



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## THURSDAY, 8 SEPTEMBER 2011

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. John Mickel, Logan) read prayers and took the chair.

### PETITIONS

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

#### Norfolk Esplanade, Bus Service

**Mr Ryan**, from 101 petitioners, requesting the House to immediately review the decision to to change the Caboolture Bus Lines service routes 653 and 654 with a view to reinstating these bus services in the Norfolk Esplanade Caboolture South area [\[5261\]](#).

The Clerk presented the following paper petition, sponsored by the Clerk of the Parliament in accordance with Standing Order 119(3)—

#### Alcohol and Drug Services, Funding

**21 petitioners**, requesting the House to allocate funding for Queensland alcohol and drug services to provide specialist staff to develop and maintain treatment and referral linkages with key health and social services to provide seamless patient/client care [\[5262\]](#).

Petitions received.

### MINISTERIAL PAPER

#### Ministerial Gifts Register



**Hon. AM BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Reconstruction) (9.32 am): I lay upon the table of the House the Ministerial Gifts Register that itemises reportable gifts received by ministers and parliamentary secretaries during the period 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011. This register has been tabled annually since 2007 to enhance openness and accountability, and it will continue to be tabled under my government. As of 1 January 2010, the threshold for reportable gifts for ministers and parliamentary secretaries was lowered from \$300 wholesale value to \$150 retail value, consistent with the policy applicable to the Public Service, and gifts with a value of \$350 or less may be retained by the recipient. As in previous years, the number of reportable gifts received is relatively small and amounts to just 58 in total for all ministers and parliamentary secretaries. Members will see from the list that the majority of reportable gifts received were placed either in the ministerial gift store or on display.

*Tabled paper:* Ministerial Gifts Register, Reportable Gifts 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 [\[5263\]](#).

### MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

#### Commonwealth Games Bid; Exports



**Hon. AM BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Reconstruction) (9.33 am): Queensland's bid for the 2018 Commonwealth Games is vitally important for the future of the Gold Coast and could be as important for that city as Expo 88 was for Brisbane. As members know, the final decision of the host city will be announced on 11 November at the Federation of Saint Kitts and Nevis which is located in the Leeward Islands of the West Indies. The Gold Coast is a fantastic destination for the Commonwealth Games, but we should not kid ourselves that this will be an easy task. We are up against stiff competition and Sri Lanka's Hambantota City is already investing billions to establish itself as a new venue for world sport.

We must show that we take both our bid and the quality of our competition seriously. That is why I will travel to Saint Kitts and Nevis to participate in the vital last few days of the bid. As well as demonstrating our government's commitment, bid team members and I will have the opportunity to meet one-on-one with delegates and continue to lobby directly relating to games details.

The 2018 Commonwealth Games can transform the Gold Coast with new infrastructure, thousands of jobs, opportunities and the buzz that events such as these bring to any city. The parliamentary secretary for the Commonwealth Games, Peta-Kaye Croft, and other Gold Coast members will attest to the fact that a real buzz is being generated on the Gold Coast. There is a real momentum and support for these games. When we made the decision to make the bid, I committed to backing it all the way and that is what I intend to do in November.

I also inform the House that while in the region I will use the opportunity to visit Latin America for a trade mission and to open our new trade offices in the region in Santiago and Belo Horizonte. Latin America's economies are based on very similar fundamentals to the Queensland and Australian economies.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I know there is a real buzz in the House, but please keep the buzz right down.

**Ms BLIGH:** Like Queensland, this continent is strong in resources and committed to innovation. Countries such as Brazil, Chile, Peru and Columbia have matured greatly over recent years. For example, in 2010 Brazil was home to the largest ever IPO in world history with the listing of Petrobras at about \$150 billion. In May this year, Chile, Peru and Columbia merged their respective stock exchanges to create a \$600 billion exchange. For Queensland the opportunity in those markets is very much about securing supply chain opportunities in the resources and infrastructure sectors, as well as tapping into emerging opportunities in life sciences, agribusiness and education.

In the last financial year, Queensland's merchandise exports to Latin America were valued at \$1.6 billion, which represents 49.4 per cent of Australia's total overseas merchandise exports to the region. Therefore, Queensland's exports to Latin America account for almost half of Australia's exports into that region. In the last financial year, our exports to Brazil were valued at \$1.04 billion, making it Queensland's largest merchandise export market in Latin America and the ninth largest in the world. Those numbers are a reflection of the leadership the Queensland government is providing to support trade in the region. Without doubt, Queensland is the No. 1 state of Australia when it comes to engaging with Latin America. I intend to use my visit to strengthen those ties.

The opening of our headquarters in Santiago will represent a watershed moment in Queensland's trade and investment operations. Santiago is now Latin American headquarters for around 30 Queensland companies. The office is committed to growing the interests of those already in the region and, of course, also opening new markets to new entrants. Right now, our office is helping companies sell almost anything: wheel chocks, large-scale mining equipment, trade training packages, specialised dyes, engineering consultancies, telecommunications infrastructure, enterprise software and elite sports technology. The fact that Qantas will fly direct from Australia to Santiago from early 2012 underscores the growing importance of the region. We are currently in the process of finalising my itinerary and it will be fully announced in the coming weeks.

Despite the challenges of this year, the latest trade data shows that indeed Queensland has a very bright future. In the 2010-11 financial year, Queensland's overseas merchandise exports rose in value by 12.5 per cent, which is a rise of \$5.4 billion on the previous year. Despite our summer of disasters, there has been an increase of more than \$5 billion in the value of our exports. Treasury forecasts indicate above-average growth of five per cent in the coming financial year, which is the highest rate in five years, and a remarkable 10 per cent growth in export volumes for this financial year. Jobs in Queensland depend on trade, even more so in the regions of Queensland. Our relationships with other countries matter and that is what this trade mission will deliver on.

### Resources 101 Training Course

 **Hon. AM BLIGH** (South Brisbane—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Reconstruction) (9.39 am): As we know, Queensland is on the cusp of a new era as the world clamours for our resources like never before. We are entering into a new energy age and I want every Queenslanders to have a chance to plug into the opportunities being created in our energy and resources sector. That is why, following the Work for Queensland mining summit on the Gold Coast, we are now working to deliver a series of Work for Queensland job expos. Starting in October, these expos will be held in Cairns, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast, the Whitsundays and Wide Bay-Burnett. They will help job seekers in these high-unemployment areas plug into the mining boom.

Today I am pleased to announce a new \$1.2 million program that will also give Queensland job seekers a direct path into this boom. Under a new program called Resources 101, 500 free training places will be made available through TAFE institutes in regions across the state. This free program will be offered out of TAFE institutes in the Work for Queensland expo areas within two weeks after the expos are held. Obviously, it will depend on the demand in these areas, but as long as there are at least 15 eligible people interested in undertaking the training the course will be offered. Queenslanders who are currently unemployed or job seekers will be eligible for the course under the program. From the beginning of next year Resources 101 will then be available across all of the TAFE Queensland network. The program will particularly target job seekers and underemployed people who may be interested in working in the resources industry but simply have no idea of where to start.

Our government is committed to ensuring that Queenslanders have the skills and experience to make the most of the coming boom. We know that as many as 38,000 construction and operation jobs will be created in the Queensland resources sector between now and 2015 and we know that the resources industry is facing a skills shortage. The five-week Resources 101 course gives job seekers the basic skills they need to start applying for these jobs.

Safety in this industry is paramount and the course includes a safety induction component designed for people who have had no previous hands-on heavy industry experience. This part of the course is an introduction to the mining industry and includes safety hazards, tagging and permits, traffic flow and rules, emergency responses and basic first aid. The Mining Industry Skills Centre will issue the participants with a MISC passport, which is a requirement for working in this industry. The second part of the course involves skills development units which teach base level engineering skills. They also provide general skill sets to support the pathway to further training. The entire program is endorsed by the Mining Industry Skills Centre as a general pre-employment skill set. It means that this course can get a person to the point where they are ready to start applying for jobs in this booming industry. This new program is designed as a simple and practical way to start plugging people into the boom. Those interested can visit the TAFE Queensland website for more information.

We are on the cusp of a remarkable opportunity and we do not have to accept that a two-speed economy is inevitable in our state. As a government we are determined to work in a constructive but interventionist way to make sure that those people who are seeking work have the skills and the opportunities necessary to be linked with those who are seeking workers. A bright future can and should be shared by all, and this new program will help us to achieve just that.

### Bunk Beds, Safety Standards

 **Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State) (9.42 am): While the battle to sleep in the top bunk can be the source of many a conflict for young siblings, the reality is that bunk beds can pose potential risks to the safety of children. The Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit data shows that bunk-bed injuries account for around one per cent of injuries in children under 14 who present to emergency departments and that around 450 patients with bunk-bed injuries present to emergency departments annually. The data also shows that 98 per cent of bunk-bed injuries are to children aged 14 years or under.

The consequences of unsafe bunk beds can be fatal, as highlighted by the tragic death of 10-year-old Elise Neville, who fell from a bunk bed and sustained head injuries while on holidays in Caloundra. Following this tragedy, strict mandatory safety standards for the manufacture and supply of bunk beds were introduced in November 2002 with particular respect to entrapment and strangulation as well as guardrails to stop people falling. However, these regulations have not applied to existing bunk beds in short-term accommodation providers such as holiday resorts.

Later today the state government will be publishing draft regulations for consultation with a view to placing strict safety standards on bunk beds in short-term accommodation.

**Mr Johnson:** How many bunk beds at your place?

**Mr Seeney:** Fourteen in one bedroom.

**Mr LUCAS:** The draft regulation is intended to apply to anyone who provides accommodation services for periods of up to 60 days where accommodation is supplied to people aged 16 years and under. It is very sad that the opposition sees a matter as serious as this as something for frivolity.

Accommodation providers bound by the regulation will be required to ensure that bunk beds meet the same strict safety regulation that currently applies to suppliers and manufacturers. They will have two years to transition to the new arrangements and ensure that upper bunks are protected with a guardrail on all four sides except when the bed is affixed to a wall. Let me make this crystal clear: this is a first for any Australian state or territory to introduce such regulations. Targeted consultation will begin soon and Fair Trading will continue to encourage providers to consider guidelines for improving bunk-bed safety, which are contained in the Standards Australia handbook.

I would like to acknowledge the tireless work of Elise Neville's parents, Gerard and Lorraine, in advocating for this change. There is no price that can be put on the safety of our children. I table the regulations.

*Tabled paper:* Fair Trading (Safety Standards) Regulation 2011: Consultation Draft [\[5264\]](#).

### Queensland Health, Information and Communication Technology

 **Hon. GJ WILSON** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Health) (9.45 am): Queensland Health is already rolling out an extensive program of IT projects that are fully funded. That is why the government has dedicated \$250 million in this year's record Health budget to IT initiatives, including the new electronic patient medical records system. This project has already been funded and, as I say, is in this year's budget. While these projects are rolling out, we are also looking beyond the horizon at what will come next. We are planning now so that future risks never eventuate.

It is common sense to assess potential risks and to put plans in place to prevent them from happening. The document tabled yesterday in the House is a product of good minds getting together to plan for the future beyond 2015. They have imagined a future worst-case scenario as the starting point of the process of planning precisely to avoid it. Sometimes good planning and good process starts with

some statements of the obvious. If we do not upgrade our IT systems in the next half decade then our IT systems will fall out of date. If we all down tools on our IT projects then they will not be completed. If we do not start planning now we cannot start work next year or in the year later. It is inconceivable that those things would actually happen, but by imagining them now management can begin planning, identify funding and then roll out the project. That is what a good risk management register is all about. To do otherwise is to fail to plan.

When Neil Armstrong flew to the moon he would have been relieved to know that someone had imagined what might go wrong and had put a plan in place to address it—even better if that planning was done before he took off. All of the risks identified yesterday are being managed. In fact, in each case an action plan is specifically identified. That is good business practice and that is what Queensland Health is doing. In this year's budget we have dedicated \$250 million for ICT, and that is just for one year.

Queensland's e-health program has never been stronger. In the past year alone our investment in new IT systems is rolling out more electronic discharge summaries than ever before; digital breast screening more than doubled in the last year alone; we have rolled out more telehealth consultations than ever before; and in recent years we have built perhaps the world's largest telehealth network. Make no mistake, these e-health successes are saving lives.

The Premier spoke in the House yesterday about the electronic medical records project, which is already in development and already funded to deliver more information sooner to treating clinicians. Digital breast screens are increasing women's access to cancer detection and promoting early treatment, and telehealth is bringing the best medical specialists from around the state and delivering their expertise into Queensland's most isolated communities. That is why Queensland Health looks over the horizon to identify what will be needed in the future, when it will be required and what is required to deliver it.

### Mine Safety

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Stafford—ALP) (Minister for Employment, Skills and Mining) (9.49 am): We are about to enter a new era of economic prosperity in Queensland. The new resources boom on our doorstep will deliver decades of jobs—38,000 jobs in mining over the next few years alone. We said we would deliver jobs and we will.

Those major mining projects mean further training opportunities for tradies, school leavers and apprentices. Our own Skills Queensland will be leading the charge in regions of higher unemployment. We want Queenslanders to fill those jobs. As the Premier has announced, hundreds of funded training places will be opened up at TAFE institutes on the Gold Coast, Cairns, the Sunshine Coast and in the Whitsundays and the Wide Bay-Burnett. One of the most important skills they will learn is safety. There is nothing more important than that.

Queensland has one of the best mine safety records in the world and the best mine safety legislation in the country. The national harmonisation of workplace health and safety legislation is progressing at a rapid pace and will have a significant impact on this industry in Queensland. But I want to reassure all Queenslanders that the Mines Inspectorate is working closely with other major mining states to ensure that the new laws are as good as Queensland's current legislation.

On 19 September, Miners Memorial Day will be held in Mount Isa in the heart of the North West Minerals Province. On 19 September 90 years ago, 75 miners lost their lives in a coal dust explosion at Mount Mulligan. We will remember those 75 lives. We will remember the miners of Box Flat, Kianga, Collinsville and Moura and all miners who have lost their lives since mining began in Queensland. Their deaths are a sad part of our collective history, and the history of workers and their struggles should never be forgotten. With our commitment to mine safety legislation that is world leading, we will remember them.

### Strategic Cropping Land

 **Hon. RG NOLAN** (Ipswich—ALP) (Minister for Finance, Natural Resources and the Arts) (9.51 am): The Queensland Labor government is leading the nation in developing and legislating for a proper balance between mining and agriculture on the state's best quality farmland. Last year we announced that we would legislate. In May we released a comprehensive framework which specified where the best agricultural land is, how it is to be defined and just what developments can proceed on it. Today, I am pleased to announce the next step in this important policy—the release of guidelines for applying the proposed strategic cropping land criteria at a property level, which I now table for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Protecting Queensland's strategic cropping land: Guidelines for applying the proposed strategic cropping land criteria, September 2011 [\[5265\]](#).

We will also today release an online mapping tool, which property owners can use to view the strategic cropping land trigger map on their property. Proposed criteria to identify strategic cropping land were announced in April, and today we take the next step of providing guidelines for developers and landholders to apply those criteria on the ground. The proposed criteria were developed to reliably and consistently identify the state's best cropping land and to minimise the assessment burden and costs to landholders and developers. They are designed for an on-ground property level assessment to confirm whether or not a particular site is strategic cropping land. We have released them today so landholders and developers can plan for when strategic cropping land legislation takes effect.

The guidelines provide guidance on assessing strategic cropping land and outline how to undertake an on-ground assessment with the proposed criteria to define the extent of strategic cropping land. Landholders and developers may wish to use the proposed criteria and these guidelines to conduct their own assessment of potential strategic cropping land to assess whether they will need to submit a formal application when the legislation comes into effect.

The government has made it clear that it intends to apply transitional arrangements to resource developments from 31 May this year when the legislation is introduced later in the year. It is important to note that, until legislation is in place, landholders and developers are not obliged to undertake an assessment using the proposed criteria. However, it would be prudent for developers planning a new project to consider strategic cropping land.

Strategic cropping land is an important resource that must be conserved and managed for long-term food production and regional growth. The Bligh government is committed to striking a balance between agriculture and development, and protecting strategic cropping land for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

## Pyjama Day

 **Hon. PG REEVES** (Mansfield—ALP) (Minister for Child Safety and Minister for Sport) (9.53 am): I have the perfect excuse for members to ditch their suit and tie today. As the House will be aware, it is Pyjama Day—a day when you can get away with wearing your pyjamas to work.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr REEVES:** For decorum, I have gone for the sticker and the stripey Broncos tie. Organised by the Pyjama Foundation, today aims to raise awareness of the organisation's work in helping to improve the lives of Queensland's most vulnerable children and young people. It was great to see the members for Redcliffe, Brisbane Central, Burleigh and Kallangur on the Speaker's Green in their pyjamas this morning to celebrate Pyjama Day. I table a photograph of that great event—great Queenslanders showing their support for at-risk children.

*Tabled paper:* Photo of the members for Redcliffe, Brisbane Central, Burleigh, and Kallangur in pyjamas for Pyjama Day [[5266](#)].

The simple act of wearing your jammies and making a gold coin donation or donating pyjamas to the foundation can help change the life of a child in care. It is that simple, and I urge all members of the House to show their support. It is a sad fact that more than 8,000 children and young people in Queensland will not get to spend the night with their families. If they did, they would be abused or neglected. That is why it is so important that we support the Pyjama Foundation and the important work they do. Since 2005 the Bligh government has contributed more than \$1 million to this great organisation, but every donation counts, no matter how small.

It is quite timely that it is Pyjama Day as this week is Child Protection Week. Never has it been more important for Queenslanders to support such a wonderful organisation and its endeavours to brighten the lives of children and young people in care. The Pyjama Foundation shares the Bligh government's drive and commitment in helping foster children reach their full potential in life. Their volunteers, known as pyjama angels—including my wife, Megan—really are just that: they are angels. Each and every week the foundation's angels read and play literacy games with children in care, fostering a love for reading. Their motto 'every child needs an angel' supports the belief that children's lives can be improved by developing literacy skills, building self-confidence and encouraging a lifelong love of learning.

Strong partnerships between the Bligh government and non-government partners like the Pyjama Foundation are giving the most vulnerable children in our society a better life. I commend the foundation's founder and CEO, Bronwyn Sheehan, for her foresight and dedication to children in care to help break the cycle of disadvantage. This government works hand in hand with our valued partners to provide the right support at the right time so children in care can achieve their goals.

## Road Infrastructure

 **Hon. CA WALLACE** (Thuringowa—ALP) (Minister for Main Roads, Fisheries and Marine Infrastructure) (9.56 am): From the Gold Coast to the gulf and from Mount Isa to Mackay, the Bligh Labor government is building a stronger Queensland. Through our partnership with the federal government, we have \$3.3 billion this year in funding for our highways. We are talking about billions of dollars being invested in Queensland's road network, ensuring that this great state has roads better than ever before.

What will Queenslanders get from this funding? They will get new stretches of highway, road upgrades, repairs and improvements right across our great state of Queensland. In my neck of the woods, up in North Queensland, there is a hive of activity including construction of the new Ross River Bridge, the Cardwell Range realignment, the Douglas Arterial duplication and new overtaking lanes on the Flinders Highway between Townsville and Charters Towers.

Out in the great north-west, I was pleased to attend the roads and beef forum with my good mate the member for Mount Isa and the member for Gregory in Cloncurry last week. I was pleased to announce that with \$195 million in funding we are going to reconstruct 346 kilometres of roads in the north-west that were badly damaged by flooding. I was also pleased to announce, with the help of the member for Mount Isa, that we are going to inject another \$187,000 to continue sealing of the Richmond-Winton Road in the Mount Isa electorate.

**Mrs Kiernan:** Richmond and Winton love it.

**Mr WALLACE:** Richmond and Winton love it—I take the interjection of the member for Mount Isa.

The Far North has not missed out. We are spending almost \$12 million on the Bruce Highway between Ingham and Cairns to make that important stretch of road safer and less flood prone. While I am talking about the Bruce, I point out that, under Labor, federal Labor has invested in this vital piece of infrastructure—\$2.8 billion over seven years on the Bruce. We are investing \$8 million in a new higher level bridge over the Dawson River at Baralaba in Central Queensland, in the electorate of my good mate the member for Gregory.

**Mr Seeney:** It is not. It is in my electorate, you goose!

**Mr WALLACE:** This vital link is being built in partnership with Cockatoo Coal Ltd. He is my good mate. I had a VB with him last—

**Mr Seeney:** It is in my electorate.

**Mr WALLACE:** Well done. This vital link is being built in partnership with Cockatoo Coal Ltd and is scheduled to be delivered before the next wet season.

**Mr Seeney:** The coal company are paying for it. It took you five years to accept their money.

**Mr WALLACE:** Thank you, member for Callide.

**Mr Seeney:** Cockatoo Coal is paying for the bridge.

**Mr WALLACE:** Thank you for your interjection.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The House will come to order. I call the minister.

**Mr Seeney:** Tell the truth.

**Mr WALLACE:** Mr Speaker, he is touchy today.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Round off the ministerial statement.

**Mr WALLACE:** As part of Operation Queenslander, \$1.2 million is being spent on the reconstruction of the Barcoo River Bridge in Western Queensland. We are delivering for people on the coast and in Western Queensland. Down here in South-East Queensland motorists who use the Ipswich Motorway are already reaping the benefits of the Dinmore to Goodna stretch. I know the member for Bundamba, a champion of that road—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The minister will round off the statement.

**Mr WALLACE:**—is grateful to see that \$1.95 billion project which began in mid-2009 and which is scheduled for completion later this year. We are building better roads for the people of Queensland right across our great state.

## MOTION

### Bill Referred to Committees; Cognate Debate

 **Hon. JC SPENCE** (Sunnybank—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.00 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That:

1. the Criminal Code (Anzac Day Betting) Amendment Bill, introduced on 11 May 2011 be referred to the Finance and Administration Committee; and
2. in accordance with standing order 172, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming (Two-up) Amendment Bill (referred to the Finance and Administration Committee on 7 September 2011) and the Criminal Code (Anzac Day Betting) Amendment Bill be treated as cognate bills for their remaining stages after the committee reports with:
  - (a) separate questions being put in regard to the second readings;
  - (b) the consideration of the bills in detail together; and
  - (c) separate questions being put for the third readings and long titles.

Motion agreed to.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL (DECLARATION) AMENDMENT BILL

### Declared Urgent; Allocation of Time Limit Order

 **Hon. JC SPENCE** (Sunnybank—ALP) (10.00 am), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137, the Local Government Electoral (Declaration) Amendment Bill, to be introduced today, be declared an urgent bill to enable the bill to be passed through all stages at this day's sitting.

Motion agreed to.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call question time, we will be visited today by the students, teachers and parents of the following schools: the Grovely State School in the electorate of Ferny Grove; the Gympie West State School in the electorate of Gympie; and the Christian Outreach College of Toowoomba in the electorate of Toowoomba South.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

### Advertising Material, Political Parties

 **Mr SEENEY** (10.01 am): My first question without notice is to the Premier. I refer to a flyer that was distributed in the seat of Ashgrove and which has received some publicity overnight and which is authorised by J Seekers but does not bear any Labor logo, and I ask: does the Premier accept that the Labor Party's refusal to display the Labor logo in Ashgrove is a direct result of the shameful record of the Bligh Labor government?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting!

**Mr Wallace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The Minister for Main Roads! I call the Premier.

**Ms BLIGH:** I am very pleased to have the opportunity to speak about this material that is now going into the homes of the people of Ashgrove. I can understand why those opposite are very worried about it. What it does is outline what a crazy plan the LNP candidate for Ashgrove has for this particular road.

**Mr Fraser:** He's jumping up and down on level 6 in impotent rage.

**Ms BLIGH:** Yes, we know where this question came from. There was a little bit of anger and a little bit of testiness this morning. He got out of bed on the wrong side.

What this does is illustrate so well the problem with the LNP candidate for Ashgrove and his poor record—his poor fiscal, economic record when it comes to infrastructure. On the one hand he promises the people of Ashgrove a piece of infrastructure—I think in the vicinity of some \$200 million worth—when it can be fixed much better for significantly less. Then he releases an infrastructure plan for the whole of the state—and what project is not there? The one that he promised.

I have no doubt that the LNP candidate for Ashgrove is in quite a state about this little bypass—quite a bit of bother about this flyer. What it does is demonstrate that his plan for Ashgrove does not show an understanding of the suburb of Ashgrove. These are suburban streets and he is planning to put a freeway through them.

**Mr Watt:** He is never there. How would he know?

**Ms BLIGH:** I take the interjection from the member for Everton. The LNP candidate is never there so how would he know anything about the people of Ashgrove?

The infrastructure plan that was released by the LNP last week contained no mention of and no funds for this significant promise. It goes directly to the record of Campbell Newman—someone who built a tunnel that no-one wants to drive in and that cost the ratepayers of Brisbane some \$700 million; a bike scheme that nobody wants to ride on and was supposed to deliver \$9 million but is now costing \$9 million, an \$18 million turnaround; and of course King George Square, where in summertime you can fry an egg but you cannot find a single person sitting down. Campbell Newman is a risk to the people of Queensland and this flyer talks about a project that illustrates it perfectly.

### Campaign Material, Political Parties

**Mr SEENEY:** Noting that the Premier did not even attempt to explain why the Labor logo is missing, my second question also relates to a number of other Labor candidates—in this instance candidates for the Brisbane City Council—who have actually used black gaffer tape to block out the Labor logo. I table those photographs.

*Tabled paper:* Photos of campaign material for Brisbane City Council election which blocks out the ALP logo [\[5267\]](#).

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Resume your seat. I want to make sure that this question relates to the administration of the state.

**Mr SEENEY:** I can assure you that it will, Mr Speaker.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Then allow the House to hear the Leader of the Opposition in silence. I call the Leader of the Opposition.

**Mr SEENEY:** Does the Premier accept that Labor candidates in the next state election will likewise use black gaffer tape to block out the Labor logo because of the shameful record of the Bligh Labor government?

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I will wait for the House to come to order. I call the honourable the Premier.

**Ms BLIGH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sorry, Premier, the moment I called upon you again we had the cacophony of sound. The House will come to order! I call the honourable the Premier.

**Ms BLIGH:** I thank the puppet leader of the LNP for the question. There can be no more shameful record in the political history of our state than a political party that is so bereft of capability and leadership that there is nobody in its parliamentary team that can lead it. What we know and what the people of Ashgrove will know and what the people of Queensland will know is that the LNP have had to a gaffer tape the entire parliamentary team because—

**Mr Lucas:** And gag them.

**Ms BLIGH:** And gag them because they are so comprehensively incapable of providing a skerrick of leadership to the people of Queensland—to the conservative voters of Queensland. What we know is that the member for Callide has been reduced to the humiliating position of being what he in his own word describes as a seat warmer.

**Mr Wallace:** A ventriloquist dummy.

**Ms BLIGH:** A ventriloquist's dummy who every morning is told by the very angry candidate for Ashgrove what to say. He comes in here and has to read speeches which he does not believe in. He is told what questions to ask.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! I call the honourable the Premier.

**Ms BLIGH:** The Australian Labor Party has a very proud tradition of building Queensland, of transforming our state—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Those on my left will cease interjecting! Just stop the clock and we will take you through the process. The question asked is a very political question. I heard an interjection before: 'Answer the question.' Well, you have carte blanche to answer this one because it is asked in a political way. I call upon the Premier.

**Ms BLIGH:** The Australian Labor Party in government has a proud tradition and a proud record of building Queensland, of transforming this state into a modern economy where people want to live. I will put that record up against the financial risk that is the egotistical maniac that the LNP have had to outsource their leadership to. Campbell Newman cannot build a road, cannot run a bike scheme and cannot even build a park in King George Square. He is not fit to govern this state.

### **Townsville Enterprise**

**Ms JOHNSTONE:** My question is to the Premier. Can the Premier update the House on the important role Townsville Enterprise plays in attracting projects to our region and another important milestone in the life of this organisation?

**Ms BLIGH:** I thank the honourable member for Townsville for her question. I know that, like me, she has a great deal of respect for the work that Townsville Enterprise has done for many years for Townsville and the North Queensland region. In fact, Townsville Enterprise as an organisation this year celebrates its 20th anniversary and I look forward to joining them this evening for that celebration. It is a history worth celebrating.

This is an organisation that is highly regarded when it comes to regional business groups across the state. What it has provided for corporate Townsville and the business leadership of that city is a single voice that has come to the state government and the federal government of any political persuasion over that 20 years and clearly articulated the next important step in the development of that city. My government has worked with Townsville Enterprise to deliver a long list of achievements. It is the Labor government that worked with the Townsville council and Townsville Enterprise to deliver the upgrade of the Strand that has changed the face of that city.

**Mr Wallace:** The Tories walked away.

**Ms BLIGH:** I take the interjection from the member for Thuringowa. There have been upgrades to the port, the Townsville Port Access Road, the expansion of James Cook University, the new marine precinct and, of course, the marvellous riverway at Thuringowa. Townsville Enterprise understands the importance of infrastructure projects. It is an organisation that has always understood that if you invest in infrastructure then what you see is a city that will continue to develop and grow. I look forward to celebrating those achievements with Townsville Enterprise this evening.

It must have come as a great shock to anyone who cares about Townsville to thumb through the LNP infrastructure plan that was put out last week because, guess what? It does not list a single Townsville project. Not one. For a city that we believe will become the second capital of Queensland, there is not one project under the LNP. It only mentioned Townsville three times in the entire document and in every case only in relation to the connection to the resources of Central Queensland. In fact, the rest of North Queensland does not even rate a mention.

Dangerously, there are a number of projects that are currently listed for funding in our budget which do not appear in this LNP infrastructure plan. The Townsville police facility, gone. The Townsville ring-road stage 4, gone. The Barrier Reef Institute of TAFE upgrade, gone. And, scandalously, the \$220 million Townsville Hospital expansion and the \$25 million neonatal intensive care unit, scrapped by Campbell Newman. So whether it is roads, police, health or education, this is an infrastructure plan that takes it all out of Townsville. What does the member for Callide have to say about that?

### **Queensland Health, Information and Communication Technology**

**Mr NICHOLLS:** My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the minister's comments yesterday that he would require any good agency to undertake a careful assessment of the risks associated when rolling out major programs. Why does a freshly leaked section of a 2010-11 Queensland Audit Office report find that, far from being the conduct of a good organisation, the ICT risk management in his department lacked the rigour and formality that would be expected of a department of Queensland Health's size? Will he finally admit that his IT program is in crisis and he has lost control? I table that report.

*Tabled paper:* Extract of Queensland Audit Office report titled 'ICT Governance Queensland Health 2010-11' [[5268](#)].

**Mr WILSON:** I thank the honourable member for the question. Let us be very clear. I do expect Queensland Health and any other agency to have the best probity and the best governance arrangements for the rolling out of any program, whether it be an ICT program or any other program across the breadth of that portfolio. That is my expectation, that is the government's expectation and that is the rightful expectation of the Queensland public.

When there are reports from the Auditor-General or from any other independent agency that have commented on or reviewed what might be being undertaken within Queensland Health, I expect it and the government expects it to implement those recommendations. The advice I have is that the Auditor-General's reports have been made available to Queensland Health on whatever improvements the Auditor-General believes should be implemented in relation to any particular project and that they either are being implemented or have been implemented. That is what I would expect of any good agency. By doing that, we actually turn the important role of the Auditor-General into incredible value, and that is what I would expect. I refer the honourable member further to the speech I gave earlier in a ministerial statement to address the issues around the report that was referred to yesterday.

When we are talking about plans, at least Queensland Health is actually engaged in planning for the future. There are projects, actions and initiatives in that plan for the next five years. Let us talk about planning done by the opposition. The infrastructure plan that it released has no new beds, no new hospitals, no new health facilities, no community health centres—not one anywhere in Queensland. This opposition claims to be leading the way for the future of Queensland but there is not one infrastructure project in that plan that will deliver additional services sooner and closer to home for Queenslanders. The opposition has an obligation to ensure that it offers a true meaningful alternative to this government, but this is an empty document that has no new funding for Queensland Health or for any health facility. Contrast that with Queensland Health and this government. We are planning for the future and that is why we have that five-year plan we spoke of yesterday.

*(Time expired)*

### Infrastructure Projects

**Mr CHOI:** My question is directed to the Deputy Premier. Submissions close tomorrow on a range of documents including the Queensland Infrastructure Plan. Can the Deputy Premier please advise the House about some of the history of infrastructure projects in South-East Queensland and any other alternative plans?

**Mr LUCAS:** I can, but before I do that, given that the Leader of the Opposition has taken such an interest in electoral leaflets this morning, I thought the House and the Brisbane City Council might be interested in a leaflet being circulated in the Walter Taylor ward attacking the candidate Nicole Johnston. That leaflet is authorised by Michael O'Dwyer, and I cannot see anywhere on it where it says 'the Liberal National Party'. What we are saying, Mr Speaker, is: are you getting what you paid for? Well may Jeff Seeney, the member for Callide, ask 'Are you getting what you paid for?' because when you have a Leader of the Opposition who is not really the Leader of the Opposition but who takes the cash anyway and the Thunderbirds there—with Jeff Tracy up in the opposition office calling the shots, 'Thunderbird 1, Virgil and Scott, out you go. FAB,' and Lady Penelope is not here at the moment, she has ducked out—that is what you get, and I table that.

*Tabled paper:* Flyer regarding Councillor Nicole Johnston titled 'Are you getting what you pay for?' [\[5269\]](#).

The other day we saw a ratepayer-funded leaflet from Graham Quirk talking about some of the great achievements of him and Campbell Newman. He talked about the Clem7 tunnel and Airport Link being part of the TransApex vision. What do we know about the TransApex vision? We do know this. What I have here is the original TransApex document, and there is no mention whatsoever in that document when it comes to Airport Link. But, of course, when one looks at the council's website there it is claiming credit for it. Let us look at the history of it, and I table an article from Allan Krosch, the former deputy director-general of Main Roads.

*Tabled paper:* Moving Brisbane: Roads & River Crossings, Stage One of TransApex [\[5270\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Copy of Brisbane City Council webpage regarding TransApex [\[5271\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Article by Allan Krosch—Part 2—History of Brisbane's Major Arterial Roads—A Main Roads Perspective [\[5272\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Brisbane City Council document titled 'Living in Brisbane, September Edition 2011' [\[5273\]](#).

We have the great praise of the Clem7 project. What does Allan Krosch say about? He said that that was a Jim Soorley proposal. We have the great praise of Airport Link. What does he say about that? It was a Wilbur Smith 1960s northern freeway added to a Goss government Leckie Road corridor project. But, of course, we have Campbell Newman—the latter day saint—claiming credit for that. Let us look at Airport Link TransApex projects. We have an east-west distributor from Logan Road to Toowong—abandoned! We have a north-south distributor in the Clem7—bankrupt! We have a northern

link—at ratepayers' risk! We have a Hale Street tunnel that now is a bridge that is going down the gurgler and we have a Kingsford Smith Drive duplication that is forgotten and a toll of \$2 from TransApex that has now doubled. That is the history of Campbell Newman. He did not deliver on Clem7; it was a Soorley proposal. He did not deliver on Airport Link; the state government did, and threw in a bridge and a busway to boot and an east-west function for that project. Labor delivers. Campbell Newman reinvents history.

### Queensland Health, Information and Communication Technology

**Mr McARDLE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the minister's claim yesterday that he was undertaking good business practice and the careful assessment of the risks associated with Health IT programs. Why then did the QAO find the minister's department did not comply with the government's ICT standard that requires him to establish effective governance, accountability, leadership, direction and risk management? How can the minister suggest that his litany of IT failures is good business practice?

**Mr WILSON:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I respond by addressing the Auditor-General's report No. 7 for 2010 titled *Information systems governance and control, including the Queensland Health implementation of continuity project* as an illustration of the excellence to which Queensland Health strives in delivering these projects. At 4.1.2 the report states—

Overall, Queensland Health appears to have established a satisfactory control environment for both patient information repositories and the information technology infrastructure. Suitable systems and frameworks are in place to ensure effective safeguarding of patient information.

It goes on to similar effect. When we are talking about satisfying high-level business practice expectations about governance and delivering a project, the LNP has form in failing to do so. It has announced a policy of ripping \$400 million out of the \$2 billion Sunshine Coast University Hospital.

**Ms Bligh:** And every one of them sat mute and let him do it.

**Mr WILSON:** That is right. In fact, it was an extra parliamentary decision announced within parliament. What did the LNP do? Did it undertake any business case analysis like the government did in determining to go ahead with that project? No, there was no business case analysis. Was there any expression of interest called from the business and construction community to seek expressions of interest in the delivery of an alternative Sunshine Coast University Hospital, a \$2 billion one for \$1.6 billion? No, there was no expression of interest. Did it canvass the construction industry or the health sector to identify what would be best practice for a hospital on the Sunshine Coast? No, it did not do any of that. Those things and much more were done by Queensland Health because of good business practices in putting together the \$2 billion project on the Sunshine Coast University Hospital. None of those things were done by the opposition when it announced in here ripping \$400 million out of that project to pay for its election promises here in Brisbane. Campbell Newman will say one thing in Brisbane and a different thing on the Sunshine Coast, and the Sunshine Coast—

(Time expired)

### Health, Infrastructure Projects

**Mrs SCOTT:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister please update the House on Health infrastructure projects being delivered for the future?

**Mr WILSON:** I thank the honourable member for the question. This government, as members may have heard me say before, is rolling out a record Health budget and a record infrastructure and building project because we want a healthier Queensland. From the Torres Strait down to Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, the south side, the north side, the Gold Coast, the Sunshine Coast and Toowoomba, that is where we are rolling out our projects. As members may have heard me say before, too—but it is worth repeating because those on the other side do not hear it—the LNP's 80-page infrastructure plan which is its future for Queensland has no new beds, no new medical ward, no new surgery ward, no emergency department, no community health facility, no primary health care. Not one of those things is in that plan. Do members call that a plan? That is a plan for nothing. So the 'can't-do' Campbell Newman team has no planning for not even one single project.

But, regrettably, it is going to get worse, because the Campbell Newman team has decided to cut infrastructure projects in the health sector across Queensland. Projects like the Thursday Island \$39 million chronic disease centre have gone. It is cutting that. It is also going to cut the \$220 million remaining to be spent for the Townsville Hospital expansion—cut from Townsville. It is also going to cut the \$50 million remaining to be spent on the final stages of the Rockhampton Hospital—cut, gone! It will also cut the \$98 million yet to be spent on the project adding additional beds to Ipswich—cut, gone! The biggest one of them of course is ripping \$400 million out of the Sunshine Coast University Hospital, and members may have heard me say something about that before. None of those projects appear in its

infrastructure program. All of the projects I have just mentioned are under threat. How risky are the LNP and Campbell Newman? They are financially risky. They want us to forget about his big infrastructure failures—the tunnel that has gone bankrupt that no-one wants to use, the broken promise on freezing rates in Brisbane and the King George Square redevelopment that has not one skerrick of shade for any member of the public. Campbell Newman has form—crazy projects and risky financial management.

### Minister for Health

**Mr GIBSON:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the Premier's charter letter to the Minister for Health requiring him to identify and manage delivery risks. Given that the Queensland Audit Office report finds inadequate documentation and management of the risks within the minister's portfolio, does not the Premier's failure to hold the minister to account show that the charter letter is a joke?

**Ms BLIGH:** I thank the member for the question. I think it is important to draw to the attention of the House that the documents that have been quoted from by the opposition this morning from the Queensland Audit Office make a number of recommendations. What are those recommendations? The recommendation is that Queensland Health should compile a current register of the portfolio risks, both tactical and strategic in nature, that pose a threat to achieving outcomes and further that a portfolio risk register be actively monitored and appropriate risk management strategies implemented. Guess what? That is exactly what it has done.

**Mr McArdle** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Caloundra! A question has been asked on an Audit Office report. That is what I am hearing in the answer. I call the Premier.

**Ms BLIGH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. So what we have is a recommendation of the Queensland Audit Office doing its job in giving agencies advice about how they could improve their performance, and what do we have? We have the agency involved acting on the advice.

This confirms the point that I made yesterday. It confirms the point the minister has made this morning. The Audit Office says this is good business practice. That is what is happening. We are implementing recommendations of the Audit Office that constitute good business practice. Attempts by those opposite to mislead further are wrong. They are simply that: just misleading, false statements. What we have in Queensland Health is a new patient information management system that is being rolled out, that is funded and that will deliver a world-class health information system when it comes to patient records.

I say to those opposite, as I said yesterday: you can be titillated by documents, and you might convince other people to join you in that titillation, but it does not make it true, it does not make it accurate. I look forward to the day when those opposite would publish a charter of goals for their front bench. One can only imagine.

**Mr Fraser:** 'Get out of bed.'

**Ms BLIGH:** The first one, as suggested by the Treasurer, would be, 'Get out of bed. Stroll in a leisurely fashion to the hammock. Climb into the hammock. See if someone can fix you a pina colada while you are at it. Wait for Campbell Newman to give you a question or a speech. Roll out of the hammock. Come on down. Read the question that someone else has written for you and then go back to the hammock and wait for the taxpayers of Queensland to pay you for that.' What is going on over there is nothing short of scandalous. Those opposite are an opposition, paid to do the job of an opposition, that have outsourced it to somebody who will not tell the people of Queensland who is paying him to do the work that he is doing on their behalf. It is about time someone asked the question.

### Main Roads, Infrastructure Projects

**Ms MALE:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Main Roads. Can the minister inform the House about road projects that Queenslanders can look forward to under the Bligh Labor government?

**Mr WALLACE:** I thank the member for her question. Of course, in her area a new AJ Wyllie Bridge is being delivered by Labor. Up north, there is \$150 million to date for the Bruce Highway to upgrade the final stretch of road from Innisfail to Cairns. Again up north, there is \$110 million on the table so far for stage 4 of the Townsville ring-road. For Mackay, \$10 million is being invested to start planning on the vital Mackay ring-road. I know that the members for Whitsunday and Mackay are greatly appreciative of that. On the Gold Coast, there is \$68.9 million for additional lanes on Smith Street to keep the Gold Coast moving. We are going to put in an estimated \$250 million to upgrade the Gateway Motorway from Nudgee to the Bruce Highway. The Minister for Police always lobbies me for that. Further intersection upgrades on Redland Bay Road will go ahead under this Labor government. In the electorate of my good mate the member for Gregory there is \$7.4 million for the Barcy regional council to restore flood damaged roads.

I could bang on about roads all day. Right across the state, roads are being repaired with our record \$3.3 billion program. What does this Newman character have to say about important road projects across Queensland? Well, not much. This week we heard about his hokey infrastructure plan. It is a plan with no substance. He is full of rhetoric, but when it comes to detail Newman comes up empty.

All of those projects I mentioned will be delivered by Labor and only Labor. They are in this government's planning documents. Why are they not in Campbell Newman's documents? I will tell members why: because under the LNP they would be abandoned. That means that the good people of Townsville would never see stage 4 of their ring-road. In fact, there is not a single project in Townsville, as the Premier said, listed in this hokey LNP document. The Mackay ring-road is not there, either. It has been cut by the Tories. The Smith Street connections on the Gold Coast are gone. The good residents of Barcaldine, waiting for their roads to be fixed after the floods, will see that the projects are 'goneski' under Campbell Newman. It will be curtains for that Bruce Highway upgrade south of Cairns. The member for Nudgee can forget about the upgrade of the Gateway Motorway under Campbell Newman. He would take that funding on the Redland Bay Road. The LNP document is not a plan; it is a sham. Queenslanders and those on this side of the House are not going to let him pull the wool over our eyes.

### Forestry Plantations Queensland

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Treasurer. I refer to the asset sale of Forestry Plantations Queensland and assurances from this government in relation to jobs that 'all existing obligations must be honoured'. What has the Treasurer to say about ongoing industries which employed over 30 people being forced to close following Hancock Timber's decision to shut down local operations and import timber? Is he aware that 27 other forestry businesses are in the same predicament? How does this meet assurances given by the Premier and promises by this government to deliver 100,000 new jobs for Queensland?

**Mr FRASER:** I thank the member for the question. This government made a very clear undertaking, under a document that was tabled in this parliament, about the industrial relations undertakings for the employees of Forestry Plantations Queensland. Not only do those undertakings remain in force; they also remain enforceable. The member's question here today is not, as I heard it, suggesting that any of those undertakings about the employees of Forestry Plantations Queensland have in fact been breached.

Let us be very clear about it. Hancock, the new owner of Forestry Plantations Queensland, is taking that business and growing it into the future. The reason the government pursued that policy position is that we decided that we would have the courage to implement an economic reform program that made sure that private capital, private investment, could come in and support the economy in commercial businesses. But the commissars over there want us to still be in a position where we are running saltworks, butcher shops and national airlines.

There used to be a time when people like the member opposite belonged to the Liberal Party that actually stood for private investment. But, no, it has taken a Labor government, that turned up in here yesterday, to be the authors and the owners of the biggest single surge in private investment in Australia and the biggest single private surge in a quarter in Queensland's history. What does that tell us? It tells us that the economic policy and framework to deliver growth, to deliver investment and to generate jobs across the economy in fact resides on this side of the House.

While those opposite can stand there and wring their hands, quiver their lips, put up the umbrellas and declare that the sky is falling, what they do not do is take one single opportunity to put forward a proposal to do anything. For them it is back in the hammock. Have we heard a single policy from the other side about growing the business? Not at all. Their only interest in growing the trees, of course, must be for the poles to attach the hammock. When it comes down to it, those of us on this side of the House have put in place a program that is delivering jobs, investment and a new growth path for the Queensland economy. We have the courage to confront the future. What we have from those opposite is nothing more than a hankering for the days of old—nothing about the future of Queensland, only a hankering for the past.

If the people of Queensland want to look to the future then they will look to Labor, as ever at the forefront of forging a new path. If they want to look at taking Queensland backwards, putting all of that at risk—putting all of the growth in Queensland at risk, putting at risk the projects underway; if they want to see them bankrupted, if they want to see them stopped, have money hauled out of them—then the first thing they should do is support the LNP. But if they support growth in new jobs then at the next election they should support a Labor government that has the courage to implement a plan.

### Education, Infrastructure Projects

**Mrs SULLIVAN:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Education and Industrial Relations. Could the minister outline some of the important education infrastructure projects planned by his department and is he aware of any other proposals?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question and her commitment to the great schools, kindergartens and early learning centres in the electorate of Pumicestone. Labor values education. We back that up with the hard infrastructure that is needed to deliver educational opportunities for the future. What does that mean? In this year's budget alone \$487 million will be the capital works spend for the Department of Education and Training for schools, early learning and education centres. What does that mean in real terms? Delivering in the next period 240 new kindergarten services up to 2014. In the next financial year alone 85 new kindergartens will be built and established across Queensland.

That is what good governments do. They give clear direction, they commit the funds to deliver and they plan to deliver the infrastructure that is needed. Let us compare that to the poor, plagiarised excuse for an infrastructure plan released last week by Campbell Newman. What is it called? *Building Queensland's Future Together*. However, when we read it we see that there is no future for education when it comes to Campbell Newman and the LNP. An absence of any commitment to education means that everything is on the chopping block. Unless they commit, it is up to be cut by Campbell Newman. What is Campbell Newman going to cut? Which of the kindergartens to be established next year will he cut? Will he cut the new kindy at Beaudesert? Will he cut the new kindy at Berserker Street State School in Rockhampton? Will he cut the kindergarten at Crows Nest? Will he cut the kindy at Elanora that is delivering for constituents in the electorate of Currumbin? Will he cut the kindy in Gympie South that is delivering for constituents in the electorate of Gympie? Will he cut the kindies at Gumdale, and Kin Kora State School? Will he cut the kindy at Sarina, denying that opportunity for the electors in the electorate of Mirani? Will he cut the kindy at Mountain Creek denying the constituents of Buderim, or at White Rock, or at Yandina?

Campbell Newman has to commit, or he will cut. We do not know what he would keep, so it must be that he would cut. That is the only alternative. This is the oldest trick in the book, to hide behind a slogan, to hide behind motherhood statements and to hide behind a small target. However, it is not a small target. It is now a black hole target into which everything has gone: the history of the Liberal Party, the Liberal Party itself, Liberal Party values, parliamentary democracy, having a Leader of the Opposition in the parliament. It has all disappeared into the black hole that is anchored by Campbell Newman's ego. This man is a risk. He did not deliver for Brisbane. His performance did not match what he promised he would do as Lord Mayor of Brisbane. Queenslanders are waking up to that. He is a risk. He is all slogan and no substance.

### Police Resources

**Mr LANGBROEK:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services. Will the minister confirm that he and his department have been instructed to find \$87 million in savings in order to fund the massive hole created by the police pay rise? Will he now detail what services will be cut, from which districts and stations?

**Mr ROBERTS:** Mr Speaker, I might seek your indulgence and ask the member which newspaper article he read to get this question.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is a fair question.

**Mr ROBERTS:** It is just that it is the usual practice that he reads a newspaper and asks a question later in the day. As members are aware, the Police Service EBA was resolved by the Industrial Relations Commission recently, delivering an increase of 3.8 per cent and 3.5 per cent over the next three years.

**Ms Bligh:** That's the commission that your side of politics is getting rid of in New South Wales.

**Mr ROBERTS:** That is right. I take the Premier's interjection that in New South Wales the Liberal government is planning to neuter it in terms of industrial relations outcomes. The negotiations were quite protracted and ultimately ended up in the government seeking the assistance of the commission to find a resolution. As members would be aware, early in the negotiations the government actually offered Police Service employees three per cent, plus the opportunity to negotiate additional productivity improvements. That was rejected by the Police Union, which was quite disappointing as it was in addition to the original offer of 2.5 per cent. However, the commission handed down a decision that provided that increase to officers.

As both the Treasurer and myself have said on this matter, negotiations in terms of the payment will occur. It will be a part of midyear budget review discussions, which are ongoing. I can say to the people of Queensland that frontline services will not be cut. Of course, whether it be the Police Service or any other agency, there is an onus on agencies to continually look for savings to ensure that frontline services can be delivered. I give an assurance to this House that, firstly, the wage increase will be paid and, secondly, there will be no cut to frontline services in the delivery of that wage increase.

### **Kelvin Grove, Electricity Upgrade**

**Ms JONES:** My question is to the Minister for Energy and Water Utilities. I refer to recent claims that the upgrade to the Kelvin Grove substation, which will improve electricity supply to inner Brisbane, including electors who live in my electorate of Ashgrove, is underfunded. I ask: can the minister clarify for the House how this upgrade could be possibly unfunded when the government announced \$45 million for the upgrade in July?

**Mr ROBERTSON:** I thank the member for Ashgrove for such an insightful question. I must say that when 'Cagey Campbell' released his infrastructure plan I was somewhat bemused to see at the back of the document that, according to the LNP, a number of energy projects are unfunded. In fact, I recall that back in July the member for Ashgrove's colleague, the member for Brisbane Central, made the announcement of the \$45 million upgrade of the Kelvin Grove substation, which will supply energy into neighbouring electorates such as Ashgrove, the one that 'Cagey Campbell' thinks he knows so much about. At the time, the member for Brisbane Central released an artist's impression of the substation.

More to the point, when we look at the LNP infrastructure plan, which talks about the so-called unfunded projects, we have to ask the question: what homework did they do? A simple inspection of this year's budget documents will show that the project has received an allocation in this financial year alone of \$8.25 million out of the \$45 million needed to complete the project. There it is in black and white, in the budget papers. Rather than being unfunded, actually it has a budget line item in this year's budget papers. One can only be led to the conclusion that the LNP infrastructure plan is a work of fiction. In fact, it is so much fiction that it should have been up for a Premier's literary award, under the category of 'emerging author, fiction'.

**Ms Bligh:** It wouldn't have made a literacy award, though.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** It would not have made a literacy award. We know that on the opposite side of the House we do have members of International Rescue. We have 'Virgil' and 'Lady Penelope'. However, the one character we will never see over there is 'Brains'. In terms of this infrastructure plan, the LNP has yet again been caught out not doing its homework. This is a fictional document, written by a bloke who is full of it. He is as full of it as a CityCycle bike rack.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! That is unparliamentary. You will withdraw it immediately. That expression is unparliamentary.

**Mr ROBERTSON:** I will withdraw. The simple fact is that this work of fiction, which is masquerading as an infrastructure plan, is not worth the paper it is written on. Time and time again, the LNP has been caught out not doing its homework. The LNP is lazy, despite being the most well-resourced opposition in Australia. It cannot even read a simple budget document.

### **Youth Detention**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Community Services. Will the minister admit Labor's failed youth offender policy has created a revolving door through detention, with 36 per cent of child criminals in detention reporting that they had been there at least five times before? Is not detention more a holiday camp than an actual place of rehabilitation under this Labor government?

**Ms STRUTHERS:** I thank the member for the question. I am not sure if the member has taken the time to visit the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre or the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. Maybe I can ask him that question. Has the member visited the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre or the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre? The answer is no. I think silence says no.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Those on my right will cease interjecting. The minister has the call.

**Ms STRUTHERS:** Instead of the member lying in his hammock on the lovely Sunshine Coast, he ought to take the time to actually visit the Brisbane Youth Detention Centre or the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre and see for himself the sort of work that goes on in those detention centres. I have visited those detention centres and I can say to the House with great confidence—and I know the member for Gregory would agree with me because we have discussions about what we can do for young people—that those young people in those detention centres have committed very serious crimes;

there is no doubt about that. Therefore, they need to be dealt the full force of the law, but they also need to be given opportunities to gain skills and jobs when they come out. They need to be learning or earning when they come out of those detention centres.

What happens in those detention centres? If the member got out of his hammock and went and had a look he would find training centres, workshops and tools at those detention centres. In fact, I need to go out there with my hard hat because there are plenty of good tools and facilities out there. There is a full-on school program in operation at those centres and the member would see that. The member opposite has dismissed the good work at those detention centres—the hard yakka that goes into trying to get those young people back on track. If he went he would see the full curriculum there that is developed in conjunction with Education Queensland. He would see how hard those young people work and how determined they are to get back on track as well.

Members opposite have no policy on youth justice other than to lock young people up. They like that sort of idea but they have no policy on what to do when young people are detained. If the member went out there and had a look—and I suggest the member for Gregory and others who have had a bit of sense on this issue go out there with him and have a look—he will see for himself that some of those young people will actually come out with modules completed towards certificates, which will help them get jobs when they get out of detention. That is the goal. These young people need skills, they need the opportunity to get jobs and they need the opportunity to get back on track when they get out of detention.

### Investment

**Ms O'NEILL:** My question is to the Treasurer. Will the Treasurer advise the House on government initiatives that will foster increased investment in the economy and create more Queensland jobs? Is he aware of any alternative plans?

**Mr FRASER:** I thank the member for Kallangur for her question and her commitment to supporting jobs and economic development for the working people whom she represents in her electorate. This government is making sure that we provide a pipeline of investment—of private investment to support jobs, of public investment to support infrastructure that is needed for a growing economy and a growing population. That is why one of the benchmark annual events on the Queensland calendar is the Major Projects Conference where industry leaders from across-the-board—not just in the engineering sector, not just in the resources sector, not just within one, two or three rings of the minerals processing sector and the resource sector but across-the-board in public transport, tourism and health infrastructure—have the chance to see the pipeline that is coming through. They get a chance to get at the forefront and get a piece of the action to ensure they can be part of the investment surge that is going through the Queensland economy. This year the Major Projects Conference will be held on 25 October. Already around half the places have been snapped up as people from around Australia know that this is the place to get a piece of the investment action going on in this nation at this point.

However, if any of those people who turned up were forced to sit down and go through what Campbell Newman passed off for an infrastructure plan—a half-baked plagiarised plan—they would be left scratching their head. Ultimately, what we have seen in the seven days since Campbell Newman released it is nothing. He has disappeared. He has gone into hiding. He has not put his head up. He has yet again run away. He is not putting his head up to answer any questions—not from the media, not from the public. There is no public scrutiny. Although he has not put his head up, we know that he is out there putting his hand out because we know where he has been. What we have seen reported this morning is that Campbell Newman has been out there on the take—cash for access—sitting in the boardrooms. He will not tell the people of Queensland, but for \$11,000 a throw you get to hear what is going on. Let us be clear: you are either for real or for rent. You are either going to stump up and tell people what it is that you are planning to do or you are going to scamper around in the boardroom, telling people what they want to hear and taking the money on the side.

The point is this: this is a test of integrity and leadership for Campbell Newman. Bruce McIver can organise whatever dodgy dinner he likes and then deny that he was a party to organising it, but Campbell Newman needs to stand up—and this is the test of integrity—and say that he will no longer be on the take for this money, the secret, private, dodgy cash for access. We led the way in reforming the political process in this state and Campbell Newman continues to put himself out for rent. Ultimately, this is a test. What the people of Queensland need to know is that, if Campbell Newman is happy to put his hand out, he is happy to put his hand in Queenslanders' pockets to fuel whatever financially risky proposition he just sold to the highest bidder.

### Beaudesert Hospital, Maternity Services

**Mr McLINDON:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister outline the progress to date on the implementation of maternity services at the Beaudesert Hospital?

**Mr WILSON:** I thank the honourable member for the question. I recognise that he has been campaigning very strongly with the local community and making representations to me about the progress in reinstating this very important service. The government is committed to delivering more maternity services at the Beaudesert Hospital. We want to make sure that we can move progressively forward in introducing those new services provided that we can do so safely. Obviously, that has to be the bottom line. I know the member has spoken with me on several occasions and understands well the importance of that.

We have already established the midwifery group practice model, and that is operating from the Beaudesert Hospital providing antenatal and postnatal care to about 100 Beaudesert women. I can inform the member and the House that recently Queensland Health has moved to stage 2 of the maternity services program. Planning is underway with a business case to examine the introduction of low-risk birthing services at the Beaudesert Hospital. We are very keen to do that in a careful and staged way to ensure that the services are reinstated and to ensure the safety of women and children using that service. We want the birthing services to be reintroduced as soon as possible.

We are very keen to keep working with Mr McLindon, the member for Beaudesert, on this. He has been a strong supporter for this. But that is quite different from his former LNP colleague—now opponent—who has opposed not only this but also the expansion of the Logan emergency department, which this government is rolling out, which provides services to people within the Beaudesert area. Of course, likewise, the LNP has opposed the national health reforms that are actually delivering the federal funding complementing the state funding for the expansion of the Logan Hospital and the emergency department.

In quite significant contrast, the member for Beaudesert is campaigning for improved and expanded health services within Beaudesert or within his electorate against the position of the LNP, which is opposed to that. We have heard here today and yesterday that the LNP's infrastructure plan has no new beds, no new medical wards, no new surgical wards, no new community hospitals, no community health services and no primary care services—none whatsoever.

### Gold Coast Waterways

**Ms CROFT:** My question is to the Minister for Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on what the Bligh government is doing to ensure a positive future for the Gold Coast's favourite waterway, the Broadwater? Can the minister also advise if there are any alternative plans for the Broadwater?

**Mr WALLACE:** I can. I thank the member for Broadwater for her question. I am pleased to announce here today that, following continuous and unrelenting representations from the member for Broadwater, the Bligh government will commit to a partnership with the Gold Coast City Council to develop a master plan for the Broadwater on the Gold Coast. My Department of Transport and Main Roads will contribute \$750,000 to the cost of the plan as an equal partner with the Gold Coast City Council. The master plan will be carried out under the auspices of the Gold Coast Waterways Steering Committee—another initiative that has been championed by the member for Broadwater. This partnership comes on top of our nearly \$7 million worth of dredging works to the Broadwater that are in the pipeline or have been recently completed. These dredging works are jointly funded through a partnership between the state, the council and industry, getting on with the job on that Broadwater.

But this funding is under threat. Like the member for Broadwater, I was shocked to find out recently that Campbell Newman has released his policy for the Broadwater, and his answer for the Broadwater is to set up another bureaucracy. All the money that we have committed to real projects and real dredging will be funnelled into more red tape and more committees. That is his answer—not dredging but red tape and committees. But that is not all this Newman has been up to on the Gold Coast. Indeed, talk is rife on the Gold Coast that Newman will fund any works on the Broadwater as only Campbell Newman knows how to—through a toll. I table a document which has been circulating on the Gold Coast.

*Tabled paper:* Document in relation to dredging of the Gold Coast Broadwater and Main Channel to Moreton Bay, Brisbane [\[5274\]](#).

The proposal reportedly under consideration is for an annual fee to be applied to all residential waterfront properties if they want to continue to access the water. All properties will be paying a fee if they want to continue to access the water. That is Campbell Newman's plan for the Broadwater. He has form. Let us not forget that it was this Newman who promised everything to the people of Brisbane and all he gave them was a bankrupt tunnel, the baking-hot King George Square and council rates that have gone through the roof. Now he wants to tax the people living on the Broadwater to fund some dredging. He has his sights set on the Gold Coast. Just as he jacked up the rates for people living in the CBD of Brisbane, he wants to jack up the rates for people living on the Gold Coast.

The member for Broadwater and the Bligh government will fight Campbell Newman every step of the way as he attempts to tax the people living on the Broadwater. We will fight him on this unequal tax, just as we will fight him on the toll on the Bruce Highway.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The time for question time is over.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTORAL (DECLARATION) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State) (11.01 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 for a particular purpose. I table the bill and the explanatory notes.

*Tabled paper:* Local Government Electoral (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2011 [\[5275\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Local Government Electoral (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2011, explanatory notes [\[5276\]](#).

I refer to the Clerk's statement on Tuesday, 6 September regarding an administrative error in the Local Government Electoral Bill 2011 as provided to Her Excellency for assent. The administrative error in the renumbering of particular cross-references within the commencement provisions occurred between the bill being passed and receiving assent—that is, the commencement provisions in the bill debated in this House were as they should have been. The error was made during the bill to act process when the bill was renumbered to include the amendments passed during the consideration of the bill in detail.

On the advice of the Clerk, the most appropriate course of action is to pass further legislation to correct this error. On this advice I introduce the Local Government Electoral (Declaration) Amendment Bill 2011 to amend the Local Government Electoral Act 2011 to rectify this administrative error. The bill puts beyond doubt the validity of the act, the validity of assent purportedly given to the act and the validity of the intended commencement provisions of the act as passed.

Mr Speaker, I am advised that the Clerk has briefed the Committee of the Legislative Assembly and that the committee agreed on the proposed course of action. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

 **Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State) (11.03 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Second Reading

 **Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State) (11.03 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 3, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading

 **Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State) (11.04 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title

 **Hon. PT LUCAS** (Lytton—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Attorney-General, Minister for Local Government and Special Minister of State) (11.04 am): 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.

## BUILDING BOOST GRANT BILL

### Introduction and Referral to the Finance and Administration Committee

 **Hon. AP FRASER** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade) (11.04 am): I present a bill for an act to assist housing affordability, increase housing supply, and support employment in the housing construction industry, by establishing a scheme for the payment of grants to persons building or purchasing new homes, and to amend the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act 1971. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Finance and Administration Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Building Boost Grant Bill 2011 [[5277](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Building Boost Grant Bill 2011, explanatory notes [[5278](#)].

The Building Boost Grant Bill 2011 implements the 2011-12 state budget announcement of a Queensland Building Boost. This initiative is designed to stimulate the housing market by payment of a grant to assist affordability of housing, increase the supply of housing and support employment in the housing construction industry in Queensland.

The Queensland Building Boost is a grant of \$10,000, running between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012, for the purchase or construction of a new home in Queensland valued at less than \$600,000 inclusive of the land. It is open to both homebuyers and investors. An applicant who is an individual must be at least 18 and an Australian citizen or permanent resident. Corporations and trustees are also eligible to apply, subject to eligibility tests.

The grant will be available for a written contract made between 1 August 2011 and 31 January 2012, both inclusive, to purchase a new home or to have a new home built. The building of a home by an owner-builder is also eligible if the building work starts between those dates. To support the grant's stimulus effect, construction time limits apply. A person who carries on the business of building or developing homes is ineligible to apply for the grant for a home constructed for sale in the course of the business. Rather, the purchaser of the home is the person entitled to the grant.

A new home is a home that has not been previously occupied or sold as a place of residence in the provisions of the bill. If the new home being purchased is a first home and the purchaser meets all of the other eligibility criteria, they may be entitled to the \$10,000 boost and the first home owner grant of \$7,000 and the first home buyer stamp duty transfer concession. Also, transactions may benefit from the Commonwealth's First Home Saver Account Scheme, the National Rental Affordability Scheme, a government disaster relief payment or a government loan on commercial terms and also benefit from the grant. Other forms of government assistance, however, will result in the grant not applying.

The home must be first occupied as a place of residence for at least three months in the year after completion of the transaction and during the ownership of the home by the applicant. However, it is not relevant who occupies the home. For example, the home may be occupied by a family member or rented to a tenant. The new home, or the land on which it is built, must be intended to be used mainly for residential purposes. Exceptions are a new home on a primary production property, a developer's display home and where the applicant otherwise qualifies for the first home owner grant for the home.

A unique feature of the Queensland Building Boost is that a person may obtain the grant more than once, though only one grant is payable for a particular home. To ensure that this arrangement is not open to abuse, applications for five or more grants may be ineligible if the Commissioner of State Revenue is not satisfied the transaction is being undertaken for a purpose that is consistent with, and advances, the purpose of the act. To provide certainty for prospective transactions, applicants may apply to the commissioner for an advance ruling on this condition.

To ensure that the grant is focused on genuine transactions in the Queensland housing market, a number of transactions are ineligible. Where there is a legally binding arrangement made on or after 14 June 2011 to defer the making of a contract until on or after 1 August 2011, the contract will not be eligible. This may include a contract made on or after 1 August 2011 to replace one made before that date and an option granted on or after 14 June 2011 to enter into a contract and exercised on or after 1 August 2011.

Similarly, transactions which are part of an arrangement to circumvent limitations on, or requirements affecting, eligibility or entitlement to the grant are ineligible. Governments, government agencies, offices or authorities, government owned corporations and public authorities are ineligible as are related party transactions and contracts to purchase which do not attract transfer duty unless the exemption for first homes, charitable institutions or manufactured homes applies.

The Queensland Building Boost scheme has been operating since 1 August 2011 under an administrative arrangement. When passed, this bill will apply from that date to give statutory effect to the administrative scheme. Provisions in the bill ensure that applicants' rights are not adversely affected by this retrospectivity.

The Commissioner of State Revenue is responsible for administering the grant. The bill confers on the commissioner all the usual powers of administration and investigation. Applications, or notices of intention to apply, for the grant must be lodged with the commissioner by 31 May 2012. Consistent with arrangements for the first home owner grant, applicants may apply through their financial institution. This has the advantage that the grant will be available at settlement of the home purchase or first progress payment on a building contract.

If an applicant is dissatisfied with the commissioner's decision about their application, they may seek a review of the decision by lodging an objection with the commissioner. A right of appeal to the Queensland Civil and Administrative Tribunal against the commissioner's decision on the objection is also provided.

The scheme's \$140 million budget allocation will provide a much needed boost to the Queensland housing sector when it needs it most and will benefit families, first home buyers and investors. Legislation is necessary to enable the Commissioner of State Revenue to ensure compliance with scheme requirements. To minimise the extent of retrospectivity and ensure effective administration of the scheme, passage of the bill this year is essential.

Proposed amendments to the State Development and Public Works Organisation Act include a head of power and a table of fees to enable the recovery of costs for government activities relating to infrastructure facilities of significance. The IFS provisions were originally introduced into the act in 1999 as a new mechanism to empower the Coordinator-General to acquire land for infrastructure projects regardless of the infrastructure's ownership or purpose, whether publicly or privately owned. The Coordinator-General's power to acquire land under this section is enlivened for infrastructure facilities approved by the Governor in Council as being 'of significance' according to the requirements of the act and, even then, the Coordinator-General only acquires land after the proponent has made all reasonable efforts to acquire land voluntarily. The IFS provisions in the act require substantial and rigorous assessments to be made both of the significance of infrastructure for the Governor in Council's IFS decision and also of the steps taken by the proponent to acquire land by agreement for the Coordinator-General's land acquisition decision.

The complexity and scale of the infrastructure projects is now greater, requiring the application of significant resources by the Coordinator-General, including for staff and also for a greater requirement for expert technical advice on aspects of innovative private sector infrastructure. Currently, there are \$47.5 billion worth of private sector projects under various stages of evaluation in the Coordinator-General's environmental impact assessment process. Given the government's strong encouragement for private sector involvement in infrastructure and the greater interest by the private sector in such infrastructure, interest in the IFS provisions by the private sector, in particular for land acquisition measures for commercial or economic infrastructure, is only expected to continue.

Given the scale and complexity of the workload in processing IFS applications, it is only reasonable that applicants are charged the cost of processing their applications, with the fees to recover the departmental staff and on-costs of processing applications, and with the cost recovery to recover the other costs incurred by the Coordinator-General such as the costs of expert reports through to costs such as advertising the applications and decisions. This proposed new fee schedule for IFS and the proposed power to recoup costs for IFS is consistent with the Coordinator-General's existing powers under sections 25A and 25B of the SDPWO Act introduced in 2008 in relation to fees and the power to recoup costs for the Coordinator-General's environmental coordination environmental impact statement program, provisions which commenced from 1 January 2009.

The IFS fees will be subject to CPI escalation every year on 1 January, with the first escalation being on 1 January 2012, and is at an appropriate level to ensure cost recovery from a proponent. This is in keeping with the approach taken for fees and cost recovery for the environmental impact assessment also undertaken by the Coordinator-General. The amendments also provide for the Coordinator-General to appoint persons to assist the Coordinator-General, providing a more efficient process than the existing provisions which requires Governor in Council appointment. Other amendments address minor issues to improve efficiency of processes and clarify intent. I commend the bill the House.

### First Reading

 **Hon. AP FRASER** (Mount Coot-tha—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade) (11.13 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Wendt): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Finance and Administration Committee.

## WEAPONS AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 12 May (see p. 1465), on motion of Mr Roberts—

That the bill be now read a second time.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: Order! Before calling the member for Surfers Paradise, I would like to acknowledge in the gallery student leaders and teachers from Ipswich State High School in the electorate of Ipswich West.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (11.13 am): I rise to speak to the Weapons Amendments Bill 2011. As legislators, whether that be Labor or the LNP, the safety of Queenslanders is one of our top priorities. Ensuring community safety is of the utmost importance. However, the Bligh government also proposes that amending the current regulatory framework to further restrict and tighten gun ownership and licensing is the way to ensure this safety. This is incorrect and fails to address the root cause of the issue of illegal gun and weapon use in Queensland.

As a nation we have a troubled history with regard to gun control. The Port Arthur massacre is still fresh in our minds when we think of regulating civilian gun use. In 1996, Martin Bryant, armed with a semiautomatic rifle, changed the way Australians viewed such regulation as did later events at Hoddle Street. The federal government's response to the massacre which killed 35 people was swift and controversial.

The Australian police ministers' council convened a special meeting in May of that year. After several subsequent resolutions and meetings, the National Firearms Agreement was formed. All Australian states and territories were committed to a uniform system of firearms licensing and registration. This included banning military style automatic and semiautomatic firearms, introducing the registration of all firearms, including strict requirements to prove reasons for ownership and restrictions on sales and storage of firearms. The government's firearms buyback scheme was implemented to provide compensation to owners of certain automatic weapons, and approximately 660,000 firearms were surrendered.

The government faced a great backlash from gun advocates and members of the public who felt that changes were a restriction on their personal liberty. Many feared for their own safety without a means of protecting themselves. In the 15 years since these radical reforms were introduced, it is clear that there has been success in controlling gun use. There has not been another massacre like that which occurred at Port Arthur all those years ago. Statistics vary but the general consensus is that gun related deaths have lessened in the last decade.

Queensland has some of the strictest laws governing gun use resulting from the National Firearms Agreement. In 2006, Queensland then went one step further, beginning a comprehensive review of weapons regulation in Queensland. The Weapons Review Committee came up with a raft of changes to the Weapons Act to further restrict Queensland's weapon laws, including the doubling of the penalties for misuse of weapons offences to up to \$15,000; tougher knife laws, including an expanded definition of bladed weapons to include daggers such as fantasy knives, in line with national standards; regulating the use of laser pointers; the introduction of an approved safety training course as a prerequisite for registration; and exemptions for off-duty members of the Queensland Police Service and special constables to possess service weapons and exhibits.

These changes are reflected in the bill. Particularly, these issues are covered by the first stage of the amendment process, which we will not be opposing. The second stage of the amendment process will focus on policy issues which arose during the community consultation. Suggestions and submissions were considered by the Weapons Review Committee and amendments regulating imitation weapons, such as those kept by RSLs, will be considered in the second stage of the process.

The Queensland Police Service also established a committee to identify issues relating to the administration and enforcement of the legislation. Key recommendations to address these issues include introducing online processing of licence applications and permits and introducing new fees for selected weapons transactions.

When we talk about the weapons laws we must never forget the greatest threat is from criminals with illegal or unlawful weapons not the law-abiding gun owners who are regulated and who pay significant amounts of money to the state to lawfully own and lawfully operate certain weapons. We on this side of the House know that weapons related crime is a serious issue that should never be allowed to go off the radar. Previous research has found links between weapons and drugs. Illicit drugs have been linked to weapons, particularly firearms, in a number of ways, including that violence with or without weapons can be an integral part of the drug trade; dependent drug users may commit crimes to finance their drug habit possibly with weapons; drug users may commit crimes of violence when under the influence of drugs, possibly with weapons; and firearms and other weapons may be exchanged for drugs and drugs for firearms.

When it comes to drug crime and weapons, it has been suggested that while dependent users may resort to the use of weapons and firearms when committing crimes to get money for drugs, research suggests that this is not the most common reason for property crime but that the principal link is the role of firearms in the illegal drug trade, including protecting shipments of drugs, intimidating customers or competitors, enforcing debts, resolving disputes, eliminating competition and punishing informants.

Criminologists reported that, in July 2001, five per cent of the Australian adult population had a firearms licence, whereas 20 per cent of police detainees in 2002 reported owning a firearm in the previous year. The proportion is much higher than the general population, and very few of the police detainees reported holding a firearms licence—about 10 per cent did. This is not surprising, as a prior criminal record would automatically exclude a person from legally obtaining a firearms licence.

Research on the licensing and registration status of firearms used in homicide also finds a very low rate of compliance with firearms licensing legislation. In a recent study from 2006, 16 per cent of all detainees reported using a weapon to commit a crime at some time in their lives—data was not collected on the types of crimes committed with these weapons; nine per cent reported using knives; seven per cent had used firearms; and five per cent had used some other weapon to commit a crime. One in 50 used a syringe to commit a crime. Similar proportions were found in the United Kingdom sample, with 14 per cent of arrestees ever using a knife to commit an offence and five per cent ever using a firearm to commit an offence. So it is clear from the research that there is no doubt a linkage between weapons and crime and, as such, we should never shy away from doing everything in our power to ensure the safety and security of every Queenslanders from such crime.

In speaking to the particular amendments being put forward in this bill, the key changes are—

- increases the penalties for behavioural offences involving weapons;
- extends the current definition of bladed weapons to accord with national standards;
- regulates the possession and use of laser pointers with an output greater than 1 milliwatt;
- regulates the possession and use of high capacity magazines for category B firearms;
- defines an approved safety training course and what the Commissioner of Police ... may consider in approving such a course for the purposes of obtaining a firearms licence;
- clarifies that a person may have physical possession of a knife in a public place, other than a school, for a genuine religious purpose;
- removes licensing and registration requirements for permanently deactivated public monuments;
- exempts off-duty members of the Queensland Police Service ... and special constables required to possess service issued weapons and exhibits;
- clarifies that incorporated shooting clubs must nominate a representative;
- clarifies that range officers cannot be minors;
- permits range officers from another State or Territory to officiate on ranges;
- introduces additional genuine reasons for the possession of a weapon to include medieval re-enactments, paint pellet sports and for the collection, preservation and study of weapons;
- allows an exemption from a provision of the Act to be revoked if the exemption is breached;
- adopts the Australian Federal Police Firearm Deactivation Standards;
- amends the *Weapons Categories Regulation 1997* ... to better define body armour; and
- amends Schedule 2 of the *Weapons Regulation 1996* ... to reflect changes to government service entities and prescribed functions.

I note that this last amendment clarifies a potential gap between the Corrective Services Act and the Weapons Act for companies such as Serco and GEO which run some of our corrective services facilities. I take this opportunity to thank the minister and his staff from the department for the briefing I received in relation to this bill.

In every state of Australia, the debate over gun control ignites considerable passion and it is important to dispel some myths. There has never been an unfettered right for Australians to possess firearms for any reason including self-defence. Even the United States Constitution, which is often misquoted by proponents of gun ownership, does not confer such a right. The second amendment to the US Constitution states—

A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

That is a very different proposition from the belief that every individual should have the right to possess whatever weapons they wish. What the Howard government set out to achieve—and what these amendments we are debating attempt to continue—was to remove from the community all weapons with the capacity to inflict mass casualties or injury. Even licensed, they serve no useful purpose in a civilised society. They may have their use in formed, regulated bodies like the Defence Force or the police, but they are neither necessary nor appropriate in the general community.

I acknowledge that there are those people who enjoy shooting exotic weapons either recreationally or competitively, and there are provisions in the legislation for them to do so. Their concerns about restrictions on owning and operating firearms have been heard. In preparing for this debate I have had feedback from numerous stakeholders—the Shooters Union Queensland, firearms dealers in Queensland, the Law Abiding Firearm Owners Inc., the Queensland Rifle Association, and pistol clubs and constituents of many members, as I am sure all members of parliament have.

I would like to make the point that what Labor fails to grasp is that, in the debate on guns and weapons crime, we need to be focusing on the criminals who commit crimes with weapons. We believe that the priority concern for the state government, rather than the Weapons Act, should be to overhaul components of the Penalties and Sentences Act so that tougher laws are focused on the actual criminals. Under Labor, convicted armed robbers continue to escape jail sentences. In the two years from 2005 to 2007 alone, 30 per cent of all convicted armed robbers did not spend so much as one night behind bars under Labor's so-called justice system. That meant that a total of 172 armed robbers were released back onto our streets and into our neighbourhoods without one night behind bars. These failed sentencing laws are the ones that are in urgent need of review, yet the Premier and Labor refuse to take any action. This bill before the House does nothing to address criminals committing crimes against innocent people with black market weapons.

Several proposed changes in this bill raise questions as to what objectives they would have when passed. I note that there are 22 behavioural offence penalties, and I will address my concerns with some of those when we reach the committee stage. I do question where the explanatory notes to this bill say that the existing penalty regime has not had the required deterrent effect. I ask the minister to outline why we have these increases in penalties in the bill and how many offences have been committed against some sections that would necessitate a doubling of penalties and in some cases even more than a doubling of penalties. I am talking about clause 24, 'Responsibilities of person attending an approved range'; clause 25, 'Theatrical ordnance suppliers to be licensed'; and clause 27, 'Obligations of security organisation in relation to the possession or use of a weapon'. These are organisations often that are already licensed and already complying with the law and there is no reference to criminal intent, so I would ask the minister in his response to deal with some of those matters that have really concerned a lot of constituents who are trying to do the right thing.

Clause 47 deals with an amendment to section 73, 'Modifying firearm to make it permanently inoperable'. I understand that this is a national provision but there are concerns by many genuine owners of old style weapons that it is going to make it virtually worthless to try to collect old style weapons. I will deal with that in the committee stage.

I acknowledge that the remainder of the bill brings about some clarifications in the act: ensuring that a person undertaking the duties of a range officer must be an adult, there is a restriction on laser pointers, there is a removal of licensing requirements for deactivated monuments et cetera. These amendments also attempt to make the conduct of range practices safer but also more flexible between different state jurisdictions. I acknowledge that professional, recreational or competitive shooters who observe weapon control legislation do not necessarily pose a risk to the community at large, but that does not give them an automatic right to possess whatever weapons in whatever quantity they wish.

As I have reiterated, the majority of violent crimes involving firearms are carried out by individuals who are not licensed with weapons that are not registered and have been illegally obtained. The amendments we are debating seek to increase penalties for the unlawful possession of certain categories of weapons, and that part is supported, but as I have already said they also double penalties for 22 offences, supposedly as 'a strong message of deterrence'—and that quote is from the explanatory notes. Some of these smack of revenue raising by a cash-strapped Labor government, adding to the cost-of-living issues already facing Queenslanders.

Where the Bligh Labor government has failed the people of Queensland is in ensuring that penalties applied for violent crime involving weapons reflect the seriousness of the offence and meet the expectations that all Queenslanders have that violent criminals will receive appropriate sentences. That is not happening in Queensland. If the Bligh Labor government was serious about dealing with violent crime then we believe that a priority, as I have said already, should be to overhaul the Penalties and Sentences Act so tougher laws are focused on real criminals.

These amendments also seek to increase controls on certain categories of knives, as equally a deadly weapon in the wrong hands as a firearm. Tragically, we have seen an increase in the incidence of knife related violence, most disturbingly in our schools. As these amendments acknowledge, the possession or carriage of a knife has absolutely no place in the school environment. Again, under this Bligh Labor government there is a great disparity between what penalties should apply for unlawful knife possession and what penalties are imposed. Repeated questions from the LNP in an attempt to discover the number and type of knife incidents in Queensland schools have met with a blank. The Premier and Labor do not take the knife culture seriously enough in our schools to keep records of the number and type of knife incidents in schools. As for the possession of knives in public, between 2008 and 2010 some 1,365 people were found guilty or pleaded guilty to possessing a knife in a public place. Of those, only 122 were sentenced to a period of imprisonment. Yet again under this government actions do not match the rhetoric. There is also a real concern that this bill could unintentionally make criminals of thousands of law-abiding Queenslanders who routinely carry a small folding pocketknife. Under this bill, the definition of category M knives includes folding pocketknives. The majority of people who routinely carry such knives do so as a matter of convenience and the great majority of them do not consider them as weapons and nor do they intend to use them as such. The LNP does not believe it was the intention of this bill to make such knives and their possession illegal.

In my introduction I dealt with some historical elements with regard to this bill, and I want to return to that now. The then Beattie government announced its intention to undertake a comprehensive review of the Weapons Act, including the Weapons Regulation 1996 and the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997. The then police minister, the Hon. Judy Spence, established a Weapons Review Committee and invited public comments. Stakeholders including dealers, shooters associations, firearms collectors and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties were represented in those deliberations. The Queensland Police Service, as I have already said, established a separate committee to identify any issues impacting on the administration and enforcement of the legislation. I want to acknowledge the work of both committees which was reflected in the Weapons Bill 2010, which was released for further consultation between August and September 2010. Over 2,500 online comments and submissions were received and from these the bill progressed to the two separate legislative stages, the first of which is before parliament now.

I also want to acknowledge the deliberations of the Queensland Police Service committee, whose recommendations largely led to the separation of the bill into its two stages. However, this bill is now a very different document from the draft discussion document that was circulated for comment in 2010. That also means that it is not breaking new policy ground on weapons control but rather it is increasing penalties already available in Queensland, supposedly to bring them in line with national standards. It also means that this bill has not been circulated for discussion because it is a totally different document from the one that was circulated last year.

I now want to read into the record some very important comments from some stakeholders whom I have consulted in the preparation for this legislation being debated. In a written statement to me it has been said that members continually express concerns over matters associated with firearms licensing and recent changes to system procedures within the Weapons Licensing Branch have left many members shaking their heads in disbelief. A new computer system has been introduced which has slowed processing of licensing matters to, in some cases, many months. Members are now required to manually complete a form for a permit to acquire—or PTA—whereas with the old system it was computer generated. Delays in the issue of PTAs have extended to months, and a prerecorded telephone message was used by Weapons Licensing to advise callers that they should expect delays and not to call.

At the police stations the system appears to be driving officers on counter duty crazy, with backwards steps in processing that take up valuable time for sworn officers. Matters involving group licences covering firearms held by some of these stakeholder groups have also extended to many months and most recently they have been advised that the statutory report of members meeting compliance requirements for the minimum number of shoots for each firearm category has been suspended for this year. It would not be surprising to find that the new computer system is unable to produce the necessary reports on which this return is based.

When we talk about amendments to the Weapons Act we get caught up in the debate on guns. But what is clear is that knives now are potentially as big a threat to public safety as any gun. The Australian Institute of Criminology reports that knives are the most common weapon used in armed robbery, accounting for 47 per cent. Where the armed robbery was against a business, the use of knives jumped to over 50 per cent. The same report concludes that it is far from clear what actually works with

regard to reducing knife-carrying and knife offences. The key offences relating to knives in Queensland are contained in section 51 of the Weapons Act 1990, which prohibits possession of a knife in a public place or school without a reasonable excuse. In studying the response here, we should turn to the United Kingdom and its response to knife crime, which has, on some reports, reached epidemic proportions under the former Labour government there. The Institute of Criminology wrote—

There has been extensive discussion on and regulation of knives in the United Kingdom in recent years.

The AIC also notes—

The fact that data on illegal knife possession offences are not routinely collected makes it difficult to establish the impact of strategies aimed at deterring young people from carrying such weapons, including searches and detectors, public safety education campaigns and knife amnesties.

The UK House of Commons Home Affairs Committee concluded that its findings ‘convinced us of the need to target knife-carriers and violent offenders separately’. The committee called for increased education in schools and measures to help young people feel safer, as well as the adoption of a long-term violence reduction strategy that focuses on prevention. I agree totally with research out of the Australian Institute of Criminology in its conclusions. Specifically, better data sharing about knife violence at a local level, early intervention with children born into dysfunctional families and a more strategic approach to providing diversionary activities and support for excluded young people were amongst recommendations. Finally, whether or not legislative measures prove to be effective, these should be accompanied by improved data collection, especially by health agencies, and program evaluation as well as public education about the carriage and use of knives.

Researchers have drawn analogies with campaigns for drink driving, speeding, the use of seatbelts and smoking, arguing that the education campaign against a knife culture needs to target young people who might be in the next wave of potential weapon carriers as well as those who currently carry them. This approach is consistent with the observation that community and education based early intervention initiatives across a diverse range of levels and settings offer the most promise in addressing the long-term factors underlying youth weapon carriage. Overall, when it came to stakeholder feedback on this bill, this is what is said—

The ... problem is that these amendments were introduced into Parliament without any consultation or notification to user groups at all. Whilst the Minister says the items are non-contentious, he did not give anyone the opportunity to comment. As above, many of the items are certainly contentious. The consultation last year was on the draft bill, which is a completely different document to this one.

It continues—

The increase in penalties makes no reference whatever to criminal intent and are all aimed specifically at those who are already obeying the law.

Comments from a stakeholder continue—

The fact that the Minister clearly won't allow any comment is a cause for concern. It means that the other changes that were planned but 'shelved' because of the 2,500 submissions may very likely be introduced by stealth—just like this.

**Mr Roberts:** Member for Surfers Paradise, all of these provisions were in the draft bill that was released.

**Mr LANGBROEK:** I take the interjection from the minister. As I say, I have had extensive consultation with stakeholders and I am happy to put their comments on the record. Another submission said—

If amendments are to be considered they should be prefixed by three statements:

- what are the changes requested,
- what is the need for the changes,
- what are the justifications for the changes.

They are some of the answers that I have sought from the minister today. They are the sorts of questions that our new committee system is designed to analyse, scrutinise and criticise and it is disappointing that this bill was not referred to the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee instead of the bills that are before that committee, of which I am a member, and they are the property agents and motor dealers and auctioneers bills.

May I say that tackling weapons related crime is important in tackling and addressing the undercurrent of fear in our community. It was reported recently that the number of new gun licences issued on the Gold Coast has risen 36 per cent in the past two years—nearly double the increase across Queensland—with one criminologist attributing the rise to fears over home invasions. There are currently more than 155,000 firearm licence holders in Queensland, 14,622 of whom are in the Gold Coast region. In a report from the *Brisbane Times* it was found that the number of new gun licences issued across Queensland increased 19 per cent, from 12,818 to 15,260. However, the number of charges laid for the possession of illegal firearms in the Gold Coast region decreased 20 per cent over the same time, from 138 to 110. The latter figure includes charges laid in the newly formed Coomera police district as well as the Gold Coast and Logan.

The respected criminologist Professor Paul Wilson was quoted in that *Brisbane Times* article. The article states—

... the increase in gun licences on the Coast was 'disturbing'.

While 'self protection' is not a valid reason to obtain a firearm licence in Queensland, Professor Wilson suggested residents concerned about the rate of home invasions on the Coast—

and crime overall—

may feel the need to arm themselves.

'I suspect that once you get a feeling that a place is dangerous, then people are more likely to arm themselves,' Professor Wilson said.

'And the analogy would be young people with knives ... the major reason [young people] say they carry knives is for self defence. And I believe the same might well go for guns.'

Professor Wilson said the increase in gun ownership was worrying. He said—

The evidence is fairly clear; the more guns a community has, the more chances there are of crimes.

I think it is important to reinforce that there is no suggestion whatsoever that law-abiding gun owners are in any way contributing to the spike in violent crime in the south-east. I note with disappointment the recent incidents of armed robberies at the Gold Coast. There have been three incidents in the last couple of days.

When it comes to managing the Weapons Act it seems that Labor is more interested in tightening the screws on law-abiding Queenslanders than in doing something real about tackling serious crime in Queensland. Gun control laws have addressed issues surrounding gun possession and gun related crime in Australia and in Queensland. However, further changes to these laws and regulations will not address the causes of current gun related crime. The legislation is as restrictive and all-encompassing as it can be before it begins to seriously hamper the law-abiding citizen's ability to register and maintain a gun licence for appropriate purposes. It is not these citizens—those who will reluctantly follow whatever new processes are put in place to register their guns—who should be targeted when reviewing gun control in Queensland; it is those who possess guns illegally through underground or criminal operations who need to be targeted. This means there needs to be a shift in focus, energy and money. The shift needs to be towards increasing police operational capabilities and resources in problem areas. The shift needs to be towards effective punishment of offenders and addressing the social issues that lead to illegal gun use.

The doubling of behavioural penalties in the bill for some offences is a small step in the right direction. However, for others there does not seem to be any justification except the desire of this government for more revenue. There needs to be a much greater increase in penalties for violent, gun related crimes. Deterrence cannot be achieved by restricting access to guns and weapons. If a person desires to use or possess a weapon there will always be a way. Deterrence needs to focus on the consequences of their decision to possess a weapon and their decision to use it in an illegal way. Then we as legislators will convince Queenslanders that among our top priorities is the safety and security of our Queensland community.

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (11.44 am): I thank the shadow minister for his very in-depth coverage of this bill. Since its introduction in Queensland gun control has been a high-profile political issue. That stems in large part from philosophical differences on gun control between various stakeholder groups and amongst the political parties. Gun control in Australia is not new. Indeed, the book *Guns in Australia* records that in January 1796 David Collins wrote—

... several attempts had been made to ascertain the number of arms in the possession of individuals, as many were feared to be in the hands of those who committed depredations; the crown recalled between two and three hundred stands of arms, but not 50 stands were accounted for.

One can easily be tempted to frame the debate on gun control as simply a question as to whether the government should regulate the ownership and operation of firearms. In this context one might identify two basic positions. There is the *laissez faire* approach that holds that a government should not interfere in an individual's ability to bear arms. Such a position would frown upon any attempts by a government to regulate one's possession of firearms. In contrast, there is the restrictive approach that holds that a government should tightly regulate the ownership and operation of firearms. In its most extreme form, an advocate of this position may go so far as to suggest a complete prohibition on gun ownership. In practice, however, gun control is rarely ever framed in these extreme terms.

Most Western countries permit citizens to own and use firearms, be it for sporting activities, recreation, hunting or collection. Nevertheless, governments still impose regulation on the use of firearms. Most gun advocacy groups recognise that some regulation is desirable. Even in the US, for example, the National Rifle Association recognises that some government intervention, such as prohibiting the possession of firearms by certain groups such as convicted criminals, the prohibition on the sale of firearms to juveniles and the requirement for criminal record checks, are necessary. As such, the debate on gun control tends to centre not on the question of whether firearms should be regulated but on the sorts of regulations that should be imposed and to what extent.

At this time we have the most recent report, released in December last year, by the Australian Institute of Criminology, the *Homicide in Australia: 2007-08 National Homicide Monitoring Program annual report*. It shows that, on trend—

... firearm involvement in homicide remains at an historical low.

The majority of firearms used in homicides in 2007–08 were unregistered and/or unlicensed.

It is in this context of historical lows and data showing that the majority of homicides are with unregistered or unlicensed criminal use of firearms that we see this government introduce the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011. Let us be very clear: this debate is not about the draft Weapons Bill that the government put out for discussion last year. From that bill we clearly understand the policy position of this Labor government regarding gun and weapons control. There was, I am told, an overwhelming objection to the 2010 draft Weapons Bill where I am advised that over 2,500 submissions opposing the bill were presented.

Notwithstanding that draft bill and the community objections, this bill has resulted in amendments that are different from what the public were led to believe. The government's own explanatory notes indicate that this bill was introduced into parliament without any consultation or notification to user groups. While the minister says these items are non-contentious, he did not give anybody the opportunity to comment. The consultation last year was on a different bill, which is a completely different document from this one. I note the minister's interjection earlier on the shadow minister indicating that the provisions contained in this bill are the same as those in the draft bill from last year, but I would like to highlight some of those inconsistencies to the minister and seek some explanation in his summing-up as to those inconsistencies.

Clause 24 amends section 110, which relates to the responsibilities of a person attending an approved range. This section relates to licensed shooters using approved ranges. Clearly, these people are not criminals. There is no reference even to criminal intent in that section. It is clearly directed at people who are already obeying the law and may make a simple error. We see within the current act that the number of penalty units relating to this section is 20. Within the draft bill put out for consultation last year the number of penalty units for this section was 20, but this clause contains a penalty of 40 penalty units. This clause relates to people who are already obeying the law and may be at risk of offending due to a simple error. I would ask the minister to explain why this government is doubling the penalty units.

Clause 25 amends section 115, which requires theatrical ordnance suppliers to be licensed. This clause doubles the penalty for people who are already obeying the law. I note that there was some difference between the current act, which provides a penalty of 60 penalty units and the draft 2010 bill, which proposed a penalty of 100 penalty units. But again, the 2011 bill has increased the penalty to 120 penalty units. I ask the minister to explain why the penalty units have been increased for theatrical ordnance suppliers.

Clause 27 amends section 127 relating to the obligations of security organisations in relation to the possession or use of a weapon. The penalties are doubled for an organisation that is already licensed and complying with the law. Both the draft bill put out last year and the current act provide for 100 penalty units, but, again, this bill doubles that penalty to 200 penalty units. I cannot believe that the minister can say that he has had consultation when this bill includes such major increases that impact upon security organisations.

Clause 44 inserts new section 68CA, titled 'Prohibition on possession of particular magazines—category B weapons'. Again I ask: where is the reference to criminal intent in this section? What is the problem with large-capacity magazines for licensed shooters who are already obeying the law? I note that the explanatory notes indicate that this amendment is 'to give effect to AMPC resolutions by restricting the possession of detachable magazines'. I ask the minister to explain why the bill does not make reference to detachable magazines. I believe this is a very important issue and may be an oversight in the drafting of the bill, because it can potentially impact on a different range of firearms.

Furthermore, in researching this bill I attempted to obtain a copy of the AMPC resolutions so that I could better understand the intent of the resolutions. I discovered that no member of the public nor a member of parliament is permitted to obtain a copy of the AMPC resolutions. I was advised that in order to release resolutions from the ministerial meeting the secretariat is required to write to all police ministers and seek their permission for the release of those resolutions. That would need to be based on a request from the Queensland police minister. I would ask the minister, when he is relying upon the AMPC resolutions from 2005, why he did not seek permission to release those resolutions so that as legislators we could be better informed as to the provisions of the resolutions.

I note from this clause that the bill allows a registered owner of a category B weapon to possess a magazine with a maximum capacity of more than 10 to 15 rounds if the condition on the holder's licence authorises that. I ask the minister to provide to the House information about the current number of firearm licences that have this condition available to them and on what grounds it would be permissible for an owner to apply for that condition. I have spoken to locals in my area about this matter and they are concerned that, whilst the clause permits the magazine to be held, it may be next to impossible to gain the necessary condition on their firearm licence. There is also concern, which the shadow minister

highlighted quite effectively, that, because of the failure of the weapons licence management system and the increased delays to obtain a permit to acquire, there may be an unnecessary time delay for those individuals who have grounds to obtain a magazine with a capacity of more than 10 to 15 rounds but that they will be unable to use that magazine until such time as the condition has been processed and placed on their current firearm licence.

Clause 47 amends section 73, which relates to modifying a firearm to make it permanently inoperable. This clause inserts new conditions into a section that is many pages long and relates to making firearms permanently inoperable. In my view, it is nothing more than explaining how to suck an egg. It is entirely unnecessary and completely destroys the very reason for keeping a deactivated firearm. The existing provisions are very detailed and have been perfectly adequate to cover individuals who wish to collect firearms and make them inoperable but to do so keeping the character of the firearms intact. The minister needs to explain to this House why this new section is so important.

The remainder of the bill brings about some clarifications in the act that should be supported, such as ensuring that a person undertaking the duties of a range officer is an adult, the restriction on laser pointers, removing the licensing requirements for deactivated monuments and measures to enhance community safety by increasing the penalty for the possession of a knife in a public place or school. Let us be clear: this bill does little to address criminal activities involving firearms and is nothing more than Labor targeting law-abiding gun owners. I fail to see how getting tough on performing arts groups or replica firearms owners does anything to address the issue of illegal firearms used in crimes. I will be opposing those parts of the bill that do nothing more than target law-abiding gun owners.

The LNP has a strong record of supporting law-abiding gun owners such as farmers and sporting shooters. We have long opposed the wasteful and inefficient systems introduced by this government, such as the weapons licensing management system that has seen a cost blow-out of \$7.5 million so far and, more importantly, a blow-out in the time it takes to obtain a permit to acquire. We must stop targeting law-abiding gun owners and, instead, focus our resources on real criminals. We should not be afraid to look at wasteful and inefficient processes within government that provide no benefit. The current system has proven to be a costly and ineffective way to reduce the number of guns on our streets. I believe that enhancing law enforcement is the way to ensure that we reduce illegal gun usage, particularly gun usage involving gangs. As has been said many times, guns do not kill people; people kill people.

With the money saved by eliminating the current waste, more focus can be put on cracking down on criminals who use guns instead of insisting on heaping penalties and bureaucracy on farmers, theatrical arts groups and sporting shooters. The choice is clear: only a can-do LNP government can be trusted to protect law-abiding gun owners by eliminating the current wasteful and inefficient processes, whilst dealing with criminals who use unlawful firearms. Labor has already flagged its future plans, should it be re-elected. Only a majority LNP government can be counted on to deliver suitable reforms.

 **Mr WETTENHALL** (Barron River—ALP) (11.58 am): I rise to speak in support of the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011. At the outset I acknowledge the work of the review committee, which has been referred to by other speakers, in identifying these important reforms. Like much of the work of government in this area of legislation, the aim is to strike the right balance between the rights of individuals and the protection of the community. At its core, in my opinion the aims of these amendments strike the right balance. We know that many people in our community—if not most—who are in lawful possession of weapons of various types and categories have those weapons in their possession for a perfectly legitimate purpose. When that is the case, those people have nothing to fear from this legislation.

It is very important to recognise that, notwithstanding the comments made by the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Gympie, there is a high level of concern in our community about people who may carry weapons for an illegitimate or unlawful purpose. That community concern is very clearly reflected in the statistics, which show that in a great many cases of criminal offences that occurred weapons were involved. In 2009-10 knives were used in the following offences: 36 per cent of all homicides, 22 per cent of all assaults, 23 per cent of all sex offences, 53 per cent of all robberies and 30 per cent of all offences against the person. So why would there not be a high level of community concern about the use of weapons and the role that they play in the commission of serious criminal offences? That is why I support the increased penalties provided for in these amendments. It is important that we send a very strong message to the community that the carriage and possession of weapons for illegitimate and unlawful purposes is unacceptable and that, through the increase in these penalties, we provide a strong deterrent to the commission of those offences.

As I said, achieving the right balance is a task that we as legislators face in framing legislation such as this. I reject the assertion that has been trotted out today by members opposite in respect of the question of whether it is people or the weapons that do the harm. It is a simplistic assertion to make and it ignores the objectives of these amendments, which are to strike that right balance.

I note that the categories of knives that it is unlawful to possess have been expanded. That reflects what we now understand to be a more widespread use for illegitimate purposes of those categories of knives. That is a proper purpose of the bill and it reflects the widespread and thorough consultation that was undertaken in connection with the bill. Of course, the increased penalties, as I have said, will act as a strong deterrent.

It is important to note also that there are provisions in the bill that make it lawful for people to be in possession of certain weapons for legitimate religious purposes. However, that concession does not extend to the possession of such weapons in schools. I think it is quite correct that we take a very strong view of the possession of weapons in schools not only in the policy of the department of education, which is quite clear, but also in the legislation. We certainly do not want students in schools carrying knives.

I want to conclude by mentioning one point. As I understood the remarks of the member for Surfers Paradise, he was suggesting that there was something in the legislation that criminalised or rendered people liable to prosecution when carrying folding pocketknives, as we commonly call them, in consequence of this legislation. I do not think that is a correct statement at all. It has always been the case that possession of that type of knife is lawful if the person has a reasonable excuse. I think it is a misstatement and a misunderstanding of the legislation to make that assertion. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (12.04 pm): In rising to speak to the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011, I would first of all like to say how glad I am to live in a country where the ownership or possession of guns and knives is restricted. This amendment bill is part of an ongoing set of changes and represents the first of two stages. The bill deals with the further restriction of weapons, particularly knives and lasers, and also doubles many of the penalties.

While far fewer people possess guns in our community, knives have become far more prevalent and are now used in many criminal offences such as 36 per cent of all homicides, 22 per cent of all assaults, 23 per cent of all sex offences, 53 per cent of all robberies and, finally, 30 per cent of all offences against the person. In line with the national prohibited weapons agreement, the following knives are now to be recognised as category M weapons: ballistic, butterfly, flick, push, sheath, star, trench and the so-called credit card knife. It will also be an offence to have a concealed knife or sword—the 'James Bond' type—concealed in a walking stick, cane or other apparel and includes anything capable of causing bodily harm. The description does not include a dagger since this would encompass such items as fishing or hunting knives. There is an exemption for a type of knife to be carried for religious purposes. However, they may not be carried on to school premises.

Unfortunately, in Logan City some years ago we saw the tragic result of young people carrying knives and then with tempers raised a life was lost. This incident was an absolute tragedy not only for the family and friends of the young man who lost his life but also for the families of the young men convicted of the crime. Young men who go out with a knife on their person need to consider that they are not only breaking the law but also, should they get into an altercation causing injury or death, their lives will be affected irretrievably as well as their victim and all connected to both parties.

**Mr Schwarten** interjected.

**Mrs SCOTT:** No, that is true. The use of lasers has now increased and there are legitimate reasons that someone may use a laser, such as in astronomical organisations, and they generally have less than a 20-milliwatt output. However, in recent times we have seen individuals using a high-powered laser to shine at traffic and even into the cockpit of aircraft. This can have disastrous outcomes and is clearly either idiotic or evil, with malicious intent. This is clearly a criminal offence. These regulations will bring Queensland into line with other state jurisdictions. There are also restrictions on the importation of lasers of a certain strength for any purpose not exempted.

Anyone who is applying for a firearm licence now has to complete a safety course. However, the content of that course is not prescriptive. It will now be a requirement that those conducting such courses must use course components approved by the commissioner.

Wherever you go throughout our country you will see war memorabilia on the walls of RSL clubs, in war memorial parks and on display in public areas. These weapons have been rendered permanently inoperable and there is no requirement for these to be licensed. The bill also makes it clear that a police officer is exempt from prosecution when off duty for possession and storage of a weapon while complying with the directions of the commissioner. There will also now be a requirement for all shooting clubs, both incorporated and unincorporated, to nominate a representative who will be responsible for the conduct of all activities in a clearly safe and diligent manner. There may be events at our shooting clubs involving interstate clubs where an insufficient number of range officers are available. This amendment will allow interstate approved range officers to also officiate, thus ensuring the safety of all involved.

I have smiled at the antics of medieval knights in their armour clashing swords or riding their horses in for a jousting duel and hoped there would be no serious injury and bloodshed on the ground.

**Mr Schwarten:** I think they're mad myself.

**Mrs SCOTT:** However, I do believe they are well rehearsed—yes. This sport is growing, as are sports such as paintball and similar war games. This section of our public entertainment and sports are now exempt from licensing, as are serious collectors and those who preserve and study weapons.

Within this amendment bill there are 22 offences where penalties have been increased. With so much at stake and such serious crimes now being committed, particularly using knives, I believe these increases are warranted. However, this bill now clarifies a number of areas which clearly are of no concern. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (12.10 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011. The stated objective of the bill is to amend the Weapons Act 1990 and relevant regulations to give effect to issues identified through the protracted review of the weapons legislation which commenced all the way back in 2006 and resulted in the exposure draft Weapons Bill 2010 being circulated.

The bill before the House was introduced on 12 May 2011. This bill proposes to do quite a number of things, including increase the penalties for behavioural offences involving weapons; extend the current definition of bladed weapons to accord with national standards; regulate the possession and use of laser pointers with an output greater than one milliwatt; regulate the possession and use of high-capacity magazines for category B firearms; define an approved safety training course and what the Commissioner of Police may consider in approving such a course for the purposes of obtaining a firearms licence; clarify that a person may have physical possession of a knife in a public place, other than a school, for a genuine religious purpose; remove licensing and registration requirements for permanently deactivated public monuments; exempt off-duty members of the Queensland Police Service and special constables required to possess service issued weapons and exhibits; clarify that incorporated shooting clubs must nominate a representative; clarify that range officers cannot be minors; permit range officers from another state or territory to officiate on ranges; introduce additional genuine reasons for the possession of a weapon to include medieval re-enactments, paint pellet sports and for the collection, preservation and study of weapons; allow an exemption from a provision of the act to be revoked if the exemption is breached; adopt the Australian Federal Police Firearm Deactivation Standards; amend the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 to better define body armour; and amend schedule 2 of the Weapons Regulation 1996 to reflect changes to government service entities and prescribed functions.

From the outset it must be emphasised that many of the proposed changes to the Weapons Act that were canvassed in the exposure draft Weapons Bill 2010 have not found their way into the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011, which is now before the House. The Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services stated in his second reading speech that he has divided the proposed changes to the Weapons Act that were identified during the review process into stages that will be contained in two different bills.

It must be said, however—indeed, it has been acknowledged by the minister—that many of the more controversial proposals that were in the exposure draft appear to be left out of this first bill to be implemented in the second bill that has been foreshadowed. The remaining matters that are contained in this bill, which I have mentioned, by and large have not resulted in a great deal of resistance from the general public or from stakeholder groups. Therefore, as the shadow minister for police, corrective services and emergency services, the member for Surfers Paradise, has already indicated, the LNP will not oppose the bill, although we will be registering concerns about some specific issues.

Before I register some specific concerns that I have, I want to identify some proposed amendments that I welcome and that I think we have waited far too long for to see in a bill in this place. Firstly, I welcome the amendment that proposes to regulate the possession and use of laser pointers with an output greater than one milliwatt. I have observed several sets of circumstances during which the irresponsible use of one of these laser pointers has caused problems for individuals or sometimes groups of individuals. There are a number of legitimate uses for laser pointers, and that is why the amendment proposes to regulate their use rather than prohibit it.

Secondly, I very much welcome the amendment that removes the licensing and registration requirements for permanently deactivated public monuments. This has been a silly, unjustifiable and onerous requirement that has adversely impacted on many communities across Queensland since it was introduced. There have been some really outrageous examples of this ridiculous regulation by government being unduly applied to and interfering with local communities, usually in relation to historical displays in RSL clubs or public memorials dedicated to our defence forces.

I turn now to a concern that I have about the bill. My concern relates not specifically to an amendment that is contained in the bill but to an amendment that ought to be in the bill. It has already been established that this bill has gathered up most of the non-controversial, common-sense amendments that came through the consultation process that occurred during the review of the Weapons Act and the feedback submitted after the release of the exposure draft. I believe it would have become obvious through the review of the Weapons Act and the feedback received during consultation on the exposure draft that there were some unreasonable restrictions being placed on primary producers trying to renew their licences for category C and D class weapons when seeking to retain possession of those weapons for good reason. I think it is unfortunate that the bill before the House does not take the opportunity to address this issue, given that it would have been a common-sense, reasonable amendment that ought not have been seen as controversial.

I have had cause to make representations on behalf of primary producers in my electorate on more than one occasion to question why they have been denied a renewal of their licences for category C and D weapons. In the first example, I objected on behalf of a constituent who was a primary producer in my electorate to him being denied a renewal for his category C and D weapons licence by the Weapons Licensing Branch for the control of feral pigs on his property. I was very surprised indeed that the Weapons Licensing Branch had accepted advice from another state government department that did not accept the reason that my constituent put forward—that the levels of feral pigs in the rural farming area where he farmed warranted the use of a category C or D weapon. I have on many occasions spoken in this parliament about the serious problem of increasing feral pig numbers in North Queensland but acknowledge that that is the case across many areas of the state.

I have spoken on many occasions in this parliament about the failure of the state government agencies to control feral pig numbers on state controlled land such as national parks and state forests. The complete failure to control feral pig numbers on state controlled land has created serious problems for adjacent private property owners, especially farmers, because feral pigs cause such extensive damage to crops—that is a financial loss—and they can cause some serious environmental damage as well. It is a disgrace that the government continues to fail to effectively control feral pig numbers on state controlled land.

I was alarmed not only that state government departments were not adequately addressing feral pig numbers on state controlled land but that they were now interfering with the legitimate efforts of private land owners to control the increasing numbers of feral pigs causing extensive damage to their crops and, indeed, the environment. So I was concerned that the Weapons Licensing Branch was taking advice from state government agencies who themselves were failing completely to meet their own obligations to control feral animals on state controlled land, and now they were ignoring the impact that the growing number of feral pigs was having on adjacent primary producers.

The second example involving another constituent of mine was very similar to the first. Again, the Weapons Licensing Branch would not accept my constituent's proposition that the reason he needed to renew his class C and D weapons licence was that he needed to control feral pigs on his property. Again, it appears that the Weapons Licensing Branch was relying on advice from another state government agency that had absolutely no idea about the reality of the growing numbers of feral pigs in North Queensland.

Category C weapons are semiautomatic. In a rifle they will have a capacity of no more than 10 rounds. In a shotgun they will have a capacity of no more than five rounds. Category D weapons are self-loading weapons which can have integral or detachable magazines. In a rifle they can have a capacity of more than 10 rounds while in a shotgun they can have a capacity of more than five rounds.

The reason primary producers may have a valid and legitimate reason to retain a licence for a category C or D weapon for the control of feral animals on their property is that not only are the feral pigs growing, they are being observed in larger and larger mobs that have not previously been encountered, hence the need for weapons of these classes to undertake effective control efforts. As a result of feral pigs not being controlled properly, they are also getting bigger. Many feral pigs now being caught weigh several hundred kilograms. Primary producers can often encounter these large mobs of feral pigs, including large feral pigs, in isolated areas of their properties. For safety reasons, as well as for the effective control of feral animals, some primary producers require a category C or D class weapon rather than be confined to a category A or B weapon.

Category A and B weapons are largely limited to single- or double-barrel rifles or shotguns. So I appeal to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services to at least try to understand the circumstances of a primary producer who encounters a feral pig weighing several hundred kilograms on their property and needs to have available to them a weapon that can effectively and immediately control a feral animal of that size.

Similarly, I appeal to the minister to at least try to understand the circumstances of a primary producer who encounters a mob of feral pigs of up to 15 or 20 or 25 animals and wants to attempt to control those feral animals on their property. In those circumstances, a primary producer needs to have available to them a weapon that can effectively and immediately control that number of feral pigs.

Primary producers are putting forward these reasonable and legitimate propositions to justify the reason they require a category C or D weapon to undertake the control of these types of feral animals. I appeal to the minister to at least try to understand the circumstances of primary producers when they encounter these feral animals on their properties, when they are driving up a headland on a sugarcane farm or moving up rows on a horticultural property and only have a limited opportunity available to them to take measures to control those animals at that time. If those primary producers do not have an effective weapon available to them to control feral animals in those circumstances, the opportunity will be quickly lost as those feral animals will disappear into the cane or disappear into another row on a horticultural farm.

The most frustrating aspect of this matter is that one of the principal reasons primary producers in North Queensland need access to category C and D weapons to control feral animals is that the government agencies are failing to control those feral animals on state controlled land such as national parks and state forests. I appeal to the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services to allow primary producers to try to minimise the financial losses that they suffer from crop damage caused by feral animals because of the failure of state government agencies to control those feral animals on adjacent state controlled land. It is not fair that, because those government agencies are failing to do their jobs and because they do not understand the circumstances facing farmers on their properties, the Weapons Licensing Branch is refusing to renew their licences for category C and D weapons.

Of course, it is not the fault of the Weapons Licensing Branch that this is occurring. The Weapons Licensing Branch is required to seek the advice of those state government agencies in considering licence renewal applications when this reason is submitted by applicants. The government might not think that this is an important issue, but it is an important issue for many primary producers.

The opportunity should have been taken in this bill to provide for a better process to ensure applicants who have a genuine and legitimate reason to retain a category C and D weapon can do so and are not disadvantaged by the failure of state government agencies to do their job properly or even be aware of what is going on in the real world where primary producers face these practical challenges. It would have been wonderful if this reasonable, legitimate reason to improve the process of application by primary producers for category C and D class weapons was taken up in this bill. I believe it would have been a common-sense, straightforward and non-controversial amendment to make.

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.25 pm): I rise to join the debate on the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011, introduced into the House on 12 May by the Minister for Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services, the honourable member for Nudgee. This bill proposes amendments to the Weapons Act 1990, the Weapons Categories Regulation 1997 and the Weapons Regulation 1996 with minor or consequential amendments to the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 1989, the Explosive Regulations 2003, the Security Providers Act 1993 and the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994.

The Weapons Amendment Bill 2011 has been introduced following a lengthy review process initiated by the Beattie government in 2006. Not surprisingly, this topic has attracted a high amount of interest from the public, particularly the many recreational shooters across our state. It is worth mentioning that these members of the public generally operate weapons in a correct and disciplined manner. They respect and understand the use of weapons while minimising the danger to others.

The minister mentioned in his second reading speech that over 2,500 online comments and submissions were received in response to the draft consultation legislation circulated by the government from 4 August to 14 September 2010. Having seen a large majority of these submissions come through my office, as many members in this House would relate, there was an overwhelming level of opposition to the proposed changes—changes that were considered to be highly onerous on law-abiding shooters and offering little in the way of increasing public safety as they were purported to do. As a result of the numerous issues arising from the public consultation process, the minister advised that this bill will contain the first stage of the review amendments while the second tranche, to be introduced at a later date, will focus on the more contentious policy issues such as the regulation of imitation weapons.

In what is becoming typical behaviour from this tired, toxic Bligh Labor government, it would appear that yet again it has been forced to back down on its unpopular direction following the backlash from the very vocal gun lobby. As it stands, no-one has any idea what this second tranche of laws will contain or whether or not they will do anything to reduce weapons related crime in Queensland. It will be interesting to see the response from the public when the second stage of the weapons review legislation is introduced through the new parliamentary committee system where open and transparent debate and consultation can take place.

As honourable members have heard from the shadow minister, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, the LNP will not be opposing this bill. However, we hold strong reservations about the Bligh government's inaction and inability to reign in dangerous crime involving guns and knives. Under Labor's countless years of soft attitude to crime and the introduction of legislation with inadequate sentencing for convicted criminals, crime levels have been permitted to spiral out of control. According

to the minister, the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011 aims to further enhance community safety and sends a strong message of deterrence to would-be offenders. But, I am sorry to say, it fails to address the serious issue of illegal firearms. A large number of clauses would amend existing offence provisions in the Weapons Act and weapons regulation, largely by doubling the maximum penalty for offences. The LNP welcomes moves to combat illegal firearms, but some of these penalty increases contained in this bill are grossly unfair.

As I stated earlier, there was an overwhelming negative response to the draft legislation circulated in 2010. The main cause of public outrage was the proposed increased cost of compliance, licensing and registration for law-abiding licensed shooters as well as the added burden of storage and locking requirements for weapons and, similarly, for replica weapons.

Also of concern with the draft proposal was the requirement for members of shooting clubs to have compulsory affiliation with one or more shooters associations in Queensland. Law-abiding shooters expressed their complete outrage at this suggestion and the additional cost to be imposed on them, the inability to police such a requirement and the fact that in no way would it contribute to the overarching objective of increasing community safety.

Provisions in this bill expand the current definition of bladed weapons, including more types of knives under category M weapons, as well as accessories used to conceal knives, in line with national standards. However, as with any legislation introduced by this out-of-touch government, it has to be asked whether it will have any impact on the levels of dangerous activity involving knives or whether this soft-on-crime Bligh government will again fail to deliver legislation with any teeth and the penalties needed to deter these cowardly offenders.

Honourable members would be aware of the spate of armed robberies that plagued the city of the Gold Coast in the first half of this year, many involving knives as the primary weapon. At the height of the epidemic in June, some 82 armed robberies had occurred since the start of the year—an average of one robbery every 1.82 days. A breakdown of figures provided in a recent question on notice asked by my colleague the honourable member for Gaven for the period from 1 January to 12 June shows that nine out of 13 armed robberies reported to the Palm Beach Police Station were hits on retail businesses. Armed robberies can have devastating effects on small businesses and their staff. Businesses in my electorate of Currumbin were not spared from these terrifying ordeals. I can only begin to imagine the intense fear experienced by innocent victims in armed robberies and the ongoing post-attack anxieties, nightmares and insecurities.

I attended the first armed robbery awareness symposium run by the Queensland Police Service in conjunction with the Gold Coast Police District Crime Prevention Unit held in Currumbin in July. Unfortunately, a relatively low turnout really highlighted the dire situation facing our small business sector, many of them micro businesses, with business owners and managers unable to spare the time or the resources to attend and hear vital tips on protecting their own businesses.

A wave of armed robberies that were reported across Australia and beyond had the potential to damage our reputation as a safe tourist destination. The Bligh government sat on its hands while this spate of frightening crimes wreaked havoc through our Gold Coast suburbs, and only when the public pressure and media hounded them did they allocate more police resources. And guess what? The robberies stopped.

A common response in the many submissions received through my office was that gun crimes such as those I have just mentioned are not committed by licensed shooters and, furthermore, the already strict regulations they must comply with make legal shooting a relatively safe sport and pastime. Despite the minister's sentiment in his second reading speech, nowhere in the stated purposes of this bill does it say that gun-toting criminals are the target for these reforms.

One submission from a concerned Queenslanders stated in relation to the draft legislation—

One would believe that it is the people that shoot lawfully that are the criminals in this instance.

He further mocked the government's intentions, stating—

A better course of action may be to ask the criminals to register their firearms and to keep them locked safely away. Surely if this were a successful tactic then gun crime may be reduced.

While tongue in cheek, this comment goes straight to the heart of the issues surrounding this controversial debate. Consider these facts: the number of unregistered firearms in Queensland that came into police possession for 2006, 2007 and 2008 were 3,231, 3,202 and 2,727 respectively, yet the number of persons charged with possession of an unregistered firearm in these years was only 760, 634 and 545 respectively. Mike O'Connor commented in the *Courier-Mail* on 6 June 2011—

What the wave of gun-related crime that has swept through the Gold Coast in recent months has made plain, however, is that criminals have absolutely no trouble getting their hands on a firearm.

We have some of the toughest gun ownership laws in the world but the only people they prevent from owning them are those who have no intention of using them to commit crimes.

**Mr O'Brien** interjected.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** A number of incidents occurred in my electorate at the height of the crime spree, including an armed hold-up at a corner store—

**Mr O'Brien** interjected.

**Mrs STUCKEY:** I would appreciate the member not interjecting while I talk about a very traumatic incident in my electorate. A number of incidents occurred in my electorate at the height of the crime spree, including an armed hold-up at a corner store on Galleon Way—

**Mr O'Brien** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mrs STUCKEY:** Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. There is obviously no sympathy from the member for Cook for the people in my electorate. There was an armed hold-up at a corner store on Galleon Way in Currumbin Waters and an attempted armed robbery at Sticky Buns bakery in Tugun—a well-known, popular local business where the owner and baker literally took matters into his own hands, scaring off the knife-wielding thieves with some much bigger bakers knives of his own. If anyone remembers *Crocodile Dundee*, then they will know what I mean. Whilst the actions of this owner are not recommended, one can hardly blame him for protecting his hard-earned money from cowardly opportunists like these. Then there was the robbery at the Kirra Sports Club, one of the initial eight crimes to be investigated by Task Force Resolve, the special major crime squad the Bligh government was dragged kicking and screaming to initiate. The government finally yielded to the continuous public pressure from the Gold Coast community who had pleaded for the state government to do their job and step up to the plate to protect our streets.

But where do we see any genuine effort from the Bligh government to support our dedicated police force who face growing dangers as criminals run amok? The shooting death of Detective Senior Constable Damian Leeding finally shook this government into some action. On many occasions during the past 7½ years that I have been a member of the Queensland parliament I have commended our police officers for their bravery and commitment to defeating crime and keeping our community safe. Today is no different, and I once again wish to place on record my appreciation for the incredibly tough work and inhospitable hours they put in to protect us.

I will also take this opportunity to highlight a particular area of concern, the increasing aggression and violence against Queensland ambulance officers while they perform their daily duties of saving lives and caring for those in distress. The Department of Community Safety's own figures reveal assaults on paramedics have climbed from 107 in 2008-09 to 229 in 2010-11. How is it that people in one of Queensland's most trusted professions increasingly have to question their safety each time they enter a scene?

An ambulance spokesperson has advised that, while it has always been the case that ambulance officers use a common-sense, safety-first approach as some scenes have the potential to be dangerous, it has now become increasingly commonplace for ambulance officers to be unable to enter particular scenes or locations without first waiting for Queensland police officers to provide an escort due to persons at these scenes having a previous history of aggression against ambulance and police officers, particularly when they are known to the Queensland Police Service for possession of weapons. These types of people are not limited to adult males. They also include women and children, with some as young as 12 years old, as was the case only recently on the Gold Coast. Delays to access injured or ill individuals can be extensive, sometimes for hours, which can critically compromise patient care and are potentially fatal in some cases.

Ambulance delays due to potential violence against these officers have previously been reported in the media. In fact, the United Voice, formerly the LHMU, Labor's own union that represents ambulance officers industrially, has for years been calling for tougher penalties against violent offenders who assault Queensland ambulance officers. While there have been some wins for our ambulance officers through self-defence and situational awareness training, to date the constant calls from the LNP and the union movement for tougher penalties against violent offenders seem to have fallen on deaf ears. As honourable members have heard from the shadow minister, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, the LNP believes that the state government should focus on overhauling sections of the Penalties and Sentences Act so that tougher laws are directed at actual criminals. Instead, the government will send the Queensland Weapons Licensing Branch chasing after performing arts groups and replica firearms owners instead of tracking down the thousands of illegal firearms used in crimes.

 **Mr JOHNSON** (Gregory—LNP) (12.38 pm): In rising to speak to the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011, I do not intend to speak for too long but want to commend the shadow minister, the honourable member for Surfers Paradise, for his very detailed and well-thought-out and scripted speech on behalf of the opposition. This is a very sensitive issue—an issue that touches the minds and hearts of people right across this great state and across this great nation. I was a member of this parliament and a member of the government in 1996 when that awful event happened at Port Arthur in Tasmania. As a result, we have been very cautious of gun laws and legislation in not only our own state but right across the nation. Whilst this legislation is paramount to keeping our community safe from the criminal element,

it is also paramount that this legislation recognises that honest, law-abiding citizens do the responsible thing in terms of upholding the law. The member for Surfers Paradise canvassed this issue very well when he spoke of the court and justice system. When people who break the law are apprehended and brought to court, it is then up to the courts to ensure that they face the full brunt of the law because they have violated the rights of citizens in the community and have violated their own rights by not upholding the law that the rest of us uphold.

I am a gun owner and am proud of that fact. I have been brought up with guns and rifles all of my life and they are something that are very precious to me. Like other people who have hobbies and possessions that they take pride in, I am one of those people who take pride in the weapons they possess. Those weapons, I might say, are licensed weapons in a secure venue. My point is that this bill is not about the 150,000-odd legal gun owners who have licences for their weapons which are confined to a secure place in their workplace or their homes; it is about those who do not have licences at all. Contraband is still coming into this country on a daily basis. This is a scourge to our police services and to the security of our communities right across this nation. This is something that the federal authorities have to take more responsibility for in conjunction with the Australian police council and the recommendations that it makes. If we are going to be fair dinkum about unlicensed weapons, we have to be fair dinkum about the surveillance of this type of element that is going under the radar of secure systems.

Many issues have been canvassed today very precisely by the shadow spokesman, so I am not going to go into detail. As a pastoral operator and as someone who works on the land, I need to have the ability to carry a weapon. The member for Hinchinbrook, the shadow minister for agriculture, canvassed the issue very well when he spoke about the eradication of feral pigs and feral animals that cause a great degree of damage to crops and to the flora of this state. With regard to category C weapons and above 10-shot magazines, many people use those magazines in that capacity. I say to the minister and his support staff that this area needs to be given particular attention because a single-shot rifle is virtually useless in the eradication of feral animals, especially pigs. Sometimes there can be 15 or 20 in a lot, and they are prominent everywhere now with the wet season we have just had. They are out of control. A 10-, 15- or 20-shot magazine is very appreciated in that type of environment. This issue is again about law-abiding citizens who are in possession of these weapons. They are law-abiding citizens who use those weapons all of the time. They are licensed operators. I can assure members that this is not about trying to get a concession for people who break the law; it is about trying to get a rightful concession for people who uphold the law for a rightful reason.

The legislation also covers the issue of knives, and I would be very disappointed if everybody did not support the inclusion in the bill of provisions relating to knives, especially given the terrible event that happened at a northside school some months ago. Again, the knife issue is not going to go away. Some religious sects want to be able to carry knives, and I have spoken with the minister's staff about that and got an appreciation of that in that those people cannot carry a knife or a blunted knife as they are supposed to carry as a part of their religious belief or their baptismal vows into a school. I understand that stockmen and others carry a pocketknife on their belts, and I do so myself from time to time, and can do so with a reasonable excuse for having to do so. I trust that the minister will further clarify that issue, and I know that the shadow minister has raised that issue.

Another issue I want to raise relates to the famous tool called the Stanley knife. The Stanley knife is only about six inches long and has a blade that protrudes probably about an inch and a half or so. Many carpenters and tradespeople use that tool and probably every home handyman kit in kitchens or workshops probably has a Stanley knife. I seek the minister's clarification on that matter, because that is an issue that people will certainly question. I hope that tradespeople are not going to be disadvantaged by not being able to carry one of those tools on their belts or in their kits when they go into public places to carry out their work duties. This is an issue that needs addressing.

I turn now to the issue of licensing and being able to get a licence. People in rural and regional areas do not have access to registered licence processes like people do in major centres along the coast like Brisbane. Recently I tried to get a licence renewed and I had to get somebody in Winton, which is 180 kilometres away, to do the test for me. When I went to do that, that person had gone and no longer resided there and there was no longer a registered processor for licensing. I would say that many people in the regions have had the same experience. I would suggest to the minister that I think the best people qualified to do this are the police themselves. There would be many off-duty police who could do that perhaps for an extra few dollars as a service to the community. That would be well within the guidelines of licensing—that is, the police doing that licensing and not taking it away from private enterprise. Police do driver's licensing in some of those areas. It is important that we recognise the need that that service be made available to those people.

I turn to the issue of security organisations. The explanatory notes refer to a security organisation that allows an employee to possess or have physical possession of a weapon if the organisation is not licensed. This concerns me. I would be very interested if the minister in his summary could make comment on how many of these organisations are not licensed as that is a concerning factor. Some of the people who work within these organisations are just like the element of thuggery that we are trying to

eliminate in this state. We have seen that thuggery across the nation where somebody has met their end or has been seriously injured by these people. It never ceases to amaze me to think if these blokes are trained properly and professionally and if they are licensed, but licensed for what? At the end of the day this is a situation that we have to be fair dinkum about. I have seen blokes pull knives, and I saw one happen in a hotel out west when I was a young bloke growing up. Later on in life that bloke who pulled the knife died by a knife. Somebody got him. I have always been told that a person who pulls a knife will use a knife. It is different with a weapon, because most times people are talked out of it. But knives are dangerous objects and this is an issue that we will never get rid of because every household has knives and everybody has access to them, whether it is to cut foodstuffs or to use them for some other reason. This is a situation that is not going to go away. I believe we need to make certain that we do not overregulate and destroy the fabric of our society because of a criminal element. They are the reason we need a police force in this state. If we did not have that criminal element we would not need a police force.

In closing, we do not need any repeats of the Damian Leeding tragedy. I hope that we never have any. I hope that our police can go about their business in a safe way so that we can enjoy an environment where our kids can safely go to school and people can go about their business in rural, regional or large coastal cities. We have heard the member for Currumbin speak about the armed robberies and the crime element that is escalating and exploding on the Gold Coast. I know the great work Assistant Commissioner Paul Wilson and his team are doing to eliminate that element.

Coming back to the licensed operators, you can bet your bottom dollar that most of those armed robberies are carried out by unlicensed thugs. The fair dinkum law-abiding citizens are not the ones breaking the law. With those few words, I support this legislation but hold reservations on a couple of areas and await the minister's summary.

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (12.51 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the debate on the Weapons Amendment Bill. It is generally accepted that firearm ownership, possession and use should be regulated, not only in Australia but in communities that wish to be safe and that value the safety of the people within them. Accordingly, it is an acceptable proposition to say that firearm ownership, possession and use should be regulated to restrict access to people who should not have access to firearms, to control access to juveniles, to protect vulnerable people and to prioritise community safety. I think that is a fair and reasonable proposition in a community that values the safety of the people who live within it.

This Queensland government has a very proud record of enhancing community safety, a very proud record of contributing to safer communities and of reducing crime. Members might be interested to hear that I am the patron of the Murrumba Pistol Club, which is located in the Caboolture region.

**Ms Boyle:** I am sure you take it very seriously.

**Mr RYAN:** I do take that role of patron of the Murrumba Pistol Club very seriously, and I must say that I am very proud to be the patron of an organisation that not only values responsible gun use, possession and ownership but also encourages its members and members of our community to value community safety and to value responsibility in respect of firearm ownership, possession and use. It probably follows that it was appropriate for me to discuss with the members of the club their views in respect of this bill. As I said, I am very proud to be the club's patron. The people from the club that I have met are good people. They enjoy their sport. They are strong advocates for firearm safety. They support restrictions on access to firearms. Like me, they know that controlling access to firearms and other weapons through administrative restrictions and through possession offence penalties is one way that we can make our communities safer places. I received very positive feedback from the members of the Murrumba Pistol Club about the proposed amendments contained in this bill when I discussed those matters with them.

This bill is about getting the balance right. It is about respecting people's rights, both their right to be a firearm owner where appropriate and their right to live safely in a community where access to firearms is restricted and controlled. Those people who do the right thing, those people who act responsibly, have nothing to fear from this amending legislation. I particularly welcome the changes contained in this amending bill that relate to increasing the penalties for behavioural offences involving weapons, particularly those penalties that relate to the bringing of knives onto school grounds. Whatever we can do to deter people from carrying weapons onto school grounds I think is a positive thing. That particular amendment is very welcomed in my mind.

I also welcome the expansion to the definition of bladed weapons. I welcome the regulation of laser pointers with an output greater than one milliwatt and also the regulation of the possession and use of high-capacity magazines for category B firearms. The other thing that I think is a very important amendment, which has not necessarily been covered too much by previous speakers, is the changes to licensing and registration requirements for permanently deactivated public monuments. In the Caboolture region there are a number of clubs, particularly the RSL clubs, that have faced some financial and administrative burdens in respect of their public monuments that have been deactivated.

I am very pleased that that burden on those clubs from a financial and administrative perspective has now been removed by this amending legislation. I am sure that the members of those RSL clubs will also welcome these changes with open arms.

As I said, this legislation is about getting the balance right. It is about keeping our community safe and respecting the rights of individuals. I would like to commend the review committee on its hard work in respect of this amending legislation. I would particularly like to thank the Queensland Police Service for providing me with a briefing on this amending legislation a couple of months ago. I also thank members of the department for their hard work. I would also like to thank all those groups and people who participated in public consultation on this bill. It is important to get people's perspective in respect of amending legislation like this and I am very pleased that people were involved. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Ryan, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 12.57 pm to 2.30 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Currumbin Estuary

 **Mrs STUCKEY** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.30 pm): With the annual dredging campaign in Currumbin Creek approaching, a much hyped state government report to investigate risk-mitigation options in the dangerous bar has gone largely unnoticed. Dredging is carried out by council, in its limited capacity, for flood mitigation and water quality purposes, as the state government refuses to accept any responsibility for the channel. Until a proper research and development program is undertaken, this will continue to be a temporary fix. For years our community has been crying out for the state government to step up to the plate and provide proper funding to address the worsening situation.

In May an investigation was announced into the tragic death of a surfer. However, the maritime report was quietly released in June without the usual Labor spin and fanfare. That is no surprise, though, as from reading the report it seems the government has no intention of undertaking any further investigation, stating an inability to manage sand for navigation without adversely affecting surfing. Furthermore, the report states—

... the value of boating activity is relatively small and unlikely to warrant the substantial level of investment that would probably be required.

Yet on average over 6,400 boats cross the bar each year. That is a significant amount. Labor's stubborn position that the Currumbin bar is not a navigable channel is a cop-out given this level of boating activity, which is enough to warrant a volunteer marine rescue operation and a maritime groyne. If anything, the dangers presented by the mixed use of this estuary should be more than enough justification to support further investigations.

This short-sighted Bligh government has neglected the bigger picture. The Gold Coast needs a sand management program along our foreshore, from the border through to the Broadwater. I call on the minister to notify the community of the outcome of this report and whether any or all of the recommendations to leave the situation as is are to be adopted. The Bligh Labor government's failure to address long-standing issues with the management of the Currumbin bar is shameful. Sadly, this report appears to provide nothing more than an opportunity for this lazy Labor government to wash its hands of this issue once again.

### Independent Advocacy Townsville

 **Ms JOHNSTONE** (Townsville—ALP) (2.32 pm): Last Friday I had the honour of opening the new offices for Independent Advocacy Townsville. IAT's core business is advocacy for people with disability. It defends the human rights of the most vulnerable in our community. Thanks to the efforts of the staff and management committee, IAT is now operating out of modern office surroundings in an environment that provides privacy when meeting with clients. Obviously, when the crux of operations revolves around dealing with people living with a disability, you also need to have an appropriately accessible building. I commend the building owner and developer for the new premises. They were present at the opening of the offices and it was great to be there. This essential requirement was not catered for at IAT's old location, so I congratulate them for identifying their needs and doggedly pursuing their end goal. The effort has clearly paid off.

The role Independent Advocacy Townsville plays in our community is of vital importance. Despite the times we live in, the fact is that too often we see cases of neglect, discrimination, exploitation and abuse of people living with disabilities. Sadly, despite all the awareness, this is a disappointing reality of the society we live in and it is something that cannot be ignored. IAT is there to ensure the rights of

those living with a disability are observed and respected. From my perspective, IAT provides a conduit between vulnerable people and access to the appropriate avenues to seek a solution to problems faced. IAT gives its clients a voice.

Without organisations such as IAT, some breaches of care may never see the light of day or reach the public ear. Whilst IAT continues to advocate for people with a disability, I will continue to advocate for extra funding for them. Currently IAT has 75 clients under its wing and there are approximately 30 people on the waiting list. To finish, I paraphrase comments from Father Chris Riley. Every person needs a champion; everyone needs someone in their corner. Independent Advocacy Townsville are the champions for people with disability in Townsville.

### Faith Lutheran College; Fassifern Bombers

 **Mr RICKUSS** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.34 pm): Today I rise to speak about two issues. First, I congratulate the Faith Lutheran College leaders who visited parliament this week. Abbey Dennien and Claire Jahnke are two exceptional young women and they were accompanied by principal Janelle Anderson and staff member Kerry Bayfield. Faith Lutheran College is a great school at Plainland, and it is a community of great people.

Secondly, I highlight the fact that the Fassifern Bombers have made the grand final.

**Mr Wendt** interjected.

**Mr RICKUSS:** Against the Silvertails of Ipswich's Brothers Leagues Club, a club with 200 poker machines. The Fassifern Bombers from Harrisville were the underdogs. They scratched a team together at the start of the year.

**Mr Wendt** interjected.

**Mr RICKUSS:** The member should put his money where his mouth is. I will put \$100 on Fassifern to win the grand final.

**Mr Wendt:** I'll take your money.

**Mr RICKUSS:** I take the interjection and I will take Wayne Wendt's \$100 as well. That is \$200 for the best player in the grand final. I congratulate the Klan brothers and all the sponsors who have kept the Fassifern Bombers on track this year. The executive of the Fassifern Bombers, Kent West, and his team have done a great job. Andrew Walker, a dual international, actually played—

**Mr Wendt:** He's about 40 years old.

**Mr RICKUSS:** That is right, but this is the only team to beat Brothers this year. They humbled the Silvertails from Ipswich. I congratulate Frank Klan and the Klan brothers for supporting the team and the sponsors, Bell Craven and the old boys. They have all done a great job. I wish the coach, Dean Roos, all the best. I hope Dean Daylight gets well soon.

### DV Web Link

 **Mrs SCOTT** (Woodridge—ALP) (2.36 pm): A new tool to assist victims of domestic violence, the DV Web Link, has been devised within Logan and the Gold Coast and was launched on 19 August at the Coomera district police headquarters. Produced in collaboration between Linda-Ann Northey, manager of Working Against Violence Support Service—WAVSS—and the network of agencies in Logan City, along with the Beaudesert Coordinated Community Response Group, our Police Service and other government and non-government agencies, this website is a most welcome source of information. Sergeant Ash Dubbelman, the domestic violence coordinator at the Coomera district police headquarters, and his team were pivotal to this initiative. Web designer Scott Moffatt has crafted a user-friendly, attractive website that will be of huge assistance to victims, their families and service providers. The website address is [www.qlddomesticviolencelink.org.au](http://www.qlddomesticviolencelink.org.au). Essentially, this site is a resource to direct victims and their families to services within their area and to provide them with up-to-date information.

Domestic violence in all its guises is a scourge on our community. It instills fear, causes untold harm to children, can result in severe injury, mental illness, loss of confidence and self-esteem and homelessness and, in the most severe of cases, may result in homicide. The Logan Hospital emergency department is often the place where our victims are treated. I am glad to see the upgrade of our emergency department in our forward planning. Our fear would be that should the LNP win the next election this upgrade may be in jeopardy. Will Campbell Newman assure the people of Logan that our planned upgrade of the Logan Hospital will remain on track?

### Child Protection Week

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (2.38 pm): This week Child Protection Week has offered some wonderful opportunities to recognise the heroes of child safety. Some heroes are well-known names because of their inspirational leadership. Others are known for using their personal tragedies to improve the safety of children. They sit alongside organisations and individuals who work hard every day to improve the lives of vulnerable young people. There are many more heroes: every foster-parent, carer or child safety worker who seeks to provide safety, opportunity and love for the children they care for.

However, this week has also presented the disappointing and distressing fact about this government's administration of Child Safety. This government is more concerned with minimising the media exposure of its failures than it is with fixing those failures. When those failures cost children their lives, there is absolutely no excuse or justification for ignoring the issues. Instead, the minister covers up reports, refuses to fix systemic failures and even delegates his responsibility to front up to grieving parents in person.

The release of reports into the suicides of two teenage girls who were known to Child Safety has received a lot of attention. In the same year as those two tragedies, another seven children known to the department took their own lives. Yet, the systemic issues, which one of the reports found contributed directly to the death of a young girl, still persist in the department. They are issues that affect staff, carers and children in the care of the department every day. Yet, two years later, nothing has been done to fix them. I speak of issues such as impossible workloads as high as 30 cases per officer; staffing pressures exacerbated by a minister who announces new positions while he is unable to retain staff or fill long-term vacancies; and delays in assessments resulting from unreasonable workloads causing timelines for investigations and assessments to be missed by as much as 100 per cent. Other systemic issues include the failure to listen to children in care and even a breakdown in communication with other agencies including police.

The child safety system in Queensland needs urgent evaluation and attention. There are more children in care, there is a high turnover of staff, working conditions are appalling and children in need are not being heard.

### Capalaba, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr CHOI** (Capalaba—ALP) (2.40 pm): The LNP leader, Campbell Newman, is going around Queensland making unfunded promises. If he is elected, I want to know what he intends to cut in Redland City to fund these promises. Would that be the Redland Hospital emergency department upgrade or the Redland Bay Road intersection upgrades, both of which are documented in the Queensland Infrastructure Plan released by this government.

While the LNP leader is busy making empty promises, the Labor government is busy creating jobs for Queenslanders and growing our economy by export. Last month the Treasurer and Minister for State Development and Trade attended the certificate presentation for the 2011 international business cadets and their industry partners. Now in its 13th year, this remarkable program assists Queensland companies by locating young Queenslanders in overseas Trade and Investment Queensland offices to undertake research opportunities. The program is of significant benefit to the companies in that it provides valuable insight, research and local business knowledge about new global markets. It is also a brilliant career opportunity for the cadets by providing unrivalled work experience and learning opportunities.

This year's Export Week will be held from 17 to 21 October and, as always, will assist Queensland companies gain access to invaluable information about overseas market opportunities. The week long event includes our overseas Trade Commissioners Across Queensland regional program; an export breakfast chaired by leading media commentator Phillip Adams; an export showcase; targeted international market and sector updates; and, of course, the week's flagship event, the Premier of Queensland's Export Awards. Exporting is one of the Queensland economy's strongholds, with preliminary data indicating our merchandise exports were worth more than \$48 billion to the economy in 2010-11. This will of course help strengthen our economy and create jobs for Queenslanders.

### Motorised Scooters

 **Dr DOUGLAS** (Gaven—LNP) (2.42 pm): Too many people are choosing not to walk, run or ride as transport options. Sure, they are riding bikes for fun and it is growing in popularity but a lack of real exercise is causing great health issues to Queenslanders. Obesity, arthritis, mobility issues, heart disease and overall good health are directly impacted by inactivity.

The growth in motorcycle, moped and motorised scooter registration in Queensland continues unabated with an average five per cent growth in motorcycle registrations and twice that for motorised scooters. A motorised scooter is defined as also including motorised wheelchairs, buggies and gophers. They can be three- or four-wheeled vehicles used by the elderly or disabled people as a means to enable transport in place of walking. I table this document.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Parliamentary Library Client Information Brief, dated 5 September 2011, regarding mobility scooters [\[5279\]](#).

It would seem that too many are choosing to buy motor scooters instead of cars. Far from being green and energy efficient, people are using these as an alternative to walking short distances. They are taking up parking spaces close to entry points at buildings, shops and other places. It gets worse. Too many are also indiscriminately applying for mobility and disabled exemption stickers for parking. Too many are not genuine cases and genuinely disabled people are not able to access those spaces. Family members and friends of disabled people are using them. There even seems to be a black market in using these expensive areas with disabled-parking certificates. So those people who are genuinely needy are missing out.

Many people should be finding a spare space a long way from a store entry and using the distance between the stores to gain much needed exercise. The growth in the use of scooters by the elderly is not proportionate to need and there is great concern that growth of the aged in Queensland is less than half the growth in motorised scooters. Registrations are only required when those scooters do more than 10-kilometres per hour and need a licence. Therefore, there needs to be much more scrutiny of these areas.

For those who can, I would recommend that everyone learns to walk and that those who cannot use a scooter.

### Far North Queensland, Infrastructure Projects

 **Hon. D BOYLE** (Cairns—ALP) (2.44 pm): Campbell Newman has released the LNP's infrastructure plan. I had a look for the words 'Cairns' and 'Far North Queensland'. Do honourable members know how many times they are in that plan? None, zero, zilch! We do not even rate a mention. That is what Campbell Newman thinks about the priority for Cairns and Far North Queensland. Meantime there are 44 pages on South-East Queensland and \$22 billion worth of projects for Brisbane. That is not a surprise as when he was Lord Mayor Campbell Newman wrote to the government and said he thought South-East Queensland should keep 70 per cent of all infrastructure spending. I know where he wants to get his \$22 billion from, and that is from all of the projects that we have funded, promised and committed for Cairns and Far North Queensland. I speak of projects like, for example, the Cairns cultural precinct, the Cairns transit mall or the Cairns public transport network. We have committed \$36 million. Is that in his infrastructure plan? It is not there. That is \$36 million more for Brisbane. How about our \$11 million FNQ industrial land program? Not there! How about the \$150 million for the Bruce Highway project—Innisfail to Cairns? He will not commit. Guess where the \$150 million is going to go? Right the way to Brisbane! Not even the region or the Mareeba Airport upgrade is mentioned in the infrastructure plan. It is as though Far North Queensland does not exist. He can come up and make namby-pamby, nothing kinds of promises, but there is no infrastructure planned and our money goes back to Brisbane.

All of these projects that I mentioned are in the Bligh government's infrastructure plan but not in Newman's infrastructure plan. Where will our dollars go? There is no doubt about it—aggrandisement of Brisbane with a \$22 billion plan for the city.

### Child Protection Week

 **Mr DOWLING** (Redlands—LNP) (2.46 pm): As we recognise Child Protection Week this week from 4 to 10 September I take this opportunity to add my congratulations to all nominees and award recipients of the Queensland Child Protection Week awards. I echo the comments made previously by the shadow minister and member for Aspley. On behalf of the Redlands community, I say: thank for your dedication and commitment to protecting those most vulnerable in our community—our children.

A week dedicated to child protection is actually not a celebration; it is a reminder that we need to do more. It is an opportunity to re-examine what we do and how we do it. With that in mind I have become aware of an alleged breakdown in communications between the School Safety House committee and some school communities in my electorate. While that is a local issue, it does need to be resolved. My office is currently working on that and we will be seeking Queensland Police Service support on that.

In my contribution today I place on record my support of the Queensland Police Service, Neighbourhood Watch, School Safety House and Crime Stoppers. They say it takes a village to raise a child. If we believe that, we need to recognise that that village is Neighbourhood Watch, School Safety House and Crime Stoppers. I will give them a plug: 1800333000.

Most of us are torchbearers for these groups and we need to have the Crime Stoppers number in our phones and we need to actively promote all of these groups and their activities. To keep our community safe we need to ensure we network, communicate, facilitate bridging the gaps—formally and informally—and link these groups. They are the village that will raise our children and keep our children safe. It is in partnerships; it is in communications; it is in common interest—all in support of the Queensland Police Service and all in support of healthy, safe communities.

### Far North Queensland, Infrastructure Projects

 **Mr O'BRIEN** (Cook—ALP) (2.48 pm): He has done it again! Campbell Newman comes up to Far North Queensland, for the second time since becoming opposition leader, and what promises does he make when he is up there on the Atherton Tablelands? How much money does he leave on the table? How much money does he commit to the people of the Atherton Tablelands when he comes up and visits them for a second time? Not a cent, not a zack, not a brass razoo, not a button! Yet as soon as he gets back onto the plane and flies down to Brisbane, he fronts a media conference and promises \$200 million for a solution to an intersection in Ashgrove that nobody wants. When he is on the Atherton Tablelands they get nothing and when he comes down to Brisbane he starts pouring hundreds of millions of dollars into commitments that nobody wants. He has done it before. He has got form. He has built lots of infrastructure that is not being used. What is he doing for the people in Far North Queensland? Nothing!

Did he recommit to the \$13 million for the Mareeba Airport? No. Did he recommit to the Badu Island Police Station, a \$10 million project in my electorate? No. Did he recommit to the Saibai Island Primary Health Care Centre, an \$8.4 million project? No. What about the \$40 million for the Thursday Island Chronic Disease Centre? No. That was wiped out completely by those opposite, who are simply focused on the south-east corner of this state and who are not prepared to make commitments to Far North Queensland.

This region deserves better from all of our elected members of parliament. There are those opposite who have shadow ministerial responsibilities who are obviously not being heard by Campbell Newman, who clearly does not care what happens in other parts of this state outside of Brisbane. The LNP's infrastructure plan does not include the words 'Far North Queensland' until you get to the appendix. We are not an afterthought in Far North Queensland; we are an important part of this state. We demand representation. We should have the commitment from those opposite.

*(Time expired)*

### Social Housing

 **Mr WELLINGTON** (Nicklin—Ind) (2.51 pm): Recently the Australian Prime Minister publicly criticised a High Court judge's decision in relation to a matter before the High Court. I use this opportunity to call on the Queensland Attorney-General to heed the concerns that my constituents and I have about the failure of current Queensland laws to enable the eviction of tenants from public housing where the tenant refuses to be a good neighbour.

There should be only one law in Queensland for all Queensland tenants. Because you live in a public housing unit or house, you should not be allowed to get away with conduct which would not be tolerated if you were in a private rental house or unit. The reality is that our courts do not apply the same rules to people who live in public housing and to people who live in private housing. The courts should not be able to require, off their own back, that the state government must have alternative accommodation available for tenants before they are evicted from public housing because of their bad behaviour. People must take responsibility for their own actions. Neighbourhoods should not have to put up with people who refuse to live by the same rules that everyone else in that community has to live by.

This is not about discrimination. This is about people taking responsibility for their own behaviour, parents taking responsibility for their children's behaviour and governments being prepared to require tenants in public housing to know clearly the standards of behaviour that are required before they take up occupation. I use this opportunity to call on the Queensland Attorney-General to take this matter up with the Chief Magistrate.

### Cape York Peninsula; Dugongs

 **Mr WETTENHALL** (Barron River—ALP) (2.52 pm): Labor governments have a proud record of protecting the environment and this Labor government has one of the best. For example, we have passed laws to curtail unsustainable clearing of native vegetation, restricted land based pollution that was threatening the health of the Great Barrier Reef and saved our pristine wild rivers from harm from inappropriate development.

Today, that record is further enhanced by an important joint announcement made by the Queensland Minister for Environment, Vicky Darling, and the Commonwealth minister for environment, Tony Burke: \$23 million in new funding is to be made available for the acquisition of high-conservation land on Cape York Peninsula and \$5 million in new funding to expand the role of Indigenous communities to protect and manage dugongs.

The voluntary land acquisitions will become part of Australia's national reserve system and will be jointly owned and managed for conservation purposes by traditional owners and the Queensland National Parks and Wildlife Service under our government's special national park tenure—Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land. Also, \$3 million will be available to progress the work our government has been undertaking to engage and consult with the Indigenous people of Cape York on the potential World Heritage nomination of the cape and to carry out further mapping of the environmental and cultural values of this unique region.

The new funding to enhance the protection and strengthen the management of dugongs comes at a time when the Queensland dugong population is under pressure from damage to seagrass caused by the floods and cyclone that occurred earlier this year. With other local state members, I met with Minister Tony Burke and the former Queensland minister for environment, Kate Jones, earlier this year to discuss better management options for dugongs.

A clear message delivered at that meeting was that the knowledge of traditional owners was crucial to the ongoing effective management of sea country and therefore dugongs in Queensland. This principle is central to the new funding that will support community based planning and the participation of traditional owners in monitoring and data collection and advising government. These are issues of vital concern and importance for the people of Queensland and my electorate of Barron River.

### **Electricity Infrastructure, Solar Photovoltaic Feed-In Limit**

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (2.54 pm): I wish to reiterate an issue raised during the debate on the Electricity Price Reform Amendment Bill. That issue is the matter of the electricity infrastructure in Queensland being able to cope with only a 30 per cent feed-in penetration from solar photovoltaic systems. I want to quote in part what the member for Capalaba said yesterday in this chamber. The member stated—

In the last two weeks or so, the government conducted a Bright Thing solar forum in my electorate of Capalaba ... at least 120 people turned up ... A survey was conducted at the end of the presentation and it revealed the following. Close to 38 per cent of the people who attended came to learn specifically about solar power and 60 per cent indicated that they came to learn both about the solar PV panel as well as the solar hot-water system ... As a consequence, 59 per cent of those who attended the forum believed that they are more likely now to install a solar panel on their roof.

In the interests of transparency, I call upon the government to advise the extent of the information that was supplied to the members of the public who attended the Bright Thing forum regarding the 30 per cent limit on solar feed-in penetration and the possibility that their applications to feed back to the grid from a system that they purchased could be declined.

The feedback I am getting is that not too many people out there know anything about the possibility that their applications may be knocked back on the basis that power infrastructure in their areas cannot cope with more than 30 per cent feed-in penetration. So I think it is necessary for the government to publicly advise the community about this flaw in Labor's policy. Additionally, I call upon the government to table a list of identified areas across Queensland where the feed-in penetration is limited to 30 per cent. I believe this will turn out to be Pandora's box, not what Labor has put forward as a panacea.

### **Mount Ommaney Electorate**

 **Mrs ATTWOOD** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (2.56 pm): Campbell Newman has not only failed Ipswich by ignoring a number of vital projects in his infrastructure plan but also ignored the rapidly growing western corridor, including my electorate of Mount Ommaney. But this does not worry the local LNP candidate, Tarnya Smith, who only wants to talk about the federal government's carbon tax on 500 of our biggest polluters. She is scaremongering by stating that this tax will have a marked effect on the cost of living of local people. She does not talk about the proposed compensation package for families, nor does she talk about Tony Abbott's carbon plan, which directly taxes families. She does not know the local issues as she has never lived in the area.

I would like to reinforce to the residents of Mount Ommaney our Labor government's commitment to the local area: master planning for the Centenary Highway between Ipswich Road and Toowong; the completion of the Jindalee park-and-ride; the duplication of the Sumners Road interchange overpass; continuing infrastructure works to a third track between Corinda and Darra; noise barriers along the Centenary Motorway at Sinnamon Park and near the railway line at Clewley Street, Corinda; upgrades at our local schools and an approved kindergarten program at our local child-care centres; improved local sporting facilities; enhanced funding for disability services in the area; and much more.

Each of these projects will be delivered by Labor. They are in our government's planning documents. Are these projects in the LNP's plans? Are all these projects now at risk of being cut under the LNP? What is Campbell Newman's record so far? The summer sauna that is now King George Square; a tunnel that no-one wants to drive through; bikes that no-one wants to ride on; a bus depot at Sherwood that thousands of people in the area have petitioned against and that poses a safety risk to children at the Sherwood State School; and, last but not least, massive council debt.

When it comes to the choice between what Labor has delivered and will deliver and what the LNP is not going to deliver, the choice is clear, particularly for the people in my electorate of Mount Ommaney.

### Woodford Police Station

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (2.57 pm): I want to start today by putting on the public record my ongoing support for the great work of our Queensland police officers. I take very seriously my role in terms of advocating that my local police officers are appropriately resourced and lodged, and that includes having enough officers in any given location.

I acknowledge again the extra officers posted to Maleny. They are a welcome addition to the community and have lifted the burden that was on this previous two-officer station. But it is long overdue that a similar increase in staffing be afforded Woodford Police Station. Like the Maleny station before it, this station operates with two officers. A quick analysis of current and projected population data, compiled by the QPS, supports this call.

By 2016 it is anticipated that the Woodford police catchment will be home to 10,392 people. Comparisons across Queensland suggest a staffing increase is desperately needed. Bargara, with a projected population of a little more—at 11,150—already has six officers. Proserpine, with a significantly smaller population—6,565—has eight officers. Similarly, Nanango, with a population of 6,514, has six officers. Even Pomona in the Noosa hinterland, with a projected population of 5,989, has four officers.

If population and growth data is not sufficient to plead the case, let me throw in a few on-the-ground realities. Members know that I speak often about the D'Aguilar Highway and the ongoing road deaths and accidents that occur along it. More often than not, it is the officer from Woodford who attends. Woodford is home to the Woodford Correctional Centre. While that facility sits relatively comfortably with the community now, it continues to bring associated challenges for the local police officers.

Woodford is also home to the Woodford Folk Festival and currently Splendour in the Grass. Because of the shortfall in local officers, the team needs to be constantly increased to meet the road and related duties that come with hosting these fantastic events. I believe there is a strong and compelling case to see Woodford Police Station staffed with at least four, if not six, officers. I will be writing to the Minister for Police seeking his support and action in this matter.

### SkillsTech Australia, Acacia Ridge

 **Hon. JC SPENCE** (Sunnybank—ALP) (2.59 pm): I would like to talk today about the SkillsTech TAFE campus at Acacia Ridge. Last week I opened a new \$11½ million building for light automotive training. That facility, which of course is fitted with the latest technology, will train apprentices and tradies in the areas of auto mechanics, engine reconditioning and automotive electrics. The facility includes flexible delivery workshops, classrooms, computer labs, a specialised dyno room and engine cell room. This facility comes on top of the \$12.9 million building I opened last year. That was a brand-new heavy commercial vehicle and diesel-fitting training facility. This year the government has allocated \$34.9 million for more facilities at SkillsTech's Acacia Ridge campus.

I am very proud to say that what we have done under the Beattie and Bligh Labor governments is basically take a greenfield site and, in the last five years, built Queensland's largest TAFE campus. We are going to be the largest trainers of trades in Queensland. I would like to acknowledge today the executive director of this campus, Mary Campbell, and her staff who have had the challenge but the pleasure over the last five years of delivering all of these new facilities and delivering an educational opportunity to Queensland's future tradies.

Everyone should go and visit this facility. We should all be very proud of the kind of buildings and learning environment that we have created for our tradies of the future. I look forward to updating the House on the progress of this campus.

*(Time expired)*

### Cross River Rail

 **Mr EMERSON** (Indooroopilly—LNP) (3.01 pm): As early as 2005, then Premier Peter Beattie predicted a rail capacity crisis in 2016 over the Merivale Bridge, the only inner-city rail crossing in Brisbane, with major consequences for passenger transport especially on the Gold Coast, Cleveland and Beenleigh lines. In 2008 the inner-city rail capacity study again identified 2016 as the crucial deadline. Even the current Premier admitted in 2009 that a solution was desperately needed by 2016.

Last week the LNP announced that, if elected, it would immediately begin work on increasing platform capacity at the Southbank and South Brisbane stations. This would provide up to an extra five years capacity over the Merivale Bridge and deliver valuable time to put longer term solutions in place. Public transport advocacy group Rail Back On Track supported the LNP's announcement saying, 'We have long suggested such steps will be necessary.'

But what is the state Labor government doing about the 2016 capacity crisis? It has no solution. Its only answer is the Cross River Rail project. But that \$8.2 billion project remains unfunded and will not be completed until at least 2020, four years after the capacity crisis is reached. I say 'at least', because last week we saw the Bligh government finally reveal the truth about its Cross River Rail project. On 612 ABC Radio last week Madonna King asked Labor Minister Neil Roberts whether under Labor there was a promise to build Cross River Rail 'but not necessarily any money to build it or a date in which it will be built'? What was Minister Roberts's response? 'That is correct, Madonna.'

So Labor has known for over six years about the rail crisis coming in 2016 but still has no solution, no plan and no idea. Its own minister has admitted that the Cross River Rail proposal is a glossy brochure with no money and no date.

*(Time expired)*

### Cross River Rail

 **Hon. SD FINN** (Yeerongpilly—ALP) (Minister for Government Services, Building Industry and Information and Communication Technology) (3.03 pm): Last Tuesday, the Minister for Transport announced key changes to the Cross River Rail reference design including moving the new Yeerongpilly station 250 metres further south to industrial land, moving the southern tunnel portal 110 metres further south as well as relocating the evacuation building that had been placed in Fairfield. These important changes are a win for the people in the electorate that I represent as they mean that 10 fewer residential properties are required for resumption. Many constituents have told me that the design changes show that the feedback both they and I provided to the project team on the reference design in late 2010 was listened to. The reference design changes take into account the January 2011 flood data. That data has been incorporated into the new design.

The environmental impact statement for the Cross River Rail project is now available for public review and comment. The EIS demonstrates that the Cross River Rail project will deliver significant benefits to the people in the electorate that I represent, including: faster, more frequent and more reliable train travel to the city; a turn-up-and-go level of service, with a train every five minutes in the peak; a new Yeerongpilly train station with better features, including covered platforms, a bus interchange and a public plaza; and accessibility upgrades to the Rocklea and Moorooka stations.

The EIS also outlines the impacts of construction and operation and measures to avoid, mitigate or manage these impacts, including at the major construction work site in Yeerongpilly. I am pleased to see that an acoustic shed is proposed for the Yeerongpilly work site and that buildings around the work site are being retained to provide a buffer between the work site and residents. In addition, I am pleased to see that worker parking will be provided for in the work site—something that both I and my constituents called for during the reference design proposal. I strongly encourage residents to review the EIS and be involved in the consultation events that are taking place over the next few weeks and give their feedback directly to the CRR team.

### Sarina RSL

 **Mr MALONE** (Mirani—LNP) (3.05 pm): The Sarina RSL and function facility is the only such facility left on the Queensland coast between Bundaberg and Proserpine. All the others have vanished, never to be seen again. This is replicated right across country areas in Queensland. Sarina and district are in the fight of their life to save their local RSL. They will not be giving up anytime soon. We cannot even contemplate an outcome such as the closure of the RSL club in Sarina.

A number of years ago, the club was taken over by the state branch. They operated that club for some time. In that time, quite a substantial debt was accumulated due to a very inefficient and, quite frankly, incompetent administration. Some of the stuff-ups would have to be seen to be believed.

Almost 12 months ago the members of the Sarina RSL took back the running of the club and signed an agreement with RSL Queensland that, in two years time, they would buy back the ownership of the club for the outstanding debt. The real challenge for our community in the next 12 months is to raise more than \$1.5 million to pay back the debt to the owners and refurbish and expand the facility. We need to rebuild this facility into something that we can be proud of and, more importantly, that supports the diggers and their families. It is the least we can do.

### Joh for PM Campaign

 **Mr LAWLOR** (Southport—ALP) (3.07 pm): Those of us with long memories will recall the ill-fated 'Joh for PM' campaign. It is 25 years since the launch of that misguided circus. It was a plan to shoehorn into the nation's top job a person not in the federal parliament and over the heads of serving Liberal and National MPs. All those years ago, Bjelke-Petersen had no confidence in the leaders of the Liberal and National parties. He saw them as hopeless and said so. Today the exact same view is taken of members opposite by their own party organisation. They are all hopeless in the eyes of the LNP and its president, Bruce McIver. The truth is that the plot to parachute Campbell Newman into this House is a vote of no confidence in every single member opposite.

Another feature of the 'Joh for PM' campaign was the role played by the shady, shifty characters who bankrolled Bjelke-Petersen's campaign. Who are the modern-day equivalents of the white shoe brigade? Who is paying Campbell Newman's salary now? Who is footing the travel and accommodation bills? What sort of other favours are being provided? Is it not about time the voters of this state knew?

Recently in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* Mr Newman said of his family, 'I look after the finances.' Well, if he looks after the finances, let him spell them out. If Campbell Newman wants to be a member of this parliament, let him meet the same disclosure standards that every other member must meet. Let him fill out a pecuniary interest declaration, just like we have to do. If he will not, voters are entitled to wonder what he is hiding.

The pecuniary interest register we must comply with today was developed out of recommendations flowing from the Fitzgerald inquiry. There is a key statement made by Tony Fitzgerald on page 137 of his report. He states—

The financial interests of any Parliamentarian or person in authority are of public significance. Such interests can result in conflicts between public duty and private interest.

On privacy he said—

It is arguably outweighed by the need for decision-makers to be accountable for their decisions, with part of that accountability being the exposure of the decision-maker to scrutiny for conflicting or ulterior motives.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Wendt): Order! I remind all members that we have 45 speeches to get through and I cannot allow members to go even five or 10 seconds beyond their time.

### Hervey Bay, Aged Care

 **Mr SORENSEN** (Hervey Bay—LNP) (3.09 pm): I would like to speak about the aged-care beds in Hervey Bay and the pressure on the acute-care hospital beds. I find it astounding that the 180 bed licences offered by the federal Labor government's latest pledge were seen as a burden by the aged-care service providers in Hervey Bay. The problem is that they cannot actually finance them with the funding structure laid down by the federal Labor government, even if they needed them, and they do. This is putting enormous pressure on our hospital system. With only 69 beds available for every 1,000 people aged 70 or more in the region, you have to wonder what the bean counters are doing when aged-care stakeholders cannot take up the offer of beds because of the financial risk they face.

Most of the aged-care services in Hervey Bay want to expand their services—and they need to—to meet the demand but they are strangled by the federal Labor government. The flip side of all of this, on a state government level, is that our acute-care beds in our local hospitals are having to fill the gap for the need of our aged. This in turn has a spin-off effect of bottlenecking our hospitals with patients and blowing out the waiting lists. So we go around and around.

When you have aged-care facilities unable to afford the offering of the bed licences, alarm bells should be ringing. We need to plan for the future because the catch-up is too hard to do, especially in aged care. We need to lighten the load on the hospitals on the Fraser Coast as they fill the gaps in our aged-care services.

### Firefighters Calendar

 **Ms CROFT** (Broadwater—ALP) (3.11 pm): This year marks the 20th anniversary of the Australian firefighters calendar and I wish to commend the calendar's organiser, Gold Coast firefighter Mr Bruce Mitchell, for his amazing volunteer efforts in coordinating the production and the selling of the Queensland firefighters calendar that has been running since 1992. Many people may not be aware that firefighters who feature in the calendar and who then sell them at the Ekka and shopping centres around Queensland are doing so in their own time. They are dedicated in their commitment to selling the calendars for a very good cause.

Since 2002, the Queensland firefighters calendar has raised over \$750,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital Burns Research Group. These vital funds donated by our Queensland firefighters through the sale of the calendars have helped the burns team purchase much needed equipment and

conduct important research and clinical trials that help to develop more effective and less painful treatments for children with burns. The calendar also promotes our fit and healthy firefighters and provides safety tips to the community.

This year 12 female firefighters have teamed up with Cancer Council Queensland to raise money for the pink ribbon appeal by producing a female firefighters calendar. These ladies, many of whom are rural volunteer firefighters, are great ambassadors for their brigades and the communities they represent. They are raising awareness about volunteering and how important rural brigades are to their local areas.

The firefighters calendars for 2012 are now on sale. Whilst I can assure the House and the community that they are both worth a look, the funds raised go towards helping child burns patients and research. Buying one is also one way of saying thank you to our hardworking firemen and firewomen who work in our communities every day. A big thank you goes to the main sponsor, John Lazarou, CEO of The Coffee Club, for his great support of this initiative. So if you have not got yours yet, the calendars can be purchased online at [www.firefighterscalendar.com.au](http://www.firefighterscalendar.com.au) and at The Coffee Club cafes throughout Queensland.

### Gladstone Electorate, Fire Station

 **Mrs CUNNINGHAM** (Gladstone—Ind) (3.13 pm): There are three fire stations in Queensland that have only one crew—Bundaberg, Mount Isa and Gladstone. Gladstone has had no crewing increase in the last 20 years, yet we have had exponential growth not only in population but also in industry and in industry mix. There are eight trucks on the floor but only one crew. Safe manning in the firefighting industry is recognised as four—two with breathing apparatus, one fire floor manager and one driver and pump operator. Currently, Gladstone turns out in many instances, I understand, with ghost crewing, and this fails in every measure to cover any standard of safety.

Our population growth has been noted in the media and in this chamber. Additionally, 10,000 to 15,000 people will be living in work camps and we have a significant and high industry mix. The government has drawn lines on the map for the fire brigade work area and almost without exception has lined the industry outside the leviable area. Questions have been asked of me about whether the crewing for the fire brigade in the Gladstone region is based only on domestic levies. If that is true, it fails to recognise the workload of these firefighters and the risk profile of the region. It also fails, with the one crew, to recognise fatigue matters and, as I said earlier, safety matters.

We have wonderful firefighters who do a wonderful job. We have an auxiliary at Boyne Island that does a brilliant job and we have rural firefighters who are worth their weight in gold. But having one crew in Gladstone—with the population growth as it is, with the risk profile that exists in that region, and with the potential callout rates and risk rates for those firefighters—is unfair. They need to have a second crew.

### Wynnum Road, Safety

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (3.15 pm): There is a dangerous intersection in my patch—on the corner of Wynnum and Hawthorne roads—where schoolchildren cross twice each school day, usually with their parents and young siblings. Too many motorists are running the red lights here with limited visibility of the pedestrians ahead, posing an unacceptable threat to human life. I am appalled at the risks they are taking and, quite simply, something must be done about it.

It is why I am working closely with the responsible ministers, to try to find any state government solution, and with Morningside police, who are policing the intersection above and beyond the call of duty. It is also why I am calling on the Brisbane City Council to step up to the plate and do something serious about this intersection, which is—you guessed it—on a council road. Council has done a few little things at the site, and Councillor Shayne Sutton has played a huge role in that. However, the real issue is Wynnum Road itself and the fact that Campbell Newman has left council so broke that they barely have enough money even for bandaid solutions—let alone for the \$150 million commitment he made in 2008, which has now been delayed until 2016 and even then with only \$2 million allocated to it.

Lord Mayor Graham Quirk says they cannot meet this commitment because the floods cost council so much. I guess he has to say that, even when the facts are that the federal and state governments are paying their flood bills. He does not mind manipulating the heartstrings of our generous local residents because the alternative is that he would have to tell them the facts—that Campbell Newman's debts, despite the huge rates hikes he imposed during his time as Lord Mayor, are crippling council. It is because of those disastrous financial decisions—on things like the Clem Jones tunnel, King George Square and the bike hire scheme—that right now Brisbane City Council can barely even afford to fix potholes. Council has chosen which infrastructure priorities they can afford from what Campbell has left them, and Wynnum Road is not one of them. But in my patch we do not want to be forced to pay for Campbell's mistakes. Even the local state LNP candidate has signed my petition to have council take action, and we want that action now.

### Correctional System; Beachmere, Police Beat

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (3.17 pm): Last week I visited the electorate of Pumicestone as part of my role as the shadow minister for police, corrective services and emergency services. From this visit, I wish to speak about a couple of issues that were raised in meetings with the LNP candidate for Pumicestone, Lisa France, the federal LNP member for Longman, Wyatt Roy, and various community groups and constituents.

The first issue is that the Woodford Correctional Centre is within close proximity to Caboolture, meaning that upon release many prisoners find themselves looking to make the transition back into society in the Caboolture area. At present, individuals who have served their sentence are being released into the community without basic identification. Any rehab that the individual has undergone while serving their sentence is in jeopardy if that individual cannot access social benefits from Centrelink or find accommodation by virtue of a lack of the requisite 100 points of identification, which may consist of a driver's licence, Medicare card and a bank statement. Without being issued a basic ID kit upon release, individuals looking forward to moving on with their lives are unable to do so and are at risk of reoffending or becoming homeless without a means of living.

The department of housing cannot trigger the search for accommodation until they show up after release and then they must have 100 points of ID. This is a gaping hole in the correctional system. The Labor government is putting its constituents at risk by not providing basic ID for the rehabilitated.

The second issue is that there is no longer a police beat in the locality of Beachmere. This was raised by a local resident who raised the issue with Lisa France. Residents are at a loss as to why it was closed down, and the consequence of the short-sighted Labor government's decision is a rise in the crime rate in the area. The residents there want to know why it closed down, how they get it back, why they cannot discuss this with police at bimonthly community consultative meetings and, even if they could, the stations they would have to attend for that are a 40-minute return trip. Yesterday we saw a close factional associate of the Premier, Moreton Bay Councillor Chris Whiting, reveal what Labor thinks of the people of Caboolture and Bribie Island. Unlike Labor, Lisa France will work for Queenslanders.

### Moreton Bay, Infrastructure Projects

 **Ms O'NEILL** (Kallangur—ALP) (3.19 pm): The Moreton Bay region is a great place to live. We have it all! It is one of the fastest growing areas in Queensland. People all over the country are making the decision to move there to take advantage of the great lifestyle. Of course, with so many people wanting to live there it can mean that we face congestion on the Bruce Highway, on the Gateway Motorway and on the trains as residents make their way into the city and points south. But there are some key pieces of infrastructure that are going to make a vast difference to our travellers and commuters. For example, the Lawnton to Petrie third rail track, a \$170 million estimated investment, is committed under the government's SEQ Infrastructure Plan. The Gateway Arterial Road project from Nudgee to the Bruce Highway sees \$250 million committed under the SEQ Infrastructure Plan. Then, of course, there is the Moreton Bay rail link, the most important and long-awaited piece of infrastructure affecting the great people of Moreton Bay, particularly the electorate of Kallangur. They have been waiting not so patiently for more than 100 years for this link to be constructed and for the benefits it will bring. My constituents are watching intently for progress on this historic rail link and regularly seek updates and information. It is being delivered by this government.

All of these projects will be delivered by Labor. They are in our government's planning documents. Imagine how shocking it is to see that Campbell Newman, aspirant for the top job in Queensland, has failed to include any of these major projects in his infrastructure plan. Despite the Moreton Bay rail link receiving more than \$1.1 billion in state and federal funding, this fantastic project and the others I mentioned do not appear anywhere in the LNP infrastructure plan, not even in the 40 or more pages of SEQ projects plagiarised from the Council of Mayors. How cynical to ignore those of us in the northern suburbs! What a betrayal of all of us who commute and travel to and from the Moreton Bay region. After so much lobbying and planning, these vital projects are now at risk of being cut under the LNP. It is shameful.

### Charlton Wellcamp Enterprise Area

 **Mr HOPPER** (Condamine—LNP) (3.21 pm): I rise to speak about the proposed Jondaryan Planning Scheme Amendment No. 2—Charlton Wellcamp Enterprise Area—CWEA. Submissions have been called by Toowoomba City Council. Development within an industrial precinct in the Charlton Wellcamp area will have catastrophic impacts on the people who live there. This area will involve Westbrook to Spring Creek and along Cecil Plains Road and the proposed Toowoomba bypass. I encourage all concerned to speak to the council as it will be running a number of open houses and workshops in all of the towns in the surrounding area. The large area will be put aside for extractive and heavy industry. Pressure is being put on the council by DERM. It is not actually the council's fault; this is

a state government decision that was forced on the Toowoomba City Council and all of the people involved. Some say it is totally a council issue. However, it was announced by this government about six months ago.

People who live in that area are very worried. They have farms. They are worried about the valuation of their properties and they are worried about what sorts of industry will come into that area. They want the council to explain exactly what kinds of industry this planning scheme may involve. There are a number of schools in that area and a number of waterways running through that area, and the residents are also very worried about the buffer zone. We have to be upfront and honest. This government must say exactly what is proposed for that area. This government must say exactly what will be going up and down the Toowoomba range to that area and exactly what sorts of toxic industries will be involved.

### Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Epigenetics

 **Ms GRACE** (Brisbane Central—ALP) (3.23 pm): Cancer research in Queensland just got a major boost thanks to the opening of the Australian Cancer Research Foundation Centre for Epigenetics based at the Queensland Institute of Medical Research at Herston in my electorate. On Tuesday, 19 July I officially opened the centre and was joined by Professor Emma Whitelaw, head of epigenetics; Professor Frank Gannon, CEO of QIMR; Mr Tom Dery, chair of the ACRF Board; David Brettell, the CEO of ACRF; and Professor John Hay, chair of the QIMR Council. All of us were extremely excited about the research opportunities made possible by the ACRF \$2.7 million grant. This grant provides the centre with the very best of technology in the field of epigenetics. Epigenetics is the study of mechanisms which modify DNA structure and change gene expression, and this research will improve the ability of clinicians to identify new genes involved in a range of human cancers.

The epigenetics centre is the first of its kind in the world, cementing Queensland as a world leader in medical and cancer research. This world-class research led by Professor Emma Whitelaw and her team is vital if we are to wage the war against cancer and achieve our hope that this work will lead to improved diagnosis and prognosis for cancer patients. The Bligh government is a big supporter of research to beat cancer, which is why we have provided \$35 million towards the QIMR Smart State Medical Research Centre, which is due for completion in early 2012. This new building will enable a 50 per cent expansion from 800 to 1,200 scientists and students and, with increased funding of nearly \$14 million per year for four years, will ensure that the QIMR will be a world leader in the area of cancer research.

The statistics on cancer are chilling but hopeful. We know that one in two Australians will receive a cancer diagnosis before their 85th birthday. A cancer diagnosis is often the start of a long and difficult journey for patients, their families, friends and loved ones. The centre will do us proud as Queenslanders.

### Maskell-Drew, Mr J

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of whistleblower Jayson Maskell-Drew, who is a Mackay based asbestos removalist with an A-grade licence. Jayson is an expert in his field and a community minded man and father who cares about the future not only for his own children but for everyone else's too. The principal of Dundula State School, Rod Finney, contacted Jayson after QBuild planned to charge the school \$25,000 for removing asbestos. In an email titled 'Dundula community says thank you', the principal goes on to say—

When I contacted you about our plight with this specific wall which had the potential to derail our prep building project, you didn't hesitate in offering your professional services.

What was more amazing was when you showed you appreciated that as a small school our budget was already stretched to the limit and you then offered to sponsor the school with the removal of wall in question.

This act of generosity is recognised by all the children, parents, staff and school community.

I table the email.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 22 February 2010, from Mr Rod Finney, Principal, Dundula State School, to the Mudgeeraba electorate office in relation to the removal of a wall which contained suspected asbestos fibres [\[5280\]](#).

Jayson has worked on many government sites where he regularly noticed QBuild contractors flouting safety laws, even under the guidance of QBuild's preferred hygienist who witnessed these actions yet took no action. He reported his concerns to QBuild and Public Works but was ignored, so he came to us and since then his business has been blacklisted and other firms have been warned off using his company by government officers. Earlier this year at a job site at Mackay High School he witnessed further breaches, clearly putting students and staff at risk. Again, he was ignored and told to shut up. He contacted the minister and the local member for Mackay and got no response. So he came to us and the persecution continued—this time more sinister and disturbing. Three times in one day recently he was followed to job sites by Workplace Health and Safety officers where he was forced to undergo onerous and burdensome audits on site. Jayson wants to save lives whilst the minister is only interested in saving his own political skin.

### Carindale Community Forum

 **Mr KILBURN** (Chatsworth—ALP) (3.27 pm): I want to congratulate local residents Glenn Miller, Genevieve Robey and Heather Smith, the President of the Belmont State School P&C, for their work in setting up the local Carindale Community Forum. Earlier this year I was approached by Mr Miller, a local real estate agent, who wanted to set up a Neighbourhood Watch. After a lengthy discussion, we instead decided that it would be more useful for the local community to set up a community forum that would allow us to provide information to residents on a range of issues. So it was that Heather Smith and the good people of the Belmont State School P&C arranged for us to use the state school's multipurpose centre to have our inaugural meeting on 27 July.

I was very pleased to be the guest speaker that day and gave a talk to the public about the importance of fire safety, in particular the reason we should all have smoke alarms and a working and practised evacuation plan. That was certainly highlighted with the tragic circumstances of the fire at Slacks Creek, so it was a very timely meeting. I encourage all people to take advantage of the free services offered by officers of the Queensland Fire and Rescue Service who will come around and do an audit of people's homes. I was also pleased on that first night to have at the meeting local resident Dennis Lothian, the Director of Smoke Alarms Brisbane—someone who I used to work with in the fire service, who came along to provide advice and, not only that, donated a pack of fire safety equipment for a lucky guest to win. Last month's forum had a presentation by Kay, Milky and Jen from the SES who provided information to local residents about the need to prepare for the upcoming storm season and how best to ensure that people can withstand the onslaught of Mother Nature when it arrives, as it inevitably will. Once again, I thank those residents—Genevieve Robey is the author of Carindale Connect, a very useful local website—for the great work that they do and invite everyone to come along to the next meeting on 28 September.

### Cancer Council Queensland

 **Mr McARDLE** (Caloundra—LNP) (3.29 pm): Yesterday the Premier answered a question regarding Cancer Council Queensland and data required in regard to statistics. The Premier made this comment—

I understand from Queensland Health that the data that was required to be submitted to COAG and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare was supplied some six or seven weeks ago. So there has not been any delay in that data transfer as required.

This afternoon Cancer Council Queensland has issued a statement that makes these comments—

The facts on this issue are indisputable, the transfer of the 2008 data required by CCQ and the AIHW for reporting purposes was significantly delayed and the data provided to date by Queensland Health contains errors.

The facts are: On July 14 Queensland Health provided the AIHW with data projections. The projections were estimates based on 2005-2007 statistical averages and population figures. This data was not what CCQ and the AIHW had requested for publication of the 2008 cancer statistics.

...

What now remains outstanding is the provision of the final and correct cancer dataset for 2008. A task which every other state and territory in the Commonwealth has managed to achieve.

Queensland Health has told CCQ that the final dataset will still not be made available until mid-2012.

If you do not have the right data you cannot plan for the future, you cannot undertake research and you cannot map cancer or the reasons cancer occurs across this state. It is imperative that the dataset required by CCQ and the AIHW be up to date and free from error. Without that guarantee we are shooting in the dark and providing, in my opinion, information, data and rollout of equipment and manpower that is inadequate and, quite frankly, dangerous.

### Everton Electorate, Congestion

 **Mr WATT** (Everton—ALP) (3.31 pm): Congestion is a big issue for residents in the Everton electorate. Since I have been elected it has been my biggest priority. I am pleased that the Bligh government is helping reduce congestion in our area. We are currently building an extra rail track from Mitchelton to Ferny Grove stations, allowing more trains to run on that line. We are extending turning lanes and improving traffic signals in Albany Creek and we are delivering extra bus services from Albany Creek to the city.

Despite this record, I recognise that there is more to do. I would think that anyone wanting to take office in Queensland would be spelling out their plans to further tackle congestion in our area. The Bligh government certainly has. In our Queensland Infrastructure Plan we have committed \$91 million to widen the intersection of Samford Road and Wardell Street at Enoggera and build more turning lanes. But it seems we are alone in wanting to tackle congestion in our area. I eagerly awaited the release of Campbell Newman's much touted infrastructure plan for Queensland. For a man who has built his entire reputation on the charade that he is 'can do' when it comes to building infrastructure, I expected big things for our area. Over the last few weeks he has been running around our area promising a minor upgrade, a major upgrade and an overpass all at the same time. But, as he has always done, his

infrastructure plan delivered nothing. In 80 pages there was not one infrastructure project committed to in or near my electorate. In fact, I just had another look at it and there is not one infrastructure project proposed for any of the electorates of Everton, Mount Coot-tha, Ashgrove, Ferny Grove or Stafford. The northern suburbs have been neglected in his infrastructure plan.

It is his disastrous time as Brisbane's Lord Mayor all over again. Build a billion dollar tunnel that goes bankrupt. Rip up King George Square and replace it with a human frypan. Build a bike scheme that nobody uses. And now, in our area, he promises a huge concrete overpass but then does not fund it in his signature document. This man specialises in white elephants, and it looks like he has another one planned for one of Brisbane's busiest intersections.

We need more than hollow promises designed to bolster a small man's ego. We need action now to tackle congestion in the northern suburbs. There is only one side of politics in Queensland committed to doing this. We are fixing the intersection of Samford Road and Wardell Street, not flailing around.

*(Time expired)*

### Cooperative Research Centres

 **Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to express my concern about the decision by the Gillard government not to continue funding for several important cooperative research centres pursuing issues critical to agriculture and regional communities in Queensland. The federal Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr, in announcing the 14th selection round for CRC funding, has determined that support for the cooperative research centres for cotton, regional innovation, forestry, beef genetic technologies and telehealth and telecare will be discontinued. The withdrawal of this funding will hurt Australia's agricultural research sector at a time when improved productivity is critical for profitability, when we face a serious food security challenge and when government water resource policies are demanding more innovation than ever.

This decision does not make sense if we are indeed seeking a sustainable future for agriculture in Australia. When one considers the progress achieved by the cotton and beef CRCs over the last decade and the need for the forestry CRC to deliver continued improvements in this resource industry, when one considers the importance of the regional innovation CRC to deliver sustainable growth to regional communities across Australia and when one considers how vital the work of the telehealth and telecare CRC is to the delivery of health and social services to regional and rural Australia, I really cannot understand the decision of the Gillard government to cut the funding to these research bodies.

I would note that Professor Tony Peacock, the CEO of the CRC Association of Australia, has been reported as saying that the overall funding pool available to the CRC program had shrunk from over \$200 million a year in 2007, when the Rudd government was first elected, to just \$165 million in the current year, under the Gillard government. I call on the Minister for Agriculture, Food and Regional Economies here in Queensland to stand up to his federal Labor colleagues and demand that research for agriculture and regional communities is properly funded.

*(Time expired)*

### Ipswich and Western Corridor, Infrastructure Planning

 **Mr WENDT** (Ipswich West—ALP) (3.35 pm): I have been hearing a little bit in this House recently about the release of an infrastructure plan by Campbell Newman. As such, I took the opportunity to have a look for myself in relation to what it had to offer to Ipswich and the western corridor. Can I tell members that the Campbell Newman plan seems to have failed Ipswich and the western corridor completely. The only part of the plan that even mentions Ipswich is the plagiarised chapter he stole from the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors document. He has refused to commit to a single project for Ipswich, one of Queensland's fastest growing regions.

Ipswich projects that do not appear in Newman's plan include the new fire and rescue station at Brassall, which is about \$3.5 million that has been committed by this government. I can tell members that the locals are very keen to see it progress. Then there are the additional beds at Ipswich Hospital. Apparently we have \$122 million committed by this government in total over the next couple of years to build this new hospital. I am concerned that Campbell Newman may rip out nearly \$98 million in funding that is still to be delivered in the coming years.

Further, for the Ipswich-Springfield rail link—that is the Richlands-Springfield component—\$417 million has been committed by the government to complete that project. I have not seen anything in Mr Newman's plans about that. The future Ipswich-Ripley rail link also concerns me. It is committed to in our Connecting SEQ planning document. The Centenary Highway—Darra-Springfield—is currently in premarket planning by this government.

Finally, and probably the most important project for my electorate, there is the Blacksoil interchange. There has been \$70 million committed by this government as well as the federal government. We have done the planning. We are in the design phase. The relocation of services is

commencing shortly and construction will commence directly after Christmas. This is a project that is dearly needed in my community, for those who know anything about the western corridor, and particularly those areas to the west in Gatton and the Lockyer Valley as well as the Brisbane Valley. As such, each of these projects will be delivered by Labor. They are in our government's planning documents. Why are they not in Campbell Newman's document?

### **Beaudesert Hospital, Maternity Services; Hills International College, Policy Proposals; Australian Party**

 **Mr McLINDON** (Beaudesert—TQP) (3.37 pm): There was welcome news this morning from the Minister for Health that phase 2 of the introduction of the maternity services birthing ward at the Beaudesert Hospital will be complete on 17 October. It is fantastic news. The third phase will begin towards the end of this year. The community and I have been very passionate about implementing that service.

*Tabled paper:* Document titled 'Project Plan: Rural Maternity Initiative—Beaudesert Maternity Birthing Services Business Case Development Project' [\[5282\]](#).

I bring to the attention of the House the Dwyer family, whose 14-year-old son, Alex, had a stomach bug that was inappropriately diagnosed. It actually turned gangrenous. They were sent from the hospital to take themselves to Logan Hospital because an ambulance could not get there in time. I will table a document in relation to that and undertake to write to the minister about it to ensure we get extra resources to the hospital.

*Tabled paper:* Article, downloaded on 11 July 2011, from the Beaudesert Times website titled 'Mum demands answers from Qld Health' [\[5283\]](#).

Year 6 students from Hills International College have been studying the levels of government. They have come up with 13 different policies which I promised I would table in the House. One that stands out is that farmers will get more money for the produce they sell to supermarkets because their food gets marked up as much as 300 per cent when sold in supermarkets. I thought that was a very innovative policy. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 16 June 2011, from Mr Mark Stevens, Year 6 teacher, Hills College, to the Beaudesert electorate office in relation to a unit of inquiry based on governments of the world [\[5281\]](#).

Interesting enough, it was only 12 months ago that the LNP candidate for Ashgrove said that '70 per cent of the government's projected revenue gain is to be reallocated to projects in South-East Queensland'. It is an absolute disgrace that the leader of the party that is supposed to represent the regions outside of the south-east has said that 70 per cent of revenue gain will be directed to projects in the south-east. I will not be dancing around about the Galaxy poll. I note that there is a cone of silence from the LNP on the Australian Party. Two people have broken ranks. The member for Warrego—the wise old badger—can see the storm coming, unlike the member for Lockyer, who has accused me of being a one-hit wonder. He has hit the nail on the head: the next state election will be one hell of a hit and he will sit there wondering what the hell happened.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! I ask the member for Beaudesert to withdraw that last word, please.

**Mr McLINDON:** I withdraw.

### **Camooweal Drovers Camp Festival**

 **Mrs KIERNAN** (Mount Isa—ALP) (3.39 pm): I rise to inform the House of a most prestigious and wonderful event that recently I had the good fortune to attend, that is, the 15th annual Camooweal Drovers Camp Festival, hosted by the small town of Camooweal, which has a regular population of around 100. This year's event attracted over 3,500 visitors. What an enjoyable celebration it was. The Camooweal festival has won international acclaim and attracts visitors from all over the globe. It started as a dream and has grown to become a celebration of the rich and vibrant history of the drover.

Events such as the Drovers Camp Festival help us understand, learn about and respect the strong and colourful history of the Outback. Times change, but our history and traditions live on. Drovers helped to shape the great Outback and this festival celebrates their pioneering lifestyle and character. This year over 180 drovers, of whom 33 are over 80 years old, returned to Camooweal for the annual reunion, which is a key part of the festival, along with the drovers' ball and the street parade.

I commend the efforts of President Liz Flood, her team of volunteers and the Rotarians who have worked at Camooweal on the weekends and have travelled up and down the highway to assist in getting ready for the festival. It is a great event for this small border community. I am really proud that our government has continued to support not only the infrastructure at the drovers' camp but also, through Events Queensland, funding for this incredible event.

### Cleveland Electorate, Health Services

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Cleveland—LNP) (3.41 pm): Recently, my office surveyed residents of the Cleveland electorate about various health issues. Today I present the findings. The Cleveland electorate-wide survey reveals that Redland residents are very concerned that local health services are not keeping pace with demand. Residents indicated concerns in several areas: intensive care, emergency services, carparking, bed availability, palliative care, respite care and aged care.

In the 2009 election the Premier promised an \$18 million upgrade to the emergency department of the Redland Hospital, which was to be completed by early 2012. Unfortunately, the state government has confirmed that it will not be completed in 2012, as promised, and could be as late as 2013-14, according to the QIP 2011 document. It is disappointing to local residents that this election promise has become another Bligh government broken promise.

A key component of that election promise was a helipad for emergencies on the southern Moreton Bay islands, including North Stradbroke Island. Sadly, the government scrapped the helipad without community consultation, making it another Bligh government broken promise to my electorate.

Another matter raised by Cleveland residents was the need for more carpark spaces at Redland Hospital. The carpark is continually overfull and has become a public risk. Today I call on the government to better utilise the current hospital footprint to create an extra 50 to 100 spaces. This can be done at little cost and will immediately alleviate some of the pressure. The government also needs to accelerate planning for a long-term solution to the parking crisis.

Since being elected in 2009, I have called on the government to provide a palliative care unit in the Redlands. Residents surveyed joined the 3,000 signatories to my earlier petition calling on the government to provide a palliative care unit and to stop denying terminally ill Redland residents the care they need.

Only a can-do Queensland LNP government will plan and provide for the health services that Queensland needs. I invite the health minister to come out of hiding, visit the Redland Hospital, get the ED upgrade back on track, fix the carpark and commit to a 10-bed palliative care unit.

### Jubilee Bridge

 **Hon. CW PITT** (Mulgrave—ALP) (Minister for Disability Services, Mental Health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (3.43 pm): When the soul of the Innisfail community was restored after Cyclone Larry, eyes turned to the need to fix something at the heart of the town: the Jubilee Bridge, built in 1923. After many months of surgery and countless bypasses, mainly by residents of east Innisfail who needed to get to town for work or school, the town's main artery is no longer clogged and can now flow freely. Last Saturday, I joined the Premier and the mayor of the Cassowary Coast Regional Council to officially open the new Jubilee Bridge. Thanks go to the council and to local community service organisations that helped to ensure that the event ran smoothly.

The upgrade of the bridge has been my No. 1 priority for Innisfail. I was determined to seek funding from whatever sources that were available to see this vital piece of infrastructure delivered. I am very proud that the government that I belong to stepped up and recognised the significance of this project to the community. The Bligh government contributed \$14 million out of the \$21.6 million dollar project. Without the state government's commitment, this project would never have been possible.

The project was significant for many reasons, but none more so than the 140 jobs created over the life of the project at a time when we needed them most. During the past 18 months, there were many challenges to contend with. A load limit was applied to the old bridge which meant that heavy vehicles, including emergency service vehicles, needed to take a longer indirect route, adding up to six minutes to response times. The full closure of the old bridge in July last year meant big changes for many, not only to their routines but also to their hip-pockets.

The earlier than expected closure was regrettable but, of course, it was necessary. The risk was simply too great for the sake of convenience. I know the council and contractor, BMD-Albem, pulled out all stops to ensure the works were completed as quickly as possible to minimise disruption. To the local residents, particularly those from east Innisfail, I say, 'Thank you for your patience.' Congratulations to all those involved with the planning and design. Congratulations go particularly to the workers on the construction of the bridge. It is 15.8 metres wide and 113 metres long. It was made with 1,360 tonnes of cement and 630 tonnes of steel. It truly is a magnificent achievement.

### Eagleby South State School

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (3.45 pm): Recently I met with Andrew Barnes, the principal of the Eagleby South State School. Since being appointed as principal at Eagleby South a few years ago, Andrew and his team have been doing some great work with the students there. I am proud to say that two of my children were students at Eagleby South back in the 1980s. I was reminded of that as we walked through the school and passed the Aboriginal garden, Mutooroo, which was established in 1980.

I recall my children telling me about the bush tucker and medicinal elements of the garden. Andrew tells me that Eagleby South has an Indigenous teacher and the school is in the process of establishing a yarnning circle within Mutooroo.

During our discussions Andrew was excited to tell me about many of the programs that have been established at Eagleby South. To date all of the efforts are bearing fruit in many ways. A measure of the fruits of their labours is the success that Eagleby South has achieved in the recent Tournament of Minds. I am proud to say that Eagleby South is in the state finals for the Tournament of Minds after having two school teams compete in the Brisbane regional finals on Saturday, 27 August. One team competed in the applied technology section while the other competed in social sciences. Andrew said both teams presented polished performances that clearly answered the long-term question and displayed originality and flair. In addition, Eagleby South students provided creative answers to the short-term problems, highlighting their ability to think on their feet and outside the square. The social sciences team earned first place, competing against a wide range of both state and private schools.

Andrew made the point that a big thankyou needs to be extended to one of his dedicated staff, Mrs Griffiths, for coaching and supporting the team. Both teams need to be congratulated for their efforts. A special congratulations goes to the social sciences team of Olivia Kennedy, Anastasia Romans, Dee Yeardeley, Kyra Brook and Katelin Brunne for earning first place. Those students will now compete in the state finals this coming Sunday, 11 September. I am sure that all members of this House will join me in congratulating the team and wishing them the best of luck on Sunday.

### World Suicide Prevention Day

 **Mrs SMITH** (Burleigh—ALP) (3.47 pm): Each year on 10 September World Suicide Prevention Day is observed. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness around the world that suicide can be prevented. The World Health Organisation estimates that every year around the world about one million people die by suicide. All over the world there are people who feel so low that suicide seems like the only way out.

In Australia, suicide accounts for more than 2,000 deaths per annum, of which approximately 80 per cent are male. This year's theme is 'Preventing Suicide in Multicultural Communities'. All countries of the world are multicultural, with a variety of ethnic and religious groups living in the same society. While culture and customs may differ, suicide knows no boundaries.

Raising awareness of suicide is vital. Many suicides are preventable. Developing and implementing strategies to reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, substance abuse and suicide is paramount. Research tells us that simply making contact with someone can help mitigate a person's risk. There is much evidence to show that a feeling of connectedness is the strongest factor in suicide prevention. That is where we all come in. Compassion, not judgement, is what is needed. Not all suicides can be prevented, but a majority of them can. If we can focus on the issue with the same vigour as we do the road toll, we can make a difference. Governments can fund programs, but only communities can wipe away the stigma.

Today, I particularly recognise Raylee Taylor of the Care for Life: Suicide Prevention Association on the Gold Coast. I truly believe there are people still with us today due to her unflinching efforts to promote awareness of this issue. We can all play a part in suicide prevention and we must never give up; too many people are depending on us!

## RIGHT TO INFORMATION (GOVERNMENT-RELATED ENTITIES) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction and Referral to the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.49 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Right to Information Act 2009 for particular purposes. I table the bill and the explanatory notes. I nominate the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill [\[5284\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill, explanatory notes [\[5285\]](#).

The Right to Information (Government-related Entities) Amendment Bill 2011 will restore transparency and accountability of government by ensuring public authorities, including any corporation supported directly or indirectly by government funds or other assistance or over which the state, a minister or a department is in a position to exercise control, is subject to the Right to Information Act 2009.

On 17 September 2007, the Queensland government appointed an independent expert panel to undertake a comprehensive review of the then Freedom of Information Act 1992. The Freedom of Information Independent Review Panel prepared the 'Enhancing Open and Accountable Government' discussion paper of which more than 60 organisations, including the Queensland government, and individuals made submissions. On 10 June 2008, the panel chair, Dr David Solomon AM, delivered the Right to Information report making over 140 recommendations that included extending the definition of 'public authority' in the act to include bodies established for a public purpose and ensuring that all bodies established or funded by the government or are carrying out functions on behalf of the government are covered by freedom of information.

The recommendations sought to extend the application of right to information to entities such as City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd, a company which was established to represent the state and communities of Queensland on major infrastructure projects such as the combined Airport Link, Northern Busway and airport roundabout upgrade. City North Infrastructure Pty Ltd has blocked numerous submissions for right to information due to its structure as a special purpose vehicle, which allows for it to act as a private company despite being a wholly owned Queensland government operation.

I seek leave to have the rest of my speech incorporated into *Hansard*. I have sought and received the approval of the Deputy Speaker.

Leave granted.

The Kalinga Woolloowin Residents' Association has unsuccessfully made submissions for right to information in regards to:

- The application of the Environmental impact statement conditions;
- The ambiguity and lack of clarity in the Coordinator-General's Conditions and Project Deed in relation to work conditions and community impacts;
- Why 24/7 surface construction has been allowed to occur in Brisbane residential communities when construction of this type has never before been allowed to occur in Queensland or elsewhere in Australia; and
- The role of City North Infrastructure overseeing this project.

The Right to information (Government-Related Entities) Amendment Bill 2011 will restore transparency and accountability by extending the meaning of a public authority to include any corporation supported directly or indirectly by government funds or other assistance or over which the state, a minister or a department is in a position to exercise control.

In concluding, I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the hard work and tireless efforts of the entire Kalinga Woolloowin Residents Association Committee, in particular the president, Brian Nally and secretary, Greg Davis.

### First Reading



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (3.50 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.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Farmer): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs, Police, Corrective Services and Emergency Services Committee.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### AJ Wyllie Bridge



**Ms MALE** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.51 pm): I rise this afternoon to put on record the work that is being done on the replacement of the northbound AJ Wyllie Bridge. At this stage, the Department of Main Roads has been fast-tracking the project and is on track to have the bridge replaced within 18 months instead of the usual 22 months. Currently, the department is progressing different stages of the reconstruction at the same time to accelerate the process.

Whilst the planning and preparation work is being completed out of sight, the community will see work start on the temporary pedestrian and cyclist facility, which is to be used during the demolition and construction phases to maintain access across the North Pine River. It is expected that demolition work will start in January next year and our intention is to have the new bridge completed in late 2012.

I have been actively promoting and lobbying for improved traffic flows and access whilst the reconstruction of the bridge moves ahead. It is vital for local businesses that traffic can flow well across the bridge. This is the case for most of the day and night except for some delays at peak hour, which is to be expected. After meeting the department on site several times to work out traffic improvement

strategies, I am pleased to announce that the department will be reinstating traffic movements at Leis Parade, including the right turn out and u-turn facilities. Construction works will be commencing within two weeks.

I would like to thank the businesspeople and local residents who assisted me by providing good advice and suggestions which the department has been able to undertake. We all know that there will be some inconvenience during the reconstruction, but my community has been fantastic in its patience and commitment to helping local businesses.

I would also like to place on record my disgust with Peter Dutton and his staff in telling local residents that the bridge replacement has not been funded. At the Seniors Expo the other week we were approached by numerous worried elderly residents who told us what the LNP were saying. As Peter Dutton knows, the money for the AJ Wyllie Bridge from the state government has been allocated through this year's budget and the project will also be delivered with federal disaster relief money. This is the same Peter Dutton from the LNP who voted against the flood recovery money for Queensland in the federal parliament.

**Ms Struthers** interjected.

**Ms MALE:** That is exactly right.

*(Time expired)*

### Hearing Impaired Community

 **Mr GIBSON** (Gympie—LNP) (3.53 pm): Recently we recognised Hearing Awareness Week in Queensland which, along with the upcoming National Week of Deaf People, are important events for the deaf and hearing impaired community. Therefore honourable members can imagine my disappointment to read in an article in the *Courier-Mail* on 24 August in which the manager of the Hear and Say Centre at Auchenflower, Mr Chris McCarthy, is reported to have said that with cochlear ear implants and early intervention, deaf people are able to speak normally and give back to the community. He said 'give back to the community' as if to imply that deaf people are unable to give back to the community currently.

Whilst the Hear and Say Centre can be rightly proud of the work that they do, they should be rightly ashamed of such ill-informed comments. When will the Hear and Say Centre accept that it is not the 'solution' and neither is deafness a problem, but that they offer one tool—cochlear implants—that assists deaf people.

Let us remember that there is clear evidence regarding the cognitive, linguistic, social and emotional importance of a child's access to sign language and their child's right to natural sign language as a primary language regardless of whatever hearing devices they might have. The use of sign language does not hinder deaf children's ability to acquire spoken language skills; it actually increases their general language skills by allowing them to be bilingual in two languages: Auslan and English. Indeed, we now see hearing babies being taught to sign and the benefits of signing being recognised for hearing children. Educated people should no longer tolerate the ignorance perpetrated by organisations and programs which promote only one view and deny deaf children access to natural sign language.

The comments by the Hear and Say Centre manager are a clear statement of disrespect toward the deaf community and those who give back to Queensland every single day of this year. I call on the Hear and Say Centre to work to build partnerships and understanding with the deaf community, not to make much ill-informed comments that are offensive to the deaf community.

### Korean War Memorial

 **Hon. MM KEECH** (Albert—ALP) (3.55 pm): The Korean War is no longer the forgotten war thanks to the recent unveiling by Premier Anna Bligh at Cascade Gardens on the Gold Coast of a stunning memorial to commemorate the sacrifice of Australian defence personnel during the 1950 to 1953 Korean War. The Gold Coast is home to a large and vibrant Korean community. It is not surprising then that the inspiration for the building of a worthy memorial to commemorate the sacrifice of the Korean War was initiated by this wonderful community.

After three years of hard work, the unveiling of this moving memorial is a fitting monument to the sacrifice of the Australian veterans in the Australian Navy, Army and Air Force who, together with 22 nations, fought and died as allies under the UN banner. As a result of their sacrifice, South Korea is now a peaceful democracy, a major world power and a significant trade and tourism partner to Queensland. Our veterans are forgotten no more. They are remembered for all time by Queensland's first ever Korean War Memorial, which stands so proudly within the grounds of Cascade Gardens close to the memorial recognising the Kokoda campaign.

On behalf of the organisers, I thank the generous financial contributions from the Queensland and federal governments, the government of the Republic of Korea and the donation of a site by the Gold Coast City Council at Cascade Gardens. It has been a very long labour of love for many people who have worked so hard to see the memorial come to fruition. In particular, I would like to thank Mr Joseph Ahn, President of the Australian Korean War Memorial Queensland, Retired Colonel Maurie Pears and liaison officer Mr Richard Hetherington for their determined efforts in never giving up on seeing that our Korean veterans receive the recognition they deserve. 'They sacrificed yesterday for our tomorrow.' Lest we forget.

### Fraser Coast, Mental Health Services

 **Mr FOLEY** (Maryborough—Ind) (3.57 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of the House the provision of mental health services on the Fraser Coast. In recent times a significant amount of money has been spent on the Hervey Bay Hospital, which has been necessary to bring its standards up to date.

Historically, Maryborough Hospital has always had the acute mental health facility. New funding has been announced for 17 acute beds in Maryborough and 18 acute beds in Hervey Bay. I am calling on the health minister today to ensure that those funds actually come to the Maryborough area and keep it as the centre for acute mental health services. There is a number of reasons for that.

Hervey Bay Hospital is quite land locked and a brand-new multi-hundred million dollar private hospital is being built literally across the street. As I said, the existing major health facilities are at Maryborough and, therefore, there would be no staff relocation requirements. People in the city are used to driving long distances, but people in the country like to live close to where they have been working. I believe that this would also significantly restore confidence in the Maryborough community that their hospital has a future.

I call on the federal member, Warren Truss, to support that. I ask that the minister revisit that decision. We have support from the combined chambers of commerce, the council and also the planners and clinicians within the health district. Maryborough is already specialising as a subacute hospital with psychogeriatrics, renal, rehab and medical subacute. Maryborough is the place to centre all of that expenditure.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kilburn): Order! The time for private members' statements has finished.

## WEAPONS AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2937, on motion of Mr Roberts—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Hon. KL STRUTHERS** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Community Services and Housing and Minister for Women) (4.00 pm): I rise to support the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011. This government, the Bligh government, and Labor governments before us have actively supported a very tough stance on weapons, their use and their accessibility in Queensland. We take a very tough stance on violent criminals, and we have some of the toughest penalties in this nation in relation to violent crime and in relation to weapons. I commend the police minister and his colleagues and staff for the good work that they have been doing in this process of strengthening provisions around access to weapons and penalties for misuse of weapons.

I support this Weapons Amendment Bill because it doubles the penalties for behavioural offences, such as discharging a weapon in a public place, dangerous conduct with a weapon and shortening or modifying a firearm including the altering of its identifying details. These offences will be reclassified from simple offences to indictable offences, and that is a good thing. Additionally, the penalty for possession of a knife in a public place or school increases from 20 units, or six months imprisonment, to 40 units, or one year's imprisonment.

We need to make it abundantly clear, particularly to young people, that we are not going to cop access to knives and their use in schools. We are not going to tolerate that sort of bullyboy behaviour that we are starting to see creep in to some of our schools. We are not North America. We do not want to go down that path, and we are certainly not. We are taking a very tough stand. I commend the minister for his efforts in this regard.

The bill also contains an amendment to tighten regulations on the possession of high-capacity detachable magazines. The amendment will reduce the overall firepower available on the market and ensure Queensland is consistent with the very strong national standards.

Another amendment relates to the Queensland Police Service and special constables who possess service-issue weapons and exhibits. This is a keen area of interest of mine in relation to domestic violence orders. People who have domestic violence protection orders against them are not able to get access to weapons. Where police and others in their work have had exemptions around some of this in terms of being able to get a licence, this is certainly putting a stop to that. So police will not be able to get a licence to hold a weapon if they have a domestic violence protection order against them. These amendments clarify the position in relation to their access and their ability to get a licence.

Sadly, there have been about 49,000 incidents or occurrences of domestic violence in the last year. We have to take a tough stand on domestic violence. We have to take a tough stand on the use of weapons in relation to domestic violence. I recall stories from women when I was working as a social worker. They would say things to me like, 'He never used that gun, but he would sit at the table and he would clean it in front of me and he would say to me, "If you do not do such and such ..."' I cannot use expletives, but you can imagine what was said. It was very intimidating, harassing and bullyboy behaviour.

**Ms Grace:** And threatening.

**Ms STRUTHERS:** It was threatening. So it is important that people who violate their partners and who have domestic violence orders against them do not get access to weapons. That is the position we have held in our domestic violence legislation, our weapons legislation. These amendments tighten up those arrangements in relation to police.

It is important that we continue to take a tough stand. I recall, again in a former life as a social worker at the Domestic Violence Resource Centre at Woolloowin, a knock on the door—it was quite a surprise visit. It was one of the executive members of one of the shooters or rifle associations. He was offering me \$1,000 to stop my campaign on gun laws. That is the sort of intimidation some of these people were using at that time to resist these laws. The Liberal and National parties at the time were resisting strong laws in relation to weapons. I am pleased in general to see that we have more bipartisan support, but they do squirm when we try to toughen up these laws. So I will be pleased to see their support for these weapons amendments.

 **Mr DICKSON** (Buderim—LNP) (4.04 pm): I rise to speak on the Weapons Amendment Bill. In recent years a review into the current weapons legislation was conducted. We are told that this bill seeks to amend the Weapons Act and regulations as a result of key issues identified through the review of that weapons legislation.

I will address a number of issues mentioned within the bill. Firstly, the bill extends the current definition of bladed weapons to accord with national standards. I note that under section 51 of the Weapons Act a knife includes a thing with a sharpened point or blade that is reasonably capable of being held in one or both hands and being used to wound or threaten to wound anyone when held in one or both hands.

Within this bill before the House section 7A is amended, and that section deals with category M weapons and includes any clothing, apparel, adornment, accessory or other thing designed to disguise any weapon or other cutting or piercing instrument capable of causing bodily harm. The section cites the examples of a Bowen knife belt or a credit card knife, which is a sharpened metal object the size, as its name suggests, of a credit card which can be easily carried in a wallet or purse. The bill goes on to encompass other bladed weapons such as flick-knives, star knives and even walking sticks or canes that contain a secreted sword blade.

In September 2010 the Queensland Nurses Union provided a submission to the Weapons Act review. In particular, the union's submission noted the changes regarding knives, bladed weapons and offences relating to the possession of them in public places. The union highlighted the situation of nurses in our hospital emergency rooms regularly being called upon to offer treatment to injured individuals who are carrying knives—and often these individuals are intoxicated, under the influence of drugs or both. This is clearly an unacceptable situation.

The bill also restricts the possession and use of a laser pointer with an output greater than one milliwatt to persons with a genuine reasonable excuse. Within the bill, a reasonable excuse is defined in clause 18 and allows members of recognised astronomical organisations, people who have genuine occupational reasons to have possession of a laser pointer, and firearms licensees under certain circumstances which are to do with the power output of the pointer.

All of us on both sides of this House, and I am sure the community, understand that the need for the restrictions pertaining to the possession has arisen over the years as a result of the actions of a number of deliberately negligent individuals. The actions to which I refer relate generally to these fools shining laser pointers into the cockpits of aircraft and have occurred not only here in Queensland but across most Australian jurisdictions. In that regard I want to highlight one recent incident.

On 29 June this year, a man from New Farm—who must best be described as an ‘irresponsible dope’—pleaded guilty in court to shining a laser at the Channel 9 helicopter on 29 May. A media article described the laser he had used as being ‘high-powered’, and that highlights this bill’s intention to limit the power output of laser pointers in terms of possession and use. The man in question did not point the laser at the helicopter once, twice or even three times. This gold plated idiot pointed the laser at the helicopter at least five times over a half-hour period—yes, five times from his apartment in the city.

Fortunately, a cameraman, having seen the green laser in the cockpit, was able to zoom in with his camera on the offender’s apartment and on a nearby street sign, and the information was passed on to police. The next day police raided the apartment and he was arrested for the laser offence and also a drug offence. I say well done to the pilot and well done to the cameraman and particularly well done to the police.

But—and there always seems to be a but when we start talking about sentencing of criminals in Queensland—under section 26 of the Summary Offences Act in Queensland, the offence of endangering the safe use of a vehicle by directing a beam of light from a laser carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. Similarly, section 58(2) of the Weapons Act carries a sentence of 100 penalty units or two years imprisonment. Guess what the offender’s penalty was for shining a laser at the helicopter on five occasions? Not two years in jail, not one year in jail, not six months in jail, not three months in jail. On this occasion the offender received a measly \$1,000 fine and walked free from the court. How is that for justice, Queensland style?

I find this most ironic as I am just about to speak briefly about increases in the penalties for behavioural offences involving weapons. In line with the national prohibited weapons agreement and the national prohibited weapons list, the bill is in line with other behavioural offences and doubles penalties for offences involving knives.

The amendment of section 58, ‘Dangerous conduct with weapon prohibited generally’, does double the penalty from 100 penalty units or two years imprisonment to 200 penalty units or four years imprisonment. But, as I highlighted earlier in relation to the offender who pointed the laser at the Channel 9 helicopter, the government can double, triple or increase maximum penalties tenfold or as much as they like, but unless the increases in the penalties are supported by the courts they count for nothing. This government does not really care about serious crime. It sits back and lets it happen. It lets it go to the keeper. Perhaps some other people could do with some time in jail.

 **Mr FOLEY** (Maryborough—Ind) (4.10 pm): I rise to participate in this very lively debate. Everyone is getting excited—

**Mr Schwarten:** Not about you.

**Mr FOLEY:** We are all getting excited about the member for Rockhampton, but we are not sure whether that is because he is leaving—

**Mr Schwarten:** He is getting excited about that too.

**Mr FOLEY:** I rise to participate and make a short contribution to the debate on the Weapons Amendment Bill. Obviously, it makes good sense to restrict the use of lasers. As a private pilot I know full well the perils of young people pointing high-powered lasers at aeroplanes. That can cause a lot of problems. Young people using them in a stupid manner run the risk of causing serious damage to people’s eyesight.

Violence involving knives is a whole other issue. I have raised a number of issues about the knife situation in this parliament over the last couple of years. The statistics show that violent crimes involving knives are nine times that of guns. I have asked the police minister in recent years why is more not being done? With this particular bill more is being done to restrict violence involving knives.

I could not speak too strongly about the fact that the use of guns compared to knives is nowhere near as bad a problem. Anyone who does not realise that has never been out on the streets and seen the alarming number of young people carrying menacing weapons. They are not only carrying them but when someone pulls out a knife they all pull out a knife and then what in the past would have been a good old-fashioned brawl becomes a knife fight. Young people are losing their lives in incredibly horrific numbers. They are not only losing their lives but are being inflicted with significant slashing and stabbing injuries.

I would ask the minister to clarify the issue of Swiss army knives or those things that have pliers and bits and pieces in them. I certainly have a Swiss army knife that I carry around with me and I have used it on all sorts of occasions.

**Mr Schwarten:** Can you open it with one hand?

**Mr FOLEY:** No, I cannot.

**Mr Schwarten:** Well, therefore it is not illegal.

**Mr FOLEY:** There you go. With the knife situation we have to be careful because there are many things that can be sharpened to a point. If a screwdriver is sharpened it is capable of causing just as much damage as a knife. We need to be fairly careful.

I want to move on to the ownership of handguns. I would like to pay tribute to the minister who has listened to my ruminations on this subject many times. He has always leant an open and friendly ear to discuss these issues. I am a target shooter and am a member of the Sporting Shooters Association. I am a handgun owner and I own rifles. I store them within all of the legal requirements.

The number of requirements that one has to comply with to participate in the sport of target shooting is quite onerous. To get a weapons licence one has to undergo very serious checks, which I support 100 per cent, and also a significant amount of training to use and maintain those licences—none more so than a concealable weapons licence. By the time one actually gets to own a firearm to participate in shooting one has done safety courses, been supervised at the range and been subject to very long cooling-off periods.

I would urge the minister to recognise that people who participate in target shooting as a sport are the good guys. They get very frustrated when it seems like the restrictions on them keep increasing whereas bikies and crime lords seem to be able to turn up and buy any old weapon as a throwaway and use it with impunity, with no training and always for illicit purposes. I know that the minister is well aware of the course components that are required to own and operate handguns as a sport. I have spoken to him about those on a number of occasions.

One of the things that I will be raising in future debates is the participation rules. I have spoken to the minister about this as well. In the Fraser Coast sporting shooters we have many elderly people—lots of them on pensions and very limited income—who enjoy going out and doing a bit of target shooting for the day and participating in matches that are scored, judged and supervised by range officers. It is a nine-kilometre drive down a dirt road to get to the shooting complex. Members can imagine that it is quite an expensive exercise. It is not like people can just catch a bus there on the day.

People might shoot in a number of categories of handguns in matches. They might shoot in a centre fire match with one particular gun and then in a rimfire match with another. Under the current legislation they can record only one of those categories on their participation card for the shoot for the day, which is absolute madness when they could go back the next day and use the same two classes of weapons and again only be able to record one. There is no logical basis for that. If people travel to participate in licensed, registered public matches they should be able to record what they have done quite legally and within all the participation rules on their participation card.

I am sure most people would not even realise that sporting shooters who take part in target matches actually record each category that they shoot in on a participation card. That card is handed in at the end of every year to their local chief range officer. It is tallied up to make sure they have complied. If they do not comply or do not do the requisite number of shoots, they no longer have a reason to own a handgun. I fully support that. What I am saying is that if these people are regularly shooting they should be able to claim those components.

I will move away from target shooting to the issue for rural people. Feral animals have become a huge problem. The *Fraser Coast Chronicle* today has yet another picture of a stock owner with an animal that has been mauled to death by wild dogs and other predators. The member for Hinchinbrook spoke about feral pigs and the damage they do. Feral pigs are a massive problem in sugarcane areas. They can get in and destroy a crop in no time at all. There are very sensitive environmental issues. The issue is getting bigger.

The destruction of Australian wildlife by feral goats, feral camels, feral pigs and feral cats is absolutely phenomenal. I have said to previous environment ministers that there is a simple solution. There is a whole group of shooters out there who like hunting and will hunt feral animals and feral animals only. In Victoria there is a conservation shooting division. What they do is go out and say, 'We want to shoot, but we will restrict our shooting to killing only feral animals.' They are doing the environment a huge favour by getting rid of feral pigs and feral goats and other things that destroy the Australian wildlife. They are doing the environment a favour and, at the same time, they are participating in an activity that they enjoy. It is a win-win situation. I think the environment minister in Queensland could support something like that which has not yet been established.

People travel to places like Roma and way out west to participate in the shooting of feral animals, but the feral animals are really getting closer and closer to the cities. I live about six kilometres from the post office in Maryborough and we regularly have foxes at our place that get in and kill backyard chickens and so forth, so there is a need to be able to do that.

One of the big problems we have is with state forestry land. When a farm or a property adjoins state forestry land, you could do all the baiting and all the work that you like to keep your property clear of feral animals but those animals are able to shelter and hide in state forestry land and move in and out.

We have landowners who are continually losing stock to marauding feral animals and other problems like that. There is a good case here for allowing sporting shooters to go in and cull the feral animals; that would do everybody a favour.

With those reservations about the sporting shooters and the participation cards and a couple of other things like that, I will support the bill. I am not happy with those couple of things that will need to be changed.

 **Mrs PRATT** (Nanango—Ind) (4.21 pm): I rise to speak to the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011. I am not sure how many people have mentioned this or have thought about it, but it was events in late 1997 and early 1998 that gave me the impetus to come into this parliament when John Howard proposed his infamous, at the time, gun laws. It had people up in arms—left, right and centre.

As a country girl, I grew up with guns; I learnt to shoot a .22 when I was 12 years old. When I was growing up, country girls and boys were very familiar with the use of weapons and we were trained pretty solidly with them. I was even trained later in life, as an adult, with a handgun. That was quite interesting because it was at a time when I was part of One Nation and there were a lot of threats around and I was advised that I should learn to protect myself with a handgun. I did find that I am very proficient with a handgun and my trainer was very pleased with me.

The point is that I do not believe guns are what kill people, hurt people or endanger people; it is the person holding the gun. To combat that, yes, the government has brought in licensing and one thing and another, but the only people who have licences and who endeavour to obey the laws are the people who do not use guns in a criminal fashion—and most people do not. That is not to say that you do not get the odd person who loses all touch with reality and has an incident.

We know that Martin Bryant is a perfect example of someone who lost it, but we could find that in any instance. We heard recently of someone who said he had a bomb in his backpack; he had lost touch with reality. We cannot regulate for that type of activity. Those people threaten others and that is a sad state of affairs. We cannot abolish axes, for instance, when they are used in anger. We cannot abolish most things. I have broaches which are quite substantial and have quite large pins on them. Technically, I should not wear them on a plane under this legislation. I probably should not wear them in public; I should not even wear one in here under this legislation. Maybe I should not even have a pen or a pencil with me. During our self-defence course, we were taught how to use and inflict incredible damage with a pen, a pencil or any sharp object in our hand. The truth is your own hand can be a pretty lethal weapon.

This legislation has caused a lot of angst. As I near the end of my term in parliament, I find that again we are debating weapons and the tightening of the legislation. I feel like I have done a 360 here and have come right back to where I started, and I guess that seems to be an appropriate time to leave. I feel like I have completed my circle and perhaps others should think about that too.

In saying all of that, I now say that this legislation has started to raise a lot of issues for people. In November I received my first correspondence from people in regard to delays in getting their permits processed. We had quite a lengthy spiel because people were saying that they had applied for permits back in October and November and they still had not got them in January, February or March and they were getting concerned. I put a question on notice then, question No. 359, asking how many firearm owners had actually lodged applications and we got an answer back. The people who had asked me the question believed that those who processed the licences were in breach of the Weapons Regulation. The minister replied—

Section 56 states that the minimum waiting period is 28 days; however, under that regulation if the person already holds a firearm or there are exceptional circumstances the Authorised Officer may issue the permit within the 28 day period.

If you then refer to the Weapons Regulation, you see that the minister or his advisers left out something. The Weapons Regulation says—

However, if—

- (a) the applicant already holds a firearm under a licence; or
- (b) an authorised officer is satisfied there are exceptional circumstances;

the period is the remainder of the day on which the applicant lodges the application for the permit.

So there it is in black and white, and that is the bit that the minister or his advisers left out of the answer. People who have weapons are very familiar with the Weapons Regulation because they try to abide by those regulations, but they are also very suspicious when bits and pieces are left out to serve the government's purpose. People are asking why they are having such trouble getting their permits. I have been told that one of the reasons is that the Queensland police installed a new computer program on 1 November 2010 that cost \$6 million. I was also told that the people who apply for the permits are being slugged an extra 126 per cent increase in licence fees to pay for this new computer program. Unfortunately, the computer program is playing up—just like the Health payroll system. This government is not having a lot of fun with computers; things are not going right.

A constituent raised another issue: if the register is not being kept up to date properly, surely the Police Commissioner who is responsible under the act to keep the register is not complying and is therefore committing an offence. You have to wonder about that—one law for some, another law for others. If the gun sellers are not keeping their registers properly, they are committing an offence. If the people do not keep their guns properly, they are committing an offence.

If those responsible for keeping the police register are not keeping it up to date, surely they are committing an offence, too. One has to ask: who is paying the penalty for not keeping these registers correct? That is enough about that part of this legislation.

People are up in arms about the size of the increases in the penalty units. They believe that this is basically a revenue raiser given that there has been no justification for these increases being applied. I and other people have asked, but nobody seems to be able to give an exact reason these great rises are being put in place.

I turn now to the issue of bladed weapons. I note that in the explanatory notes there are exceptions for religious purposes. I was approached by a lady whose religion is classed as Wiccan and their ceremonial knives would technically not be suitable because they are double-edged blades. They use two knives. One is called an arthame and the other has a curved blade and is sharp on one edge. Do these knives technically come under this legislation? Are they going to be approved for use for what they deem to be their religious ceremonies? These are all of the little issues that come into question.

Right here and now I must confess that I have had a laser incident. Roughly two years ago I went to see an astronomer at the Maidenwell Observatory, which is one of the best in the country. In Queensland it is the nearest and the best that one can ever possibly see. If members have not been there, I suggest that they go. The gentleman who runs that, Jim Barclay, does tours of the night sky in which he uses a green laser pointer. A green laser pointer, as members know, has a very strong beam. It is visible from the point of the laser virtually way up into the sky. He marked all of the constellations such as Pisces and Aquarius. He outlined all of these things.

Being a person with a great interest in astronomy and watching the stars, I thought to myself, 'This would be a great thing to get to teach my grandchildren what is in the sky.' I must have had a blonde moment, I guess, because I ordered one online. After a few months or so, I thought to myself, 'Gee, that's taking a long time to come. I better just check whether or not it's arrived and I've missed it.' However, within a week or so I got a letter from Customs saying that I was trying to import an illegal item. Quite honestly, I felt very embarrassed there and then because it just did not occur to me that I was trying to import an illegal weapon.

For years and years I have had, like many people, a red laser pointer. Since my grandchildren were little I have played a game with them at night where we go outside and every now and then they will say, 'Oh, what was that?' and there would be little red lights darting here and there. They thought I had fairies in my garden. That was a very simple activity, and it really has spoilt that childhood game for my grandchildren. I can definitely understand why green laser pointers are banned. I find it abhorrent that anybody would point a laser pointer at an aircraft. As members know, my husband is a pilot. However, I know that we cannot differentiate between people who would not do such a thing and people who would. So it is obvious that we have to put some sort of ban and restriction in place. Therefore, I can totally understand that.

I turn now to the issue of knives. I know an awful lot of people in the roo-shooting trade and other trades who wear a blade on their hip. I do not know a farmer who does not carry a knife or a pocketknife of some description. Admittedly, they do not carry flick-knives or anything like that. However, one farmer I know has only one arm and does in fact carry a flick-knife because he cannot open a pocketknife. He has to get the strings off bales of hay. What do these people do? Do they have to carry scissors? I know that in some of those multiple-tool knives there are little scissors, but they cannot get them out because they only have one hand. So it becomes a difficult situation. Do they apply for an exemption? What do they do? I am not sure how such people will cope on their farms.

I refer to feral animals on farms. Being in a rural area, we see these animals all the time. I note that there was a big to-do about one magpie swooping on people in a little park in an urban area and people wanted it killed, whether that was right or wrong. We have magpies around our place all the time. We make friends with them. They do not attack us. A family just down the road has magpies living near them. They do not attack anyone—not the five young boys or the wife or any woman who goes there, but one particular bird attacks the head of the household, the man, because he is the tallest with black hair. This particular bird hates people with black hair. They are nice animals. They are doing what nature expects them to do. We would not expect to be killed for protecting our own young. The bird that is causing those issues in that urban community just needs to be respected and people need to take appropriate measures to avoid the area or cover their heads in some way, but do not shoot the poor thing for doing what comes naturally!

If people are concerned about one poor magpie doing what nature intended, what do they think about crop growers, cattle graziers and sheep graziers when they lose stock day after day after day because they have been brought down by wild dogs and foxes, or when their crops have been ploughed into the ground from the pigs and decimated because of the roos? We do not protect the locusts and other such animals that wipe out crops. We have to be more realistic. We spray the locusts in huge swarms and the same should be done for other animals, because we put the water and the grain there for them to eat and they can come in plague proportions. Farmers need to be able to do that, but most of the time animals are not dumb. They are smart and therefore the farmers have a lot of trouble trying to bring the bits and pieces of their weaponry together to get rid of such animals.

There was one instance that I heard about three or four years ago where a woman on a farm had a snake in her house. She got the key and went to the gun cupboard to get the gun and went to the ammo cupboard to get the ammo and shot the snake. She was telling people what had happened. That got back to the local police officer. He came around to her house and said, 'Have you got the key to the gun cupboard? We would like to check your gun cupboard.' She got the key and opened the cupboard for them. However, she was not licensed and she got into trouble. I find that perhaps a little bit over the top on the part of that particular officer, but he had a job to do and he did it. There is no doubt about that.

There is no place for knives in schools. Children should not have knives. I do not know how we are going to stop them. Are we going to put metal detectors on the gates? We know that they often have little pocket knives and big pocket knives. I think Crocodile Dundee had a lot to answer for when he said, 'You call that a knife?'

**Mrs Cunningham:** That was a good movie.

**Mrs PRATT:** It was a good movie. The kids thought it was a bit of a joke. They would all try to outdo each other. It was not just the kids, it would be the adult men as well. I often saw them doing the same thing. Recently I saw in a bunch of weapons that were confiscated at airports one instrument that was actually plastic. It was a plastic triangular stiletto. Half of it was handle, the other half was blade. It was not picked up on any scanners or anything else. The only reason that it was picked up was because the child said, 'What about the plastic knife, dad?' Everybody said, 'What knife?' He did not have a plastic knife as in a picnic knife, he actually had this stiletto which was confiscated. How do you combat that type of thing? Gun regulation is a huge issue. I do not agree with the massive increases in—

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs KIERNAN** (Mount Isa—ALP) (4.41 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011. I want to thank the minister for his time and advice and the detailed explanation that he gave to me when I was asking questions on this bill. I thank him for his time. I also had a number of discussions with police officers and also that terrific group in the Weapons Licensing Branch who are so helpful and always ready to explain and give detail as to any aspect and any question that you ask of them.

This bill covers a number of other areas relating to the capacity of people to possess certain kinds of knives and making it an offence to possess a hand-held laser pointer. I note that other speakers have gone into great detail about laser pointers. There is no doubt that they are incredibly dangerous in the hands of idiots. The bill covers the increasing of penalties for weapons offences which are designed to express community condemnation for offences involving weapons and to send a clear message that the misuse of weapons will not be tolerated. It also ensures tighter regulation of high capacity detachable magazines that are able to be used in pump action, lever action or bolt action centrefire rifles. The bill introduces a consistent approach to training by defining what the commissioner may consider in approving safety training courses under both the Weapons Act and the regulations. The bill will amend section 51 to clarify when a person may physically possess a knife in a public place, other than a school, for a genuine religious purpose.

A significant area of the bill covers the licensing and registration of public monuments. The bill will alleviate the requirement for organisations such as the Returned Services League, which collects and displays items such as artillery in public places, to register each item. The bill reclassifies these items as public monuments. A public monument will be clearly defined as an item within the categories regulation that is permanently incapable of being discharged and permanently and lawfully displayed in a public place for memorial or commemorative purposes. There are many items classified. They are all detailed and spelt out. The requirement for public monuments to be permanently deactivated will not create any additional impost on RSLs or other organisations that collect and display these items. The amendment is intended to reduce the ongoing financial burden on organisations that require and display these items. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'BRIEN** (Cook—ALP) (4.44 pm): I rise to support the bill that is before the House. I congratulate the minister on the process that has been undertaken in getting to the final bill that we are debating here this afternoon. I know that when the draft exposure bill was released to the public there was a lot of concern amongst some gun holders and gun dealers on how some of the technical aspects

of the draft exposure were going to work. To his credit the minister has listened to the community and realised that there is more work that needs to be done on that; more consultation that needs to be done on those particular aspects to improve community safety regarding what are quite sensitive matters in the community, particularly in the rural communities that I represent like Mareeba and Cooktown. I did have a number of people from Mareeba and Cooktown in particular raise concerns with me about the gun storage provision and the participation rules of the draft exposure bill. I think that they will be pleased that there will be more consultation and more work on those to make sure that we get the policy right and, just as importantly, that we get the balance right as well.

I do not particularly want to dwell on some of the details in the bill. I think everybody who has spoken on the bill so far has agreed that the laws that will pass here today on hand-held, battery-operated laser pointers and the possession of a knife for a genuine religious purpose are worthwhile and will receive the wide ranging support of the House. There was some discussion about the tighter regulation of high-capacity detachable magazines. Certainly, as I said, people in Cooktown and Mareeba raised this issue with me. It comes from a meeting in 2005 between the then Australian Police Ministers' Council which resolved to tighten weapons law to restrict the availability and possession of high-capacity detachable magazines that are able to be used in pump action, lever action or bolt action centrefire rifles. As a minimum standard, the Australian Police Ministers' Council resolved to restrict detachable magazines with a greater than 10-shot capacity for pump and lever action centrefire rifles and detachable magazines with a greater than 15-shot capacity for bolt action centrefire rifles.

The bill gives effect to those resolutions by prohibiting the possession of high-capacity detachable magazines for category B weapons under 68CA—Prohibition on possession of particular magazines, category B weapons—of the Weapons Regulation 1996. Section 68CA will restrict the possession of magazines for pump action or lever action centrefire rifles with a greater than 10-shot capacity and possession of magazines for repeating action rifles with a greater than 15-shot capacity. These amendments are aimed at reducing the overall firepower of weapons on the market. The introduction of this provision will not affect a person's capacity to possess and use high-capacity detachable magazines when the person is licensed to do so.

The legislation makes minor amendments around specific training courses which again I think has received the support of everybody who has taken the time and effort to debate the bill here this afternoon. Finally, I want to talk briefly about the licensing and registration of public monuments. I want to talk about this matter because an RSL in my electorate at Cooktown was caught up in the furore that erupted when it was found that these monuments may not have been lawful.

**Mr Cripps:** It is a very nice RSL, too.

**Mr O'BRIEN:** It is a great RSL and I will happily go in there very soon to tell them the good news and have a shandy. The member for Hinchinbrook is welcome to join me there for a shandy when we break the good news to the Cooktown RSL that the bill will alleviate the requirement on organisations such as the Returned Services League, which collect and display items such as artillery in public places, to register each item. The bill reclassifies these items as public monuments. A public monument will be defined as an item mentioned in section 8(1)(a), (c), (i) or (j) of the categories regulation that is permanently incapable of being discharged and permanently and lawfully displayed in a public place for memorial and commemorative purposes.

Items that will be classified as public monuments are a machine gun or submachine gun, including a replica of those items—which we have in Cooktown—a firearm capable of firing 50-calibre BMG cartridge ammunition, a rocket launcher, a recoilless rifle, an antitank rifle, a bazooka, a rocket propelled grenade launcher, mortar, artillery and inflammable devices that are not designed for vegetation management. The requirement for public monuments to be permanently deactivated will not create any additional impost on RSLs or other organisations that collect and display those items. The amendment is intended to reduce the ongoing financial burden on organisations that acquire and display these items for public display.

In my time in the Navy, I was a member of the HMAS Nirimba Pistol Club. I am a proud supporter of all pistol and rifle clubs in my electorate. It is a great sport. Many people in my electorate participate in this sport. There are two shooting clubs in Cooktown and one in Mareeba. They are very serious about weapons. They are very serious about weapon safety. They would be very happy with the changes that the minister has put forward today. They would be happy with the final bill currently before the House, which I commend.

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (4.50 pm): Like the honourable member for Woodridge, who spoke earlier today on the Weapons Amendment Bill, I am proud to live in a country such as Australia that has strong laws prohibiting weapons. We all remember the horror of the Port Arthur massacre. I place on record that I think the only decent thing the Prime Minister of the time, John Howard, ever did was to take on board the gun laws and pass legislation through the federal parliament. This parliament also passed similar legislation.

**Mr Rickuss:** You always have your pistols fully loaded.

**Mrs MILLER:** I take that interjection. My pistols are always fully loaded, but they are water pistols; they are nothing better than that. I think the worst thing John Howard did was bring in Work Choices and, of course, he suffered because of that. He was thrown out of government and thrown out of his seat.

In relation to these weapons laws, I congratulate John English, the chair of the Weapons Review Committee. I note that his committee included representatives of the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia. There is a sporting shooters club in Ripley. It is a highly honourable group.

**Mr Rickuss** interjected.

**Mrs MILLER:** Honourable member for Lockyer, I think it is in my area. I have been out there on a number of occasions. In fact, the Ripley sporting shooters club received funding from the Gambling Community Benefit Fund. They were appreciative of that funding. I hope they apply for further funding through our government. It would be great if the member for Lockyer could come to the club in my area. I know that we share common boundaries at Ripley.

I congratulate the Queensland Police Service for its review committee. The officers worked very diligently, identifying 440 proposals for change in the legislation. In my electorate the police officers do a tremendous job to keep our community safe and on the straight and narrow. Greg Shaw and his team at Goodna and Geoff Nolan and his team at Springfield are all hardworking, dedicated officers on the front line of community safety. I do not want people with dangerous weapons in our community, nor do I want our hardworking police officers facing crime scenes where there may be shootings, knifings or even worse. Prevention is better than crime scenes, prevention is better than tragedy and prevention measures mean that our community is safer. I place on record the thanks of my community for our hardworking Queensland Police Service officers—for their partnerships with our community organisations, our schools, our churches and our multicultural groups such as our Samoan and Sudanese groups. They are a real part of our community. Their efforts in our community are truly valued.

This bill doubles the penalties for behavioural offences, for example discharging a weapon in a public place. There is an increased maximum penalty from 100 penalty units or two years jail to a maximum penalty of 200 penalty units or four years jail. Of particular concern to me are the knife offences, because knife offences are a real worry. I know that they are a worry in all communities across the state. The explanatory notes to the Weapons Amendment Bill 2011 state—

In 2009/10, knives were used in the following offences where those offences involved the use of a weapon:

- 36% of all homicides;
- 22% of all assaults;
- 23% of all sexual offences;
- 53% of all robberies; and
- 30% of all offences against the person.

Those statistics are horrifying to me and I know they would be horrifying to many law-abiding citizens. That is why we need to take this action.

Clause 32 of the bill facilitates this commitment by amending section 7A, which relates to category M weapons of the Weapons Categories Regulation. It includes the following knives and knife related items, in line with the national prohibited weapons agreement. To be honest, I did not know that there were so many categories of knives. I know the knives that we eat with, but that is about it. The categories are the ballistic knife; the butterfly knife; a flick-knife—I know what a flick-knife is; a push knife; a sheath knife; a star knife; a trench knife; a riding crop that contains, conceals or disguises a knife; a walking stick or cane that contains, conceals or disguises a sword; and any clothing, apparel, accessory or other thing designed to disguise any cutting or piercing instrument capable of causing bodily harm. Many law-abiding people, particularly those in the Bundamba electorate, would be horrified to know that there were—

**Mr Lawlor:** They've got the whole cutlery set.

**Mrs MILLER:** Member for Southport, I take that interjection. The people in the Bundamba electorate would not have the whole cutlery set of knives. Most of us in the electorate of Bundamba are, in fact, law-abiding citizens. I should say to the law-abiding members of my community that perhaps they should not go to Southport for their holidays anymore, because they might learn a thing or two about knives from the member's constituents!

This bill increases the penalty for the possession of a knife in a public place or in a school from 20 units or six months jail to 40 units or one year jail. I am very pleased that that will come into place. I am also pleased that there are amendments to remove the requirements to license and register permanently deactivated public monuments. I agree with the member for Cook: I am very sure that Vivienne Stanbury, the president of the Goodna sub-branch of the RSL, and members of that club, Rick Gross, the president of the Redbank RSL sub-branch, and the Bundamba Naval Association, of which I am very happy to be the patron, would support this move.

The Goodna RSL sub-branch is slowly getting back on its feet after the flood, and the services club that operates the RSL club has a close association with it. They had a very good display of RSL memorabilia in the big clubhouse near the station. I very much hope that that club can be rebuilt and opened soon. I understand that plans are well underway to begin the rebuilding of that club. It should be open before February, which would be very good.

I thank the minister for bringing this legislation into the House. I thank the many Queensland Police Service officers who I know spent many months working on this legislation. I thank the ministerial staff, who have done a great job in relation to this legislation. I place on record my thanks to the Queensland Police Commissioner, who does a wonderful job across Queensland, and to those people in our community who respect the police officers in our area, who also do a fantastic job. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Miller, adjourned.

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. NS ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (5.00 pm): I move—

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 11 October 2011.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### ADJOURNMENT



**Hon. NS ROBERTS** (Nudgee—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (5.00 pm): I move—

That the House do now adjourn.

### Kirrama Range Road



**Mr CRIPPS** (Hinchinbrook—LNP) (5.00 pm): I rise to draw to the attention of the House a very important issue of concern to the people of Cardwell and the Kennedy Valley in my electorate, the Kirrama Range Road, which is currently closed and has been for several years. It is a pressing matter for many people across my electorate and across North Queensland because the Kirrama Range Road is a very important connection between the coast and hinterland areas in the electorate of my colleague the member for Dalrymple. I believe that the restoration, repair and maintenance of the Kirrama Range Road in the Kennedy Valley north of Cardwell should be funded by all three levels of government in recognition of its history, its regional significance to the tourism and cattle industries and its recreational use by local residents.

The file on the Kirrama Range Road in my office is very substantial, reflecting the strong views of my constituents about this issue. I have fought hard to try to get the state Labor government to recognise that it has both a historical responsibility and a contemporary interest in the Kirrama Range Road. The Queensland government previously benefited from decades of royalties from the timber industry in that area and the road is now used to support the cattle industry in North-East Queensland and is an important tourist road linking the coast to the hinterland.

I had not previously been successful in getting the state Labor government to acknowledge its interest, but this year Main Roads has allocated \$471,000 over the next two years for works on the Kirrama Range Road. This is not enough to address all of the issues associated with the road, but it is a small step in the right direction. I believe DERM and DEEDI should make similar contributions because the Kirrama Range Road provides access to the national park facilities and walking tracks at Blencoe Falls and the road is a vital link for the cattle and tourism industries. If each department made a fair and reasonable contribution, we could address the major problems with the road.

I believe the federal government should also make a contribution to the repair and maintenance of the Kirrama Range Road, because it was the federal Labor government's decision to declare the area as World Heritage in the early 1990s that destroyed the timber industry, leading to the state government neglecting the road's condition and its eventual closure. The federal Labor government insisted that new tourism jobs would replace lost timber jobs in North Queensland after the World Heritage listing, but it has not supported the maintenance of infrastructure needed for the tourism industry to sustain those jobs. The current federal Labor government must acknowledge this legacy and its responsibility.

The Cassowary Coast Regional Council has been left carrying the can for repairing and maintaining the Kirrama Range Road without any support from the state or federal governments and is copping the blame for its closure. The Cassowary Coast Regional Council should contribute its fair share to the repair and maintenance of the road in recognition of the strong interest of many local residents who use the Kirrama Range Road for recreational activities, but it should not shoulder this burden alone.

### Gold Coast Hospital

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (5.03 pm): I rise this afternoon to highlight how the Gold Coast, yet again, will be short-changed. 'How?', honourable members might ask. This Labor government is not only going to give us 130 fewer beds when the Gold Coast University Hospital opens, but it will also close the current hospital at Southport. The new hospital is not even up and running yet and this tired, 20-year-old Labor government is already reducing its services.

The Minister for Health states that Queensland Health has advised him that planning and population projections show that the new hospital would have more than enough capacity to service the needs of the Gold Coast for at least a decade. This is the same Queensland Health that has spent nearly 12 months and over \$219 million trying to fix its payroll system, and it is still not fixed. How can Gold Coast residents really believe what Queensland Health is saying, particularly when it is their health that could be jeopardised? This is just another classic example of this Bligh government's *modus operandi*: it gives with one hand and takes away with the other.

We will be 130 beds short and yet the government says our city's needs will be serviced for the next decade. The Gold Coast is the sixth largest city in Australia with over 496,000 who call this area home. We have over 10.5 million visitors every year and we are one of Australia's fastest growing regions. We deserve the medical facilities to adequately service these numbers both now and into the future. We owe it to our children.

I call on the Premier and the Minister for Health to transform the Gold Coast Hospital at Southport to a step-down facility. As I have stated in the House before, hospitals of the future will be for the sickest of the sick and we need step-down facilities now. I say to those opposite: let us actually forward plan properly instead of playing your usual 'catch-up' game and applying band-aid fixes; do not just accept verbatim what bureaucrats who sit in their ivory towers in Brisbane looking at graphs and charts tell you.

Our population is expected to tip 700,000 by 2021. That is approximately 200,000 more than our current population. How anybody can state that, despite short-changing the number of beds by 130 we will still be able to service the city's medical needs, is beyond me. The Gold Coast does not need to have the Southport Hospital closed, but we do need the 130 beds that the government is going to short-change us. Residents of the Gold Coast are sick and tired of being treated like second-class citizens. I call on the Premier to seriously rethink this issue which could potentially have a disastrous effect on our local area.

In relation to the move to the new Parklands hospital, I hope that Queensland Health leaves behind one thing at Southport and that is its culture of bullying and intimidation of nurses. I have received complaints from 55 nurses about bullying and intimidation issues at the Gold Coast Hospital. As a current registered nurse, I will continue to stand up for them. This Labor government needs to start listening to the experts. The doctors at the Southport medical precinct want this facility to remain open.

*(Time expired)*

### Eastern Busway, Opening

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Greenslopes—ALP) (Minister for Education and Industrial Relations) (5.06 pm): Saturday, 27 August 2011 was an historic day for the south side of Brisbane. The occasion was the opening of the third stage of the Eastern Busway by Premier Anna Bligh. As residents of the Greenslopes electorate will benefit greatly from this \$465.8 million investment in public transport, I was delighted to represent my community at the opening.

The investment by successive Labor governments in busways is one of the most important and transformative public transport infrastructure projects ever undertaken in Brisbane. The third stage of the Eastern Busway was delivered on budget, six months ahead of schedule. When Labor came to power in 1998 there were no dedicated busways in Brisbane. Today there are now more than \$1.8 billion worth of completed busways across Brisbane running a total of 25 kilometres.

Dedicated busways take buses off our roads, reduce congestion and slash travel times for commuters. In fact, they are cutting commute times for some people by up to 1½ hours a week. Greenslopes residents were lucky to be among the first to enjoy the benefits of a dedicated busway when the South East Busway opened in 2000. Now residents in other parts of the Greenslopes electorate have the opportunity to experience how a dedicated busway can change their lives.

By 2016 the Eastern Busway will carry around 7,000 passengers in morning peak hour. It will revitalise and re-energise the shopping hubs of Stones Corner and Coorparoo. It will make it quicker and easier for people to connect with other people and places all over our city. Whether that means visiting Garden City for shopping, going to university at any of Brisbane's major universities, spending an afternoon at South Bank or getting to work in the city, these are all things that will be simpler and quicker to achieve thanks to the new busway.

The third stage of the Eastern Busway will allow us to deliver 103,590 new weekly seats, 31 new buses, 12 new bus stops and five new bus routes including two new high frequency bus routes on the south side. These include buses like the new 222, which runs from Carindale Shopping Centre to Roma Street every 10 minutes in peak hour and every 15 minutes off peak between 6 am and 11 pm. University of Queensland students and workers as well as other people using the 209 are big winners. Their trip to St Lucia is even quicker now that the Eastern Busway cuts out the loop to Woolloongabba. There is also a new peak-only P217 route, which runs from Carindale to the city via Bennetts Road, Coorparoo, Langlands Park and Stones Corner before terminating at a new CBD stop near Queen and Wharf streets. There are also an additional 24 Sunday trips on the 204 route, which travels from Carindale to the city via Old Cleveland Road.

This is about getting the south side connected and getting the south side moving. A project like the Eastern Busway is the result of the hard work of thousands of people. However, I would like to personally thank and congratulate all the workers who helped deliver this project. Special thanks must go to Paul Schmidt, who served as Director of Busway Infrastructure for the Department of Transport and Main Roads, and Bob Atkinson, Project Manager for the Eastern Busway. This truly is a public transport revolution. It is changing Brisbane for the better. I am proud to be part of a government that is delivering projects like the third stage of the Eastern Busway. It is the sort of infrastructure investment that Brisbane residents will enjoy for decades to come.

### **Mater Dei Writers' Festival; Hilder Road Carnival**

 **Ms JONES** (Ashgrove—ALP) (5.09 pm): This morning I had the great honour of launching the inaugural writers festival at Mater Dei school. This was particularly exciting because it brought together over 300 young, budding writers from years 4 to 7 from across our community including students from schools such as the Holy Rosary, St Ambrose's, St Joseph's, St Finbarr's and St Peter Chanel to take part in a range of workshops, led by a range of children's authors, to practise their writing.

I want to particularly thank and congratulate Dominique Gardiner, the teacher librarian, for making this possible and for giving our young local people an opportunity to practise their writing in these workshops. What was particularly exciting was that we had six local authors attend and facilitate those workshops. Most notably, we had this year's winner of the Queensland Premier's Literary Award, Michael Bauer, who won for his children's book *Just a Dog*, which tells the tale of a dog, Mister Mosely or Mo. So it was wonderful that he gave the keynote address.

Other local artists who attended were John Donalis, Christine Bongers, Josie Montano, July Fison and Narelle Oliver, who spoke to our year 1 students while she was at Mater Dei as well. This was a great opportunity for our students to appreciate the creativity behind writing. Hopefully through these workshops we will see young writers from our local communities embrace their talent and hopefully be winning a Premier's literary award in future years when they grow up and participate in writing.

There is another major event on the Ashgrove calendar coming up this weekend with the Hilder Road Cool 4 School carnival. The Hilder Road Carnival is one of those events which is very much a big thing on The Gap calendar in particular. I encourage all of our local residents to come along and have a look. There are always many stalls and raffles. Of course there is also the grand final of 'Hilder's Got Talent'. I am very much looking forward to the talent quest there.

For those who are not faint of heart, there is also the opportunity to cool off in the dunking machine. I put the challenge to the LNP candidate that I am happy to dunk him in the dunking machine, and I will give him the opportunity to do the same to me if he would like. I am sure that I am more on target! So we will see if he fronts on Sunday to the Hilder Road Carnival and participates, as I will. I am making the offer here this afternoon that I am prepared to be dunked on Sunday and I am putting the challenge out to him as well. We will see whether he can cope with that.

Of course, in reality what we are all trying to do is encourage everybody in our community to get behind Hilder Road. It is a great school. It would be wonderful to see everybody else in our community support them in their fundraising efforts.

### **Ormeau State School; Life Education**

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (5.12 pm): It was such a pleasure to open the *Gold Coast Bulletin* to page 3 on Monday of this week and find a half-page colour photo of students from Ormeau State School and a headline 'Ormeau Takes Top Honour'. Principal Heather Andrew told me that Life Education Australia awarded Ormeau State School the inaugural School of the Year award at a gala dinner on 12 August in Sydney. This award was won by Ormeau State School from a field of 3,000 from around Australia, so it certainly was a big win. Harold the Giraffe is the logo for Life Education and, consequently, the award is a gold Harold look-alike. Heather praised the P&C Association that has supported Ormeau State School for 10 years with funding so that every student attends every year, thereby delivering the total development program. Ormeau has 860 students currently, and the funding commitment from the P&C runs to thousands of dollars each year.

The program has been coordinated at Ormeau by Deputy Principal Peter Wright, and the educator from Life Education is Janet Connolly. Heather told me that Janet continues to deliver a superb program from prep to year 7 each year, with a highly interactive presentation that is age appropriate for students. The key message is clearly about Harold—healthy development and healthy living. Antidrug and antialcohol messages are regularly used to highlight the development delays and development consequences that can arise when these substances are abused. Younger students learn all about body parts and their functions.

It really is pleasing for any parent or grandparent to know that their children's school P&C Association is so committed to such a worthwhile program. I congratulate Ormeau State School P&C and President Helen Falcone, who has given the program a big thumbs up for its benefit to the students within the school. I spoke with Michael Fawsitt, CEO of Life Education Queensland, who told me that funding was cut by this government 11 years ago. Life Education Queensland is a not-for-profit organisation. The cut to funding forced them to drop their program to so many schools, particularly in regional areas. In fact, they were forced to close some offices, such as their office in Mackay. It really is a tragedy that such a worthwhile program that teaches our children life skills was not seen to be important by this government. It really is typical, though, because they show in so many ways that they just don't get it.

In closing, I would like to share some comments from the educator, Janet Connolly from Life Education Queensland. Janet is a veteran of the program and came into the role after her daughter went through the program some eight years ago. Janet said she asked students today how they felt about the program and why they thought it was important. She said one boy, in a class that had a number of challenging students, really said it all when he said, 'It's important to keep us safe.' Janet said that it is so important because our children need to know about themselves. She also said that, particularly in the higher primary school grades, the peer pressure is massive. In commenting on the commitment from the Ormeau P&C Association, she said—

The most important thing about Ormeau is that often those that most need the program don't come because of cost. At Ormeau it's paid for, for everyone.

### **Redbank State School, Debutante Ball**

 **Mrs MILLER** (Bundamba—ALP) (5.15 pm): Tomorrow night I will be the guest of honour at one of my favourite events—the debutante ball of Redbank State School. The ball tradition started 35 years ago and the ball is held by tradition at the Redbank School of Arts. However, this year there will be a break from tradition as, due to the devastating floods hitting Redbank, the school of arts hall is unavailable. It will instead be held at Riverview State School BER hall.

Students from grades 1 and 2 attend the ball. The girls wear traditional white gowns, and I know that their mums spend hours doing their hair. They all look beautiful.

**Mr Lawlor:** Just like me.

**Mrs MILLER:** The boys wear traditional black suits and they also look great. They actually look better than you, member for Southport, because they actually have hair at their age! The year 7 girls act as the maids of honour on the night and they formally escort the couples in. They assist the couples walking up the stairs and they present the couples to the dignitaries to be received.

I just love having a quick chat with the couples, although I have to advise that the girls are a little bit more talkative than the boys. The children learn to dance in their PE lessons. They start off a little bit nervous when they are learning to dance, but by the time they get to the ball they get into the real groove of things. The dances this year are the heel-toe polka, the traditional waltz, the circassian circle, the Mexican hat dance and the cowboy slap.

**Mr Lawlor:** Any golden oldies square dance?

**Mrs MILLER:** Member for Southport, there is none of that sort of square dancing. After the dancing, a traditional supper is held. The school band will provide entertainment. Usually it is the school choir, but this year it is the school band that will play along and the choir will sing along to the beat of the band. I would like to thank the school principal, Graham Rickuss, and teachers Julie Mayers, Sonya Simmonds, Tara Keizer and Stephen Kershaw. I would also like to thank parent Ricki-Lee Haymes, who has contributed greatly to the event. It is a great night of nights for the students because they are the stars. It is Redbank's Oscars. So congratulations to Redbank State School and to the Redbank community.

### Aspley Electorate, School Hospitality and Skills Programs

 **Ms DAVIS** (Aspley—LNP) (5.18 pm): I rise this evening to commend schools in the Aspley electorate on their lively and challenging hospitality and skills programs. I had the great pleasure last week of dining at Tartans Restaurant, which is at Craigslea State High School in Chermside West. The hospitality students prepare a three-course, three-choices menu for the general public, to be served in the school restaurant every Thursday throughout the school term. As part of the two-year program, students spend 1½ years honing their food preparation skills and the remainder of the time mastering table service and etiquette. I was really impressed with the enthusiasm and attention to detail demonstrated by the students, including our waiter, Mitchell, and those busy behind the scenes in the kitchen. I would certainly recommend Tartans Restaurant to anybody looking for a truly enjoyable dining experience. I would also like to extend my congratulations to Michael Betts and Christian Trost, who facilitate Craigslea's hospitality program, which, since 19 July, also includes Tartans Cafe. Year 12 hospitality students are getting some fantastic experience, serving espresso coffee along with freshly made sandwiches and desserts.

Similarly, the Aspley Special School is coming along in leaps and bounds with its school based skills program. Their award-winning Frothee Coffee Shoppee is a wonderful, industry-standard venue for people in the local community to meet on a Friday morning. The coffee shop is so popular that it is best to ring the school and make a table reservation so as not to be disappointed. Last Friday night I attended their biennial art and wine show, where past and present students actively participated in food and beverage service. Aspley Special School's encouragement of creative endeavour and vocational training and community involvement in programs is outstanding. Getting involved in the vocational training program helps students at the school develop new hands-on skills and build confidence in their interpersonal communication. Their teachers are on hand to provide support and supervision, and the students clearly thrive in the busy and exciting work environment.

The Aspley Special School's Kingfisher Recycling Program is another fine example of the school's commitment to skills training. I am very proud to inform the House that this is the world's largest school based recycling program, serving not only as a training centre but also as a community recycling hub. The skills acquired can benefit the students in a number of different work and supported work environments. But it also helps them develop strategies for completing tasks, meeting deadlines and understanding workplace health and safety standards and regulations.

The schools in the Aspley electorate are exceptional and the students sensational. It is testament to the hardworking staff, along with supportive school communities and the wider community, who work collaboratively to give our students the best educational and vocational outcomes possible.

### Bulimba Festival

 **Ms FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (5.21 pm): I am privileged to represent the most wonderful electorate which, although I admit I am probably biased, must surely be the best electorate in the state. We are really a bit like a country town. We look out for each other. We like to participate. We are proud of our community. It is why everyone was so genuinely thrilled the weekend before last to host the Bulimba Festival—an iconic event which used to grace the local calendar on a regular basis until five years ago, and for which local residents have been asking for a return since that time.

Between 30,000 and 35,000 people attended this fantastic event. There were people from everywhere—the Sunshine Coast, the Gold Coast, Ipswich and beyond—and, importantly, thousands and thousands of locals who just love being out and about. We had our great local restaurants open, full and overflowing and at their best; local traders showing off their wares; local community organisations running stalls and raffles; the traditional local dog show from the Bulimba vet—which I was very pleased to judge; big drawcards like Mental as Anything and Ross Wilson; and fashion parades and lifestyle shows.

People have not stopped talking about it ever since—about what a great community we are, about how good it was for local businesses to get the extra attention they deserve and about how much we just loved showing off what we are made of. But these things do not happen without huge commitment behind the scenes. Specific acknowledgement and thanks need to go RSL Queensland, which underwrote the event and put significant resources into its organisation and staging. I congratulate President Terry Meehan and CEO Chris McHugh for their vision and energy in this regard. Many people do not realise just how versatile the RSL is, how widespread its roots are across every level of our community and how eclectic are its interest and commitment. The Bulimba Festival was a very real testament to just how connected to local communities they are.

Special thanks also need to go to Rebecca Grugan, events coordinator at RSL Queensland and the inspiration behind the festival. Rebecca's commitment to our local community is simply outstanding. She has already served for many years on the Morningside Development Association, which runs the

popular Morningside Festival and the Rogoona Street Carols in the Park. She recently greatly helped local community groups at the community groups information evening I held, with support on the tricky issues of sponsorship and marketing. She is smart and organised and loves our community.

I also cannot talk about the Bulimba Festival without mentioning some of the previous proponents who gave so much pleasure to our local community for so long, supporting our local traders in the process. The festival just grew and grew every year. I am talking about people like Anne Woods from Anne's Secondhand shop, who was involved from the beginning, Richard Zammit, Sue Roe and her sister Gail, Edwina Crieghton, Evonne Ely, Sandra Hosking, John McLeod, Luciano from Otellos, Damien Hackett, Leo Catalano, Jenny Danniloff and Judy Williams. Thank you so much to all those people. I particularly thank Anne. I know how pleased everyone is that she is recovering so well from her recent illness because she has given so much to so many of us.

Local councillor Shayne Sutton and I were very proud to sponsor the Bulimba Festival and proud to represent this fantastic local community. I thank all concerned and look forward to many more events in the future.

### **Maryborough Electorate, Technology Challenge**

 **Mr FOLEY** (Maryborough—Ind) (5.24 pm): This weekend we have the iconic Maryborough Technology Challenge, and what an event it is. It is a 24-hour human powered race. Kids from lots of different schools put together some fabulous machines and roar around the track. Imagine riding a pushbike with a whole frame around it in a recumbent style. They get better and more exciting looking every year.

Those who have a need for speed will enjoy this weekend's RACQ Technology Challenge. What a fantastic event it is. We have seen this event get bigger and bigger. It is the highlight of lots of school calendars. We have schools from all through Queensland come to this event. I am very happy to say that last year my kids' school, St Marys College, and their fast-forward team actually won the event. Nanango State High School has been a very strong competitor in years gone by.

People come from all over Queensland to this event. It is not just about one 24-hour human powered vehicle race; it is much more than that. There are smiley pushcarts for the little kids to get involved in. We have solar challenge championships for solar powered boats. One that is a real favourite is the CO<sub>2</sub> powered dragsters. They are little slot cars, but they are powered by CO<sub>2</sub> capsules. There are some amazing designs. It has brought out creativity not only in my region but also in regions throughout Queensland.

This event has kids thinking about design and it has teachers and students working together to come up with even more aerodynamic designs. We have seen this event grow from its inception until now. The technology is just getting more high-tech every year. They are using carbon fibre to make light machines. At the end of day, they still have to pedal them for 24 hours. At the end of that time there are some very tired kids, including my own.

As a community we like to get involved. It is party time all weekend. I certainly believe it is the signature event for our city. The start of the race is 12 o'clock Saturday. We also have the Hyne Timber Cycle City Challenge criterium for regular bikes. That is very hotly contested by professional and semiprofessional riders. It is a wonderful event. I ask all members to descend on Maryborough in masses this weekend, bring your family and friends and enjoy the technology challenge.

### **Morayfield Electorate, School Concerts**

 **Mr RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (5.27 pm): It is school concert time in the Morayfield state electorate, and this means that the amazing kids of the Morayfield state electorate have another opportunity to remind our local community about their outstanding talents and the wonderful education they receive at their local schools. So far this concert season I have attended the Burpengary State School annual arts concert and the Morayfield East State School 20th anniversary performance evening.

It is always an extreme pleasure to attend the Burpengary State School annual arts concert. The annual arts concert is now in its seventh year and is a highlight of the local creative events calendar. The audience was treated to performances by all year levels—over 700 students in both group and solo performances. From the performance by the preppies to the performance by the year 7s, all performances were top-class and proved to all members of the audience that the students and staff of the Burpengary State School are shining examples of the talent in our local area.

The theme for this year's concert was 'Kaleidoscope', and the students certainly displayed their entire rainbow of colourful creativity, efforts and teamwork. I would like to particularly acknowledge the performance by the year 1 students. The year 1 students gave a magnificent performance based around the colour yellow. They based their bright presentation around the yellow brick road and *The Wizard of*

Oz. The choreography and musical contributions by the students were of the highest standard and impressed all members of the audience. A particular mention must go to the young girl who played Dorothy. Her performance was exceptional; it was the highlight of the night. Well done.

This annual concert is certainly one of the highlights of my year, and I take this opportunity to say a big 'well done' to the teachers, staff and students involved with this year's production. I would like to specifically commend the acting principal, Mr Brad Fox, the concert's producer, Mr Tattersall, and the concert's director, Ms Mellers.

Similarly, it was a great honour to attend the Morayfield East State School 20th anniversary performance evening. The audience was wowed by the brilliant performances of the students and teachers of this great state school. Everyone was impressed by the staff performance of *Cotton Eyed Joe*. The teachers, staff and P&C members looked like they had lots of fun with this piece. The star of the show of course was the school's principal, Dr Brian Gray. Dr Brian led this motley crew in verse and dance with great gusto, and many would agree that Dr Brian has missed his calling in life! An honourable mention must go to the year 2s who performed Michael Jackson's *Black or White* and the year 5s who performed Katy Perry's *Firework*. Again, I must say 'well done' to all of the teachers, staff and students of the Morayfield East State School.

Question put—That the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 5.30 pm.

## ATTENDANCE

Attwood, Bates, Bleijie, Bligh, Boyle, Choi, Crandon, Cripps, Croft, Cunningham, Darling, Davis, Dick, Dickson, Douglas, Dowling, Elmes, Emerson, Farmer, Finn, Flegg, Foley, Fraser, Gibson, Grace, Hinchliffe, Hobbs, Hoolihan, Hopper, Horan, Jarratt, Johnson, Johnstone, Jones, Keech, Kiernan, Kilburn, Langbroek, Lawlor, Lucas, McArdle, McLindon, Male, Malone, Menkens, Messenger, Mickel, Miller, Moorhead, Mulherin, Nelson-Carr, Nicholls, Nolan, O'Brien, O'Neill, Palaszczuk, Pitt, Powell, Pratt, Reeves, Rickuss, Roberts, Robertson, Robinson, Ryan, Schwarten, Scott, Seeney, Shine, Simpson, Smith, Sorensen, Spence, Springborg, Stevens, Struthers, Stuckey, Sullivan, van Litsenburg, Wallace, Watt, Wellington, Wells, Wendt, Wettenhall, Wilson