence orders across Australia, otherwise known as apprehended violence orders in other states, under the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme. The bill increases perpetrator accountability by increasing maximum penalties for breaches of personal protection notices and release conditions, to achieve consistency with other existing penalty provisions and reflect the seriousness of domestic violence. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.27 pm): I too rise to speak in support of this important piece of legislation that is before the House this afternoon. Like colleagues who have spoken before me, I acknowledge the bipartisan efforts that are being made in this area, starting with the commissioning of Quentin Bryce to undertake the *Not now, not ever* report. As a number of colleagues have pointed out, there are six main components of the bill. I want to focus my comments on those components that enhance the requirements for a court's consideration, the imposition of domestic violence orders to support stronger and more tailored protections for victims and other named person and to clarify that victim safety must be at the forefront of all decision-making.

It was my intent to refer to some particular work that I have been doing with a number of constituents in my electorate. However, given that matters pertinent to that work remain within the Family Court, I do not want to prejudice the case and, therefore, will not be referring to specific details. Fortunately, the key aspects that those discussions and efforts have focused on are well reflected in the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee's report No. 27. They get to the nub of it on page 30, where there is some discussion on the ability to provide protection for longer durations. The committee reports that there was widespread support from submitters for increasing the duration of protection orders and for requiring that the safety, protection and wellbeing of people who fear or experience domestic violence must be the principle of paramount importance in deciding the length of time for which the order is to continue in force.

I will quote from the report rather than use personal examples. The report states—

Submitters emphasised that for many women who endure an ongoing cycle of abuse and coercive control, two years is not adequate, and results in victims having to repeatedly seek extensions for their POs—

that is, protection orders—

or to seek a new order after the previous order expires.

That is at the heart of the contribution I want to make this afternoon. I understand the importance of not unfairly burdening an individual with an order that is onerous, but if a perpetrator is found to have undertaken the acts that we have all discussed this afternoon and the court is able to put in place a protection order for the benefit of the woman and potentially children then there really needs to be the flexibility to provide longer term protection orders. This would save the women in these relationships—and I note that there are instances where it is men—from having to constantly go through the cycle of seeking extensions to protection orders or gaining new protection orders. The committee goes on to acknowledge—

Despite the broad support for the extension of a default PO duration from two years to five years, however, it was also acknowledged that there was some uncertainty around the proposed amendments and what they will mean in application.

On one hand there were those who support the breadth of the discretion afforded to the courts within the proposed amendments to determine an appropriate length of protection order. I guess it is fair to say that those submitters would fall into the part of the community that believes judges and the courts can best determine the penalty or order to apply. There is equally another side of the community and another group of submitters—and probably some very significant ones at that—who cited concerns around the lack of an explicit minimum period for the duration of orders and that by so doing we may actually defeat the purpose and intent of extending the order to five years. One such submitter was Micah Projects. They stated—

... we hold the opinion that magistrates will use 97(2) (b) to reduce the time they are in force, in negotiation with the parties involved.

Importantly, the committee picked up on a confidential submission that stated a couple of things. Firstly, it stated—

If the above is not specifically written in the Act, then it is unlikely that terms beyond 5 years will be requested or considered. Just as under the present Act of 2012, periods beyond 2 years are rarely, if ever, requested or considered.

What we have heard from members, most recently from the member for Mansfield, the shadow Attorney-General, is the requirement that the court must give reasons if an order is to be made for a period of less than five years.

I acknowledge that others wanted more and indeed called for the inclusion of explicit provisions for orders of longer than five years duration. The same confidential submitter stated—

It has become very clear ... that our Daughter's ex-partner (the perpetrator and respondent to the DVOs) has no intention of ever, even attempting, to change his behaviour. Thus our daughter will likely have to continue to apply for DVO protection for many years to come and possibly the remainder of her life. This will come at considerable expense, both financial and emotional ...

It must be reasonably common and highly likely that perpetrators of domestic violence who are recalcitrant and reluctant to change their behaviour will continue the same behaviour for many years after separation, even after moving on to any new unsuspecting partner. Therefore I think that s97 of the Act should specifically mention terms of 10 years or beyond for a Protection Order to alert the court that such terms are acceptable where there is justification.

Resound, another submitter, took a slightly different approach, and stated—


... if a child is involved then a DVO should last by default until the time that the youngest child turns 18 ...

What we are hearing from those submitters is a concern in the community around not only the impact on the victims of domestic violence and their families when it comes to the need to go through the cycle of constant reapplication for DVOs but also the impact on the courts themselves and their ability to process these in an orderly fashion to allow that ongoing level of safety that the victim and the children in particular require.

I accept where we have landed in terms of some specific clauses around extending that period from two to five years. I understand that the amendment that was foreshadowed by the shadow minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, will be accepted by the government or potentially moved by the government. That is a great step forward. Again I place on the record that for some victims of domestic violence that is still not enough. Allowing the courts the flexibility may not necessarily result in the outcome that these victims need.

I again stress that I understand the need for checks and balances. I know that some perpetrators are, through appropriate intervention and assistance, able to change their behaviour and therefore change their interactions with their previous partner. It should be on the perpetrator to prove that to a court rather than the victim constantly having to prove the contrary in ongoing DVO applications.

As we move forward with further tranches of legislative change around domestic and family violence prevention legislation, we need to keep in mind that if we put in a five-year limitation this time we need to have a look at how it is progressing. If we are still having instances of women victims going through this court churn every time they have to apply for a DVO, we will again need to look at possibly giving some direction to the courts through legislation that allows them to consider far longer term DVO applications, perhaps as Resound suggests until the youngest child in the family turns 18. I would ask that as a parliament we keep that in mind as we move forward and address this scourge in our society, but particularly as we move forward in terms of protecting victims of domestic violence and their loved ones.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.36 pm): It gives me much pride to stand here today to speak in support of another bill to help stamp out the scourge of domestic violence in our state. As members of parliament we have all heard heartbreaking stories from constituents who have been victims of domestic violence. One constituent of mine, I will call her Mary today, would have a very different life story to tell if legislation like this and domestic violence legislation already brought before this House were in place during her childhood.

If the recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report had been carried out when she was a little girl and the laws and community attitudes towards domestic violence were different, her family would be quite different. No more can we turn a blind eye and no more will violence be a family secret. Crucially, this bill implements further recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report.


Mary grew up in a violent home. She escaped her home as a teenager when she met her husband, who took her away with the promise of a new life. Unfortunately for Mary, the new love of her life was a younger version of her father—a violent man who saw controlling his family with violence was his right in life. Mary, now as a grandmother, is fearful for her grandchildren. They are growing up in homes where their parents, her children, see violence in the home as a normal way of living. She was unable to shield her children and change their attitudes. Unfortunately, she has two sons who are in prison for perpetrating violent offences in the community.

At the time this bill was introduced to parliament and read a first time, shockingly there were already nine coronial investigations that had commenced into deaths that had occurred in domestic or family relationships in Queensland. One death is one too many. As with Mary's history, we need to take long-term action to end domestic violence. Perpetrators of domestic violence must be held more accountable and police and the courts need the tools and resources to help them save lives and protect victims. We need to break the intergeneration cycle in homes of families like Mary's.

This bill introduces legislation to allow information sharing between government and non-government agencies within integrated responses, with appropriate safeguards including protection for the sharing of information without the consent if a risk assessment indicates it is for the purpose of protecting the safety of a victim and their family. We need to change the attitudes of the perpetrators who think that it is okay and that it is their right to use violence in their home. We do not want to see any families slipping through the cracks. It is too late when stakeholders come together with their little piece of the puzzle of a victim's life and wonder why someone did not see the patterns, the warning signs, the key indicators when the whole story is placed together at a coronial inquiry.

This bill recognises the dignity of victims and has safeguards to prevent the inappropriate sharing of information. There is a penalty of 100 points and up to two years imprisonment. The bill assists victims when they go before the court by recognising domestic violence orders made in other jurisdictions through the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme. It requires courts to consider family law orders when making a DVO. Victims have suffered frustration when family law orders do not match up with the DVO. Children are at risk when the different orders are inconsistent.

I would like to congratulate the minister, her department and her staff for bringing this bill before parliament. I would also like to thank the work of the committee. For too long families like Mary's have suffered in silence. Hopefully, we will see a shift in community attitudes towards violence against women and children and make this everyone's business. We need to raise our boys so that they know that it is not okay to target women. We need to teach our boys how to live in happy, respectful relationships. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.41 pm): Violence and abuse is never acceptable. Abuse can come with physical threat. It can come with other over-the-top controlling behaviours which diminish people in the choices that they have over their lives. Tragically, it can have fatal consequences and life-altering negative consequences—damage to people generationally. I support the Family Violence

Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, which, among many of the amendments, allows for better sharing of information between government and/or non-government agencies who are involved in providing protection and support.

Shadow minister Ros Bates recently visited the Sunshine Coast, and I thank the shadow minister for that visit. Together we met with a number of agencies once again to reaffirm our support for those who work on the front line of what can be a very difficult and heart-wrenching area but also to hear stories about how they are able to help people get on with their lives, to rebuild after unexpectedly tragic events. We met with a number of local agencies on the Sunshine Coast and, in particular, at Maroochydore. One of the issues that was highlighted was the need to have better sharing of information between agencies such as the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Health and the department of child safety where there was a risk of harm related to domestic and family violence. This bill will allow better information sharing to occur between specialist services in order to assess possible risk of harm and to keep people safe.

We have acknowledged a number of people in this area who have championed the need for change. Of course in 2015 it was Australian of the Year Rosie Batty who made it a very high-profile and necessary campaign to push for more to be done to provide victims with immediate and effective protection from the domestic and family violence culture following the tragic death of her son, Luke. Unfortunately, there are so many who, like Rosie, have experienced these very life-altering and tragic events.

Better and greater collaboration between agencies was highlighted during the coronial inquest into Luke Batty's death, and it has been raised in regard to a number of Queensland incidents as well. Victims must be better protected and supported. Police and courts must be given better tools to help keep victims safe, and perpetrators of domestic violence must be held more accountable.

I support this bill as it expands the protection that can be provided by police protection notices, PPNs. It introduces new information-sharing provisions and enables the Queensland Police Service to make referrals to specialist DFV service providers where a serious threat is identified. Police are often the first to respond in a domestic and family violence situation and they need to be given support and adequate tools where a serious threat is identified.

This bill gives police more flexibility to issue a PPN and streamlines the administrative processes to allow police to provide victims with protection immediately and without delays. The bill also provides greater clarification for courts regarding DVOs, or domestic violence orders, when a victim has been threatened or fears for their safety or wellbeing and requires courts to focus on the protection required by the victim in determining the appropriate duration of a protection order, a PO.

I note the support of the Women's Legal Service Queensland and the Community Legal Centres Queensland for a requirement that courts must be given written reasons for choosing to make an order that is less than five years and their support for the opposition's move, through shadow minister Ros Bates, for an amendment to the legislation to address this.


I support the bill's objective to hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and to encourage them to change their behaviour. Recent figures released for the Sunshine Coast show a shocking increase in DVO breaches. This is clearly unacceptable, and we need to ensure that police are given the resources, as I have said, to address this trend. The annual statistical review for 2015-16 reported up to more than a 40 per cent increase. It is important that we increase the maximum penalty for breaches of PPNs and ensure there is greater consistency with penalties imposed for breaching DVOs to hold perpetrators more accountable for their actions.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 builds on the legislative reforms that have already passed through the House as a result of the LNP government establishing the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland in 2014. This task force, chaired by Dame Quentin Bryce, released its final report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland* in February 2015, with 140 recommendations that were put forward to set a new direction for a strategy to stop domestic and family violence in Queensland, including a full review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012.

We would like to think that laws could stop all tragedies. Unfortunately, as we know, this is an area that is going to require continued vigilance and continued monitoring of how effective the legal changes are to ensure that, wherever possible, every action is taken to keep people safe, to change a culture that too often is passed from one generation to another where the victims in some circumstances

can themselves become those who offend against another generation. It does not always seem to make sense, but, unfortunately, with the damage that is done intergenerationally it is a cycle that takes more than just laws to break, but laws are important. Laws are part of that tool kit to ensure that the agencies who are responding are better equipped to be able to do so effectively.

Ultimately, changing the culture is about bringing it out of the shadows and talking about how better to address not only the culture of violence but also the culture of abuse and manipulation and whatever abusive techniques take place that ultimately control the lives of others in such a damaging way. I support the bill before the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (4.48 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. This bill continues the Palaszczuk government's essential work in implementing the 2015 Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. Specifically, it implements recommendations 78, 90, 99, 112, 120 and 140.

This bill will hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and encourage them to change their behaviour and to seek intervention, assistance and support to break the insidious intergenerational cycle of domestic and family violence. Importantly, it will also provide victims of domestic and family violence with tailored protections, improved protections and of course provide earlier, more effective protections. These protections are so important for the men and women who take the brave step of speaking out about violence in our community.

This bill delivers on the need to do more, to ensure that there is a better integrated system, a system that ensures better interagency connectivity. This legislation addresses something that the domestic violence sector has been crying out for: information sharing and integration of services. I am very pleased to be able to support this bill and I believe it is another positive step forward in keeping victims safe and holding perpetrators to account.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the fantastic work that the community organisations in my electorate of Pine Rivers do for domestic and family violence protection. I am very pleased to stand behind the Palaszczuk government's record of reform in the domestic violence sector. The National Domestic Violence Order Scheme will mean that victims fleeing violence will not be limited by state and can feel safe that their DVO will stand. We want victims and survivors to be able to pursue opportunities right across Australia. If a victim is relocating to be closer to family, for employment opportunities or to make a fresh start, they will not have to go through the stress and the anguish of reapplying for a DVO in another jurisdiction.

As a former childcare worker, I understand the importance of domestic violence prevention strategies taking into account child safety. This bill also gives police the power to include additional protections in PPNs. These are conditions that exclude a perpetrator from the family home and/or prevent them contacting the victim or their children unless there is a family law order in place permitting contact until a court hearing. These amendments ensure that the safety of victims and their children remains the top priority.

Last year when I held my domestic and family violence prevention round tables and sought community feedback this point came through loud and clear. Parents or caregivers who have gone through this trauma not only want protections for themselves but also adequate protections for their children. This legislation will also require courts to consider family law orders in conjunction with DVOs. Consultation on this legislation found that many magistrates were reluctant to suspend family law orders allowing perpetrators to see children that may be restricted under a DVO. In my electorate I have heard firsthand the significant impact this has had on children, often harrowing and heart-wrenching accounts of really awful experiences. We know that the most important consideration is the safety of victims and their children. That is why we are making this legislative change.


It is important now more than ever that we take a strong stand to ensure that we are supporting women who have experienced domestic and family violence and their children. I was shocked and appalled at the recent comments made by Pauline Hanson in her introductory speech in the Senate when she said—

Children are used as pawns in custody battles where women make frivolous claims and believe they have the sole right to the children. Children have two parents and, until we treat mums and dads with the same courtesy and rights, we will continue to see murders due to sheer frustration and depression and mental illness caused by this unworkable system.

This is reckless and dangerous commentary which puts the blame back on to victims for their abuse when they are doing their utmost to protect their families. It is hard enough for victims, so often women, to confront their attackers in a Family Court. I am proud of the Palaszczuk government for taking a strong stand against inaccurate and dangerous comments such as these. We are walking the talk when it comes to protecting women and children, and this legislation is proof of that.

I know that information sharing is something that is essential to ensuring victims of domestic violence receive the support they require to leave abusive relationships and thrive. Since the Palaszczuk government was elected 18 months ago we have been working to create an integrated response to domestic and family violence in Queensland. Following recommendations from the *Not now, not ever* report, Minister Fentiman announced three trial integrated response sites in Logan-Beenleigh, Mount Isa and Cherbourg. This was a response to the recommendation from Dame Quentin Bryce's report that an integrated response trial should be commenced in an urban location, a remote location and discrete Indigenous location. These integrated responses are coordinated by a high-risk team, representatives from key government and non-government agencies, to ensure that no victim of domestic violence falls through the cracks.

Following the success of these trials, the Palaszczuk government announced in the budget that it would be rolling out these high-risk teams to locations right across Queensland. I am so pleased that the Palaszczuk government is establishing legislative change that will ensure an integrated response that is long term and is supported. The legislation that we are introducing today to establish the legislative framework to support the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme will build on this important work as well as aligning Queensland with other states and territories. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government can pass such incredible legislation today on a day of international significance, the International Day of the Girl Child. This legislation is helping to ensure a future where our girls do not need to fear retribution for leaving a violent relationship. It will protect not only our girls today but the women of tomorrow. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (4.55 pm): I rise to address the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I am proud to stand up once again in the parliament to participate in the debate about domestic and family violence and to continue to stand up for victims of domestic and family violence in the Cleveland electorate. I note the policy objectives of the bill are to provide victims of domestic and family violence with access to earlier and more tailored protection, to ensure victim safety is at the forefront of the justice response to domestic and family violence, to require police to consider how immediate and effective protection can be provided to victims pending a court's consideration of an application for a domestic violence order, to provide for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs made in other Australian jurisdictions through the National Domestic Violence Order Scheme—NDVOS—and to hold perpetrators of violence more accountable and work with them to change their behaviour.

The LNP while in government established the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in 2014. I am very proud of the work done by the LNP government to put the task force together. I commend the former minister and member for Aspley, Tracy Davis, former governor-general Quentin Bryce and the task force members for their good work. In February 2015 the special task force released its report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. The ultimate objective of the task force was to totally eradicate violence from the family home. This is a huge task and requires everyone to do something about it.

The task force report recommended a number of amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012. The policy objectives of this bill come as the result of recommendations from the task force report. The task force also recommended specific amendments to: introduce enabling legislation to allow information sharing between government and non-government agencies within integrated service responses with appropriate safeguards, including protection for the sharing of information without consent if a risk assessment indicates it is for the purpose of protecting the safety of a victim or their immediate family; and require courts to consider family law orders when making a DVO. Recommendation 140 of the task force report was for an overarching review of the act to ensure it provides a cohesive, legislative framework that incorporates the reforms recommended by the task force. In making this recommendation, the task force identified specific issues for consideration in the review including the current provisions and operation of police protection notices, PPNs, and the application of provisions relating to voluntary intervention orders.

The task force report also recommended that Queensland continue its commitment to develop and implement the NDVOS to achieve automatic mutual recognition and enforcement of domestic violence related orders across jurisdictions and support CrimTrac to develop a national domestic


violence order information sharing system. I note that the government accepted these recommendations. The bill implements key outcomes of the review of the act. It also implements the task force recommendations relating to information sharing and will enable Queensland to participate in NDVOS. I will focus my remaining time on the issues of information sharing and victim safety, particularly as they apply to my electorate of Cleveland.

The safety of those who are victims of domestic violence is critical. The measures in this bill go some way to improving the information which is shared through the justice process, courts and non-government organisations. With respect to personal information sharing, we do need to enhance the information needed for the protection of victims but we also need to make sure that the processes protect both the individuals and the information. The increase in the reported incidents of domestic violence in recent times in our society is of great concern, as is the amount of domestic violence that goes unreported. Vulnerable women and children require support and understanding to enable them to be proactive about their situation and their safety. It is important to ensure that processes for the immediate prioritisation of victims' safety are working. The enhanced processes for immediate prioritisation of victims' safety are a good step forward.

I have spoken many times in the past about domestic violence support organisations within my local community and electorate; however, the cutting of court support for domestic violence victims in the Cleveland court by the Bligh Labor government caused the community and me to fight back. In 2009 funding was cut for the Wynnum based bayside domestic violence court support, which included Wynnum and Cleveland courts. This service also covered the whole of Redland City. It was disgraceful that the then Labor government cut that support and left victims in my electorate with no support. I had to come here to parliament, stand up, give a speech and shame the minister of the day, Karen Struthers, who was the one who cut the funding. Cutting funds to an opposition electorate was the most disgraceful politicising of domestic violence that I have seen in my 7½ years here. After the government was shamed it reinstated the funding, and they are the facts on the record. I hope that this never happens again, as I will join with women's groups and my community once again if it does to fight the government. No such struggle existed under the LNP government, as Minister Davis and the government were strongly committed to a nonpartisan approach to fund such support for domestic violence victims.

A local organisation which does great work supporting domestic violence victims in Redlands is Maybanke Accommodation and Crisis Support Services. Maybanke provides access to safe accommodation and support for women and children escaping domestic violence. Other community groups and churches like Gateway Church have been greatly helpful in providing funding and needed items to such domestic violence groups, and I thank them for it. This is a great example of community groups, church groups and government working together for optimal outcomes for victims. The Working Against Violence Support Service, WAVSS, is the regional domestic and family violence service for Logan and Redlands. In September 2015 WAVSS launched the newly funded DFV service in the Redlands community. WAVSS offers support and counselling for people, predominantly women and children, who are experiencing domestic and family violence. In May of this year I attended a candlelight service at Raby Bay to support those affected by domestic and family violence. I joined many of the community and the Redlands mayor Karen Williams in their initiative. It is good to be able to work cooperatively with the Redlands mayor and council to support the community through local and state avenues.

As I have said many times before, while domestic violence exists in Queensland and is rife in our society I will continue to use whatever influence I have to challenge men to do the right thing and say no to domestic and family violence. I close by saying that I will always stand up for women and children in every kind of domestic violence situation, including those women currently not receiving help; the women who are domestic violence victims because they are being forced by their male partners into having unwanted abortions. I support the bill.

 **Mr FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (5.05 pm): I rise this afternoon to support the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I preface my comments by remarking on the contributions which have been made in the chamber this afternoon. There have been some well-measured and very personal contributions by a lot of the members here, and I am sure they touched the hearts of many of us Queensland parliamentarians when we heard those personal stories. I must commend the member for Gaven for his contribution; his recounting of his experience with domestic violence was very touching.

I have made personal contributions here before about my own daughter and how the early onset of domestic violence affected her. I think it is very important that parliamentarians speak out about this scourge in our society. I may be optimistic, but I believe that change will be generational.

In many schools in my electorate of Ferny Grove principals from primary and secondary schools are coming forward to ensure that the message filtering through the curriculum is about respect. It is so important that people have respect for one another. Regardless of who you are, what you are or where you come from, there should be respect for one another. I think that is presently lacking in our society. I am sure that over time when the youths in those schools become adults and go out into the community there will be generational change and we will see the last of domestic violence.

The bill will introduce changes to the DFVP Act to improve protection for victims and strengthen the justice response by requiring police to consider what action to take to provide victims with effective and immediate protection until a court can consider an application for a protection order and expand the protection that can be provided by police protection notices to better safeguard victims and their families. It will make sure that courts can make a DVO when a victim has been threatened or has fears for their safety or wellbeing and also expand the existing power available to police to direct a person to remain at a specified place and also to enable them to direct a person to move to, and remain at, another place to allow police to serve or explain an application, PPN or DVO or issue a PPN. This will assist police to defuse emotive domestic violence incidents.


I know that in my area, Ferny Grove, Sergeant Roger O'Malia is a strong advocate for domestic violence and I see him at many events. I will be wearing my White Ribbon ambassador hat this Friday at the Ferny Grove State High School to conduct a candlelight vigil, and I hope to see him there. I know that some senior police and many community leaders are coming to the six o'clock vigil this Friday night at the high school. I heard from a number of other speakers who are doing similar things, whether it be conducting vigils or holding special days to ensure that their communities are well informed about this particular issue. It is so important that we keep that message out there.

On that note, I want to encourage the chamber to recognise the work that the minister and the committee have put in to bring this bill forward. If we can break the nexus of domestic violence in our electorates it would be a significant achievement. As we go out into our communities, it is important to spread the message that this government is on track to see the demise of domestic violence.

The bill enables police to protect an expanded range of people—a victim's children, relatives and associates as well as the victim—and contains additional conditions to provide more tailored protection, including removing a perpetrator from the family home, prohibiting them from contacting the victim or their children, and preventing them from possessing weapons.

It is women who predominantly come into my office and tell me stories about perpetrators who commit domestic violence, and we naturally automatically involve the police at the Ferny Grove Police Station to assist in resolving those matters. The measures perpetrators are using amaze me. They are using new forms of technology to spy and no doubt commit offences through other means. It alarms me that, with advances in and new forms of technology—drones and so on—perpetrators are starting to use technology to offend against their victims. This is not necessarily an area of involvement for the state; it is something the federal government needs to be conscious of.

Last week I had the pleasure of attending the Women's Correctional Centre at Wacol. There I heard alarming statistics about the significant numbers of women in that centre who had become prisoners as a result of being perpetrated against and being victims in their families. No doubt that starts that vicious cycle of masking the effects of what they have had to live with through their childhood or their early teenage years by going down the path of taking drugs. Unfortunately, involvement in drugs leads to criminality in order to feed the drug habit. We need to be mindful of what these women are being affected by out in the community. It is my pleasure to speak this afternoon on this important bill, which will address a lot of issues in our community.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.11 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, now before the Queensland parliament. This bill addresses recommendations of the report *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*, released on 28 February 2015, by the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence. This task force was established by the former LNP government and commenced a much needed public dialogue and reform process with respect to domestic violence.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 will ensure that our police are permitted to act more quickly to protect women and children fleeing domestic violence. This bill will simplify the police and law enforcement processes and procedures and allow

police to provide immediate and enhanced protection in such situations. It will also allow our court system to issue domestic violence orders for longer periods and to consider modifying any existing Family Court orders to better protect children.

Statistics provided by DVConnect are alarming. In the past 12 months DVConnect received approximately 55,000 calls relating to domestic violence, family violence and sexual assault. They continue to receive some 4,000 calls per month from women who are in fear of or facing an immediate threat of personal danger from domestic and family violence.

One significant change under the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is the establishment of a comprehensive information-sharing framework to ensure that agencies providing specialist domestic and family violence services and their associated prescribed entities can share information appropriately with each other to assess and manage risk. Sadly, domestic violence is usually an ongoing pattern of behaviour aimed at controlling through fear. Every year Queenslanders die from domestic and family violence, sometimes when there has been no prior history of physical violence. This is exactly why all forms of violence and controlling and obsessive behaviours must be taken seriously.

All of us need to recognise the signs of domestic and family violence. If a friend or family member stops seeing friends and family and becomes isolated or becomes depressed or loses confidence or tries to hide bruises or gives unlikely explanations for injuries, these can be danger signs. This is far from an easy subject, and the initial discussion can be very difficult as the at-risk individual may be very defensive. As a doctor I know how difficult and confronting these conversations can be for all involved. One should only ever start such a conversation when the person is alone and in a safe place and when there is time to discuss such an issue. The at-risk person needs to feel safe and to also trust you. You can help make a difference and may be the catalyst for them feeling stronger and much more capable in seeking options to help them in their current situation, ensuring they understand that they do not deserve being abused, that it is not their fault and that help is just around the corner.

Legal and support services are both ready and available for all forms of domestic and family violence in Queensland, and these services can assist people to consider their options and assist with ways to keep them safe. This then brings us back to the importance of having legislation in place that actually supports our police and justice system. One of the important recommendations of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence was for a review of current legislation to guarantee such legislation provides a cohesive public policy framework that incorporates the reforms recommended by the task force. The task force identified specific issues, including the current provisions and operation of police protection notices and the application of provisions relating to voluntary intervention orders.

The Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 will establish an interim information-sharing system that will provide police and our courts with information on all domestic violence orders that have been issued. Also, it will expand the protection which is currently provided by police protection notices. Police will now be able to direct a person to either remain at a specified place or go to another place and/or be able to either issue or serve a police protection notice.


I continue to be pleased that the Palaszczuk Labor government accepted the findings of the LNP initiated report by the then Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence so soon after the 2015 state election. Today, in a spirit of bipartisanship, I offer my support for the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, given the further public policy objectives that need to be achieved on this very important issue in Queensland. I am also supportive of the amendment that was to be moved by the shadow minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, particularly with respect to requiring the court to give written reasons when it makes a protection order for less than the stated five years, but I am of the understanding that the Labor government has accepted that recommendation.

I conclude by acknowledging the member for Gaven for his courageous outlining of his own personal experiences in relation to this important topic and for having the bravery to outline that to the House today. I certainly acknowledge his contribution.

As the father of four children—two sons and two daughters—I hope that into the future, once and for all, we can work collaboratively together to ensure the next generation is able to reduce the prevalence of this, not only in our community in the south-east corner and in my electorate of Moggill but also right across Queensland and Australia. These incidents should not take place. One thing that concerns me greatly, as we have seen recently in the public domain, is the increasing prevalence of sexting and the use of other technologies which are potentially detrimental to both developing young

girls and developing young boys and some of the disrespect and lack of respectful activities that take place in those forums and what that can then lead to down the track when these young people head into adulthood.

Finally, I take this opportunity to condemn the antisocial actions of those in our community who are terrorising children and others as a twisted form of entertainment. Actions aimed at generating fear and violence in any form should be repudiated by all of us as parliamentarians. Whilst this is not directly related to the long title of the bill, I join with both LNP and Labor members in condemning the actions of those dressing in sinister clown outfits with the aim of instilling fear and terror in many members of our community. All children should be able to have a childhood free of fear, whether that be in the broader community, attending school or living in their own homes. I commend the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 to the House.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Housing and Public Works) (5.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution in support of the domestic violence and other legislation bill. This government is committed to the prevention of domestic and family violence and to supporting women and their children to escape the horrors of that violence. I acknowledge the work done by the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and highlight her commitment to these issues. Earlier this year I worked with the minister to make changes to the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Act 2008 to give victims of domestic violence greater protection against being listed on tenancy databases and to make it easier for them to have their names removed from blacklists. This was a simple but important change as part of a comprehensive program of reform this government is undertaking in response to the *Not now, not ever* report.

The bill that we have before us is another major step in the implementation of those comprehensive reforms implementing the task force's recommended changes to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act. Further, I support the bill as it also implements model laws endorsed by COAG allowing our state to participate in the national domestic violence order scheme, meaning that DVOs made across Australia will have automatic mutual recognition. This will ensure that women and children are safer, irrespective of state borders. The changes to the act will improve protections for victims and strengthen our state's justice response.


The community that I represent supports requiring police to consider what action to take to provide victims with effective and immediate protection until a court can consider an application for a protection order and expand the protection that police can provide through police protection notices. This includes expanding existing powers available for police to direct a person to remain at a specified place and to direct a person to move to and remain at another place, allowing police to serve or explain an application of the PPN or DVO. These measures will back in the work being done by police right across our community, and I recognise the valuable work and dedication of those officers across Springwood. I am pleased that our government will give them extra powers and extra tools to help prevent perpetrators of domestic and family violence from continuing to intimidate their victims.

There are some excellent services in our neighbourhood like the Working Against Violence Support Service and this bill enables the QPS to refer victims and perpetrators to specialist domestic and family violence services like WAVSS where a threat to life, health or safety is identified. Too many people know what it is like to live in fear of violence in their own homes and we have a responsibility to make sure that those people are better protected when they are trying to protect themselves and their children, and this bill clarifies that courts may make a domestic violence order when a victim has been threatened and fears for their safety, because family violence is not just limited to physical violence; threats and intimidation are themselves a form of violence.

With this bill we are strengthening the justice response, requiring courts to consider whether additional DVO conditions are necessary or desirable, to better tailor protection for victims. The following are key elements for the courts: focusing on the protection required by a victim in determining the appropriate duration of a protection order; considering noncompliance with a voluntary intervention order when making a protection order; and increasing the maximum penalties for breaches of PPNs and release conditions so they are consistent with other existing penalty provisions, more accurately reflecting the seriousness of domestic and family violence. These are all important changes and they are changes that ultimately, I think we would all agree, will save lives. They will give women and children the added protection they need to leave dangerous situations and lead a life free from violence.

This bill is part of a whole-of-government response to the *Not now, not ever* report, but the measures in this bill should not be considered in isolation. My department and the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services have worked closely to deliver two new crisis shelters in Townsville and Brisbane in response to recommendations of the report and are investing \$8.68 million to build and operate services in both Roma and Charters Towers in the near future.

I conclude by saying that this government is committed to meaningful action on domestic violence, and I once again commend the minister for her leadership when it comes to addressing this issue. I also commend our police officers, staff in the justice system and staff within other government agencies that are dedicated to helping victims. I also commend support services like WAVSS and YFS in the neighbourhood that I represent that are dedicated to supporting and assisting victims. I know just how dedicated the minister is to supporting vulnerable Queenslanders—women and children—in this state by establishing a system that leaves no stone unturned when it comes to preventing violence in our homes. This bill is an important next step in our response to tackling domestic and family violence and I commend it to the House.


 **Miss BARTON** (Broadwater—LNP) (5.24 pm): This evening I rise to make a brief contribution to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. At the outset I want to particularly acknowledge my friend and colleague from the Gold Coast the member for Gaven. I think all members would appreciate that it takes a lot to bare one's emotions in the House. Particularly when speaking about such a difficult personal issue, it took a lot of courage and I am sure that all members would join me in acknowledging the contribution that he made to the House in the debate earlier today. I also want to take this opportunity to acknowledge the shadow minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, for the amazing work she has done in this space. Over a number of years the member for Mudgeeraba has been a very strong advocate for survivors of domestic and family violence and she will continue to be a very strong advocate for years to come.

As has been outlined by members on both sides of the House, it is heartening to see continued bipartisan support for changes in the law around domestic and family violence and how we respond in this state. As we know, the laws that we are seeing introduced in this House in this term of parliament are a response to the *Not now, not ever* report which was a result of the task force which was instigated by the LNP when in government with bipartisan support. I know that all members of the House are very much looking forward to continuing to work together to ensure that the framework that we have in place to support families and survivors of domestic and family violence is the best framework that we can put in place, and that is what is so important about the legislation that we are debating today because, ultimately, we need to be able to ensure that the services that we have in place are not only the right services but we are able to get there sooner and faster and we are able to, at the earliest instance, provide support for men, women, children, friends and families—whoever needs it—so that we can make sure that we can send a message in this state that domestic violence is not okay not now, not ever.

I cannot remember who it was, but earlier a member of the House in their contribution spoke about how we need to change culture and it is a psyche change. One of the things that we are seeing as a result of increased news reports on this very significant issue and members of parliament continuing to share their own very harrowing and personal experiences is that we can start to change the culture and we can start to change the psyche in our communities so that people feel more comfortable coming forward and admitting that they need assistance and that they need help but also so that we can ensure that the responses that we have, both in the community but importantly also within the Queensland Police Service and within the justice system, are the most appropriate ones. That is something in particular that the member for Mudgeeraba has been very focused on—that is, making sure that all of the services work together but, importantly, that at every step of the way victims and survivors are aware of what is happening and what the process is so that everyone is well informed.

All members on the Gold Coast have been working not only with the community services that we have but also with the Queensland Police Service to ensure that we have the right response for our community on the Gold Coast. As we are aware from media reports, the Gold Coast unfortunately is a location where there is much domestic and family violence and the president of the Law Society, who hails from the Gold Coast, highlighted that in his contribution to the committee's inquiry. To that end I want to acknowledge the statement of reservation that has been put in by LNP members on the health committee who took the opportunity to acknowledge the work that is being done in the Southport specialist court. Unfortunately, as those of us who represent seats on the Gold Coast are all too aware, Southport is a very busy domestic and family violence court. It is a busy court generally, and to that end I say to the Attorney-General on behalf of the legal profession on the Gold Coast that it would be much

appreciated if Judge Wall could be replaced sooner rather than later. I am sure that they would appreciate an appointment sooner rather than later, but those of us on the Gold Coast need to make sure that we all work together to ensure that we change the psyche. I know that the steps that we are taking in this House not only today but also will do and have done are an important part of that process. I want to particularly acknowledge on the Gold Coast those who give so much of their time to support survivors of domestic and family violence so that together we can help make our community a safer and better place so that no-one ever needs to feel the scourge of domestic and family violence.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice and Minister for Training and Skills) (5.29 pm): It is my pleasure to rise to give support to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 and recognise the contribution of all members across this chamber and the very emotional and touching stories that we have heard, particularly today from the member for Gaven and his reflections on his personal experience. We talk about a lot of things that we are passionate about in this chamber, but when members start talking about their own personal experiences or those of members of their family we really feel exposed. It is a very courageous thing to do in this chamber. I congratulate the member for Gaven for telling his story, as have other members told of their story or that of family members in this chamber, because every time they do that they potentially send a message to someone else that it is okay to speak up. When we talk about cultural change, one thing that I particularly have noticed in my electorate is the people who are coming forward to me—people whom I have known for years—saying, 'I am a victim,' that they are still going through the system and that they now feel like they can tell others. That is a good thing. After hearing the personal stories from this chamber, if one more person feels confident enough to come forward, that is a very positive message that we are sending from this parliament.

I will not go through all the elements of this bill, because many members have done so. It is an important bill. It is one of many bills that this parliament has already considered and will consider into the future in implementing all of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations. A number of members have talked about resources and have asked the government to respond to queries about resources, particularly in the justice system. I note the statement of reservation by the opposition members on the parliamentary committee. I want to touch on some of those issues and answer those queries in terms of the areas that fall specifically within my portfolio responsibility.


A number of members talked about the Palaszczuk government's 2016-17 state budget, which included a range of funding measures and brings the government's total overall investment in tackling domestic and family violence to almost \$200 million over five years. I can say that significant resources are being dedicated to tackling domestic and family violence through the justice system. Those resources include funding of \$1.1 million to deliver the domestic violence duty lawyer scheme to 13 locations across the state in addition to the specialist domestic and family violence court at Southport. This crucial service provides free legal information and advice to applicants and respondents in domestic and family violence matters and also assists people to complete court forms and documents.

I want to emphasise that this funding goes to having duty lawyers representing both sides. I have sat in closed courts where the victim has been both male and female and the alleged perpetrators have been both male and female. It is really important that we have legal assistance for both sides, particularly when a DVO is being installed by the court, so that the perpetrator understands the terms of that DVO, what is required of them and what the consequences are of a breach of that DVO. If the perpetrator is simply consenting because they think that that is the quickest way to get out of that court and that it assists them in family law matters, as I hear regularly, then they do not understand the consequences of their actions when they breach that order and they do not understand what is required of them. When we talk about increasing penalties, the consequences of DVOs and the consequences of breaches of DVOs, it is very important that the perpetrators have that fully explained to them.

There have been significant resources put into the Southport court, including physical infrastructure. It is very hard to fully plan for the needs of our courts into the future, because we are still seeing growth in this area. We know that there is a lot of pressure on our court facilities. As we committed to do, we are going through an audit process of all of our courts. We are fortunate that the Southport court is a bigger, more modern court that we can retrofit. However, some of the smaller, older courthouses in the regions are heritage protected and it is very difficult to retrofit them. We are committed to looking at how we can make sure that there are the secure, safe rooms and private interview rooms that are needed in courthouses.

We are putting more funding into Legal Aid, bringing it up to the national average over the next four years. Importantly, we have committed \$20 million over the next 10 years—the biggest investment in the courts that we have seen for decades. That funding assists in alleviating those pressures that we

are talking about. There is also additional funding for the Women's Legal Service helpline and additional funding for the development and delivery of professional training. I can certainly say to those members opposite—and those on this side as well—that significant resources and funding has been committed in this budget and in the forward estimates to address those resource issues to ensure that we have everything possible to meet our obligations under the *Not now, not ever* report. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.35 pm): I rise to also contribute to the debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I wish to premise my contribution to the debate by paying credit to the work initiated, as has been said in this House before, by the former Newman government which, as we all know, established the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland on 10 September 2014. That was in response to concerns about the incidence of domestic violence in this state. As has also been mentioned by other members, the task force was chaired by the Hon. Quentin Bryce who, in February 2016, released the final report, *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. Members would know that the report included 140 recommendations that were designed to provide Queensland with a strategy to stop domestic and family violence and also recommended a full review of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012.

In a spirit of bipartisanship, as has also been said in previous speeches on this very topic in the past, it would be remiss of me to not once again welcome the Labor government's commitment in supporting the report and in accepting all government directed recommendations to see domestic and family violence become a key focus in Queensland. I commend the members opposite for their actions in government.

The bill that we are debating today has six main components, which include changes to police protection notices and related powers; enhanced requirements for courts' consideration in the imposition of domestic violence orders; the introduction of new information-sharing provisions, which I will speak about further; the implementation of COAG model laws for the automatic mutual recognition of DVOs across Australia and New Zealand; the seeking to enhance perpetrator accountability and to encourage behavioural change; and allowing the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the QPS to obtain copies of DVO court documents that are relevant to related criminal prosecutions.

On 1 June this year in an article in the *Courier-Mail* Deputy Police Commissioner Brett Pointing said that the Queensland Police Service responded daily to almost 200 calls to domestic violence incidents. I know that this has been said by other members in their contributions, but that figure of 200 calls daily to domestic violence incidents is an absolute tragedy. In that article, Deputy Police Commissioner Brett Pointing went on to say the following—

In half of our domestic-related homicides the victim and the offender were never known to police ... but it's not generally unknown by family and friends.

The article goes on to state that, over the past 10 years to January of this year, there have been 236 Queensland victims of domestic homicide. That is an unbelievable figure. That is an average of almost 24 domestic homicide victims a year. That figure is supported by another report that states, from May 2015 to May this year, sadly, there have been 23 domestic homicides. Research has shown that nearly all of those deaths could have been prevented. Therein lies why, in a spirit of bipartisanship, we are supporting this bill.

In January 2015, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group launched a pilot study and found that, although 80 per cent of surveyed family and friends may have held concerns about a loved one's relationship, just 37 per cent acted to report it to a professional agency. The State Coroner's Domestic and Family Violence Death Review Unit's Susan Beattie said only 27 per cent of reviewed deaths showed an active protection order against the offender while almost all showed a history of abuse. It is with these startling statistics that I, along with my colleagues in the LNP, support the government's bill. It is not a day too early to have the bill debated and I am pleased to see it brought to the forefront of this sitting week. Changes to police protection notices will require police to consider what action to take so they can provide victims with immediate and effective protection from domestic and family violence. Importantly, this bill will also see an expansion of the protection that can be provided by these notices and will streamline administrative requirements associated with them.

Furthermore, we will see more flexibility in the issuing and service of notices, such as expanding the existing power available to police to direct a person to remain at a specific place or be moved to another place for the purposes of the notice. Meanwhile, the bill amends provisions guiding the court's consideration of protection orders, such as making protection orders when a victim has been threatened


or fears for their safety or wellbeing within the current definition of domestic violence. Courts will now be required to consider whether additional conditions may be necessary beyond the standard conditions to strengthen the protection of a victim or other named persons and they also take on board the comments that were made much earlier in the debate by the member for Glass House on this particular provision. They are well worth reading. Additionally, courts will also be required to focus on the protection required by the victim and determine the appropriate duration of an order, as well as increasing the minimum standard duration from two years to five years.

Amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act will see the introduction of an information-sharing framework proposal to provide an approach that allows information sharing to occur for risk assessment purposes. This framework will be limited to those specialist services with the necessary expertise to assess domestic and family violence related risks. I am particularly supportive of the national recognition of DVOs. While we have a number of states and territories in Australia, we are obviously one country and violence does not distinguish itself by some geographical line on a map. Domestic violence is indeed abhorrent regardless of where and when it occurs. It is indeed a national disgrace and has been kept under the carpet for far too long in Australian society. I believe it is imperative for the safety of victims and other named persons that we have consistency and protection which reaches past the transparent borders of each state.

The new part 6 of this bill provides for national recognition of domestic violence orders by establishing a national recognition scheme, including, importantly, providing for local orders to vary orders made in other jurisdictions and for those variations to be further recognised in other jurisdictions. This part will also provide for recognised interstate orders to be enforced in the same way as local orders, as well as the standardised administration of all DVOs in the manner agreed by COAG. Finally, this part will also enable the exchange of information between issuing authorities and interstate law enforcement agencies for the purposes of exercising the functions under the part or for a few law enforcement purposes. This is indeed crucial.

The last key change in this bill will look to improve perpetrator accountability and support behavioural change. While it is imperative to protect victims of domestic and family violence, it would be ignorant of us in this House to not work with perpetrators to assist them in changing their behaviours. As part of this amendment we will see maximum penalties for breaches of notices to be increased. The Weapons Act will be amended to provide that any weapons licence held by a respondent named in a notice is suspended for the duration of the notice. Very importantly, the name 'voluntary intervention order' will be renamed 'intervention order' to clarify that once an order has been agreed to by the respondent compliance with the order is not voluntary. Finally, we will see the ODPP and the QPS allowed to obtain copies of DVO court documents that are relevant to a related criminal prosecution and enable courts to provide documents to police where they are relevant to a related police investigation.

I am pleased to say these changes are a mature approach by both the government and the opposition and I am proud to see everyone here today working in a bipartisan manner. I had the privilege of bringing school students through this chamber during the lunch break today. I explained to them that the government and opposition do not always verbally debate in a heated manner as shown on the television news. I stated that sometimes—just sometimes—both sides of parliament agree on important matters. This is one of those milestone occasions when each member of the parliament can fondly look back, when the sun finally sets on their careers in this august chamber, and know that they played a part in bringing in important legislative changes which will potentially save lives.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise today to speak to and support the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2016. At the very heart of this bill is an intent to ensure the safety of domestic violence victims and their children—our Queensland families. Our work is to further shine a light on this scourge often hidden within our society. The Palaszczuk government and the opposition are not afraid to tackle this incredibly hard and challenging topic that affects so many. This bill will enhance information sharing and support tailored responses to domestic and family violence and better prioritise victim safety whilst holding the perpetrators of violence more accountable.

The amendments will build on recent reforms made as a result of the Special Taskforce on Domestic and Family Violence in Queensland and its final report, *Not now, not ever: putting an end to domestic and family violence in Queensland*. I have spoken several times in this House about my time as a paramedic having to attend scenes of domestic violence. They are harrowing. As Minister Miles said earlier, when there is a death as a result of domestic violence, those scenes stay with you for a long time. There are a couple of scenes in Townsville that will never leave my memory: a lady stabbed

47 times who bled out in front of me and another lady who was kicked so badly I could not recognise her. I did not know if she was alive. Bravely, she survived her significant head injuries. They are the kinds of things that do happen. I commend our government for taking the brave step to stop it. I clearly remember the chaos of those scenes and occasionally the very real danger of violence that was still posed to the victims and their children.

In my electorate of Thuringowa I meet regularly with the officer in charge of Kirwan Police Station. It is down the road from my office. At the last meeting he shared with me that they were responding to over 1,200 domestic violence incidents in the Thuringowa area a year. That is over 100 a month, meaning, on average, officers from that station are turning out three to four times a day on domestic violence related incidents. On Monday the *Townsville Bulletin* reported that the annual police statistical data revealed that more than 2,000 domestic violence orders were issued last financial year in the Townsville district. This included 2,705 breaches of DVOs, with 992 men and 198 women committing domestic violence offences across the 12 months. I commend the *Townsville Bulletin* for continuing to inform the people of the scourge of domestic violence in our local community. I am sure most constituents in my electorate would be shocked by those numbers. We all have a role to play in reducing the shocking numbers of domestic violence incidents in our community and the need to reduce the cycle of domestic violence as children may see this as normal behaviour. We have considerable work to do in this space. I believe this bill will achieve this.

An important part of strengthening the bill is the enhancing of the police protection notices which allows for children to be included in police protection notices and other temporary orders. It is a significant step in ensuring that our children are protected and recognised as the link between domestic violence and child safety. Amendments also require police to consider additional conditions in PPNs, including considering the exclusion of perpetrators from their homes and barring perpetrators from contacting their victims or children before trial. There are a number of amendments and good things happening within this bill. Today I heard members of the House share their stories. I listened to the Attorney-General talk about how brave it is to stand up and talk about incidents that have been experienced. I believe that shared life experiences are powerful. I commend the member for Gaven for standing up and saying what he did and I commend the member for Mudgeeraba. It is ironic that the three of us have been on the health committee. I am one of those people, as I have intimated to the member for Mudgeeraba.

I do not know whether I could do what the member for Gaven has done so bravely, which is to stand up and talk about personal experience, but it briefly goes something like this: domestic violence pulled my family apart. I have not seen my mother for 30-something years and my siblings for about the same period. Now I know why I did so badly in school. I went from city to city, town to town and house to house. I moved through as the violence and the stuff around me took place. I do not want to go into detail, because sometimes I think that is all too hard. However, I commend fellow members for standing up and sharing their experiences in this House.

I thank the minister for her courageous work in this space. The minister's department of communities and the staff—I see some staff sitting out the back—are collectively changing and saving lives. Our government should be rightly proud of the achievements in this space. I commend the bill to the House.



Hon. LE DONALDSON (Bundaberg—ALP) (Minister for Agriculture and Fisheries) (5.51 pm): I rise to speak in favour of the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I am pleased to have the opportunity to support this legislation, which will ensure the protection of victims of domestic violence and hold aggressors to account. For 20 years I have worked with some of the most vulnerable of our fellow citizens in the child safety sector. Too many times I have seen first-hand not only the sickening impact that domestic violence has on the spouses who are subjected to attack but also the lasting impact on their children. In an ideal society, children would be innocent of such damaging behaviour. Unfortunately, we do not live in an ideal society. I know how important it is to ensure that child safety is considered in domestic violence prevention and that is why this legislation is vital.

My electorate of Bundaberg is active in supporting domestic violence prevention. In July Churches of Christ Care in Bundaberg took part in CQ University's workshop in providing a nationally recognised qualification to recognise and respond appropriately to domestic and family violence to its staff members. Next month, the Bundaberg East Rotary Club will hold their annual White Ribbon Day breakfast. If last year is any indication, this year will be a sell out once again.

I note that one of the submissions on the bill was from a domestic violence service in my own electorate of Bundaberg, Edon Place. Edon Place plays an incredibly important role in my community. It provides practical assistance to victims of domestic violence in the form of short-term crisis accommodation and other support to women and children at a time when they are at their lowest ebb. In its submission, it wrote—


EDON Place supports the objectives of the Bill, that is, to increase accountability of perpetrators of domestic and family violence, and to increase protection for victims of domestic and family violence. Although our submission does not address each and every clause of the Bill, it should be noted that we support the Bill in its entirety.

That organisation has been tirelessly helping the Bundaberg community for over 30 years, since 1978. To see such support from a reputable organisation within my own community is encouraging. I look forward to supporting this legislation on their behalf and on behalf of those whom they support.

Women are often told that they need to end their relationship with a violent man, placing the blame on the victim and not on the problem. In doing this, it can mean that the perpetrator will simply reappear somewhere else with another family or return to the former family, with little impetus to change their behaviour, thus the cycle continues. I was pleased that Edon Place recently received one-off funds of \$106,463 to help fund the perpetrator intervention program. This legislation will refer victims and perpetrators to specialist domestic and family violence service providers when a threat to a person's life, health or safety is identified. Specialists will be able to identify and work with a perpetrator to amend behaviour.

During my previous career and currently, I have travelled throughout Queensland and had contact with many community and women's groups. Rural and regional women who experience domestic violence often face unique disadvantages that those in major population centres do not. That includes a lack of access to specialised services and immense social pressure to stay in an abusive relationship. Considering that not all towns have a specialised centre to retreat to, police intervention will serve to be a very important amendment. More importantly, it will remind those who pressure women to stay with abusive partners that the blame is not on them.

This legislation changes the narrative of how we tackle domestic and family violence, which is a welcome change that many of us have been waiting for. I thank my colleagues, in particular the Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, for all of the work that has been done in introducing these reforms, which will not only improve the lives of many but also save lives. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (5.56 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to today's debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016. I am pleased to see so many members stand up and speak out against domestic and family violence, which is an issue across every electorate. I make special mention of the member for Gaven, who very bravely told his story, which reflects the experience of too many Queenslanders. I thank him for his positive words and his own personal passion and purpose to do something to prevent this from happening to others. In partnership with the Queensland community, we can stop the behaviour and attitudes that allow domestic and family violence to continue.

The government is happy to accept the amendment proposed by the member for Mudgeeraba. While in practice reasons are usually explained to participants, it is acceptable to the government that we make it explicit that those reasons must be articulated. The government will support the amendment in consideration in detail. However, it was incredibly disappointing to hear the shadow minister apply the same fearmongering she has been using with child safety to this issue of tackling domestic and family violence, which up until now has had bipartisan support. As I have said before, but it appears I need to say it again, it is dangerous for members of this House to make statements such as, 'DVOs are not worth the paper they are written on,' because it discourages women from seeking help. Let me be very clear to the women of Queensland: please seek help. We have increased your protection and we have increased the penalties for breaching DVOs in order to hold perpetrators to account.

It is also clear that the shadow minister has not been paying attention. It was claimed that the Palaszczuk government has yet to put forward a real plan to address domestic violence. Only someone whose only goal is political gain could make such a claim. The government has accepted each and every one of the *Not now, not ever* recommendations, has completed 37 recommendations, commenced 78 recommendations and the remaining six recommendations are proposed for the second action plan. We have released a comprehensive action plan to outline our delivery of those

recommendations and, in an unprecedented way, brought together the directors-general of all relevant departments to drive reforms across government. In fact, it took me four weeks as the minister to announce two new domestic violence refuges, which are the first government funded refuges in 25 years.

I could take all evening to list the achievements of this government in this area, but it is clear that the shadow minister is not interested in the facts. Let us not forget that under the LNP Queensland was the only state in this country without a strategy to tackle domestic violence. They refused an invitation to join Our Watch, the national body set up to look at the prevention of violence against women and children, and they cut funding for important programs such as Breaking the Cycle in Rockhampton. Again, I am happy to put our record up against theirs any time.

The member for Caloundra emphasised that police officers will need adequate training to ensure they use their new powers effectively. As my department has made clear to the committee, the Queensland Police Service is developing an educational package to support implementation of the changes in the bill. This training package will be delivered to all police officers and front-line staff as an eight-hour face-to-face session. This training will help equip officers to use their new powers effectively and responsibly.

The member for Caloundra also expressed concerns about the security of information shared under the new information-sharing framework for domestic violence. The bill requires the director-general of my department to develop information-sharing guidelines to support cross-agency information sharing. The department will consult with the Queensland Privacy Commissioner in the development of the guidelines. There is already a robust legal framework for government entities that prescribes the appropriate collection, storage, retention and disposal of confidential information.

In conclusion, the bill will enhance the legal and justice response to domestic violence by improving protection for victims, increasing perpetrator accountability and encouraging behavioural change. Again, I would like to thank the members of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee for its examination of the bill. I would also like to thank the many domestic and family violence and legal stakeholders, individuals who contributed to the committee process and those who participated in the review of the act.

My department, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General and the Queensland Police Service will continue to work together to implement the recommendations of the special task force to improve the domestic and family violence system in Queensland. I am proud to be part of a government that has put domestic and family violence reforms at the forefront of our agenda. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Hinchliffe, adjourned.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.00 pm), by leave, without notice: I move:

That, notwithstanding anything contained in the sessional orders, debate on the Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016 continue until its completion and the time frames for the private member's motion be adjusted accordingly.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.

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 8, as read, agreed to.

Clause 9—

 **Ms BATES** (6.02 pm): I note the proposed changes contained in clause 9. I am seeking some advice from the minister. In the past 12 months how were orders made under this section? How many offenders have breached orders made under section 69 in its current form which gives rise to these changes? Do we know how many orders were not progressed even after it was confirmed a respondent did not comply with the VIO? Are we evaluating the programs these respondents are being sent to to ensure that they are robust, given I have heard from my police on the ground on the Gold Coast that some respondents are gaming the system through their VIOs and using it to their advantage? Who is running these programs for the respondents and what is the current wait time to get into these programs?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her questions. I am happy to provide that information to her directly. This part of the bill was certainly supported by all the key stakeholders and has the unanimous support of the committee.


Ms BATES: I have a point of clarification for the minister. I thank the minister for saying that she will provide that information. Will she be providing that under standing order 113(3)?

Ms FENTIMAN: I will provide it to the member directly.

Clause 9, as read, agreed to.

Clause 10, as read, agreed to.

Clause 11—

 **Ms BATES** (6.04 pm): We have heard many horror stories about the poor interaction between the Family Court and the domestic and family violence protection court and the Childrens Court. I would like to know what will be happening to improve the interplay between those two courts. I would also be interested to hear from the minister as to how many times magistrates have amended Family Court orders as a consequence of matters arising in a DV given the courts have that power?


Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for her questions. In my regular meetings with the Chief Magistrate and the Deputy Chief Magistrate it was identified that not enough magistrates were varying Family Court orders which is why the government has moved to make it mandatory for magistrates to vary Family Court orders where there is an inconsistency. Magistrates have had that power under the act for some time, but the feedback seems to be that many magistrates are uncomfortable varying Family Court orders because they are not comfortable with that jurisdiction.

In my discussions with the Chief Magistrate, requiring magistrates to mandatorily consider whether or not there is an inconsistency will help us improve the amount of family law orders that are varied. The feedback from stakeholders was incredibly positive. We know that one of the reasons victims do not leave violent relationships is because they do not want to leave their children in harm's way. If there is a contradictory Family Court order that is often why they do not seek protection. Again, this provision has the support of all the key stakeholders and certainly has been well consulted on with the legal profession.

Clause 11, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 12 to 16, as read, agreed to.

Clause 17—

 **Ms BATES** (6.06 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 17 (Replacement of s 97 (End of protection order))

Page 18, after line 22—

insert—

- (4) If the court orders that a protection order continues in force for a period of less than 5 years, the court must give reasons for making the order.

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment.


Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Ms Ros Bates's amendments [\[1829\]](#).

Non-government amendment (Ms Bates) agreed to.

Clause 17, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 18, as read, agreed to.

Clause 19—


 **Ms BATES** (6.08 pm): The change to this clause will mean that police can issue police protection notices to a respondent even if they are not at the location of the police officer. Can the minister give some examples of previous cases where the current wording failed and how police issued notices? Are we aware of any cases where police did not issue a PPN in time and a further DV incident occurred?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba for the questions. The amendment came about after feedback from the police that they required additional powers to be able to better protect victims and, for the first time, children. I am not aware whether or not any further offences occurred as a result of police not having this power, but the strong feedback from police through the special task force and in the very detailed consideration and consultation on this bill was that they believed they needed these additional powers to better protect victims.

Clause 19, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 20 to 43, as read, agreed to.

Clause 44—


 **Ms BATES** (6.09 pm): Minister, we hear a lot from the government about information sharing. I am interested to hear a case study from the minister as to how she sees these information-sharing provisions improve support and how is the department ensuring that the implementation of this important change does not put unnecessary red tape on our hardworking community sector?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for Mudgeeraba. In fact, our hardworking community sector were part of the many key stakeholders lobbying for better information sharing between government agencies and non-government organisations. This was a key theme in the findings from the task force. If you talk to Dame Quentin Bryce, this is the key recommendation that she is most keen to see implemented, because there are cases after cases where information was failed to be shared between agencies and lives were lost. You only have to look at the case of Luke Batty in Victoria and the recommendations that came from the coronial inquest to know that information sharing is absolutely critical if we are going to save lives. As I have said in this debate, we know that various different agencies hold pieces of the puzzle about whether or not a woman is at risk of further harm. This for the first time is enabling legislation that helps break down a culture of agencies not providing information so that we can act earlier to save people's lives. This is about saving lives, and I am incredibly proud of these provisions in the bill.

Clause 44, as read, agreed to.

Clause 45, as read, agreed to.

Clause 46—

 **Ms BATES** (6.11 pm): Minister, clause 46 increases the maximum penalties for breaching release orders, but we have not heard anything from the government on increasing penalties for breaching protection orders. We know that there have been 22,000 breaches reported to police in 2015-16. I am deeply concerned that there is no plan to address this issue. Earlier this year the *Brisbane Times* reported—

DV Connect chief executive Di Mangan concedes the figures raise the question of what else can be done to protect victims of family violence.

'Many women are protected by those orders,' she said.

'But some men won't take notice of those orders because their sense of entitlement won't abide by any law.'

If anything, she said the data drives home the importance of cracking down on first-time breaches for something like a text message to ensure violence doesn't escalate to a lethal level.

'I think it comes down to having a very strong culture of zero tolerance,' she explained.

'I think if the court comes down hard on the very first breach, I'd be interested to see if we see a turnaround.'

I ask the minister: how many people in the last 12 months have been imprisoned under current breach of release conditions under the current penalty of two years?

Ms FENTIMAN: Perhaps the member for Mudgeeraba was not paying attention last year when we increased the penalties for breaches of domestic violence orders. That was one of the first key pieces of legislation that we introduced responding to the recommendations of the *Not now, not ever* report. This bill increases the penalties to the same amount for police protection notices so that we have

consistency. A breach of a police protection notice is now treated the same as a breach of a domestic violence order. I am sorry that the member for Mudgeeraba missed that important legislation that was passed last year.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker—

Mr SPEAKER: You have had one go for three minutes.

Ms BATES: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. I asked a specific question of the minister about how many people in the last 12 months have been imprisoned under the current breach of release conditions under the current penalty of two years. If the minister is happy to take that on notice, I am happy with that.

Mr SPEAKER: That is not a point of order, member for Mudgeeraba.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: We will have no argument across the chamber.

Clause 46, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 47 to 62, as read, agreed to.

Clause 63—



Ms FENTIMAN (6.14 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 Clause 63 (Amendment of s 610 (Police actions after domestic violence order is made))

Page 99, line 14, after 'Violence'—

insert—

Protection

I table the explanatory notes to my amendment.

Tabled paper: Domestic and Family Violence Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016, explanatory notes to Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments [\[1830\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 63, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 64 to 73, as read, agreed to.

Schedule 1, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.15 pm): I move—

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

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Communities, Women and Youth, Minister for Child Safety and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (6.16 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.

MOTION

Water Infrastructure



Mr HART (Burleigh—LNP) (6.16 pm): I move—

That this House condemns the Palaszczuk government for its failure to cooperate with the federal government to take advantage of proposed funding for vital water infrastructure in Central and Northern Queensland.

This government has been caught out yet again. Since its election, the Palaszczuk government has been characterised by inaction and inertia. It is asleep at the wheel. There has been a lack of action in so many areas. If there is one member, one minister, that personifies the do-nothing nature of this government, it is the member for Yeerongpilly. The member for Yeerongpilly delayed electricity price deregulation in South-East Queensland, claiming a better consumer education campaign was needed. Then he failed to launch an education campaign in time for the start of deregulation. The minister has been found out for his inability to respond to the federal government in relation to road funding. He has been found out for his complete inaction in working to secure—

Mr BAILEY: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Burleigh has moved a motion about a particular federal government program and now he is going all around the world irrelevant to the motion.

Mr SPEAKER: There is no point of order.

Mr HART: He has been found out for his complete inaction in working to secure the vital water infrastructure projects Queensland so desperately needs. Water is essential to Queensland. It is a necessary part of everyday life for Queensland households and it is an integral part of the Queensland economy. So many businesses rely on affordable and reliable access to water.

We need to be properly planning and progressing vital infrastructure projects with an eye to the future. If we fail to do this, we will end up in exactly the same position as Peter Beattie found himself in. Projects will not be progressed until we reach crisis point. They will be rushed through and they will not get the proper consideration they need. The Western Corridor Recycled Water Scheme is a perfect example of Labor's abject failure to plan for the water infrastructure that Queensland needs. Then we have the desal plant on the Gold Coast. They left it to the last possible minute to build that plant. Brisbane would have run out of water by the time they finished it. They are completely hopeless when it comes to water infrastructure.

Sadly, we are going back to the future under the Palaszczuk Labor government. Water infrastructure projects are not being given the priority they deserve. The federal coalition government recognises the critical importance of water infrastructure—they recognise it; those opposite do not—and it has put \$2 billion on the table to fast-track the construction of water infrastructure across the country. Queensland has been the biggest beneficiary of this. It is a once-in-a-generation investment.

During the most recent federal election campaign the coalition announced \$20 million to support the development or finalisation of feasibility and business cases for 14 water infrastructure projects across Queensland. This \$20 million is not contingent on the state providing funding. This is money the federal government is providing because it wants to see these important projects move ahead. Sadly, the Palaszczuk government is letting this opportunity slip. This minister is letting this opportunity slip. The member for Yeerongpilly is more concentrated on what is happening in his Twitter feed than on getting these projects off the ground. I will table an article from today's *Courier-Mail* for the benefit of the House.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 11 October 2016, titled 'Maybe if we ignore him he might just go away' [[1831](#)].

As reported, Queensland is the only state to balk at free cash being offered. It is more of the same with this do-nothing, be-nothing government that is leaving Queensland behind. The federal coalition has put \$2 million on the table for a feasibility study into the Rookwood Weir as well as \$130 million to help fund half the cost of vital infrastructure projects.

Mr Byrne interjected.

Mr HART: One would think the Palaszczuk government would be jumping out of its skin—and I hear the member for Rockhampton interjecting. He is obviously not interested in this. One would think the Palaszczuk government would be jumping out of its skin to get this project—

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr HART: Yes, it is in his electorate. One would think the Palaszczuk government would be jumping out of its skin to get this project underway considering the slump in investment that has occurred since the 2015 election. However, the best response from the Minister for Water Supply was to write back to the Deputy Prime Minister and ask whether the \$130 million identified for the Rookwood Weir could be spent somewhere else. I table that letter to the Deputy Prime Minister.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 13 September 2016, from the Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply, Hon. Mark Bailey, to the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Hon. Barnaby Joyce, regarding the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund [[1832](#)].

There is a lack of vision and a lack of decision-making from the minister who does not want to see the money spent in Queensland and it is hurting our state. This lack of action is particularly hurting regional Queensland where many of these vital pieces of infrastructure will be built.

The people of Queensland deserve better. I call on all members in this place, particularly those crossbenchers representing regional Queensland, to join us in supporting this motion in the hope that it might finally—

(Time expired)



Hon. WS BYRNE (Rockhampton—ALP) (Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Corrective Services) (6.21 pm): I obviously stand to oppose the motion. It is good to see that the Liberal National Party again is not using real information or fact to support the position as has been stated by the member for Burleigh. He has mentioned Eden Bann and Rookwood weirs and I particularly want to focus on that, given that it is one of the business cases that is in the proposal that has been put to the federal government and funded. I particularly want to talk about it but, before I do, I want to say that I have no problem with on-stream storages or development in any way, shape or form assuming that the EIS and the business case stack up. I have no problem at all—none whatsoever. I support that process in principle and that is a process that this government embraces.

In recent times on the back of these proposals and the federal election campaign Deputy Prime Minister, Barnaby Joyce, in a post-election frenzy, went out there being deliberately mischievous about this government's position. Everything that he has said in recent times has deliberately lacked substance and is inherently false. Joyce and his compadres up there in Central Queensland, Canavan and Landry, know this as well. The Rookwood Weir was always conditional on an EIS and a business case being supported. That is funded in this proposal by Barnaby Joyce. One minute he is out there saying something along the lines of, 'Why don't we just get on with it. The business case has concluded,' but at the same time he is trying to pay the business case.

This government has engaged in good government process specifically designed to kill off the pork-barrelling by the Liberal National Party that has been so evident over many eras. We know for Rookwood and Eden Bann there is no EIS concluded; it is not finished. There is no business case completed, but we have the Deputy Prime Minister out there saying, 'It's done. Let's get on with it. You're holding things back.' It is complete and utter nonsense and deliberately so. On what basis did Barnaby Joyce decide to put a great swag of money into Rookwood Weir? There was no business case, no EIS. He is funding the business case himself in another part of this program. He is out there foghorn and leghorn making things up as he goes along, blustering and bullying his way through. I thought to myself, 'I will go and have a look at this. I will go and have a look at where this actually sits.' I got the *Australian infrastructure plan* from Infrastructure Australia. One would think it is a pretty informative document—pretty important. It is dated February 2016, so it is contemporary. Most of the members opposite have read it. I suppose they are all familiar with this document given their great expertise in infrastructure. It states—

Inclusions on the Infrastructure Priority List range from the description of a problem through to fully developed solutions. This breadth of content requires classifications to differentiate between ideas which are in their infancy and address a problem or opportunity of national significance, through to those which are more developed.

...

To meet this challenge, the Infrastructure Priority List contains two broad groupings:

- **Initiatives:** ... require further development and rigorous assessment to determine and evaluate the most appropriate option for delivery; and
- **Projects:** ... have undergone a full business case assessment by Infrastructure Australia ...


The matter was mentioned so I thought, 'We will go and see where we sit on this project list in relation to the Eden Bann and Rookwood weirs.' What did we find? At the very end of the priority issues, as I described earlier, which require considerably more work including the business case, we found Eden Bann and Rookwood Weir. What are they called? They are an opportunity for growth in Queensland. They are a medium-term problem. That means five to 10 years down the track. This is Infrastructure Australia's document, not Barnaby Joyce's and the opposition's document. It is at options assessment stage and it is an opportunity to develop industry and agriculture.

That is the truth of the matter. What have we seen coming from those opposite, from Barnaby Joyce and from Matt Canavan—this great icon who wants to split the state in half, who does not believe in climate science—backed in by Michelle Landry, who cannot string three words together even when it is scripted for her? These icons stand up and pretend they know something about infrastructure development in this state but have done nothing.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members, we will not have a shouting match, thank you.

Mr BYRNE: I conclude by saying: tell me exactly one piece of infrastructure that the mob opposite delivered in three years in government.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.27 pm): If ever we wanted a reason or a justification as to why we are not getting water infrastructure in this state, we just heard it right there and then. They are too busy looking at excuses, too busy coming up with all the reasons not to deliver water infrastructure which is exactly what we need in this state going forward. It defies all logic that those opposite are dragging the chain on these 14 studies which will deliver the infrastructure that we need in this state.

On 13 September the Minister for Energy and Water Supply wrote to the Deputy Prime Minister and said—

I look forward to working with you to roll out the ... (National Water Infrastructure Development Fund) for the future benefit of Queenslanders and the broader community.

I say to the minister that talk is cheap. We now know that this government has no intention of rolling out those vital infrastructure projects in this state. That was supported by the Deputy Prime Minister yesterday in federal parliament when he said—

Although we have put \$19.8 million on the table for 14 studies, not one of them has been started. And not only have we put money on the table for the studies but we put \$130 million on the table to start Rookwood Weir so we can get further jobs to that area, an extra \$1 billion a year in income for the people of Central Queensland.

That is right; water equals economic development and, more importantly, jobs. This government has not committed any funds to the studies and now will not agree to distribute the federal funding in accordance with the long-established federal financial relations framework under which the Commonwealth Treasury pays state government Treasury funding for grants. In what can only be described as a red flag moment, correspondence from this minister to the Deputy Prime Minister seeks to reallocate the federal government's \$130 million funding for Rookwood Weir to another project.

That is right, and the people of Central Queensland need to know this. Labor does not support the development of the Rookwood Weir. I wonder what the member for Rockhampton and the member for Mirani are telling their constituents about that decision. I have brought investors to North Queensland and the first question they ask is, 'Where is the water?' They understand the importance of this resource, and if we are to develop North Queensland and expand our agricultural production we need water. We have the ludicrous situation at the moment where Townsville, the largest city in northern Australia, is running out of water. The residents of Townsville are currently experiencing level 3 water restrictions, and there is no end in sight until the next wet season. Townsville ratepayers will now foot the bill to pump water from the Burdekin Falls Dam to supplement the Ross River Dam which, I might add, is currently at 17 per cent. I ask the three local members from Townsville: why are you not hammering on the door of your minister to have these projects prioritised and fast-tracked? This is not the time to be pandering to the Greens. Agriculture has the potential to turn the state's fortunes around. It has the potential to generate the jobs and revenue to get this state back on track, and yet all we see from this do-nothing government are more delays and an unwillingness to take up the offer from the federal government.

Queenslanders should be worried that this money will be taken off the table because of the apathy of this government. These feasibility studies are crucial for the long-term planning and delivery of water infrastructure in this state. Imagine what we could do if we had water in the gulf, if we could build the Urannah Dam and irrigate 30,000 hectares of land around Collinsville, because these projects have the potential to boost agricultural production in this state by more than \$1 billion and create more than 2,000 new jobs. As members of this parliament we have an obligation and a duty to do what is right for Queensland, and there is no question in my mind that delivering these water infrastructure projects is the right thing to do for our state. The government's lack of action in distributing these grants is risking Queensland's ability to access the \$2 billion water loan facility from the federal government. This state desperately needs the dams, pipelines and other infrastructure that will generate easier access to affordable water for rural communities and grow economic opportunities in the regions.

Queensland received the largest share of any state for feasibility studies, and if ever there was a time to step up to the plate it is now. We need these water infrastructure projects to go ahead, and I call on this government to stop playing politics with this critical issue, stop pandering to the Greens and sign off on this funding. The LNP is committed to delivering these projects because those on this side of the House understand the importance of water and what it means to develop this state—

(Time expired)



Mr KATTER (Mount Isa—KAP) (6.33 pm): I move the following amendment—

That all words after 'Palaszczuk government' be omitted and the following words inserted:

'and the federal government for their failure to cooperate and release vital funding for water infrastructure in Northern and Central Queensland'.

Some very valid arguments have been put forward in this motion. Progress has stagnated on these dams and projects, and no-one is more concerned about this than me. I have grown up in the regions that need water so desperately like the Gilbert or the Flinders. In relation to the money that has come down from the federal government in relation to the Cloncurry project, for example, they have a small area and they are a small council and they cannot afford to carry that money over until they get paid the \$1.7 million by the federal government because they are too small. I understand that typically, as the opposition has asserted, that is often carried by larger entities or state government bodies. I believe that the Queensland government asserts there are projects within this funding which are smaller and piecemeal compared to some of the larger ones that have prior funding from the state government.

It does come down to a bit of argy-bargy between the federal government and the state government as to which way that should go, and I think there are some valid arguments going both ways. It really does invoke memories of when the drought concession loan money came out under the previous government. We had to wait up to six months for that money. The then federal Labor government and then LNP state government argued the toss as to who should fund what, and it took many months and obviously both sides blamed the other, but all the while people were suffering. There is always political argy-bargy around this funding. There are definitely some precedents. I believe the states have contacted the federal government to see if some arrangements could be made and that has not been resolved or well received. I think it behoves both to come to the table. I do not think you can point the finger at any one party for being solely responsible for this situation. There is a real role for the federal government to play in dealing with some of these smaller ones, but it does not get the state out of trouble either. The state government needs to involve itself in this process and ensure that these still go ahead. It is not enough for both to sit back and say it is the other one's fault. Both are involved in the process and they need to put their shoulder to the wheel to ensure that these things do happen.

Yes, I agree wholeheartedly with the opposition's assertion that these things have to happen. Where does the blame fall? It might be a matter of degrees and that it falls more on one party than the other. I think that is where we will all disagree tonight. Certainly there are two parties involved here and they both have to put their shoulder to the wheel to make it happen. We do not want a repeat of what happened with the drought concession loans. We sat on our hands for so long waiting and both sides were blaming each other. That is the basis for our amendment to the opposition's motion tonight.



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (6.37 pm): I rise to speak in support of the motion moved by the shadow minister for water. It is so disappointing to have to sit in this chamber and listen to the member for Rockhampton forgo his own electorate. I was up in the good city of Rockhampton and the Mackay region only about a week or two ago with the member for Whitsunday and the Deputy Prime Minister of this great country, Barnaby Joyce. What were we doing up there?

Mr Costigan: What a great press conference!

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It was a great press conference.

Mr Costigan: Because we told the story about what they're not doing.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I will take that interjection. We did tell a story about what they are not doing. It was so disappointing that the minister for water in this state does not understand the need for agriculture in this great state of Queensland. How do we increase the value of agriculture in this great state of Queensland? We give it water so that some things can grow. That is easy for us to understand, but obviously those over there have simply no clue. What did the Deputy Prime Minister say in the federal parliament yesterday? In relation to the Queensland state government being offered \$19.8 million towards 14 dam feasibility studies, they had not even bothered to take up the offer. He said—

But unfortunately we have had to deal with Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk, who is not progressing any of these dams ... In fact, she is spending a lot more time arguing with one of her colleagues, Ms Trad, about who is going to be the next premier of Queensland ...

He went on to say—

Although we have put \$19.8 million on the table for 14 studies, not one of them has been started ... there has been neither sight nor sound of what Queensland intends to do. The Queensland Labor Party has basically gone to sleep on us.

How disappointing, Minister Bailey. The fact is that we have projects which have been spoken about in this House like the Rookwood Weir, and the government over there cannot even acknowledge the much needed infrastructure that would really kickstart this state.

There are 13 different proposals on the table. There is \$19.8 million on the table. What are those opposite doing? They are doing absolutely nothing. Every other state in this great country of ours has taken up the funding offer of the federal government for much needed water infrastructure in this country. What does the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government do? It does absolutely nothing. It is completely asleep at the wheel. This minister for water has no idea how to communicate with the federal government to receive this money.


This inaction is holding up generational projects. We are talking about the Gayndah Regional Irrigation Development project in the North Burnett, which would help the member for Callide, the Bundaberg Channel Capacity Upgrade feasibility study and the Urannah Dam around Mackay. Of course, I cannot not name again the Rookwood Weir, which the member for Rockhampton, the Minister for Police—

An honourable member: Rookwood?

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: I did say Rookwood Weir. We have heard in this House that it appears there is no support for this project. When I was in Rockhampton, one of the most disappointing things I heard was that the Minister for Police would not get behind this much needed project for the future of agriculture in this great state.

For generations we have been talking about water infrastructure. For the first time in generations we have a deputy prime minister who is putting money on the table—offering it to every state, including Queensland. What does the minister do? He does absolutely nothing. There is \$19.8 million to kickstart 14 projects in this great state—or at least look towards those projects, get the feasibility studies going—so that the agriculture sector of this state and everyone else can benefit from the economic uplift we would get from these projects. This minister is a do-nothing minister. He is completely asleep at the wheel. He needs to get to work.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Road Safety and Ports and Minister for Energy, Biofuels and Water Supply) (6.42 pm): I rise to oppose this motion. Let us be clear: this is a fully federal government funded program. There is no money on the table from Barnaby Joyce; it is locked in his safe and he has the key. That is the situation. I would like to know from the opposition how it is that we are holding up money that we do not have from the federal government. They have given Queensland not one single cent for these feasibility studies. What Barnaby Joyce is saying to the proponents—we have a range of private proponents across Queensland who do not have the resources to conduct feasibility studies—‘We will not give you the money until you have completed the work.’

Today the opposition is backing Canberra and not Queensland. How do you hold back money you do not have? We do not have a single dollar in our possession. The federal government has made a decision to fund 14 projects 100 per cent. There is \$19 million worth of funding but it will not give the money over to private proponents across Queensland.

Let us look at these private proponents. They include the Southern Downs Regional Council; the Lockyer regional council; the Isaac Regional Council; the Farmers’ Federation; Cape York Sustainable Futures; the Tablelands Regional Council; the Isis Central Sugar Mill; and the Mount Isa to Townsville Economic Zone, which is the Mount Isa and Cloncurry shire councils. What we have here is a range of smaller private proponents—different from other states—who do not have the resources to do the feasibility studies. They have been raising it with us and asking, ‘What can you do to get the federal government to release the money for Queensland?’ We have gone in to bat for them.

Far from what opposition members say, we have been backing in these feasibility studies. In fact, I first called on the federal government to release this in May of this year. I wrote to Barnaby Joyce more than two months after the election to say, ‘We need more flexible funding to back these projects in. They need the money up-front to get the work done.’ Do members think he agreed to that? No, he did not. He is playing politics with these water infrastructure feasibility studies. It is shameful.

I might add that this is consistent with federal government form. We are seeing the federal government hold back more than \$60 million in beef roads funding in Queensland. At a time when employment is needed in regional Queensland, the federal government is holding back more than

\$60 million in beef roads funding. It gets even worse: the federal government is also holding back the Northern Australian Roads Program funding. It has announced only six projects there. Regional Queensland needs these jobs, but Barnaby Joyce is holding up the Northern Australian Roads Program, the beef roads program as well as these feasibility studies. They are holding back regional Queensland.

We are backing in regional Queensland, yet the opposition is backing Canberra and not backing the state of Queensland. It is a pathetic outcome and a pathetic approach. You cannot hold back funds you do not have control of. We do not have a single dollar in control under this program. It is in Barnaby Joyce's safe and he should let the funds go. When it comes to quality deputy prime ministers from the opposition side, Barnaby Joyce is certainly no Tim Fischer or John Anderson. He is an absolute embarrassment. He should cough up the money forthwith.

I make two final points. Opposition members bang on about Rookwood Weir. I will outline precisely what Barnaby Joyce agreed to. He agreed to fund the Lower Fitzroy weir's business case, which includes—wait for it—Rookwood and Eden Bann weirs. The whole point of conducting a feasibility study is to identify the economically responsible measure, yet we have the Canberra LNP, backed in by their lackeys here in Queensland, cherrypicking the Rookwood project. Rookwood might be better—I do not know—but let us do the feasibility study. Why is the LNP cherrypicking projects? It sounds very suspicious.

I oppose the motion. The opposition ought to support Queensland instead of Canberra. They should stop making things up because we do not control a single dollar of this program.

(Time expired)

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

Resolved in the negative under standing order 106.

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

Mr SPEAKER: The bells will ring for one minute.

AYES, 42:

LNP, 42—Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Cripps, Davis, Dickson, Elmes, Emerson, Frecklington, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, Perrett, Powell, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stuckey, Walker, Watts, Weir.

NOES, 44:


ALP, 42—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Donaldson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hinchliffe, Howard, Jones, Kelly, King, Lauga, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Miles, Miller, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Pitt, Power, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Stewart, Trad, Whiting, Williams.

KAP, 2—Katter, Knuth.

Resolved in the negative.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Portfolio Committees, Referral of Auditor-General's Reports and Reporting Dates

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.55 pm): I seek to advise the House of determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 194B, the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 1 for 2016-17 titled *Strategic procurement* be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee and the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 2 for 2016-17 titled *Forecasting sustainability in local government* be referred to the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee.


The committee has resolved that, pursuant to standing order 136, the Infrastructure, Planning and Natural Resources Committee report on the Cross River Rail Delivery Authority Bill 2016 by 24 November 2016. The committee has also resolved pursuant to standing order 136 to vary the reporting date for the Water (Local Management Arrangements) Amendment Bill 2016 from 25 October 2016 to 8 November 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE (Sandgate—ALP) (Leader of the House) (6.55 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.


Western Queensland, Prickly Acacia

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.56 pm): I rise to bring to the House's attention the urgent need to continue to fund prickly acacia so that we can continue to fight against this weed of national significance. The western part of Gregory is home to the iconic Mitchell grass. This is the largest natural grassy ecosystem in Australia. As such, it is as unique and significant as the Daintree or the reef. It is also the catchment for Lake Eyre, so the infestation of this ecosystem by the prickly acacia tree is a tragedy. A native of Africa, it was introduced into Queensland in 1926. By 1957, it was declared a noxious weed and from 2000 to 2015 the infestation has tripled in size. Some 23 million hectares of Mitchell grass is infested. Even sunlight cannot penetrate the established stands of prickly acacia. In a grass ecosystem, this is a disaster. Where prickly acacia goes, we can lose up to 100 per cent of our natural grasses. There goes the habitats and some of our precious native birds and animals. The feed for our cattle and sheep also goes. Some 25 rare animal species are currently threatened and two plant communities are endangered. There is also the productive loss of one of the finest organic beef pastures in the world.

Adapting old and new technologies is the answer to the situation. NRM group Desert Channels turned to drones and satellite mapping to penetrate previously impenetrable thickets and precisely apply residual herbicide, even into the centre. This was all of course started by the former natural resources minister, Andrew Cripps, who did a great job in understanding that prickly acacia needs to be eradicated from central-western Queensland. In just three years some 50 million trees have been killed bringing a 600 per cent increase in grass coverage, a 500 per cent increase in grass biomass and a 300 per cent increase in grass species. In addition, 142,000 hectares of native habitat have been restored and 600 kilometres of streamline vegetation has been protected.

Desert Channels Queensland has been delivering on-ground results in the last three years. It has done so with little support from Biosecurity Queensland and the Department of Environment and Heritage Protection. It has done so on the smell of an oily rag and has proved eradication, not control, can be our goal. Instead of applause, here we go again putting out our begging bowl pleading for funds to continue the fight. There have been numerous community meetings with hundreds of landholders. In fact, 430 landholders signed a petition seeking this government's support. I call on the minister and I call on the Palaszczuk government to continue funding this important program. It is clearing up the prickly acacia in central-western Queensland and providing an opportunity for us to increase production out there to get the sheep and beef cattle production that we need in the central west to deliver the economic growth we want in Queensland. I call on the minister to continue to fund Desert Channels in order to eradicate prickly acacia.

Townsville; NRL Cowboys House


 **Hon. CJ O'ROURKE** (Mundingburra—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Minister for Seniors and Minister Assisting the Premier on North Queensland) (6.59 pm): Townsville is still buzzing from excitement following the range of big announcements that came last week. It was an honour to welcome the Premier, the Deputy Premier and my cabinet colleagues to Townsville and to my electorate of Mundingburra to see firsthand what is happening on the ground. In my electorate alone, I was pleased to have ministers join me to inspect local housing projects, visit the Townsville Hospital's children's ward, which is receiving an upgrade, and officially open the new Australian Institute of Tropical Health and Medicine at JCU.

For me, one of the highlights was having the opportunity to inspect the construction on the fantastic local initiative being delivered through Minister De Brenni's portfolio—that is, the new \$9.5 million NRL Cowboys House. This is an excellent facility that is being built on the land next to Pimlico TAFE that will support the education of young boys from remote communities across Queensland. I am pleased to say that it will be opening in January, in time for the next school year. Construction is progressing well on site, with the contractor expected to finish the two accommodation wings by early November and the study areas, learning hub, dining room and recreation area by early December.

The Cowboys have been working with schools and community leaders from remote communities to select the first intake of 25 students. I have been told that excitement in the communities is building, with one year 6 student in Hope Vale jumping at the opportunity. I understand that he was up and dressed and ready for school at 7 am, hopeful of being selected for the exciting and life-changing initiative. Champion Cowboys players Matt Bowen and Johnathan Thurston will be house ambassadors, and it was great to join Matty Bowen for the tour.

In another win-win for Townsville, this project will not only support Indigenous students but also support around 200 workers during construction. In fact, one of more than 30 concreters involved in laying the slabs for the house is foundation Indigenous Cowboys player Reggie Cressbrook. Reggie works for local Townsville firm Kersh Concreting. Considering his football credentials and heritage, it is very fitting that he is among the 100 subcontractors who are involved in this project. I am pleased that the Palaszczuk government is supporting this local initiative, which is creating jobs now during construction and into the future for young people from remote communities.

Sunshine Coast

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.02 pm): Tonight I am issuing an invitation to main roads minister Bailey and transport minister Hinchliffe to visit the Sunshine Coast to view the roads and rail of the Sunshine Coast, together with all the state MPs who represent the area, so that we can show them the issues that we have raised in the parliament, in the media and in our correspondence. Ministers Bailey and Hinchliffe might be on the other side of the parliament, but I would welcome their interest and action in building the infrastructure that the Sunshine Coast region and its 340,000 people need to sustain their economy, their jobs and their sanity.


On 15 September, during the last parliamentary sitting week, we held a Sunshine Coast day, with all my other LNP colleagues who represent areas on the Sunshine coast speaking with one voice and advocating for their region. Unfortunately, owing to unexpected family illness, I could not be here, but I am happy to add my contribution today, as we all have many times in this parliament and in our communities and will continue to do so until we see the projects across the finish line.

I am passionate about putting the Sunshine Coast first. Together with my colleagues in Team Sunshine Coast, we are advocating for better roads, better rail and better public transport to build on the success of the biggest hospital project in the Southern Hemisphere that, thanks to our efforts, is underway in our region. That hospital is a real regional game changer and the Sunshine Coast LNP team is responsible for making it happen.

Our No. 1 regional priority now is the north coast rail line duplication, then the upgrade to the Bruce Highway, the Mooloolah River interchange—known as the MRI—and other road and public transport networks. The rail line duplication project, to which we committed funding as part of our election commitments, is stuck in yet another business case with this Labor government. The Mooloolah River interchange at the nexus of Nicklin Way and the Sunshine Motorway is necessary to save lives. It is extremely dangerous, it has a high accident rate, but it is a key access point to the network of roads that lead to the new hospital. That project must get underway. The former LNP government had resumed the corridor as well as redesigned the concept plan to allow those resumptions to occur. It had also committed to funding the project during the election campaign but, under Labor, the project has stalled.

Together with my Sunshine Coast LNP colleagues, Kawana MP Jarrod Bleijie, Noosa MP Glen Elmes, Glass House MP Andrew Powell, Buderim MP Steve Dickson and Caloundra MP Mark McArdle, and our federal colleagues Andrew Wallace, Lou O'Brien and Ted O'Brien, we have a plan for the Sunshine Coast to make it even better than it is already. As I have mentioned, the hospital is a game changer. Some cynics will sniff and dismiss it, but it is a ripper. It has seen jobs delivered into our region, but we want to see more. I welcome the \$1.13 billion upgrade to the Bruce Highway between Caloundra Road and the Sunshine Motorway, which is funded mainly by our federal colleagues. That upgrade will address a number of safety issues, but we want to see the duplication of the rest of the Bruce Highway.

Brisbane Central Electorate, Medical Research, Innovation and Knowledge Industries

 **Hon. G GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Industrial Relations, Minister for Racing and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (7.05 pm): My electorate of Brisbane Central has long been recognised as a centre of excellence for medical research, innovation and knowledge industries. It is home to QUT's Gardens Point and Kelvin Grove campuses, which produce world-class research that is vital to our economic future.

I am pleased to inform the House that international investors continue to flock to Brisbane to take advantage of our exceptional research capabilities. The local knowledge economy continues to grow and the latest addition is life sciences giant, BGI, which in August announced Brisbane as its Asia-Pacific headquarters. BGI is one of the world's largest genomic organisations and will be headquartered at the world renowned Queensland Institute of Medical Research in Herston, which is in my electorate. BGI will work closely with Queensland universities and government bodies on key research issues in genomics, health care, agriculture and biodiversity—the exact industries that we want to nurture in this state.

BGI president and co-founder, Professor Jian Wang, said that the Palaszczuk government's vision to build a stronger knowledge economy was a key factor in the company's decision to establish its Asia-Pacific headquarters in Brisbane. Professor Wang said—

We've been considering coming to Queensland for some time given the strength of Queensland's research sector and a visionary state government committed to innovation and science as the driving forces of economic development.

I acknowledge the minister in the House, who is leading this charge. This is yet another vote of confidence in the Palaszczuk government's Advance Queensland strategy as we harness innovation to strengthen and diversify the economy and create jobs now and for the future.

Right next door to the QIMR, another exciting knowledge precinct is currently being developed. Australian Unity's \$1.1 billion Herston quarter redevelopment will continue the transformation of this area into a world-class health and medical research precinct. All of this development is in addition to the development of Queensland's largest start-up hub in Fortitude Valley, which is supported by a \$4 million Advance Queensland investment from the Palaszczuk government. The new innovation hub will be located within the historic TC Beirne building, bringing together start-ups, incubators, investors and mentors under one roof. It will enable ideas, entrepreneurial spirit and business investment to thrive with the renowned River City Labs to be one of the precinct's first tenants.

Queensland's advanced knowledge industries will continue to power the Queensland economy in coming years. This government is right behind innovation, research and the knowledge economy. It will keep Brisbane and Queensland on the map both nationally and internationally.

Powys, Mr C



Mr STEVENS (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.08 pm): Around 27 years ago a young South African boy left his country with his family to come to Australia to make a new home and leave his oppressive apartheid country behind. He started school at Helensvale on the Gold Coast and moved successfully through our state school system to go on to study education at Griffith University, where he graduated as a teacher. After stints at different schools on the Gold Coast and then moving to regional Queensland, he eventually became principal of Glenella State School in North Mackay at the tender age of 33.


In early September this year, the Australian Institute of Management held its regional excellence awards in Mackay, where Mr Cliff Powys, principal of Glenella State School, was nominated for an emerging leader award—nominated he thinks by a staff member or a parent. Nominees must demonstrate strong leadership and management potential, exceptional skills in dealing with internal and external stakeholders, have a significant impact on their company or business, recognition of their personal brand and network and impact on this and on their career, and a commitment to personal development and a clear vision of the goals that they have for themselves. In the presence of noted Mackay identity and former gifted state parliamentarian, the Hon. Tim Mulherin, and amongst a hot field of budding and leading private and public sector entrepreneurs Mr Cliff Powys, principal of Glenella State School, won the regional award for excellence as an emerging leader for work in the education sector. It was no mean feat beating up-and-coming CEOs in the mining, engineering and financial services area.

There is more: just last week Mr Cliff Powys and his lovely wife, Jessica, headed to Brisbane for the state final comprising regional winners and Brisbane aspirants and, amazingly, as a complete shock to all who thought nobody from the education sector could match it with city-smart entrepreneurs, Mr Cliff Powys was the state award winner for excellence as an emerging leader and is now pitted against the nation's best in a week's time for the national final of the Australian Institute of Management Excellence Awards for an emerging leader.

This is the ultimate story of what Australia is all about with our wonderful refugees. It is also what Queensland is all about with our successful share of refugees. It is what our fantastic Queensland education system is all about right across-the-board. If you want to succeed in Queensland you can, it is up to you and you make it your choice. Mr Cliff Powys, it is a long way from Johannesburg to the

National Australian Institute of Management Excellence Awards, but I salute you, I honour you and I am so very, very proud to call you my son-in-law. Mr Cliff, I wish you the very best in your endeavours in the years ahead.

Greenslopes Electorate


 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (7.11 pm): There are days when I feel like running across the fields in the foothills of Whites Hill, twirling around in a circle. What could elicit these feelings in me? Well, it is because the slopes are alive with the sound of music. Greenslopes literally pulsates with wonderful music and I wanted to share the amazing array of musical ability I have witnessed in the last few months. *Popstars*, the nineties musical, was a gem of a work put on by the Coorparoo Secondary College. I had hoped to get through the remainder of my life without ever hearing *Achy Breaky Heart* again but these students even made that song fantastic. *Shrek: The Musical* was a performance put on by the Coorparoo State School. This amazing group of primary school students, led by volunteer Julie Briner, put on a two-hour spectacular. The costumes, the singing, the comedic timing were all spot on.

On the same day I went straight to the Queensland Catholic Music Festival, celebrating 25 years this year. Amongst the 13,000 students from 97 schools I saw the ensemble performances by Loreto and Villanova students. They were truly professional in their ability. It was easy to see why *Peas in a Pod* won the Battle of the Bands competition at Holland Park State High School when they performed at the Triple E Excellence Awards, a tight acoustic band featuring great guitar, percussion and singing. Cavendish Road State High School's jazz ensemble provided soothing and rejuvenating sounds one Friday night for the Arts on the Green event. As a veteran of the Wattle 'n' Gum Bush Band, it was a pleasure to visit Mt Gravatt State School and watch the students performing bush dances like the 9 pins and the Drongo. The Holland Park-Mt Gravatt RSL Anzac Day Parade is always led and enriched by the Mt Gravatt East State School Fife and Drum Band. Recently St Joachim's school choir celebrated the church's 80th anniversary with a song. Speaking of choirs, I never tire of hearing and watching the fine performances by choirs and ensembles at Holland Park and Marshall Road state schools.

I could speak all night, but I have to get ready for more twirling this weekend. I look forward to my own daughters performing in the biennale at Greenslopes State School in the choir and string ensembles before heading off to another bush dance at St Agnes's. I will be finishing the weekend with other families relaxing at Loreto College's Live and Wired concert, a wonderful outdoor concert that brings our community together.

Music provides so much joy to so many people and so many lifelong lessons for young people. I am pleased to have so much high quality music in my electorate, so many great performers and so many dedicated teachers and volunteers. Whenever I look around the crowds of proud parents at all of these performances I think of the words of the lady who inspired my dancing at the start of this speech, Maria von Trapp: music acts like a magic key, to which the most tightly closed heart, opens.

Chatsworth Electorate, Justices of the Peace

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (7.14 pm): I rise this evening to congratulate six unsung local champions from my electorate. I am so proud of all the volunteers my Chatsworth electorate boasts. We have many community groups who do great work with taking care of our waterways, running community groups, hosting fairs and creating awareness for a number of worthwhile issues. However, amongst all the work of these volunteers I take privilege in mentioning some of our unsung heroes. These heroes do not wear capes, they do not hold signs, they do not stand on the front line in times of crisis, no, but they do hold a stamp and provide a service which many of us in this hallowed chamber have used ourselves at one point in time or another. These local heroes are our JPs and ComDecs.


Just last week I hosted a morning tea in my office to celebrate the dedication and unwavering commitment of six long-serving JPs. These were David Forward, Mike Griffin, Helen Gainer, David Shellshear, Keith Metcalf and Warren Beal. These six individuals have collectively provided over 180 years of service to Chatsworth and Queenslanders as JPs. I had the honour to present long-service awards for 25 years of service to Helen, David, Keith and Warren, and long-service awards for 40 years of service to Mike and David.

In Queensland alone there are almost 80,000 registered JPs and Commissioners for Declarations, including the likes of JP ComDecs, and JP Magistrate Courts. Justices of the Peace and Commissioners for Declarations volunteer to serve the public by signing documents that need a qualified witness. This can include witnessing and signing formal documents and hearing certain types of court matters. By volunteering their time and expertise, they allow lawyers and the courts to concentrate on more complex legal matters. JPs and ComDecs are indeed an essential part of

Queensland's legal system. They help to keep our courts free from smaller matters by witnessing statutory declarations, affidavits and administering oaths and affirmations. This role can often be a thankless process as many of our JPs and ComDecs give up mornings, afternoons and weekends to provide the service to the general public. When one considers that Queensland's population is in excess of four million people, our JPs and ComDecs certainly keep busy.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the six JPs who attended my morning tea, hearing about their careers as well as getting to know them personally. It was indeed an absolute pleasure to host these great, hardworking individuals and I look forward to my next morning tea and meeting many more of our dedicated JPs and ComDecs. I salute them all, those in my Chatsworth electorate and those who proudly serve the people of Queensland throughout this great state.

Redcliffe Peninsula Rail Line

 **Mr KING** (Kallangur—ALP) (7.17 pm): This evening I rise to talk about a recent event which will be of enormous benefit to my electorate of Kallangur in the coming years. On Monday, 3 October the successful opening of the Redcliffe Peninsula Rail Line after 130 years of waiting was a fantastic event to say the least. The community turned out in massive numbers to celebrate the event. Rupert McCall presided over the official ceremony with his usual impressive style and even the Prime Minister thought it worthy of a look. I have been working hard with my community to lessen the impact of the rail line and stations on some families who have been affected, but overall the benefit to my community and those communities of my neighbouring MPs in Murrumba and Redcliffe is amazing.


I would like to thank those who started this project and made this happen and, happily, they were mostly there on the day to see and celebrate the opening. My great appreciation goes to Anthony Albanese, Yvette D'Ath, Anna Bligh and Mayor Alan Sutherland—who dressed in a top hat and tails for the day and could not have the grin wiped off his face. I had a mobile office at one of the new stations for the bulk of the day and I would like to thank those who came to give feedback. The mood of the public was amazing. Everyone was happy to be part of this great event.

This 12.6 kilometre dual-track passenger rail line between Petrie and Kippa-Ring has delivered two brand-new stations—Kallangur and Murrumba Downs—and an upgraded Petrie station to my electorate of Kallangur and helped to facilitate the opportunity for a university in my electorate at the old Petrie paper mill site. The delivery of this project and the work involved when three tiers of government—federal, state and local—roll up their sleeves and work together gives me great hope that the university project will drive the same desire to work together to achieve for the community.

Therefore, with this project complete I now have five rail stations in my electorate; another way of putting it is that I have four disability compliant stations and Dakabin station. I am pleased to see that the options study into Dakabin station has been completed and identifies that car parking is insufficient, with an average of 511 vehicles parking within the station precinct daily while current provisions accommodate only 176 vehicles. From the start I have also said that not only parking but also disability access should be addressed.

Once the government has considered the options study, I look forward to consulting with my community on which options we proceed to look at, that is, upgrading the station or seeking locations for a new Dakabin station. I will continue to push for this necessary and overdue piece of infrastructure, as the area is growing rapidly and the people of Dakabin and surrounding areas deserve a station that caters for people with a disability and mums with prams, and has some decent car-parking facilities as a minimum. Dakabin can no longer be the poor cousin. I really appreciate the conversations that I have had with the minister to date. I hope to be able to soon stand in this place and announce that the station will be upgraded.

M1

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Albert—LNP) (7.20 pm): Many times in this chamber I have made reference to the urgent need for design works and funding for exit 57 at Oxenford and exit 49 at Pimpama. I spoke on this matter on 17 September 2015, 3 December 2015, 17 February 2016 and twice on 15 June 2016. Furthermore, on 16 February 2016, residents of the region voiced their dismay at the congestion at exit 57 in the form of a petition that was signed by 1,446. A *Gold Coast Bulletin* article dated 23 May 2015 has further highlighted those concerns, stating 'Oxenford-Hope Island connection is Gold Coast's worst road rage hot spot'.

The \$4 million fix discussed in the article has done little to help residents travelling from the western side of the highway, especially for motorists using Tamborine-Oxenford Road. Poor traffic light sequencing, the lack of storage room and a lack of easy access to the M1 northbound exacerbate the

situation. Currently, very few vehicles are able to proceed through the interchange from Tamborine-Oxenford Road, which causes extensive delays for motorists. It should be noted that it can cause motorists to queue across the intersection, causing road rage incidents. Furthermore, Tamborine-Oxenford Road is a popular heavy haulage road for local quarries. Those vehicles are regularly unable to proceed through the intersection and, if they do, they certainly get stuck halfway through. Residents are asking for additional works to reduce congestion and lengthen the slip lane to allow easier access to Heathwood Drive and the M1 northbound from Tamborine-Oxenford Road.

The situation at Pimpama is becoming extremely dangerous for motorists trying to exit the M1 at exit 49. People are forced to queue back onto the motorway, whilst other vehicles travelling along the motorway pass them at speeds of 110 kilometres per hour. That is exacerbated by the position of the northbound off ramp, which is at the end of a long sweeping bend in the M1 that limits the line of sight and reduces reaction times for motorists who need to take evasive action. The situation will become only even more precarious as Pimpama continues to grow at a rapid pace.

As the *Gold Coast Bulletin* recently reported, the region is growing at 20 per cent per year. The interchange requires the option for vehicles to bypass the roundabout, the creation of additional dedicated lanes for vehicles proceeding north along Rifle Range Road and a lane for vehicles travelling across the motorway with extensive queuing room. I ask the minister to look into this matter and treat it very seriously, as it is placing people's lives at risk.

Coding and Robotics



Hon. LM ENOCH (Algerster—ALP) (Minister for Innovation, Science and the Digital Economy and Minister for Small Business) (7.23 pm): Coding and robotics will play an important part in our future. I have been delighted to work with schools in my electorate of Algerster to provide additional support and ensure our students are at the head of the pack. We know the world is changing at an ever-increasing pace and coding and robotics will be key skills in many of the jobs of the future. By helping our schools enhance their existing coding and robotics offerings, we can ensure that more children are introduced to those incredibly important STEM skills.

I have met with local principals to coordinate support across the Algerster electorate, to share resources, knowledge and expertise for the benefit of all students, and also to talk about bringing families along on the journey. Having spoken to teachers and principals at Forest Lake State High School, St Stephen's Catholic Primary School, Algerster State School, Boronia Heights State School, Pallara State School and Grand Avenue State School, I am excited about the thriving student coding and robotics community we are creating.

As part of this, I have provided four schools in Algerster with Ozobots—tiny smart robots used to introduce children to coding and robotics—and tablets. Ozobots are tools that students can use to learn how to code and direct robots. They are also a great way for students to share this language with their parents. If we are to remain globally competitive into the future, it is vitally important to encourage interest among all Queenslanders, and that includes parents and caregivers.

During my school visits, I was delighted to see the enthusiasm that students of all ages already have for coding and robotic activities. At Algerster State School, year 3 students showed off the equipment from their coding and robotics program, before being the first students to try out the new Ozobots that I donated. At Boronia Heights State School, students quickly showed their innate talent for coding and robotics by providing an on-the-spot demonstration of the new Ozobots. Both Pillara State School and Grand Avenue State School have established coding and robotic clubs that are championed by dedicated teachers. The additional robots will allow the schools to complement and expand their current activities.

We know that these skills are vital for our kids' future. I am very proud of the students of the Algerster electorate and their enthusiasm for developing skills that will stand them in good stead as they move from school to further education and into the workforce. However, I am even more excited about the role our students may play in helping their parents, caregivers and families learn new skills and in demystifying coding and robotic skills, along with other STEM skills, as we all adapt to the changing workforce.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 7.26 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Bailey, Barton, Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Butcher, Byrne, Costigan, Cramp, Crandon, Crawford, Cripps, D'Ath, Davis, de Brenni, Dick, Dickson, Donaldson, Elmes, Emerson, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Hinchliffe, Howard, Janetzki, Jones, Katter, Kelly, King, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lynham, Madden, Mander, McArdle, McEachan, Miles, Millar, Miller, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Rourke, Palaszcuk, Pearce, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pyne, Rickuss, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Seeney, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Springborg, Stevens, Stewart, Stuckey, Trad, Walker, Watts, Weir, Wellington, Whiting, Williams