

## Jeff Seeney MP eNewsletter 2016 - edition 9

Welcome to the latest edition of my eNewsletter. I hope you find this eNewsletter informative and of interest to you.

Topics covered in this issue include; preferential voting system, new vision screening program for prep-school kids, building approvals down, new heavy vehicle exemptions and new tobacco laws.

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### *LNP calls on Labor to restore voter choice*

- **Anastacia Palaszczuk must restore Queensland's optional preferential voting system to give voters real choice**
- **It's the ALP's changes - to secure Green preferences - that have robbed Queenslanders of the chance to have their say**
- **The LNP will deliver jobs and security to Queenslanders, wherever they live**

Opposition leader Tim Nicholls has challenged Anastacia Palaszczuk to restore Queensland's previous voting system and give voters a choice in how they have their say.

Labor's sneaky, eleventh-hour change to Queensland's voting system earlier this year has forced voters to consider where they place all candidates on the ballot paper.

The LNP is now calling on Labor to restore the previous optional preferential voting system and allow voters the choice of whether they preference at all. That's fair and democratic.

The LNP gives a clear commitment that we will back any move to bring back optional preferential voting - a system that was introduced by Wayne Goss and recommended as part of the Fitzgerald Inquiry process.

Mr Nicholls said Anastacia Palaszczuk had delivered an "extraordinary diatribe" against One Nation in the Parliament.

"It is only because of Labor's changes to Queensland's voting system at 18 minutes' notice - to try to secure Green preferences - that anybody is talking about One Nation at all," he said.

Anastacia Palaszczuk could - and should - immediately reverse her changes and return real choice to Queensland's voting system.

In the meantime, while Labor continues to kowtow to the extreme Green movement, the LNP is out there talking to Queenslanders and putting in place policies that will get them jobs and ensure their safety and security.

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### *Screening program to detect vision problems in Prep students*

Every Prep student in Queensland will have their vision screened under a new primary school nurse program.

More than 30 nurses will be appointed by February 2017 as part of the Primary School Nurse Health Readiness Program, which is being led by Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service.

This program aims to screen the vision of every Prep student in Queensland's government and non-government primary schools at the start of their schooling.

Vision screening is vital in early childhood, particularly for conditions such as the most common cause of visual impairment in children, amblyopia (or a 'lazy eye'), which affects about 1 in every 50 Australian children.

Without early detection, these conditions can negatively impact on a child's social and educational development, as well as increase the risk of total blindness in adulthood..

By starting treatment while a child's visual pathway is still maturing (up to age eight), there is a greater chance of reversing this damaging condition without any long-term effects on vision.

"We know that early intervention is the best prevention, and by introducing this vital screening program, we can identify and act on health issues and give Queensland children the best chance of reaching their full potential."

About 3350 Prep students in the greater Brisbane area have already been screened in the first stage of the program.

Children's Health Queensland has appointed eight registered nurses and three clinical nurses to establish the program in South East Queensland and form a central hub to provide ongoing project co-ordination, education and support for program nurses across the state.

Nurses will be appointed imminently in Sunshine Coast, West Moreton, Central Queensland and South West Hospital and Health Services, with further nurses to be appointed throughout the remainder of the state by February next year.

The appointed nurses will also work with Children's Health Queensland's Centre for Children's Health and Wellbeing to provide extra support in identified vulnerable communities where other factors, such as development and poor nutrition, may impact school readiness.

Funding for the program is being rolled out over four years.

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### ***Building approvals down for six straight months***

- **Building industry buckling under Palaszczuk Labor Government**
- **ABS figures show building approvals fell for sixth straight month**
- **Business confidence low but still no plan from Labor to boost economy**

Queensland's construction industry is feeling the impact of Labor's anti-development policies, with building approvals across the state falling for the sixth consecutive month.

Shadow Treasurer Scott Emerson said, under the Palaszczuk Government, approvals fell 1.8 per cent in July, compared to an increase of 0.2 per cent nationally.

"Today's figures are further proof Labor's ill-thought out decision to increase property taxes and threats to call in major developments are shattering confidence in Queensland's construction industry," Mr Emerson said.

"Builders and developers across the state must be throwing their hands up in surrender because of this government's decisions to slug the industry with extra taxes and undermine certainty.

"Both the Property Council of Queensland and the Housing Industry Association have warned this do-nothing government's policies are putting jobs and investment at risk and harming our economy.

"Queensland should be battling New South Wales and Victoria for the top economic spot, but instead we are fighting Tasmania for the wooden spoon.

"How long is Queensland expected to sit back and wait for this asleep at the wheel Palaszczuk Labor Government to stand up and get this state moving?"

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### *New vehicle exemption notice will help farmers drive productivity gains*

The Queensland Government has partnered with the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator, industry and police to develop the initiative for vehicles up to 4 metres in width following a successful trial.

This new measure will make it easier for large agricultural vehicles to move on roads in the coastal areas north of Gympie.

These vehicles will be restricted to daytime travel only and need to meet new conditions including the use of a pilot vehicle and portable signs to warn other road users in advance if

The new exemption notice under heavy vehicle national law will take effect from 1 September.

CEO of the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR) Sal Petrocchio said the initiative would save Queensland farmers time and money through reduction in paper work and the ability to move the right vehicles at the right times.

"What a national notice like this does is enable local productivity and economic growth while maintaining high levels of safety," Mr Petrocchio said.

"At the NHVR we want to enable businesses in sectors like agriculture to spend less on administrative costs related to the movement of freight and vehicles and more time making profit.

During the trial which ran from December 2014 to August this year, no incidents were reported.

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The amendments to the *Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1998* were passed on 23 February 2016 and came into effect on 1 September 2016. The new tobacco laws will:

- Ban smoking at or near underage organised sporting events and skate parks
- Ban smoking in and around approved early childhood education and care facilities, including kindergartens and places offering after school hour care
- Ban smoking at all residential aged care facilities outside of nominated outdoor smoking places
- Increase the smoke-free buffer at all government, commercial and non-residential building entrances from four to five metres
- Ban smoking at pedestrian precincts around prescribed State Government buildings, such as 1 William Street
- Ban smoking at prescribed national parks or parts of parks
- Ban smoking at public swimming pools
- Ban smoking at all outdoor pedestrian malls and public transport waiting points
- Empower local government to ban smoking in any other public space, including on any street or park
- Ban the sale of tobacco products from temporary retail outlets, such as at music festivals.
- The laws also include electronic cigarettes as they are classified as smoking products.

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