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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Wednesday, 21 April 2021

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WEDNESDAY, 21 APRIL 2021



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

Mr Speaker (Hon. Curtis Pitt, Mulgrave) read prayers and took the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I respectfully acknowledge that we are sitting today on the land of Aboriginal people and pay my respects to elders past and present. I thank them, as First Australians, for their careful custodianship of the land over countless generations. We are very fortunate in this country to have two of the world's oldest continuing living cultures in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples whose lands, winds and waters we all now share.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Opposition Whips; Chamber Seating Arrangements



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I am advised that the Leader of the Opposition has appointed the member for Theodore to be the Acting Opposition Whip during the member for Toowoomba North's absence and the member for Lockyer to be Acting Deputy Whip.

I advise that I have also approved a temporary seating change for the period and that the member for Lockyer is permitted to use the member for Toowoomba North's seat in his absence.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Breach of Code of Ethical Standards



Mr SPEAKER: On 23 February 2021, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services wrote to me alleging that the conduct of the members for Currumbin and Kawana in the House on 23 February 2021 breached the Code of Ethical Standards. The allegation relates to the member for Currumbin and the member for Kawana respectively possessing and displaying a copy of a police banning notice during question time.

I find that both the member for Currumbin and the member for Kawana have made an adequate explanation in relation to the allegations and that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

Tabled paper: Correspondence relating to an alleged breach of code of ethical standards by the member for Currumbin, Mrs Laura Gerber MP, and the member for Kawana, Mr Jarrod Bleijie MP [\[520\]](#).

I seek leave to incorporate the ruling circulated in my name.

Leave is granted.

SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED BREACH OF THE CODE OF ETHICAL STANDARDS

On 23 February 2021, the Minister for Police and Corrective Services wrote to me alleging that the conduct of the Members for Currumbin and Kawana in the House on 23 February 2021 breached the Code of Ethical Standards.

The allegation relates to the Member for Currumbin and the Member for Kawana respectively possessing and displaying a copy of a police banning notice during question time.

The Minister alleges possessing or displaying a copy of a police banning notice may breach provisions of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2001, impinging on the integrity of the Parliament by failing to respect and uphold the law.

I sought further information from the Member for Currumbin and the Member for Kawana about the allegations made against them, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The members have argued that they did not possess or display a copy of the original police banning notice, but rather made reference to a media article which did so.

While complaints about the ethical conduct of particular members is a matter for the Ethics Committee, the alleged breach of a law is a matter within the jurisdiction of the police, and ultimately the courts.

Standing Order 269(4) requires that in considering whether such a matter should be referred to the Ethics Committee, that I should take account of the degree of importance of the matter which has been raised and whether an adequate apology or explanation has been made in respect of the matter.

I note that the offence under S602W(3) regarding potential misuse of an imaged order relates to persons to whom the original imaged order has been distributed to by the police (i.e. typically persons in and around licensed premises).

On the basis that the members did not have in their possession the original banning notice issued by the police, but made reference to a media article that included an image of such order, I find the members have each made an adequate explanation.

The question before me then, is has there been sufficient evidence presented that the members have disrespected the laws of the State to warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee.


Accordingly, I find that both the Member for Currumbin and the Member for Kawana have made an adequate explanation in relation to the allegations and, that there is not sufficient evidence to warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee.

Therefore, I will not be referring the matter to the Ethics Committee.

I table the correspondence in relation to this matter.

SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS


Anzac Day, Parliamentary Honour Board

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, Anzac Day is nearly upon us—Australia's and New Zealand's most solemn day of remembrance of the fallen. With the receding of the COVID threat, I am sure I speak for many members when I say that we are happy to return to full in-person services this year.

As members are aware, there are many former members who also served in the defence of our nation. To mark their service, in 2018 a parliamentary honour board was installed in the corridor just outside the Legislative Assembly chamber. Initially the board was inscribed with the names of members who served in pre-Federation conflicts and World War I. Thanks to the tireless efforts of the researchers at our Parliamentary Library, former members who served in World War II have now been added to the honour board.


To honour the former members who served in World War II and to showcase the research undertaken by the Parliamentary Library, there will be a special event in the Legislative Council chamber this lunchtime, commencing at 1 pm. There will be a few formal speeches followed by a light lunch. I hope that many members can attend.

Strait to the Plate

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am going to get straight to the point about *Strait to the Plate*. This evening at Parliament House I am proud to be hosting the premiere of *Strait to the Plate*, a production of NITV, Screen Queensland and Lone Star Production Group, which showcases the best of Torres Strait cuisine.

The premiere tonight in the Undumbi Room will include the showing of the first two episodes, followed by a panel discussion. Guests will then be escorted to the Speaker's Green for drinks and samples of Torres Strait cuisine inspired by the show. It is great that we can celebrate bringing Torres Strait culture to the rest of Australia. I thank those members who are attending tonight's premiere. For those who are not, I encourage you to catch *Strait to the Plate* on SBS Food and NITV from this Thursday.

School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise members that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Algester State School in the electorate of Algester, St Bernardine's Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Algester, Edens Landing State School in the electorate of Macalister, and Moreton Bay College Wynnum in the electorate of Lytton.

PETITION

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

Vehicle Standards

1,812 petitioners, requesting the House to resolve the conflicts presently inherent in the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2010 and the Vehicle Standards in the Australian Design Rules to ensure certainty and confidence in meeting the requirements of the regulations, specifically concerning replacement exhausts and noise emissions [\[521\]](#).

Petition received.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Coronavirus, Update



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.35 am): In terms of our COVID update today, I can confirm there is only one new case which is overseas acquired and detected in hotel quarantine after travel from Papua New Guinea. We now have only 17 active cases in our hospitals, which is great news. However, worldwide more than five million new cases were reported last week. This is the largest number of new infections ever in a single week. For the fifth straight week, the number of deaths has also increased.

These numbers are a reminder that, although we continue to keep COVID at bay, it is only because we have established good defences. The threat remains. Although countries like India and the United States are vaccinating huge numbers, they are also recording huge numbers of new cases. In India, for example, 120 million doses of vaccine have been delivered, but last week they recorded 1.5 million new cases. This information is not given to alarm anyone; it is to underline how precious our largely COVID-free lives are and how we must never stop the efforts to keep Queenslanders safe.

2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.36 am): There are two things to remember about our bid to host the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. It is not about those few weeks of competition and it is not just about the south-east corner of our state. We estimate an uplift of more than \$8.6 billion in trade, 130,000 jobs and more than \$20 billion in increased tourism. Half of that tourism will be in the regions.

Sydney's 2000 games showed what we can expect. A Gosford manufacturing company supplied seats for the aquatic, equestrian and tennis centres. It now supplies its products through 22 international distributors. A Kempsey sawmill that provided timber for one showground now supplies product around the world. A small Newcastle earthworks firm that worked on the Homebush site now contracts on roadworks projects right across New South Wales.

There are dozens of opportunities for Queensland businesses to provide goods and services should we get the games. Everything from audio systems to waste management is needed. There is no reason these things cannot be provided by regional companies. We want these games to be Queensland made. Hosting the Olympics presents an enormous economic opportunity, but opportunities do not walk up and present themselves; we have to make our own luck. Our regional cities present as excellent training venues. These are opportunities to be chased by local councils.

The Olympics are an excellent example of not everyone being a winner—you do not get a medal just for being in the competition—but we will never get anything unless we get in the race.

Manufacturing Industry



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.38 am): From masks to ventilators to superfast coronavirus testing kits, we make it better right here in Queensland. At the height of the health crisis, we mobilised Queensland's manufacturing sector to fight the COVID-19 pandemic. Because we have invested in manufacturing to keep the knowledge and skills here in Queensland, this industry was able to respond. Right throughout the pandemic, Queensland manufacturers have led the way in the fight against COVID-19, providing essential products to stop the spread of the virus and help people recover.

Queensland is world renowned for the way we have handled the pandemic and the high quality of our manufactured goods. We have a huge opportunity to build back better out of this pandemic. Today I am proud to announce that we are delivering on our Making it in Queensland election commitment by offering another \$15.5 million in grants to help manufacturers scale up and employ more Queenslanders in the coming months.

Round 4 of our highly successful Made in Queensland grants program is officially open. In the first three rounds of this program we invested \$46 million to support Queensland manufacturers. Through Made in Queensland, we have created more than 1,100 new jobs and helped to leverage \$100 million in private sector investment here in Queensland. I am proud to say that we will have some more of the state's leading manufacturing firms here at Parliament House today. I quite sure that the Deputy Premier will have more to say about that shortly.

Women, Equality and Justice



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I am proud to lead a government that supports equality and justice for women. We have done a lot in an effort to make Queensland a fairer society and we continue to make great strides in this space, but there is still a long way to go. To track our progress, we release annual report cards as part of our Queensland Women's Strategy. I table the latest 2020 Gender Equality Report Cards.

Tabled paper: Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs: Queensland Women's Strategy 2016-21—2020 Gender Equality Report Cards—in brief [\[522\]](#).

Tabled paper: Document, dated November 2020, titled 'Report Card: Gender equality—How Queensland is faring' [\[523\]](#).

Of particular note is our work to get more women on Queensland government boards. In 2015 we set a target to get 50 per cent. We beat that target with 54 per cent of women now on government boards. I say to those opposite that targets work.

According to the reports, 50.6 per cent of Queensland's population are female yet more men are in full-time employment and more women are likely to work part-time. Women are over-represented in roles like clerical and administration at 77.3 per cent and under-represented in trades. More than 30 per cent of working mothers are accessing part-time arrangements to care for their children, compared with just 3.8 per cent of working fathers doing the same. In every age group on average women have lower superannuation balances. The gender pay gap for a full-time working week is around 15 per cent less for women. Women represent the vast majority of primary carers. Women are over three times more likely than men to be killed by a partner. Nearly 85 per cent of victims of sexual assault are female.

We know that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated many of these trends, disproportionately affecting women. We have announced a range of measures in support. Today I can announce that Queensland's sexual and domestic violence service providers will share in almost \$2.5 million for 23 projects to assist the sector respond to the impacts of the pandemic.

We know that to achieve real change on gender equality action is required across the nation. That is why I asked my national cabinet colleagues recently to consider a national women's summit focusing predominantly on women's economic security, which was supported. The aim is to have that later this year. The first step towards this summit will be a face-to-face meeting of national cabinet in the middle of the year.

My government will also provide a response to the relevant Respect@Work national inquiry recommendations. This work will be in addition to the National Summit on Women's Safety, which will be held at the end of July this year, and the independent Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce, led by former Court of Appeal judge, the Hon. Margaret McMurdo. I thank the Minister for Women and Attorney-General for leading this very important work for our government.

My government remains committed to gender equality and supporting Queensland women and their right to be safe in their home, workplace and community. We will not stop until this happens.

Parkinson's Disease, Fundraising Walk



Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.42 am): I would like to give a special shout-out to the member for Greenslopes, his brother Vince and the whole Kelly family for successfully completing their Really Big Walk from Brisbane to Coolumb. While many families were enjoying their Easter break, Joe and Vince and their sisters, brothers, nieces, nephews and cousins, even 81-year-old Uncle Vince, as well as their many support crews took part in the 'This is Parkinson's' campaign. Having watched their parents go through Parkinson's disease, the Kellys wanted to raise awareness and money for Parkinson's Queensland and help fund programs and services for the Parkinson's community.

Joe and Vince set off from Joe's home in Greenslopes on 3 April and walked 241 kilometres, which was—correct me if I am wrong, Joe—nearly 340,000 steps in nine days, ending at Coolumb Beach to visit their mum and hopefully have a couple of drinks at the surf club. They faced days of rain over Easter—everyone will remember how bad the rain was over Easter—detours around flooded roads. They walked through national parks, creeks and swamps, sweated through the 30-plus degree temperatures that we experienced and even paddled on stand-up boards through fog, I am told. They marked World Parkinson's Day during the Really Big Walk on 11 April. Team Kelly raised \$65,000.

I thank everyone who took part, including lots of members of parliament, and everyone who donated to this worthy cause. On the behalf of parliament, I thank the member for Greenslopes for doing this vital fundraising and walk.

Mr SPEAKER: Well done to the Kelly gang.

Manufacturing Industry



Hon. SJ MILES (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.44 am): When the pandemic struck, we were the first in Australia to act. We were the first to declare a public health emergency. In May 2020 we announced up to \$50 million in funding to help Queensland manufacturers make essential goods like protective equipment, health consumables and devices. Through the program, we have been working with industry to develop and expand manufacturing and production capacity of essential goods and services.

Whether it is assistance to design, up-tool, reprioritise or pivot production, we have been supporting Queensland businesses. The grants also allow companies to design new products and take them through the clinical approval process. Already we are seeing Queensland companies delivering great products as a result of this assistance. Some of these companies will be here at Parliament House today and are keen to showcase their products to us. In the lunchbreak today here at Parliament House members will be able to see these products and meet these hardworking Queensland companies that have stood up to make a difference in response to the pandemic.

I encourage members to take this opportunity to meet and see firsthand Ellume's COVID-19 home testing kits, produced right here in Brisbane and in hot demand in the United States. AnteoTech, which just last week achieved a vital European registration for its 15-minute COVID-19 antigen rapid test, will be here. Evolve Group will demonstrate their certified P2 masks. WearOptimo's wearable sticker-like health device will be on display. It monitors things like hydration and replaces the need for frequent blood testing. Imaging Solutions will show members their apparel and some innovative core material samples developed with the University of Queensland. MCP will show off their bespoke medical face masks, including face masks for children, and their work to provide innovative solutions for disposable medical gowns, booties and head wear. Cumulatively, these businesses, through this government's assistance, will onshore both technology and products previously made overseas. Many of them are the first in Australia to manufacture their product.

Today I am also pleased to announce that the Advanced Robotics for Manufacturing Hub has been successful through the fund. The hub will work with two businesses, Spinal Life Australia and Consolidated Linen, to develop new technologies. I encourage all members to join us in the parliament's lunchbreak to meet these businesses and show your appreciation for their work in protecting Queenslanders' health and creating jobs here in Queensland.

Payroll Tax Relief; Economy



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.46 am): Since the arrival of COVID-19, the Palaszczuk Labor government has introduced a range of measures to support Queensland businesses and Queensland jobs. This includes more than \$1.3 billion in payroll and land tax relief. For payroll tax, that relief was in the form of refunds, holidays and deferrals. Unlike the federal government, we also ensured that JobKeeper payments were tax free. While JobKeeper payments were subject to federal income tax, the Palaszczuk Labor government ensured JobKeeper payments were not subject to payroll tax calculations.

Household consumption and retail sales data show us that overall Queensland's economy is recovering strongly. As a result of these positive economic conditions, we are now seeing businesses repay payroll tax deferrals. Well over 90 per cent of Queensland businesses have made scheduled payments, and arrangements are in place to assist businesses that are still impacted financially. Importantly, unlike the sudden withdrawal of JobKeeper, our payroll deferrals taper, with final payments not due until 2022.


Our small and medium sized businesses are fundamental to Queensland's economic recovery and to job creation and prosperity in this state. Since 2015, the Palaszczuk Labor government has lifted the payroll tax threshold, doubled the payroll tax rebate for apprentices and trainees and implemented a one percentage point discount on the payroll tax rate for regional businesses. Queensland's current payroll rate threshold of \$1.3 million is one of the most generous in Australia and makes the vast majority of our small businesses exempted from payroll tax.

Our government has been there for Queensland small businesses, reducing financial pressures so they can recover faster and continue employing. We have seen the results of our support for businesses borne out in the investment figures. As much as the opposition might want to talk down Queensland's investment performance, the national accounts bear out the facts. Private gross fixed capital formation in Queensland—the most comprehensive measure of private investment—increased by 4.9 per cent over the latest quarter, faster than the national average.

Over the past year, private investment fell by 1.7 per cent across the nation but private investment rose by 0.7 per cent in Queensland. Private investment is going up in Queensland because businesses have the confidence to hire more workers and spend capital on new structures, machinery and new equipment.

Queensland businesses backed our health response and they back our economic response. They know that our government's swift actions have ensured Queensland is well placed on our road to economic recovery.

School Infrastructure; Racing Industry

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.49 am): The south-east corner of the state is in the thick of an \$85 million education construction boom with recent contracts awarded to continue our program of works. Contracts worth more than \$85 million awarded in March and April alone will fuel a school based construction jobs boom from the Sunshine Coast to the Gold Coast and west to Ipswich. These projects are underway or due to start across more than 30 state schools, supporting 260 jobs, as a pipeline of school infrastructure projects is being rolled out—all part of our economic recovery plan.

This is just a fraction of the projects underway as part of our \$1.9 billion education infrastructure spend in the current budget, supporting 4,800 jobs throughout Queensland. This includes projects like new classroom blocks at Calamvale Community College in Algeester and at Lawnton State School in Kurwongbah. There are lifts and accessible pathways going into Cannon Hill State School in Bulimba, Dayboro and Pine Rivers in Pine Rivers and a new amenities block going in at Dunwich State School in Oodgeroo.

It is not only in the education area of my portfolio that the Palaszczuk government is investing in infrastructure. Our premier racing event—the 2021 TAB Queensland Winter Racing Carnival—will soon be launched. There is record prize money of \$20.5 million, 10 great race days across the five race clubs, and the \$5 million TAB Stradbroke Handicap race day at Eagle Farm on 12 June. I know that is one of the favourite events on the Premier's racing calendar.

Let us not forget country racing—an essential part of community life in our rural and regional communities. The Palaszczuk government has committed a total of \$105.6 million over six years to non-TAB country race clubs, including funds for infrastructure repairs and maintenance projects. Some of these clubs advise me that this is the most money they have ever received in the history of country racing. That is for clubs like Gympie Turf Club, which received more than \$13,000 towards two new steward stands at Adrian McClintock Park. Best of luck to the club for its first TAB meeting on 19 June. I hope the member for Gympie will be there—maybe we can join together!

Opposition members interjected.

Ms GRACE: I actually don't mind the member for Gympie, so I am more than happy to go with him to the races.


Honourable members interjected.

Ms GRACE: Sorry, member for Gympie!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! I dare not call order when there is so much love in the room!

Ms GRACE: It was great to meet recently with the Eastern Downs Country Racing Association president and secretary Graham Rewald and Jim Costello. What absolute stalwarts they are for country racing in Queensland. I look forward to working together for an even better country racing package. The Palaszczuk government's economic strategy for recovery is off and racing in my portfolios, setting Queensland up for an even brighter future.

Health Infrastructure; Hospitals, Demand

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): Last week the member for Cook and I saw firsthand the important new health infrastructure being delivered by the Palaszczuk government in the Torres Strait and the cape. I thank the member for Cook for joining me on Thursday Island. This includes a major \$46 million refurbishment of the Thursday Island Hospital and the Thursday Island Primary Health Care Centre, with works commencing this week.

This investment will go towards the refurbishment of ward areas, the construction of a new operating theatre, as well as a staged roof replacement. We were also able to check out the Mossman Hospital and the amazing work that is being done there. It is near completion. They hope that by

mid-May they will be opening the new emergency department facilities, which is really exciting. This is yet another example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to investing in the health system, whether it be health infrastructure or our health workforce.

Now more than ever it is vital that we have proper investment in our health system. There is no doubt that our health system, particularly our hospitals, are seeing sustained, significant and unseasonably high demand. This has an impact not only on our hospital staff but also on our exceptionally hardworking Queensland Ambulance Service workforce. As health minister, I am committed to ensuring that we address these demand pressures to ensure Queenslanders continue to receive the world-class health care they have come to know and expect under the Palaszczuk government.

To understand the current pressures being faced by our healthcare system we only need to look at the data. From 1 July 2020 to 31 January 2021 there were over 1.39 million presentations to Queensland's emergency departments—an increase of 11.6 per cent. In addition to emergency demand, our health system is currently providing beds to almost 600 people who should be in disability or aged-care accommodation. This is also impacting our health budget, costing taxpayers approximately \$817,000 a day—\$817,000 a day!

As was agreed at the PAAC meeting I attended last parliamentary sitting week, there are no silver bullets to fixing these issues, but the Palaszczuk government is taking strong, decisive action to support our amazing health workers in our hospitals. The amount of \$57 million has already been invested to help manage pressure in our hospital system to focus on emergency department avoidance, emergency department capacity and efficiency strategies. In addition, the Department of Health has allocated a further \$25 million to commission additional inpatient bed capacity. The first \$15 million of this funding has been allocated to hospital and health services to support an additional 130 beds to our system.

As well as these significant investments, our health system is implementing workforce innovations that will ensure we give more efficient care to Queenslanders. For example, the Queensland Ambulance Service's Local Area Assessment Response Unit ensures that paramedics can operate with an extended scope and provide more care in the home or facilitate alternative pathways. We have also expanded the operation of the Queensland Ambulance Service mental health co-responder model across various HHSs which has helped divert more than 650 patients from our EDs—64 per cent of all patients seen by the co-responders in our pilot area in 12 months were diverted from the emergency department. That is a fantastic result, and we are now extending those services.

The health system is facing unprecedented demand, but our amazing health workers are doing a brilliant job. We are ensuring that 99.7 per cent of our category 1 patients are seen in the clinically recommended time frame. It is important to acknowledge that we do not pretend that demand pressures are not there. We have to acknowledge that there has been pressure on health systems across the globe. Every country is seeing those pressures. With our record health budget—I thank the Treasurer for this amazing budget of \$21 billion—and with our hardworking health workers, I know we will be able to get through these difficult times together.

Cross River Rail



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (9.57 am): 612,500—that is how many hours 190 Queensland apprentices have worked on the Cross River Rail project. The Palaszczuk government is backing the jobs and industries of the future. Right now, apprentices are cutting their teeth on Queensland's largest infrastructure project. From working on our tunnel-boring machines—cutting through that rock and getting those tunnels in—to fitting out trains, our public transport investment is giving Queenslanders the skills for the next decade and beyond.

Cross River Rail will deliver more than 450 apprenticeships and trainee opportunities. The Palaszczuk Labor government's investment in Cross River Rail injects about \$4 million into the economy every single day. Our investment in 800 Queensland suppliers and subcontractors is supporting businesses to grow and hire workers. Queensland's economic recovery is not just focused on jobs today but on the next generation of jobs for workers in industries.

Cross River Rail is one of the key projects driving our economic recovery and the infrastructure boom in South-East Queensland and across the state. New train services will reduce road congestion by making commuting on public transport even more attractive and competitive. We will build the first new underground station in the CBD in 100 years, meaning a faster commute for workers right into the heart of the city for the first time.

Cross River Rail will also be the fastest way to travel to the new Gabba Olympic stadium if we are successful in our bid to host the 2032 Olympics. Cross River Rail fixes the bottleneck over the Merivale Bridge in the inner city by creating a second inner-city rail crossing, enabling us to run more trains more often. The Palaszczuk Labor government already operates more rail services than ever before. Mr Speaker, 800 more weekly train services now run in South-East Queensland since we were elected in 2015, and we have seen four service uplifts in the last two years. That is more South-East Queensland train services than ever before. We have also maintained services during the pandemic and we added 105 weekly train services last year. Right now patronage on public transport services in South-East Queensland is running just below 70 per cent of pre-COVID levels.

Cities around the world are grappling with COVID-19 impacts to their transit systems. Leading experts predict that CBD workers will continue to work from home one or two days a week after the pandemic for some time yet. My department is partnering with the University of Sydney on an 18-month research project that looks at behavioural changes associated with working from home. That research will be included in a Transport and Main Roads transport analysis and planning models moving forward. It is not clear yet what the long-term impacts on public transport caused by the global pandemic will be. We will have a clearer picture of that closer to 2025 when Cross River Rail opens, and what great day that will be! Using that information we will be able to make more informed decisions on services and timetables, and commuters will be well-informed ahead of the opening.

One thing that is certain is Queensland's population growth. With over 88 per cent of all net domestic migration over the next few years coming to Queensland and a strong Olympics bid in the advanced stages, there is no question about how important delivering Cross River Rail is for the future of South-East Queensland.

Domestic and Family Violence



Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.01 am): Every death from domestic and family violence is unacceptable and a tragedy. My deepest sympathies go out to the family of Kelly Wilkinson and in particular her three young children. Enough is enough.

Since 2015 we have invested over half a billion dollars towards ending domestic and family violence; however, we know clearly that there is much more work to do, especially in the light of COVID-19, which has increased violence against women in our community. During the pandemic almost one in 10 women in a relationship in this country experienced domestic and family violence, with two-thirds saying the violence started or escalated during lockdowns. The Palaszczuk government was swift to respond to the increasing demand on domestic, family and sexual violence services with an immediate funding boost of \$7.5 million. Working with the federal government we were also able to secure \$25 million through the COVID-19 Domestic and Family Violence Responses national partnership agreement.

Today I am very pleased, along with the Premier, to announce a further \$2.5 million that will be distributed through our domestic and family violence COVID grants for 23 projects. These projects will be delivered from the Torres Strait to the Gold Coast and will deliver innovative responses to the impacts of COVID across sexual violence and domestic and family violence. The funding is going to groups like: the Red Rose Foundation to allow them to take their incredible advocacy and research into non-lethal strangulation online; the North Queensland Women's Legal Service to help them provide domestic and family violence victims with quality legal assistance; and the Centre for Women to help them expand their services to provide men and their aggrieved mental health and domestic and family violence support. They include projects to be delivered for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, LGBTIQ communities, young people, men using violence, and culturally diverse communities.

Women all across Queensland need these services, and it is crucial that all levels of government continue to support them because women's lives depend on it.

Resources Industries, Exploration Grants



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.03 am): The demand for the next generation of minerals is growing globally as Queensland and the world turn their focus on the future economy. This demand is driven by emerging technologies like electric vehicles, solar panels, battery storage and products for the medical, defence and scientific research sectors. My role as the

Minister for Resources is to help drive Queensland's plan for economic recovery and set Queensland up for the future. That is why I am pleased to inform the House that the latest round of Collaborative Exploration Initiative grants is now open.


Up to \$2.5 million worth of grants will be available to assist Queensland explorers find the minerals needed to meet the demands of the world's technology and renewable sectors. This is not only a golden opportunity for Queensland explorers; it will also help boost exploration and investment in the resources sector. Investment in exploration today is what will lead the next generation of projects and jobs, and these grants are in place to put Queensland industry on the front foot. Explorers have the chance to apply for grants up to \$200,000 under a joint government-industry Collaborative Exploration Initiative to help drive innovation, to make new discoveries and drive economic growth across the state of Queensland.

As the world continues to adopt and develop these emerging technologies the demand for minerals such as silica, titanium, lithium and vanadium will certainly increase and Queensland will be front and centre. Just recently Multicom Resources' Saint Elmo vanadium project—just east of Julia Creek up my way—has been the latest to mark a milestone in its development after gaining federal government approval to mine.

The Palaszczuk government understands the important role exploration plays in growing our resources sector. That is why we have invested more than \$6.8 million in exploration grants and programs since its introduction in 2017. The last four rounds of the Collaborative Exploration Initiative have supported 46 projects exploring for mineral resources across the state and, as we heard at the recent Queensland Exploration Council's Technical Forum, the industry is successfully using these grants to make new finds. In fact, one of the principal geologists said that the initiative was a 'core enabler' of their exploration in the new frontier region and went on to say, 'There is no doubt explorers in north-west Queensland benefit from world-class government and institutional support, and this will assist new mineral discovery.' Sensational!

The Palaszczuk government is committed to increasing exploration as we will know it will lead to more jobs and more opportunities, particularly in regional Queensland. We are working with a great sense of urgency to take full advantage of the huge opportunity before us, and we are pushing on every front to support our vital resources sector to make it successful for the benefit of all Queenslanders.

Manufacturing Industry


 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.07 am): Once again the Palaszczuk government is delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery and setting Queensland up for the future by investing in small and medium sized manufacturers. We are helping to transform their businesses and create jobs in this state, rebounding our economy. Today we are announcing another \$15.5 million on offer through round 4 of our Made in Queensland grants program—that is \$61.5 million since 2017—to help our manufacturers become more internationally competitive by adopting innovative processes and technologies. Through the first three rounds we are supporting 84 advanced manufacturing projects generating over 1,100 new jobs and underpinning \$100 million in private sector investment in Queensland. With this new infusion we are going to see those numbers, and certainly future opportunities, grow even further.

Grants between \$50,000 and \$2.5 million are available to those eligible manufacturers operating right here in Queensland. In previous rounds that grant has had to be matched fifty-fifty by the applicant, but this time we have something special for regional manufacturers. So far, 40 per cent of Made in Queensland projects are being delivered in regional Queensland. As Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and a qualified fitter and turner by trade, I want to see that percentage grow. That is why MIQ round 4 eligible regional manufacturers can get up to 75 per cent of their costs covered for projects to the value of \$500,000. Because I want Queensland to be Australia's premier manufacturing state, the program also supports creating and bringing manufacturing activity back into Queensland.

If you are a manufacturer thinking about reshoring or onshoring manufacturing activities which can create jobs and grow our economy here in Queensland, we want you here. This is a grant program with a proven success rate. It is one that is helping Queensland businesses to become more productive, to grow, to innovate and to create knowledge based jobs for our future opportunities. They are jobs for the future, and they are being created thanks to this government's support for the manufacturing industry in Queensland. Interested manufacturers should visit my department's website to learn more

and to make their applications. I am proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government's team delivering Queensland's plan for economic recovery, setting up Queensland's future and Queensland's future in manufacturing.

Small Business Month

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.10 am): I am so excited to say that Queensland's Small Business Month is just around the corner. Next month's celebration of Queensland small businesses is now less than a fortnight away. It is the second time that the whole month of May—rather than just a week—has been dedicated to celebrating Queensland's vibrant and diverse small business sector, and what a great opportunity that month is for small business.


Our small business roadshows, which wrapped up in March, provided direct feedback from small businesses who were so eager to tell us how they were going and how we could best support them to recover and grow from the past 12 months. We listened to their feedback closely. We know that if our small businesses are strong then our communities are strong as well. That is why the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$100,000 to sponsor activities right around the state aimed at connecting small businesses with information and support to help them come back even better and giving them the chance to promote what they do. I am so looking forward to getting to some of those events personally.

This year the calendar is dedicated to helping small businesses on their road to recovery and to 'Bounce Back Better', which is our theme. There are 17 organisations which have partnered with government to host conferences, expos, seminars, workshops, forums, webinars and trade shows. Stretching from Mission Beach in the north, west to St George and south to the Gold Coast, the range of events will also cater for specific groups. There are sessions for Indigenous small businesses and for female business owners.

For example, a regional women in business long lunch in Goondiwindi will bring women from rural communities in South-West Queensland together for local networking. In Mission Beach the Women's Business School will host the reimagine, reinvent and recover conference. In Emerald the Central Highlands Development Corporation will host a Bounce Back Better breakfast, followed by one-to-one mentoring. Through attending these events across Queensland, women can gain valuable contacts and connections for their small businesses. We also have the workshop for art and industry professionals in Townsville, the strategic planning workshop run by the RCA in Rockhampton, the 2021 Logan Business and Jobs Expo, the Food and Agribusiness Conference in Ipswich and so many more.

Small businesses are key to Queensland's economic recovery. They are the heart and soul of our local communities, particularly in the regions. They are our families, our friends and our neighbours. They create jobs and they keep us strong. The Palaszczuk government backs small business, and our Small Business Month 2021 provides another opportunity for us to do that and to help them 'Bounce Back Better'.

Tourism Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (10.13 am): Despite some challenges entering into the Easter period—such as the brief Brisbane lockdown and the significant weather events in South-East Queensland that the member for Greenslopes became intimately aware of—it has been a cracking Easter and school holiday period for many Queensland tourism operators. New accommodation data from STR Global Research shows the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Tropical North Queensland performed well. The data suggests Easter accommodation revenue was better than Easter 2019, before the pandemic. Tropical North Queensland was up by 22 per cent, Gold Coast accommodation revenue was up by almost half and accommodation revenue on the Sunshine Coast surged by 55 per cent. In the Bundaberg region, it was hard to find a place to stay at Bargara, with a 100 per cent occupancy rate. The Fraser Coast also had a bumper Easter.

The new phase of our Good to Go campaign was launched just before Easter to more than 10 million Australians—focusing particularly on those in Victoria and New South Wales—and it highlighted the safety and flexibility of travelling to Queensland. The *Courier-Mail* tourism reporter, Jeremy Pierce, wrote on Friday that our 'tourism industry is turning the corner as new research reveals parts of the state have recorded the best hotel bookings since ... the coronavirus pandemic'. Queensland is, says the *Courier-Mail*, 'leading the charge'.

Data from SiteMinder's World Hotel Index shows bookings in Cairns and Townsville during April are 30 and 28 per cent higher respectively, but we are not out of the woods yet. There is still more work to be done in specific areas, particularly those exposed to traditional international tourism markets, and there are still workforce challenges. For example, the Whitsundays has around 300 jobs to fill. We are not alone in that regard. Over the weekend I spoke with the Weekend Collective on New Zealand radio. Kiwis are not only looking for Australian holidays at record rates; they are also facing a shortage of hospitality workers. As New Zealand plunges into a bitter winter, I have put out the call to young Kiwis to cross the ditch and pitch for the resort and hospitality jobs on offer here in the Sunshine State. They are very welcome because we are very 'good to go'.

MOTION

Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee



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

1. That the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee inquire into and report to the Legislative Assembly on:
 - (a) the nature and extent of hate crimes and serious vilification in Queensland and whether there is evidence of increasing instances of serious vilification in Queensland; and
 - (b) the effectiveness of section 131A of the Anti-Discrimination Act 1991 (the Act) and other existing Queensland laws responding to hate crimes.
2. That the committee consider:
 - (a) the Options Paper: Serious vilification and hate crime: The need for legislative reform;
 - (b) the interaction of Queensland and Commonwealth legislation in relation to online vilification;
 - (c) the effectiveness of activities and programs of the Queensland Government (including the Queensland Police Service and Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions) and the Commonwealth Government responding to hate crime, including record keeping practices;
 - (d) the Human Rights Act 2019 (HR Act) and any rights which are engaged by the current law and any proposals for reform, including a human rights analysis under section 13 of the HR Act for any recommended legislative amendments, as well as constitutional limitations;
 - (e) the current legal framework and relevant reports, reviews and inquiries in other Australian and international jurisdictions;
 - (f) the appropriateness of the conciliation-based antidiscrimination framework (s 124A of the Act); and
3. That the committee report to the Legislative Assembly by 31 January 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

ABSENCE OF MINISTER



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.17 am): I advise that the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs will be absent from the House today due to illness. The Premier and Minister for Trade will take any questions relating to the minister's portfolio in question time today.

NOTICE OF MOTION

Schools, Free Meals



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (10.17 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House:

1. acknowledges:
 - (a) Foodbank's 2018 *Rumbling tummies* report shows that 20 per cent of children start the school day without eating breakfast, and 15 per cent of kids arrive at school without lunch, while Bankwest's Curtin Economic Centre's 2020 *The early years: investing in our future* report shows that in 2020, 18.5 per cent of Queensland children were living in poverty—the highest rate in the country, an increase from 15.2 per cent in 2009-10, making it the only state where child poverty has increased over the last 10 years;
 - (b) at under \$5.35 per meal per student (based on the cost of school lunch in Finland including staff salaries, foodstuffs, equipment and fittings, transportation and food bought externally, plus 10 per cent to account for more expensive average grocery prices), with a 30 per cent uptake rate (based on the 21 per cent rate at a Victorian

free school breakfasts program at 500 schools, adjusted to account for higher rates of child poverty), a universal free school breakfast and lunch program in every Queensland state school would cost approximately \$374 million per year; and

2. calls on the government to:

- (a) deliver a free healthy breakfast and lunch program to run at every state school in Queensland, available to every state school student; and
- (b) work with Foodbank Australia to expand and better resource the charity's existing free breakfast program in Queensland state schools where it is already operating.

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.19 am.

Health System



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.19 am): My question is to the Premier. In 2011 when former premier Anna Bligh said that Queensland Health was a basket case and needed to be abolished, ambulance ramping was at 30 per cent. Today, 40 per cent of all ambulance arrivals are ramped. Is Labor losing control of Queensland Health yet again?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. If the Leader of the Opposition had listened to the Minister for Health's statement to the parliament today he would know that it was very comprehensive about the record investment in health by this side of the House: \$20 billion, increasing the number of doctors, the number of nurses and the number of paramedics. I listened to what the Minister for Education had to say yesterday in her contribution in private members' statements where she said very clearly—and I back this in 100 per cent—'This side of the House will not be lectured to by those opposite, who decimated the health system in this state.' I will not be lectured by the Leader of the Opposition, who sat around the cabinet table, who sat next to Campbell Newman and decimated health in this state. How dare they come in here and talk about health in this state.

They are the opposition that wanted to open the borders and let the coronavirus in. We did not see that wave that Victoria had because we stood firm and we made sure that our borders remained shut. That is right. I was attacked by everyone. They brought out their federal counterparts and attacked me.

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: This side of the House stood strong and we continue our strong health response because, fundamentally, we believe in keeping Queenslanders safe, unlike those opposite. The member for Broadwater sat around that cabinet table.

Ms Grace: Sacking workers.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Let's go through it—

Mr Dick: Don't worry about Anna Bligh, worry about Campbell Newman. You worry about Campbell Newman. That's what you're becoming. You're becoming Campbell Newman.

Ms PALASZCZUK:—4,400 health workers.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The volume of interjections is too high, members.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Leader of the Opposition is just like Campbell Newman—more and more. Has he rung any stakeholders lately? Has he contacted any stakeholders lately? He is just like Campbell Newman. Does the Leader of the Opposition have anything to say about Beef Week? That has been reported back to me. Let's see how he is received in Rockhampton next week. We will see how the member for Broadwater—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right. We know how the opposition treated stakeholders when they were in government and we know how those in opposition treat stakeholders now.

(Time expired)

Health System

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the health minister. Early last Wednesday morning Kirsty from Ipswich called for an ambulance as her daughter had breathing difficulties. She has told me they waited 40 minutes for an ambulance to travel from Crestmead to take them three kilometres to the Ipswich Hospital, where they waited nine hours for attention. How many lives will be lost because this government is losing control of Queensland Health?

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr Dick interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Minister for Education and the Treasurer will cease their interjections.

Mrs D'ATH: Again, those on the opposite side continue to talk down the health system in this state, to be completely ignorant of the fact that there is disruption to every health system in the world right now. From day one the Leader of the Opposition and the opposition generally have continued to—

Mr Crisafulli: Stick up for Queenslanders.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections or he will be warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: They have continued to deny COVID and the seriousness of COVID and now they are denying the impact that COVID is having on health systems and the disruption it is causing. If they want to talk about stats or the impact on workers, let's talk about the 4,400 health workers that they sacked, the 1,800 nurses and midwives and the \$1.6 billion cut to health. The Leader of the Opposition said in September 2012 that cuts would not impact frontline services. He said, that whilst you have to feel for those involved, you have to live within your means. However, what we saw was '4000 more face sack ... Razor gang sets its sights on Health', 'Frontline nurses axed from Mackay Hospital', 'Families to suffer as health services axed'. This is the reality.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Not wanting to lecture one on props, I point out that there are standing orders relevant to props. I ask that the standing orders be strongly enforced on this occasion.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, member for Kawana. Your point of order is duly noted. Minister for Health, will you be tabling the documents that you have been displaying?

Mrs D'ATH: I will be, but I have not finished going through them all yet.

Mr SPEAKER: For the dignity of the House it would be better that you table them rather than display them.

Mrs D'ATH: Okay. They go on: 'More govt jobs axed: Newman rips into linen service'. Of course, we know that there were regional cuts: 197 health jobs in Central Queensland, 306 health jobs cut in Far North Queensland, 398 health jobs cut in North Queensland and they created the waiting list for the waiting list. They set aside \$15 million—

Ms PALASZCZUK: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I cannot hear the health minister—and this is very important information—because those opposite are interjecting.

Mr SPEAKER: I will say that it is not only a factual statement; there are certainly some antagonising items in the response as well. I think there has been a bit of give and take in this particular regard.

Mrs D'ATH: I will table all of those.

Tabled paper: Bundle of media articles regarding the provision of health services by the Newman government [\[524\]](#).

I am simply reading factual statements. Also \$15 million—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Everton, you have consistently been interjecting this morning. I was not going to interrupt the minister as you did earlier. You are warned under the standing orders, as is the member for Glass House; you are both warned under the standing orders. The volume of interjections is too high. Minister, you have 42 seconds remaining if you wish to add anything further.

Mrs D'ATH: There was \$15 million set aside for advertising to claim the waiting list was not there, \$77 million in total was spent on consultants and advertising, over 104,000 people waiting longer than clinically recommended for an outpatient appointment—they could not even make it onto the surgical waiting list.

They closed the Barrett Adolescent Centre and they tried to cripple our public hospital system by trying to force the doctors onto unreasonable contracts and working conditions. They removed \$120 million of funding from community health services, Deaf Services Queensland, cerebral palsy, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health services, Queensland AIDS Council and the child and family therapy services. That is their legacy.

Mr SPEAKER: Before calling the member to ask the next question, Leader of the Opposition, I try to give some leeway, but you have been constantly interjecting. After being cautioned earlier, you are now warned under the standing orders.

Jobs, Labour Force Data

Mr PEGG: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the importance of jobs and the recent labour force numbers, and is the Premier aware of any alternative views?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Stretton for that really important question. I know how he values jobs in his local electorate. He knows how important it is for young children in his electorate going to those schools to get jobs in the future. We on this side of the House back and support jobs. We know that there is a great future for children in this state.

The most recent labour force data has unemployment at 5.9 per cent. I have always said that I like to see an unemployment rate with a '5' in it, and that is what we have. More than 23,000 jobs were created in March. As we know, we have the strongest recovery of jobs in the nation. There are now 319,880 more jobs in Queensland than when we were elected. This is fantastic news. We know that a bright future is about making sure that there is dignity in work and that people get into work.

We know what those on the other side think about jobs. They cut and axed jobs, sacking 14,000. According to the latest Seek quarterly employment snapshot for Queensland, job ads are up 38 per cent on year to March quarter.

Recently I saw a new job being advertised. Perhaps the LNP is adding to the number of new jobs. It says that there is an exciting new position in Queensland for a collaborative influencer. That sounds interesting, doesn't it? The job ad also says, 'The role requires someone with proven ability to bring different groups of people together to reconcile differing views.' This is a very interesting job—but wait, there's more. It warns that the position is by no means an easy job. It appears that this job is for the state director of the LNP. It would be exciting, wouldn't it—fixing up the mess that has been created over there, bringing people together, working out who is talking to whom? Where is Clive Palmer and the yacht? They will have a little meeting on the yacht and work out their differences. What a job that is!

They have it right: this is by no means an easy job. I am quite sure it is going to be very interesting. I would like to see the short-list of applicants. I think that would be interesting. I wonder who will get that job. We look forward to finding out who gets that new position in the LNP.

(Time expired)

Hospitals, Access

Mr JANETZKI: My question is to the Minister for Health. In New South Wales, 12.7 per cent of all ambulance arrivals are ramped. In Victoria, 22.2 per cent of all ambulance arrivals are ramped. In Queensland, 40 per cent of all ambulance arrivals are ramped. Is Labor losing control of ramping?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I ask that he also provides to the House the data relating to emergency department presentations for those dates. I have had a look at the emergency department presentations for those dates. I saw that their emergency department presentations were lower than in previous cycles. In Queensland we are seeing above-normal, surge numbers. You can see that from the data we are publishing. The data we are publishing is showing—

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs D'ATH: We have a lot more people presenting in our emergency departments. Why is that so? It is not something that those opposite want to talk about. One reason we are seeing more presentations in our emergency departments is that people cannot get in to see their GP. They cannot get bulk-billing in their communities. I am not talking about just remote and regional communities; I am talking about in South-East Queensland as well. As people are being told they have to wait two or three weeks before they can see their GP, they are coming into emergency departments. We are also seeing people with more chronic illnesses who are not getting to their doctors and getting treated—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs D'ATH: We saw disruption to the health system and to people's treatment last year due to COVID. Those opposite ignore the fact that it was a national cabinet decision to stop publishing data. Why? It was because they knew the data would be skewed due to the consequences of suspension of elective surgery.

Mr Mickelberg interjected.

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

Mrs D'ATH: When you restart elective surgery, if we do what we have done, which is put more money in—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is being responsive to the question asked as I hear her answer. You may not like the answer, but it is a response that is being provided.

Mrs D'ATH: Because we put extra money into the system to fast-track the elective surgery that was delayed because of COVID—a national decision to suspend elective surgery and stop publishing data—we ended up with a lot more people in beds, because they have had the surgery. That means we have reduced bed capacity. We know that if there is less bed capacity there are more people in emergency departments waiting longer, which has led to issues with ambulances.

This is a whole-of-health-sector issue. It is a national issue and a global issue. Queensland is definitely seeing higher surges in emergency department presentations than other jurisdictions. It is why we are working with the whole health profession—not just the public system but the private system as well—to find solutions and identify the reasons.

(Time expired)

Southern Downs, Water Security

Mr MADDEN: My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is committed to water security for the Southern Downs?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. We are a government for all of Queensland. It does not matter where people live in our state or how they vote: we will look after families across this state. I think the people of Queensland know that is my commitment and the commitment of my government.

I was very pleased to join the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water in Warwick on his birthday. We met with Southern Downs mayor, Vic Pennisi, to once again talk about our commitment to the pipeline from Toowoomba to Warwick. This is about future drought proofing for the region. It is very important. We know that before the most recent rainfall Stanthorpe's Storm King Dam was down to 9.6 per cent and Warwick's Leslie Dam was down to 4.6 per cent. When Stanthorpe reached those levels my government immediately acted. We put in \$15 million for water carting. Those trucks were going backwards and forwards. After the most recent rains it was wonderful to see Storm King Dam full such that there was no need for water carting. This was excellent news, but it does not stop our commitment.

I was very pleased to announce that we will put in an additional \$20 million for the next stage of our commitment to provide water security for the region. The \$20 million package will form the basis of water security and provide immediate funding to unlock new water sources, upgrade critical infrastructure and, importantly, lay the groundwork for the Toowoomba-Warwick pipeline and getting it shovel ready. This is the next step towards that pipeline. The package will also deliver an additional 13 months of supply in the worst case scenario of no further significant rainfall.

We are putting in \$8.1 million for the early works for the Toowoomba-Warwick pipeline including detailed design, surveying and geotechnical works; \$4.6 million to reconnect groundwater to the Allora township; \$1.4 million to assist the Southern Downs Regional Council to move industrial users to groundwater to free up more supply for urban use; \$4.5 million to increase Leslie Dam's capacity by upgrading its pumps and water treatment system; and \$700,000 to support investigations into other local groundwater supplies for Warwick, Allora and Stanthorpe and more efficiency investigations at Leslie Dam.

These immediate works will create around 60 jobs. Construction of the entire pipeline will deliver more than 700 jobs, supporting Queensland's economic recovery. That is our commitment to the people of Queensland. That is our commitment to the people of Southern Downs. I thank the minister for his hard work in bringing this package together.

Hospitals, Code Yellow

Mr MOLHOEK: My question is to the Minister for Health. Can the minister confirm Queensland Health staff have been told not to use the term 'code yellow' and, if so, why is the government more concerned about reputation than care?

Mrs D'ATH: No, that is not correct.

Renewable Energy

Ms BUSH: My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on what the Palaszczuk government is doing to boost clean, cheap renewable energy in Queensland, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Cooper for her question. I know that, like all members of the government, she knows how clean energy will deliver us cheaper power as well as more jobs and jobs right across regional Queensland.

Today I am really pleased to advise the House that the State Assessment and Referral Agency has approved another big renewables project—a \$1.96 billion renewables project, a 180-wind-turbine project in the Darling Downs south-west region. World renowned company ACCIONA will construct the MacIntyre Wind Farm precinct at Cement Mills, which is 40 kilometres south-west of Warwick and 70 kilometres south-west of Toowoomba.

When up and running, the project will deliver 1,026 megawatts of power. That is enough to power 700,000 Queensland homes. There will be 162 turbines in the MacIntyre project and 18 in the Karara project as well as a new 64-kilometre overhead transmission line connecting to the Powerlink network near Millmerran.

All up, there will be 400 jobs in construction of the wind farms, 240 jobs in construction of the new transmission line and ACCIONA expects to spend more than \$500 million locally constructing the project. It was in part enabled by an offtake agreement with the Palaszczuk government's CleanCo low-emissions power generator, so a great project all round delivering cheaper power, lower emissions and more jobs for Queensland.

We on this side of the House see the opportunities of clean energy while there are still those on the other side of the House denying that opportunity. The member for Burleigh went on another bizarre rant recently, and I want to quote what he said. He said—

You can't lie about science. When people say you need to stop carbonising the world then you take away the stuff the plants eat. Then the plants die and we go back to the ice age. The member for Bonney recently posted on Facebook that he had a copy of Dr Karl's book for the climate denier in somebody's life. The member for Bonney has a climate denier in his own life. He does not need to look very far. I would suggest that he should walk Dr Karl's book over to the member for Burleigh. We on this side of the House are deeply committed to delivering the clean energy projects that will drive down power prices and create jobs right across Queensland.

Hospitals, Code Yellow

Mr STEVENS: My question is to the Minister for Health. It has been 24 hours since the minister did not know how many code yellows had shut down hospitals. Has the minister found out how many internal disasters were declared by Queensland hospitals in the past month?

Mr HINCHLIFFE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The question posed by the member for Mermaid Beach clearly has imputations contained within it and I would ask you to rule.

Mr SPEAKER: The question is in order. There is no imputation directly at an individual; it is talking about a broader policy issue. However, I will certainly give the member significant latitude in answering the question.

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I am glad he got a question from his side. In relation to code yellows, these are nothing new and nothing to be afraid of. As the member would know after being in opposition in the parliament for some time, this is a normal internal process that hospitals use for a whole range of reasons. It can be disruption to water, electricity, IT—a whole range of issues.

In fact, I have an example from 12 December 2014 when a code yellow was declared at the RBWH following a phone issue. The emergency lines within the Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital were not believed to be working correctly. That was when the opposition was in government. Code yellows are a normal way for hospitals to manage different issues that arise on any given day at any given time to manage the services within.

Since 25 March I can advise that there have been 11 code yellows in Queensland, but let me inform the House of what has happened since 25 March. We have had two COVID community transmission clusters. We have had a three-day lockdown. We have had thousands of people tested across the state. We have had, I think it was, 25,000 close contacts or contacts from the contact tracing team involving multiple sites—hundreds of sites—in South-East Queensland and a number of people had to go into isolation.

There were health workers who had to go into quarantine themselves. We know that we ended up having three health workers test positive and as a result their close contacts at the hospital also had to go into quarantine. All of that has an impact, so it is no surprise that when any COVID cluster happens it causes disruption to the health system. That is just logical. It is happening around the world. Those on the other side can carry on about when there is a cluster and who is responsible and who is to blame. Some 192 countries and regions around the world have had community transmission and there have been over three million deaths.

An opposition member: We're talking code yellow.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection to the effect of, 'No, we're talking about code yellow.' How is it that code yellow is completely disconnected with COVID, and that impacts on the hospital system? We could have a COVID outbreak and disruption to surgery, health workers and everything else, but that has nothing to do with a code yellow? That just shows that those on the other side are playing pure politics, and these are the people—

(Time expired)

Job Creation

Mr MELLISH: My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on job vacancy numbers and current employment opportunities in Queensland, and can the Treasurer advise of any alternative approaches to job creation?

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Aspley for his strong support for businesses and job creation on the north side and his strong support for our plan for economic recovery for Queensland. I join with the Premier in welcoming the resurgence in job vacancies in the first quarter of 2021. There are now more job vacancies in Queensland than at any point since the Australian Bureau of Statistics first started recording vacancy data almost 40 years ago in 1983. Job vacancies increased by almost 12 per cent in the first quarter of 2021. Vacancies are almost 40 per cent higher than they were when the COVID crisis began a little over a year ago. The annual growth in jobs vacancies is 1½ times faster than the national average.

Alongside this rise in job vacancies, Queensland has also recorded an 86 per cent annual increase in job advertisements posted on Seek. The number of job ads posted in Queensland in March was close to its highest level ever recorded, according to Seek's managing director in Australia and New Zealand. That surge in job ads shows that business confidence is back, and that is mirrored in Queensland's investment performance.

One organisation contributing to jobs vacancies is the LNP following Michael O'Dwyer leaving the stadium, so to speak. It is often said that Ernest Hemingway wrote the saddest six-word story, but I think even Hemingway would be hard-pressed matching the LNP's job advertisement: 'For hire: LNP director, barely used'.

There are two ways to create job vacancies. On this side of the House we create a strong economy where businesses are confident to employ new staff. The LNP's method of creating job vacancies is a little more unorthodox—they do it themselves. After the state director stepped down we also saw the departure of Dave Hutchinson as party president—no doubt to spend more time with members of the extended LNP family, like Clive Palmer, on the yacht. Gary Spence left his position as immediate past president—no doubt to spend more time with members of the LNP extended family, like Clive Palmer, on the yacht.

Malcolm Cole quit the executive. The Young LNP president quit. Party elder Lawrence Springborg was knifed. But the resurrection is on. It is back to the future, forward to the past. It was on for young and old. Stuart Fraser, the party treasurer, left, throwing fundraising into disarray. These exits

were only the beginning. After the great purge of the LNP headquarters began in mid-2020, it continued all the way through to October with sudden vacancies arising in Bundaberg, Caloundra, Hervey Bay, Pumicestone and Nicklin. Our government was more than happy to fill those vacancies as they came up. Labor simply had the best people for the job and the people of Queensland backed us in.

Gladstone Ports Corporation, Chief Executive Officer

Mr MINNIKIN: My question is to the Minister for Transport. I table a letter from the Crime and Corruption Commission suggesting the minister may have breached the ministerial code by involving himself in the appointment process of the Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO. Why did the minister make a strong recommendation about an appointment process that was a matter for the board? Was it because the CEO candidate had refused to sack a worker who embarrassed Bill Shorten during the 2019 election campaign?

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 1 April 2021, from the Chairperson of the Crime and Corruption Commission, Mr Alan MacSporran QC, to the Chair, Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, Mr Jon Krause MP, regarding responses to questions taken on notice at the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee public hearing held on 26 March 2021 [\[525\]](#).

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe there was an imputation in that question and that it should be ruled out of order.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The letter tabled by the honourable member was from the Crime and Corruption Commission yesterday. It talks about possible breaches of the ministerial code. I cannot understand how it would be an imputation when we are referring to a letter that was written by the Crime and Corruption Commission itself.

Mr SPEAKER: I will allow the question. The minister will have leniency in the way he addresses the response.

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. Of course it is a question that could not be asked if those opposite were in power because they would have sold off the Gladstone port. Under Strong Choices they would have sold it off. Campbell Newman and the Leader of the Opposition appointed Mark Brodie as the chair. Under Strong Choices they were going to sell it off. I welcome any question about our publicly owned assets and ports.

However, the question had a number of inaccuracies which I refute. I can inform the chamber that on 14 April 2021 shareholding ministers received a letter from the Gladstone Ports Corporation chair advising of a board decision to appoint a new interim CEO while they recruit for a permanent appointment. This was a decision by the independent board, not a decision of shareholding ministers. As shareholding ministers, I and the Treasurer will consider recommended candidates from the Gladstone Ports Corporation in due course. Those opposite can try to make their allegations, but that question was a misleading question. That information is relevant and pertinent to the matter.

Ms Simpson interjected.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Maroochydore and member for Chatsworth, you will cease your interjections.

Respectful Relationships Education

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House on the Department of Education's work on Respectful Relationships Education and sexual consent and advise if there are any other alternative approaches?

Ms GRACE: It is a great question from a teacher who knows that when we are addressing the issues of consent, respectful relationships and reporting that they need to be examined in a serious, respectful, thorough and consultative fashion. I am pleased to inform the House that consultations with key stakeholders are well underway and that this will continue in the months ahead. It includes the non-government sector.

The department's existing Respectful Relationships Education Advisory Group is meeting next week to examine current consent education, how it can be improved and what we can do in an age-sensitive manner. At my request the matter is on the agenda of the meeting of the Education Council on 30 April so that we can have a consistent national approach to consent education, which is vital. On 7 May I am looking forward to one of my favourite things which is meeting with the Ministerial Student Advisory Council to hear their views and perspectives on this matter. I have written to them, their principals and their parents in relation to the questions we will be posing.

Let us compare that to what has happened federally: an absolute debacle. The Respect Matters program was announced by Malcolm Turnbull in 2015. The federal government was embarrassed at a recent Senate estimates hearing because it had not done anything for six years. Last week Minister Tudge got up with the Minister for Families, Anne Ruston, and suddenly launched a new set of resources to help deal with consent and reporting education in schools. There was no consultation with the states, no viewing of what they intended to put on the website, no consultation with experts, no consultation with ministers around the state, even knowing the matter was on the Education Council agenda for next week.

What we have is a bizarre, confusing, problematic-in-so-many-ways set of material that not only insults my intelligence but the intelligence of schoolchildren right around the country. The material contains images of a woman smearing a man's face with a milkshake, a spear gun trying to convince women about sharks in the water and, believe it or not, a matter of sexual consent that does not even mention the word sex. It is absolutely bizarre. It has been ridiculed by Our Watch, the Foundation for Young Australians, End Rape on Campus, Chanel Contos and Grace Tame. They have all distanced themselves from the material which was lambasted as inaccurate and insulting. You know you really have a problem when Barnaby Joyce comes out and gives it the thumbs down. This is a serious matter. There cannot be a knee-jerk reaction. This is not a public relations issue that Scotty from marketing loves.

Cross River Rail

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Minister for Transport. With the truth now exposed that the additional train services promised to South-East Queensland commuters from Cross River Rail were overstated—

Mr Pegg interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I have been very clear to the House about questions being heard in silence. Member for Stretton, you are warned under the standing orders. You may start your question again, if you wish, member for Glass House.

Mr POWELL: With the truth now exposed that the additional train services promised to South-East Queensland commuters from Cross River Rail were overstated, is the government's promise to bust congestion falling off the rails?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the Dixer. Do members know how many extra trains and additional benefits there were from those opposite when they were in power? Zero! They cut the project. Not content with cutting the project once, they promised to cut it again in 2017. How did that go for them? The need for this project has been clear for more than a decade. We were lined up to do it. There was a change of government in 2012. It was cut by the Newman government. The Leader of the Opposition was sitting around that cabinet table. He cut Cross River Rail like he cut everything else.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Chatsworth, you have had a red-hot go today. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mr BAILEY: Despite the fact that the federal LNP did not put one dollar into Cross River Rail, the Premier and this government got on with it and got it done. It is already more than 30 per cent built, creating thousands of jobs. The benefits from this project are clear. There will be improved journey times across the network. Benefits will come out in the detailed service plan. That is a normal part of rail. What we see—

Mr Powell interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I am sorry to interrupt, Minister. Pause the clock. Member for Glass House, you are on a warning. You are interjecting. You know that is not allowed. You can leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253A.

Whereupon the honourable member for Glass House withdrew from the chamber at 10.59 am.

Mr BAILEY: There we have it: the person who asked the question was not even interested in the answer. That shows how little they know about public transport. The cat was let out of the bag on Saturday in a three-hour marathon interview with the member for Burleigh. Never a truer word was spoken than when the journalist described it as a 'three-hour marathon'. The member revealed the opposition's view that public transportation would be obsolete within five to 10 years. It is no wonder that they cut transport projects: they do not support it, they do not understand it, they do not use it and

that is why they botch it up. That is why they order trains from overseas instead of those built by Queensland workers. That is why they order trains that are not disability compliant. That is why we had 48 fewer train drivers by the end of the Newman government, of which the Leader of the Opposition was a part. They botch it up every time they touch it.

It is this government that is building the transformational Cross River Rail project that will double inner-city rail capacity. People will be able to catch a train directly into the city for the first time. For the first time, right from the heart of the city you will be able to take an underground train line right past the Gabba. The Olympic transformation of the Gabba stadium locks in beautifully with the Cross River Rail project. People will be able to get straight into the city for the first time. We have a very circuitous rail system. New stations are being built. A lot of people get off the train at South Bank or South Brisbane and walk across the river because there is no central train station. We are building it; those opposite cut it. We are getting on with it. They can wax lyrical all they like but we are getting on with building a better public transport system.

(Time expired)

Mental Health

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister outline how the Palaszczuk government is investing in mental health to support Queenslanders during the COVID-19 pandemic and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for Caloundra for his question. I know that he is very passionate about what we are doing to invest in mental health and the significance of mental health in our community. Briefly, before I move to issues of mental health, in response to some questions from those on the other side, I want to clarify that the 11 code yellows that I referred to earlier relate to South-East Queensland. I also refer to the data that I think the Leader of the Opposition may have asked about in relation to patient off-stretcher times and a comparison with other states. You cannot compare with other states because they are not calculated the same way. The closest that you can get is Victoria where they calculate 40 minutes off the stretcher as opposed to 30 minutes in Queensland. Once again, you always have to check and double check this data.

On mental health, sadly, even before the pandemic, almost one in every two Australians will have a mental illness at some time in their lifetime. It is really important that we do everything we can to invest in mental health and support for people with mental health issues. We know that the emergence of COVID has changed the way that Queenslanders live, work and socialise. The pandemic has had an impact on many Queenslanders' mental health. In response, the Palaszczuk government has invested additional funding to support mental health, alcohol and drug treatment services. That funding is being delivered through a \$46.5 million mental health and wellbeing community package, which includes additional community, mental health and drug and alcohol treatment support responses; specialist mental health services for people in quarantine; additional capacity within existing alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation services; and localised mental health initiatives and youth mental health initiatives. The range of initiatives will create about 100 full-time equivalent frontline jobs within the health sector.

I am pleased to inform the House that this week in the community of the member for Ipswich construction is beginning on a new \$91 million 50-bed acute mental health unit. That new facility will be at the heart of the planned expansion of the Ipswich Hospital and related health services to meet the needs of that fast-growing region. The member for Caloundra will be very pleased to know that the co-responder model that I talked about involving the Queensland Ambulance Service, whereby a specialist paramedic and a senior clinician will go out together, is being extended to the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, as well as to Metro North, Cairns and Townsville, on top of Metro South and the Gold Coast, where it currently operates, as well as West Moreton. That is going to make a world of difference with figures such as 64 per cent of patients being treated in the home or sent to more appropriate care facilities as opposed to an emergency department.

(Time expired)

Drugs, Checking Services

Mr BERKMAN: My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Earlier this month a Victorian coroner joined countless experts and retired senior police in calling for a public drug checking service following the preventable deaths of five young men who unknowingly took a fatal substance that they thought was MDMA and magic mushrooms. Will the government urgently introduce public drug checking services before more Queenslanders needlessly lose their lives?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. I have just spoken about issues associated with mental health and drug and alcohol treatment. We are investing in those services in the community. We believe that that is the way we should be tackling those important issues. As a government we pride ourselves on dealing on issues involving drugs such as ice in our community. We know that the problems involving some of those drugs are impacting our entire community. Many issues such as housing, child support and crime are underpinned by drug, alcohol and mental health issues.

I am happy to look at the report that the member refers to. In the last parliamentary sitting week I think the member may have attended the presentation given by our Mental Health Commissioner. It was a really important presentation in which the commissioner talked about the impact on the community of mental health, drug and alcohol issues, and that there is a range of conversations that we need to have around those issues and how best to manage them in the community. Whether it is changes in policies, whether it is laws, whether it is further resources investment or education—all of those things—we need to continue to have those really important conversations in the community.

We have to be careful not to race off and assume that one change will fix all of these problems. There are pros and cons and unintended consequences to some of the proposals that the member is talking about. Simply saying that this drug is not laced with something toxic does not mean that it will not kill you. You have to be really careful about the context in which you look at these things and about the consequences of your actions. This is something where, whatever you do, you have to bring the community with you. Most importantly, you have to act on health advice, which is something that as a government we pride ourselves on. You must act on health advice first and foremost. You must know what is going to be in the best interests of individuals to keep them safe. If that is the start of the conversation and it leads the conversation, certainly we would welcome that dialogue across the community and across the parliament.

Political Donations

Ms PEASE: My question is of the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. Will the Attorney-General please update the House on the Palaszczuk government's leadership on donation laws and is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

Ms FENTIMAN: I thank the member for the question, because accountability is of the utmost importance to the Palaszczuk government and that is why we have some of the strongest electoral donation laws in the country. We know how important it is to be transparent and open with Queenslanders. It was our government that implemented real-time donation disclosure. It was our government that reduced the threshold for reporting donations. It was our government that has also taken strong action to ban donations from property developers. I take this opportunity to remind members once again that it was the LNP that opposed each and every one of those reforms.

During the last sitting I stood in this House and asked the member for Broadwater to answer three simple questions about numerous fundraisers with the LNP that had been reported. Who could forget about the member for Ninderry's cellar dinner, which the member for Nanango and the member for Surfers Paradise are running a mile from? Of course, there was also the exclusive long lunch on Makepeace Island with Peter Dutton. However, my questions are still unanswered: who attended the events, where was the money coming from and where has the money gone?

What have we heard from the member for Broadwater? Absolutely nothing. There has been absolute silence from the member for Broadwater. This parliament and Queenslanders have a right to the truth, yet we do not hear from the member for Broadwater, the member who promised to do politics differently.

Since the last time we sat there have been more explosive reports in the *Australian* about the LNP's developer donations. Reports suggest that the LNP were ordered by the ECQ to freeze donations to the then leader, the member for Nanango. This is extraordinary. Their own party executive reported them to the ECQ, which then told them to freeze donations to their own leader's campaign. It is absolutely extraordinary.

The question is: has anything changed? The member for Broadwater seems unable to reassure this House and Queenslanders that they are still not accepting donations from developers. With another wonderful fundraising event around the corner—and I table this—

Tabled paper: Advertisement inviting participation in the Corporate Observers Program being held on 30 April 2021 [\[526\]](#).

Mr SPEAKER: Please put down the prop.

Ms FENTIMAN:—with Mr Dutton once again, the serial fundraiser for the LNP—with a \$6½ thousand price tag, I might add—the member for Broadwater has to answer a question. My question to the member for Broadwater, who wants to do things differently, is: can you once and for all put an end to LNP developer donations? Can you reassure this House and reassure Queenslanders—

Mr SPEAKER: Minister, direct your comments through the chair.

Ms FENTIMAN: Where is the money coming from? Where has the money gone?

Mirani Electorate, Future Foods Biohub

Mr ANDREW: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Will the minister advise whether the planned future foods biohub at Rosella industrial estate in my electorate will include companies engaged in manufacturing lab-grown food and meat or companies involved in commercialising gene-editing techniques such as CRISPR in food crops?

Dr MILES: I cannot say I am aware of the concerns the member has expressed. I am happy to perhaps organise a time that I can catch up with him later in the week and provide whatever information my agency has available.

Public Transport

Ms RICHARDS: My question is for the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister confirm whether the government's planning on future transport links is accounting for public transport becoming obsolete in five to 10 years, as has been suggested by the member for Burleigh?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the honourable member for the question. The member is a very strong supporter of public transport and roads, particularly in the Redlands. I can inform the chamber that this government is not planning for public transport to be obsolete in the next five or 10 years, as those opposite appear to be. We saw a full-length interview on Saturday in the *Gold Coast Bulletin* with the member for Burleigh. The journalist described it as a three-hour marathon, which I suspect was a generous interpretation of the event.

The only thing that is obsolete here is the opposition's view on public transport. Interestingly, since that opus by the member for Burleigh on Saturday we have heard absolutely nothing from the Leader of the Opposition to dispute it. The Leader of the Opposition has not sought to correct it. He has let it stay out there. He obviously agrees with it, because here they are still attacking public transport—left, right and centre. A senior member of the LNP—

Mr Hart interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock! Member for Burleigh, I understand that you are the subject of some of the minister's statements; however, it does not excuse you from putting your comments through the chair. You will cease your interjections in that manner.

Mr BAILEY: The Leader of the Opposition has not sought to correct or dispute the views of the member for Burleigh, a senior member of the LNP, when he says that public transportation will be obsolete in five to 10 years. That is very revealing. The member for Burleigh gave us—

Dr Robinson interjected.

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

Mr BAILEY: The member for Burleigh gave us the benefit of a helicopter view of things. One thinks of Bronwyn Bishop perhaps, but we have the member for Burleigh's helicopter view. Let me quote directly from the article in the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. He says—

Public transportation will be obsolete in five to 10 years anyway ... so we need to really take that helicopter view of the situation. This is the best bit—

Don't take a train, take a plane. Why not? Get an A320, it fits as many people as a train, get rid of security checks and check-in times and it works just like a train.

There is more. He says—

You could use your Translink card just like on a train. The plane goes at a set time just like a train and if your not on it, you miss it and have to catch the next plane at the next set time ... just like a train.

It is not just ludicrous policy; it is actually a very bizarre form of poetry. He even got it to rhyme. He is consistent with the member of Chatsworth, who loves to rhyme things. The rhyming is catching on in public transport policy with those opposite.

We know that the member for Burleigh opposes light rail. He wants it to go past his brewery on the Gold Coast. We will do public transport for public benefit in this state, not for personal interest.

Mr HART: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I find the minister's comments unparliamentary. I take personal offence at them and ask that they be withdrawn.

Mr SPEAKER: Will you withdraw, Minister?

Mr BAILEY: I withdraw.

Fire Protection Licensing Framework

Mr MANDER: My question is to the Minister for Public Works. Right at this moment, small businesses from the fire protection industry are outside parliament protesting for their livelihoods. What guarantee will the minister give that the proposed changes to the fire protection licensing framework will not close these small businesses and put more than 2,000 people out of work?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Everton for the question. There is no doubt that over the last few years there has been renewed focus on fire safety right across the world. It started, as all members of this House know, with that terrible tragedy that occurred in the Grenfell Tower in 2017. The Palaszczuk government has taken significant steps to improve fire safety regulation in this state, as jurisdictions have right across the world. The Grenfell inquiry—it is ongoing; it has been sitting in the UK this week—shows just what improperly regulated and licensed fire protection regimes can lead to in terms of putting the lives of citizens at risk.

I can inform the House and the member for Everton that the Ministerial Construction Council, which represents all of the construction industry leaders here in Queensland, has been working hard over the last few years to develop a modernised system of fire protection regulation—making sure that we lift standards, with the key goal of putting the safety of Queensland's citizens first. We will not resile from the fact that the safety of Queenslanders must always come first.

The reforms that we introduced last year will see changes to classes of licences, scopes of work and key definitions for technical qualifications. They also streamline licences—from hundreds of separate licences to a smaller, more manageable number of licence classes for the fire protection industry.

I can inform the House and the member for Everton, who should know if he did a bit of research, that most fire licensees will not have to do anything differently; they will automatically transition over to their new licence classes. In some cases, where they do not hold the technical qualifications to meet that goal of ensuring that the paramount objective of putting Queenslanders' safety first is met, they will need to perform some further training to acquire that licence.


I can inform the House that I have met with a number of workers from the industry on multiple occasions over previous years and more recently. I understand their concerns. They will need to be able to demonstrate that they hold the requisite competencies to put the lives of Queenslanders first. There is no doubt that citizens expect that if they come into a building like this and a fire starts the systems that are designed to protect their health and safety and to protect their lives will actually work.


Notwithstanding that, to ensure that those businesses are fully supported to transition to the new framework, I intend for the existing hydrants and hose reels classes to be extended by six months, to 1 November 2021, to provide adequate time for those licensees to transition.

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.

MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before I call the Premier, I wish to make a couple of brief remarks about the passing of Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. He exhibited loyalty of service to the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and was dedicated to the support of Her Majesty the Queen in her considerable official duties. As Speaker, I wish to place on record the extending of condolences to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and the Royal Family on the passing of His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Today we remember the life and service of Prince Philip.

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.19 am): I move—

That this House desires to place on record its deep sadness on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

On behalf of the people of Queensland, we acknowledge the years of service His Royal Highness gave to Queensland and to the Commonwealth and express our deepest sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and other members of the Royal Family.

Prince Philip was a much loved and respected patriarch to his family and to people in every nation of the Commonwealth. His calm and dutiful presence, usually two respectful steps behind Her Majesty the Queen, spanned an impressive portion of Australia's modern history. He was a highly decorated serviceman before his marriage to the then Princess Elizabeth, and had a strong connection with the Australian Defence Force. Renowned for his unwavering dedication to duty and steadfast support of the Queen, he became Britain's longest serving royal consort.


Indeed, he was a regal fixture for generations of Queenslanders, held in high regard and with abiding affection by people in our state. Many have felt a strong, personal affinity with Prince Philip because of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, one of his favourite initiatives and one for which he was proud to be patron. Through this long-running program, 775,000 young Australians, including more than 60,000 Queenslanders, have been encouraged to stretch themselves, persevere and realise their potential. Since 1962, 28,000 Queenslanders have completed the award, some of them also awarded the privilege of being presented with it personally by the Duke of Edinburgh himself in 1970, 1973, 1977, 1982, 1988 and 2002. The distinguished program of achievement is one of His Royal Highness's lasting legacies.

Prince Philip served as the patron or president of some 750 organisations worldwide, showing a dedicated interest in the environment, sport, science, technology and design, and the military. He visited Queensland on 12 occasions, with his first trip in 1954. His last visit to Brisbane was in 2011, in the wake of our devastating floods. He accompanied the Queen on eight tours, but visited independently as patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award and to officiate important events like opening the Gateway Bridge in 1986. It was Prince Philip who read the Queen's message and opened the Brisbane Commonwealth Games in 1982.

The Duke of Edinburgh saw a lot of Queensland, visiting many of our regional centres including Maryborough, Townsville, Rockhampton and Toowoomba. He knew Brisbane well. He was here for World Expo 88 and attended award presentations at Newstead Park, Government House and various high schools over the decades.

Last week, as a sign of our respect to Prince Philip and his family, flags across our state flew at half-mast, Brisbane's bridges and City Hall were lit in red, white and blue, the colours of the British flag, and Queenslanders were invited to sign a condolence book online. There is also a condolence book in the foyer of the Annexe of Parliament House. I had the honour of signing the condolence book at Government House.

The Duke of Edinburgh's death has touched many of us, for, in his passing just shy of his 100th birthday, we have lost a constant in our lives—for many a symbol of strength and certainty. I place on record our condolences to Her Majesty the Queen as she mourns the loss of her strength and stay and to the Royal Family as they farewell their father, grandfather and great-grandfather. I extend my condolences, too, to those across the Commonwealth of Nations who are mourning the loss of a friend and colleague, His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.23 am): The death on Friday, 9 April of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh marks a significant loss not just of a highly respected public figure but of a devoted husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. The Duke of Edinburgh's nearly 80 years of service to the Crown, his country and the Commonwealth represents a level of commitment and dedication that is an example to all of us.

Born on the Greek island of Corfu in 1921, the Duke was the fifth child and only son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Denmark and Princess Alice of Battenberg—a great-granddaughter of Queen Victoria. His disjointed childhood ended when he joined the Royal Navy in 1929. He served with distinction throughout the Second World War. His marriage to Princess Elizabeth in 1947 and her accession to the throne in 1952 ended his active naval career, but saw the commencement of over 70 years service to his Queen.

Part of that service has involved a close connection to many parts of the Commonwealth, and no more so than here. The Duke of Edinburgh visited Australia on over 20 occasions and is the most frequent royal visitor to Queensland. Indeed, his appeal to Queenslanders was captured in a media report of the royal visit of 1954 which stated the following—

The Duke's whole approach to the tour is as fresh and as stimulating as a cold drink on a hot day. He has no set pattern of behaviour to follow, so that he can do almost exactly as he pleases. This gives him a wonderful opportunity to lift the dull routine of the tour into something lively and of more general interest.


Throughout his service to the Commonwealth, the Duke presided as patron or president of nearly 50 organisations in this country. For 65 years the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme has encouraged, as the Premier said, over 775,000 young Australians to explore their leadership potential. To show members how relevant it is today, there are 8,500 young Queenslanders currently participating in this scheme.

It is interesting to note that the scheme was launched in Queensland in 1959—the year of the state's centenary. The objective of the scheme represents much of what the Duke stood for himself: civic participation; physical and mental wellbeing; improvements in employment and educational attendance; environmental awareness; social inclusion; and gender equality. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award equips young people for life and work, offering them a chance to engage with others in order to empower themselves.

The Duke of Edinburgh was a true friend of Queensland and Queenslanders, and he will be greatly missed. Perhaps his contribution over a lifetime was best summed up by the Duke of Cambridge, who said—

My grandfather's century of life was defined by service—to his country and Commonwealth, to his wife and Queen, and to our family.

The Duke's passing is made more poignant by the fact that today is Her Majesty's 95th birthday. At this time of loss, Queenslanders extend our deepest condolences to Her Majesty and the Royal Family.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (11.26 am): I join the Premier and Leader of the Opposition in expressing my condolences to the Royal Family and in particular Her Majesty the Queen on the death of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. I think it is entirely appropriate that we pause to reflect and express these condolences because of the great service rendered by the Duke of Edinburgh in his role as consort to our head of state. This level of service was remarkable when the concept of a queen, for a lot of people in 20th century—the emerging population of the world, and in particular the United Kingdom, across what was then the empire and became the Commonwealth—was new. Some remembered Queen Victoria. The concept of a queen and having a consort—a living husband of the Queen—was a new thing in a very different world.

The steps that Prince Philip took to step down, from all reports, from his much loved and dedicated service in the Royal Navy was evidence of him putting the head of state, the Queen, first in all activities. His dedication and duty has been absolutely exemplary in that regard. He put Her Majesty first and made sure all constitutional issues were never questioned.

I am one of many Queenslanders, indeed many members of this House, and many Australians who would prefer to see different constitutional arrangements. That does not diminish our great respect for the service of all members of the Royal Family and in particular Her Majesty the Queen. On this occasion, as the Leader of the Opposition remarked, of Her Majesty the Queen's 95th birthday—not observed but her actual birthday—it is appropriate that we pause to reflect on how Her Majesty will be missing her husband and her great strength on this occasion. It is the first time in over 73 years that she has been without him. I think it is entirely appropriate that we pause to reflect upon that.


While playing that dutiful role of consort, Prince Philip was a significant contributor to many organisations and many activities, as has been mentioned, across the Commonwealth. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been mentioned by the Premier and the Leader of the Opposition.

I want to pause to reflect on his role, for over 30 years, as president of the Commonwealth Games Federation. For a period of more than 30 years he led that organisation and did so not only as some sort of titular head but as someone who had genuine experience because he was also for some of that time president of the International Equestrian Federation. He was genuinely involved and active in sports administration and sporting life. Famously, Princess Anne, the Princess Royal, was an Olympian and represented Great Britain in the sport of equestrian.

It is significant that his last Commonwealth Games on duty as president of the Commonwealth Games Federation was the 1982 Brisbane Commonwealth Games. I think he took great pleasure in being able to represent the Queen at its official opening. That occasion marked the end of his service to that particular organisation. It was a turning point because for the first time after that there began to be presidents of the Commonwealth Games Federation who were not members of the Royal Family or members of the British aristocracy. He has also been a part of transitioning the way in which the Commonwealth and its institutions have modernised. I think that should be acknowledged, recognised and appreciated.

In conclusion, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, for some of his wit—wit that I have had a chance to draw upon, ascribe to and use in my roles in public life. As many members of the House and certainly ministers and former ministers will attest to, we often have situations where we are on public duty officially opening something—for example, officially opening a new piece of infrastructure that is important to the local community. More often than not those pieces of infrastructure have actually been in operation before they are officially opened because it is very important that we provide that infrastructure to the community as soon as it is ready but official openings take some time to organise.

I have used a line from Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh, on a number of occasions to express the way in which that unusual situation needs to be acknowledged. I draw on one of those occasions in which he visited the state of Queensland and officiated at an important occasion on behalf of the people of Queensland—and that was at the opening of the Gateway Bridge on 11 January 1986. He was standing, along with an assembled gathering of very worthy people no doubt, Mr Speaker, beside the Gateway Bridge, which had in fact been in operation for some five months. The cars were whizzing by. He was there for the official opening. His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh dutifully unveiled the plaque on the rock that is still there adjacent to the Gateway Bridge on its southern approach and declared the bridge ‘more open than usual’.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.33 am): I want to place on record my deepest sympathy and to express my condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family on the sad passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, on 9 April 2021 and place on record my appreciation of his remarkable service to the Crown and to the Commonwealth.

His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, was born on 10 June 1921 on the island of Corfu in Greece. He was the youngest child and only son of Prince Andrew of Greece and Princess Alice of Battenberg. Although born of royal blood his early years were not easy. After a coup d'état in 1922, his father, Prince Andrew of Greece, was banished from Greece by a revolutionary court. King George V sent a British warship to collect the family and take them to Italy. It was there that baby Philip spent much of the voyage in a crib made from an orange box.

He received his early education in France but at seven moved to live with relatives in England. It was at this time his dear mother was diagnosed with schizophrenia and was placed in an asylum. After her recovery, she devoted most of her remaining years to charity work in Greece. She stayed in Athens during the Second World War sheltering Jewish refugees, for which she is recognised as Righteous Among the Nations by Israel's Holocaust memorial institution.

A young Philip then moved to southern Germany where he studied under educational pioneer Kurt Hahn. His education was interrupted again when Kurt Hahn was forced to flee Nazi persecution. Philip followed Kurt Hahn to Scotland where Hahn founded Gordonstoun school. It was reported that Gordonstoun, with its emphasis on self-reliance, was the ideal environment for a teenage boy who, separated from his parents, felt very much on his own.

From January 1940 to the end of World War II, Prince Philip served with the Royal Navy in combat in the Mediterranean and the Pacific. He continued in active service with the Royal Navy, commanding the frigate *Magpie*, until Queen Elizabeth's accession on 6 February 1952, from which time he shared her official and public life.

Prince Philip is survived by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and children—Charles, Prince of Wales; Anne, Princess Royal; Andrew, Duke of York; and Edward, Earl of Wessex. As well put by our Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, Prince Philip's remarkable life of 99 years leaves behind a legacy 'of duty and of service, of loyalty and of honour'. Memories of him will of course tell stories of his candour, and a unique, forceful and authentic personality.

In a quite unparalleled career of advice, encouragement and support, he provided one particular service, which I believe we in this House know in our hearts was the very greatest of all, in the constant love he gave to Her Majesty the Queen as her 'liegeman of life and limb'. The Queen and Prince Philip have been married for over 70 years. When speaking of the topic of marriage in 1997, the Duke of Edinburgh said, 'You can take it from me the Queen has the quality of tolerance in abundance.'

As I said, Mr Speaker, Prince Philip was known for his candour. This candour and forthright speaking did get the Prince into trouble on occasions. It is said that the term 'dontopedalogy' was a phrase coined by the Prince—the talent for putting one's foot into one's mouth! Reflecting on some of commentary of late, those close to Prince Philip have expressed that at times how he was portrayed in the media was not the real Prince Philip. He was kind-hearted and understood that when people line up to meet the Queen it can be quite daunting, so he would always try to break the ice with some off-the-cuff remarks and humour.

I had considered repeating a few of his more famous quotes today, but fear the politically correct and Twitter world we live in today would not forgive me. Some of the quotes, however, were in fact made on his many visits to Australia. I do recall one in 1992 when Prince Philip was asked to pat a Koala and his steadfast reply was, 'Oh, no, I might catch some ghastly disease.'

He had many titles but one which he gave himself which I think honourable members could attest to is that he was 'the world's most experienced plaque unveiler'. On a visit to Canada, unveiling a plaque, he said, 'I declare this thing open—whatever it is.' Above all, he was a man who was steadfast, who could be relied upon, always standing by his Queen. Throughout his lifetime, Prince Philip provided tireless and unwavering service to his Crown, to his country and to the Commonwealth.

As the longest serving consort in British history, the Prince took on some 22,191 solo engagements. The Prince was involved either as patron or president in well over 992 organisations, over 50 of which were Australian. His most enduring legacy was the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which was founded in 1956 and established in Australia in 1959. Since its establishment more than 775,000 young Australians have participated in the program. He also held the following Commonwealth military appointments: Colonel-in-Chief, Australian Army Cadet Corps; Field Marshal, Australian Army; Marshal, Australian Air Force; Admiral of the Fleet, Royal Australian Navy; and Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Australian Electrical and Mechanical Engineers.

He had a keen interest in science and expressed views on many issues well before his time. He had a keen passion for the environment and conservation. In 1961 he became the president of the British National Appeal, the first national organisation in the World Wildlife Fund family. In 1969 he made a speech warning about virtually indestructible plastics and 52 years later—in fact, only this year—this parliament banned the single-use plastics of which the Prince spoke in 1969.

His candour was not always about humour: he often expressed his personal views on topics he was interested in. In 1991 after accepting a conservation award in Thailand the Prince said, 'Your country is one of the most notorious centres of trading in endangered species.' He was never afraid to hold back on views that he held dear to his heart.

Although he visited 143 countries, Prince Philip maintained longstanding relationships with Australia and visited on 21 occasions, 12 of which were to Queensland to accompany the Queen on royal visits. In 1954 he accompanied the Queen on a royal tour of Queensland that included Bundaberg, Brisbane, Toowoomba, Townsville, Cairns, Mackay and Rockhampton. Both he and the Queen would make subsequent visits to Queensland again in 1963, 1970, 1977, 1982, 1988, 2002 and most recently in 2011 as part of a Queensland government reception for those affected by natural disasters during the 2010-11 floods.

Prince Philip has also been a frequent royal visitor to Queensland, acting independently as both the Queen's Royal Consort and as patron of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. In 1967 he visited Brisbane when organising the third Commonwealth Study Conference and made further independent visits in 1971, 1973 and again in 1986 when he opened the Gateway Bridge on 11 January.

I have met many members of the Royal Family. It is my one regret that I did not have the chance to meet Prince Philip. There was an opportunity in 2011 when the Prince and Her Majesty visited Brisbane after the devastating floods, but I was too far back in the crowds on the Brisbane River to get past all of the republican Bligh government ministers lined up to meet the Queen and Prince Philip. In fact, if memory serves me correctly, I was delayed attending a shadow cabinet meeting because I was one of the many thousands of Queenslanders lining up at the edge of the Brisbane River in the very hot sun to grab a glimpse of the royal couple.

On behalf of all Queenslanders, I again extend our deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family on the passing of a quite remarkable man. As Her Majesty said in a speech to mark the couple's golden wedding anniversary—

He is someone who doesn't take easily to compliments but he has, quite simply, been my strength and stay all these years, and I, and his whole family, and this and many other countries, owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know.

May I also place on record my hearty congratulations on this, today, Her Majesty's 95th birthday, although I imagine on this occasion it will be quite different and difficult for Her Majesty. This will be her first birthday in many a year without her 'strength and stay' by her side supporting her, loving her and above all else, making her laugh. Vale Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, and God bless our most gracious Queen, Elizabeth II.



Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (11.43 am): I come from a generation that has always had His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, forever present. Indeed, he has been a constant and enduring leader through the entirety of my parents' life as well, so it is little wonder that he will leave a significant hole in the world that he departs—even with many an Aussie republican. He has been an enduring part of the story of our nation. It was at a young age in a working-class home poring over glossy, invasive images in my mother's magazines that I grew to learn of the Royal Family. I developed an interest in them, the lives they lived, their duty, their service, and ultimately a sympathetic admiration.

We all walk different paths in life, and it was the path the Duke of Edinburgh walked that captured the imagination and regard of so many across the world. A baby smuggled aboard a boat in an orange crate became Admiral of the Fleet and almost a centenarian. He was a refugee—a Danish citizen born to a Greek prince and German princess. He was schooled in Germany and Scotland, happiest on boats in Malta, an Australian knight—we thank Tony Abbott for that decision on this side of the House—whose father died in Monaco and whose mother was born at Windsor Castle and died at Buckingham Palace. Yet to so many he remained the quintessence of the stiff-upper-lip Englishman.

He was a complex man: stubborn, energetic, occasionally impolite, disciplined, precise, businesslike, innovative, loyal, determined and, frankly, a little bit of a lad. He was the most loyal subject, husband for a love that stretched a lifetime, beloved father and grandfather, often at the barbecue, always with a joke—we are told usually more than one.

His was a life of love and duty: the beneficiaries of his love, his family; the beneficiaries of his duty, the world. It is rare that someone has a lifetime of uninterrupted service, and it is in this time and service that we find so many accomplishments—such a profound impact. Her Majesty, during one of their many wedding anniversaries, famously and lovingly described him as her 'strength and stay all these years'. Today she celebrates her 95th birthday, and can I add my voice and my community's voice to the many wishing her a happy birthday.

Theirs was the longest marriage of any British sovereign and one of the most remarkable and enduring partnerships of our time. For seven decades he walked two steps behind but rarely in her footsteps. He served a distinguished career in the Navy—a career surrendered for service to the world. His work with the conservation movement was trailblazing and his work with the Commonwealth unwavering. So many of his initiatives, such as televising the Queen's coronation, lifted the veil and modernised the establishment.

In Australia alone almost 800,000 young lives have been transformed, enhanced and expanded by one of his many lasting legacies: the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. He was born into a different age with rare privilege. His mark was one that left a transformed world, a more modern monarchy, more sophisticated and liberal democracies, a more free world, but one not without profound challenges. His passing marks the passing of an age, the ending of an era. Mr Speaker, I will finish with a poem by the poet laureate Simon Armitage to mark the passing of the Duke of Edinburgh. It reads—

The Patriarchs—An Elegy

The weather in the window this morning
is snow, unseasonal singular flakes,
a slow winter's final shiver. On such an occasion
to presume to eulogise one man is to pipe up
for a whole generation—that crew whose survival
was always the stuff of minor miracle,
who came ashore in orange-crate coracles,
fought ingenious wars, finagled triumphs at sea
with flaming decoy boats, and sidestepped torpedoes.

Husbands to duty, they rolled their plans
across billiard tables and vehicle bonnets,
regrouped at breakfast. What their secrets were
was everyone's guess and nobody's business.
Great-grandfathers from birth, in time they became

both inner core and outer case
 in a family heirloom of nesting dolls.
 Like evidence of early man their boot-prints stand
 in the hardened earth of rose-beds and borders.

They were sons of a zodiac out of sync
 with the solar year, but turned their minds
 to the day's big science and heavy questions.
 To study their hands at rest was to picture maps
 showing hachured valleys and indigo streams, schemes
 of old campaigns and reconnaissance missions.
 Last of the great avuncular magicians
 they kept their best tricks for their grand finale:
 Disapproving Immortality and Disappearing Entirely.

The major oaks in the wood start turning up
 and skies to come will deliver their tributes.
 But for now, a cold April's closing moments
 parachute slowly home, so by mid-afternoon
 snow is recast as seed heads and thistledown.



Ms LEAHY (Warrego—LNP) (11.49 am): I wish to convey my sincere and deepest sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and her family following the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. I also take this opportunity to wish Her Majesty a happy birthday for today. On behalf of the people of the Warrego electorate, I wish to thank His Royal Highness for his years of service to Queensland and for his visits to the regions, especially to my home town of Roma and the other western communities. His Royal Highness visited Australia 32 times during his royal career, including 16 solo trips without the Queen. In 2002 His Royal Highness travelled to CHOGM in Brisbane and Cooloom with a visit to Cairns, and he travelled alone to Roma to open the tourist attraction The Big Rig. The Big Rig is one of Roma's biggest and most successful tourist attractions, showcasing the oil and gas industry in the region.

This visit was pre council amalgamation and we had a town council and a shire council, which were commonly referred to as a donut council, with one large rural council surrounding the other. There was considerable robust debate between both mayors of these two councils on various issues. This robust debate was put aside for the forthcoming royal visit by the locals, as the royal visit was warmly welcomed by the community. Preparations had been underway for months before the visit.


His Royal Highness stepped off the plane at the Roma airport and he was greeted on the tarmac by the Mayor of the Roma Town Council, Bruce Garvie, and the Mayor of the Bungil Shire Council, Rob Loughnan. His Royal Highness's first words after being introduced to the two mayors was a question: 'So are you two still talking to each other?' This brought great amusement to the other members of the welcoming party, who all looked in various directions not knowing what to say for quite a few moments. His Royal Highness was certainly well briefed on local politics and he had a very quick wit. He proceeded to open The Big Rig by unveiling a plaque to great applause. In his opening speech, he said he must be the world's greatest 'plack' opener—because that was how it was pronounced—as he had unveiled so many 'placks' around the world. At that visit I was privileged to be one of the drivers in His Royal Highness's motorcade.

Another story was told to me by the late Peter McRae, founder of the Save the Bilby Fund, about His Royal Highness's visit to Idalia National Park west of Blackall in 1990. By way of background, Idalia National Park was previously Idalia Station and for some considerable time it was owned by the Hobbs family in partnership. This story was recently recounted by Martin O'Malley, a former resident of Charleville, who was actually at the park at that time. His Royal Highness camped out overnight at Idalia park. During the visit, Peter McRae was driving the Prince around looking for yellow-footed rock-

wallabies, only to find rabbits. It was a great relief to Peter when they finally found some wallabies. Martin had the daunting task of cooking steaks on a hot plate over mulga coals for the Prince and other dignitaries. Whilst Martin was cooking, His Royal Highness wandered over with a can of beer in his hand for a brief chat that was very friendly and down to earth.

His Royal Highness had a rich and varied career in the Royal Navy, with a deep passion for naval history and for seafaring ever since he left Gordonstoun and joined the Royal Navy as a cadet. He was first appointed as First Lieutenant of the fleet destroyer HMS *Whelp*, which was being built on the River Tyne, a famous shipbuilding centre where 1,600 vessels had been built since 1839. After she was commissioned, the *Whelp* first joined the 27th Destroyer Flotilla and sailed for the Indian Ocean to join the British Pacific Fleet. The *Whelp* was present in Tokyo Bay when the Japanese signed the surrender on 2 September 1945 with General Douglas MacArthur on the USS *Missouri*. Every sailor who was there at that time would have known the significance of that day to our country, the Pacific Ocean nations and Asia.


A family has lost a father. Her Majesty the Queen has lost a confidant and her husband. Western Queensland has lost a down-to-earth friend who took great interest in our communities and its people. May His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh rest in peace.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (11.54 am): I rise to express my deepest condolences to Her Majesty the Queen and family. His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh was her strength and stay. All of us in this place can only admire the qualities and values of having that loyal person by your side as your support over such a long time. His loyalty and his dedication to service and to the people of the Commonwealth spanned generations. I note the contribution of the member for Pine Rivers. Growing up as a young girl, I always saw the Royal Family in the magazines and saw the amazing work they did across the world. It spanned generations.

We have heard about the Duke of Edinburgh program. Most of us in this room would know constituents who have been through that program, and what a fantastic program it is. Again, it speaks to those values that the Duke of Edinburgh held high—such as developing valuable skills in volunteering, which we see the benefits of in our community; the environment; he was all about adventure and being active; and of course social inclusion. I note that a young Queenslander from Caboolture Special School who went through that program was extraordinarily proud of the experience that program gave to him.

The other thing the Prince was extraordinarily interested in was ingenuity in design. In addition to the Duke of Edinburgh program, he established the Prince Philip Designers Prize which was part of the Australia Council. That was established in 1967 and it was the Prince Philip prize for Australian design. It was introduced by the Industrial Design Council of Australia, which is now known as Good Design Australia. The award sought to promote and recognise excellence in design, creativity and innovation. The prize promoted greater awareness of good design in Australian engineering over many decades and design that was closely linked to Australian life. The prize focused on the standard of manufacture, construction, inventiveness, originality and aesthetic appeal. The reconstruction of our very own Brisbane River ferry terminals was one of the prize winners for its ingenuity in flood resilience.

The Prince led an extraordinary life. He was a true gentleman, a grandfather, a father. He was an amazing man to the Commonwealth. He has left a lasting legacy across the world and across the Commonwealth. I commend this motion to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (11.57 am): It is with great sadness that I rise to speak to the condolence motion to mark the passing of His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. People all over the world are sharing sadness at this event, both for the loss of the man and for the loss of Her Majesty's partner for more than 70 years. His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh accompanied the Queen on two visits to the seat of Gregory. The first was in 1970 when the couple's royal tour of Australia brought them to Longreach. The then mayor of Longreach, Sir James Walker, and his wife, Lady Vivienne, hosted a luncheon at their home at Camden Park Station just outside of Longreach. People came from all over the outback to meet the Queen and Prince Philip. The district was in the middle of a drought, much like we are today, and the royal couple were very sympathetic to the challenges it created to the local people.

On that visit Sir James's little granddaughter, Tricia, a toddler of just 12 months of age, met Prince Philip firsthand when she refused to be parted from her mother, Rosemary, who was part of the official party. Baby Tricia made it clear, as only toddlers can, that she must be included in the royal function.


Prince Philip reached out to her saying, 'What a beautiful little girl,' and stroked her arm. She immediately stopped crying and this fatherly concern for a small child endeared him to the folk of Longreach and outback Queensland. It demonstrated his interest in people, young and old, right across the Commonwealth—although it is to the young that his Duke of Edinburgh award scheme leaves a lasting legacy.

The Duke of Edinburgh's second trip to Longreach was to accompany Queen Elizabeth on 29 April 1988 to open the Australian Stockman's Hall of Fame and Outback Heritage Centre. This was a visionary project which still celebrates the old story of the outback and the people of the outback. This second royal visit to Longreach within 18 years demonstrates the love of the outback expressed by both Prince Philip and the Queen, who had said at Camden Park how rare it was to stand and see a 360-degree view of nature without any man-made intrusions.

Prince Philip was a unique figure, an historic figure but, at the same time, a human figure. Of course the Queen and Prince Philip have a great affection for the remoteness of this country. This was demonstrated when the Queen and Prince Philip were so impressed with a bloke called Tom Kruse. No, I am not talking about Hollywood's Tom Cruise. This bloke I am talking about is a real action hero, the Birdsville Track's Tom Kruse. Tom worked the Birdsville Track mail run from 1936 to 1957 driving his Leyland Badger truck. He delivered mail and other supplies including general stores, fuel and medicines to remote stations from Marree in the north-west of South Australia to Birdsville, totalling 523 kilometres, through flooding creeks and rivers and getting bogged on desert dunes.

Tom Kruse came to fame with the release of John Heyer's documentary *The Back of Beyond* in 1954. The film follows the typical journey made by Tom Kruse. The Queen and Prince Philip watched the documentary and were so impressed with Tom's determination and, more importantly, his service to rural and remote families in the outback that he was appointed an MBE in 1955.

The people of the outback and the people of Gregory hold Prince Philip in warm affection and regard. On their behalf I express our sincere and sad condolences to Her Majesty and the whole Royal Family on this great loss.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (12.01 pm): As the state member for Moggill and as a life member of the Australian Monarchist League it is an honour to rise in support of today's motion and pay respects to a friend beloved by the people of Queensland as well as citizens across various state and territory jurisdictions of the Commonwealth of Australia and also many countries around the world. I wish to place on record my formal condolences to Her Majesty the Queen for the unimaginable grief that Her Majesty is enduring and for the sheer weight of the loss for both the Queen and her family—the loss of a husband, a father and a grandfather.

For more than 73 years there have been countless stories that have been written and shared about Prince Philip. These stories have ultimately been stories of both love and sacrifice. There can be no doubt that there was an unwavering love and unbreakable bond between Prince Philip and Her Majesty the Queen.

For almost 74 years Prince Philip had been the Queen's constant companion and, in her own words, her strength and stay. With Her Majesty's coronation in 1952, Prince Philip also eventually became the longest serving consort of a reigning British monarch. Their marriage has been a true embodiment of partnership, companionship, loyalty and support. Always by Her Majesty's side, Prince Philip never sought or permitted his own position or voice to dominate that of the Queen such was the ultimate love and respect he had for the monarchy, the associated royal institution and Her Majesty.

Prince Philip's life was one which was forever devoted to service, whether to Her Majesty, the Royal Family, the military, the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth of Nations including Australia. For nearly 14 years Prince Philip served in the Royal Navy. It was a celebrated maritime career and one which saw him participate in key engagements and battles across the Mediterranean, and particularly through the Pacific during World War II.

By 1942 Prince Philip had become one of the youngest lieutenants in the Navy and by 1952 he had risen to the rank of lieutenant commander. It was often said that if not for the marriage to the future Queen, Prince Philip would likely have continued to serve in the Navy and progress even further within the ranks of the Royal Navy. However, such was the true dedication to his future beloved wife that Prince Philip knowingly and willingly abandoned his own personal aspirations and potential future achievements to support Her Majesty as the Queen's royal consort. As the royal consort, Prince Philip wholeheartedly delivered, and he dedicated his life to furthering the future prosperity of the Commonwealth of Nations. Australia has certainly been strengthened and enriched by his service.


It is no secret that Prince Philip had a deep affection for Australia and it was one which saw him visit our nation on more than 20 occasions, including a number of visits to Queensland. As the Prime Minister of Australia recently remarked, among these visits to Australia Prince Philip bore witness to some of our country's most historic moments, including the opening of the Royal Australian Mint in 1965, the Sydney Opera House in 1973 and the new Parliament House of Australia in 1988.

Globally, Prince Philip was patron of more than 800 charities and here in Australia nearly 50 organisations were fortunate to have the Duke of Edinburgh as their patron. Prince Philip's lifetime of service ultimately served as a lifetime of inspiring others. This is perhaps nowhere more evident than in the positive impact we have seen with the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program. Since its inception in 1959, more than 775,000 young Australians have participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award program. Each year more than 44,000 young Australians participate in this outstanding program. My eldest son, Nicholas Rowan, has been a recipient of a Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Every year more than 275,000 hours are devoted to volunteering in Australia by Duke of Edinburgh's Award participants. What is more, 86 per cent of participants continue to volunteer regularly following their completion of the award, with 68 per cent of those who take part in the program stating that they now feel as though they are part of their own community.

The impact of Prince Philip's death, which has been felt and seen locally here in Australia, is one that has been replicated throughout the Commonwealth of Nations for which Prince Philip cared deeply and was entirely devoted to during his life of service. Whether it was the peoples of Canada, India, Papua New Guinea, New Zealand or Fiji, to name just a few of the 54 sovereign Commonwealth states, Prince Philip was certainly instrumental in building and maintaining our great Commonwealth of Nations.

On Friday, 16 April 2021 preceding the funeral of Prince Philip, I visited Government House here in Queensland to personally sign a message of condolence to Her Majesty the Queen and the entire Royal Family. Prince Philip's life was one of service, loyalty, commitment and devotion. Prince Philip's profound legacy will certainly endure and, in doing so, ensure the strong continuation of Australia's democratic system of government.

Finally, I wish Her Majesty the Queen a happy birthday, although I know this year will be incredibly difficult given the recent death of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (12.06 pm): In speaking to this condolence motion, I place on the record the gratitude of all Queenslanders for the service rendered by His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh during his long and eventful life. Honourable members, none of us were even born—not even the esteemed member for Mermaid Beach or the member for Coomera—when Prince Philip became the royal consort upon the accession of Her Majesty the Queen to the throne in 1952. Many Australians—in fact, all of us in this House—have simply lived and grown up with the Queen as the Queen and with Prince Philip at her side.

Together they have served the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth for a long time. Indeed, next year we will see the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne. Therein lies the major reason why the death of His Royal Highness is significant, because it heralds the beginning of the end of an age which has almost passed us by. For many of us, this is the age that was lived by our grandparents in the main or perhaps by our parents. Whilst it is cliché, I think we can say that this really marks the end of an era, at least in part. Our thoughts are with Her Majesty as she carries on without her greatest confidant at her side.

However, I consider the most important reason for this motion is to pay tribute to the service of His Royal Highness in the spirit of service of the generation that he represented. Prince Philip served us all in the Second World War in the Royal Navy, as other members have mentioned, in particular, through the escorting of Australian and New Zealand convoys through the Suez Canal in 1940. He had a distinguished naval career at a time when no doubt the conditions of service men and women, even officers of noble standing, would have been far from salubrious. War is a great leveller of human beings, and His Royal Highness put himself on the line in the greatest battle between good and evil in living memory. For that alone, we should all remember and give thanks, just like we do for all those Queenslanders and Australians who have done the same from the Boer War through to military operations carried on today.

However great the thanks we give for His Royal Highness's service to the military it is dwarfed by the thanks given for service to the Commonwealth through his support for our Queen. He retired at 96 years of age. That is a tremendous record of service. After marrying the then Princess Elizabeth in 1947 he gave 65 years of service as consort. When we stop to consider the changes that have occurred

in our world since 1952, social, technological, political and economic, and the pressure that would have been brought to bear on the one person who wears the crown—a crown that is weighty in history, expectation and pressure, both from their family and from society—it is clear that anybody wearing that crown would have had some difficulty dealing with it while carrying out such an important balancing function in our constitutional monarchy and our system of democracy. His Royal Highness was a steady, wise and constant support to Her Majesty. It is right that we send the condolences of this parliament to Her Majesty and her family in marking the death of her husband and give thanks for his service.

Mr SPEAKER: I had the great privilege during my lifetime of meeting three generations of the Royal Family: His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Charles and Prince William. The record of service that has been laid out today is certainly one that has been remarked upon. May the Duke of Edinburgh rest in peace. Honourable members, will you indicate your agreement with the motion by standing in silence for one minute.


Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 20 April (see p. 996), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (12.12 pm): I rise to speak today in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The objectives of the bill are to amend the Youth Justice Act 1999 to respond to the characteristics of the offending behaviours of serious recidivist youth offenders and to strengthen the youth justice bail framework. The amendments to the Youth Justice Act build on the Queensland government's five-point action plan, announced in March 2020, which complements the Youth Justice Strategy. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, in its report No. 7, tabled in this Assembly on 16 April 2021, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill be passed.

Many stakeholders made suggestions that were outside the scope of the bill. It was clear to the committee that these suggestions were made with the best intent and desire to address the behaviours of youth offenders. These suggestions included establishing an Indigenous youth Murri court in Townsville, breach of bail as an offence for young offenders, early and community level intervention, relocation sentencing and on-country programs.

The objectives of the bill are to respond to the characteristics of the offending behaviours of serious recidivist youth offenders and to strengthen the youth justice bail framework. The bill also enacts a range of amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in relation to knife crime and hooning offences. The primary policy objective of the amendments relating to knife crime is to minimise the risk of physical harm caused by knife crime in safe night precincts. The bill includes amendments to minimise risks of harm associated with the unlawful use of knives in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. These amendments target the offending behaviours of serious recidivist youth offenders. These behaviours place both the community and youth offenders at risk of serious harm or death.

On 11 December 2018, *Working Together Changing the Story: Youth Justice Strategy 2019-2023* was released. The Youth Justice Strategy set out four pillars as its policy position for youth justice reform: intervene early; keep children out of court; keep children out of custody; and reduce reoffending. The Queensland government remains committed to community safety, reducing youth offending and reducing crime victimisation. Overall, the government's youth justice reforms have had a positive impact on crime trends, with a continued decrease in the number of unique youth offenders coming to the attention of police. However, there remains a small cohort of recidivist youth offenders who engage in persistent and serious offending.

The task of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee was to consider whether the bill has sufficient regard to the rights and liberties of individuals and to the institution of parliament. The committee also examined the bill for compatibility with human rights, in accordance with the Human Rights Act 2019. The committee received 83 submissions, which are available on the committee website, and held seven public hearings across the state. We travelled to the Gold Coast, Mount Isa, Cairns and Townsville for hearings. This gave those communities the opportunity to share with us their concerns, hopes and stories. We heard from residents who are living in fear about the impacts of youth crime on their lives,

including property damage, fearing going out at night, cars being driven on the wrong side of the road and other behaviours, and we heard the heartfelt pleas for understanding and compassion when dealing with juveniles living in what was described as a dysfunctional environment. Statements we heard from community members echoed the bill's introductory speech made by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services when he explained the background to the provisions.

The data shows that around 90 per cent of youth offenders do not repeatedly offend, with many not reoffending after their first interaction with police. While this data is encouraging, the data also shows that there is a cohort of serious recidivist youth offenders who are causing significant harm to the community. This cohort of recidivist offenders, representing just 10 per cent of all youth offenders, accounts for 48 per cent of all youth offending. Combined with the government's five-point action plan, which has already helped facilitate a 23 per cent drop in the number of young offenders in 2019-20 and a nine per cent reduction in the number of charges, this bill will form an all-round strategy to tackle this cohort of persistent youth offenders.

The bill achieves its policy objectives by amending the Youth Justice Act, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act and the Penalties and Sentences Act. First, it will strengthen the youth justice bail framework through: providing the legislative framework required to trial the use of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for some offenders aged 16 and 17 who have committed a prescribed indictable offence and have been previously found guilty of one or more indictable offences—there is also a review to take place in relation to these matters within 12 months; explicitly permitting the court or a police officer to take into consideration, when determining whether to grant bail, whether a parent, guardian or other person has indicated a willingness to do one or more of the following: support the young person to comply with their bail conditions, advise of any changes in circumstances that may impact the offender's ability to comply with the bail conditions, or advise of any breaches of bail; creating a limited presumption against bail, requiring certain young offenders charged with prescribed indictable offences to show cause why bail should be granted; and clarifying that, although a lack of accommodation and/or family support is a consideration that bail decision-makers can take into account when determining whether to grant bail, it cannot be the sole reason for keeping a child in custody.

Further, the bill will codify the sentencing principle, currently found in common law, that the fact that an offence was committed while subject to bail is an aggravating factor when determining the appropriate sentences. The bill will also: amend the charter of youth justice principles to include a reference to the community being protected from recidivist youth offenders; provide for a trial of powers for police to stop a person and use a handheld scanner; and enhance the enforcement regime against dangerous hooning behaviour by strengthening the existing owner onus deeming provisions for hooning offences.

I note that stakeholders had a range of views on the proposed amendments in the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and that there were a number of submitters who did not support the bill and its provisions. QCOS argued that children who are targeted by the bill should not be treated as hardened criminals. Rather, they should be provided with specific, targeted, intense and sustained services and supports to help address the underlying causes of their behaviour. The organisation submitted that research constantly shows that these children experience profound social disadvantage including extreme poverty, histories of familial offending, exposure to family violence, unstable accommodation or homelessness, alcohol and substance abuse, and disruptive education.

There was a view held by some stakeholders that the current system that permits children who have committed offences to go back out on the streets has resulted in the deaths of young offenders and innocent third parties and that the bill does not go anywhere near far enough to address or prevent deaths from occurring. A number of stakeholders submitted that the proposed amendments would disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The committee read many submissions and heard considerable oral evidence about youth crime concerns. There was a similarity in these concerns across the different regions with key considered issues and suggestions in common. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr NICHOLLS (Clayfield—LNP) (12.21 pm): Spare the rod, spoil the child. If only the answer to youth crime and offending was as easy as the application of this well-known aphorism, but we know that today there are no easy answers to the problems and causes of youth offending and, equally, we know that communities across Queensland look to government to ensure their safety and security, to protect their wellbeing in their homes. They rightly want to be safe as they go about their lives. They do not want to stop to have to think about whether it is safe to go outside; whether it is safe for their kids to go outside; to walk down the street to get an ice cream; to go out to enjoy themselves on a Friday or a Saturday night; or simply to drive to work or indeed go out for an afternoon walk.

Most people I talk to in the broader community, most police, most lawyers, ordinary members of our communities and those with extensive involvement in looking after young people realise that there are many facets to youth offending. They know that reducing the causes of youth offending is the key to reducing the incidence of youth offending and in fact they know that increased and more jail time is not always, or even mostly, the best answer to young offending. Causes leading to offending often identified include a breakdown of family, addiction, alcoholism, abuse, neglect, lack of education, truancy as mentioned by the member for Burdekin, fetal alcohol syndrome, mental health issues and neurological disabilities.

As recently as three weeks ago, the *Economist* reported on the alarming rate of brain injuries among prisoners. It reports that a review of research in America, Australia and Europe suggests the average reported rate of brain injuries is about 46 per cent of prisoners and those on probation. It goes on to say that, for many, the damage is done early and it is particularly prevalent among boys and young men whose brains are still maturing. That is no surprise because boys and young men take greater risks and they are more adventuresome. In fact, it is not sport that causes the problem; it is usually falls and accidents.

Equally, many people rightly expect the norms of our society to apply and to be applied to young offenders. There is an expectation that, to quote Shakespeare, while the quality of mercy is not strained mercy is not extended to the extent that wanton, repeat and recidivist behaviour is not punished and that those types of offenders are held accountable for actions that damage society. There is an expectation that those who repeatedly demonstrate an inability to change or reform and to abide by society's standards are removed from society in order to protect us all and that those given the benefit of the doubt and released on bail will abide by the terms of their bail.

I have often said in debates about youth justice in this place over the last three or four years—and we have had many of them—that the fundamental and most important duty of any government is protecting the wellbeing and safety of its citizens, and here in Queensland most people would see this as prevention and protection against crime and criminals. Former police commissioner Bob Atkinson highlighted just how important community confidence in that protection is. He said in his June 2018 report that the four pillars he identified must be framed or bookended by two fundamental principles—that public safety is paramount and that community confidence is essential. This government has lost that community confidence. Recent tragic events at Alexandra Hills and in Townsville in January, following increasing concerns from residents in cities and towns across Queensland, are strengthening the impression that crime and youth crime in particular are out of control.

Many people do not believe that public safety is a paramount consideration of this government and they certainly do not have confidence in the system. If they did, we would not be here discussing this today. The member for Burdekin would not be fronting the crowds of angry, disheartened and concerned residents in Townsville and I would not be hosting a meeting with 240 people at Eagle Farm concerned about crime in Clayfield, and other members in this place on this side have similar stories.

No matter what the Palaszczuk government might say about youth crime rates, communities across Queensland just do not believe it. That point was borne out at the Queensland Police Union national symposium on youth crime that I attended last week with the member for Burdekin. Police and other experts acknowledged in response to questions that that was the issue they faced. Just try telling someone in Townsville that youth crime is not out of control, just try telling someone in the northern suburbs of Brisbane that there is not a problem with youth crime, or just try telling someone down at the Gold Coast—

Ms Leahy: Or Roma.

Mr NICHOLLS:—that there are not people stealing cars and joy-riding at night or indeed, as the member for Warrego says, out at Roma. Is it any wonder? Like a player in the old game of Twister, the Palaszczuk government is struggling not to fall over itself as it gets more and more twisted and convoluted in its attempts to show that it is either variously tough on crime to satisfy public outrage after a terrible tragedy while also trying to display its not-so-tough attitude to satisfy its own left wing. The reality is no-one can serve two masters, at least not for long, and not get caught out as a result.

The Palaszczuk government's various positions on youth justice over the last five years reinforce the perception of a government with no clear and consistent position on crime and youth crime that it is prepared to defend and that it is prepared to stand up for. It is no surprise that this is a government that has already changed youth justice laws three times in 18 months and now puts in place another raft of changes and a government that introduces a new four- or five-point plan on an almost yearly basis. It is a bit like the old Soviet socialists: a new five-year plan each and every year after each and

every crop failure occurs and the previous plan was shown to be utterly hopeless and utterly incompetent. How many plans has Labor produced? It provided a five-point plan in 2016 and another four-point plan in 2019. In March 2020 it announced yet another five-point action plan, and just this month we have a seven-point action plan—a new plan every year for every crisis.

It is no wonder this government is a laughing stock, that people snigger when they hear of yet another Labor youth crime plan and experts shake their heads in disbelief. Mr Speaker, you do not have to take my word for it, you only have to read this committee report. None of the experts believe that this is going to make one iota of difference to youth crime. The advocates for young people do not believe it and the public certainly do not believe it.

This bill addresses a number of conditions, including the limited presumption against bail and a 12-month trial of the imposition, while on bail, of GPS location devices—a suggestion that has not lasted the first afternoon of debate in this House because we are now going to have an amendment to the amendment to deal with it. It just shows how incompetent this government is in dealing with this matter. We are going to see additional factors concerning parental support that may be taken into account by the decision-maker when it comes to bail, the codification of an existing practice, which was described to me by an experienced practitioner as simple puffery because it already happens—so that will not change anything. It introduces powers for wandering, which we support and the member for Bonney has been calling for for some years, and it also makes some changes to the anti-hooping laws.

Crucially, as the committee report shows, most experts, and most evidence presented to the committee in relation to youth bail offending, do not expect these changes to significantly address crime. The government stubbornly refuses to consider breach of bail. This matters because bail allows people charged with an offence an opportunity to live normal lives outside of custody. Done properly it balances rights to freedom with community safety. But bail is not the freedom to commit more crimes. Breaching a condition of a bail order must have a penalty otherwise it will be disregarded and of no significant deterrent effect. That is why the member for Burdekin has introduced an amendment. It can be done today. It can be done simply. It should be done. We all support this bill. We will seek to move the amendment. We will watch the outcome closely.

Debate, on motion of Mr Nicholls, adjourned.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER LEGISLATION (REVERSAL OF GREAT BARRIER REEF PROTECTION MEASURES) AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.32 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 and the Environmental Protection Act 1994 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021 [\[527\]](#).

Tabled paper: Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[528\]](#).

Tabled paper: Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[529\]](#).

I stand in strong support of the sugar industry as I introduce the Environmental and Other Legislation (Reversal of Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) Amendment Bill 2021. We introduce this bill into the House to repeal all amendments made to the Environmental Protection Act 1994 and the Chemical Usage (Agricultural and Veterinary) Control Act 1988 by the state government in its Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2019. On 27 February 2019 the state government introduced into the House the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which was passed in September 2019 with a Labor government majority. The bill gained Royal Assent to become an act on 26 September 2019.

I stand here today in support of not only the sugar industry across Queensland but also those communities that thrive and survive off the back of the sugar industry. Every year \$2 billion is pushed into the Queensland economy by the sugar industry. The sugar industry suffered its first blow with deregulation in 2006. The sugar industry was able to survive that. The first changes that impacted the industry were in 2010 in relation to the application of nitrogen or phosphorous. The industry took a huge

hit and farmers had to change some of their farming practices. Regulatory changes in 2016 saw a sharp decline in not only yield but also production across the six reef catchment areas where this regulation was imposed. I table a document that sharply outlines the loss of yield in the Burdekin growing district since 2016 as a result of the reduction of phosphorous or nitrogen application.

Tabled paper: Graph, undated, titled 'Sugar production—Burdekin region' [530].

People in the community sometimes tune out when you talk about farmers' rights but this bill is about protecting an industry. It is about protecting AWU and AMWU workers who work at the sugar mill and also the ETU workers who rely on seasonal work at the sugar mills. With sharp declines in yields we will see the closure of sugar mills across Queensland. A certain amount of tonnage is needed to keep the doors open.

Among the key concerns highlighted by industry regarding the act include its undermining of existing efforts by growers to improve water quality, imposing Big Brother style supervision over everyday farming decisions and effectively hobbling the industry's ability to expand without having to go through the regulatory burdens or red and green tape that will stop anyone from going through the process. Growers are forced to provide an environmental impact statement if they want to crop an existing part of their farm that they have cropped in the past and the government now has power to demand information from any advisor or company working with canefarmers.

In July 2020, during a federal Senate Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport References Committee public hearing into the identification of leading practices in ensuring evidence based regulation of farm practices that impact water quality outcomes in the Great Barrier Reef, Australian Institute of Marine Science CEO Dr Paul Hardisty admitted that there was no link to declining coral core growth rates in Porites coral and farm run-off. Dr Hardisty's comments were supported by his colleague, AIMS Research Program Director Dr Britta Schaffelke, who stated water quality was not linked to reduced coral calcification. She instead pointed to marine heatwaves and coral bleaching as the main causes.

In 2019 when the then minister for environment and science introduced the environmental protection bill into the House she stated that there were two main causes, the first being poor water quality, and then went on to explain how the second serious threat to the Great Barrier Reef is climate change. I am not going to get into a debate about climate change today, but we have AIMS scientists basically saying there is no link between the health of the reef and farm run-off.

Furthermore, Dr Schaffelke admitted during the public hearing that coral in general is not much exposed to pesticides because they are on the outer reefs where the pesticides do not reach. She also said concentrations of pesticides were higher inshore and on the outer reefs they were very low. The doctor also said she was unable to provide any specific examples of herbicide, which is a chemical used by farmers to suppress weeds, impacting coral growth rates. In his own submission to a Senate inquiry Dr Peter Ridd called into question the reliability of science institutions and the flaws of using peer reviewed literature. Dr Ridd has termed this issue the 'replication crisis', which extends not only into science related to the Great Barrier Reef but across the scientific discipline. Dr Ridd summarised his core arguments as follows—

The main system of scientific quality assurance, review by peers, is deficient in many ways not least being that it almost guarantees groupthink and can often exclude views from a dissenting scientist.

...

Major errors in work coming from GBR scientific institutions have been identified and there is a general reluctance of the institutions to rectify problems. They are in denial about their serious deficiency of Quality Assurance protocols. In some cases, they actively cover up problems, and vilify or exclude those who raise concerns.

There is thus considerable doubt that our GBR science institutions are providing reliable scientific evidence. This certainly does not imply all their work is wrong, but we cannot conclude that most individual parts of the scientific evidence, or the 'consensus' documents, are reliable.

Dr Peter Ridd's solution to what he calls this 'replication crisis', although not included in this bill, is an independent review conducted by scientists not attached to government institutions that work on the Great Barrier Reef, which could give to major industries in North Queensland that are affected by regulations, including agriculture, surety that the legislation that is pushed through this House is being scrutinised. Dr Ridd also pointed out that sediment from farm run-off generally does not make it to the Great Barrier Reef. About 99 per cent of corals live in the outer reefs. On various rare occasions, perhaps a few days per year, a few of the 3,000 reefs of the Great Barrier Reef will be affected by small

concentrations of sediment. Therefore the risk, if any, is low. Tidal flow flushes the reef very quickly and river plumes are a very minor factor when it comes to the Great Barrier Reef. For most of the inshore regions, waters are muddy not because of river run-off but because of mud deposited over millennia.

Scientific institutions almost never bother to measure the pesticides on the Great Barrier Reef as they are generally undetectable even with the most sensitive scientific equipment because, once again, the Great Barrier Reef is regularly flushed by water from the Pacific Ocean. For the inshore reefs, involving one to two per cent of corals, most pesticides are not detectable. Very occasionally, and only in a few of the inshore coral patches very close to river mouths, do pesticides reach concentrations that have caused even a minor impact to the corals.

Science organisations claim that fertiliser from farms causes crown-of-thorns starfish plagues. However, the evidence for this is extremely weak and ignores the fact that plagues have occurred in regions not affected by agriculture. Geological evidence indicates that crown-of-thorns starfish plagues have been around for millennia and there is little if any reason to suspect that they have worsened because of European settlement and farming practices.

During a public hearing by the former Innovation, Tourism Development and Environment Committee's inquiry into the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2019, the late Professor Jon Brodie, who was formerly a professorial research fellow at the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies, could not place a specific time frame with any modelling as to when water quality improvements would actually have an effect on the Great Barrier Reef. Since 2010, time and time again we have tried to make regulatory and legislative changes to improve water quality and we have done a very good job in some reef catchments areas, and we have to acknowledge the farmers who have been involved in that. However, there is no modelling by the scientists who are calling for regulatory or legislative change to show what improved water quality will actually achieve.

The accounts from AIMS, Dr Ridd and Professor Brodie clearly demonstrate that scientific debate around the impact of coastal agriculture on the health of the Great Barrier Reef is far from settled and calls into question the practical need for the state government to change the regulations set out in the Environmental Protection (Great Barrier Reef Protection Measures) and Other Legislation Act 2019. Considering the flawed science and the fact that changing some of the regulations could impact industry through yield reduction and also affect the milling groups and local communities that thrive off that industry, clearly we need to look at this. That is the main reason that we are introducing this legislation into the House.

Through this bill the maximum penalty for an offence would be restored to 100 penalty units, or \$13,345, as opposed to the state government's legislation, which specifies a fine of 1,665 penalty units, or \$222,194.25, or a fine of 600 penalty units, or \$80,070. Most farmers cannot afford those fines. Most farmers would be sunk and pushed out of the industry if they were to be given a fine of \$220,000. That is why we are repealing that part of the legislation. We also want to repeal the legislation to return to the time before 2019, as the predominant crop in the reef catchment areas is sugar cane mixed with cattle farming. This bill seeks to revert to the previous definition of the agriculture ERA being limited to activities that involve commercial sugarcane cropping and cattle grazing carried out on an agricultural property of more than 2,000 hectares.

Our legislation seeks to establish an independent regulator for the industry. That person should have an extensive agricultural and scientific background. They would advise and assist the minister when making a new environmental regulatory activity standard and would oversee the administering of offences when a person commits an offence with respect to fertiliser application. The regulator would not be or have been an employee of the Department of Environment and Science or any other government agency. That is to ensure that the regulator has no conflict of interest with the government of the day and will not push another agenda.

The bill seeks to introduce an enforceable undertaking so that there is no financial penalty for a person committing a first offence. That is very similar to what happens with the QBCC. If a builder makes a blunder, they receive a direction to rectify. We want our farmers to have the opportunity to receive a direction to rectify, rather than having a fine imposed on them straightaway.

There has been a push from industry to absolve a person of an offence committed by an employee who engages in an ERA process on that person's farm. Section 78 takes the onus off the owner of the property and puts it back on the person who is applying the fertiliser or the pesticide. In this industry a lot of people are contracted to spray herbicides and fertilizers. The onus should be on the contractor, not the owner of the property.

The bill seeks to limit red and green tape by taking some of the regulatory burden away from farmers. The bill will limit the requirement period for keeping a relevant primary document for an agricultural ERA record to at least two years instead of the current scenario. We want to ensure that an agricultural ERA record need be kept for only two years after the last day of the financial year in which the record was made.

A very important point is the transfer of the power for making an ERA standard from the chief executive officer to the minister and the minister alone. This would ensure that such a decision is made by an elected official and not by an unelected public servant. However, the minister would be required to consult with the independent regulator and representatives from at least two industry bodies that represent the reef catchment areas in which the ERA standard would be applied.

The bill seeks to mandate that the minister publish on the department's website a copy of each ERA standard made by the minister and the recommendations by the independent regulator in relation to the ERA standard. This is to be done in the interests of public transparency, such as in the scenario where the minister makes a decision to make an ERA standard against the recommendations of the regulator.

The sugar and other agricultural industries in the reef catchment areas in Queensland that are about to be impacted by the reef regulations to be enforced in September this year are crying out for representation. I will not stand here in this House a minute longer while our industries are being torn apart in regional Queensland.

An honourable member: Hear, hear!

Mr DAMETTO: Thank you, I take that interjection. I want to make sure that the industries which have built Queensland are there for our children into the future and so that not only young farmers can see that there is a future in their farming practices but also the people employed by these industries can see a future in the small towns that are supporting 44,000 jobs across Queensland right now. Some 44,000 jobs are in jeopardy. The KAP will continue to represent regional Queensland on this matter.

First Reading

Mr DAMETTO (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.50 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.

Referral to Health and Environment Committee


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Krause): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1038, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (12.51 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. At the outset, I would like to acknowledge the excellent work of the secretariat and my fellow committee members, particularly those who travelled to North Queensland and Central Queensland as part of the consultation process. I acknowledge, too, the work of the member for Redlands, who travelled to North Queensland in my stead as I was unable to attend. The bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee in February this year and the committee received 83 public submissions.

While the number of youth offenders is at its lowest level in a decade, there is irrefutably a small number of hardcore repeat offenders who are responsible for a disproportionate number of offences—the 10 per cent that are often referred to in discussions around youth justice. From the explanatory notes we can ascertain that the amendments seek to work in conjunction with the 2018 *Report on youth justice*, compiled by Bob Atkinson. The overarching objective now, just as it was at the time of the 2018

report, must be early intervention and to avoid incarceration wherever possible. That still leaves all of us here with the obligation to address measures that take into account the more problematic elements, the much referred to 10 per cent.

From the huge amount of community feedback, there appears to be elements of commonality and I would like to unpack and expand upon those elements from the feedback. Insofar as the expectations of the broader community are concerned, they seem to be asking for both more support services and a more definitive solution for offenders who are resistant to traditional service delivery models. Herein seems to lie the central issue.

Very few submissions from either the punitive preferencing submitters or the program based preferencing submitters were able to outline a wideranging solution as to what to do with problematic youth offenders in the immediacy. This is not a reason to not proceed, as we should be swayed by evidence and not gut feelings. We can assist this dichotomy of approach if we work towards the provision of early intervention and the wraparound services that should start immediately an offender comes into contact with the legal system. This not only helps make the reforms more effective but also ensures they have achieved a genuine outcome when reviewed.

Further elements common throughout the community feedback include a unanimous call for specific youth drug and alcohol rehabilitation centres located outside the south-east corner but inclusive of the Gold Coast. This was a strong theme in Cairns, Mount Isa, Townsville and the Gold Coast and at the public hearing here in Brisbane. Interestingly, a member from the Queensland Police Service who was present at the hearings made mention of a co-responder model which they felt might accelerate the provision of, or at least go some way towards facilitating access to, 24/7 services for youth.

Community feedback also included interest in restorative justice. It was mentioned on more than one occasion but with caveats attached, from my understanding—specifically that it be at the behest of the victim and not the offender but that, once the decision was made, the offender would be bound by it. This would, the community felt, be helpful and certainly not cost prohibitive.

Interestingly, there seemed to be a feeling from some submitters that parental rights were being undermined by the youth offenders themselves, threatening a child safety complaint. Whether real or imagined, it seems to have come through strongly in the feedback so that perhaps in the future an information package could be developed to reassure the parents of the role of Child Safety and the limits and constraints they operate under. This was also apparent in calls for more parental education courses. Therefore, the two goals could potentially be met in one package inasmuch as the community felt that the role of Child Safety might be included in any package that deals with parentcraft and parental education. Whatever these packages might look like, it was very clear from the feedback that a strong emphasis must also be placed on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder as part of any package relating to parentcraft or education.

Ideas around on-country placement were the only community based submissions that approached what were considered to be possible solutions around the 10 per cent of youthful offenders in the here and now—that is to say, in the immediacy while waiting for support services and programs to take effect. It is telling that the communities that raised the on-country placements were Cairns, Mount Isa and Townsville, with a modest measure of support within some quarters of the Indigenous population. They asked that this concept be considered, particularly if it encompassed the early intervention services and provided access to family and vocational training as well. The training, however, would need to entail either junior matriculation or a range of vocational skills other than those provided by traditional ideas of on-country programs. We must accept and encourage the fact that not all youth offenders will want to work on the land as adults.

Of all the measures, GPS monitoring seems to have attracted the most attention from either end of the community submitters consultation spectrum. This is not surprising, but it is also clear that there is some misunderstanding about the application of the bracelets, who can apply them, how they will work and how they will be utilised for community safety. GPS monitoring devices allow Queensland Corrective Services to monitor every movement of a young person on bail to ensure they comply with bail conditions, curfew and restrictions. Queensland Corrective Services will monitor youths who are required to wear GPS monitoring devices 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The GPS monitoring device is considerably less restrictive than remand, which is the alternative. When potential bail breaches may occur, Queensland Corrective Services will contact the youth directly and attempt to resolve it. We will not be sending police cars with lights and sirens activated because a young person forgot to charge their device. However, where a teen cannot resolve an issue, Queensland Corrective Services will be able to alert the police.

Bail considerations will be changed for this same more problematic group. Rather than requiring police to convince the courts that an offender is a risk to the community if they are granted bail, young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to convince the courts that they are not a risk. Further, courts will be able to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist youth offenders to comply with bail obligations. The bill also makes it clear that offending while on bail is an aggravating factor and if a young offender commits an offence while on bail the court will take that into consideration and sentence them accordingly.

The metal-detecting initiatives in the safe night precincts are much better understood so far as the broader community is concerned. They are very well received, particularly on the Gold Coast. The community submitted that there remains some scope for the expansion and improvement of the trial. The provision of privacy screens would be beneficial for further searching after metal-detecting wands indicated grounds for further action. Submitters from the Gold Coast suggested expansion of the searching sites to targeted train stations as well as safe night precincts if it was viable, but if there was an expansion of the trial for such an activity then a random sample of testing on stations would be useful for data collection and also its ongoing deterrence factor.

Clearly, we all need to acknowledge that diversion away from the criminal justice system is still our primary aim and objective. However, we naturally and rightly have a responsibility to put in place measures that address community concerns as soon as possible. While simultaneously moving the more problematic offenders through the early intervention strategies, there is certainly an acknowledgement that continued offending will bring consequences and that those consequences may entail removal from the community in some shape or form. In conjunction with that aim, part of our efforts must include the provision of services—call them wraparound or intervention—at the first point of contact with the criminal justice system. It must not be delayed until multiple encounters within the judiciary have accrued.

Our own consultative processes made very clear that early intervention that is targeted, systemic, meaningful and culturally appropriate is vital if we wish to address the 10 per cent of youth offenders who are over-represented in the overall youth crime data. On the basis that this is a positive step towards community safety, I commend the bill to the House.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.



Mrs GERBER (Currumbin—LNP) (2.00 pm): Break and enters, property damage, stabbing, hooning and stolen vehicles, tragically resulting in the loss of lives—these are just some of the crimes perpetrated by a small cohort of repeat youth offenders between the ages of 10 and 17. These are crimes that are plaguing this state from Far North Queensland to the southern border of my beautiful electorate of Currumbin. Prosecutors and police are trying to do their job, but there is a small cohort of youth offenders—around 340 to 400 kids—who are serious recidivist offenders and know that under the current state of play they are untouchable. This bill is targeted towards them. Something must be done.

I will not be opposing this bill. However, it is my sincere belief that the measures in this bill fall well short of what is required to keep the community safe from these repeat offenders. It is my duty as a member of this House and as the deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, to which this bill was referred, to critically analyse the proposed legislation. What became patently clear from the public hearings which our committee held in Mount Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane and the Gold Coast, where we heard from numerous stakeholders and everyday Queenslanders affected by crime, is that this bill does not go far enough and it is not targeted enough at the young cohort of repeat offenders which it needs to target.

On the Gold Coast the committee heard from Mr Ricardo Parata, a youth support and advocacy worker from the Gold Coast Youth Service. Mr Parata informed the committee that he does not believe the measures in this bill will fix the problem because in his experience the problem for these kids on the Gold Coast is that they have no support at home, are homeless or have no safe place to be. Mr Parata stated—

It all goes hand in hand: homelessness, carrying knives. What are they going to do when they have nowhere to go?

We take them to court and we sit there and someone from the education system or Youth Justice says, 'Do you want to look at getting back into school?' or 'Do you want to go to a job employment agency?' They are not worried about that. They do not care about that. They want to know: 'Where am I sleeping tonight? Do I need to carry a knife ... Do I need to go and steal a car so I can sleep somewhere safe for the night?' ... It always comes back to housing for us—crisis accommodation.

The youth service informed me that on the Gold Coast there are only eight emergency crisis beds for young people, and this has not increased since 1983. This is heartbreaking and not good enough. Ultimately, the very real concern is that the proposed amendments in this bill are unlikely to result in any significant changes in behaviour by the small number of recidivist juvenile offenders who are at the centre of the current lawlessness outbreaks in Queensland.

The government must do more to uphold its word and keep Queenslanders safe because large parts of my community currently do not feel safe from youth crime and do not have the confidence that this government can protect them from it. The government should be listening to Queenslanders on this front. So many stakeholders submitted to our committee that breach of bail must be included in this bill, yet their concerns and submissions have been brushed aside by this government.

In 2012 the LNP amended the Youth Justice Act so that juveniles could be charged with a separate offence of breach of bail. This allowed youth, who are found guilty of committing another offence while on bail, to be brought before the courts to face a charge of breach of bail. The Labor government removed that provision from the act in 2016. Since then we have seen a steady rise in youth crime and recidivist offending. In fact, between 2018 and 2020 the number of offences by youth whilst on bail went up 17 per cent.

The statistics are damning and those on the other side of the House know it. The statistics unequivocally demonstrate that Labor's current bail provisions in the Youth Justice Act have not been effective in reducing reoffending among children. I implore all members in this chamber to support the LNP's proposed amendments to this bill to reinstate breach of bail as an offence. Even the mayor of Townsville, a Labor Party life member, submitted to the legal affairs committee that the Labor government should consider a trial reintroducing breach of bail.

In addition to the bill lacking in relation to breach of bail, as a former prosecutor I fear the measures in this bill will not achieve the key purpose of addressing serious recidivist youth offending because this bill does nothing to address the injunction in the Youth Justice Act that detention is to be regarded as a sentence of last resort, only to be imposed when the court is positively satisfied that there is no other possible alternative. This language is very strong and although at first glance it might sound reasonable because we are dealing with children, in practice it has proven to pose serious problems for prosecutors when trying to see that very serious repeat youth offenders are removed from the community, as they should be. We are talking about hardcore offenders who know the law, who thumb their nose at it—the cohort this bill is meant to target; the cohort the community deserve to be protected from.

The flow-on effect of principle 18 and section 150 of the Youth Justice Act is that time and time again the courts are releasing very serious repeat youth offenders back into the community under conditional release orders or restorative justice processes because, in practice, it is near impossible for prosecutors to meet the test in the Youth Justice Act for such repeat offenders to be removed from the community. Whilst I will not stand in the way of this bill, as a former prosecutor I genuinely believe that this bill will not achieve the purpose for which it is intended. That puts all of our communities at risk.

There are six key elements introduced by this bill. The bill proposes a 12-month trial use of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for 16- and 17-year-old repeat offenders in certain, and might I say, very limited circumstances. Many submitters to the committee, including the mayor of Townsville and Senior Sergeant Gary Hunter from Cairns, urged the government to consider extending the age group so that it actually covers the recidivist offenders who are terrorising the community—the 15-year-olds. Given the many restrictions around the application of GPS monitoring devices, including family support, that they are limited to certain geographical locations, that the youth must have facilities and an ability to charge the monitoring device and that a court report is required before they can be given as a condition of bail, all of the submitters to the committee who supported this measure also expressed concern that it is doomed to fail because its application is too restrictive.

The bill proposes that in granting bail the court or police can take into account whether a parent or guardian has indicated a willingness to support the child. Mr Vincent Knox, a regional manager of ATSILS in North Queensland, submitted to the committee that this may do very little because, he said—

I think the courts are actually stuck, because all they can do is objectively assess that situation. There is not much more they can do. If they get an answer from a parent, then that is the answer. It is not always a truthful answer, though; that is the problem.

The bill creates a presumption against bail for youth offenders arrested for committing further serious indictable offences while on bail. Many submitters to the committee agreed that having to show cause as to why they should get bail is a necessary step in the right direction, but they stated that it does not go far enough. Mr Knox from ATSILS added that the real concern in relation to bail is that

parents or guardians come to court and make a promise in order to get the child bail. They might be asked by the court, 'Do you promise to contact police if they are not there?' and they say yes, but invariably it does not happen at all.


The bill codifies what is already in existence at common law, being that at sentence it is an aggravating factor that an offence was committed whilst subject to bail—so nothing will change in relation to this amendment. The bill enhances the enforcement regime around hooning by strengthening the existing onus on the owner of the vehicle involved in a hooning offence in that they must make a statutory declaration about who was driving the vehicle to assist police in catching the offender. There has been a noticeable rise in hooning in my electorate of Currumbin and across the whole of the Gold Coast. Robust legislation in this area is warranted.

Lastly, the bill commences a trial allowing police to search people for knives in the safe night precincts of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. However, some of the criticisms of this is that it does not extend to those parts of the Gold Coast where knife crime starts such as the Helensvale train station. My fear is that it will not produce the data that is needed to consider whether this legislation should be implemented more widely.

I think everyone in this chamber can agree that Queensland families have the right to feel safe in their homes with no threat to their vehicles, their property, their families or themselves. It is this government's fundamental job to do just that: to put in place mechanisms that curb this scourge of youth crime and see that perpetrators are held accountable and rehabilitated so as to break the cycle of recidivist offending.

Most of the amendments proposed in this bill have feet of clay, the foundations are weak and sure to crumble. It is my regretful view that these provisions will do very little to prevent the scourge of youth crime affecting Queensland.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.10 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Firstly, as a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I have to acknowledge my parliamentary colleagues and the secretariat who did an incredible job of coordinating our public hearings in particular and ensuring that people—many of whom had travelled some distances and had never before appeared before a committee—were in fact heard.

I have listened to those opposite harangue the government on our response to youth justice through this bill, and it has become quite clear to me that they are not committed to reducing youth crime. What they want is to continue the politicisation of law and order in this state—and it is appalling. Let us not forget what happened when they had the opportunity to pull the justice policy levers under Campbell Newman. They slashed the Murri Court, cut drug diversion, cut the specialist circumstances court and slashed youth justice conferencing.

What were the impacts of that? Crime went up. It has taken incredible efforts by this government to re-establish the service delivery capability in these areas. If ever you want an example of duplicity, Mr Deputy Speaker, you do not need to look far. Just keep your eyes on the opposite side of this House throughout this debate because I am sure we are about to see some examples of it.

Listening to the community and acting is paramount to good government—that is exactly what this bill is about. As part of the government's record investments in youth justice and policing, our five-point crime action plan is in place throughout Queensland. The plan includes tougher action on bail; a police blitz on bail, appealing court decisions where appropriate; culture based rehabilitation for Indigenous offenders through a trial of on-country initiatives; and empowering local communities in the war on crime with \$2 million for community based organisations for local community solutions.

This plan is already making a difference. The number of youth offenders is at its lowest in a decade—down around 30 per cent. This government's approach to youth justice is and has been backed by solid evidence which tells us that keeping communities safe is best achieved through early intervention targeting young people at risk of offending and reoffending. That is exactly what this government has done as part of our \$550 million investment in youth justice, rolling out important initiatives like specialist multiagency response teams to give advice to the courts and address underlying factors that contribute to a young person's crime; family-led decision-making, providing a culturally safe decision-making process involving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; 24/7 co-responder teams, comprised of both police and youth workers diverting at-risk young people from potentially engaging in antisocial activities after hours; a conditional bail program, providing intensive and individual support for young people on bail and those awaiting sentencing; and restorative justice conferencing—a therapeutic justice process that acknowledges the impacts and consequences of crime for victims and the community.

These programs and our five-point action plan have had positive results, but I would like to focus on the small cohort of recidivist youth offenders who represent around 10 per cent of youth offenders but commit around 48 per cent of youth crime—a degree of which is personal crime. The community has a right to be safe and to feel safe which is why the government is making important changes in this legislation.

The committee heard from a range of stakeholders in various locations throughout Queensland and the committee made the recommendation that this bill be passed. I must say how impressed I was by those who attended our public hearings across the state. I would like to extend my thanks to those who attended. Most members of the public recognised that early intervention and diversion away from the criminal justice system is what is required to prevent our young people from committing crime—and I have spoken already to the government's ongoing commitment and investment in this. However, some people were understandably frightened, having experienced personal occurrences of break and enters, hold-ups or dangerous hooning.

During the Mount Isa public hearing, for example, we heard from a local resident Mr Schultz, who provided several personal experiences of crime including that of his mum, who at 93 years of age woke up in her house to a noise in the middle of the night. She went to investigate and was put into a chokehold by someone who had broken in and entered her room.

Victims of crime and community members have the right to be safe and to be protected from this small number of persistent offenders. Our new laws will reverse the onus so that young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to demonstrate to the court why they are not a risk of reoffending and are not a danger to the community before they can be granted bail. They will give the courts power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist them to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. They will enshrine in legislation that when a young offender commits an offence while on bail the court will consider that an aggravating factor. They will allow courts to consider the option of electronic GPS monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail.

The bill also amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to give police enhanced powers to deal with hooning as well as enabling a trial of metal detector wandering on the Gold Coast to target knife crime. I acknowledge the contribution of Ms Belinda Beasley, founder of the Jack Beasley Foundation. Belinda is also the mother of the late Jack Beasley, who tragically lost his life as a result of an alleged stabbing incident which occurred in public outside an IGA in Surfers Paradise on the Gold Coast. Jack was just three months from turning 18. The alleged offenders were at the time aged between 15 and 18 years of age.

We heard during the Gold Coast public hearing of the practice amongst young people of carrying knives when they are out in public in Surfers Paradise particularly. Angela Driscoll, who operates the Gold Coast Chill Out Zone and who has a 20-year history of working with stakeholders in the area, made the following statement in her verbal submission to the committee—

... nobody in these safe night precincts wants anybody to carry knives. I would say that that would include a very large cohort of the young people who are carrying those knives ... young people will say, 'I carry a knife because everyone else carries a knife. I am protecting myself from other people who are carrying knives.'

Our young people deserve protection. Following the committee's work, I am confident that the amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to allow police in prescribed places and circumstances to use handheld devices to scan for knives will interrupt the cycle of people carrying knives throughout the safe night precincts on the Gold Coast.


Finally, I will comment on the opposition's response to this issue, which disappointingly was neither innovative nor evidence based—but simply to return breach of bail as an offence. Some speakers who attended the public hearings did advocate for this position. However, when we spoke to those submitters, ultimately what they said was that they wanted to be safe—which we know is best progressed through effective policy.

Breach of bail never existed under the previous LNP government. There are many ways to breach bail—failure to comply with a curfew or failure to reside at an approved address. None of these breaches were ever an offence under the previous Newman government—only committing an offence while on bail. The fact is that the Newman LNP government introduced an unworkable law called 'committing an offence while on bail'. This law did not work as a deterrent and was not regularly used by the courts given it was so ineffective.

The evidence shows us the LNP's offence did nothing to deter or reduce crime while it was on the legislative books between March 2014 and June 2016. On the contrary, I am advised that, of the 185 young people convicted of the offence in that time, more than 90 per cent reoffended within

12 months and 94 per cent within two years. Contrast this, for example, with the results shown in the government's Transition 2 Success program—an evidence based program recently evaluated by Deloitte, with the following findings: a completion rate for young people enrolled in the program of 81 per cent and 82 per cent for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people; 95 per cent of young people completing the program then transitioned into education, employment and training or another T2S course; the overall reoffending rate for all T2S participants who completed a course was down to 25 per cent; and a reduction in the nights spent in custody per month from 2.2 to 0.5 nights in custody per month in the six months after completing the program.

We do have to stay the course on our approach to youth justice because we know it is making a tangible and positive difference to young people, their families and our communities. As a government we are also obligated to adjust the sails when the need becomes clear. That is what this bill will achieve and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (2.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. We hear from this government all the time that they have kept Queenslanders safe, but when it comes to keeping Queenslanders safe from crime they have failed miserably. The member for Cooper and others opposite can talk all they like. They can talk about theory, they can talk about what they would like to achieve, but all have you to do is look at the cold, hard statistics. These are not statistics that the LNP provides but that the police department itself provides. Nearly every category of crime has increased dramatically since the Labor government came into power. It is even worse when it comes to youth crime. They can talk all they want, as they do, but let's look at outcomes and the cold, hard statistics. They do not lie and the people of Queensland are not fooled by that rhetoric.

Mr Harper interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Member for Thuringowa, cease your interjections.

Mr MANDER: He can go on all he likes, because I will enjoy that. This issue has dogged this government over the last six years and it will not go away. We will support this bill because anything is better than nothing, but it does not go far enough. Why does it not go far enough? Because this government continually favours those who commit crime, not those who are the victims of crime. They have the scales of justice totally out of balance. They constantly do that, and that is why they will never address this issue properly.

It is no coincidence that crime rates have increased over the last six years because when the Labor Party government came in they weakened the laws for all of the reasons I just mentioned. There are consequences to weakening the laws: people think they can get away with anything. That is the problem we have with young offenders at the moment. The member for Thuringowa may interject, but if there is an epicentre of youth crime in this state it is in his home town of Townsville—a man who, over the last six years, denied there was a problem and repeatedly said, 'We don't have a crime problem in this state.'

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence at that remark and I ask that it be withdrawn.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: The member has taken personal offence. Do you withdraw?

Mr MANDER: I withdraw.

Honourable members interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Order!

Mr MANDER: I withdrew. North Queensland is the epicentre of the youth crime issue we have in this state.

Mr Harper interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: If any member is casting doubt on the fact that I heard the member for Everton withdraw, please say it now and then I will promptly eject you from the chamber.

Mr MANDER: The *Townsville Bulletin* called Townsville 'Dodge City'. Their own newspaper called their town Dodge City because of the crime rate in this state. What does this government do? This government does not have a long-term plan: they have a kneejerk plan. They respond to whatever is happening at the moment. Initially there was no problem. 'Don't look here. There's nothing to see.' The local members continued to say, 'There's no issue here at all.' They were constantly at war with the newspaper. In fact, I have never seen so many editorials written against a local member than those written against the member for Thuringowa because of the ridiculous statements he constantly made.

Mr HARPER: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Again I take personal offence. They are incorrect remarks. I never said that. I ask him to withdraw.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. What was their first great brainchild with regard to addressing the issue of crime? They sent out new police recruits—do you remember this one—to do a doorknocking campaign to remind people to lock their cars and lock their doors, so again it was the public's fault they were being broken into. There were new police recruits and this was the great new strategy. 'Let's go up there and address this issue.' It was absolutely useless and of course it had no impact.

What happens then is that as we go along the crime rate continues. We still have a youth crime problem, so what is the next thing they do? They appointed Major General Stewart Smith, who is a very respectable former member of the defence community. Why did they have to appoint him? Because the local members were useless. The three local members could not do what they were supposed to do, which was to stick up for their community, come back here and have the cabinet respond to the demands of their local members. Totally useless! That was the No. 2 plan, and of course that was not successful.

What was the No. 3 plan? The No. 3 plan was the five-point plan they issued at the beginning of last year. Why? It was another kneejerk reaction because everything they have done so far has not worked. It totally failed. What did the minister say at the time? In the press release relating to the five-point plan the minister said, 'Criminals, especially young ones, should fear the law.' Guess what, Minister? They do not fear the law. That is why they continue to offend and wreak terror through the streets of Townsville. Unfortunately for the rest of the state, the problem that continues in Townsville and Cairns has spread right across the state—

Mr Stevens: To the Gold Coast!

Mr MANDER: Right across the state to the Gold Coast. I take the interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. The north side of Brisbane where I live has a youth crime problem. The member for Clayfield held a crime forum and over 200 people attended, and that is because people have had a gutful. They have had enough of being—

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr MANDER: That is absolutely correct, member for Mermaid Beach. This government has absolutely no answers and they blame everybody else. In relation to a recent tragedy the Minister for Transport said that the victims 'were in the wrong place at the wrong time', again shifting the emphasis away from the people who had committed the crime.

Mr BAILEY: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take personal offence and ask that the comments be withdrawn.

Mr MANDER: I withdraw. The member for Stretton also had a big crime rally out his way, which was unusual, and again came out and said, 'There isn't a problem. We don't have a crime problem here.' That went over really well at a crime rally: 'We don't have a crime problem.'

When it comes to dealing with crime, particularly youth crime, the Labor government has zero credibility. They have had three or four or five different plans because each one has not worked. They is why they have to bring out another one. We will have another one in nine months time, no doubt about it. Another plan will come out and that will be the 3.5 plan, not the five-point plan. Is it not ironic that today we would speak about crime and the youth justice bill when this is the day that the member for Mundingburra's banning order ends in Townsville. Today he can go back to the Mad Cow. What type of example is this from a government that is trying to deal with crime? When one of their Townsville members gets involved in a scuffle and is issued with a banning order, what type of example is that?

This is a government that is not fair dinkum about crime. Until there are consequences for their actions, these young offenders will continue to do what they are doing. Imagine if you said to the average Queenslanders, 'Would you believe that a young offender can get picked up on a Friday night for a break and enter, get released the next day and then do the same thing the next night and there are no consequences?' How do you think that frustrates police officers? Despite all of the work that they do, we see absolutely no consequences for the actions of young offenders.

This government has zero credibility when it comes to dealing with crime and youth crime. As I said earlier, we will support the bill because something is better than nothing, but the government will never address the issues that Queenslanders are concerned about. Queenslanders want to be protected from those recidivist youth offenders. They want to be able to walk down the street without worrying about being assaulted. They want to sleep at night without worrying about somebody breaking in. They want to be able to be in their house without worrying about their car being stolen out of their garage.



Mr POWER (Logan—ALP) (2.30 pm): I was disappointed by that contribution. I listened earlier to the member for Cooper when she asserted that some on the opposite side were not taking these difficult and tough issues seriously or looking through the real consequences and having tough conversations with the public, and that instead they were fearmongering and playing politics. I thought the member for Cooper had perhaps overstated that, but after the truly embarrassing rant that was put forward by the member for Everton I fear she did not put her case strongly enough. I have totally reversed my view by just one speech. These are tough and serious issues where we are taking children and young adults and incarcerating them.

Mr Stevens interjected.

Mr POWER: The member for Mermaid Beach is exactly right that where a person has been hurt these are tough and serious issues. Where property has been taken these are tough and serious issues. What we need to do in this place—as the member for Cooper exhorted us to do—is take these issues seriously, look at the tough sides and have the tough conversations.

That is what the three members in Townsville did because there is an issue in Townsville and those members all addressed that very seriously. They have also had those tough conversations about how we address this to get to the goals and how sometimes the decisions that seem reactionary and easy and make for cheap politics are not the answers. I have to say that the people of Townsville know this. They are smart. They will not be fooled. The LNP at the last election made it all about those issues, and all of the members around that area had to have tough conversations and explain the position they were in and where they were going to reduce youth crime. Am I correct?

Mr Harper: You are spot on.

Mr POWER: In an election where the LNP made it all about crime, those three members gained greater confidence from their communities and the LNP vote went backwards. They went backwards because people recognise that the performance from the member for Everton is cheap politics and it is not helping victims or reducing the incidence of crime, and that is what is so disappointing about it.

Mr Bailey interjected.

Mr POWER: I did not know that. The member for Everton had a big swing against him too.

I want to speak about a particular aspect of the bill. One of the great frustrations in my area is the problem of dangerous and uncontrolled driving which creates noise and danger on our streets. The hooning problem is one which the Logan police work hard on. They are very passionate about it, and now I am pleased that in this bill we are giving them another tool to fight hooning on the Logan streets.

Dangerous and reckless driving is completely irresponsible. We know it causes harm to people in Logan. This bill amends the current legislation to introduce a new offence, applicable if the owner of a vehicle fails to comply with a requirement to provide a statutory declaration in relation to a type 1 vehicle related offences notice. The bill strengthens the already existing evasion offence notice scheme to all type 1 related offences. These are: dangerous operation of a motor vehicle; careless driving of a motor vehicle; organising, promoting or taking part in a race between vehicles, speed trials or speed record attempts; or wilfully starting or driving a motor vehicle in a way that makes unnecessary noise or smoke. Whenever that is happening, we know that presents danger. The owner has 14 days to do that and can face significant fines—up to 100 penalty points, which is currently \$13,345—for failing to comply.

This will work really well in Logan with the state government funded camera control centre at the Logan City Council, as well as other initiatives which the community and the police use. It will work in conjunction with the high-tech anti-hooning camera technology already utilised by police, and it will complement the suite of anti-hooning strategies and programs that the fantastic Logan police are already engaged in.

I want to recognise the hardworking police officers. I notice there is a lot of dismissal from some on the other side about the work that the police are doing. The police officers at Logan Village-Yarrabilba, Jimboomba, Browns Plains and Crestmead and the senior officers who oversee the Logan district are working hard on these issues. I think they have a deeper appreciation of the fact that these are long-term issues and that it is about engaging early with young offenders who are beginning to get on the path to serious offences as well as setting consequences and boundaries. The police have had increases in their funding and they also have new resources—such as QLITE devices for greater efficiency; body worn cameras for frontline officers to protect both the officer and the public and provide invaluable evidence; and the new X26P model tasers. I have no idea what the difference is but I am going to find out from our police.

Mrs McMahon interjected.

Mr POWER: They are a good bit of kit, I am told. They also have new vehicles.


The other point is that they are part of a team. I heard criticism earlier attacking our police and saying they only worked in a silo. From my experience of the Logan police—but also from debates about the Townsville police, and I know the member for Cairns has said this about the Cairns police—this could not be further from the truth. Our police are passionate about working with housing, youth and family services, child services and residential care. They are actually utilising and involving those groups to ensure we get better outcomes and that we intervene early with young people before they get into serious offences.

In our society, we must think of justice as justice for all—to be treated justly, to live in a just society that respects the person and a person's property. A good family sets this up from day one, with strong boundaries and consequences, incentives and goals for a child. They provide safety, security and certainty that allows a child to develop. Some children have all of these things but still—often through the wrong group of friends and the use of alcohol and drugs—become those repeat offenders. Most who offend though do not have the strong family boundaries or the security and certainty that a child needs. We know that some of the offences those children and near adults commit are very serious. Our communities suffer as a result, and this government takes this very seriously. We want there to be legal boundaries and consequences, but we also want to prevent these damaging offences from occurring in the first place. The focus of this bill is on hardcore, repeat youth offenders—the 10 per cent who account for almost half of all youth offending and who often commit more serious acts that hurt our community.

The new laws will ensure that the young offender must, before they can be granted bail, show real evidence to the court—and, through the court, the community—of why they are not a risk of reoffending when they have been charged with serious indictable offences when on bail. We take this serious step—and it is a serious step—of creating this reverse onus for the defendant to prove to the court because it is telling young repeat offenders that we are serious about them taking responsibility for their actions. It gives the courts power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist them to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. The bill puts firmly in legislation that when a young offender commits an offence while on bail the court will consider that an aggravating factor and sentence them accordingly.

I asked the police minister about the rate of total recorded crime in the Logan district from 1 July to 31 March 2021 and was told that they have seen some decreases overall. I also note that when I asked about offences against the person—and they are obviously very important—the statistics are not as positive. They are different statistics. We know one crime is too many and our entire justice team in Logan—from our police, social services, sports clubs, blue light discos, the PCYC, our courts—will continue to fight to make Logan a safe place, a place of justice.

I also want to say that I really appreciate the police minister's office, because for some time I have been taking the community forward in terms of seeing stronger laws. I want to emphasise to the Logan community what a big step it is to reverse the onus of proof on hooning. I know that we can, therefore, take these laws forward. It is a great tool for our police. It will make an enormous difference. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (2.40 pm): It is a great pleasure for me to speak to a youth justice bill that is making some attempt to address youth crime, which is growing in my Gold Coast area. We would not have this legislation we are debating here today unless those opposite in government, who make the rules, were not being reactive to the community concern right across Queensland about the growth in youth crime. Any attempt to address the youth crime in our communities—and I have it in my community—is well worth supporting.

However, in the famous words of Jack Gibson, legendary league coach, it is *deja vu* all over again. This legislation reminds me of what the government did with the outlaw bikie gang legislation in the period before we came to government. I think I spoke around 16 times about the growth of outlaw bikie gangs on the Gold Coast, and the government would just come in with another iteration of their answer to fixing that problem. It failed over and over until we had the outrageous outbreak of bikie gangs in Broadbeach. The subsequent Newman government then put in place legislation that had the bikies scampering out of Queensland posthaste as fast as their Harley-Davidsons could take them. That was good legislation. As the member for Everton has mentioned, this legislation will be brought back to this place again to try to address this problem.

Senior police come to see me regularly, and the police are doing a wonderful job. We do not have a problem with them; it is the fact that these kids are recidivists in the court system. The police know that in our Gold Coast region there are 50 to 60 kids, who might be called hardcore kids, who basically pay no regard whatsoever to the laws or the courts because they know courts are not going to incarcerate them. They know the courts are not going to treat them harshly because of the legislation that was brought in by this same Labor government in 2016 which watered down the youth justice laws. These 50 or 60 kids are wreaking havoc right across the Gold Coast. I refer to my particular area on the Gold Coast because we never had this problem before but now we do.

I will refer to a particular case and I have to be very sensitive about it. A 25-year-old woman rang my office over the Christmas break. I happened to be in the office checking emails. I took the call directly as my staff were all on holidays. She said, 'I don't know what to do. I'm suicidal.' She said, 'These young thugs broke into my house last night and stole the keys to my car from the table next to my bed while I was sleeping.' She said, 'I am shattered.' I ended up ringing Lifeline. The young woman was absolutely terrified. It went on and we got the police back again. They said, 'There's nothing we can do with these young criminals because of the court situation.' These particular ones were very young. She had previously been the victim of sexual assault. That is why these young thugs breaking into her house because they wanted a car created an absolute mental nightmare for her. These are the things that we have to address.

However, I do not believe these new legislative provisions—and I would be happy to be proven wrong—will address those issues. In six to nine months time, when this legislation has been in effect for a reasonable amount of time, we will be back here with this government saying, 'We're addressing youth justice,' as they did with the outlaw bikie gangs, which did not work for all of that period. We will be going through this process again. I do understand the issues for those on that side of the House around protecting youth and the social aspects of those young offenders. Yes, I sympathise with the social aspects of those young offenders who grow up in difficult circumstances. I do not need to go into that because we all know what those circumstances are.

The fact of the matter is there are 50 or 60 known criminals—yes, they are youths—creating havoc in our Gold Coast region and that is not acceptable to our community. In fact, the other day in Miami three of these young hoodlums grabbed hold of a Japanese tourist in broad daylight and gave him a thrashing outside the Miami shopping centre. The police attended and it is now a matter before the courts so I cannot go down that track. This is the type of thing that we need to address as a community. I do not believe that this legislation will go far enough in removing that from our community. Our police are doing a wonderful job but have their hands tied behind their backs regarding the 50 or 60 repeat offenders. I am talking particularly about my Gold Coast area. I do understand that the problems in Townsville and those other areas are a little bit more entrenched and a little bit more difficult to solve.

I believe we are not going to use the word 'trackers' in relation to these kids. I believe we are going to call them 'monitoring devices' now. I am not too sure why they cannot be called trackers, but I am sure that will be explained by the minister when speaking to the amendments. The fact is that these kids love to be seen. You can see them on the videos saying, 'Look at me racing down the M1 in my Audi, creating havoc driving the wrong way. I don't care, but I do want to demonstrate to everybody that I can break the law and get away with it. I'll be seeing you next Saturday because I will be out again next Saturday night doing the same thing.' That is the problem we are not addressing.

The Queensland Police statistics do not lie, and I am sure the minister would agree that they do not put out figures that are fudged. I will provide the Gold Coast figures for assault. Like those young kids who assaulted that Japanese tourist, they do not all fall under youth justice but some will be in the statistics. In 2014 on the Gold Coast there were 1,582 assaults registered with the police force. Guess what? In 2020 there were 3,767, more than double the number of assaults on the Gold Coast. If that is fixing crime on the Gold Coast I will walk backwards to Bourke.


What we have here is an issue with crime across the board, with this government and with their answers in terms of the court system because the police are powerless. It is not the fault of the police; it is over to the courts. Even the Premier has alluded to that in some of her statements regarding magistrates et cetera. Clearly, we have to put in place legislation that will stop these young offenders from thinking they can get away with it. As the member for Everton said, there is no punishment. They will keep doing what they are doing and thumbing their nose at general society.

It is not acceptable, and this government needs to address it properly. This legislation will go some way in doing so. In fact, for quite some time the member for Bonney has highlighted the wandering issue. I am glad to see that wandering has been included in this legislation. It is a very positive step.

Knives are the new guns around the town. Anything we can do to get rid of knives will be greatly appreciated. My police tell me that the hooning provisions of this legislation will be a fantastic addition to their police powers.

We will support this youth justice bill but, again, I guarantee that Ray will be making another speech about youth justice in six to nine months. It is absolutely typical of this state Labor government that it is not prepared to put in the hard yards to address crime, which affects 99 per cent of the Queensland community, that is committed by a very small fraction of the people in our communities. That applies to Townsville, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. Until the government is serious about introducing proper legislation, crime statistics will keep on rising. I table those statistics.

Tabled paper: Document, dated 21 April 2021, titled 'QPS Crime Statistics' [531].

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (2.50 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I look forward to seeing the member for Mermaid Beach's statistics on 99 per cent of the community being affected by youth crime! I support the objectives of the bill and acknowledge the role that this piece of legislation plays within the four-pillar approach of our Youth Justice Strategy. The legislation is not the be-all and end-all of addressing youth crime and it is squarely focused on the fourth pillar, that is, reducing reoffending. It acknowledges that there are some children whose circumstances mean that early intervention, diversion from the criminal justice system and even possible custodial terms are of little deterrence.

This legislation is focused on a small cohort of offenders. We know that the actual number of youth offenders is at its lowest level in a decade; however, we are dealing with a small number—just 10 per cent—of juvenile offenders who are committing 48 per cent of youth crime. These are the offenders the fourth pillar aims to address. This cohort is difficult, hardcore and not always responsive to early intervention and diversionary programs.

The Youth Justice Strategy acknowledges that a 'lock 'em up and throw away the key' approach is not always the solution. Up to 76 per cent of children subject to supervised orders suffer from substance abuse. In 62 per cent of cases, this substance abuse contributed to their risk of reoffending. Even if those opposite are willingly blind to the health crisis that this presents, surely the cost at \$1,500 a day to hold a child in custody, or over half a million dollars a year, should give them pause to consider that the incarceration-at-all-costs approach is actually the costliest approach.

This bill prioritises the reduction in reoffending. I will not say that every single youth offender is redeemable. I have encountered juvenile offenders who have not and likely will not ever make a valuable contribution to society—those who are inherently a danger to themselves as well as the broader community. We have acts of parliament in place to address crime—

Mr Stevens: What do you do with them?

Mrs McMAHON:—under the Criminal Code, the Youth Justice Act and the Penalties and Sentences Act, if the member would like to look them up. I refuse to give up on every youth offender when there are programs that can and do work. The work that is being done by police in the Logan community is setting the pace for the rest of the state. Programs such as the Blue EDGE program in our high schools, the Logan New Directions Youth Support program and the Logan youth bail coordinator position have been working in partnership to reduce youth reoffending. The youth co-responder team, which began in Logan in November 2019, is a model of joint vehicle patrols with police and Youth Justice employees to take the load off general duties officers. This model operates 24/7 in Logan and has now been established in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton and Brisbane north. Working with the youth bail coordinator in Logan, they proactively seek to engage and monitor our recidivist youth offenders.

I now focus on what is probably the one hot-button issue in my community that is addressed in this bill—more so than youth offending—and that is hooning. As a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee in the last parliament, I spent a bit of time talking to the minister about how to adequately address the policing of hooning. There are tools and there is technology. This plan was announced prior to the last election, with the use of advanced cameras and drone technology to assist in responding to and identifying hooning behaviour, but the missing piece was the evidence required in many instances to prove the driver at the time of the offending. In the last term of government we introduced the driver deeming provisions in relation to evade police offences. At the last election we made the commitment to extend these deeming provisions to hooning related offences.

Hooning offences are known as type 1 offences in chapter 4 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act. Section 69A of the PPRA sets out that dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, careless driving—otherwise known as due care and attention—organising or taking part in race and

speed trials between vehicles, wilfully starting or driving in a way that makes unnecessary noise or smoke, committed in circumstances involving such speed trials between motor vehicles, and burnouts are colloquially known as hooning offences.


The reporting of hoon offences is on the increase. The briefing to the committee by the department during this inquiry stated that public complaints about hooning have increased 132 per cent over the past five years. This is a number that I am encouraged to see on the up and up in terms of reporting, because I am regularly contacting my constituents to provide them options on reporting hoons, whether it be via the Policelink online portal or over the phone. The reporting of hooning offences, and when and where they are happening, is actually an important intelligence tool for police in responding to this type of offending. More reporting means more offenders caught. More reporting and more intelligence mean better deployment of police resources and more offenders caught.

In Logan we have the Logan City Council hoon task force, which is a joint road safety initiative of the Logan City Council, the Logan police district and Transport and Main Roads. I had the opportunity to address the task force in the lead-up to the last election. The task force was 100 per cent behind extending the deeming provisions to include hooning offences. One of the primary reasons for this is the extensive network of cameras that the council has, both fixed and mobile, that can be readily deployed to regular hoon hotspots. In the case of Logan City Council, they will be in the best position to capture many hoon offences on camera and to provide the evidence for police to investigate.

I publicly acknowledge the work of Julie Campbell, the community safety officer at Logan City Council, who is the backbone of this task force. We worked together many years ago. She brings a wealth of experience to the role. The new deeming provisions will be a game changer in how many of these hoons are held accountable for their actions. In investigating these offences, police have been required to prove the identity of the driver at the time of the offending. Considering this is an offence that largely occurs at night and in out-of-the-way and quiet streets with a highly mobile and usually organised group of offenders, being able to positively identify the person behind the wheel has proved problematic.

In common with speed camera infringement notices, where the registered owner is deemed to be the driver at the time the photo was taken, unless otherwise identified, registered owners of vehicles caught hooning will now face the same provisions. Much like with the evade police provisions introduced by this government last term, registered owners of vehicles caught hooning will be served a notice by police, and the registered owner will be deemed to be the driver of the vehicle unless they make a statutory declaration providing the actual driver details. Failing to respond to the notice within 14 business days is itself an offence, attracting a larger penalty than the hooning offence in most cases.

We are providing Queensland police with the tools in terms of the cameras and technology, and now the missing piece of the deeming provisions, to really be able to crack down on hooning. This is a much anticipated piece of legislation for my community. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.58 pm): It is eight o'clock on a Friday night. A young mother has just taken her child and her friend to get an ice cream on the Strand. She drops her friend off and proceeds home, cautiously traversing an intersection she has been through many times before, when suddenly her life changes. I am not going to seek to prosecute the innocence or otherwise of the alleged offender—a court will do that—but today in this House I intend to tell the story of this incident because it is a story that involves someone I know well: the wife of the first person who ever played sport with me in my backyard, a couple and their family who have been in my home, a young mum going about her business when all of a sudden she is the victim of an incident involving yet another alleged stolen vehicle in the city of Townsville. It was 8 pm. She was taken to hospital and upon arrival the doctor said, 'You're the fourth car crash we've had here this evening.'

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. I just need to check with you that the matter that you are speaking about is not already before the courts.

Mr CRISAFULLI: I do not seek to cast any aspersions on anyone involved and I am stating the facts on behalf of somebody who was involved in an accident.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Are the facts of the matter before the court?

Mr CRISAFULLI: Yes.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER: Then there is the potential that you are breaching the sub judice rule.

Mr CRISAFULLI: Thank you, Madam Deputy Speaker. I will certainly stay away from discussing the incident. This is an issue that must be addressed—that is, the issue of stolen vehicles and the issue of a youth justice system that is in crisis—and today we do not seek to do anything other than attempt

to strengthen a system that is broken. The amendments in this bill—the changes that have been put forward—will be supported by the opposition, but we have asked for one thing to be added, and that is for a bit of common sense when it comes to the breaching of bail.

Having that suggestion ridiculed in the way it has been by the government is sad. It is sad for everyone who is demanding action in cities across this state. Whilst I reflect on one incident in one regional city, I can tell the House that communities across the board have had enough. We have received repeated feedback from residents in Hope Island in the last fortnight where there has been a youth crime spree. This is the same feedback we received from Cairns, Mackay and the Sunshine Coast, and it is a system that is in crisis.

Everybody deserves a second chance, but that is not what we are discussing today. We are discussing a system that allows people multiple chances, in some cases 20 chances. The amendment that the opposition seeks to put forward ensures that those people who are given the opportunity to be out on bail can be held accountable for their actions. We support the contents of this bill. We support the provisions to clamp down on hooning. We support the trial which will enable the police to stop those carrying knives, and I acknowledge the member for Bonney and the work that he has done with the Jack Beasley Foundation—good, honest Queenslanders who just want the memory of their son protected and to prevent other families in that tight-knit community and indeed everyone involved in the Helensvale Hornets and that local area from going through what they have gone through.

We support the GPS monitoring and will hold the government to account to see how many times that is used. We look forward to seeing how effective that is, but we support that. All we ask in return is for the government to listen to Queenslanders. We have not sought a shopping list of changes. The member for Burdekin has not come forward with a grab bag of suggestions that can be knocked away. Instead, he has taken a mature approach and we are putting forward one simple suggestion, and that is for the offence of breach of bail to be restored. There must be consequences for actions and if those opposite come into this House and suggest that that is not a sensible reform they are quite simply wrong.

The government has now attempted to change youth justice laws in this state three times in 18 months. The government has had multiple point plans. The only thing that has changed has been the number of points in the point plan, and still nothing happens. Still lives get ripped apart. Still families have to suffer the heartbreak of getting up in the mornings and knowing that somebody has rummaged through their possessions—possessions that they have worked hard for. Still there will be tradespeople who will wake up tomorrow morning and go to hop in their vehicle in order to earn an honest day's living and the car that they have worked hard for—and are working hard to pay for into the future—will not be there. They will have to go through all of the rigmarole with insurance companies, and all they want is to know that there are consequences for those actions.

Those consequences are not happening in this state and have not been happening in this state for a long time, and I will explain to the House why. Despite all of the changes that have been made, the government is unable to articulate whose side it is on. It does not know whether or not it wants to be tough on crime or whether or not it wants to have a soft social side and, as a result, it walks both sides of the street and is a friend to nobody. The truth is we can have a system that provides compassion for those who make mistakes but can also be strong for those who habitually break the law. We can have a system that provides a second chance but prevents somebody from offending again when they are on bail and have that privilege offered to them, and that is all we are asking for.

We have not come into this place with a million demands saying, 'If you don't agree to every one of those, it's no deal.' We are not doing that. We are asking for one thing: we are asking the government to back Queenslanders. We are asking the government to respond to what everyday Queenslanders said at those hearings that were conducted over the length and breadth of this state, and there was a consistent theme throughout them. Throughout those hearings people said that breach of bail must be an offence. If the government refuses to make any changes, I would suggest to it that everyday Queenslanders will make changes of their own. They have had enough. They have had enough of their MPs saying one thing where they are domiciled and another thing in this place.

Today is the opportunity for members of parliament who had hearings held in their cities to stand up and be counted, to say that enough is enough, to say that if a person is afforded the ability to leave under a set of conditions they will comply with those conditions or there will be repercussions before they commit another offence. That is what this is about. The question is: does the government want one car to be stolen or does it take two before it takes action, because if a person has to wait for another offence to be committed then breaching their bail condition does not really mean much and people will continue to go about their business?

In the very brief time remaining I want to again place on record my strong desire for the policing resources across the state to be improved as well as the laws. Our police officers do an amazing job, but they have a legal system that lets them down and they need better resources, and so it is in my electorate. Hope Island is running a campaign to be transferred into the Runaway Bay police district. As well as the resources attached to that police district, there is also greater policing in that area. The member for Coomera has been very strong in stating his desire to see more police in that northern growth corridor, and currently that station services the Hope Island area. It is our strong desire to see the suburb of Hope Island come under the jurisdiction of Runaway Bay. We will continue to advocate for that, as we will for more resources and tougher laws to back the police up.

(Time expired)



Ms BOYD (Pine Rivers—ALP) (3.09 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill expands on the actions this government has already taken to reduce crime, keep communities safe and ensure young offenders are held to account for their actions. This bill includes legislative amendments to address hooning, young offenders and knife crime. These are offences that the Queensland public are fed up with and want to see something done about. Recidivist youth offenders are an issue in my electorate, as they are in many others. Public consultation on this bill identified that many Queenslanders were fed up with these hardcore youth offenders who represent only 10 per cent of all youth offenders but account for almost half of all youth offending.

The proposed amendments in this bill are a necessary response to an unacceptable risk to community safety posed by this cohort, but it is important to note that our existing responses, which work effectively for 90 per cent of youth offenders, will also be retained and bolstered. The introduction of school based police support officers will enable early intervention for young people, diverting them away from a path of youth offending. I would also like to recognise the great work undertaken by organisations in my electorate, such as the Youth Development Foundation in Strathpine. They work with disadvantaged and disengaged youth to help them become responsible and employment ready members of our community. Organisations like YDF are making a real tangible difference to young people in our community, but we need to respond to the 10 per cent that are not successfully engaging with these programs.

The proposed amendments to this bill are one way that the system can be changed to introduce a unique response for hardcore recidivist youth offenders. The proposed amendments recognise that families and carers should be supporting children to comply with bail conditions and helping them to address the issues that are causing them to offend. Parents will be encouraged to step up and take responsibility for addressing any specific risks that the bail decision-maker has identified. The new bail provision will enable courts and police officers to consider the willingness of a parent or other responsible person to support the child to comply with the conditions of their bail.

The causes of youth offending are varied and complex and they are often intergenerational. It is unfortunate that some families have limited capacity to support a young person to comply with their bail conditions. For this reason it is reassuring to note that funded support to assist young offenders and their parents will remain as an integral part of the solution. Young people and families who need help to comply with bail conditions will be connected with services, such as family support services and specialist youth justice focused services. Some within the community have expressed concerns with this amendment. I believe the government has the balance right. Our proposal is certainly a more workable solution than that put forward by the opposition.

The finding of guilt whilst on bail, which is what the opposition now refer to as their breach of bail law, was in operation here in Queensland from 2014 through to 2016. We repealed this offence because it simply did not reduce youth crime and could not be used to hold offenders to account. It rarely influenced decisions at the point of arrest or subsequent court appearances because the offence could not be used until the finding of guilt which could be weeks or even months after the second incident. In 2015 the courts found this ill-conceived legislation contradicted the Criminal Code rule against double punishment, therefore even when a child was found guilty of the breach of bail offence they could not be given the additional penalty. Despite the proven ineffectiveness of this offence the opposition continue to tout it as the solution to this very serious issue.

This bill also proposes to establish a trial of GPS monitoring devices for certain youths aged 16 and 17 years. This trial will allow monitoring devices to be made available at specific locations selected because they have a good range of available support services to minimise any associated risks. My electorate of Pine Rivers is one of the trial locations. The use of the GPS monitoring device will be limited to those who are charged with a prescribed indictable offence and who have previously been found guilty of an indictable offence.

There are also additional eligibility criteria that the court must consider before imposing this condition. This is to ensure that they are targeted at youths where they will be most effective. Courts will always have to consider the human rights of the young person and the bill requires courts to be satisfied the monitoring device condition is appropriate. Some people have expressed concerns that requiring young offenders to wear a GPS monitoring device will stigmatise them. I appreciate their concerns, but if a monitoring device is what it takes to mitigate the risks of reoffending and convince the court to grant them bail then I support the trial of its success.

The new bail framework for young people makes it clear that community safety is a primary consideration in bail decisions. Determining whether to grant or refuse a bail request is an assessment of risk. Where the risk to the community is too great bail is refused. GPS monitoring devices are one tool that courts can use to mitigate against this risk. By providing courts with the capacity to require a young person to wear a GPS device, this bill will give bail decision-makers an alternative to remand for suitable bail applicants. These reforms are a trial and before any expansion of the use of monitoring devices can be considered these new laws will be independently evaluated. Again I suggest the government has the balance right because there are as many people saying these reforms go too far as there are suggesting that these reforms do not go far enough.

The other provisions in this bill I would like to speak to are the amendments related to hooning. My electorate of Pine Rivers is not immune to the effects of antisocial and dangerous behaviour. The bill will give the police the tools they need to investigate these offences and bring offenders to justice. It is not always possible for police to identify the drivers of motor vehicles used to commit hooning offences. Too often police can identify the car that was used in a hooning offence, but the owner simply says 'I wasn't driving it. I don't know who was.' With these arrangements the owner of the vehicle used in the hooning offence, in denying that they were the driver, will be required to supply information that will assist the police in their investigations. If they do not help police identify the driver then they will be fined and deemed to be the driver of the vehicle at the time the offence occurred. These amendments are required to encourage owners to cooperate with police and provide information so that hooning offences can be identified and brought to justice. I commend this bill to the House.



Mrs FRECKLINGTON (Nanango—LNP) (3.17 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Following the member for Pine Rivers in this House it is very clear that there are members on the other side of this chamber who simply do not appreciate, or are possibly completely out of touch with, what is actually happening within their communities.

The breach of bail offence that we are recommending as an amendment here in this chamber today simply removes the word 'child' from that provision. It seems that whatever the member for Pine Rivers was just talking about is completely different to what we are proposing as an amendment. The amendment and the explanatory notes to the amendment can be distributed throughout the chamber. Maybe the member for Pine Rivers would like to look at that to get a greater understanding of the very sensible—some would say middle-of-the-road—amendment that is being proposed for this piece of legislation.

The Nanango electorate is certainly not immune to the impacts of youth crime. It is an issue that we are always aware of. As a former lawyer in the Childrens Court system I know that there can be particularly bad periods within a community depending upon a group of juveniles at the time. It is usually a small group of juveniles committing a bigger group of offences.

I start my contribution by thanking our incredibly hardworking police officers, the men and women who work within the child safety department and the men and women who work in all of the associated services in our communities, especially those communities in the South Burnett where child crime is out of control. Between 2018 and 2019 in the townships around Murgon there were periods when our community felt completely powerless. Most residents were angry with the justice system and rightfully so. The statistics were up there with the unfortunate statistics of the regions around Townsville. I have been a very vocal critic of the juvenile crime issues going on in the north. I feel very sorry for the people of North Queensland who have to put up with that. They have to put up with the Palaszczuk government's constant changes around juvenile crime—changes that depend on the day of the week, what has gone on and the political problem that the Palaszczuk government has to fix.

Let us look at a bit of history. In 2016 Labor had a five-point plan that was going to fix the problem of juvenile crime. I think that came from North Queensland, around your area of Townsville, Mr Deputy Speaker. In 2019 we had a four-point plan. The Labor government ditched the five-point plan and said, 'We're going to have a four-point plan.' Then in March 2020 they decided to have a five-point youth justice action plan, but I do not think they were able to explain the differences between the original five-point plan, the subsequent four-point plan and the new five-point plan.

While this legislation goes some way towards the issues surrounding juvenile crime, it definitely does not go far enough, and that is why the opposition will be moving an amendment. It is why breach of bail must be reinstated for juveniles who continue to commit crimes. Again I point to the fact that in all of our communities it is a small number of youths committing a large number of crimes and they are repeat offenders. Time after time in courtrooms lawyers see the same kids, but their hands are tied, the magistrates' hands are tied and the police officers' hands are tied. That is frustrating because they are there to protect the community and that is what we are trying to do through this amendment. We are standing with the police officers who are calling for this amendment to be put in legislation. We are standing with our local communities that are asking for this amendment to be put in legislation. That includes communities represented by those opposite and not just the ones represented by the opposition. Communities across this state are asking for this amendment to be passed.


Figures from between 2018 and 2020 indicate the number of young people who are offending while on bail—and I want to read these into the record: 3,744 distinct young people reoffended, 179 children committed more than 30 new offences each and 944 children each committed between 10 and 30 new offences while on bail pending court appearances. Our communities want children to face consequences for committing crimes and they want them to face consequences when those crimes are committed while they are on bail. Everyone has a right to feel safe in their homes and when they are on the streets.

In the time I have left I want to put on the record my heartfelt condolences to Brett and Belinda Beasley following the loss of their son Jack, and give a shout-out to Mitch, Jack's brother. I also give a massive shout-out to the member for Bonney who has advocated on behalf of his community in recognition of the effects that knife crime have had on that community. It is an issue that is felt across our great state so I welcome the trial contained in the legislation. The alleged offences that happened to Jack Beasley can never be forgotten. My husband and I wear the Jack Beasley Foundation cap with pride when we are out walking at times. I have met many families that have been affected by knife crime. The advocacy of that group of people, particularly through the Jack Beasley Foundation, and the pure strength that they have shown in advocating for change is a real inspiration to me and to many members in this House, so I am pleased to see that the trial will be supported. If the trial is successful I would like to see it expanded to other hotspots affected by knife crime.

I give credit where credit is due in relation to tightening the laws around hooning. Hooning is a major nightmare for many local communities, not just in built-up regions and city areas but also in regional areas. There is no greater advocate for strengthening the hooning laws in this state than the member for Mudgeeraba. The member for Mudgeeraba has taken on the hoons. That has been to her personal detriment as she has been attacked on Facebook and in social media, although I think she can take it up. Allegedly, her office was attacked as well. It was hooned right into—allegedly—but allegedly that also fell down.

Opposition members interjected.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: That is not alleged—that actually happened—but if it is before the courts it is alleged. Hooning must stop. We must make sure that our community is kept safe. I am a mum with one open licence holder and two P-platers, which is a dangerous spot to be in because it is scary to think that your kids are on the road with hoons. We need to do anything we can to stop juvenile criminals from flogging cars and hooning off in them. We should do anything we can to toughen the laws in this great state and give our hardworking police officers the levers that they need. I plead with those opposite to consider our amendment in their deliberations because certainly it will go a long way to strengthening the laws and keeping our communities safe.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (3.26 pm): I rise in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. There are no easy answers or quick fixes when it comes to addressing youth crime. We know the community wants young people to be accountable for their actions and so do we, but they do not want to see young people reoffending. We know that if we apply a 'lock them up and throw away the key' approach to every young offender, it is almost guaranteed that those young people will reoffend. We need to break the cycle of offending and we need to break the cycle of reoffending. The community wants us to do the things that work—that is, things where we have evidence to show that they work. That is why we have instituted youth justice reforms over the past couple of years. The chest thumping from those on the other side of the House about breach of bail is an absolute travesty because, while they talk about standing up for the community, their amendments simply do not work.

Over the past few years we have increased our investment in youth detention facilities to detain young people who pose a risk to the community or who are at risk of reoffending. Former police commissioner Bob Atkinson wrote the *Report on youth justice*, in which he said that community safety and community confidence should be the bookends of youth justice reform in this state. We do need to detain serious young offenders. In the past four years we have increased our youth detention capacity by over 30 per cent and, at the same time, we have focused on the reasons young people are offending and reoffending in the first place because we have to stop the pipeline. We know that is what the community wants. It is what they need us to do. More importantly, we need to ensure that those young people are leading fruitful and productive lives.

You could go through the profile of any young person in a detention centre and you will see a mixture of reasons they are there. They will have been subjected to any combination of homelessness, poverty, substance abuse, neglect, domestic violence, disengagement with education and the lack of a single person in their lives to walk beside them and guide them.

We are working to address those issues with our youth justice reforms. We have taken it out of the too-hard basket and we are determined to address it once and for all. It is why we have committed over half a billion dollars over the last three or four years to youth justice reforms. We have used that money to build the youth detention centres, but we have focused on the causes of youth crime. We are seeing the results. We have our Transition 2 Success program and restorative justice conferencing, both of which have shown at least a 65 per cent reduction in reoffending. We have integrated case management, our Specialist Multi-Agency Response teams, family-led decision-making and conditional bail programs. Youth crime is the lowest it has been in 10 years.

Unfortunately, every single person in this House is too aware of the horrific instances of the impacts of youth crime on Queenslanders. Many of them have been spoken about in this House. Every single one of them is a tragedy. Unfortunately, some of them have completely broken the hearts of every Queenslander. No-one wants that to happen. Although we talk about those good statistics, we talk about the success of programs and we talk about the reduction in youth crime, those statistics will mean nothing to you if your loved one has been affected—if it is your loved one who has been killed, if it is your grandma who has been bashed, if it is your neighbour who has been held up at gunpoint at the service station. It makes it even more important that we make sure that the things we are doing are actually working.

We know—and we heard the statistics quoted in this debate—that, despite the fact that we are making an impact on youth crime in a significant way, there is a hardcore of young people who are committing the majority of the crime. We know that is about 10 per cent committing about 50 per cent of the crime. We have identified that we are going after them. It is why last year the police minister and I introduced the five-point plan, which included the co-responder teams. Not only are the figures good but also you can ask any police officer or youth justice worker working in that space what they think of it and they will tell you they are so enthusiastic about it because it is actually working. We have the on-country programs which are also going well, along with other initiatives.

Going after those hardcore young offenders is why we are seeking these amendments today. We need to keep improving on what we are doing. It is what the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill we are talking about today seeks to achieve. It reverses the onus so that young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to demonstrate to the court why they are not a risk of reoffending and not a danger to the community before they can be granted bail. It gives the courts power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will help the young offenders to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. It enshrines in legislation that when a young offender commits an offence while on bail the court will consider that an aggravating factor and will sentence them accordingly. It allows courts to consider the option of electronic monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail.

The bill seeks to amend the youth justice principles to read that the community should be protected from offenders and in particular recidivist high-risk offenders. Whenever anyone makes a decision under the Youth Justice Act, they are guided by the principles. This includes important decisions about bail as well as programs young people might be directed to participate in as part of a probation period or during a period of detention.

I have heard the members opposite speak on this bill. Honestly, it is no wonder they went backwards in the last election. They are just a joke on this issue. This is a really serious issue. It is an issue the community is deeply concerned about, and people want and expect the government to do something about it—not just something that sounds good, not just something that sounds tough, not just a slick one-liner; they need to know that what the government is doing actually works.

We know what the opposition did when they were in government. They did boot camps. It was found that an offender was 65 per cent more likely to reoffend if they went through the boot camp. Those opposite talk about a breach of bail offence, but I reckon if you asked any of them what a breach of bail offence is about they would not be able to tell you, because they actually did not have a breach of bail offence when they were in government. They introduced this unworkable law called 'committing an offence on bail' and it did not work as a deterrent and was not regularly used by the courts because it was so ineffective. In fact, even though it was on the books between March 2014 and June 2016, I am advised that of the 185 young people convicted of the offence in that time more than 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months and 94 per cent reoffended within two years. That is when those opposite were in government.

Going into the last election, their policy was a doozy! The member for Nanango was going to do all this stuff—it was a blitz! They would fix youth crime once and for all. Within 24 hours, it was clear that it was a complete bomb. The ABC said—


The most surprising thing about the LNP's self-described "crackdown" on youth crime is not so much its hard-line approach, but rather its familiarity.

The Police Union said that it was a rehash of Campbell Newman's failed policies 'minus the pink jumpsuit'. Amnesty said—

Sadly, the Queensland opposition have completely missed an opportunity to get smart on crime.

One youth advocate said it was a policy 'which doesn't even have a skeleton, let alone any flesh on the bones'. People said it was tired. People said it was the same old, same old. They are talking about breach of bail today. It is the same old, same old. They have a record of failure. We are supposed to be grateful that they are supporting us on this bill. I tell you what: this is a complex and a long journey, but we have put our money where our mouth is. We are tracking these things. We know the things that work, and that is what we are committed to doing for this Queensland community.

This bill is a really important commitment in our continuing fight to address youth justice in this House and I commend it to the House. Before I finish, I want to pay tribute to the police officers and the youth justice workers from both government and non-government agencies who work tirelessly in these sectors. A more committed group of people you could not possibly find. I highly commend them on their work and thank them for all of their efforts.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.33 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. As explained by our shadow ministers, the LNP will not be preventing this bill from passing. That does not mean we absolve the government of the fear and pain they have created through their ham-fisted management of youth justice in this state. It does not mean that we will not critique the effectiveness of elements of this legislation, nor that we will not move amendments of our own.

Let us begin by looking at why we have a youth justice crisis in the first place. The short answer is the Palaszczuk Labor government. They have had a chaotic approach to managing these young criminals. In response to adverse media reports about kids being kept in police watch houses, amendments were moved to 'keep kids out of detention', but when faced with spiralling crime in places like Townsville we had the Premier and the Minister for Police trying to take a tough-on-crime approach. We then had the minister doubling down on claims that courts were not locking kids up properly, then new bail houses—they were subsequently abandoned—and now this 'tough new action' to target repeat offenders. It is no wonder the young offenders are running rings around the government. The government is dizzy from a tailspin of its own making.

As a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I have heard firsthand the tragic consequences of this inconsistent approach to crime. Ms Gina Garrod of Townsville said—

I want to reiterate how frightening it is living in your own home here. We moved here 12 months ago to be near our daughter, who has worked up here for 11 years. Daily I say, 'What have we done?' I have never been so frightened in my own home. What we are doing is not working in any shape or form. We have had to spend \$1,000 on security. I am a nurse. I was getting up for work and trying to work on two hours sleep because I am too frightened to go to sleep. When I work a late shift, I am terrified getting in my car and driving home for fear that I am going to meet one of those cars driving up the wrong side of the road. A colleague of mine was driving home at seven o'clock in the morning after a night shift two weeks ago and faced exactly that and got run off the road. None of us should be expected to live like this. It is terrifying.

I am too scared to go to the shops. I am a fit lady for my age—very fit. I am too scared to go to the shops on my own because these thugs are hanging around the shops all the time. I will not go without my husband. I was invited into town a week ago with some friends for an evening out. I was too frightened to drive in here.

I am not the exception. This is the general feeling of the Townsville population. This is no way for us to live.

Mr Lit Chien Cheah, also of Townsville, stated—

Early one morning I was riding my pushbike. I was towing my two young children in a trailer on a very quiet suburban street next to the river. Screaming down coming in the opposite direction was a big four-wheel drive Range Rover going at really high speed. I was stunned: why on earth was that happening? The next thing to my knowledge that car made a U-turn and we had a really close call, brushing side by side with my bike at very high speed again. Immediately my heart sank. I thought, 'If this car hit me and my children, none of us would survive the impact.'

...

Another experience was at home. Early in the morning we were woken up. There were young juveniles in our backyard. I do not know what they were trying to steal, but I had to scare them off with abusive words and I chased them away. That was in plain sight of my young family ...

I had the privilege of living on Christmas Island, one of the safest places in Australia, and I moved to a crime scene such as Townsville. I regret that move. Why on earth are we in Townsville? If the situation does not improve, I will have no choice but to remove myself and my family from the town and relocate to another safer place in Australia.

Tragic. So how will this bill address that crime and that fear? I will touch on a few aspects of this bill. I turn firstly to the electronic monitoring devices. I have serious concerns these will even be trialled. During the public briefing provided by the Queensland Police Service I raised that there are—

... specific conditions that need to be met before a youth offender can be fitted with one of these—

that is, electronic devices—

it has to be an indictable offence; they have to have previously been found guilty of an indictable offence; and they also then have to have a mobile phone, reliable access to electricity, capacity to understand the requirements, as well as further support. I understand we are also trialling this in a number of geographical locations. Has any consideration been given to the number of offenders that this is then going to apply to, given all of those conditions?

...

My concern, though, is that ... the cohort that will actually have these monitoring devices fitted may be so small that we may not have any meaningful data on which to base further decisions when the sunset clause concludes after two years.

When I questioned Deputy Commissioner Smith whether there was any consideration being given to the sample, he replied—

I think probably the best answer I can give is that that will be a matter of policy. That is what is being presented to us in the bill.

I subsequently pointed out—

... the conditions are being established in the law which therefore makes it very difficult, unless we come back in here and amend it at a later date, to broaden the conditions so that you can access a wider pool.

to which Deputy Commissioner Smith concluded, 'That is true.'

Senior Sergeant Gary Hunter, the officer in charge of the Cairns Police Station, called for the trial to be expanded to include a broader age group. When appearing before the committee in Cairns, he stated—

I am supportive of it, definitely. If I had to make a recommendation, it would be to extend the age group.

Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill said—

I urge the government to consider expanding the requirement to younger recidivist high-risk offenders who are above the age of criminal responsibility in Queensland.

We have to give this trial a go, but I reiterate my concern that, because of the prescriptive conditions enshrined in this law and not in regulation, the government will be back here in two years scratching its head trying to work out if the trial was even successful.

With respect to the electronic monitoring trial and other elements of the bill, there was an interesting contribution by representatives of Amnesty International in Townsville. It very much focused on the rights of the child. They were fairly scathing of this legislation. As others pointed out, what about the rights of the community to feel safe and to be protected. I noted and asked—

Obviously Amnesty International are going to focus on the rights—in this case, the rights of the child. Equally, there are rights of community members to feel safe, as we have heard today. A government's role is to balance those rights at times. Do you accept that there are members in this community who have been victims of crime and that they equally have a right to feel safe?

Mr Ian Frazer, representing Amnesty International, responded—

I think that is a fair point. Following the concerns that have been raised in the local press over the last three or four months, it is obvious there are lots of people who feel quite afraid—older people who feel afraid. Of course, we tend to take it for granted if life is plain sailing, but we do have a right to feel safe and to expect that the government, through the laws of the land, is doing its best for us to be safe. Our analysis, as I have set out, is that we do not believe, and I am exaggerating, in locking up kids and throwing away the keys—that is not what anyone proposes—or that, quite simply, getting offenders off the street will, in the long term, speak to that right or ensure that right that we have to feel safe. However, I take your point.

I thank Mr Frazer for his considered response. Even Amnesty International appreciates that this is a balancing act.


There are several other important changes which I will not have time to address. With respect to breach of bail, I refer members and my constituents to the contributions of the LNP shadow ministers and my colleague and fellow committee member, the member for Currumbin, who have gone into some detail regarding our concerns with the government's approach and our alternative proposal. In short, there is widespread community support for the LNP's position of restoring breach of bail as an offence.

I want to publicly acknowledge the courage of people like Mr Brett Geiszler and Mr Luke Jenkins of Townsville who shared their experience of losing a loved one—a loved one who may still be alive today had this law been in existence. In advance, I commend the contribution of the member for Bonney regarding the changes concerning knives. I thank Ms Belinda Beasley, founder of the Jack Beasley Foundation, for sharing her story, her suggestions and her efforts to educate our future generations. It is truly inspiring. I know my colleague the member for Mudgeeraba will address the legislative changes concerning hooning, as I spoke to those in my adjournment speech last night.

I want to spend some time acknowledging that no-one—I repeat, no-one—sees this bill in isolation as resolving our statewide youth crime problem. There is universal support for better and earlier intervention. Again I refer to what Senior Sergeant Gary Hunter said. To paraphrase, he said, 'Wouldn't it be great if we saw these kids the first time they appeared in the watch house not the seventh or eighth or ninth?' Mike Adams in Cairns and Uncle Graham Pattel in Townsville talked about the need to engage Indigenous elders early.

I thank everyone who provided a written or verbal submission to our committee. For many, it took considerable courage. I also thank the committee secretariat of Renee, Lorraine, Margaret and Kelli and the Hansard reporters who travelled with us.

Youth justice is complex and it is made more complex by a government that is inconsistent and does not know what it is doing. I will watch with interest to see if these legislative changes produce any positive outcomes. I do hope, for the sake of people like Ms Gina Garred and Mr Lit Chien Cheah, that they will again feel safe. We owe it to them and all Queenslanders.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (3.46 pm): I rise to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Townsville has certainly not been immune from the impacts of serious youth crime, as you would know, Mr Deputy Speaker Walker. It was interesting to listen to the member for Nanango's contribution. She wanted to talk about history but conveniently stopped at 2016.

I have found some comments of the former LNP member for Mundingburra and now Leader of the Opposition. On social media in 2013 he made comments about youth crime being a big issue for the north. He said that an offence of breach of bail would be created where a young person commits an offence while on bail for another offence. Are members confused? Me too. It failed, and we all know that. I table those comments from social media.

In 2014 he talked about youth crime being the biggest problem facing our city. I am pretty sure this looks like a five-point plan. He said—

While this alone isn't going to fix the problem, the fact boot camps are now underway and police numbers are increasing—

We know all about their boot camps. There is another one with a nice picture of Campbell which talks about 22 police for the Kirwan rapid action patrol hub. I table those comments from social media.

Tabled paper: Bundle of extracts from social media posts of the former member for Mundingburra, Mr David Crisafulli MP, dated 28 May 2014, 16 January 2014 and 26 September 2013, relating to government action on youth crime [\[532\]](#).

He said 22 police. The minister knows—and I thank him for it—that we were able to double that. It was a half-baked idea. That patrol now has 46 staff and is working. They are doing a great job. We should put this bill into context by reminding ourselves of the failures of the LNP to address youth crime with their failed boot camps. There were reoffending rates of 65 per cent. They hid crime data from community sight. Their breach of bail, as they call it, failed. Some 90 per cent of people reoffended. They are the facts.

The Labor government does not shy away from the fact that there is a serious issue with a core group of about 10 per cent of serious recidivist offenders who do not have regard for community safety or even their own, which has resulted in tragedies in our community. Our community deserves to feel safe. That is why we continue to build upon previous investments such as the 53 police we delivered in

2017. We are committed to another 150 police for Townsville. We also introduced legislative change in this space in 2020 by amending a section of the Youth Justice Act to say that serious offenders must not get bail.

Now with this suite of reforms in this bill before us we can further build on previous changes by holding people to account and help make our communities safe. I had the opportunity to join the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee in Townsville. I thank the committee for coming to Townsville and for their considered work and their tabled report. The committee heard from around 30 people who came before us over the two public hearings. We heard that they want a safe community, and they provided their views on the reforms such as the GPS monitoring and reversal of the presumption of bail.

As a local member I was able to speak before the committee. I reflected on the fact that the victims of crime I have spoken to also want change, to hold people to account and to have a safe community. The focus of this bill is to deal with that small cohort of hardcore repeat youth offenders who account for around 50 per cent of all crime.

Our new laws will reverse the onus so that young offenders charged with a serious indictable offence while on bail will need to show the court why they are not a risk of reoffending and are not a danger to the community before they can be granted bail. Clause 24 of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill will insert a new section—section 48AF—into the Youth Justice Act which will require a court or police officer to refuse to release a child from custody unless the child shows why their detention in custody is not justified. This means that this cohort of hardcore, recidivist youth offenders will be refused bail unless they can convince the bail decision-makers they are not a risk to community safety.

We have heard from some people—some local media and LNP speakers here today—of the LNP's failed breach of bail and how they would like it reintroduced. There is nothing quite like looking at the facts. It was never really a breach of bail; it was an offence of 'finding of guilt whilst on bail', which has colloquially become known as 'breach of bail'. Of the 185 people convicted of that offence, 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months. It failed. They are the facts.

The LNP's breach of bail offence is not needed, as the bill we are debating today will reinforce the existing legislative framework that clearly states that young people should be refused bail when they are an unacceptable risk to the community. This is a far more sensible approach to this serious issue than the LNP's unworkable breach of bail proposal.

I want to end by addressing some very concerning commentary from former failed LNP candidate and former KAP candidate for Thuringowa, Ms Julianne Wood. This is the same person who runs the Take Back Townsville group and organised rallies that she said she was never, ever doing over the last couple of years for political advantage. That aside, this is the same person who, despite all the bluff and blunder on social media, failed to attend the public hearings in Townsville to have her say or represent that group.

Instead, she chooses to make commentary on Facebook that these hearings were a 'performance' and a 'stunt'. She said, 'They would have paid their supporters to lodge submissions and be at that event to backup the government'. I will table those comments.

I have sought advice from the Clerk about these particular comments. They are repugnant. They are outrageous and rubbish claims that, in my view, bring into question the integrity of our committees, the chair and members—and I note that the member for Hinchinbrook was also a member of that visiting committee—and bring into question the integrity of the portfolio committee's work in this parliament. I will be writing to the Speaker on this. I also table a copy of her Facebook page where she continues to label herself as the KAP candidate for Thuringowa.

Tabled paper: Extracts from social media posts, undated, by Ms Julianne Wood relating to youth crime [\[533\]](#).

That is very concerning. This ill-informed commentary is typical of those who oppose any government bills and try to push their own political agenda like the KAP 'relocation sentencing proposal'. I note that this person continues to advertise herself as the KAP candidate. Someone should inform her that the election was over in October 2020. She lost, as did the former LNP candidate, Natalie Marr, who also labels herself as a public figure who, like an LNP puppet, calls for breach of bail saying that it is the only way to fix the issue. I would ask both those former failed candidates to educate themselves—the LNP breach of bail as an offence was a complete failure! Of 185 people, 90 per cent reoffended.


This issue needs us all working together. I take the point that the member for Burdekin and shadow minister made yesterday in his contribution: all levels of government should work together. I agree with the member. We all should work together, but I ask the member to write to the federal

member for Herbert, who continues to play the blame game, who continues to pull cheap stunts in front of MPs' offices and continues to handball the issue of crime back to the state. I would welcome the member for Burdekin to engage with the federal member. I have certainly written to him to say, 'Let's all work together.'

Finally, I want to thank the Minister for Police and Minister for Youth Justice and the senior leadership of our government who have listened to the communities in Queensland, like mine in Thuringowa, and have committed to making serious change through this serious suite of reforms which I know will bring change. We should not write these reforms off. There are members opposite, media commentators and keyboard warriors out there who have written them off before they have even had a chance to be passed. These are good reforms that are needed for our government to make serious change in youth offending.

In time, I look forward to the reviews to see how these particular reforms have impacted our communities—which have had a gutful of the 10 per cent of those hardcore youth offenders—in a positive way. It is time for change. To those failed candidates: this is how you effect change. You effect change by coming into this place, listening to your community and bringing in real reforms. Sitting on the sidelines throwing rocks does not effect change. That does nothing.


I welcome this suite of reforms. I welcome the support we have from the Premier and all of the ministers involved. I look forward to Townsville flipping this and becoming the positive, vibrant city that it is. We are a proud city. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (3.56 pm): In speaking to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, there was significant feedback from regional public hearings and submissions to the committee and also public rallies which clearly show that the bill does not meet community expectations on curbing youth crime. This is a huge issue in North Queensland and it is a huge issue in my electorate. There seems to be a complete lack of empathy and consideration for victims of repeated youth offenders in this bill. The KAP has submitted amendments, which I urge the government to adopt, to strengthen the bill and meet community expectations as expressed during the consultation process.

I recently submitted a petition to the House on youth crime which called on the following measures to be implemented to combat youth crime. These measures were not as a result of the KAP; they were as a result of community consultation. They include: introducing a presumption against bail for youths charged with unlawful use of a motor vehicle—I believe that the government has adopted this; amending legislation to reintroduce breach of bail as an offence for repeated youth offences—I believe the government has not adopted this; repealing item 18 in schedule 1 of the Youth Justice Act, which is the charter of youth justice principles, which provides that a youth should be detained only as a last resort—I believe the government has not adopted this; and trialling a third option for the courts in the form of relocation sentencing as a deterrent and to facilitate the rehabilitation of youth offenders. The petition secured 5,000 signatures, highlighting how big this issue is in my region alone.

Currently the courts have two options: one is to lock them up and they come back out as professional criminals. The other is to release them and they go back out there and commit the same crimes. A third option is relocation sentencing. It is no good sending them to Cleveland because that is a badge of honour for them. They get free boots and a good feed, and it costs up to \$1,500 a day.

The third option is relocation sentencing. Give magistrates the power to send them to remote locations—teach them values, teach them skills such as droving and how to build cattle yards and cattle troughs—along with other proven workable programs. They are banished from their communities so they are not committing crimes in the community—it is very therapeutic when you are out there in remote locations—so there is no crime. They are away from their mates who are committing crimes, and it gives them the opportunity to return and helps break the cycle of crime in their lives. We call on this House to support the KAP's relocation sentencing amendments and the other amendments we have introduced, and that is what I wanted to bring to the attention of the House.

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (4.00 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. We know that the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to youth justice has seen the rate of non-repeat youth offenders drop to its lowest level in a decade, but we also know there is still more work to be done. This bill represents a comprehensive package of youth justice reforms that will target hardcore youth criminals who repeatedly offend and put the community at risk. We have listened to our communities. We share their concerns. We all want the same thing, and that is why we have introduced this bill.

The focus of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 is on that small cohort of hardcore repeat youth offenders—about 10 per cent—who account for about 48 per cent of all youth offending. Our new laws will reverse the onus so that young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to show the court why they are not at risk of reoffending and a danger to the community before they can be granted bail.

This bill enshrines in legislation the principle that offending while on bail is an aggravating circumstance when the court is imposing a sentence. This bill creates a presumption against bail for youth offenders arrested for committing further serious indictable offences while on bail. It will be up to them to prove why they should get bail. The general presumption in favour of bail will be reversed for certain youth offenders. The youth offender must show cause why their detention is not justified where they are charged with a prescribed indictable offence as defined in the bill and it was committed while on bail for another indictable offence, whether a prescribed indictable offence or not. This means that certain youth offenders will be refused bail if they are unable to convince the court they are not an ongoing threat to the safety of the community.

The Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 will also give the courts power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist them to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. It does so by legislating that, when deciding whether to grant bail to a youth offender, bail decision-makers are explicitly permitted to take into consideration any indication of willingness provided by a parent or another person to: support the youth offender to comply with their bail conditions; notify a change in the youth offender's circumstances that impacts their ability to comply with bail conditions; and notify any breach of bail conditions. The courts will also be able to consider electronic GPS monitoring for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail as per the recommendation of the highly respected former police commissioner. This will be rolled out in a 12-month trial in key locations around the state.

While we have been focused on keeping communities safe and reducing youth offending, the LNP have been baying about the supposed success of the offence of breach of bail. The truth is that the offence of breach of bail never actually existed under the previous LNP government. As we know, there are a range of ways that bail can be breached, including failing to comply with a curfew and failing to reside at an approved address. What the LNP introduced was actually the offence of 'finding of guilt whilst on bail', which was an offence from 2014 to 2016. We repealed this offence because it did nothing to reduce youth crime or hold offenders to account.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you are on a warning.


Mr SKELTON: The reinstatement of the dubious and unworkable breach of bail offence that those opposite continue to call for makes absolutely no sense, as courts can already consider an offence committed on bail and give a harsher punishment. Courts can also consider a young person's previous behaviour whilst on bail when they make bail decisions for further offences.

This bill is just one of the steps the Palaszczuk government has taken as a pro-active approach to crime, with total reported crime on the Sunshine Coast dropping by 19 per cent last year when compared to the previous year. Examples from my own electorate include: an increase in police numbers with a commitment to provide an additional 150 officers to our region over the next five years; a \$9 million investment for a new police station; the Youth At Risk Network partnering with IFYS to deliver diversion programs to youth exhibiting risk-taking behaviour with a youth worker embedded in the Child Protection Investigation Unit; a Community Policing Board made up of government representatives tasked with building an integrated response to our region's issues; and of course who can forget Project Booyah, which is a successful multiagency project based out of the Nambour PCYC—I must thank the former member for his contribution—helping curb youth crime through early intervention and education by targeting at-risk youth who are involved with criminal and/or antisocial behaviour, substance abuse or disengagement from school which aims to give them skills for life and employability through police mentoring, leadership, adventure based learning and vocational pathways.

All nine students in the 2020 cohort completed the RESPECT Program and obtained a certificate I in hospitality and various other qualifications. Seven of these students have returned to high school or gone into gainful employment. Only one has been charged with an offence since completing the program, which represents a drastic reduction in reoffending. The 2021 program has already commenced with 10 participants, and of course we wish them all the best.

These reforms are also about evidence based accountability. We all want to see success and results. That is why Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon is leading a youth crime task force to oversee these reforms and implement these new measures. I understand that Assistant Commissioner Scanlon reports every month to the newly formed Youth Justice Committee, which is made up of key ministers and departmental chief executives. The aim of this committee is to encourage interdepartmental and cross-agency collaboration and to break down any barriers that may arise in relation to such an important issue. Additionally, former police commissioner Bob Atkinson will report on the effectiveness of all of these measures after they are passed by parliament to ensure the evidence stacks up.

This should not be about politics. This is about ensuring we have the right measures in place to deliver results for communities across Queensland and reduce youth offending. For these reasons I wholeheartedly support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and the Palaszczuk government's ongoing efforts to reduce youth crime. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (4.08 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Recidivist youth offenders are not just a problem in the north of the state or in the metropolitan areas of the south-east. Unfortunately, this problem is rife in regional areas and my electorate of Warrego is not immune. In 2015 we saw the start of Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government's watering down of the youth justice laws in Queensland. As part of Labor's Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2015, the state Labor government removed breach of bail as an offence for children. They reinstated the principle that detention should be the last resort and should be for the shortest appropriate period when sentencing a child. They also reinstated the principle that 'imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and a sentence that allows the offender to stay in the community is preferable.' That is a direct quote from the explanatory notes.

The problem of the recidivist youth offenders is a result of this Labor government's watering down of the law on youth offenders. This is what we read about in our communities, and I will read the headlines from the local publications: 'Roma cops charge multiple teens for alleged theft, break-ins'; 'New Roma business struck 3 times by crims, cost owners thousands'; 'Crime Spree: Four southwest teens charged over 14 break-ins'; 'Kid returns reportedly stolen phone, dealt with by cops'; 'Three teens allegedly steal three cars, two motorbikes'; 'Dalby teen arrested for allegedly abusing police'; 'Kid allegedly chases person down Roma street with knife'; 'Teen accused of stabbing man in chest will front a judge'; 'Teen charged for alleged car thefts, joy rides in Dalby'; 'Child Gang is accused of stealing teens mobile, cash'; 'Oldies loath to venture out with thieving the new normal'. That is just this year. I commend the journalists Sam Turner, Georgie Adams and Lachlan Berlin on their reporting of these articles. It helps to tell the story of what has gone so horribly wrong under Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government.

All too often I have elderly residents on the phone telling me they are scared to leave their homes. Local businesses have written to me disgusted by the youth behaviour and offending. Parents of children who have been allegedly assaulted by other children in broad daylight are devastated by what is happening in once safe communities. I cannot count the number of times I have been told of youths stealing cars and joyriding in them for hundreds of kilometres endangering other road users.

There are multiple reports of break and enters, children not attending school and children terrorising shopkeepers and staff. Businesses are sick of this recidivist youth offending, parents are sick of it and communities are sick of it. We did not have this degree of problem prior to 2015, prior to Annastacia Palaszczuk's Labor government watering down the youth justice laws in Queensland. This Labor government has been forced into this legislation we are debating today—forced by a growing public perception that its policies were contributing to the lawlessness threatening public safety in communities across the state.


Unfortunately, I fear that this legislation before the House will fail these communities and the hardworking everyday Queenslanders and their families. The LNP will not oppose this bill. However, we do have serious concerns regarding the effectiveness of these changes in addressing the current long-term youth crime problem in the state. Hence why the LNP opposition's call for an amendment to section 29 of the Bail Act is simple: we believe that the provisions of the Bail Act should apply equally to adults and children. At the present time, by virtue of section 29(2)(a) of the Bail Act, children are precluded. That of course has meant that we have juvenile offenders running around the state and our communities committing offences at will, disregarding the conditions of their bail undertaking and thumbing their noses at the law and the police. Breaching your bail undertaking should be an offence, and if those opposite are serious about addressing the youth crime problem in Queensland they will support this amendment.

This is also evidenced by the submitters and witnesses during the committee hearings on this bill. The government has ignored the need for the provisions of the Bail Act as they relate to bail to apply to juvenile offenders. One only has to read the testimony of Mr Brett Geiszler at the Townsville hearing. Here we have a former police officer who, in his own words, said—

Breach of bail needs to be restored as a criminal offence immediately, and it needs to be a serious criminal offence that carries incarceration. We are not talking about kids who have not been given a chance. As a police officer, I cautioned kids time and time again before I went to a power of arrest. Once they go before the court, they are then admonished and discharged once, twice or maybe three or four times before even a conviction is recorded. Then we start the process of, 'Okay, now we have a conviction,' and some of the more serious matters like presumption against bail can even start to apply. This legislation goes nowhere near far enough to making our community safe because the police right now know these offenders are out on the streets. They know the recidivist offenders.

The question for the Labor government is why must we wait for more people to be hurt, for more lives to be lost, for more stolen cars to be driven at high speed on our roads endangering innocent people in our communities and for more robberies before there is even the slightest chance that there will be a presumption against bail or the use of GPS tracking if bail is granted. When it comes to the GPS tracking bracelets, there are more questions than answers. I do welcome the trial; however, I question how effective this will be in its current form.

Let us not forget that the cohort responsible for the majority of crime in this state—the 15-year-olds—are not included in this trial and therefore will not be eligible for GPS tracking. Perhaps the most concerning aspect of this particular section is the seriousness of the crime the offender is charged with prior to being eligible for GPS tracking. Will those who have a bracelet and cut it off receive a penalty? I can see that some of them will actually find a way to do that. Unlike adult offenders, there is no offence committed if these juvenile offenders cut their bracelets off, and I think they will try to do that. We are not dealing with people who have just gone in on one occasion. Some of these are hardened, recidivist youth offenders. Will these trackers be monitored in real time? The Labor government clearly has a lot more work to do to make these trackers effective on recidivist youth offenders. There is a long way to go to address this complex problem to meet community expectations.

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise today in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is a true example of the Palaszczuk government listening to our community. Through these strong new measures, we are taking tough action on youth crime by focusing on the small cohort of hardcore repeat offenders who account for around 48 per cent of youth offending across the state. These measures are building on our already strong record of addressing youth offending. In fact, the number of youth offenders is at its lowest level in a decade—down by around 30 per cent. This has been achieved through initiatives which are making a real difference to the lives of vulnerable young people—like the award-winning Project Booyah; the Transition 2 Success program which has been rolled out to 22 sites across the state; as well as strategies like our five-point action plan where over 8,400 young people have been engaged through our co-responder teams.

It is critical that we continue to work with our vulnerable young people to give them every opportunity for success and to turn their lives around. In my time working with young people as a teacher and principal for more than 20 years, I saw too many vulnerable and disadvantaged young people coming from heartbreaking circumstances making the wrong choices. Unfortunately, we cannot reinvent their past but we can and must focus on putting the supports in place to change their future. That is why initiatives like this government's commitment to deliver 125 positions to support early interventions, including the school based police support officers, are so critical. However, there must always be consequences for any instance of offending, particularly for that small cohort of recidivist, hardcore repeat offenders. That is why this bill is so critical. It strikes the right balance. It will hold these young people to account.

We have some of the best police in the state in my electorate of Mansfield, led by officer in charge Murray Crone at Upper Mount Gravatt Police Station and officer in charge Kylie Doyle at Holland Park Police Station. As of 31 March this year, there were 1,178 approved police officer positions in the South Brisbane police district, which includes my electorate, and there are more police on the way. Under this government's commitment to deliver an additional 2,025 police personnel by 2025, the South Brisbane district will see an additional 150 police on the front line. In contrast the LNP committed to cutting police, with 600 fewer police under the LNP's 2020 election commitment.

Our local police work hard day in and day out to keep our community safe through initiatives like Operation Diameter Project. Developed by the Upper Mount Gravatt Tactical Crime Squad, this operation manages juvenile offenders who are on bail through the coordination of curfew checks and the recording of breaches. Our local police also work hard to keep our community safe on our roads.

That is why the measures in this bill to address hooning are so important. Too many people lose their lives on our roads. Any instance of hooning or reckless driving is completely unacceptable and places the community at significant risk of harm.

This government has already taken strong action to crack down on hooning through our investment in new high-tech cameras and in expanded fleets of drones to help catch these offenders. Our laws were already the strongest in the nation, and the proposed amendments to the PPRA will strengthen owner onus deeming provisions for hooning offences by allowing the evasion offence notice provisions in chapter 22 of the PPRA to apply to all other type 1 vehicle impoundment hooning notices. This will allow police to take greater advantage of the hooning footage captured by CCTV camera networks as well as our new high-tech drones and camera technology. Hooning is something that I hear about from my constituents regularly, and these new laws will ensure that police have every tool they need at their fingertips to address this reckless behaviour.

Community safety is paramount to the Palaszczuk government. Our government does and will do everything it can to ensure that strong actions are taken, including the actions taken in this bill, that will make the community safer across our state, including for the people in my community of Mansfield. I commend this bill to the House.



Mr LANGBROEK (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (4.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to acknowledge, as other members have, and thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their examination of this bill as well as those stakeholders who made written submissions on this bill. Before preparing this speech I was skimming the committee's Report No. 7 to the 57th Parliament. It is certainly comprehensive. I note that a number of public hearings into the youth justice reforms were held across the state, including on the Gold Coast where my staff attended on my behalf. I want to thank the participants of those hearings.

All Queenslanders deserve to feel safe. However, if the reports I am receiving from locals are any guide, the unfortunate reality is that the out-of-control youth crime wave plaguing Gold Coast streets means that many other Queenslanders also live in fear and frustration. My constituents and Queenslanders right across this state have a right to feel safe in their homes, in their communities and when carrying out their livelihoods. However, this is not possible when knife crime is as prevalent as it is now.

A total of 4,323 people were charged with possessing a knife in a public place over the 12 months to June 2020. These public places included schools, the supposed safe havens to which we entrust the care of our children during the day. I am concerned that children, including one under the age of 10, may feel the need or the compulsion to carry knives in public. I am concerned to hear, as I heard earlier today, from Angela Driscoll from the Chill Out Zone in Surfers Paradise—and I worked with her on former mayor Gary Baidon's Gold Coast safety committees nearly 20 years ago—that they are carrying knives for their own defence.

I am equally concerned about the recent deluge of hooning events in our state and, more specifically, on the Gold Coast and in my electorate. I have heard from the member for Currumbin, the member for Broadwater and other Gold Coast members that they have been experiencing an increase in reports from a number of concerned constituents. They have been contacting me because of rampant reckless driving in my electorate, often between Main Beach and Broadbeach. I have already raised this in this parliament in my speech to the address-in-reply debate.

This behaviour is often undertaken by juvenile offenders. We have seen graphic news footage of them having accidents when they are about to be apprehended, rolling vehicles and then running away. Of course, it makes for great news footage, but it is very, very dangerous for the innocent people involved in these accidents and, of course, it is potentially very dangerous for those juvenile offenders themselves. As we have heard from other members, they just do not seem to care about the consequences. I note that my concerns and the concerns of my constituents are echoed by other Queenslanders.

In response to this outrage over the recent spate of road tragedies that have certainly been heavily canvassed, the government introduced this youth justice bill on 25 February in an attempt to demonstrate a tough on crime stance. The key features of this legislation are—

- Strengthening the youth justice bail framework through:
 - Providing the legislative framework required to trial the use of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for some offenders aged 16 and 17 years old who have committed a prescribed indictable offence and have been previously found guilty of one or more indictable offences (with a review after 12-months);

Of course, we have heard from other members from both sides of the House how they feel about these particular issues and whether 15-year-olds should have been added to this provision. The explanatory notes go on—

- Explicitly permitting the court or a police officer to take into consideration, when determining whether to grant bail, whether a parent, guardian or other person has indicated a willingness to do one or more of the following: support the young person to comply with their bail conditions, advise of any changes in circumstances that may impact the offender's ability to comply with the bail conditions, or advise of any breaches of bail;

We have also heard from members about whether responsible people are going to take responsibility for ensuring these young people behave. I hear the concerns from so many constituents and other people around Queensland about whether the young people are going to listen to any responsible person and whether the responsible person will adequately take the responsibility and actually do something about it. The explanatory notes continue—

- Creating a limited presumption against bail, requiring certain young offenders charged with 'prescribed indictable offences' to 'show cause' why bail should be granted;
- Clarifying that although a lack of accommodation and/or family support is a consideration that bail decision makers can take into account when determining whether to grant bail, it cannot be the sole reason for keeping a child in custody;

...

- Codifying the sentencing principle, currently found in common law, that the fact that an offence was committed while subject to bail is an aggravating factor when determining the appropriate sentence;
- Amending the Charter of Youth Justice Principles to include a reference to the community being protected from recidivist youth offenders;
- Providing for a trial of powers for police to stop a person and use a hand held scanner to scan for knives in SNPs—

that is, safe night precincts—

on the Gold Coast;

in the areas of Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. That, of course, is a consequence of some very tragic stabbings that have occurred that I will refer to later. It goes on—

- Enhancing the enforcement regime against dangerous hooning behaviour by strengthening existing owner onus deeming provisions for hooning offences.

As I have mentioned, these hooning offences have become more prevalent. It seems that during COVID when police at the Gold Coast were preoccupied with manning the borders and maintaining hotel quarantine, a lot of these people—and amongst them are young drivers—realised there were fewer traffic police on duty. Therefore, we have seen a crescendo of complaints about hooning, and I will soon refer to some recent examples on the Gold Coast.

The explanatory notes state—

The objectives of the amendments in the Bill are to respond to the characteristics of the offending behaviours of serious recidivist youth offenders and strengthen the youth justice bail framework.

The objectives will be achieved by amending the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Youth Justice Act 1992.

I welcome the plan for some of the positive changes: firstly, a presumption against bail for youth offenders who commit a serious indictable offence; secondly, offending on bail will be taken to be an aggravating circumstance for sentencing purposes; and, thirdly, equipping Gold Coast police with metal detectors to enable them to search youths for knives. However, there are many who call into question the effectiveness of some of the proposed amendments including, for example, the Law Society, the Australian Lawyers Alliance and the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland. I want to table an article quoting the words of Bill Potts and Dr Bruce Watt. It is written by Jessica Borten and Jacob Miley from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*. I table that article.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 16 February 2021, titled 'Gold Coast youth crime: GPS trackers, tight breach bail laws not the answer says psychologist' [\[534\]](#).


The other issue is that youth crime is running rampant and the same offenders that are released on bail reoffend and are again released. As Assistant Police Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon recently announced, 'The most significant juvenile crime offending involved just 10 per cent of those involved in the youth justice system.' Of course, we have heard other members mention that. I want to table that article, too. It is an article by Grace Mason.

Tabled paper: Article from the *Toowoomba Chronicle*, dated 8 April 2021, titled 'Youth crime taskforce boss fast-tracks visit' [\[535\]](#).

We have seen numerous reforms of this legislation since the government came into office in 2015. It was amended recently, in 2019. Thousands have reoffended while on bail. What I am really concerned about, as I mentioned, is the hooning that is occurring because Gold Coast police staffing levels have not been supplemented, leaving them with an insufficient number of officers who are all working very hard.

As I said, because the juvenile justice laws have been weakened, it is not surprising that juvenile offenders have become more brazen. My police sources have told me that a number of times the same juveniles have been caught, having been released and told to go back to Logan—that is where some of them were from—and that they have ignored that, have broken into the same house and have stolen more cars within a month of having been apprehended. We saw 1,000 revellers at a 600-vehicle rally at Bunnings in Pimpama a few Saturdays back where officers were hopelessly outnumbered. We have seen eight people aged 17 to 26 charged with a number of offences. As I say, I believe that is because we have had very little traffic policing over the past year.

In terms of Labor's reforms to legislation, one concern I have as the shadow minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnerships is that the Family Responsibilities Commission has had jurisdiction to deal with juveniles who were from the welfare reform communities but who had moved elsewhere. It used to receive court advice notices under section 43 of its act, but Labor's previous amendments consequentially negate the FRC Act powers. It means the FRC is not advised about the cases so it cannot get involved. It is a trigger the government could use. That would mean that if a juvenile was in Cairns but was at some time from a welfare community, they could be compelled to conference. That is something in which the FRC has been showing good results in terms of child safety notices and it is something the government should consider. In conclusion, we need to see the effects of these measures but more needs to be done to protect our community.

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (4.30 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This is an important bill for the entire state. No amount of crime is acceptable. We make no apologies for targeting hardcore, repeat offenders who place our community in danger. In Townsville and Queensland there is a small percentage of juveniles committing the majority of these crimes. The government has moved quickly and decisively while engaging with the community about this serious issue.

The data shows that a majority of youth offenders do not continually repeat offend, with many not reoffending after their first interaction with police. Although this is encouraging, the statistics show that there is still a hardcore group of recidivist youth offenders causing significant harm in the community. This cohort of recidivist offenders, representing around 10 per cent of all youth offenders, accounts for about 48 per cent of all youth offending. These are sobering statistics, but that is why we have introduced these amendments to parliament. We make no apology for coming down hard on these offenders as community safety is absolutely vital.

The new measures include a trial of GPS electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for recidivist high-risk offenders aged 16 and 17 in places like Townsville. The new laws will create a presumption against bail for youth offenders arrested for committing further serious indictable offences such as unlawful use of a motor vehicle while on bail. Courts will need to seek assurances from parents and guardians that bail conditions will be complied with before an offender is released. Further, this bill will allow courts to consider the option of electronic GPS monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail on a trial basis, with Townsville selected as one of those trial sites.

Anti-hooning laws will also be strengthened to hold the registered owner of a vehicle responsible, except in cases where the vehicle is stolen or the owner can identify the other driver. This will encourage the owners of vehicles that may be stolen by young offenders to work collaboratively with police to help stop this dangerous behaviour.

Those opposite have had nothing to offer except failed policies and ideas. Breach of bail is what they continually talk about. Guess what? It did not work when they were in government. The LNP's offence was confusing and did not work. To make their current push to reintroduce this offence even more disconcerting, in 2015 the courts ruled that young people could not be given any additional penalty for an offence if they were convicted, because it was double punishment and contrary to the Criminal Code. Furthermore, of the 185 young people convicted of the LNP's breach of bail offence, over 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months and 94 per cent reoffended within two years. In Townsville, fewer than 40 young people were convicted of this new offence while it was in effect—that is fewer than 20 young people a year on average—with over 90 per cent reoffending within 12 months. Their policy simply failed. Then the LNP came up with its barely explained curfew policy during the last election campaign. The LNP could not say where these kids would be taken. Police officers in Townsville said it simply would not work.

The opposition police spokesperson, the member for Burdekin, Dale Last, told the *Townsville Bulletin* that he would not stand in the way of these amendments. That is because this government actually has a plan to tackle youth crime. We will not bury our heads in the sand and do nothing about it. It is an issue in Townsville, right across Queensland and in the rest of the country.

Earlier this year, Police Commissioner Katarina Carroll was in Townsville backing these important changes. As the commissioner said, they should not be looked at in isolation but, rather, as a suite of changes that will work with each other. I also welcome the announcement of the Youth Justice Taskforce, led by Queensland Police Service Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon. For many years I worked with the assistant commissioner when she was in Townsville and we worked together in schools. I cannot think of a better person to lead this very important task force. I also take this opportunity to welcome the announcement last month of the appointment of Mark Wheeler as the new assistant commissioner for the northern region, which includes Townsville. This year the northern region will be split into two—Far North and North—demonstrating the importance this government places on North Queensland.

We back our police with stronger laws and greater resources. Before the last election we announced the biggest investment in policing in three decades. This government is delivering an extra 2,025 police personnel across Queensland, with 150 of these being deployed in the North Queensland region. This is in contrast to those opposite, whose plan at the election was to cut those numbers by 90 in Townsville alone. The LNP also said that it would not bring in an extra 50 personnel for a Townsville based Policelink call centre or invest \$30 million in a new Kirwan Police Station. This just means more cuts. We back them; they sack them.

We are also backing the youth justice system. Since 2017 we have invested \$20.4 million delivering youth justice programs in and around Townsville. From 2019 to 2023 we are investing more than \$45 million in programs and services responding to youth crime. Programs like the very successful Project Booyah and Transition 2 Success are incredibly important as they do change lives. Investment in early intervention is important as it stops young people falling into a life of crime. We do not want them to become repeat offenders or to end up in the justice system. Make no mistake: all of these measures, including the amendments to the Youth Justice Act, will help keep our community safe.

There is no easy fix for youth crime, but these amendments that target those hardcore, recidivist offenders—along with the investment this government is making in youth justice and the Queensland Police Service—are essential. The Palaszczuk government takes community safety incredibly seriously. No amount of crime is acceptable. It is important that these measures are not looked at in isolation but, rather, as I said previously, as a suite of reforms targeting a small, hardcore group of repeat offenders.

The Palaszczuk government delivers on its promises. We have a plan for Queensland. Our plan is to build safer communities and stronger regional economies in places like Townsville and to create jobs for Queenslanders at a time when jobs and job security are more important than ever before. I commend the bill to the House.



Dr ROWAN (Moggill—LNP) (4.38 pm): I rise to address the debate on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. At the outset I acknowledge Nicholas Rowan, who is in the public gallery today. Nicholas is a University of Queensland arts/law student currently undertaking some work experience at MinterEllison. I know that Nicholas will be following this debate with significant interest, particularly given the violent death of one of his close school friends in the past couple of years.

Ensuring the safety of our communities right across Queensland with appropriate evidence based laws and penalties as well as sufficient police and law enforcement resources is one of the central service delivery elements of any state government. It is unfortunate that over the last several years of this Palaszczuk state Labor government this core pillar of state government responsibility and delivery has been progressively reduced to the point where in this House today we must again consider and debate further legislation to specifically address youth crime in our state.

I say it is unfortunate because too often over the last several years of this government there have been a number of tragic instances coupled with raw, hard data that illustrates the growing youth crime problem in our state and the devastating impacts this is having on families and communities across Queensland.

In contrast to the Palaszczuk state Labor government, the Liberal National Party has maintained a consistent policy approach when it comes to law and order and policing in Queensland and, more specifically, to addressing youth crime in Queensland. That is why the Liberal National Party shadow minister for police and corrective services, the member for Burdekin, Dale Last MP, made clear in his contribution to this debate that the Liberal National Party will not be opposing this legislation.

In fact, the LNP opposition has introduced its own amendments to further strengthen this legislation and protect Queenslanders from youth crime. These amendments are focused squarely on the Bail Act and restoring breach of bail provisions to apply to all offenders regardless of their age. The LNP firmly believes that it is imperative to amend section 29 of the Bail Act in order that it equally applies to both adults and young offenders. This is imperative because it sends the clearest message that when a person is afforded bail they have been granted a privilege that comes with responsibilities and there must be penalties for breaching these responsibilities and not adhering to the great privilege that has been afforded to that person.

The Liberal National Party has been unequivocal in wanting to see our laws and police resources in Queensland strengthened to protect our community from young offenders which is why we support this legislation before the House today, but not without some concerns. That is why the Liberal National Party wants to see this legislation pass with the right measures in place. For the safety of all Queenslanders, we simply cannot afford to be back in this House in a matter of months to yet again debate ongoing and continued youth crime in Queensland and consider yet more amendments from the Palaszczuk state Labor government simply because the Labor government cannot deliver a comprehensive multifaceted approach. That is why I am encouraging all members of the Palaszczuk state Labor government to genuinely consider and support the amendments as introduced by the Liberal National Party. This is important because youth crime is an issue that is affecting each and every community right across Queensland, including in the electorate of Moggill where, following my electorate-wide community survey released last month, a growing number of residents are telling me that they want to see crime tackled decisively across Queensland.

I now wish to turn more broadly to the specific detail of this legislation. On 25 February 2021 Labor's Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services introduced the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the bill was subsequently referred to the Queensland parliament's Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for further consideration and consultation. Throughout the consultation period, 84 submissions were received by the committee in addition to hearings conducted in Mount Isa, Cairns, Townsville, Brisbane and the Gold Coast. I briefly take this opportunity to thank all who took the time to provide their considered views to the committee as well as those who participated in any of the seven public hearings.

On 16 April 2021 the committee tabled its report No. 7 in the Queensland parliament with one recommendation—that the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 be passed. As per both the explanatory notes and the committee's report, amendments will be made to the Youth Justice Act 1999 to address serious recidivist youth offenders and amend the youth justice bail framework in addition to a number of amendments being made to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 in relation to knife crime and hooning offences.

Whilst the LNP shadow minister for police and corrective services has addressed in greater detail the core specifics of the bill's policy objectives and amendments, I acknowledge that principal amongst those objectives is the provision of a legislative framework to trial the use of GPS electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for some offenders aged 16 and 17 who have committed a prescribed indictable offence and have been previously found guilty of one or more indictable offences, with a review after 12 months.

I also acknowledge that a number of issues and concerns have been raised by many stakeholders and others with respect to the Palaszczuk state Labor government's limited trial of electronic monitoring devices, including their limited application and effectiveness in halting recidivist behaviour and ultimately capacity of such devices to improve community safety. These are issues which the Palaszczuk state Labor government must be ultimately held accountable for and Labor must ensure they are adequately addressed.

As the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education, I also want to take this opportunity to reiterate and again draw to the attention of the government the positive role that ensuring regular school attendance and maintaining the provision of education to young Queenslanders can play in addressing and limiting youth crime and youth crime behaviour. Additionally, the provision of education should equally be met with enhanced parental responsibility in order to achieve these positive outcomes. Such sentiments were echoed by many stakeholders to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee and included in the committee report was this statement from the Queensland Mental Health Commission with respect to the ongoing wellbeing of young people who offend and are remanded in custody. It states—

While under remand young people will experience disruptions to schooling, training, employment, and social and familial connections. The continuation of social, educational, and vocational engagement and participation are important protective and rehabilitative factors which should not be undervalued.

Again, the value of providing and maintaining school education programs, particularly to some of our most vulnerable and at-risk young Queenslanders, cannot be underestimated and appropriately designed, funded and resourced programs can help break the cycle of youth offending. I also want to take this opportunity to draw to the attention of the Palaszczuk state Labor government the considered statements provided to the committee with respect to the influence of fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, FASD, in contributing to antisocial behaviour by young Queenslanders, and I do so as a specialist physician in addiction medicine. As Professor Sue McGinty, adjunct professor of education at James Cook University, advised the committee—


... fetal alcohol spectrum disorder, FASD, is an underacknowledged condition that is really staring us in the face. Firstly let me say that FASD is not just an Aboriginal problem. It is caused by mothers drinking during pregnancy. The symptoms along the spectrum are poor impulse control, cognitive impairment, the inability to see right from wrong, aggressive behaviours as sometimes exhibited in ADHD et cetera. I believe that all children who come before the justice system need to be assessed for their level of FASD before they are sentenced so that appropriate services or sentencing are provided.

The health promotion charity NOFASD has publicly expressed similar views and in particular is drawing attention to the published results of a comprehensive global study looking at the prevalence of FASD in youth detention in Western Australia. This study found a 38 per cent prevalence rate of FASD in youth detainees and found the presence of severe neurodevelopmental impairment at 89 per cent. With respect to this study, as this organisation stated—

The results of this WA study are relevant to every Australian state and territory government and community.

Given the significant scientific evidence of FASD and the impacts of substance misuse leading to neurological injuries and the associated link to criminal behaviour, it is important that the state Labor government considers whole-of-government strategies to reduce substance misuse and abuse. Whilst the Queensland Mental Health Commission has been progressing vital work in this area, there certainly needs to be greater assistance in implementing these measures through various state government departments including across education, child safety, health, police and corrective services.

I had a number of conversations with the former Labor member for Stafford, Dr Anthony Lynham MP, and we were both of the view that a parliamentary select committee of the Queensland parliament would be of benefit in addressing a broad range of substance misuse issues on behalf of all communities in Queensland. In concluding today I want to state how absolutely critical it is that the Palaszczuk state Labor government provides sufficient police and enforcement resources that are required to tackle crime in communities across Queensland.

 **Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (4.47 pm): I rise to make a contribution in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Our job as members of parliament is to represent our local communities, to listen and to act, and that is exactly what this bill is about. It acts on the feedback I have received from many residents in my electorate. It also responds to the feedback that I heard in the committee's public hearings in Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns. What is more, the measures in this bill are backed by expert advice and evidence. During the sessions in Mount Isa, Townsville and Cairns it was really interesting from the perspective of a South-East Queensland MP to see the different challenges that exist in regional Queensland and in Northern Queensland.

The bill makes some important changes to bail by reversing the onus so that young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to demonstrate to the court why they are not at risk of reoffending and are not a danger to the community before they can be granted bail. Courts will also be given the power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist them to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. Further, the courts will be able to consider the option of electronic monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail. The bill will enshrine in legislation that when a young offender commits an offence while on bail the court will consider that an aggravating factor and sentence them accordingly.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities Act will be amended to give police more tools to deal with hooning. We have heard many members talk about the issues of hooning in their local areas. I know this will be an important change within my community. The bill also establishes a trial of metal detector wandering on the Gold Coast. That is an important initiative, in particular in that entertainment precinct.

Our five-point crime action plan is working. We are seeing some encouraging results. The number of youth offenders is the lowest in a decade. While I am on my feet I would like to give a shout-out to my local Redlands police, Lindsay Kilpatrick, Janelle Harm, Steve Graham, Mark Thomas, Chris Hebblesworth, Brendan Winslow and Dave Purcell. The Redlands is an interesting electorate with islands and the mainland and the police do a fantastic job. I know police and youth justice workers in our local community are doing some very important work with at-risk young people to help turn their lives around. However, we know that there is always more to do.

If you or a member of your family end up as a victim of youth crime you feel it personally. That was never more evident than after the incident on Australia Day in our area. You correctly expect the government will take additional action and dedicate additional resources. As the member for Thuringowa said in his contribution, it is really important that the government has listened and is acting. This bill seeks to deal with the small cohort of recidivist youth offenders—around 10 per cent—who are causing significant harm to our communities by committing around 48 per cent of the youth crime.


I would now like to talk about some of the specific elements of the bill in relation to enabling the court to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist young offenders comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. Parents and guardians should be taking more responsibility for helping young people comply with their bail conditions, including the new condition of electronic monitoring.

The new bail provision in this bill enables the courts and police to consider the willingness of parents and guardians to support a young person in complying with bail conditions. I note that existing provisions already specify the home environment as a matter the bail decision-maker can take into account. We know that family units continue to become ever more complex. These new provisions expressly ensure decision-makers turn their minds to the role that parents are or are not playing when considering bail. Where there is an unacceptable risk that might be mitigated by parental support but none is forthcoming, bail can be refused.

I note the opposition is again raising the issue of breach of bail. Breach of bail did not exist under the former LNP government. None of the most common breaches of bail were ever an offence under the LNP's laws, only committing an offence while on bail. As the member for Cooper mentioned in her contribution, it was ineffective at the time. The fact is that the offence of committing an offence while on bail was an unworkable law. It did not work as a deterrent and was not regularly used by the judiciary. As a consequence offenders actually received a lesser penalty. The LNP's laws did not reduce recidivism. In fact, 94 per cent of young offenders convicted reoffended within two years. We are acting based on expert advice and on the evidence. Our government is only interested in doing what works and that is why we have asked the former police commissioner Bob Atkinson to conduct a review of what we are doing after six months. That will be a really important review.

I would also like to make mention of the Youth Crime Taskforce and the appointment of Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon to that task force. Six weeks ago in the Redlands we were fortunate to hold a youth crime forum. In attendance were Assistant Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon and Michael Drane, the youth justice reform leader from the department. It was an excellent forum and I would encourage every member in this chamber to take up the opportunity to have them come to your communities so constituents can share their stories and concerns with Assistant Commissioner Scanlon and Michael Drane.

Our forum went for close to three hours. The local police talked about local crime statistics and put some real clarity around that. We talk about statistics, but when you break it down locally in communities it is really important information to share. We also talked about some of the programs that people in our community might not necessarily be aware of. There is a Youth Justice Road Map document and it was fantastic to share that information about the journey of the youth justice system and all of the programs that our government is supporting. It is good information to be sharing with the community. The forum was followed up with a very lengthy Q&A panel session where everybody got to ask their questions. I commend Assistant Commissioner Scanlon and Michael Drane for answering every single question. I thank Minister Ryan and Minister Linard for helping facilitate the forum. These are important conversations to be having in our communities. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (4.54 pm): Firstly I wish to address the issue of hooning which is creating a great deal of distress and disruption to local amenity and safety on our roads. There are provisions in the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill that seek to address an aspect of the hooning issue. Hooning will always arise and requires ongoing policing, ongoing community action and the right laws to help bring about penalties for those who are driving unsafely, who are ripping up our roads and creating absolute havoc.

I have never heard as many complaints as I have heard in the last few months. I would say that hooning is now at epidemic proportions, not only in my community on the Sunshine Coast but in many areas where we have seen an absolute explosion of hooning behaviour. Why has it exploded so much in the last few months? People are telling me anecdotally that it is because there are not enough resources to keep on top of and manage these issues.

We hear people talking about the need for more police—and we definitely need police to be available to provide ongoing patrols on our streets which not only keep our streets safe in regard to traffic but for other crimes as well—but transport officers are also vital because they are the ones who are trained in regard to how to ping people if they have vehicles which are not compliant. Police can do some of that, but transport officers are trained in that particular aspect. I am calling on the state government to bring back joint operations between police and transport officers in my community and in other communities. It is not happening to the level it needs to to ensure that there is a crackdown on these dangerous cars. This needs to be addressed. I welcome aspects of the laws that are here before us, but there needs to be enforcement.

Unfortunately it has become a rite of passage for young people to take their vehicles and show off in front of other people, but the issue here is the dangerous driving breaching the safety of our communities as well as the peace and amenity of our communities. Bring back joint operations between transport officers and police in addition to laws to ensure the safety of the community. It has become quite a serious matter. It is not being addressed currently and there is a lack of joint operations cracking down on these issues to make sure that people get the message that you have a good chance of getting caught. We understand people use electronics these days to warn their mates and that often by the time police arrive they have gone. I am talking about joint operations to address the behaviour but also the noncompliant vehicles which are unsafe.

With regard to youth justice and the issues that have been talked about in this debate, I support the state opposition's amendment to seek to amend the Bail Act to remove child offenders from the exclusion relating to the offence of breach of conditions of bail.

A government member interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: I hear a Labor member on the other side yawning. People have died because youth offenders have taken cars while they have been on bail. It is not a yawning matter. It is a disgrace to hear a Labor member opposite yawning when people have been killed because of these youth offenders. There are Labor members who just do not get it.

Mr Harper interjected.

Ms SIMPSON: This is a serious issue. The provisions before the House do not go far enough. We will support them insofar as they are better than nothing, but they are not enough. It is a serious issue, not a laughing or a yawning matter. That is disgraceful behaviour from that member. There are people who have lost their lives because youth offenders have gone out, stolen vehicles, ripped along roads and smashed into innocent people.

It is absolutely disgraceful behaviour from the member opposite. He should hang his head in shame, particularly given the community he comes from. We want to see serious regard given to the situation where serious young offenders are committing more offences while on bail. That has not been adequately addressed in this legislation. This issue will not go away. We want to see stronger measures. I support the amendment that the opposition has put before the House.

Debate, on motion of Ms Simpson, adjourned.

MOTION

Schools, Free Meals



Dr MacMAHON (South Brisbane—Grn) (5.00 pm): I move—

That this House:

1. acknowledges:
 - (a) Foodbank's 2018 *Rumbling tummies* report shows that 20 per cent of children start the school day without eating breakfast, and 15 per cent of kids arrive at school without lunch, while Bankwest's Curtin Economic Centre's 2020 *The early years: investing in our future* report shows that in 2020, 18.5 per cent of Queensland children were living in poverty—the highest rate in the country, an increase from 15.2 per cent in 2009-10, making it the only state where child poverty has increased over the last 10 years;
 - (b) at under \$5.35 per meal per student (based on the cost of school lunch in Finland including staff salaries, foodstuffs, equipment and fittings, transportation and food bought externally, plus 10 per cent to account for more expensive average grocery prices), with a 30 per cent uptake rate (based on the 21 per cent rate at a Victorian free school breakfasts program at 500 schools, adjusted to account for higher rates of child poverty), a universal free school breakfast and lunch program in every Queensland state school would cost approximately \$374 million per year; and

2. calls on the government to:

- (a) deliver a free healthy breakfast and lunch program to run at every state school in Queensland, available to every state school student; and
- (b) work with Foodbank Australia to expand and better resource the charity's existing free breakfast program in Queensland state schools where it is already operating.

I move this motion today because the provision of free school breakfasts and lunches would be transformative for thousands of families and schoolkids across our state. Not only could we ensure that thousands of Queensland state school children start their school day with a nutritious meal; we could alleviate financial pressure on Queensland families. In 2020, 18.5 per cent of Queensland children were experiencing poverty and that has increased by over three per cent in the past decade. We have 16,000 children waiting for social housing.

As we are likely facing a once-in-a-generation recession, we still have high rates of unemployment, families are struggling and with the shocking cuts to JobKeeper by the federal government, we should expect rates of food insecurity to only get worse over the coming months. Foodbank has reported that one in five children across the country goes to school hungry. Food insecurity can have lifelong impacts on children, including outcomes at school and health outcomes throughout their lives. Parents have also reported avoiding social events for their kids or keeping their kids home from school to avoid embarrassment or shame.

I imagine that the minister might respond to this motion by watering it down so much just to highlight the inadequate programs that we currently have in Queensland. Foodbank are doing an absolutely incredible job with the funding they have but right now they have only enough funding to provide 1,000 breakfasts per week, with other incredible organisations pitching in where they can. The minister would know that there are around 500,000 kids in Queensland state schools and that around one in five of those kids currently goes to school hungry. Amending this motion to nothing more than the status quo could mean that an estimated 90,000 Queensland kids will continue to go without breakfast every day.

A universal program in every state school would cost just \$374 million, which is a small investment to ensure that every Queensland kid gets the best start in life. For comparison, yesterday the Queensland government announced that they will be investing \$1 billion to upgrade the Gabba and we are spending \$150 million to build a 32-bed youth detention centre at Wacol. In a wealthy state such as Queensland we can afford to ensure that every child at a state school has a nutritious breakfast and lunch. We would make a huge saving over a child's life with better outcomes at school, better health outcomes and a lower likelihood of crime.

The failure to offer free school meals sits alongside the government's failure to fully fund our state schools. The Queensland government is providing just 69.26 per cent of the schooling resources standard—the figures speak for themselves—with no plan to properly and fully fund state schools in Queensland.

From the bilateral agreement, the Queensland government have said that Queensland has limited revenue-raising capacity when it comes to school funding yet they will freeze royalties for mining companies, they will subsidise gas companies and they will keep capping the charges on developers at woefully inadequate rates. The government's unwillingness to take on their big corporate backers means that Queensland kids miss out. In a wealthy state such as Queensland that should not be the case. If the Queensland government made property developers, big banks and mining billionaires pay just a little bit more they could easily afford to fully fund our schools and give every state school kid a healthy breakfast and lunch. The government has a choice: to commit to delivering a program that will ensure every Queensland kid gets the best start in life or to continue to let their mining billionaire mates get off scot-free and further punish kids who are already struggling.

According to Queensland Labor's own policy platform, Labor believes that children who have access to appropriate nutritious food are more likely to achieve better educational outcomes than those who do not. Labor has been in government for about 27 of the past 32 years here in Queensland. That is 27 budgets in which they could have introduced free school meals for Queensland kids. That is nearly 27 budgets in which they could have meaningfully addressed child poverty in this state. I urge the government to act now. I urge them not to water down this motion so that when the government hands down their 28th budget they do not let down Queensland schoolkids yet again.

(Time expired)



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (5.05 pm): I move—

That all words after 'acknowledges' be omitted and the following inserted:

- (a) the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to non-government organisations across Queensland supporting young Queenslanders in our schools, including in the provision of free healthy breakfast and lunches; and
- (b) the important role that P&Cs and school communities play.

Having moved this amendment, all I can say is that of course all in this House, including the members for Bundaberg, Mackay, Mansfield, Townsville, Algeester and any other former teachers in the House, would agree that it is very hard to teach children if they do not have a full stomach. Children can concentrate more on their work when they have a full belly. That is why we have wonderful programs in our schools right now. I am scratching my head a bit as I try to sort out the exact problem that the Greens are trying to solve here. Their \$374 million spend is on a take-up rate of only 30 per cent. If everybody were to take it up, we would be talking about \$1.16 billion a year. That is what the Greens are talking about in this motion, yet over 720 schools are already providing free access to breakfasts and lunches. Schools will continue to expand those programs where required.

I can put my hand on my heart and say that—maybe unlike the member for South Brisbane; I do not know—I have visited many schools throughout Queensland. I am sure the regional members and other members in this House have also witnessed firsthand the excellent programs that are being delivered in our schools right now. They are being delivered. Schools are working in consultation with their communities. The school community comes together on this. They can choose to operate a breakfast program, or to provide meals for families in need or to any kid who arrives at school without breakfast or lunch. I can almost guarantee that. I cannot imagine any school community, any tuckshop, any P&C group or any teacher denying a child a meal. The member for Mansfield, who was a principal at a large school here in Brisbane, would know that that would be available to them free of charge. They would be fed in accordance with their needs.

School breakfast programs can operate in a variety of ways such as through extended tuckshop hours, facilitated by school support staff and in partnerships with the community, YMCA, Foodbank, Eat Up Australia, Cereal for Coffee and Life Education Queensland. They do it through Indigenous programs such as STARS at Clontarf, which I visited with the member for Thuringowa. Schools provide a welcoming facility where children can go, where they feel at home and where they can have breakfast and lunch. I have seen it firsthand.

Basically, we are trying to solve a problem that does not exist but that will cost \$1.6 billion. The Greens have not given one skerrick of evidence to suggest that this affects children in schools today—and I see the member for Cook—even in Indigenous areas. Wonderful programs are being run in Indigenous communities to feed our children every day, including in Yarrabah, Woorabinda, Kowanyama, Cherbourg, Mornington Island—I visited their breakfast club and had one of the best coffees that I have had in Queensland, which shows how sophisticated they are; the coffee machine was incredible—and Aurukun, just to name a few.

I support—I am sure we all do in this House—the notion that we do not want to see any child going hungry. To come up with this half-baked idea of a 30 per cent take-up, on trying to fix a problem—we will expand our program wherever it is needed. People are already receiving this. I do not know of one school community that has come to me in relation to the Greens' policy. I recommend the amendment to the motion. We are doing a great job in this area.

(Time expired)



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (5.10 pm): This House often considers some pretty complex questions, but the issue we are dealing with right now is incredibly simple: should each and every child in Queensland schools have access to a free healthy breakfast and lunch? I dispute the idea that everyone does have that access, and the minister is wearing blinkers if she thinks that is the case. It is telling that so far the government has only ridiculed this suggestion, as though food for every kid who needs it is an unreasonable ask. All of the jurisdictions that have made the investment have learned that it is not only possible but also transformative.

Ms Grace interjected.

Dr MacMahon interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: The minister and the member for South Brisbane will cease quarrelling across the chamber.

Mr BERKMAN: Most states, including those of other Labor governments, are far ahead of Queensland. Victoria and New South Wales are rolling out really substantial schemes. The ACT is introducing a three-day-per-week trial. The data from Tasmania has demonstrated improved school

attendance, while data from Victoria has shown improvements in children's moods and their ability to learn and socialise, higher grades, and more focus, concentration and drive in the classroom. These outcomes in other states speak for themselves.

Finland, which has a similar student population to Queensland, has had a universal free school lunch program since 1948. By operating at scale they have been able to provide free meals. Their government pays for it at a cost of \$4 per student. By making free breakfast and lunch available to every state school student on a universal basis, we eliminate the stigma—

Ms Grace: You are only talking 30 per cent. That is not true.

Mr BERKMAN: Making it available to them! Minister, take the ear plugs out! By making it available to each and every student, we eliminate the stigma and shame attached to means tested programs. Sure, there are going to be areas and schools that have greater need than others, but make no mistake: there are hungry kids in every school, whether it is due to poverty, substance misuse, mental illness or violence at home. We need a universal program that is there for every kid when they need it.

The minister has misrepresented the cost of our proposal before and again tonight. I want to make clear that we are not pretending it is cheap or easy, but, for about the same amount of money the government is spending on a new privatised ticketing system for public transport, I think it is more than worth it to save thousands of kids from hunger in amongst crushing poverty. We have seen this week that we are going to knock down the Gabba and build another one—just drop a billion dollars there. It is insane.

The lives of thousands of kids and families would be transformed by a program like this. One in five kids is affected. That is up to 100,000 kids who are missing out on breakfast every single day in Queensland. Foodbank is doing an amazing job with its limited funding, but it is not enough to ensure no kid goes hungry.

Despite mining corporations exporting over \$480 billion worth of resources in a decade, in that same period Queensland was the only state in which child poverty increased. That is a tragic embarrassment for us here in Queensland. We are asking the Labor government to choose food for hungry kids over profits for mining billionaires. That should not be a difficult choice, but they repeatedly take the side of their mining billionaire mates and Queensland kids suffer for it.


Our schools are underfunded to the tune of a billion dollars because the state government has only provided 69 per cent of the minimum recommended needs based funding of the student resource standard, as the member for South Brisbane has already outlined. Labor is directly violating its own policy, which commits to supporting 'the full implementation of funding of a needs-based resourcing model to ensure that all states schools achieve 100 per cent of SRS'. We are stuck at 69 per cent. Schools are receiving the second lowest proportion of SRS, above only the Northern Territory. This underfunding means larger class sizes, less support for our kids and more costs for teachers and parents. Families are already struggling to cover the government's shortfalls in school funding and are also struggling to make sure their kids get a healthy breakfast and lunch. Again, kids bear the brunt of the government's failure to act on this. All too often they lash out at their own circumstances.

This motion asks the House to consider a different approach for marginalised kids. A few days ago, at a convention attended by government ministers, a suggestion was made to put police in primary schools to deal with kids as young as five years old. That suggestion makes me absolutely sick and it should make everyone in this place sick. Kids need food, housing and care, not cops and prisons.

We know from evidence in Tasmania that a free universal school meals program would improve school attendance, particularly among the same cohort of kids who are otherwise likely to get involved with the youth justice system. Research from New Zealand has shown that keeping kids going to school is a hugely protective factor against youth offending, and the Atkinson report has identified similar.

Every member in this House, especially those in the Labor government, has a choice tonight: to commit to delivering a program that will ensure every Queensland kid gets the best chance in life or further punish—

(Time expired)

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (5.15 pm): I rise to support the amendment moved by the member for McConnel and to follow the member for Maiwar. It is always interesting to hear the Greens when they take a tiny little slice of the story and turn that into the whole story. They miss the fact that we have a massive infrastructure spend in our schools across the state. Anyway, that is what we get from them.

Supporting school breakfast programs and Foodbank is something the Palaszczuk government is already doing, as members have heard. I am more than happy to inform the member for South Brisbane about the work we are doing. Our government is committed to giving children a great start in life and ensuring that children are provided with a nutritious breakfast, which evidence shows helps them to concentrate and to learn.

In addition to the many school breakfast and lunch programs that Minister Grace has already outlined in detail—many—the total funding, on top of that, from the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy for Foodbank's school breakfast program alone and the school breakfast program expansion into regional and rural locations from 2018 to 2024 is \$2.4 million. Through the department of communities we fund Foodbank Queensland to deliver the school breakfast program, a program that currently, in amongst the many other programs, operates in 74 schools in the Greater Brisbane area as well as schools in inner and outer regional areas. In fact, school breakfast programs are so popular that in 2019-20 our government expanded the program to regional locations, with 51 schools commencing their school breakfast program in term 1 last year.

Last financial year more than 738,000 meals were provided by Foodbank for the school breakfast program. This was over 125,000 meals more than in the previous year. This is an outstanding achievement, especially considering that schools were closed for several weeks during the COVID-19 pandemic. We still saw a massive increase.

As a parent and a former teacher, I know how vital it is for children of all ages to start their day with a healthy breakfast. Earlier this year I saw firsthand the benefits of this program when I visited Ambrose State School near Gladstone and dropped into the breakfast program there. Teachers, support staff and parents at the school told me how the program had helped improve the concentration of their students which in turn had a huge benefit to their learning outcomes.

What we are seeing here today is another example of the Greens trying to make it sound like they have this great new idea when in actual fact the government is already doing it. As members heard from the Minister for Education and from me, this government is already investing significantly in food recovery and distribution to schoolchildren, individuals and families in need. We are proud of our partnership with Foodbank and other organisations, particularly those providing school breakfast programs. Quite frankly, we do not need the Greens to state the obvious about the support that we already provide to kids in schools.

We are seeing a bit of a theme from the Greens lately, trying to sound like they are coming up with all these new ideas that are not actually new. Recently the member for South Brisbane vigorously supported a position paper that her mentor, Councillor Jonathan Sri, published bemoaning the very obvious lack of cultural diversity in their own party. You only need to look at the Greens MPs here in Queensland to know that diversity is not even a remote consideration for them. For their information, we have noticed that there is no diversity. In fact, One Nation has more diversity than the Greens political party in Queensland, which is saying a lot. We on this side of the House absolutely embrace diversity. That is why we have three First Nations people on this side of the House.

Coming back to the topic at hand, I point out that this government strongly supports Foodbank. Beyond funding for school breakfast programs, my department is providing Foodbank with over \$960,000 this financial year for food recovery and distribution as well as access to premises. This government strongly supports school breakfast programs.

We have listed our financial support here today. I can tell members that there are numerous schools right across Queensland that are being supported through that program—schools such as Milpera State High School, Warwick Central State School, Calliope State School, Dysart State School, Mackay West State School, Mount Archer State School, Mount Isa Central State School. I could go on and on. We are supporting school breakfast clubs here in Queensland and we will continue to do so.

(Time expired)



Mr SMITH (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.20 pm): I do not disagree with the sentiment behind the motion moved by the member for South Brisbane. All children deserve the best opportunities in life. Healthy and consistent dietary intake plays a vital role in education. This motion fails to stand as anything more than a concept of an idea. When it comes to the Greens they are a concept party. They come up with the ideas, but fail to understand the legislative processes, the terminology and the necessary research required into the factors that need to be addressed in order to be successfully progressive.

The prime example is the argument surrounding Finland that the members have raised. Let us talk about Finland. Those who do not really know about education, those who have never been a teacher, those who do not get pedagogy know that they can try to sound legitimate by harking back to

the educational system of Finland. They have had peaks. They do some amazing work in educational pedagogy, but they are not the be-all and end-all of education and there are so many cultural differences at play.

Let us talk about it. They have provided a free meal to students for 70 years. From ages six to 16, students have an option to eat a provided meal. I am not sure whether this motion intends to cover that same age group. The motion says state schools, but I would seek clarification as to whether that means both primary and secondary schools or only primary schools. Where Finland provides meals for six- to 16-year-olds, Queensland students range in age from five to 18 years. Finland provide one meal a day free to students, I will grant them that, but the cost is not consumed wholly by the state. In Finland the funding is split 25 per cent which is provided by the state and 75 per cent which is provided by 310 municipalities.

Do the Greens intend to impose upon local governments the responsibility to raise revenue through rate rises in order to fund these meals? Have they considered the financial impact on local government? On top of this, the rollout in Finland is not simply delivered by one governing body. The rollout is simply not delivered by one charity or one other form of organisation.


This motion calls on the government to deliver a program, but it does not do the heavy lifting in terms of how such a program is to be rolled out. The Greens cry Finland but they have not investigated the complexities behind the system. This is what I speak of when I say that I cannot support this motion because it is underdeveloped. It is over-conceptualised and is lacking any great depth, other than an opportunity to tweet righteousness instead of investing and consulting on the challenges and doing the hard work it takes to implement progressive ideas into the policy and into action.

This motion fails to cover the breadth of greater issues. It fails to consider the role teachers and schools play in the promotion of healthier lifestyles, not only in school but at home as well. As a teacher, when I observed a pattern of a student without lunch or breakfast it was my responsibility to report that. We work with the school, we work with families and we help to generate a healthier home life.

If students are coming to school without food in their stomachs and in their lunch boxes, there is a greater issue that needs to be addressed. The fact that this motion moved by the Greens is so lacking in any detailed consideration shows that they are unaware of the issues faced by students, faced by families and faced by teachers. I reiterate that I am not opposed to the goodwill behind this motion, but unless there is any substance or depth, any detailed consideration or any provision related to the rollout of such a program, I am opposed to the motion moved by the member for South Brisbane as it is nothing more than a chance to spruik righteousness.

I mention how great it is to have four schools in my electorate supported by the Foodbank school breakfast program. I truly appreciate this fantastic program. On top of this, we have 24 schools in the Bundaberg region signing up to the fantastic Pick of the Crop program, an investment by Health and Wellbeing Queensland, which has teamed up with the Bundaberg Fruit and Vegetable Growers Cooperative. This is bringing the growing community into schools to promote healthier lifestyles.

The motion moved by the member for South Brisbane lacks depth, lacks understanding and, quite honestly, reads as nothing more than the result of an overzealous google search. When it comes to this motion, some may say that this motion is all huff and no puff, but when it comes to Greens we know there is plenty of puff.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (5.25 pm): I rise to make a contribution in the debate on the motion moved by crossbench member, the member for South Brisbane. I appreciate the member bringing something fresh into the parliament and putting pressure on government, as we should always do, to strive to do better for our kids. A very good point is raised. We have to consider where we direct our wealth.

I would take a particular point of view and prioritise other areas before this, but it is an important question to ask the House—that is, what benefits are we getting from mining activity and other industries and where are those benefits going? Our party has spoken a lot about the Olympic Games and prioritising other things. There are priorities in my electorate that I feel strongly about that should be addressed well before any games bid or any rail tunnel. I guess that is what the member for South Brisbane is putting to the House. That is a legitimate thing to do.

The minister mentioned the Mount Isa Central State School and Mornington Island State School. They have excellent programs. One I would have liked to have checked but did not have time to today is Sunset State School's breakfast program. I think they are self-funding at least part of their program, which is magnificent. I imagine that something is kicked in. That is real testament to them. They have


very strong Indigenous participation and it has been a roaring success. We do not always have teachers and principals as motivated as that principal so it is not always going to work out that way. I acknowledge that there are government programs.

There is a counterpoint to this that has come across my bow. A good friend of mine in Mount Isa is a real battler. She has struggled through life and put her kids through private school. She was pretty upset when I discussed this issue with her previously. They are working hard and battling at home, but their friends with kids at the state school have an advantage in this regard. I acknowledge the counterpoint that there is that cohort of society that would be on the margins in this regard.

I think it is an excellent sentiment. It is something that we should be working towards. There should be something there. I am swimming in underprivileged kids in my electorate. They really struggle. They would really benefit from that type of initiative. There is no question about it, but with a full belly kids will learn better. There is direct evidence of that at Sunset State School and I am sure at the other schools in my electorate that the minister named. I have certainly seen this firsthand at Sunset State School where the principal, Bryon Burke, has done a magnificent job with their program. It does have a place.

It should be an aspiration that we in this place should have. I would see other priorities before that in terms of the spending of \$374 million per year. I am just a little naive or ignorant as to the costs of this and marrying that up against the other priorities that we have in our electorates. It makes me somewhat apprehensive at this stage.

I acknowledge there are programs already out there. There has been assistance and they have been very well received. I think it is very healthy to be bringing motions such as this into the House. I think some of the criticism is pretty unfair. I have heard the criticism and I have had it directed at me many times—that this is not researched and this is useless. I disagree. I think it is perfectly legitimate—in fact, very important—to be stretching the government to its limits in terms of compassion and empathy. Are we doing enough for our kids? It is a very important role of this parliament. We do not have the resources to road-test everything as comprehensively as government resources would allow. That is also an important point to reflect on.

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.30 pm): I rise to speak against this motion moved by the Greens in this place.

Ms Grace: I moved an amendment.

Ms LAUGA: I support the amendment that was moved by the minister. We all want our kids to start the day on a full stomach. There is no question about that. We know that it is important so they can concentrate. We know that it is important to their success at school and to their learning. We can definitely all agree on that. We can all agree that, when it comes to the education system and teachers, schools are a really important place for young people to learn and to be nurtured. That is why we already have wonderful programs in place in over 700 schools across the state providing breakfast for those students who need assistance.

We will continue to expand these programs as required, based on need, because we know that they work wonders. We can all agree that we want every child to get a great start and we do not, and will not, let kids fall through the cracks for want of a good breakfast or lunch. That does not mean that we need to adopt the Greens' thought bubble—or avid Google search, as the member for Bundaberg put it—to spend \$374 million a year to provide breakfast to every child in every school in the state.

Ms Grace: It is just 30 per cent.

Ms LAUGA: It is only 30 per cent of the students in the state. I effectively consider this as a serious form of a virtue signalling. It is a rush for parents and carers to get their children out of bed and ready for school, to get them fed and then to get them to school—I know that firsthand; packing lunches is one of my least favourite chores in the world.

Honourable members: Hear, hear!

Ms LAUGA: I hear the agreement of all the parents in the chamber. We should not be stepping in when parents and carers are more than capable of providing breakfast or where the community is coming up with its own solutions. When it equates to only \$1.50 per child, what kind of nutritious meal are you going to provide for \$1.50?

I believe that we should be aspiring to ways in which we can support parents better. If we are going to solve this problem of poverty in our state and in our country, we need to do that through self-determination. We need to do that by raising the minimum wage. We need to do that by helping to support parents to get a job and by giving them the skills and experience to get those jobs. We need to

help parents with more affordable child care and more childcare places. All of those practical changes would make a much bigger difference to the lives of parents and in turn their children in this state than a thought bubble.

Mr Berkman: So what are you doing on that?


Ms LAUGA: We are doing lots of things on that actually. It is one of my great passions. I would suggest that a motion in support of more affordable and accessible child care would perhaps have been a better motion to debate in this place. I think that most parents would agree.

Schools, in consultation with their community, can choose to operate a breakfast program to provide meals for families in need. I invite the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane to my Alma Mater at Mount Archer State School in the electorate of Keppel where my mum has been a teacher for over 30 years. There has been a breakfast program running there since I was in school. I am no spring chicken anymore. That breakfast program has been a great success. There are plenty of parents like my mum who got me out of bed every day, gave me a good breakfast and sent me along to school with lunch. I am very privileged that my mum was able to do that because she had a good job. She had the benefit of being able to go to university—the first in her family. She raised me with that same principle as well—that is, the principle of the responsibility of the family and the carer and the parents in that family.

In 2020, 727 state schools offered a breakfast program of some description—more than half of our schools. Yet the Greens are only talking about 30 per cent of our schools.

Mr Berkman: Thirty per cent of students! Read the motion.

Ms LAUGA: Thirty per cent of students. I suggest that the members who moved this motion have probably never been to a school in a remote area to see how this would roll out in any of those schools. Perhaps the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane need to get out of their Brisbane bubble and understand how regional and remote schools work, how parents work in those communities and what would actually make a bigger difference to their lives than this ill-thought-out policy. I do not support the motion.

 **Mr DAMELTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (5.35 pm): I speak to the motion moved by the member for South Brisbane. Firstly, I would like to talk about the good work being done not only by Foodbank across Queensland but also by the smaller groups in our larger towns like Townsville and other places across the Hinchinbrook electorate. There are people out there who are doing some really good work in this space. I talk about people like Paula Pool, Demalza Gardem and Jean Pierre who have put together Fuel for Schools in the Townsville area. It is a community based group who put their time and effort into collecting donations from different businesses but also donations from the public, whether it is money or food, to make sure that school breakfast programs get legs in some of our schools—and, yes, we do have schools that have underprivileged children who attend.

I do not want to see any child going to school and spending a day with no food in their stomach, but some good work is being done out in the community to make sure that that does not happen. The fact of the matter is that some kids are going to school who are hungry. Can we do more? Yes. I acknowledge that the state government has put in a million dollars just this year to Foodbank—they distribute to 280 schools across Queensland—to make sure that they have the helping hand they need to put food into these children's bellies.

In the Ingham area there is the Ingham State School and the Ingham State High School. They both have breakfast programs. The breakfast program at the Ingham State School has been affected by COVID. They are looking to get it up and running again post COVID. They closed this program down during the COVID pandemic—the reason being that there was a bit of contention about how they were going to serve food without passing on the COVID virus. I give a shout-out to Pammy Chiesa. She has been running the tuckshop at Ingham State High School for some time. She has been heading up the breakfast program forever and a day. The P&C and the tuckshop ladies do a lot of work in these schools to make sure that kids are fed in the morning so they can spend their time at school concentrating.

There is good evidence around that children who have a good breakfast and a full stomach make better food choices throughout the day. They concentrate better in the classroom, and they have better health outcomes as they go through life. I support a fair bit of the content of the motion and the sentiment behind it. I also support the fact that it has been put before the House for debate today. It gives the opposition, the crossbench and the government the chance to thrash this topic out.


Child welfare in this state is an important topic, and wherever we can we should do better, but at the end of the day we have to figure out where the money comes from to fund such programs. \$374 million per year is a large chunk of consolidated revenue to find. We would have to figure out which part of the budget we could take it from to inject into this. There is a concern with that, especially

when the state government is heading towards \$120 billion worth of debt. I do not want to see us going further into debt to fund programs like this. I think there is a space for the government to play in this, but I think that mandating it across all state schools in Queensland is going a little too far. It is a slippery slope into what some people may call socialism.

A government member interjected.

Mr DAMETTO: I will not take that interjection. We do have to be conscious of where the money comes from. We have to be conscious of what we spend it on. I think this idea does have merit, and I want to continue the efforts of the crossbench to bring in this type of legislation. I do encourage the Palaszczuk government to continue funding Foodbank and finding ways to better support this program. I would also reach out to the community. Anyone who wants to make a contribution to a breakfast program, who feels there is a need to give back to underprivileged children in our state, please get in contact with your local school. Even get in contact with some of your private schools, which may be doing some of this as well. Just because you go to a public school does not mean you should be the only one who is being looked after.

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (5.41 pm): I support the amendment moved by the minister. A lot of people know my previous work history in this House, but we know the importance of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to organisations that support young Queenslanders in our schools. The work they do is incredibly important in helping and supporting students through free healthy breakfasts and lunch boxes, counselling, career advice and pathways. As a former principal and teacher, and as a dad too, I know the importance that a good breakfast makes to the start of the day. That is why the government is committed to providing children with breakfast through school breakfast programs along with an expansion of the School Breakfast Program. Through these programs we want to make sure that all Queensland children, regardless of their circumstances, have a great start to the day.

As we have heard before, breakfast has been proven to improve attention, memory, behaviour and attendance, which all leads to happier and healthier kids in our classrooms. The School Breakfast Program provides fresh, healthy breakfasts for thousands of kids each week who would have otherwise gone without. In Townsville there are already a number of breakfast programs running thanks to the support of this government. Just to name a few in Townsville, Aitkenvale State School, Cranbrook State School, Currajong State School, Garbutt State School, Heatley State School, Mundingburra State School and Rasmussen State School, plus others, are also part of this program. Across the state 727 state schools and campuses have indicated that they offer a breakfast program. Any school, in consultation with their community, can choose to operate a breakfast program to provide meals for families in need.

In 2020-21 the Department of Communities are providing Foodbank with \$260,000 for the School Breakfast Program, which supports it to run in 74 schools. In addition, the department provided funding of \$267,000 in 2020-21 directly to 51 school P&Cs or chaplaincies in rural and regional centres to deliver an expansion of the School Breakfast Program. In Townsville so many local businesses, which are the heart of our community, donate items to schools as well as many individuals who do not do it for the accolades but just because they want to. The member for Rockhampton, 'Bazzie the Beekeeper', does this with his honey. He gives his honey to schools for their breakfast clubs, which is an amazing thing to do. Sensational, Baz! Well done, mate.

To answer the member for Hinchinbrook's question 'Where does the money come from?' during the last election the Greens' plan for achieving their breakfast and lunch program, amongst other pie-in-the-sky ideas, was to increase the mining royalties in some cases by up to 500 per cent a year. Simultaneously they are anti coal and wanted to see all of the coalmines closed immediately, so they wanted to increase royalties while shutting the mines. I was a year 9 maths teacher for many years, and in my former career I can tell you that all of my students know what happens when you multiply anything by zero. It does not matter if the royalty rate is 500 per cent or 5,000 per cent; if there is no resource sector then multiplying anything by zero will give you—


Government members: Zero.

Mr STEWART: Absolutely. This is just Greens economics, or 'greenomics', at its best. This government supports all parts of our economy, including organisations that help our students. This government knows it is not just about supporting them through one program. We know that wraparound services are incredibly important. That is why this government supports a range of other organisations which are there to assist students in the present but also into the future. Some of these include the

Clontarf Foundation for year 10 to 12 boys which is offered in four schools in Townsville: Heatley Secondary College, Thuringowa State High School, Kirwan State High School and my old school, Townsville State High School.

Mrs Frecklington: It is a wonderful program.

Mr STEWART: It is a great program. Thank you, I take that interjection. I would like to take the time to talk about our P&Cs and the sensational work they do. They help support our kids. They do so much great work in our schools, and I have seen firsthand the great work that can be achieved through collaboration between P&Cs, principals and governments. P&Cs are the voice of our school communities. As a former principal I can say that it is often a robust voice, but it is always a passionate one with the school's interests at heart. All of these points show that the Palaszczuk government's commitment to non-government organisations across Townsville and Queensland help support young Queenslanders in our schools each and every day.

 **Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP)** (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (5.45 pm): I rise to speak against this motion of the Greens and support the amendment of the Minister for Education. No-one I know disagrees with the premise that no child should go hungry, who does not think that our kids should have the best chance possible in life, and who does not know that if a kid starts a school day with a full tummy then they are more likely to learn, more likely to be able to concentrate and more likely to take advantage of the school environment. We all want our kids to thrive, which is why on top of the almost \$1 million a year we provide to Foodbank for capacity building for freight and transport this government has also funded Foodbank since 2018 to extend their School Breakfast Program. That is \$260,000 a year for five years. It was for 62 schools to extend their program, but Foodbank being Foodbank they have made it stretch to 88 schools, which brings it to a total of 330 school breakfast programs they will be running this year.

I want to thank the absolutely beautiful people at Foodbank and the agencies that get the food to the schools such as YMCA. I want to thank them for the amazing work they do, because I know them. Foodbank is in my electorate. I know that once you have been to that place you are never the same person, because the difference they make cannot be overstated. They get the equivalent of 25 million meals to vulnerable people in Queensland every year. They make a difference. What they do for so many people in providing for the complexities of all of these vulnerable people goes to the heart of the reason that I do not support this motion. I think, but I am not sure, that the member for South Brisbane probably knows about the funding we provide to Foodbank, particularly how much we provide for school breakfasts. I do not know whether she has visited Foodbank. If she has, that is great; if she has not, then they should.


The primary problem I have with this motion is that, while addressing child hunger is a noble cause, this motion reduces a problem that is of absolutely gigantic proportions to one single solution, to some good liners. It is like saying, 'If we do this, then we will fix child hunger.' They never provide any evidence for anything they say. It is just typical of Greens' policies. They are simply irresponsible by suggesting that one single thing is going to fix this huge issue. If you have read anything at all about food insecurity, Mr Deputy Speaker, you know that if we do not address the key policy levers and the reasons these children are going hungry, then we are simply putting a bandaid on a growing problem. If we do not address the key policy issues of education, housing, homelessness, poverty, domestic violence, substance abuse, mental health and others, if we do not make employment and training the key objectives of our government, then we simply will not turn this issue around.

That is why in addressing this issue of food insecurity we do not just fund Foodbank for school breakfasts. We are addressing these key policy issues. We have a budget of over \$15 billion for education. We are investing \$1.6 billion to deliver more than 5,500 new social housing and affordable homes. There was \$143 million into our communities in the last budget alone. We have allocated \$1.7 million for 15 neighbourhood and Care Army connect workers for communities. There is an additional \$6.2 million for emergency support for vulnerable people. There is \$1 billion in skills and training initiatives. That is why the unemployment figure last week was 5.9 per cent, down from 8.8 per cent in July last year. It is why our economy is growing so strong in Queensland at the moment. It is why they are so important, because it is not just figures we are talking about. We are actually talking about human beings having a job, human beings who can afford to put food on the table, a roof over their heads and shoes on their feet. That is what responsible government is all about.

If you spoke to many of the senior people at Foodbank, they would probably tell you that they would like to see Foodbank made obsolete because we want to fix the reasons why kids are going hungry. We cannot just keep on applying bandaids. We cannot pretend that with one simple fix we have actually made it all go away. I heard the member for Maiwar say that every Queensland child deserves

the best chance in life. I totally agree, and that is why we are addressing fair and square those policy levers, and that is why we are keeping the Queensland economy strong because we want to look after Queensland kids.

(Time expired)

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (5.51 pm): I am just going to contribute briefly. I have not even prepared a speech, which is very unlike me. However, when any of the crossbench members put forward a motion, I feel it is important to acknowledge not only the effort but also the intent. I totally get what is being said here. Within my community, there are 1,750 meals provided every week for our schoolchildren from Foodbank. The volunteers run down to Brisbane and take it back but, as our volunteer base diminishes—and COVID especially has diminished that base—we have a vulnerability, and that is why this needs to be a bigger conversation going forward. The minister was right when she said that we have to stop applying bandaids because that makes us vulnerable. We have to get to the key causes of why these children are going to school without breakfast and lunch. That is really important.

Each year we have what is called Santa's Classy Helpers who put together an amazing Christmas for all these children who are identified. We walk with the parents to select the foods and the gifts for their children for Christmas. The information we glean from this is that the vast majority do not know how to cook. That is also a key contributor about food preparation. I have gone to the Minister for Education regarding things like the future schools movement within our schools. These are the types of things we need to discuss without being defensive. We need to be proactive. There is no blame in this, but there are ways we can move forward without finding the quick solution. Yes, our children need to have their bellies full. We have good programs and we have amazing volunteers who do an awesome job, but I think we need to dig deeper into the causes. It could be through a process where the children make their own lunches at school as a start so they learn those skills about food preparation as they are growing up.

Ms Grace interjected.

Ms BOLTON: Yes, we do we have classes in that, but I think it is the consistency of all schools doing it. It is like Healthy Harold. The issue is that it is not getting to every school because it is a choice of the principal. We need to have a bigger conversation. Even though I cannot support the motion this time, I support the intent and the endeavours going forward.

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

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

Motion, as agreed—

That this House:

1. acknowledges:


- (a) the Palaszczuk government's ongoing commitment to non-government organisations across Queensland supporting young Queenslanders in our schools, including in the provision of free healthy breakfast and lunches; and
- (b) the important role that P&Cs and school communities play.

YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1074, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.


 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.00 pm), continuing: I want to add to my contribution in regard to youth justice issues on the Sunshine Coast. One of the most concerning aspects of youth justice has been safety at the Maroochydore bus station. I have been asking the government to clarify what they have done to upgrade CCTV there, and obviously a police security presence is vitally important as well. The CCTV there was supposed to be upgraded, but it is still not clear what has actually been done in that regard and I call on the government again to please outline what works have been done. If it takes days to get access, that can inhibit police actions to follow up when there have been crimes. Unfortunately, there have been quite significant crimes.

We acknowledge that the majority of kids are great kids. There are those who get into a bit of trouble but there is a hardcore group creating most of the issues. My high school principals and teachers are telling me that they are seeing a move down in the age group of those who are potentially at risk and starting to commit crimes. They say that they can identify kids in years 5 to 7 before they get to high school where there is a need for early intervention.

I acknowledge that there have certainly been some good, new programs introduced on the Sunshine Coast. My principals and the schools have been very proactive in this space. One of the comments that they made which I thought was very interesting is that, even though there are very good youth agencies and people doing good things, they did not know who had the money, what it was and where it was being spent. So many times you get silos and good people do what they can, but it has not necessarily been that clear. The educational system has to be involved in this as well. We need those within the school sector identifying early the kids who are particularly at risk to ensure there is a coordinated approach. I commend a number of my high schools and primary schools who recognise this.

It is also important that when we put resources into this area they are not used only from nine till five. Youth workers working with police need to be able to work outside of that nine to five time frame. There have been moves to address this more recently. It is important because guess what? The kids who are out on the streets and, unfortunately, creating problems on our public transport system are not doing that from nine till five. I have had family members of young people who get into trouble with the law saying the kids are going everywhere on free public transport—it is not supposed to be free, but they are treating it as free. We need to ensure that the resources are targeted where the kids are, when they are out there and where the issues are.

(Time expired)

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.03 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Palaszczuk government is making a record investment in community safety: \$500 million in the youth justice system and the biggest investment in policing in over 30 years with an additional 2,025 police personnel to be delivered over five years. Of those police, 150 will be deployed to the Southern Police District, which includes Ipswich.

We are also backing our police and emergency first responders with stronger laws, and that is what this bill is about: building on the investments we have made and the results of our five-point crime action plan. We are making real progress, resulting in the lowest number of youth offenders in a decade. We know we need to do more, and our new youth justice laws will do that.

They will reverse the onus so that young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to demonstrate to the court why they are not at risk of reoffending and are not a danger to the community before they can be granted bail. They will give the courts power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist the young offenders to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. They will enshrine in legislation that when a young offender commits an offence while on bail, the court will consider that as an aggravating factor and sentence them accordingly. It will allow courts to consider the option of electronic monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail.

These reforms are backed by expert advice and evidence based on a report of the former police commissioner Bob Atkinson into youth justice. He will also review the overall reforms after six months, which is an important part of the process. It is about doing more work with a small cohort of recidivist youth offenders who represent around 10 per cent of young offenders but commit about 48 per cent of youth crime.

I would now like to move on to the amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act contained in the bill, specifically the amendments relating to significant changes to assist police in dealing with hooning. I know in my community of Ipswich this is an issue that is raised with me by constituents regularly. There is a real problem with hooning in the Ipswich CBD and in some of the suburbs. People are worried about their safety and they are tired of the incessant noise from hooning vehicles throughout the night. It has to stop. I want to commend the police in our community who are very well aware of this issue and who do a fantastic job in working to stop this pest.

Queensland already has some of the toughest hooning laws in Australia, but we are taking additional action to help address this persistent problem that generates much community concern. The amendments in this bill broaden the owner onus provisions for hooning offences by allowing the evasion offence notice provisions in chapter 22 of the PPRA to apply to all other types of vehicle impoundment hooning offences. What does this mean in practice? This shifts the onus of proof onto the owner of the

vehicle. The owner of a vehicle used in a type 1 hooning offence will be required to provide crucial information to assist police in conducting their investigations. That means that if the owner claims that they were not driving the vehicle at the time of the offence it will be up to them to prove it.


We have heard a lot of big talk from opposition members during this debate, but I think it is worth examining what they did when they were last in government. When the LNP had a chance to address youth crime, what did they do? They implemented 'destined to fail' measures like boot camps. They did not listen to the experts or evidence. In so many areas this was the hallmark of the Newman LNP government.

A total of \$16.7 million was wasted on their boot camp experiment that ended up breeding fitter, faster criminals. This boot camp experiment did not lead to a reduction in recidivism as promised. Further, the breach of bail, about which we have heard a lot during this debate, never existed under the LNP. The former government had introduced an unworkable law called committing an offence while on bail. It did not work as a deterrent; it was not regularly used by the courts given it was so ineffective. This law did not reduce recidivism; over 90 per cent of people convicted of the new offence reoffended within 12 months.

Our government invests in the front line. We take expert advice and we listen and deliver for our communities. While the LNP cut the Murri Courts right across Queensland when they were in government, these courts were getting real results right across Queensland and the Palaszczuk government reinstated them. I am delighted to see it up and running in my electorate of Ipswich. It has been extremely successful and they are doing a great job. In fact, in Ipswich we have many amazing organisations working with vulnerable and at-risk young people like the Ipswich Community Youth Service, who do an outstanding job helping to keep our young people on track and away from negative influences. ICYS has helped thousands of kids with training, education, housing, employment and referral to support services.

We also have Liworaji, who are doing an amazing job mentoring Indigenous young people in Ipswich high schools and providing opportunities for them to get into training and education. They also helped the department of child safety with cultural support for young people in care. Then we have the Domestic Violence Action Centre, who is helping high schoolers in Ipswich learn about respectful relationships and consent through their outstanding Being Heard educational programs.

The PCYC in Ipswich has a range of programs and training courses for young people such as the Braking the Cycle learner driver program and the renowned Project Booyah, which is getting terrific results in helping disengaged young people make better life choices. The vast majority of young people who come into contact with the youth justice system are able to get their lives back on track with a bit of guidance and support, but for the small cohort of hardened youth offenders who repeatedly commit crimes, who have no respect for the law and who endanger our community, we need tougher laws. This bill does that and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.09 pm): I rise to speak on the latest Labor bill in the area of youth justice with a feeling of great disappointment. I am sure that this feeling will be shared by many people across Queensland. The bill is just the latest in a series of bills put forward by the Labor government. History shows over and over again that political ideologues are not harmless dreamers; they wreak terrible damage on their fellow citizens and on societies. The most damaging ideologues tend to be utopian in bent. Almost any amount of real-world damage can be ignored on the way to achieving paradise. The last seven years have seen this approach to youth justice. Upon election it was as if the dreamers were in charge, their dream being that human beings will act nicely if they are treated nicely and that young human beings do not ever test boundaries. In fact, in the real world, teenagers always test boundaries. Of course, the line that they are pushing against is greatly influenced by factors such as family support and the home environment. As a last resort with the youth justice system, society can push back and say, 'No, that is a step too far.'

The Labor government seems to be supporting an approach that says any pushback from society is in itself damaging. Protecting our citizens by restraining juvenile offenders does not seem to be a real consideration. We first saw this clearly in June 2016. In a flurry of changes, Labor scrapped the LNP's breach of bail offences. Furthermore, juvenile records became inadmissible in court when sentencing the same offender for offences committed as an adult, so a simple birthday wiped the slate clean. Finally, Labor laws required that detention must be a last resort for juvenile offenders. Many juvenile offenders came to believe that there was no real penalty for any action. There was no line they should not cross.

A few months later, Labor changed the law so that 17-year-old offenders were no longer treated as adults. The rationale behind this change was debatable, but the immediate, real-world effect was that 17-year-old offenders had to be removed from adult detention centres. Unfortunately, Labor had not built any new juvenile detention centres or expanded any already existing. Labor seemed genuinely surprised when the overcrowding caused by its laws saw juvenile offenders being held in watch houses, with no protections from older offenders at all. Nor had any thought seemingly been given to the fact that Labor was placing an older criminal cohort back into the juvenile detention system, where they would inevitably become the top dog.

It did not take long for the real-world results to start showing up. They continue to this day. Last month the *Townsville Bulletin* reported that in the 10 years to February 2021 youth offending had increased as much as 800 per cent in some categories—yes, 800 per cent. Queensland Police Service data revealed that offending across all crimes such as assault, serious assault, unlawful use and unlawful entry is significantly higher than it was 10 years earlier.

In the past decade, drug offences by young offenders have more than doubled. Weapons offences are up 800 per cent. Offences against a person, which include crimes like robbery, rape, assault and serious assault, have increased 204 per cent. Troublingly, the *Bulletin* highlighted that the number of girls committing offences against a person had increased by 163 per cent, compared to an increase of 95 per cent for boys. While Townsville has been ground zero for this Labor inflicted problem, the trend has been statewide. We have even experienced this in Gregory. In the age of smartphones and social media, this should surprise no thinking adult.

As this unfolded across the years of Labor in government, what was Labor doing? It was doubling down on the ideology and posturing on the moral high ground. Meanwhile, it was failing in its duty to provide Queensland citizens with personal security and safety—surely a foundational responsibility of any government. Most troubling, Labor has failed a whole cohort of Queensland youth. Under Labor, we have failed in our duty as the adults responsible for these kids. Many of them will now be condemned to adult outcomes which will see them in and out of courts and prisons, struggling with addictions and struggling to maintain successful relationships. I find this absolutely distressing.

For seven years we have seen Labor essentially pretending that nothing was really wrong. Meanwhile, MPs were being told a very different story by constituents who found themselves the victims of these crimes. One of the crimes that has increased dramatically is stealing a car for a joyride. This involves first entering someone's home to steal the car keys, because most modern cars cannot be hotwired. In Gregory there is no public transport, so if someone steals your car it has a major impact on life and work for everyone in the family. More importantly, as events have shown, it puts the young offender at risk of their own lives. We have lost one 14-year-old boy in Gregory for this reason, but other young people across the state have died while joyriding in stolen cars. Young people have also killed innocent pedestrians while joyriding in stolen cars.

This policy of not punishing juvenile offenders has reaped a catastrophic harvest for every Queenslanders it has touched. As public outrage grew, Labor still tried to avoid restoring the juvenile justice laws. In 2016 it had a five-point youth justice plan which failed. In 2019 it had a four-point plan and then a second five-point action plan. These plans were mere puff. In August 2019, Labor amended the Youth Justice Act to insert a presumption in favour of bail for youth offenders. The results were almost instant. Local police explained to me how it worked for them. They reported that they would be asked by the court what other options they had considered before charging a young offender. They had a victim of crime making the complaint and DNA and CCTV evidence of the young offender committing the crime but still had to justify to the court why they had even proceeded to press charges. Repeat offenders were then released, laughing and abusing police on their way out of the Magistrates Court. It was clear to everyone that such behaviour could only escalate under this regime.

The bill we are debating today is a response to these predictable outcomes. It seeks to correct the mistakes by providing a legislative framework to trial the use of electronic monitoring devices on 16- and 17-year-old offenders who have committed a prescribed indictable offence and have previously been found guilty of one or more indictable offences, to be reviewed after 12 months. It will be interesting to see if this helps. I question why it is only for repeat offenders of serious offences. I also question why it is limited to the upper age range. Surely the one acceptable justification for this whole approach is early intervention. If such devices are to make a real difference, it is to keep those aged 14 and younger out of detention centres and in diversion programs.


The chances of successful intervention must also be greater when the seriousness of the crime is less and the record of the offender is short. Many have scoffed that the devices will become status symbols. There is much in the psychology of young people to suggest that wearing one of these devices will be seen as a badge of honour. I note the clauses referring to parents and guardians but feel that

for many young offenders these will be pointless. It is the lack of concerned parents and guardians that sees them in this position in the first place. This bill will see some parents and guardians pay lip-service to the court and continue an established pattern of neglect, because they simply lack the capacity to help the young person abide by their bail conditions.

The bill also creates a limited presumption against bail for certain young offenders. Those charged with certain prescribed indictable offences will be asked to show cause why bail should be granted. I sincerely hope that it will help these offenders to understand the nature of the bail bargain. I hope that it will encourage them to honour the bail bargain. We should note that the biggest disincentive for custodial arrangements is that Labor still has not addressed the lack of accommodation in youth detention centres. Labor knows it is a problem, because it has tried to fix it on the cheap with youth bail houses. In the three years these were operational, of the 255 youths residing in a youth bail house 210 went on to reoffend while living there. After three years the houses were scrapped, but the minister refused to admit that the experiment had failed.

While the LNP will support the passage of this bill, I remain very concerned at the way Labor has demolished Queensland's youth justice system and at the price being paid by innocent citizens and by the young offenders themselves. In a democracy, policies need public support to succeed. Labor has never had that public support for its approach to youth justice. This is not because Queenslanders are backwards. I believe that Queenslanders are vitally interested in ways to get young offenders back on track but also that the public deserves safety.

The government must provide safety first and then develop diversionary policies within a safe place, yet for the last seven years the Labor government has acted as if public safety has been the least important of its concerns. I do not believe this bill reflects a major change of direction, but I will support it in the hope that it will lead to some improvement in the appalling statistics on Queensland's youth crime. I commend this bill to the House.

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.19 pm): I rise this evening to support the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. In particular, I want to speak to the amendments that strengthen the criminal law in relation to hooning. Hooning is sadly too common on the streets of the electorate of Woodridge in the city of Logan, as it is in the city of Brisbane, Gold Coast, Townsville, Cairns, Mareeba and every town in-between. The staff of my electorate office can attest to the direct impact hooning has on the quality of life of local residents. Staff in my electorate office often receive numerous complaints in relation to hooning, with frustrated residents calling for more action by government to address their concerns.


Constituents contact my electorate office frequently to raise their concerns about hooning on local streets. Recently a resident of Heritage Park contacted my office to express concern on behalf of their family about the sharp rise in the number of extremely loud modified vehicles hooning in their neighbourhood. That family has lived in Heritage Park for over 20 years. As that constituent rightfully put it, there are laws that already exist in Queensland relating to the inappropriate use of modified vehicles. All she and her family ask is that members of the Queensland Police Service be given relevant powers and resources to enforce those laws, and that is exactly what this bill does.

Members of my community are tired of having their radios and TVs and their own voices drowned out inside their own homes. These frustrations are at the heart of the legislative reform being moved in the parliament. In addition, our government is also acting to improve safety on Queensland streets and in Queensland suburbs by making these legislative changes. Put plainly, reckless and dangerous driving, including hooning, damages lives and causes suffering and death. As the police minister, Mark Ryan, put it so clearly in his explanatory speech on the bill, each death in a traffic accident on a Queensland road is a heartbreaking and senseless waste of human potential.

Our government is acting through these legislative reforms to improve the amenity of life in Queensland suburbs and to improve safety on Queensland roads. If a vehicle is identified as committing a type 1 vehicle offence as identified in the bill, the vehicle owner will be held responsible for the offence except in circumstances where the vehicle is stolen or where the owner can show that another person was driving. This reverse onus provision is a significant change to the criminal law in Queensland and I am very pleased to have advocated for this change within the government on behalf of the Woodridge electorate and residents of the city of Logan. In addition, our government will support this change to the law by supporting the hardworking members of the Queensland Police Service, whom I pay tribute to today, with advanced camera technology to assist in the enforcement of hooning offences.

I take this opportunity in conclusion to thank and commend the Minister for Police, Mark Ryan, and the Minister for Children and Youth Justice, Leanne Linard, for bringing forward this very important bill to address hooning and youth crime challenges facing communities across Queensland. The

reasons for youth crime are complex and require a multifaceted approach by government and the community in response, and that is what our government is doing through these reforms and by record funding for diversionary and other programs being rolled out across the state. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (6.23 pm): The highest priority of any government is the safety and security of its citizens, and on this highest priority Labor has failed across the board systematically, profoundly and unforgivably. As members have heard me say many times before, in 2016 I saw firsthand the Palaszczuk government's overt soft-on-crime regime and the continued watering down of the Youth Justice Act was tipping the balance of power into the hands of juvenile offenders. We warned back then that youth crime would spiral out of control, that there would be many more innocent victims of crime and that that would eventually end in tears. Unfortunately it did.

It does not bring me any pleasure to stand here today to warn the government again that the amendments in the bill do nothing to tip the balance of power back into the hands of police, do nothing to put downward pressure on crime and do nothing to prevent further innocent lives being lost. The government might trumpet these amendments as a youth crime crackdown, but they are nothing but window-dressing and when we peel back the curtain all we see are minor tweaks to legal definitions that our police know will have no impact on the youth crime epidemic currently gripping communities across Queensland.

Since 2015 this Labor government can be credited with making a series of dire, short-sighted and ill informed policy decisions leading to a litany of tactical failures that embedded an insidious sickness in the youth justice system—a system which has spiralled into disarray and disrepair. Queensland was ravaged by this youth crime epidemic well before the COVID-19 pandemic inflicted yet another fear in our crime sieged suburbs. One does not need to be an expert contact tracer to identify the original source of this epidemic. In 2016 Labor made amendments to the Youth Justice Act that, among other things, scrapped the LNP's breach of bail offence but, most devastatingly, reinstated the youth justice principle that detention should be the last resort, and I will expand more on that later.

In September of that year Labor introduced the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which transitioned 17-year-old offenders from adult prisons to youth detention centres. This rushed transition involved no forward planning. Youth detention centres were already at capacity so, not surprisingly, we ended up with 90 young offenders being held in maximum security watch houses because there was nowhere else to put them. Around that time the then Labor attorney-general gave a presentation to police and others at a youth justice forum at South Brisbane. When asked how the government planned to accommodate 17-year-old prisoners in already full youth detention centres, the attendees were stunned to hear that the government would reform the youth bail laws to ensure more juvenile offenders would get bail. Then in June 2019, true to its word, Labor amended the Youth Justice Act to drastically weaken youth bail laws. Minister Farmer said at the time—

The bill removes legislative barriers to support bail decision-making so children can be appropriately released. The bill ... clearly state that there is a presumption in favour of release for a child.

The LNP voted against this and I said in my speech at the time—

This bill is a kneejerk reaction to keep kids out of custody when we should be focusing on stopping kids from committing crime, not just focusing on releasing criminals back into the community. Making it harder for police to hold juvenile offenders in custody might ease the overcrowding issue in our watch houses and youth detention facilities but it will only make the juvenile crime problem worse.

By now crime across Queensland was skyrocketing. In the Moreton district, for example, armed robbery was up 290 per cent, robbery up 240 per cent and unlawful use of a motor vehicle up 91 per cent, and they are just the reported crime rates. We know that, as has been reported, every night in communities across Queensland young criminals are breaking into houses stealing cars and driving dangerously. Police are powerless to stop them and are often not even entering evade police reports onto QPRIME, the official police database, because it is a pointless exercise and a waste of their time because, if and when the offenders are caught, it is a hard charge to prove and nothing happens to them anyway. The recorded crime rate is bad; the real crime rate is shocking.

But it is not just stolen cars. For the past six years our police have been chasing these juvenile offenders for serious crimes such as drive-by shootings, carjackings, stabbings and murders and not stealing Kit Kats like the police minister tried to have us believe. In March 2020 Labor announced a five-point action plan in a bid to hoodwink the electorate that it was tough on crime, but let us not forget that it had previously had a five-point plan in 2016 that failed and another four-point plan in 2019.

In stark contrast, in April 2020 the LNP tabled in parliament proposed amendments to restore the bail provisions and proposed to remove the principle of detention as a last resort, among other things. In July 2020 we moved a motion again outlining these issues and urged the government to take action. Labor once again failed to listen and arrogantly persisted with its weak and soon to be deadly laws. What came next? A devastating and unthinkable tragedy occurred on Australia Day while the government was still floundering with its youth crime laws.

What is the government doing about it? All of a sudden they start talking tough on crime and respond with another kneejerk piece of legislation that speaks more to politics than policy. On 9 February, three weeks after the Australia Day tragedy, the headlines shouted 'Tough new action to target repeat offenders', a key talking point being the Youth Justice Act will be amended to include a reference to the community being protected from recidivist youth offenders in the charter of youth justice principles. That sounds good. A few weeks later, on 25 February, the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced and, to the government's credit, it includes an amendment to the charter of youth justice principles to include reference to the community being protected from recidivist offenders.

Let us look closer at that tough sounding talking point. The first principle of the charter of youth justice principles has always been the community should be protected from offences. Adding a line to include 'from recidivist offenders' is an absolute joke. Who did this government think police prosecutors and magistrates have been trying to protect the community from? The victims? It is a headline that sounds great but achieves nothing.

The overarching youth justice principle that overrides all others, and one this government continually refuses to address, is principle No. 18 which states 'a child should be detained in custody for an offence, whether on arrest, remand or sentence, only as a last resort', a principle which was removed by the LNP when in government and reintroduced by this government in 2016.


This principle is enshrined in case law, of note *R v. SCU* 2017, which is often successfully cited to ensure dangerous juvenile offenders are released from or not held in custody. Specifically, in relation to principle 18 the Supreme Court in this case talks about the provision being repealed in 2014 and adds weight to it being reinserted in the Youth Justice Act in 2016. Paragraph 84 states—

The injunction in the Act that detention is to be regarded as a sentence of last resort, to be imposed only when the court is positively satisfied that there is no other possible alternative, is, therefore, not merely a platitude or a bromide. It is an emphatic parliamentary order enacted with express deliberation.

Which brings me now to the GPS monitoring devices. Are they just another possible alternative that police and the court must exhaust before a juvenile offender can be held in custody? I heard the minister explain in his second reading speech yesterday, and I will be happily corrected if I am wrong, that Corrective Services will monitor these devices and may advise youth justice or police if the offender breaches their bail. The question I have for the minister, and what all police are eager to learn, is what information will police have access to? Will they have access to real-time monitoring data? We already know these juveniles are breaching bail. Sending police advice long after the fact that an offender breached their bail is pointless unless police have access to real-time data to help track and apprehend the offender before they commit further crimes and to better protect the community.

Government members interjected.

Mr PURDIE: Excellent. Previous trials of monitoring devices have failed because police received delayed advice that a breach of bail had been electronically recorded. GPS devices that act solely as electronic bail checks are a waste of time and money. The measures contained in this bill fall short of what is required to resolve the issues and better protect Queenslanders, simply providing Labor with a few tough sounding soundbites. Communities are living in fear and calling for tough laws, particularly in North Queensland where not just the police but local mayors have been calling on the state government for backup. Under this Labor state government Queensland is soft on crime one day, soft on crime the next. In the absence of any real attempts to crack down on crime I support the bill.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (6.33 pm): Any crime committed in our community is unacceptable. When it is committed by a young person it is even more concerning because it means that we have young people making bad choices for themselves that could have detrimental effects on their lives for many years to come. We need to ensure that we can break the cycle of crime before it becomes entrenched. Experienced police officers in my region tell me that sending a young person to a detention centre should be our last port of call. They tell me that in detention centres young people learn to develop their skills and this is where property crimes rise. The young people learn how not to get caught. That is why across the state we are rolling out support for communities that deliver targeted programs.

Community safety is of paramount concern to this government. That is why we have brought this bill before parliament. The actions we are taking build on our five-point action plan and are making a difference. The number of youth offenders is at its lowest point in a decade. It is actually down by 30 per cent. When youth crime is highly publicised it may not seem like it because it puts things out of perspective. The focus of this bill is on a small cohort of hard-core repeat youth offenders who account for 10 per cent of all the offending.

Our new laws will reverse the onus so that young offenders charged with serious indictable offences while on bail will need to show the court why they are not at risk of reoffending and are not a danger to the community before they can be granted bail. We are giving the courts the power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist them to comply with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. Young people need to have support. It also enshrines in legislation that when a young offender commits an offence while on bail the court will consider that an aggravating factor and sentence them accordingly. It will allow courts to consider the option of electronic GPS monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail.

Communities can help to make a difference in young people's lives. Before I go to some of the programs in our community I would like to give a shout-out to Justin Giblett, a young man in my community who is running an alternate learning centre called the Kutta Mulla Gorinna Special Assistance School. This young man set about getting school status for his school. There are 60 students enrolled at the school at the moment. The school has been going for 18 months. The majority of these children have been through youth justice. These kids are turning up to school every day and are not going back through the court system. If we have people like Justin Giblett in our communities we can keep young people out of our cars, out of our homes and out of the court system. I thank Justin and his team.

Mackay police are actively targeting youth offenders. The CIB and officers from the Child Protection and Investigation Unit are doing great work. We have police working closely with youth justice workers in youth responder teams as part of our five-point action plan. They work together on rotation with night and day shifts from Wednesdays through to Saturdays. Ten at-risk young people are currently enrolled in Project Booyah, an award-winning program aimed at turning young lives around. Operation Sierra Gorton is up and running and is about intensive case management and monitoring of repeat young offenders to ensure that they comply with their bail conditions. The police are working on a campaign to prevent male-on-male violence. The police are working with local advertising companies on this initiative. They have paper bags in bottle shops printed with the words 'violence-free area'. They are getting that message out wherever they can.

The Mackay District Community Policing Board has representatives from the police, the Domestic Violence Resource Centre, Headspace, Mackay Regional Council, the Mackay Youth Justice Centre, Mackay probation and parole officers, CQ University, the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Northern Australia Primary Health and the Yuwibara elders. All of these people are working together to support our young people.

I would like to focus on the proposed new laws around bail. The best thing about what we are doing with bail for youth offenders is that we are bringing in a better and more effective system. We are reversing the presumption of bail. We are focusing on the serious repeat youth offenders who will need to prove why they should get bail, which means that those offenders will be refused bail unless they can convince the bail decision-makers that they are not a risk to community safety.


Once serious repeat offenders come back before the courts the issue becomes, what happens to them next? It is about ensuring a guardian or a parent is available to support them on release and to ensure that they have the appropriate supports available on release to prevent them from reoffending. We are looking closely at the involvement of parents and guardians in the court process. We want to ensure that those supports are in place to assist parents and guardians to manage those troubled kids because not every adult has the skills that they need to turn those kids around.

The current bail framework provides that youth have a presumption for release on bail. We believe that when a youth offender commits a serious indictable offence while already on bail that presumption should be removed and that it is up to the young offender to show the court why their detention is not justified. That in effect reverses the previous presumption. The type of offences that pose a significant risk of harm to the community include unlawful use of a motor vehicle, robbery, assault occasioning bodily harm and sex offences.

The LNP is being careless with the truth on bail issues. Breach of bail never existed under the previous LNP government. There are many ways to breach bail, including failure to comply with a curfew and failure to reside in an approved residence. None of those breaches were ever an offence

under the Newman government. It was only an offence if committed while on bail. The LNP has been loose with the truth. This law did not work as a deterrent and was irregularly used by the courts given that it was so ineffective and unworkable. As a consequence, under the LNP's laws an offender would receive a lesser penalty. The evidence shows us that while the LNP's offence was on the legislative books between March 2014 and June 2016 it did nothing to deter or reduce crime.

In closing, I pay tribute to our local police. I know that they are working very hard to keep our communities safe. I also pay tribute to all of those in Mackay's tightknit community. I encourage them to continue with the important work they are doing to support our local police. The Mackay myPolice blog highlights community safety advice and information, and encourages people to reach out and report local crimes. From January to March this year, on average there were 60,718 views a month and 2,431 people subscribed to the Mackay myPolice blog.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.43 pm): Youth crime is one of the biggest challenges facing Queensland. It is ripping communities apart. My part of the Gold Coast has felt that more than most. In Parkwood and Arundel having cars stolen, tools taken out of the back of utes or getting your house broken into seems to be happening more and more often. In Labrador people are being terrorised by groups of young thugs who know they face few consequences. It has become so bad in Biggera Waters that the residents have banded together to hire a private security company to patrol their Harbour Quays estate. Let us think about that: that community has gone through so many incidents and they feel so unsafe in their own homes that they have hired security to patrol their streets at night.

There is one main aspect of this bill that I would like to focus on. It has come before this parliament as a direct result of a tragedy in my community, which is the loss of 17-year-old Jack Beasley—Jacko—in December 2019. Because of the advocacy of those closest to him, these laws will trial giving police the powers to conduct searches with metal detector wands and hopefully find any hidden knives. This delivers the foundational purpose of the Jack Beasley Foundation, which started with the campaign motto 'Detect knives, save lives'.

Belinda Beasley spoke so bravely at the Gold Coast public hearing as part of this inquiry. Standing up in front of a parliamentary committee to talk about the trauma you have gone through is hard enough, but by some heartbreaking coincidence the hearing was held barely 100 metres from where Jack was allegedly murdered. To tell her story his mother had to walk past the place where her son lost his life, but she did it and I want to get her words on the record of this debate because they are powerful and important. Belinda said about that devastating night—

This is something that should never have happened and has affected so many people and will continue to affect them.

Jack and Ariki had been stabbed and had been taken by ambulance to Gold Coast University Hospital. We raced up to the hospital as soon as we got the call. Sitting in that hospital room that night was just the beginning of our nightmare—not knowing if Jack was going to make it or not, constantly being updated on his condition by the great staff at Gold Coast University Hospital and then the cardiac surgeon walks in the door and says one word: 'Sorry.' Our world shattered with that one word, and seeing our son Mitch fall to the floor at being told Jack, his little brother, did not make it through surgery was heartbreaking. There are so many traumatic images that we have imprinted on our minds forever. Ariki was so very lucky to survive, but he has to live with those images and what happened to him losing his mate. He is still trying to come to terms with it.

Jack was 17. He was three months off turning 18. He was a character, always the life of the party. He was the energy in the room and he was loved by everyone. He had got his first car, his licence and completed his first year of his flooring apprenticeship and had such a bright future ahead of him. We will never get to see him finish his apprenticeship, travel, get married, have kids and so much more. Jack had so many plans. He loved life and he loved his family and friends.

Our lives will never be the same and many others have also been affected by this senseless act of violence.

Tonight I reaffirm my commitment that Jack's death will not be in vain. His name will mean something and it will lead to change. We will do everything we can to stop any other family or community from going through this. The broader part of what the Jack Beasley Foundation does is so important too. It is about cultural change. They have already been meeting with young people who have been caught with knives to talk to them about the impact that knives have had on their lives. They have put together an education program to explain to young people the consequences of their actions and to urge them to think before taking a knife when they head out.

We could have the toughest laws in the world but they mean nothing if we do not fix the toxic and pervasive knife culture that exists among some young people. The Queensland Police Service has provided outstanding support for this but they need more resources. I have written to several ministers asking for this, and I urge the government to assist the Jack Beasley Foundation to make sure that as many young people see their cultural change program as possible. I place on the record my sincere thanks to the exceptional Mark Wheeler. For the past year and a bit, just before his promotion, he was the Gold Coast chief superintendent, and these changes would not have happened without the huge amount of work he put in behind the scenes.

Yesterday the *Gold Coast Bulletin* reported that in the 12 months to June 2020 there have been 4, 323 people charged with possessing a knife in a public place or a school. One of those was aged under 10 years, 241 were aged 10 to 14 years and 495 were 15- to 17-year-olds. Those are staggering numbers. The overall number of people caught carrying knives has increased 40 per cent in the past three years. Another submitter to the Gold Coast hearing on this bill shared that kids often feel they have to carry knives as protection because everyone else is carrying one.

In response to that, the bill before us proposes a two-year trial of handheld scanners in two safe night precincts on the Gold Coast, being Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach. Within this trial, a senior police officer will need to authorise the use of the scanners for no more than 12 hours at a time without further authorisation. There are safeguards in place to make sure officers follow a clear procedure and provide an explanation to those being scanned. I understand that there are some who have been uncomfortable with the wands, but they are unobtrusive and, ultimately, if you are not carrying anything illegal on our streets then you should have no cause for concern. There is no reason to take a hunting knife into the middle of Surfers Paradise.


I seek further clarification from the minister on how this trial will be assessed, what data will be collected and how it will be deemed a success or failure. Will this look into who the police have scanned and what they find? How will the public be made aware of the trial so that it can work as a deterrent? It is unfortunate that it will take a two-year trial and a further 12-month review before we see this potentially expanded into other areas, as I believe it is especially needed in our transport hubs like Helensvale station. I am proud of the role my community has played in making these changes a reality. I again urge the government to provide more resources towards preventive education programs.

Hooning continues to be a major problem in my part of the Gold Coast. I hear it most nights of the week on the street where I live in Parkwood. That is probably because we are one of the more densely populated parts of Queensland. It seems that, no matter where you are, you will see or hear one of these hoons driving recklessly and very loudly at least a couple of times a week. Some of the hotspots are Turpin Road in Labrador, Marine Parade, Frank Street and Parkwood Boulevard. I find it staggering that the minister himself said that hooning traffic complaints received by police have increased by 132 per cent in the past five years. It should never have been allowed to get so far out of control.

More broadly, I note the concerns regarding the presumption against bail and that the prescribed offences cover over 100 different offences. Submitters raised that this will reach beyond the 10 per cent of offenders whom these changes seek to address. I think that is valid, because it is on this small number of offenders causing the majority of issues in our communities where our focus should remain. What I want to see change are the stories we hear of kids being charged with their 50th, 60th or 70th offence only to be given a slap on the wrist. I have heard from police officers locally who are sick of spending their time finding offenders only to have them immediately released to reoffend.

Youth justice is complex and we need to look at the longer term outcomes for young offenders and to have better preventive measures. Right now our community has very little faith in our justice system to deliver these outcomes. With few consequences for some of these offenders, they will just keep reoffending. We need change. This mishmash approach is a start, but it falls well short.

I place on record my utmost support for my local police officers. In addition to everyone at the Southport and Runaway Bay stations, we are very proud to have in my electorate the Arundel Police Beat as well as the massive Arundel police facility, which I think holds around 130 staff. It has capacity to fill that to 200 and I would like for that to happen as soon as possible. We are so proud to have all of them protecting us and serving our community.

 **Mr WALKER** (Mundingburra—ALP) (6.53 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. Let me be clear: this bill is incredibly important for the people I represent in the electorate of Mundingburra, for the Townsville region and for Far North Queensland as a whole. Although the number of youth offenders is at its lowest level in a decade—down around 30 per cent—the people of my electorate and everyone in Townsville are concerned about the behaviour of the hardcore 10 per cent of youth offenders. This bill specifically focuses on this cohort of high-risk recidivist offenders who commit 48 per cent of all youth crime—young people who are a risk to themselves and members of our community. These young people are going out into the streets of our city at night, entering properties, committing stealing offences and driving dangerously in stolen vehicles, brazenly placing our community at risk.

I have made a commitment to my constituents to be their local voice. When it comes to community safety, I know that this government will always listen and will always act. As long as there is crime in our cities and towns, we have an obligation to explore every possible plan and make amendments to legislation. I know that this government will respond accordingly to ensure each and every person in Queensland is safe in their homes and on the streets.

One of the things this bill makes clear is that offending while on bail is an aggravating factor. If a young offender commits an offence while on bail, the court will take that into consideration and sentence them accordingly. The biggest concern raised with my office relates to this issue exactly. There is a perception that young offenders treat our courts as a revolving door, reoffending on bail time and time again. We will provide the courts with clear guidelines on reversing the presumption of bail—outlining the expectation that, rather than the police prosecutors bearing responsibility to prove that an offender should not be granted bail, the young person holds the burden of responsibility to prove why they should be granted bail.

In situations where the courts consider that bail is an appropriate response, in the Townsville region they will have an opportunity to utilise electronic GPS monitoring devices for high-risk offenders aged 16 and 17. Providing the courts with another means of ensuring that these high-risk offenders can be monitored where they are considered eligible for bail means a quicker response if these young people err again. This trial will take place in Townsville, north Brisbane, Logan, Moreton and the Gold Coast for a 12-month period and will allow for the court to require fitting of an electronic GPS monitoring device as a condition of bail for a recidivist offender.

This trial is a big step and comes at the recommendation of respected former police commissioner Bob Atkinson, who recommended that the government examine the use of electronic monitoring of high-risk youth offenders in his *Report on youth justice*. While there are many in this House with experience in law enforcement and youth justice matters, I doubt there is anyone who can claim that their experience in this field is greater than that of former police commissioner Bob Atkinson. We are listening to the experts and we are gathering the evidence needed to reduce youth reoffending among this high-risk recidivist group.

These electronic GPS monitoring devices will allow Queensland Corrective Services to monitor the movements of the youth offender while they are on bail to ensure they comply with their bail conditions, curfews and restrictions. The GPS devices already in use by Queensland Corrective Services for a range of adult offenders are tamper-resistant. If a young recidivist offender tries to break or cut the strap, an immediate critical alert will be generated. Townsville police have these GPS devices on hand and ready for use right now.

In addition to the measures contained within this bill, this government's five-point action plan to address youth crime is producing results. The government's commitment to boost police numbers by 2,025 over five years will provide police with the capacity to not only respond to crime but also disrupt and prevent crime. This commitment includes 150 extra police personnel for the Townsville police region and 50 new police personnel for a dedicated police communications centre.

This government's successful Project Booyah is helping curb youth crime through early intervention and education in Townsville and all across the state. This is a multiagency initiative targeting at-risk youth who are involved in criminal behaviour or substance abuse or who are disengaged from the education system. It goes above and beyond to give them skills for life and employability through police mentoring, leadership, adventure based learning and vocational pathways.


Project Booyah is just one example of the range of successful programs that are producing results for the 90 per cent of youth offenders who do not reoffend and who become productive members of our society. Having attended many Project Booyah graduation ceremonies in my previous role as a city councillor and deputy mayor, I can tell members that the sense of pride and achievement these young people express upon successfully completing this program is immense. The majority of these young people are so grateful for the opportunity to change the direction of their lives and to have real, positive and tangible goals for their futures.

The Palaszczuk government knows that an issue of this magnitude must be tackled on many levels by professional staff who are well resourced. That is why the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is so important in targeting this small but dangerous cohort of recidivist youth offenders. This is our obligation as a government, both to our community and to these young people. This government is not afraid to take the action required to produce results and we are not afraid to listen to our communities. I commend this bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Walker, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Talara Primary College; Health System; Road Infrastructure

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (7.00 pm): Thank you to Talara Primary College for visiting Parliament House yesterday. There were some 152 students who visited. It is great to see students back in the parliament. They missed their opportunity last year. I visited all 152 students. I pay special tribute to young Jayden who said to me downstairs, 'Mr Bleijie, I'm your biggest fan.' I said to Jayden, 'If only 10-year-olds could vote. That would be great.' One day he will. Thank you to Talara Primary College for visiting their house, the people's house. It was great to see all 152 year 6 students.


The hospital crisis in Queensland is disgraceful. The Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, which I campaigned for, I championed and for which I stood in the hot sun with my community and protested about when the Labor government delayed the delivery of the hospital—they delayed it under Andrew Fraser and the Bligh government—the LNP built on time and under budget. It is disgraceful to see what is happening with ambulance ramping and all of the other issues.

Last week I was advised that when the Sunshine Coast Public University Hospital, like other hospitals, was subject to code yellows over 20 surgeries were cancelled in a day. That is shameful. That lies at the feet of this Premier. This Premier has failed when it comes to the state hospital system. People are missing out on surgery because of ambulance ramping which, under her watch, has increased by over 40 per cent across Queensland.

When Anna Bligh was premier, Premier Palaszczuk sat around the cabinet table with her when she said that Queensland Health was a basket case and she was going to abolish Queensland Health and set up two units, and Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk agreed. That was when ambulance ramping was a lot less than 40 per cent. What is this Premier going to do about ambulance ramping on the Sunshine Coast when it is over 40 per cent now? Does this Premier think now, after she sat around the cabinet table with Anna Bligh and said that Queensland Health was a basket case, that is not the case anymore? Has she changed her mind?

Minister Mark Bailey rocked up to Kawana in his limo in his lycra the other day and then got his bicycle out of the boot of the limo to make out that he was riding around. The limo did have a big drive up the highway. With the mayor he opened the Parklands Boulevard upgrade that I have been campaigning for. What is needed now is the Meridan Way Connector Road. We need government investment to connect Meridan Way to Kawana Way Link Road to properly bust congestion on the Sunshine Coast. This Premier and this Labor government continue to fail the Sunshine Coast. What is the Premier going to do about it? I am glad the Premier is in the chamber tonight.

Inala Electorate, 'Golden Girls'

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (7.03 pm): In Inala we have been blessed by the 'Golden Girls'—Evie Wolffe, Glenda McKoy and Ethel Murray. Evie, Glenda and Ethel were devoted over many years to south-west community groups. With wisdom and humour they demonstrated service and value to their community that we all can aspire to in our senior years.

In 2018 I paid tribute to Evie, who passed away in May that year. In September last year family and friends said goodbye to Glenda. Just this month there was a service for Ethel at Albany Creek. Inala has lost three of the 'Golden Girls'. We are the poorer for the loss, but the richer for their involvement in our lives.


Glenda was a past president of the Inala branch of the Pensioners and Superannuants League. Glenda was a tireless worker on their bus trips until ill health forced her to take things easier. She was heavily involved in our community, including the Hub. I agree with my friend Milton Dick who said, 'Her smiling face was always welcome in the most trying and difficult of times.' I offer my sympathy to Glenda's daughter, Carol, and sons, Graham, Colin and Mark.

Ethel was also an asset to our community. Her funeral service acknowledged her involvement with the Salvation Army and setting up Alani for Seniors. I echo the words of Charles Strunk, who described Ethel as a kind-hearted and considerate person who put the needs of others before her own. Ethel was more than that. She was salt of the earth, who never asked for anything from anyone, but always asked what she could do for others, especially those in her community. She took them to hospital. She took them to appointments. She dropped in and saw them. She was always there with a friendly smile and a phone call. Tonight I extend my sympathy to her brother, George, and sister-in-law, Yvonne, and their children and grandchildren—Ethel's nieces and nephews.

In 2018 I mentioned Evie's guiding principles: faith, family and community. I think that applies to all of the 'Golden Girls'. On behalf of the Inala community, I place on record our appreciation for them. As the local member, I will personally be forever grateful for their volunteering. The theme song of the *Golden Girls* TV program was *Thank You for Being a Friend*. There is no better sentiment for Evie, Glenda and Ethel.

I thank them for their service. I thank them for their dedication. I thank them for their example. I thank them for being our friends. They were always on our polling booths and handing things out. They were members of the Labor Party. It is very sad to have to stand in House to talk about their passing, but what they contributed to our community—their legacy—will live on for many years to come. I am very honoured to have known them in my life.

Gold Coast Light Rail

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.06 pm): Last week we learned the contract for the next stage of Gold Coast Light Rail from Broadbeach to Burleigh has been delayed. The contract has not been signed because this government has changed the contract conditions, adding approximately \$100 million to the cost of the project after the business case and the costings were finalised.

The minister in charge of procurement made a grubby deal with the CFMMEU prior to the last state election to apply a pattern bargain to the conditions of this project. The government calls this best practice industrial relations. Make no mistake, this is an attempt to expand pattern bargains to all government projects to the benefit of their union mates. The project has not been signed off. It has been delayed. The business case has been done. It has been fully costed. Now the government is changing the rules to aid their union mates.

My concern around this issue is so great that on Monday I wrote to the Auditor-General to ask his office to investigate the financial impact of the government's application of its best practice policy—pattern bargaining—on Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A and a number of other projects. I table that letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 19 April 2021, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Auditor-General of Queensland, Mr Brendan Worrall, regarding the light rail project [\[537\]](#).


I wrote to the Auditor-General and asked him to have a look at Gold Coast Light Rail stage 3A, Townsville stadium—because I understand it cost \$43 million more than it should have because of this very thing—the Capricornia Correctional Centre and the Cairns Convention Centre upgrade. Recently we learned that the Gatton correctional centre was \$30 million over budget because five extra beds were added, if members can believe that. There is Cross River Rail now as well.

I also wrote to Minister Bailey on 30 March asking him to attend a community forum in my electorate to talk to my electors about the issues with light rail stage 4 as it comes, as he has planned, into Palm Beach down the Gold Coast Highway. I said to the minister, 'Let me know by 12 April if you can come.' I have given him a six-week period within which he can pick a time to come. I have said I will protect him—and he needs my protection from the people of Palm Beach! I table that letter to Minister Bailey.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 30 March 2021, from the member for Burleigh, Mr Michael Hart MP, to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Hon. Mark Bailey, regarding an invitation to attend a community forum concerning the Light Rail Stage 4 project [\[536\]](#).

The minister has not responded to my letter. This is a government that tells us they are open, transparent and accountable but they will not consult with my electorate. What are they hiding because, quite frankly, we do not know?

Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Tao, Mr EL

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (7.10 pm): I rise to acknowledge the appointment of a new Director-General of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Brisbane—Mr Edward Ling-wen Tao. Director-General Tao was born in Sydney—which is almost as good as Brisbane—and joined the Taiwanese foreign service in 1995. He has worked in various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and served five tours of duty respectively in Canada, the United States, Indonesia and St Lucia. They are fantastic places, but again they are not as good as Brisbane. Director-General Tao is married and has two daughters.

He was educated at the University of Oxford and also at the National Taiwan University. He had an extensive resume prior to his most recent appointment. From 2018 to 2021, he was the Executive Director of Public Affairs at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Canada. In 2017, he was Minister Counsellor at the embassy in St Lucia. From 2013 to 2016, he was the Assistant Director-General in the Department of International Information Services at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.


From 2011 to 2013, he was the Director of Consular Affairs at the Taipei Economic and Trade Office in Indonesia. From 2007 to 2010, he was the Director of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Atlanta. From 2005 to 2007, he was the Section Chief at the Department of North American Affairs. From 2004 to 2005, he was the Secretary of the Department of North American Affairs. From 1998 to 2004, he was the Secretary of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Vancouver. From 1994 to 1998, he was an officer of the Department of North American Affairs. Finally, in 1994, he was a journalist at Trade Winds Magazine.

We are very fortunate to have such an experienced director-general to come into our community. He has served his 14 days quarantine. I can attest that Director-General Tao has hit the ground running. He has visited my office. He is visiting community groups. He is visiting the many Taiwanese leaders and groups in our community. I am very lucky—and we are lucky in Brisbane—to have one of the largest Taiwanese communities outside of Taiwan in the world. They have made a huge contribution socially, economically and also to the arts, as I know the minister is well aware of.

Ms Enoch: Absolutely.

Mr Pegg: I take that interjection. I pay tribute to Director-General Tao's predecessor Bruce Hung, who made an outstanding contribution to our local community. The trade relationship between Queensland and Taiwan remains tremendously strong. We have a Trade Investment Queensland office in Taipei. There are extremely strong links, and they will only continue to build—and a big part of that is the work that the director-general has done and will do here in Brisbane into the future.

Scenic Rim Electorate, Cedar Grove and Cedarvale Roads Intersection

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.13 pm): Once again this Labor government is short-changing the Scenic Rim electorate when it comes to the Mount Lindesay Highway. This time it is when it comes to the traffic lights to be installed at the Cedar Grove and Cedarvale roads intersection on the Mount Lindesay Highway. I spoke about this project here in the House some time ago, calling on Main Roads to ensure that 'turn left at any time with care' signs were installed at Cedar Grove and Cedarvale roads when they install traffic lights there.

The project itself is not without controversy. Some residents want it to go ahead; others do not want it to go ahead. I called on TMR to put in those signs to avoid stopping all traffic on the highway for just one or two vehicles that might be turning left on to the highway, especially during the middle of the day when traffic is lighter around those areas. That is a very inefficient move and unnecessary.

Indeed, a letter from the director-general, which I will table, has indicated that there have only been six incidents at this intersection within the last five years—none involving a left-hand turn. Stopping an entire highway for people turning left on to the highway could, in fact, be creating another safety risk, especially with trucks coming downhill from the Beaudesert side towards that intersection. Just yesterday we saw what can happen when trucks are involved in untoward events when there were chicken guts all over the road at Jimboomba.


Tabled paper: Letter, dated 20 April 2021, from the Director-General, Department of Transport and Main Roads, Mr Neil Scales, to the member for Scenic Rim, Mr Jon Krause MP, regarding the upgrade to Mount Lindesay Highway [538].

The government is short-changing us because of the shifting reasons for why it cannot install these 'turn left at any time with care' signs at Cedar Grove and Cedarvale roads. First it was about the standards—that the road construction standards required there to be lights on left-hand turns. In his letter, the director-general actually says that the standards say they should 'generally' be avoided—not 'must' be avoided but should 'generally' be avoided. So TMR could use their initiative, if they chose to do so, and install 'turn left at any time with care' signs there under their own standards.

The second reason that was given was that they would impact on the supposed upgrades of bus stops in the area. There is one bus stop in the area. I have been calling for it to be upgraded. That has not been mentioned at all until I have queried this decision about not installing these slip lanes a couple of times. They say it could impact on that and that it could also impact on other areas of the construction.

I do not buy any of these excuses because the other excuse they gave is that it will add \$2 million to the cost to install 'turn left at any time with care' lanes in this intersection upgrade. That is the reason it is not being done. That is the reason why this government is short-changing all of our residents who use the Mount Lindesay Highway yet again by failing to do the right thing with this intersection upgrade.

Casey, Mrs G

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (7.16 pm): I am sure each of us all know how important our electorate office staff are. Gwen Casey is my assistant electorate officer. She has seen 14 more mango seasons than I have seen—which means she is going to retire, and she

is retiring with her husband as of Friday next week. Gwen was my very first staff member I interviewed—in fact, she interviewed me for the job.

I remember going to hear Wayne Bennett talk at a luncheon. He talked about surrounding yourself with really good people—really good people who will challenge your thinking, who will not be the ‘yes’ person in your office but when you make that decision they will back you 110 per cent. This is what I get from Gwen each and every day. She is an absolutely amazing woman. When she interviewed me for the job and I offered her the job, she accepted it and we have been together ever since. It has been a fantastic six years.

Gwen is the glue in our office. She is a very compassionate person. I have seen her spend hours sitting with elderly people in particular, helping them complete forms and applications and making sure that they get it right and that they are really comfortable about what they are doing. On the other hand, I have also seen her not suffer fools. She handles some of the phone calls we get in our office with absolute finesse, but she lets them know where they stand and, quite often, where they do not stand. As I said, she is the glue in our office.

We have had some great highs—winning campaigns and elections. She has been there with us for those, but there have also been some deep lows. When my electorate officer, Niki, lost her husband in a fatal accident, Gwen was there. Gwen took her under her wing and treated Niki like her own daughter and helped her through that. These are the sorts of things we see in our electorate offices. They are like family to us—so when Gwen leaves she will leave a hole in our office. I have not been to see the Clerk yet, but when Gwen leaves I am going to ask him for three people to replace her! I am not happy about how that is going to go. We all know how important our staff are.

I am sure that Gwen and her husband, Arthur, are going to spend their time in retirement doing exactly what they want to do—they love travelling. On behalf of Niki and I, Gwen, we love you dearly. You will be sorely missed. You are always welcome in the door. We will put on the billy and make you a cup of tea. Gwen, thank you and I wish you all the very best.

Feral Pigs



Mr KNUTH (Hill—KAP) (7.19 pm): I want to give a big shout-out to our recreational feral pig hunters in Queensland. Feral pigs are the biggest environmental vandals in this country. They are worse than cane toads or feral cats. They dig up turtle eggs, kill cassowaries, and cause hundreds of millions of dollars in crop damage and massive destruction to our native wildlife. It is estimated there are 24 million feral pigs across Australia.

Last year a study was conducted by Australian Pork as part of the federal government's Feral Pig Action Plan. In a news article the study coordinator, Dr Heather Channon, stated that 70 per cent of feral pigs need to be culled annually to keep the population size from expanding. She also said that if the culling of feral pigs stopped, there would be an increase of up to 85 per in the feral pig population each year. I table the article from *Queensland Country Life*.

Tabled paper: Article from *Queensland Country Life* online, dated 24 July 2020, titled ‘Feral pigs: \$100m damages bill only tip of the iceberg’ [\[539\]](#).

If feral pigs are not kept in check we will see widespread devastation to our farming industries, the spread of Panama disease, and the destruction of our native fauna and flora. Governments have failed to address the feral pig problem, but thank goodness we have recreational feral pig hunters. Not only do they reduce pig numbers in their own time and at their own expense but they also contribute to the local economy; for example, by purchasing vehicles, four wheelers, fuel, camping gear, pig crates, and the list goes on.

However, the government has now announced a review of Queensland's Animal Care and Protection Act with the RSPCA. This is straight after a Toowoomba woman was fined \$5,000 for a video of her dog latching onto a feral pig. There are huge concerns from farmers and industry bodies that this review is being used to mask the introduction of more regulation to limit the cull of feral pigs. Any targeting of feral pig hunting will spark a massive uproar. Instead of targeting recreational pig hunters, we should be rewarding them with a bounty program and giving them permits to access national parks and state forests, which are breeding grounds for feral pigs. Our rural communities are warning the government to listen to the people in rural and regional Queensland rather than a minority of southern radicals who display more sympathy for the feral pig than our native wildlife. Once again I give a big shout-out to our recreational pig hunters.

Goodwin, Mr HJ



Mr SAUNDERS (Maryborough—ALP) (7.22 pm): I rise tonight in the House because 28 March 2021 was a very sad day in Maryborough with the passing of Henry Joseph Goodwin, better known as Harry. Harry was a life member of the Australian Labor Party and the longest serving Scoutmaster—or Falcon, as they called him. I have known Harry for many, many years. He was a true gentleman.

Harry Goodwin was one of the living legends of our branch. Harry was the last connection the Labor Party branch in Maryborough had to whom we felt was the greatest Labor man from our area, Billy Demaine. Harry contributed a lot not only to the Australian Labor Party in Maryborough but also to the Maryborough community. Harry served on the council for 16 years in the old alderman days and was instrumental in a lot of the changes that came through Maryborough city in those days. I first met Harry many years ago when I was in Maryborough as a young radio announcer. Harry was on the council and he always had a vision, like the other councillors, for Maryborough city.

One of Harry's specialities was his sponge cake. Harry made the best sponge cake you will ever taste, and when we used to have party functions or someone would have a birthday Harry always came with a sponge cake. I can tell you that Harry's sponge cake is going to be greatly missed in Maryborough because he had a unique recipe. He would never tell us what he put in those cakes, but they were very nice. If he ever put them in bakeries throughout Queensland his family would have become very wealthy.

It is men like Harry who built the great city we live in today. People served on councils for very little money in those days. They went to work during the day. Council meetings were at night. They had a sandwich and a cup of tea, and they always put their community above everything else. At Harry's funeral his family talked about how the community came first with Harry. When Harry went to shake your hand or put his hand up, because he worked in sawmills there were quite a few digits missing from his years working in sawmills. Harry also served our country in the Air Force in World War II.

Harry is going to be greatly missed. He was one of the last true gentleman. I can honestly say that all in of the years I have known Harry—about 36-odd years—I cannot recall him ever swearing. He was just that type of man. So to Harry and his family—or Falcon, as the Scouts call him—you are going to be greatly missed. Another great Labor man has passed away. Maryborough is going to miss you, Harry.

Social Housing



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise to speak on the important issue of social and affordable housing in Queensland. From the cape to Coolangatta we simply need more affordable and public housing. Specifically, I want to bring to the attention of the House the lack of investment in social housing by this government since coming to office in 2015.

In January I reported that there are close to 26,397 applications still on the social housing waitlist, including 16,270 who are considered in critical need. This waitlist includes more than 2,700 families from the Gold Coast. Recently we have heard the government crow about their Housing Construction Jobs Program. This program runs from 2017 to 2027. It is 10 years and includes an investment of only about \$180 million a year. This investment is hardly making a dent in the waitlist. Meanwhile, we have thousands of people living on our streets, couch surfing from one place to another, mothers living in cars and struggling to get their kids off to school. It is an epidemic in its own right. Even the Victorian Labor government has announced its plans for a \$5.3 billion investment in social housing and 12,000 new units over the next four years.

As we know, Labor axed the LNP's social housing program back in 2015 and cut the Logan and Gold Coast housing revitalisation projects. Had these projects been fully realised, we would have seen significantly more social and affordable housing in South-East Queensland. Earlier this year I pulled together a task force of local housing businesses and service providers on the Gold Coast and interested parties, including architect Barry Lee, Frances Paterson-Fleider, Rachel Vidler and Connie Crookshanks from Community Housing Limited, Tony Cossor from LifeConnect and Sheila Ponting from Gold Coast Rotary. Together, we are determined to fight the battle for more public and affordable housing on the Gold Coast.


We recently toured the successful Common Ground facility in South Brisbane. Our goal, quite simply, is to see Common Ground established on the Gold Coast. We need more long-term accommodation models for people with disability and mental health issues. I want to thank Common Ground Queensland CEO Sonya Keep and team leader Andy Johnson for showing us around. I also want to thank Karyn Walsh and her team—

Ms Enoch interjected.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui): Pause the clock. Minister, can I ask you to cease all interjections, thank you.

Mr MOLHOEK: I also want to thank the entire team from Micah Projects for their great hospitality. We enjoyed lunch at the Boundary Cafe in South Brisbane, which is one of their social enterprises, and we got to see many features of the Common Ground project here in Brisbane. Queenslanders deserve more public housing, and it is our role as a government to make sure that we meet their social needs.

Greenbank, Primary School; Anzac Day

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.28 pm): The member for Southport would have so much more credibility if he spoke about public housing while acknowledging the cuts of the federal government, but of course we will not hear that from him. I recognise that the minister is here and that we did a fantastic project opening the new apartments at the Churches of Christ—a project that simply would not have happened if the LNP were in government.

I want to talk about another form of infrastructure investment. As many in this House know, I am a former teacher. Last year I joined the Premier, the Minister for Education and the member for Jordan to mark the start of construction on the fantastic \$73 million state primary school at Greenbank in the Everleigh Estate opposite Pub Lane. For those in the House who do not know, the Greenbank area, like many areas of Logan, is growing quickly with new housing, new families, and of course many young children. We are building them the best primary school to give their children the best start in life, with classrooms opening next year. This investment is creating 200 local construction jobs. The Premier said at the time—

Construction is absolutely vital to rebuilding our economy and creating jobs. That's why we're forging ahead with infrastructure projects that will provide good, honest, reliable jobs for locals.

Since we did that sod turning, the investment is going well ahead, despite the rain, with construction advancing. The building pad of the main building, which includes the administration, is complete with the lift base poured. Underground service conduits are in place and column work is commencing. The resource building pad is nearing completion, and they have put down crushed rock to ensure they can do all-weather construction. The hall site excavation is expected to be completed in the next couple of weeks and there are underground utilities going in.

We are committed to building the world's best school facilities. In this project alone, we have a whole lot of new classrooms. Some people might say that Logan is a growing area and that surely any government would be building these new classrooms, but unfortunately that is not true. In the three years the LNP were in government, they built no new classrooms in Logan. Their cuts hurt growing areas the most. The Leader of the Opposition approved the very budget that failed to build the new classrooms in Logan. If elected again, they would hurt Logan families.

I want to acknowledge the fact that because of the success of Queenslanders in fighting COVID we can go back to actually marking Anzac Day publicly. I invite everyone to come to the fantastic Greenbank Anzac Day. I might see the member for Algester there. It is a fantastic event, and it is huge. The community really gets together and it is deeply moving. Whether you are at Logan Village or spending a quiet moment at the Jimboomba shrine or at Greenbank, it will be great to be able to get together as a community to celebrate and mark Anzac Day.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

ATTENDANCE

Andrew, Bailey, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Weir, Whiting