



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Thursday, 22 April 2021

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## THURSDAY, 22 APRIL 2021

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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.

### REPORT

#### Auditor-General



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General a report to parliament No. 17 of 2020-21 titled *Local government 2020*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General Report 17: 2020-21—Local government 2020 [\[540\]](#).

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

#### Error in Division



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have been advised that there was an error in the reporting of votes by the deputy opposition whip in division No. 1 yesterday.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** You had one job! The member for Toowoomba North's vote should not have been counted as the member was absent from the precinct. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote. The result of the division was in fact ayes 84 and noes 2. As fewer than five members voted with the noes, the *Record of Proceedings* does not require correction. However, I advise the House for completeness.

#### His Royal Highness The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, Condolence Book



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I advise members that there is a condolence book relating to the Duke of Edinburgh The Prince Philip that has been in the foyer of the Annexe for the public to sign since last week. The book has been moved to the Members' Reading Room today for members to easily access it should they wish to sign it.

#### 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 Pallara State School in the electorate of Algeester, St Stephen's Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Algeester, Edens Landing in the electorate of Macalister and Moorooka State School in the electorate of Toohey.

### TABLED PAPERS

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

##### MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles)—

[541](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3432-20) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 4,290 petitioners, requesting the House to recognise the proposed residential development over part of the Moreton Bay Ramsar site at Toondah Harbour is inappropriate; protect Ramsar listed wetlands; and reduce the current boundaries of the Toondah Priority Development Area to exclude any intrusion into the Moreton Bay Ramsar site

[542](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3475-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 755 petitioners, requesting the House to enact urgent legislation that allows people to appeal decisions related to developments in Priority Development Areas and to prohibit developers managing master plan preparation over areas they wish to develop

Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey)—

[543](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3494-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3), from 124 petitioners, requesting the House to install noise abatement barriers along the rail line, extending to the exiting barrier, between Esperance Park Murrumba Downs and the Kallangur train station

[544](#) Response from the Minister for Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3454-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4), from 164 petitioners, requesting the House to take immediate action to remedy the unsafe intersection at Moodlu where King Street meets the D'Aguilar Highway

Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan)—


[545](#) Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes: Erratum

Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard)—

[546](#) Response from the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs (Hon. Linard), to a paper petition (3495-21) presented by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, and an ePetition (3468-21) sponsored by the member for Hill, Mr Knuth, from 124 and 4,647 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to urgently amend youth justice laws to address youth crime across Queensland

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS


### Coronavirus, Update

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.33 am): In terms of our daily COVID update, today I can confirm that we have zero new cases. We have only 14 active cases at the moment, which is great news. I can advise the House too that I received a letter yesterday from the Prime Minister extending our reduction in the number of overseas arrivals to another week until 27 April. That is very good news. It is something that Queensland asked for and we were listened to.

The Western Australian health department is investigating after two people staying in hotel quarantine contracted COVID-19. Investigations into a possible breach in a New South Wales hotel are also underway. The New Zealand government has released a list of places visited by an airport worker who has tested positive. As we know, we have had a number of recent arrivals from New Zealand. We will publish this list on our websites and social media. I encourage those visitors to pay attention to the directions of their government. The health minister will have more to say about this shortly.

The way Queenslanders have joined together to battle the pandemic is nothing short of heroic. It is the reason we enjoy a level of freedom unmatched in many parts of the world. We must keep up the fight.

### Anzac Day; Queensland Veterans' Council; Veterans

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.34 am): On Anzac Day last year, Queenslanders adapted to COVID-19 to Light Up the Dawn at home or in their street. It brought a new community spirit to Anzac Day. This Sunday, we can again gather publicly to honour our service men and women. This Anzac Day, Queenslanders can Light Up the Dawn at home, attend a dawn service or go to their own local parade. Either way we give full voice to our gratitude and respect.

As well as honouring their service, my government supports our ex-service personnel. We have committed an additional \$10 million for their physical, emotional and economic wellbeing. That includes the \$4 million Queensland Remembers grants program, which I can now tell the House will open in July. That is for capital works, memorials and commemorative events. There is also extra money for the Anzac Day Trust, which last year provided almost \$1.5 million to more than 200 organisations for welfare services for veterans and their families. In addition to the trust's annual funding, we are providing an extra \$1 million financial support for veterans affected by COVID. Applications for this year's annual funding, and the extra COVID support, will open soon.

I have another significant announcement. The Anzac Day Trust will be administered by a Queensland Veterans' Council. Today, I will introduce a bill to establish the new council which will also advise government on veterans matters. The Veterans' Council will also have another important responsibility: Anzac Square. The legislation will transfer governance of Anzac Square from Brisbane City Council. The city council is currently the trustee of Anzac Square, but my government will take over

that role via the Veterans' Council. That means we will have responsibility for day-to-day management of the Shrine of Remembrance, the memorial galleries and the parklands. It continues the commitment we showed with our contribution of more than \$14 million to the \$22 million Anzac Square restoration project. I think it is going to be a fitting tribute on Anzac Day that people will be able to share in this restoration project as they honour our service men and women.

I also have pleasure in updating the House on our Veterans' Employment Pathway. Last year I reported that more than 600 veterans had found new careers in the Public Service since we started the program in 2018. Today I can report to the House that that figure is now 747.

Finally, I have some important news about The Oasis veterans centre in Townsville which we are supporting along with the Commonwealth. Capital works are due to finish very soon, which means support services will be able to start. Whether it is overseeing our state's pre-eminent war memorial, supporting veterans or public gatherings on Anzac Day, we will remember those who served.

### Longreach and Barcaldine, Community Cabinet



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.37 am): My government is committed to getting out and about in our communities, and one of the best ways we can do that is by holding community cabinets outside of Brisbane. Since we have been re-elected, we have been to Townsville and we have had an offsite visit to Ipswich, and today I can announce that I am taking my cabinet out west. That is right: next month we will be going to Longreach and Barcaldine, out to the west. We love the west. We love the outback.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And of course the honourable state member will be joining us—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory, are you okay! Just a welfare check.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He is always welcome to join this side of the House. We are absolutely committed to the outback. It is going to be wonderful. We know there are wonderful people out there. They have been very strong as part of the economic recovery. Tourism has rebounded. This is a great opportunity to get out and meet people and talk to them about what is important in their lives—whether it is health, education or economic recovery—and hear their ideas. It is a great format for us to get out to the west. I once again am looking forward to that. We will also be heading to Beef Week. Many of my ministers will be at Beef Week, once again supporting another strong industry in our state.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** And I am not taking that interjection.

### Tourism Industry, Vouchers



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (9.39 am): I have further good news for our tourism operators in the Whitsunday and South-East Queensland. Today I am proud to announce that we are expanding our highly successful tourism vouchers program. Mr Speaker, you know firsthand how successful our Cairns Holiday Dollars initiative has been in the Far North, generating thousands of bookings and thousands of dollars for local businesses.

Today I can confirm we have partnered with Brisbane City Council and Tourism Whitsundays to invest an extra \$4.2 million to support tourism operators doing it tough. This is about jobs; it is about people's livelihoods. An extra 36,000 tourism vouchers will be up for grabs in Brisbane and the Whitsundays in coming weeks in a move that will pump \$25 million into our economy. Whether it is climbing the Story Bridge—and I think Minister Mick de Brenni has done that—exploring the Scenic Rim or taking a scenic flight along the iconic Whitsunday coast, this announcement will allow thousands of Queenslanders to explore their own state.

**Mr Bleijie:** What about swimming with Liam in Byron Bay, swimming with the Hemsworths in Byron Bay?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No-one will be swimming with you.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana will cease his interjections. Premier, it would assist—

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I think he protests too much.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections. Premier, it would assist if you are able to direct your comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I do not think he will ever make the front page.

**Mr Bleijie:** Oh!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Oh!


**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana will cease his interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Combined with our successful \$3 million Cairns Holiday Dollars initiative, today's commitment means we will deliver \$7.2 million worth of vouchers to Queenslanders in coming months. Our tourism industry has done it particularly tough throughout the pandemic and I want to thank the minister for tourism for his strong advocacy for this program. It is working and it is going to encourage more people to spend money here. That is why we are investing more than \$800 million to support operators to get back on their feet.

My government has the runs on the board when it comes to growing our tourism industry. Prior to COVID-19 we restored the funding cut from tourism by the LNP and boosted support for the sector. By investing in tourism we grew the sector by more than 25 per cent to support an extra 40,000 tourism jobs in Queensland, pumping an additional \$6.3 billion into our economy. Initiatives like our \$7.2 million tourism vouchers campaign are vital to our economic recovery strategy. We will continue to partner with the tourism industry to build back better here in Queensland.

### Defence Industries, Events

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning) (9.43 am): Earlier this week the Chief of Army Symposium was held here in Brisbane. This event provided the opportunity for stakeholders to engage with defence on topics like collaboration, innovation, technology and people. The symposium was also an opportunity for Queensland businesses to put themselves in the spotlight and promote our homegrown defence innovation. Conducted in conjunction with the symposium, the Army Robotics Exposition was held on 20 April. In the north of the state, the Trusted Autonomous Systems Defence Cooperative Research Centre held its annual symposium in Townsville.


I am also pleased to announce today the appointment of our new Strategic Defence Adviser for Land, former Army brigadier Alison Creagh. Alison is an accomplished leader and decision-maker who served in the Australian Army for 30 years. She will play a critical role in advising the Palaszczuk government on growing our defence industries.

I am proud to say that Queensland will also play host to an enormous event in June, Land Forces 2021. Not only does this mean immediate jobs in hospitality and local business but also it means so much more for Queensland in the long term. Land Forces is one of the largest events of its type in the Asia-Pacific region and the premier Australian land defence exhibition showcasing equipment, technology and services. Our defence industries sector is one of the government's high-value, high-growth, priority industry sectors and supports around 6,500 jobs.

This event will give Queensland's small to medium sized enterprises a platform to generate quality leads for millions of dollars in potential contracts which will boost the industry and create more jobs for Queenslanders. The majority of Queensland's small to medium sized enterprises supplying into defence also support a broad range of other industry sectors including maritime, aerospace, medical, resources, agriculture and emergency management. The Land Forces Expo will also present Queensland as a preferred location for land defence investment and promote our industry capabilities to the world.

There is no doubt that Queensland is Australia's home for land defence. That is why Rheinmetall Defence Australia chose Queensland as the home for their Military Vehicle Centre of Excellence, the most advanced military vehicle manufacturing facility in Australia, if not the best in the world. The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring our state is at the forefront of defence industries in this country because it means long-term jobs and economic growth that will benefit all Queenslanders.

### Regional Queensland, Jobs and Investment

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (9.45 am): I am very pleased to share with the House yet another example of the Palaszczuk Labor government's unwavering commitment to creating more jobs and attracting more investment to regional Queensland.

This comes after my visit last week to Bundaberg, the home of the mighty Queensland macadamia nut and also home to the mighty state Labor member for Bundaberg, Tom Smith, who joined me to announce support for the expansion of the world's largest macadamia processor. Through our \$175 million Jobs and Regional Growth Fund, our government is backing Marquis Macadamias' \$13.3 million expansion as well as the 40 new Wide Bay jobs it will create and the 120 local jobs it will safeguard. The expansion will see Marquis's processing capacity increased from 12,000 tonnes to 15,000 tonnes each year, putting more Queensland macadamias on supermarket shelves around the world.

Australia has one of the largest macadamia industries on the planet and Queensland is the biggest contributor to that, with orchards stretching from the Glass House Mountains to Emerald and Mackay. With the world going nuts for our macadamias, Marquis's expansion will ensure the 350 Aussie growers the company works with, including plenty of Queensland growers, can take a bigger bite of the export opportunities presenting themselves.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown up many challenges, Queensland's traditional industry strengths like agriculture, food processing and manufacturing have been our economic bedrock during this difficult period. Our support of increased private investment like Marquis Macadamias' expansion will ensure the Queensland economy continues on its strong upward trajectory as we unite and recover from the virus and its impacts. To put it simply, our investment will grow the Bundy industry and Bundy jobs. This growth will benefit hundreds of local families across the Wide Bay, which is an outcome we can all be proud of.

### Queensland Certificate of Education



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.47 am): As we know, the first young Queenslanders graduated last year in a new Queensland Certificate of Education system with Australian Tertiary Admission Ranks, or ATAR. These resilient young people have been pioneers throughout their school years as the state's first full cohort of prep students, the first year 7s to attend high school, and the first to complete year 12 and receive an ATAR last year during a global pandemic.

A total of 45,188 students achieved a QCE; 26,042 students also received an ATAR; 1,003 students received a Certificate of Individual Achievement; 31,716 completed vocational education and training qualifications, including the very successful Queensland school based apprenticeships and traineeships; more than 630 achieved an International Baccalaureate Diploma; and 1,193 students studied university subjects at school.

The Queensland Curriculum Assessment Authority has today recognised the highest achieving 38 students with QCE awards. They are our next generation of scientists, engineers, artificial intelligence designers and doctors. They include amazing young people like Rani Carmichael, who graduated from Brisbane State High School and is studying a Bachelor of Veterinary Science, Honours, at the University of Queensland. Rani has won the QCE award for being the highest achieving Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander student. She says she is inspired by many people including her Aboriginal maternal ancestors who, in her own words, 'survived and overcame countless hardships, allowing me to access the opportunities I have today'.


Then there is Isaac Beh from Warwick State High School who is studying a Bachelor of Mathematics and Science at UQ and is inspired by Socrates. Isaac is a QCE Distinguished Achiever and would like to thank his family, teachers and all the authors of good textbooks as he works towards a career in statistics and analysis. Good luck, Isaac! Also among the high achievers is engineering honours student Lucia Rega, an All Hallows' graduate who wants to become a mechatronic engineer.

Queensland's highest academic achiever is Vishaak Gangasandra, currently studying biotechnology and medicine at UQ after graduating from The Southport School. Vishaak achieved straight As in seven senior subjects, including an overall mark of 100 per cent in English, mathematics and physics—an outstanding result. He is well deserving of our congratulations on his academic achievements.

The QCAA is publishing online the results of our class of 2020 today, reported this year in a way that provides important state-level data with a focus on individual students' achievements. This approach to reporting student outcomes has been endorsed by the SATE Implementation Taskforce and the QCAA Board. It is in line with the reporting practices in other states and by resolution of the Education Council. These amazing young people are Queensland's future. In their hands, the future looks bright.



### Coronavirus, Update; Influenza, Vaccine

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.51 am): The most recent data from Johns Hopkins University shows that there have now been more than 143 million positive COVID-19 cases. Sadly, more than three million people have passed away. India is now reporting on average 250,000 new cases a day. This demonstrates the scale of the COVID-19 outbreak across the world. Thanks to the excellent leadership of the Premier, the advice of the Chief Health Officer and the efforts of our amazing health workers across Queensland, we have largely been shielded from the impacts of COVID-19. We thank the people of Queensland for their willingness to put their confidence and trust in the advice of the government.


On 20 April, New Zealand authorities were notified of a New Zealand based cleaner who worked on planes bound for Australia testing positive for COVID-19. The cleaner worked on both red and green flights and is thought to have been in close or casual contact with a number of airline crew. Contact tracing of those staff members is now underway. New Zealand health authorities have released a list of venues of concern that have been visited by the positive case. As an act of absolute precaution, later today Queensland Health will publish on the Queensland COVID website the New Zealand venues of concern that the cleaner visited while infectious. Any person who has recently travelled from New Zealand to Australia should review those venues of concern. All people who visited these locations at the specific dates and times are considered casual contacts and have been asked to monitor their health for 14 days from exposure and get tested if they become symptomatic. This is not a cause for alarm, but it does show that we need to continue to remain vigilant in confronting the ongoing presence of COVID throughout the world. Overnight, we have seen new cases in Perth and Sydney.

As we continue to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Palaszczuk government is also continuing to ensure that our community is protected against influenza. This season, it is vital for all Queenslanders aged six months and older to get vaccinated against the flu. I encourage all members to get their flu shot. The best time to get the influenza vaccine to help protect against getting the flu over winter is from the end of this month. Last year we saw a significant decrease in flu cases due to social distancing and meticulous hand hygiene. We thank everyone for their amazing effort and ask that they continue it. It is important to remember that we cannot become complacent and that we are still in this pandemic. It is important to avoid preventable flu patient hospital admissions during the winter months. Moreover, we need to prevent people from being infected simultaneously with flu and COVID-19.

Government funded flu vaccines will be distributed across Queensland at the end of this month, and eligible Queenslanders should book an appointment to get vaccinated. This year, all flu vaccines offer protection against four strains of influenza that we have seen overseas, including the vaccine for those aged over 65. Although the flu vaccine does not protect against COVID-19, it can reduce the severity and spread of influenza, which may make a person more susceptible to other respiratory illnesses like COVID-19. There is still flu circulating every year and, just like COVID-19, it can be fatal, which is why it is vital Queenslanders book in for their flu shot this year. I also remind Queenslanders that it is recommended to wait at least 14 days between the COVID-19 vaccine and the influenza vaccine.

Finally, I extend my sincerest gratitude to all those GPs, pharmacies, chemists, aged-care homes and all other vaccination providers assisting in the rollout of the flu vaccine this year. Your assistance in helping to protect our Queensland community is greatly appreciated.

### Tourism Industry

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (9.55 am): The Palaszczuk government has stood shoulder to shoulder with tourism operators big and small to get them through COVID-19. The global pandemic and necessary international border closures have driven a wrecking ball through Queensland's international tourism industry. With the pandemic, international tourism in Brisbane has gone from a record \$2.9 billion a year to zero. In the Whitsundays it has gone from \$151.7 million a year to nothing.

We as a government have invested more than \$800 million in direct assistance to get tourism operators to the other side of the pandemic. This includes direct subsidies on airline seats into the regions that rely on them. Tourism Research Australia data for January shows a spend of \$1.9 billion by domestic tourists—the best result in a year and up 46 per cent on December 2020.

Over the Easter long weekend we saw a big lift in demand for Queensland holidays on the back of our Good to Go campaign. So far, Good to Go has put up to \$5 billion into the pockets of tourism operators across the state. Not all destinations have had an equal domestic visitor experience. That is why we are extending the successful Cairns Holiday Dollars initiative to Brisbane and the Whitsundays. It is another chance for Queenslanders to explore their state.

For regional Queenslanders or Brisbane locals, Brisbane Holiday Dollars is an opportunity to stay in some topnotch accommodation. The voucher will cover half the value of hotel stays up to \$100, or half the cost of a tourism experience right around the region—from the glorious Scenic Rim to a day out on the bay islands. For the Whitsundays, we are offering \$200 vouchers to cover half the cost of many incredible visitor experiences in the region. The Whitsundays campaign will target travellers already staying in the region and locals. With Queensland's version of winter coming—and I do say 'our version'—it is time to pack your bags, because at this time of year Queensland really shines.

### **Beef Industry; Beef 2021**

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.57 am): I know that Queenslanders are getting really excited about the possibility of an Olympic Games in 2032, but, equally, I am excited about what will happen in Rockhampton in two weeks: Beef Australia 2021, the Olympics of the cattle industry.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** No doubt some of those opposite are excited as well, from the cries of adulation! Beef processing is Queensland's economic powerhouse. It provides 10,000 direct jobs to Queensland. It supports a further 8,000 jobs to that sector. Last financial year, Queensland exported more than 632,000 tonnes of beef and veal—over half of Australia's total beef exports. Beef exports will be a key driver of Queensland's economic recovery from COVID. That is why I hosted a virtual trade mission to Japan in September last year. Beef is one of the subjects I will discuss today with the Indonesian ambassador.

Queensland's pride in the cattle industry was on display last week at the Toowoomba Royal Show. I had the pleasure of visiting the prize-winning cattle in the show ring. I acknowledge the announcer, Angus Lane OAM, who officiated his last show on that weekend. Angus asked me to pass on his appreciation to the Premier and our government for the manner in which we have handled this pandemic. He is a lovely gentleman.


With Queensland cattle production this year expected to be worth \$4.85 billion, it is little wonder that the beef industry is such a key part of our regional plan for economic recovery. More than 100,000 people attended Beef 2018 in Rockhampton, including 1,200 international delegates who delivered a substantial economic benefit to that region. The COVID edition this year will be different, but it will still showcase the best of what the Queensland cattle industry has to offer.

The Palaszczuk government is proud to be backing Beef 2021 all the way. We have committed \$1 million to support this year's edition. This year there will be an increased focus on agtech and the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries will host an agtech and innovation hub. It will showcase existing and world-first emerging technologies that impact the beef industry supply chain from conception through to consumption. Honourable members had a taste of Beef 2021 in the last sitting week, including a sneak preview of Are You Lonesome Tonight, a collaboration between the organisers and Opera Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is 100 per cent behind Beef Week and no doubt that is why I have been titled the 'minister for beef'. I cannot wait to travel to Rockhampton along with my cabinet colleagues—

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I'll be there!

**Mr FURNER:**—as well as other members. That is right, Premier; I take that interjection: you will be there in full force. There will also be other MPs and also the members for Rockhampton and Keppel will be there in force. I say to all members: do not make a 'mis-steak'; make sure you grab a steak at Beef Australia 2021.

### **Road and Transport Infrastructure**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.00 am): The Palaszczuk Labor government's record \$26.9 billion investment in better roads and transport are a key part of our economic plan for recovery and it is driving an infrastructure boom across Queensland. The majority of that investment is in regional Queensland supporting more than 23,000 quality jobs over the


next four years and providing a reliable pipeline of jobs for Queenslanders as we emerge from the pandemic. Time stuck in traffic is time better spent with family, friends and other things. Congestion drains our economy through lost time and productivity. That is why Labor is backing a record investment in congestion-busting projects.

We are not just focused on our state's major highways; we are also targeting notorious intersections and stretches of roads to relieve local congestion and improve safety. Last week I joined the Premier and the member for Mount Ommaney to open the new Sumners Road interchange, proudly named the Len Waters Overpass. This \$80 million overhaul of one of Brisbane's busiest interchanges was delivered six months early by the hardworking transport and main roads department and has been welcomed by the 35,000 people who use it every single day. I want to thank the member for Mount Ommaney for being such a great advocate for that project, and it has also been welcomed by our cycling community because we grade separated the Centenary cycleway from the interchange while we were at it. It is particularly satisfying to see this project delivered after it was cut by those opposite, including by the Leader of the Opposition when he was in Campbell Newman's cabinet.

We also recently completed the \$10 million Hope Island Road and Labrador-Carrara Road intersection upgrade on the Gold Coast. More job-creating road projects have started in growing communities in the south-east, including the \$30 million Petrie roundabout upgrade supporting 60 direct jobs—something I know the member for Kurwongbah has been such a strong advocate for; the \$30 million transformation of the Strathpine Road and Gympie Arterial Road interchange, which the member for Aspley has championed on behalf of his community; and the \$34 million series of safety upgrades to improve the Nerang Murwillumbah Road in the Gold Coast hinterland.

In our regions work is surging ahead, with the \$164 million Smithfield bypass supporting 175 Far North Queensland jobs campaigned so hard for by the member for Barron River and minister; the \$16 million Harley Street intersection on the Cairns Western Arterial Road, with another 16 jobs; and of course the member for Rockhampton's favourite \$35 million Lawrie Street upgrade with 56 jobs. Some 88 per cent of net migration in Australia in the next four years is coming to our state—the Sunshine State. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk Labor government has prioritised congestion-busting investments in better roads. We have set a cracking pace and we will not be making the same mistakes of the previous government of cutting budgets and freefalling growth and freefalling jobs. Queenslanders can be certain that we will stay focused on building better roads and rail to help them get home quicker and safer.

### Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.04 am): Under the Palaszczuk government Queensland has become a leader when it comes to supporting zero emissions technology, the jobs of the future and protecting our environment. It is this government that has set a target of zero net emissions by 2050 and a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030, and it is under this government that places like Gladstone and Townsville are becoming hubs of hydrogen.


We have built the world's longest collection of electric vehicle chargers, we have committed to new buses on our South-East Queensland network being zero emissions from 2025, and Queensland now boasts 44 large-scale renewable energy projects, including, thanks to our investment in the publicly owned renewable energy company CleanCo, one of Australia's largest solar farms. We have established the \$500 million Land Restoration Fund, with 18 projects already underway. That is 1.84 million tonnes of carbon prevented from entering and damaging our atmosphere, and of course that is on top of Queenslanders themselves taking action and leading the way with over 700,000 rooftop solar installations.

Today is world Earth Day and the US President, Joe Biden, will be hosting a summit of global leaders to discuss what more action can be taken. Today I am pleased to announce that as part of our push to drive net zero emissions I will be tasking our Climate Advisory Council to look at the outcomes and build on our climate action plan. That is leaders of Queensland industry, innovation and environment looking at how we can maximise the global shift to zero emissions. We also have an incredible opportunity as the preferred bidder for the 2032 Olympics to implement lasting zero carbon solutions to ensure that we deliver a climate positive games.

If we are to continue to build on our achievements, we cannot expect to wait for the federal government to take action. While we have seen some steps taken by Canberra, we have not yet seen the leadership the world has been crying out for. It is yet to set a net zero emissions target and the Biden administration has today also criticised its climate change policies federally as insufficient. We

will not wait and be left in the dust. Queensland is in a strong position today when it comes to the environment and jobs because we are taking action and will continue to work to put Queensland in the fast lane to create the jobs of the future industries and protect our environment.

### Police Resources


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.06 am): There are more police in Queensland than ever before, and I can tell the House that there are many more police on the way because—it is a very simple fact—there will always be more police in Queensland under Labor governments. Recently another cohort of new police recruits was accepted into the Oxley police academy. It means that in total right now there are more than 200 police recruits undergoing intensive training at Queensland police academies. It is a comprehensive six-month training course that equips the recruits with the wide range of skills they need to join Queensland's world-class Police Service. The six-month course is followed by another year of on-the-job training with a senior police officer as their mentor.

These recruits are part of the government's watershed investment in policing. That record investment will deliver an extra 2,025 police personnel and the commissioner has stated that each and every policing region across the state will be boosted by the deployment of a minimum extra 150 police officers. This is a win-win for Queensland and community safety. Every region across the state will have an enhanced police presence, supporting community safety, and new jobs will also be created across every region of the state. It is part of the government's economic recovery plan as we transition from the health recovery to the economic recovery.

I mentioned that the Queensland Police Service is world-class and an important reason is the extensive training that our recruits undergo, but it is also the ongoing training and commitment to public duty exhibited by existing members of the Police Service that make the Police Service world-class, and I want to particularly acknowledge the appointment of 29 commissioned officers last week. Attaining the level of achievement that comes along with being appointed as a commissioned officer requires that person to demonstrate excellence as well as the highest qualities of integrity, professionalism and skill—quite simply, exemplifying the values of the Queensland Police Service. At the ceremony last week we commissioned one chief superintendent, four detective inspectors and 24 inspectors.

Our government, the Palaszczuk government, always backs our police 100 per cent. We have demonstrated that with our actions. Because of this government, the Queensland Police Service is better resourced than ever before and, because of this government, the biggest investment in policing in three decades is underway. There will always be more police in Queensland under a Labor government. That is because we support police, we support jobs and we support community safety.

### Small Business

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.09 am): Support for small business is a key priority of the Palaszczuk government's economic recovery plan. Small business comprises 97 per cent of all businesses in the state and employs 44 per cent of all private sector jobs. That is almost one million jobs. It is why our government backed small business when the pandemic was declared with our COVID adaptation grants, our no-interest loans, our utilities rebates and a range of other initiatives and it is why we will continue to back small business in the COVID and post COVID economy. We flagged that very clearly in last year's election and subsequently in the budget through our announcement of our Big Plans for Small Business initiative.

Through February and March I was privileged to travel around Queensland with the Small Business Commissioner on our Small Business Roadshow. We asked businesses where they are at now—a different place to this time last year—and how they would like government to tailor its support at this point in the COVID economy. The feedback of almost 1,500 businesses was clear and unambiguous. I thank all of those businesses for their fantastic engagement and for the great conversations we had. They can be confident that they will see that feedback reflected in the way we support them.

I am pleased to announce today our new Business Launchpad, a digital tool that our government has developed to provide much needed support to those wanting to turn their business ideas into reality. Small businesses told us that they needed help navigating the regulatory and licencing requirements of all levels of government. We listened and we have responded. The Business Launchpad is a one-stop shop and time saver for businesses in the food and beverage and residential construction industries. We are going to start with those industries and the plan is to then move on to others.

The launch pad provides relevant information from across federal, state and local government agencies, helping cut red tape. It enables new small business operators to identify and apply for all licences, permits and regulatory requirements across all levels of government in one convenient location. They can create personalised guides with content specific to their business type and location. They can sign into their accounts from any device to prepare, complete, sign and submit some licensing forms online.

The Business Launchpad will take the guesswork out of setting up a business and out of making sure the business stays compliant. This is about cutting red tape. The launch pad project is funded through the Australian government's Small Business Regulatory Reform Agenda and it will be launched in the Townsville and Logan local council areas. We will be looking for opportunities to extend the program in the coming months across the rest of the state. By backing small business the Palaszczuk government is supporting jobs now and into the future.

### Resources Industries



**Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.12 am): Data is king. It is no different in the resources industry. It informs so much about what companies and explorers do, how they make new discoveries and what value they put on their finds. Businesses make decisions that create jobs based on data and information. On that note, I am pleased to advise the House that decades of Queensland's exploration data is now available to all explorers—and it is free! This will only lead to even greater growth and more jobs in the resources industry in the future.

Right now the resources sector continues to support more than 71,000 jobs across our state. It represents \$48 billion in exports and generates millions of dollars in royalties for all Queenslanders. This new data release from GeoScience Queensland will help to continue to grow and underpin the resources industry, a key pillar of our economy now and into the future—and it is free!

Almost 20,000 new industry exploration reports spanning the last 50 years will now be made available to the resources industry. This means greater transparency and helps bring to light information relating to the exploration of coal and minerals across Queensland. Combined with 60,000 existing reports, this new data will help give resources and exploration companies more certainty for investment decisions now and into the future—and it is free!

For years these reports have been kept in confidence, but following regulatory changes made in 2020, coal and mineral exploration reports will now be made available after five years as opposed to being held for the life of tenure. This is about growing jobs into the future as people look to new-age minerals which we have in abundance in the North West Minerals Province. The release of this free information will encourage explorers from across the country and the world to look at Queensland and its huge potential. Queensland is such a vast state, which only reinforces how essential information is to growing the industry and creating jobs into the future. The release of this data is about making critical information more accessible and mapping out a roadmap for exploration for decades to come—and it is free!

In Queensland the latest statistics from the ABS show Queensland's exploration sector continues to grow, with more than \$677 million invested in 2020, up more than \$117 million on the previous year. I am confident that allowing businesses access to this information will continue that growth which will help with our economic recovery from the COVID-19 global pandemic. Queensland continues to lead the way for the rest of the nation when it comes to making data freely available for exploration and this is just another example of how the Palaszczuk government is backing our resources sector with freely available data.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, Minister. So, it is free?

### SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT



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

That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 11 May 2021.


Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude at 11.16 am.

### Health System

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.16 am): My question is to the Premier. Since the latest Labor health crisis started, the government has blamed its poor performance on Canberra, Campbell Newman, COVID, sick people, GPs and now a council Refidex. What is the real reason Labor is losing control of the health system?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question, but I reject the premise of the question. Queenslanders reject the premise of the question. There was an election. The Leader of the Opposition mentioned COVID. Our strong response in terms of dealing with COVID has enabled our economy to get back. I am very proud of our strong investment in health: over \$20 billion. We are absolutely committed to ensuring that families across our state have good access to health care in this state. We are expanding hospitals. We are going to be opening a new expanded hospital in Roma in the next few weeks. I will be there to help open that new hospital. It does not matter where you live in Queensland we will deliver the health services that are needed.

If you want to have a debate in this House at the next session in May let us have a debate. Let us talk about the health investment that our government put in compared to the investment of the LNP. Leader of the Opposition, I look forward to that debate. When one talks about young people going through mental health issues, we built Jacaranda Place. Those opposite shut the only health centre, the Barret centre, that was helping young people with complex needs. They closed it. They shut the doors as part of their savings measures. How dare the Leader of the Opposition come in here when he sat around the cabinet table with Campbell Newman—

**Mr Dick:** He was here last night!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. I heard that Campbell Newman was back in the House last night. Knocking on the door—knock, knock, knock.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Treasurer will put his comments through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** He was visiting his favourite mates, the member for Clayfield, the member for Broadwater and the member for Kawana, getting the old gang back together again, reliving the good old days when they picked up a piece of paper and said, 'What can we cut today?' Nurses gone, doctors gone, frontline workers gone, the Barret centre gone. They sat around the cabinet table and they made these decisions. Bring the debate on. Everyone on this side of the House is happy to debate that.

### Hospitals, Code Yellow

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Yesterday the minister revealed that there have been 11 code yellows or internal emergencies declared by South-East Queensland hospitals in the past month alone. Where is the minister's plan to deal with the crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** We have continually stood in this House to explain our plan to invest in our health services in Queensland.

**Mr Mander:** Blame everyone.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection because what I can only describe as the ignorance of those opposite as to what is happening in health systems in Queensland, across the country and across the globe is quite outstanding. It is astounding that they do not think that an increase in population, an increase in chronic illness, an ageing population and the fact that fewer people are going into private health—none of those things—have any bearing. Who do they actually think goes into hospitals? It is extraordinary the level of ignorance—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Minister, resume your seat. Member for Kawana, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Glass House, you are warned under the standing orders as well. Members, the level of interjection generally is too high. I ask that you hear the minister's response.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I think it is extraordinary behaviour from those opposite. As the Premier said, they were known for cutting, sacking and selling. They were renowned for that. They spent millions of dollars to advertise the waiting list for the waiting list. They wasted millions of dollars on consultants.

As I explained yesterday to those opposite, code yellows are called in a number of different circumstances such as a disruption to telephone services, electricity, water or information or communication technology systems; structural damage; capacity reasons; and incidents involving hazardous substances. As always the opposition talk about pre 2012 and they talk about 2015 and onwards, but they never talk about that little period in-between. It was short, but the reality is that in that short time they did much damage to this state and to the health system.

Queenslanders remember that. They remember it each and every day. They remembered it at the last election. They made a clear choice at the election last year. Who did they want managing our health system and our economy going forward? They chose the Palaszczuk government. Why? Because they do not trust those opposite when it comes to health, education, investing in jobs and the economy. The people of Queensland know that the Premier has led the way in ensuring we have best practice when it comes to the global response to COVID-19. We are very proud of our record.

*(Time expired)*

### **Mackay Region, Economic Recovery**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Premier and the Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on the government's COVID-19 economic recovery plan and what it means for the Mackay region?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mackay for her question, because the member for Mackay knows how important jobs are to her region and how important our strong economic plan is in delivering for her community. That is why we took that economic plan to the election along with our strong health response, and I am happy to say that again to the opposition. Those are the twin pillars. I know that they want to forget the election, but that is what we spoke about at length during the election campaign. During that campaign I was very pleased to go to Mackay, where we spoke extensively about our Mackay-Whitsunday regional economic plan. I visited the Resources Centre of Excellence, which was made possible with a \$3.6 million grant. That is about making sure that our young people have the opportunity to get jobs right across the region, whether it is in resources, health, education or tourism and we are going to continue to support thousands of jobs in that region.

Today we were very pleased to announce that we are partnering with Tourism Whitsundays. A lot of people fly into Mackay or Proserpine in order to explore the beautiful Whitsunday islands. Tourism operators have been doing it tough because in that region 25 per cent of the tourism market came from international travellers. They are suffering and we know that. We heard it loudly and clearly. We listened to them. We have launched the voucher program in Cairns and today we have announced the same program for the Whitsundays, which will be fantastic. There will be 6,000 vouchers worth \$200 available to Queenslanders visiting the Whitsundays. Having been there I know that it is a beautiful place to go. I encourage people to log on, register and visit. As I said earlier, in 2019 the region had some 220,000 international tourists and they are missing that market. It is going to be great to see more people visiting the region.

We are also going to be talking to Destination Gold Coast, which I think is the next market that we need to assist. They are very busy with the drive market on weekends. I had the opportunity to speak to Paul and Trish when I was down there. The next step that we will be looking at is assisting the Gold Coast.

I thank the member for Mackay for her strong advocacy for her region. We will continue to deliver for Mackay and the Whitsundays, because this is a listening government. It is a government that listens and delivers.

**Mr Hart:** Holidays in Byron Bay.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You go to Canada. You went to Canada.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Premier, resume your seat. Members, I note that when interjections are taken they are taken, but that does not mean that comments will be directed anywhere other than through the chair. That will assist the House.

### **Hospitals, Code Yellow**

**Mr MOLHOEK:** My question is to the Minister for Health. With 11 code yellows at South-East Queensland hospitals in the past month alone, how many surgeries have been cancelled during each of those code yellow emergencies?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am happy to follow up on the data for the member. However, I will say this: elective surgeries are cancelled for a whole range of reasons.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** Those opposite laugh, which again shows their absolute arrogance and their ignorance of what is going on. Yesterday I spoke about the 11 code yellows experienced over that period. I also explained what else happened over that period, that is, a lockdown in Brisbane that inevitably resulted in elective surgeries being suspended. I will seek to provide accurate data that goes to the suspension of surgeries and that also goes to the key issue of our lockdowns, which is what every state has had to do when we have those circumstances. When there is transmission in a hospital, when we have to put staff into quarantine and when we have to have lockdowns it causes disruption to surgery.

In fact, the World Health Organization put out a report in August last year showing over 102 countries talking about the significant disruption to their health services, either partially or fully suspending a whole lot of services including surgery. In fact, there was a decision made by our national cabinet last year to suspend surgery and to stop publishing data so that people would not weaponise data when it started going out because, of course, it is going to be skewed. Although we did not have to, because of the national cabinet decision, we willingly released the December quarter data to be transparent. However, you cannot compare what is happening today in our health services around response times, emergency departments and elective surgery lists to 2015 or 2012, because it is not apples with apples.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:** There is no comparable data on how the Queensland health system has dealt with a global health pandemic as well as business as usual. There is no evidence to compare that to. However, we do have evidence to compare to what is happening globally. The data around the ramping of ambulances in the UK alone—they are being turned away—and the waiting lists is extraordinary. The US is now saying that, for orthopaedic surgery alone, people are going to be waiting over a year. That is just one example. Those opposite seem to think Australia has been completely unscathed—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr MOLHOEK:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. Will the minister be providing that information on notice?

**Mr SPEAKER:** She has not indicated that at this point. Minister?

**Mrs D'ATH:** No.

**Mr SPEAKER:** That is the indication the minister has given.

### **Darling Downs Regional Recovery Action Plan**

**Mr MADDEN:** My question is of the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning. Will the Deputy Premier update the House on the progress of the Darling Downs Regional Recovery Action Plan and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Ipswich West for his question. I know that, like everyone on this side of the House, he is committed to economic recovery and job creation right around Queensland, including in the Toowoomba and Darling Downs region. Yesterday I was really pleased to advise the House of the SARA approval of a nearly \$2 billion renewables project out that way. It does not stop there. The Palaszczuk government has also committed \$40 million to build Queensland's largest entertainment precinct at Wellcamp. The Wagners' project is a \$175 million new entertainment precinct that will include motorsport, driver training and a 40,000-seat performing arts space. It will be ideal to bring performing arts to the region, to bolster the local tourism industry, and will be fantastic for the state's sports and events sectors. It will employ 250 people once it is built and hold 2½ thousand people on event days. There will be 130 jobs in construction once it gets the go-ahead. However, those jobs are being held up.

I was disappointed to read media reports recently that the Morrison government may not match our commitment to the precinct. The Wagners have committed \$95 million of their own funds to it, the Palaszczuk government has committed \$40 million and the project is reliant on the Morrison government matching the other 40. Sadly, this is just another Wagner project that the Morrison



government has not only refused to back but also refused to even give an answer on. We are still waiting on a response from them to support our proposal for a regional quarantine hub at Wellcamp—still no response despite new outbreaks, new local transmission in hotel quarantine in New South Wales and in Western Australia in recent days, underlining the weaknesses of hotel quarantine as we battle new strains and as we battle the number of people coming back from places like India, grappling with high rates of the virus.

All we need from the Morrison government is agreement to allow flights to land at Wellcamp so we can transfer travellers to a dedicated facility, so we can keep those travellers safe, so we can keep the staff working in quarantine safe, and ultimately so we can keep Queenslanders safe. The more outbreaks that occur in hotel quarantine, the more it underlines the need for a regional quarantine hub.

### **Domestic and Family Violence, Coercive Control**

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Premier. With yet another shocking and tragic loss of a young woman, how much longer will Queensland families have to wait for new laws to keep them safe from coercive control?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Whitsunday for that question. I think everyone has been touched by the recent tragedy. It is absolutely horrific. I really feel for the three young children and the family of the deceased woman. That should never happen to anybody at all. I hope that justice is served. As a person has been charged I cannot comment any further on that case, but I think everyone in this House shares deep sadness and expresses that feeling towards the family.

In relation to coercive control, the Attorney-General has put in place very strong measures in terms of getting Margaret McMurdo to look at that issue in detail. She has spoken extensively with all the stakeholder groups. This is exactly what the stakeholder groups wanted to happen. The best thing we can do is let them get on with that work. Once again we will be leading the nation in that work. I will leave it at that.

In relation to the prevention of domestic and family violence, our job never ends. We had the landmark report handed down by Quentin Bryce. We have implemented all of its recommendations. There has been a huge investment of money. There is bipartisan support, from both sides of the parliament. As the Attorney-General and I said yesterday, there is an extra \$2.5 million from the federal government to deal with domestic and family violence post pandemic. It is a very important issue in our society.

Respect needs to start at home. Respect needs to be in our schools and in the way we treat one another. Respect needs to be shown everywhere. It is with deep sadness that we have seen another tragedy in Queensland.

### **Building Approvals**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer update the House on building approval numbers in Queensland, and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches to construction in this fine state?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for always fighting for his community and the people of Central Queensland. One of the many bright spots in Queensland's economic recovery from COVID-19 has been the performance of our housing market. I am pleased that the recent upswing has been driven by owner-occupiers, in particular first home buyers. In fact, the latest data shows that the value of dwelling finance commitments to owner-occupiers has risen more than 60 per cent over the year to February 2021 and more than doubled since the COVID lows of May 2020. Even more impressively, the finance commitments to first home buyers are up almost 80 per cent over the year and around 120 per cent since May 2020. Building approvals, too, are up 11.9 per cent in the last year. Central Queensland building approvals, the member for Rockhampton will be pleased to know, are going even better—up by 40 per cent in the same period.

More people are choosing Queensland to put down roots, particularly in the regions, because they have confidence in our economic recovery and confidence in the future of our state and the leadership role that our government is playing in that. That is our government's approach to building and construction. What was the LNP's approach to building and construction in the last election? The Bruce Highway hoax and the fake Bradfield scheme. We know that they were a hoax and a fake. It was fake. How do we know that? Because it was called out today by the National Party leader and Deputy Prime Minister, Michael McCormack, who said there are elements of the fake Bradfield scheme that could never be built.

The members opposite knew that. The Leader of the Opposition sitting around the shadow cabinet table making those election commitments knew that. The member for Nanango, the member for Everton, the member for Toowoomba South, the member for Kawana—each and every one of them put forward a fake scheme for Queensland; their big bold plan for Queensland. It was an absolute hoax. This is why the LNP can never be trusted with the future of our state.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Gregory!

**Mr DICK:** They will say or do anything to achieve power. When they achieve the levers of power, what do they do? They sack 4,400 people from the public health system in Queensland.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** They decimate the public health system that our government rebuilt to protect Queensland from COVID-19. They cut funding to community groups and organisations that were essential to the delivery of health care in Queensland and they have never apologised for their actions. We are a government that can be trusted on health infrastructure and on construction. The LNP can never be trusted on those issues.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just to be clear: member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders. I wanted to make sure you heard that warning.

### Domestic and Family Violence

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question is to the Premier. Doreen Langham, Robyn Beever, Kelly Wilkinson, Hannah Clarke—when will the Premier put laws in place to prevent these tragedies from happening?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for question. I went through that for members of the House previously when I said that the honourable Attorney-General had set up—perhaps the member was not listening—a task force headed by Margaret McMurdo to look—

**Mrs Frecklington:** Nasty, nasty, nasty.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** No. If the member had listened to my comments she would know that I was very comprehensive in that answer.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for McConnel, you are warned under the standing orders. Member for Nanango, you are warned under the standing orders.

### Education System

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Will the minister update the House about Queensland's successful transition to COVID-normal schooling?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Mansfield for the question. As an ex-principal, she knows how well school communities came together to ensure normal schooling resumed as soon as possible. Believe it or not, this week is a year since Queensland schools transitioned to remote learning during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to UNESCO data—and I spoke to relatives in Italy about this over Easter—one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, close to half the world's students are still affected by partial or full school closures. That was the case in Italy when I called my relatives for Easter.

In Queensland things could not be more different. Once again, I thank everyone for their mighty effort—teachers, principals, parents, teacher aides, cleaners and families. Everybody came together to make sure that students embraced remote learning. They maintained their learning for five weeks for the majority of students and only three weeks for prep and year 1 and years 11 and 12. As those in the House know, just before Easter this year we had a short pupil-free period due to an outbreak. Thank goodness we were able to come back from that and after the Easter break schools resumed as normal.

I have many statistics here—the number of laptops given out, the millions of views to websites, sim cards given out, lesson packages provided, the 95,000 viewers who tuned in each day to our award-winning curriculum focused learning from home programs across three commercial TV stations, the thousands of school based online packages and the over 40,000 hand sanitiser containers given to schools. I could keep going.

The wonderful thing is that we have been able to return to normal as soon as possible. I contrast that with the contribution of the federal member for Bowman, Andrew Laming—whom the member for Capalaba has called on to be sacked—in the middle of all this which was for people to report their principals to police and have them charged as criminals if people could not send their kids to school. Scott Morrison should have sacked him then and he should sack him now. Instead, what does he do? He gives him empathy training. If the empathy training is anything like the respect training packages that they developed for students—which on Tuesday I said would not be used in this state; I now hear they have binned those which is exactly where they belong—all I can say is that I back the member for Capalaba and he should be sacked.

### **Gladstone Ports Corporation, Chief Executive Officer**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer. When was the Treasurer first advised of Minister Bailey's meeting with the Gladstone Ports Corporation's board on 25 September 2019 where he made strong recommendations about the CEO appointment process? Does the Treasurer endorse the decision not to renew three board members following their refusal to accept this strong recommendation?

**Mr DICK:** It has been 140 days and there is still not one question on the budget, on the economy or on anything relevant to the economic circumstances of Queensland. I am happy to answer the question, although, I make it very clear, that I do not accept the premise of the question or the facts put forward by the member for Toowoomba South. We would have thought that, in the worst economic crisis since the Great Depression, the opposition would pay some attention to the Queensland economy. Perhaps they will not because of the strong economic response we have been responsible for as a Labor government.

I am aware a matter has been referred to the CCC. I am aware of those matters. Those matters are being considered by the CCC, and that is appropriate. It is right for the CCC to consider those matters and make any determination they so wish. We in this House should not be interfering in the work of the CCC when they are investigating matters.

My focus is on restoring the strength of the Queensland economy, building the infrastructure our state needs and not making false promises, fake promises and hoaxes to the people of Queensland on infrastructure projects that will never be delivered. That was what was deliberately done during the election by those opposite. Those projects will never be delivered. Their actions in misleading the people of Queensland were called out by the Deputy Prime Minister today. We will focus on the things that the people of Queensland—

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance under the standing orders. The question was about board appointments for the Gladstone Ports Corporation and nothing that the Treasurer is talking about. I ask that he be brought back to the recruitment process and the CCC recommendations.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The minister has been responsive in answering that component of the question, as I have heard it. If he has something further to add in relation to the question asked, I am happy to hear from him. Minister, you have one minute and 27 seconds left.

**Mr DICK:** We will let the CCC do their work and we will focus on those things that matter the most to Queenslanders—jobs, economic recovery, frontline services and infrastructure.

**Ms LUI:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Treasurer, you are warned under the standing orders. I have given you some guidance in relation to direct comments.

### **Ambulance Service, Resources**

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister advise how the government is delivering extra resources to the Queensland Ambulance Service and the benefits this is bringing to the broader health system and advise of any alternative approaches?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for Cook for her question. It was a pleasure to be on Thursday Island with her. As I said yesterday, we visited the local hospital up there, but we also visited the ambulance station up there and met with the amazing paramedics.

Queensland's hardworking paramedics and ambulance workers are truly some of the state's unsung heroes. The Queensland Ambulance Service staff provide world-class treatment to ambulance patients, sometimes as many as 3,000 a day. I thank each and every one of them for their outstanding efforts. The Palaszczuk government is very proud of its record funding to the Queensland Ambulance Service. There was funding of more than \$933 million in the 2020-21 state budget. We have given the Queensland Ambulance Service the resources to bring an extra 20 paramedics online this month. With our hospitals experiencing unprecedented demand, as I have said previously, we are investing an extra \$25 million to boost capacity in the health service, including bringing 130 extra beds online with an immediate \$15 million injection.

Visiting Thursday Island last week with the member for Cook, I could not help but be impressed to see and hear of the work of the local paramedics and our Indigenous cadets, which is a fantastic program with QAS. The government has invested \$2.8 million in this state-of-the-art ambulance station on Thursday Island which became operational in March 2018.

These paramedics are absolutely amazing, as we heard. They all train to work on rescue helicopters which takes up the majority of their work because people are brought in from other islands. They are highly skilled and often find themselves responding in helicopters across the whole of the Torres Strait and down to the northern tip of Cape York Peninsula. In 2019-20, Thursday Island paramedics responded on 921 occasions to patients in need. I applaud their efforts. It is incredible.

Other pressures are facing our Queensland Ambulance Service. We heard those opposite carrying on earlier today, saying you cannot blame sick patients and everything else. The fact is that now we do not have a GP in Townsville to service over 420 residents in aged care. There was a single GP in Townsville in November 2020 who withdrew, leaving over 600 residents not being supported. This puts pressure on our ambulances who are called out more often. It certainly puts at risk those elderly vulnerable people in aged care. We know that they are in high need of care and can deteriorate quickly. My director-general has written to the Commonwealth to call on them to support us in getting GPs and locums back into these regions.

*(Time expired)*

### **Minister for Transport and Main Roads, Ministerial Code of Conduct**

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Premier. The Crime and Corruption Commission has suggested that Minister Bailey may have breached the ministerial code by involving himself in the appointment process of the Gladstone Ports Corporation CEO. Has the Premier investigated the allegation that Minister Bailey breached the ministerial code of conduct and what was the outcome?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. In relation to the letter that was tabled yesterday, it said they may be referring that matter to the Speaker. I will wait to see what happens in relation to the letter that was tabled yesterday.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. On a point of clarification, my understanding is that the Premier is responsible for the ministerial code of conduct, not the Speaker, so it is appropriate that the question is answered by the Premier.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I have seen the tabled document. The tabled document uses the word 'may' which leaves it open to interpretation. It is also a letter from the CCC which relates to a particular issue. Whether that is correct or not is a matter for the CCC. Ultimately, there is nothing I am aware of in my capacity as Speaker. The Premier has answered the question.

### **Transport and Main Roads, Employment**

**Mr WALKER:** My question is to the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Will the minister update the House on mentoring and training opportunities available to people looking to pursue careers within the minister's department and the government?

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for a very wise question. One of the great legacies of this government will be the level of training and mentoring we have within our departments. Thousands of Queenslanders are learning their trade for the very first time because of the infrastructure boom under the Palaszczuk Labor government and because of the mentors that guide them.

We currently have more than 260 workers busy on the underground tunnelling of the Cross River Rail project. There are more than 80 apprentices and trainees amongst them, working on one of the largest infrastructure projects in the country. That includes 17-year-old apprentice Samuel Scheeres, who is working on one of the 1,350-tonne tunnel-boring machines under the river, who is being mentored by some of the best in the tunnelling business.

My department's Women in Construction program is providing an important pathway for women in the construction industry—a program that since 2017 has seen 50 women receive classroom training and experience on work sites across the state. Nothing beats being mentored by those before you to learn from them how to work.

Speaking of mentoring, an extraordinary example has come to my attention of a protege who was effusive about their mentor and expressed their gratitude in a remarkable way. It is in the book *can do* on page 192.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please put the book down.

**Mr BAILEY:** The book quotes the current Leader of the Opposition. Let me read this out—

Campbell made an extraordinary, unsolicited confession to Crisafulli, who remembered the event vividly—  
and this is a direct quote—

Campbell walks out and ... says 'well, the polling shows that I'm pretty cooked in Ashgrove ... I don't think I'll get there ... In fact, I'm sure I won't get there. But we're going to win across the state.

The Leader of the Opposition continues—

In that moment, that one second in time, I realised I was dealing with someone special. To me, that was a defining moment. I remember going home and pondering his comments at the end of that manic day. I said to myself ... that's what they mean when they talk about service above self ... That to me was the ultimate sacrifice. I'll remember that moment until the day I die.

They are the direct words of the member for Broadwater, the then member for Mundingburra—he cut and run from Townsville; moved 1,400 kilometres for a safe seat on the Gold Coast. Apparently Campbell Newman was here last night. I am wondering whether the LNP logistics people got him in through the freight loading dock or put a blanket over him down the back. We know that the member for Broadwater is his protege—his own words say so.

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Just for clarity, no members of the public or former members are brought in via the loading dock, Minister.

### Electricity Network, Safety

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Minister for Energy and Public Works. In light of the recent electrocution of two teenagers from a faulty livewire conductor falling into a river in my electorate, what action has the minister taken to ensure our ageing electricity network is properly maintained, staffed and resourced to protect the general public?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Hill for the question. I appreciate his concern for the citizens in his community. Of course the safety and health of all Queenslanders must come first, particularly in relation to electrical safety. I would like to inform the member for Hill, and for the benefit of the House, that I was recently briefed in relation to the incident that occurred in the small town south of Cairns—El Arish. Given that Anzac Day is on the weekend, I would like to acknowledge that El Arish was a returned soldier settlement. I know all members of this House across the weekend will pay their respects to those service men and women who defended our nation but also settled in many parts of Queensland.

In relation to the incident that occurred, I inform the member for Hill that I have asked that the distribution and transmission providers in Queensland—that is, Ergon in North Queensland and Powerlink statewide—as well as the Electrical Trades Union conduct a round table to investigate how they can improve resourcing of that region and other regions across Queensland to ensure the utmost safety and integrity of that network. I want to put on record and thank in particular the Electrical Trades Union for bringing this issue to my attention. They have met with me on a number of occasions over the last couple of weeks in relation to this matter.

I am also advised that the Electrical Safety Office will, as always, conduct an investigation into this matter. I have asked that both the outcomes of that round table between the ETU, Powerlink and Ergon and the findings of the Electrical Safety Office are reported back to me. I certainly undertake to relay any findings of those discussions back to the member for Hill.

Importantly, I am able to give the commitment to the House and to the member for Hill that Ergon and Powerlink will enter into those discussions because they are government owned corporations. When the ministers responsible for those government owned corporations ask them to conduct specific activities, they perform those activities. That would not have happened if they were sold off. I will take this opportunity to remind the House that one of the biggest tragedies in Australia history—the 2009 Victorian bushfires where 173 Australians lost their lives—was on the watch of a privatised electrical company that had not trained a technician in 10 years—

*(Time expired)*

### **Advance Queensland, Job Creation**

**Mr SULLIVAN:** My question is of the Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport. Will the minister inform the House how Advance Queensland is supporting innovation and new export opportunities that are creating Queensland jobs in the future economy, and is the minister aware of any alternatives?

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I thank the member for the question. There is a great example that my learned friend and I visited in his Stafford electorate recently. In part of the former Bruce Pie Industries building at Kedron a world-first Queensland innovation is making military training fields safer. Advance Queensland's Ignite Ideas Fund has helped Brisbane company Gaardtech get started on building our economy of the future. Steen Bisgaard is one of a group of Australian Army veterans making and exporting unmanned ground vehicles, or UGVs. These are robotic machines that are designed to look like life-size tanks and rocket-launchers.

With advanced manufacturing, active thermal cell technology and ballistic materials, Gaardtech's replicas are about to be used to train British soldiers in the art of modern warfare. They are robotic and they can be controlled remotely to make battleground training safer. The first two of nine shipments of SA6 robotic vehicles and Jaeger UGVs are on their way to the British Army as part of a \$1.7 million contract. For their journey these robotic vehicles are flat packed just like Swedish furniture and reassembled at their destination.

This Queensland-made technology is making it big overseas with the help of the Palaszczuk government's incubation grant. We are making the difference to enable this company to take it to the world stage. It is the first time that defence forces have trained with moving replica tanks to simulate warfare. Gaardtech is negotiating more contracts, with plans to grow its skilled Brisbane workforce by 50 staff.

In the last round of Ignite Ideas the Palaszczuk government supported some 32 innovative projects to build on the 25,000 jobs already created. It is great evidence of the way in which we have supported innovative Queensland companies and enabled people with great ideas to get them on the world stage.

There are wonderful examples right across the board, but what do those opposite do with innovation? When they were in government they slashed \$50 million from the innovation budget; \$20 million from the Smart State grants; \$6.4 million from the Business and Industry Transformation Incentives program; and \$6.1 million from the Productivity Hubs program. That is why it is important to understand that only the Palaszczuk government backs innovation to create jobs for Queenslanders in the new industries of the future. We can see the way in which the knuckle draggers on the other side refuse to back great innovative Queensland industries, companies that are making a difference and, most importantly in this week before and Anzac Day, making a difference to service people globally.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, maybe it is because it is Thursday, but I find that may have been unparliamentary language and I ask that you consider withdrawing.

**Mr HINCHLIFFE:** I withdraw.

### **Public Housing**

**Dr MacMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Communities and Housing. Since launching the housing strategy in 2017 has the government sold off public housing dwellings on the private market?

**Ms ENOCH:** I thank the member for the question. When you are managing a large body of properties, in terms of end-of-life stock there is always a bit of movement in order to produce more properties. For instance, we know that since 2016 this government has seen an increase in the total

number of social homes by 2,175 dwellings. That is a fact. The Housing Construction Jobs Program, our \$1.6 billion investment in social and affordable housing, is all about ensuring that we have the right mix—

**Dr MacMAHON:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order in terms of relevance under standing order 118. The question was about the sale of housing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, I have heard your answer. I would ensure that you are aware of the direct question that was asked. If you could return to that question.

**Ms ENOCH:** As I said at the very beginning of my response to the question, of course when you are managing a large body of properties there is always movement in terms of ensuring that we are able to build more properties and more units so that we can—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the minister is responding to the question. I would like to hear the answer.

**Ms ENOCH:** This has been the normal practice of governments that manage social housing properties for many decades—being able to move from some properties into building more properties. If the member for South Brisbane paid attention at all, she would know that is happening in her own electorate. We have been able to secure 32 new units at Woolloongabba which have just been completed. There are another 40 accommodation units at South Brisbane that have commenced—supporting 24 jobs—and that is because we have been able to move from some properties into other properties and invest that in the building of new units.

This government has been investing in new properties right across the state, and that has been evidenced by many of the MPs from this side of the House who have been out and about visiting those locations. The member for Bundamba went and had a look at a three-storey building and saw 18 new one-bedroom units. The member for Jordan visited a place under construction where we saw two four-bedroom detached houses being built. The member for Mackay looked at 10 one-bedroom apartments, and the list goes on. Even the member for Southport turned up outside one of the buildings that is being funded by the Queensland government to support the great construction that is happening to increase affordable and social housing and crisis housing in Queensland as a result of this government's \$1.6 billion investment.

The member for South Brisbane, who represents the Greens along with the member for Maiwar, are two of the most privileged people you would meet. They are non-Indigenous lawyers, in terms of their diversity, who should be focused on the people who really need their help. Those are the ones that we are—

*(Time expired)*

### Women, Safety

**Ms BUSH:** 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 update the House on what the government is doing to make Queensland workplaces and communities safer for women, and is the Attorney-General aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for Cooper for her many years of advocacy around keeping women safe in our workplaces and in our communities. The Palaszczuk Labor government is focused on preventing sexual harassment in the workplace and in the broader community. Change has to start with government and the thousands of Queenslanders whom we employ. That is why I was so proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government was the first jurisdiction to introduce paid domestic and family violence leave for our hardworking public servants. I welcome the overdue announcement that the Prime Minister has now finally agreed to, in part or in principle, the 55 recommendations of the landmark *Respect@Work* report. We know that respect for women absolutely has to start at the top, and that is with our leaders.

What have we seen from Queensland members of parliament, our community leaders, on this important issue? Over the weekend the member for Burleigh sat down with Gold Coast journalist Ann Wason Moore and talked about how difficult it is for him at the moment that he must be mindful when he is around young female staffers. He says that the critical lens applied to male politicians is making it 'awkward' for him. He said—

I agree there has to be change in our workplace and that women have suffered too much, but right now it feels as though the pendulum has swung too far.

I say this to the member for Burleigh: could you just for one moment think about how women feel and not yourself?

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

**Ms FENTIMAN:** Mr Speaker, every woman in this place knows what it feels like to leave a public place at night and have to text your friends to say that you got home safe, that when you hop on public transport you share your location so your friends know where you are, that you hold your keys in your hand when you walk to your car in a dark car park at night. Every woman in this place and in our community knows how we make phone calls when we are walking alone, both real and fake, just so we do not seem as vulnerable.

I say to the LNP and to the member for Burleigh: please think about how women feel and not yourself. Think about how difficult it is for women when they are sexually harassed in the workplace. Think about how awkward it is not for you but for women—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Direct your comments through the chair, Minister.

**Ms FENTIMAN:** when they have to avoid a certain male colleague because it makes them feel uneasy. This again comes back to the point that those opposite in the LNP simply do not get it. Again, it is a test of leadership for the member for Broadwater. Is he going to call out these comments, or is he going to let these comments by the member for Burleigh stand?

*(Time expired)*

### **Tourism Industry, Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Premier. The Premier has said that Queensland tourism vouchers are good to go. Was the Premier aware when granting holiday leave to her chief New South Wales attacker, the Deputy Premier, that his preferred holiday destination was New South Wales, rather than supporting Queensland tourism and Queensland jobs?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. Let me say very clearly that the Deputy Premier advised me that it had been a previously booked holiday by his family. I knew where he was going. He told me where he was going. It was perfectly fine.

There is a very clear difference on this side of the House to that side of the House. On this side of the House when members go on their holidays they pay for it. On that side of the House they ask taxpayers to pay for it—Margaret River, Luna Park and Schoolies on the Gold Coast. That is a fundamental difference of the two sides of the House.

**Mr Fumer:** How's the wine in WA going?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I will take that interjection. They did not mind going to Margaret River, exploring the wineries and seeing what Western Australia had to offer. They went to Luna Park.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** They are interjecting on that, aren't they? Let me say this. People on both sides of the House work very hard and they are entitled to have a break. That is what they are entitled to. They are entitled to have a break with their families. We are in a world pandemic at the moment, and we are encouraging people to holiday in Australia as much as possible.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Members to my left.

**Ms Palaszczuk** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier will cease her interjections.

*(Time expired)*

### **Renewable Energy**

**Mr HARPER:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Will the minister update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is delivering on our renewable energy target? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?



**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for the question and for his support of the Premier's agenda to ensure that Queensland achieves its position as a renewable energy powerhouse. It is thanks to the hard work of this government that we have seen 44 large-scale renewable projects committed here to Queensland. That will generate over 4,600 megawatts of renewable energy, bringing \$8.5 billion of job-creating investment here to Queensland.

We know that we already have one of the highest penetrations of rooftop solar in the world. In fact over 3,000 megawatts of rooftop solar electricity is generated from Queensland roofs. I am advised that if North Queensland were its own country it would be the third highest generator of renewable energy in the world. The postcode of 4814 is the 39th highest generator of renewable energy from rooftops in the nation. Out of 3,333 postcodes it is 39th.

I can announce to the House today that in November 2020 we hit a massive record high of renewable generation—60 per cent of electricity generated in November 2020 was renewable. That is an incredible achievement. The progress did not happen by chance. It happened through planning, it happened through investment and it happened through commitment from this Labor government.

It is sad to say though that those opposite—in fact, the whole Liberal National Party in this country—cannot come up with their own plan on renewable energy, climate or emissions because they are terribly divided on this issue. They are the dinosaurs when it comes to international policy on renewable energy. Once again, they are back at their age-old battle—the dinosaurs of the LNP. We have spotted some of the LNP dinosaurs roaming around Queensland lately. In one corner, up in Hinkler, we have the Pitt-odactyl, who flies around Queensland trying to convince everybody that nuclear is a good thing, although it costs five times the cost of renewable energy. Up in Leichhardt we have the Tyrannosaurus-Entsch who, despite his half-hearted efforts, is unable to convince any of his colleagues that renewable energy is a good idea.

We have the Callide-osaurus—an ancient and outdated creature who just lumbers around Western Queensland calling renewables a fantasy, unable to see that his views are extinct, and preparing for hibernation down the back. We have the member for Burleigh, who is so worried about them all dying due to renewables causing a third ice age. As the member for Burleigh said, 'You can't argue with science.' You cannot argue with the LNP dinosaurs and their Jurassic-style battle. It is only a Labor government that will deliver a renewables future for this state.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

### Coronavirus, Queensland Health Advice



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (11.16 am): I would like to clarify one matter. In my ministerial statement this morning I said—

Any person who has recently travelled from New Zealand to Australia should review those venues of concern. All people who visited these locations at the specific dates and times are considered casual contacts, have been asked to monitor their health for 14 days from exposure and to get tested if they become symptomatic.

I would like to clarify that this is the advice of the New Zealand authorities. However, the advice from Queensland Health, which has been provided to remain nationally consistent with other jurisdictions, is that any person who has recently travelled from New Zealand to Australia should review those venues of concern. If they have attended any of those venues at the relevant times, they should immediately get tested and isolate until they have a negative result.

## QUEENSLAND VETERANS' COUNCIL BILL

### Message from Governor



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.17 am): I present a message from His Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from His Excellency the Governor recommends the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

## MESSAGE

## QUEENSLAND VETERANS' COUNCIL BILL 2021

*Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68*

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

A Bill for an Act to establish the Queensland Veterans' Council and to amend the Anzac Day Act 1995, the Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019 for particular purposes

## GOVERNOR

Date: 21 April 2021

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 21 April 2021, from his Excellency the Governor, recommending the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021 [\[547\]](#).

### Introduction



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.18 am): I present a bill for an act to establish the Queensland Veterans' Council and to amend the Anzac Day Act 1995, the Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010 and the Statutory Bodies Financial Arrangements Regulation 2019 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Community Support and Services Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021 [\[548\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021, explanatory notes [\[549\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[550\]](#).

Today I am pleased to introduce the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill 2021. Queenslanders have a long history of supporting our veterans, and the broader veterans community, and honouring Queensland's war legacy. That includes through the public donations that supported the creation of Anzac Square, public attendances at commemorative services and the annual government funding provided to the Anzac Day Trust Fund.

My government is committed to ensuring the contribution of Queensland veterans is acknowledged and that our veterans are supported. The bill demonstrates my government's commitment to veterans and their families by establishing the Queensland Veterans' Council as a new statutory body with three key areas of responsibility. Firstly, under the bill, the Queensland Veterans' Council will become the trustee of Anzac Square and will have responsibility for its ongoing management and operation; secondly, the Queensland Veterans' Council will have responsibility for managing the Anzac Day Trust Fund under the Anzac Day Act 1995; and, thirdly, the Queensland Veterans' Council will provide advice to government on veterans matters.

Anzac Square is the state's war memorial. It is located on Crown land, with the Brisbane City Council as trustee. Between 2014 and 2019, the Australian government, Queensland government and Brisbane City Council collectively committed \$21.98 million for the Anzac Square Restoration and Enhancement Project. In August 2019, I was pleased to attend the official ceremony to mark the completion of the project.

The work undertaken as part of the project included the significant restoration and redevelopment of the Anzac Square undercroft to create modern memorial galleries. The memorial galleries allow Anzac Square's original purpose to expand to now include education. The memorial galleries are a place where people without direct experience of Australia's war involvement can learn about and commemorate Queensland's war history. Since opening, the memorial galleries have been expertly curated by the State Library of Queensland.

The establishment of the Queensland Veterans' Council as a statutory body will provide the new governance framework for Anzac Square. The Anzac Day Trust Fund was initially established under the Anzac Day Act 1921. Currently, the trust fund is administered by the Anzac Day Trust, a statutory body, which is governed by a four-member board of trustees. The trust fund provides annual payments to institutions, organisations or associations to assist and support ex-service men and women and their dependants.

My government has committed an additional \$1 million over four years to provide financial support for veterans affected by COVID-19 and for veterans organisations to assist with staging COVID-safe commemorative events. This funding will also be delivered through the trust fund. The bill provides modern governance arrangements for the trust fund by abolishing the Anzac Day Trust and transferring the governance responsibility for the trust fund to the QVC.

One of the functions of the Queensland Veterans' Council will be to monitor and provide advice to government on veterans matters. To support the Queensland Veterans' Council in providing this advice, the bill also formalises the role of the Queensland Veterans' Advisory Council. This is a ministerial advisory committee established to provide a forum for the Queensland veterans community to communicate directly with the Queensland government and provide advice on veterans matters. Under the bill, the advisory council will be replaced by the Veterans Reference Group, which will support the Queensland Veterans' Council in providing advice on veterans related matters. The Veterans Reference Group may comprise up to 10 members drawn from the veterans' community.

The bill provides a wide definition of 'veterans community' to include all veterans and all people who have a direct link to veterans. The broad definition is intended to allow members of the Veterans Reference Group to include people who provide support to veterans, such as medical professionals who specialise in treating veterans, and people who specialise in veterans transition from military service.

The Queensland Veterans' Council will have a membership of up to eight people, comprising two ex-officio members and up to six members appointed by the Governor in Council. The two ex-officio members will be: the director-general of the department that administers the act, or an employee of the department nominated by the director-general; and the chief executive of the Brisbane City Council, or a Brisbane City Council employee nominated by the chief executive. The six appointed members will include: up to two members nominated by veterans organisations on the request of the minister; and up to four people with qualifications or experience in corporate governance, business or financial management, heritage conservation or another area the minister considers relevant or necessary to support the QVC in performing its functions.

In accordance with the bill, veterans will represent a minimum of 25 per cent of the membership of the QVC. Importantly, while there is no limitation on veterans being appointed to the Queensland Veterans' Council, provided they have the necessary skills and experience, the proposed membership also allows non-veterans to become members. Providing the opportunity for non-veteran members of the community with the appropriate skills and experience to be appointed to the Queensland Veterans' Council reflects the historical origins of Anzac Square. The square was the broader community's response to the First World War and its purpose was as a war memorial for all Queenslanders.

The bill provides the minister with the power to issue a statement of expectations, or require the production of a document or information. Such powers may be used, for example, for the minister to set expectations around the level of consultation and engagement with the Queensland veterans community or if the minister requires specific information about the performance of the QVC's functions. Any statement of expectations or written notice to give a document or information is required to be included in the Queensland Veterans' Council annual report.

In recognition of the heritage significance of Anzac Square, the bill requires the Queensland Veterans' Council to prepare and implement a conservation management plan. In accordance with the bill, the conservation management plan will be endorsed by the Queensland Heritage Council and reviewed every five years. In addition, the Queensland Veterans' Council will be required to report to the minister and the Queensland Heritage Council about the implementation of the plan. In accordance with the bill, the Queensland Veterans' Council will receive administrative support to enable it to perform its functions from the department with administrative responsibility for the act.

The establishment of the Queensland Veterans' Council as an independent statutory body will strengthen and modernise the legislative framework for veterans matters in Queensland. It will provide a modern governance structure for Anzac Square and the Anzac Day Trust Fund, and it clearly signals my government's commitment to supporting Queensland's veterans community right across the state. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for Trade) (11.25 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.


## Referral to Community Support and Services Committee

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Community Support and Services Committee.

## YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 21 April (see p. 1094), on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (11.26 am): I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill comes too late for the lives lost, the injuries sustained by innocent bystanders, and the thousands of people who have had their property stolen and destroyed by children wreaking havoc in our communities.

Since Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk's government came into power in 2015, they have managed to ditch several measures introduced by the LNP to keep the community safe. We have been reminded by the Premier on a daily basis for over a year now that she is keeping us safe. There are obviously a few exceptions to this 'keeping you safe' thing. It does not include keeping us safe from recidivist juvenile offenders or youth offenders on bail who are stealing cars and running over innocent people, crashing into cars driven by innocent people, or destroying innocent people's property. The result of removing these measures is that there is now limited legislative deterrence and the police force are hamstrung in their gallant efforts to fight crime and keep our community safe.

The government introduced this bill into the House on 25 February 2021 as a response to public pressure after a series of highly publicised and tragic events. The bill aims to strengthen the youth justice framework by introducing several measures, which according to the explanatory notes include—

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

These objectives will be met by amendments to the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992, Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and the Youth Justice Act 1992.

Labor have an appalling record when it comes to youth justice. The rot started in June 2016 when they scrapped the LNP's breach of bail offence, made childhood findings of guilt inadmissible in court, reinstated the principle that detention should be the last resort and be the shortest appropriate period when sentencing a child, and reinstated into the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 the principle that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and a sentence that allows the offender to stay in the community is preferable.

Since then, the government has just kept winding back youth justice laws to the point where youth offenders are laughing in the face of police officers as they are being arrested. They know that the next day they will be back out reoffending, with nothing more than a rap over the knuckles.

In June 2020 Labor again amended the Youth Justice Act, which still enshrines a presumption in favour of bail. While the courts or police must not release youths if there is a risk to community safety, this can be mitigated if appropriate bail conditions are applied. Even worse, youths can be granted bail even if they pose a risk of reoffending or absconding. What part of that amendment is a deterrent to a recidivist offender? I would say none.

Labor's attempt at youth justice is not working. In the three years bail houses were operating, 5,648 offences were committed by 210 young people post bail house, with one child committing a total of 255 offences post bail house placement. Some 82 per cent of youths who resided in bail houses went on to reoffend. Clearly, that experiment is not working.


What is particularly disturbing is the number of offences being committed by younger children, 10- to 13-year-olds. Between 2018-19 and 2019-20, 490 10- to 13-year-olds were released from custody in connection with a charge. Some 1,465 10- to 13-year-olds were charged with an offence. This is terrifying. There was a total of 9,885 proven offences. These offences are not limited to

Townsville, Brisbane or the coastal strip; we have our fair share of them over the Great Dividing Range as well. I refer to stolen cars, hooning along local roads, break and enters, damage and destruction of property and theft.

Almost every day there is another news report of a stolen vehicle, and the age of these offenders is astonishing. These kids are a danger to every other driver on the road and any innocent pedestrian who happens to be crossing the road or, as we have seen, merely walking along the footpath. Having never held a driving licence, they have no knowledge of or respect for the road rules and are behind the wheel of a powerful motor vehicle. These cars are then abandoned on the side of the road, quite often set alight and burnt. This is a far too common occurrence in the back roads of Condamine. There they then sit for weeks or even months. There was one recently that was sitting in a farmer's paddock of barley on the Oakey Kingsthorpe Road for at least two months.

This Palaszczuk government just cannot seem to see that its actions have created this problem. Its softly-softly approach has meant youth offenders just keep committing crimes. There are no deterrents and no reason for them not to. The Premier, the Minister for Police and a succession of ministers for child safety, youth and women have had their heads in the sand on this issue, which has caused great devastation to many families and will continue to do so. The government's measures to resolve the issue fall short of what is actually required. It will make those opposite feel better about themselves; however, it will not bring back the lives lost or reduce the trauma experienced.

The LNP's amendment to restore breach of bail provisions will improve the bill. We have been consistent with our policy approach on youth justice. The community wants some action. They deserve to feel safe in their homes, on the road and in their community. I, for one, want to know that when I park my car in the evening it will be still there in the morning.

 **Mr SULLIVAN** (Stafford—ALP) (11.33 am): I rise today to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill addresses several key areas of policy in the youth justice space, including the issue of establishing new bail provisions for recidivist offenders and the issue of hooning. In addressing this bill, I reflect my view that we all should recognise that delivering reform in youth justice is complex, difficult and, at its core, a very human endeavour.

In considering this bill, I refer to my first speech contribution a few months ago where I attempted to reflect on my learning experiences in the areas of criminal justice reform and government service delivery right across Queensland. I said that when it comes to youth justice, and young offenders in particular, there is no silver bullet. Personally, I am very passionate about the role of education in changing people's lives, especially the more vulnerable in our community. As I said, my work in criminal law and government suggests to me that the role of education cannot be overstated in the lives of young Queenslanders at risk of entering or already in the criminal justice system.

When it comes to young people and youth crime, too often public discussion descends very quickly into unedifying name-calling. A lot of names get thrown at these young Queenslanders in public debate, in the media and, indeed, in this House, but there is one name I would love to be able to throw at these kids in 15 or 20 years: taxpayer. Wouldn't it be great if in 20 years these kids have a secure job, earning a living, providing for their families and paying taxes? Wouldn't our community be better off if we were in a position to call them 'taxpayer', 'nurse', 'teacher' or 'tradie'? Surely no-one in here could disagree with that aim. If we can agree that that is our preferred outcome, let's have a sensible, mature discussion about how we get from here to there to make it happen. Of course, sadly some of these young Queenslanders will continue to be in contact with the criminal justice system, but hopefully fewer and fewer will. In changing their lives we do not just change the individual's future but also create a safer community, to the benefit of all. As I said, I do not suggest there is a silver bullet—including this bill. It needs a generational change.

The responsible and sensible, evidence based approach of this government is to tackle the hard challenges, accept the entrenched, often generational human challenges involved, and roll up our sleeves so that in 10 or 20 years we can make some progress. In striving for generational change, over that time or however long we all serve in this place, we might just find that this is the generation that does it.

I associate myself with the contributions of the minister as well as the very considered contributions from members engaged in this policy area, the members for Cooper and Logan to name just two, who reflected on the complexities of the issue and our responsibility as community leaders to provide a mature and sensible voice. While I do not necessarily endorse everything that those opposite said, some opposition members also came to this debate with a mature and considered approach, for example the member for Moggill, providing a strong comparison to others who could best be described as having an ill-informed rant.

To reduce crime we need to change behaviour. That requires the combination of education, housing, violence reduction, tackling substance abuse and a shared commitment to that common goal. I thank the many frontline workers who are absolutely committed to this approach, especially police officers on the ground, health workers, educators, child safety workers and those who work with them from the community services sector.

As we have heard in contributions from members on both sides in this debate, the evidence is clear that serious and recidivist youth offending is being committed by a relatively small and often known cohort in the community. We know where early intervention and wraparound services can be best used. That is why this government continues to tackle both legislative and administrative efforts to address this challenge and to change behaviour. With this bill, I thank the minister for delivering this latest step.

This bill contains amendments to address hooning—amendments that are necessary to address this antisocial and downright dangerous behaviour. The hooning amendments in this bill give police the practical tools they need to investigate these types of offences. A significant barrier to police action is that it is not always possible for police to identify the drivers of motor vehicles used to commit hooning offences. While the car used to commit the offence might be identified, proving who the driver is can be problematic. Under the proposed amendments, where the owners of these vehicles deny being the driver they will be required to provide information that will assist police in their investigations. If they will not help police identify the driver, they will be fined and deemed to have been 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 that may be necessary to bring hooning offenders to justice. As an aside, for obvious reasons, of course, this will not apply to those who, sadly, have had their vehicles stolen. These amendments will give the police the powers they need to crack down on hooners and dangerous driving behaviours so that we can make Queensland roads safer for drivers, for pedestrians, for everyone.

This bill also includes several amendments to address how the courts consider requests for bail for recidivist youth offenders. Bail decisions are not simple decisions. They require our police and judiciary to weigh up a range of factors to determine whether an alleged offender should be released into the community to await trial—in other words, until such time as their innocence or guilt has been determined by a trial or settled by a court according to the law. This bill addresses the matter of bail for recidivist youth offenders by starting with the presumption that, in certain circumstances, if you reoffend while on bail you should not be automatically granted bail again.

The proposed amendments require youth offenders who are charged with a prescribed indictable offence while on bail for an existing indictable offence to demonstrate to the court why their continued detention is not justified. This is a significant reversal of the current process which requires police to convince the court that a young person is a danger to the community and that there is an unacceptable risk of reoffending and therefore they should be refused bail. This amendment does not mean that a young person cannot be granted bail if the circumstances are appropriate, but it does remove a young person's automatic right to bail when they allegedly commit further offences in complete disregard of the terms of their existing bail.

This proposal is a workable solution in contrast to the options being put forward by the opposition. The opposition has recycled its so-called breach of bail laws. This government repealed the opposition's finding of guilt whilst on bail because it did not reduce youth crime and could not be used to hold offenders to account. The offence could not be used until after the young person was found guilty of the original offence by definition. This could be weeks or even months after the incident, so it rarely influenced decisions of bail at the point of arrest or subsequent court appearances.

Further, it contradicted the Criminal Code rule against double punishment. Therefore, even if a child was eventually found guilty of breach of bail or so-called breach of bail, they could not be given any additional penalty beyond the sentence for the substantive offence for which they were already convicted. This is important because I think it sums up the opposition's approach in this youth justice space. Its breach of bail law was impracticable, it did not work and was ridiculed by experts and frontline practitioners alike, but the LNP continues to advance it as its only solution to one of society's most complex problems.

The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee comprehensively considered this bill. Over 80 public submissions were received and there was genuine stakeholder engagement. Public hearings were conducted around the state. I thank the committee for its work and the committee made just one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I commend this bill to the House.



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (11.42 am): The questions being asked in relation to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 are important: do the proposed measures support, enhance and strengthen current efforts; will they reduce reoffending; and can they deliver greater safety for our communities? Queenslanders need and have every right to feel and be safe. They know that current efforts are not reaching a small, persistent cohort of young offenders, roughly 400 across Queensland. However, at the same time they acknowledge that detention alone is not a long-term solution and contributes to increased criminality.

As a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee that reviewed this bill, I was fortunate to hear firsthand the experiences from people across the state. The frustrations were palpable and the fears very real and understandable. We also heard how members of our community—frontline professionals and residents alike—are committed to address youth recidivism in a manner that produces real outcomes for everyone involved. There were consistent messages at the hearings with calls for meaningful action via restitution, compensation, relocation and rehabilitation and, importantly, greater responsibility and accountability for parents, carers and elders.

Aspects of the bill, while offering some steps forward, could not be seen as equally consistent to what is being sought nor the solution. Instead, they are short-term resolutions that may keep individual repeat offenders off the streets for the duration of their sentence but will not address the likelihood of their reoffending. Yes, the provisions with respect to crime victimisation outlined in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 offer purposeful, focused action on specific issues and were well supported by submitters. The provisions that enable police to use handheld scanners in safe night precincts to reduce the carrying of knives and additional enforcement options to prevent hooning are a welcome response to violent and dangerous behaviours in communities.

Noosa, like so many other electorates, has had enough of those who have no consideration for the fear and damage they do, and I thank our fabulous police, paramedics and other first responders who do an incredible job for us. However, the provisions that amend the Youth Justice Act 1992 had minimal support from both sides of the advocacies. These provisions are intended to respond to the offending behaviours of serious recidivist youth offenders—the 10 per cent of all offenders who account for 48 per cent of all youth crime and for which the amendments in this bill are in response to.

The bill's intention to strengthen the youth justice bail framework targets three aspects of the existing provisions. This includes the trial of GPS trackers, a presumption against bail and for both the court and police officers to consider whether there is parental or other support available to the offender with regard to bail. While each of these provisions may have some merit, the reality is that for those seeking greater safety these measures do not go far enough and for those working with our youth these will only further stigmatise young people who already see themselves as outsiders to society.

While enabling the consideration of whether there is a suitable adult willing—and the word was 'willing'—to provide support and effective oversight of bail, there is no suggestion in the bill that the capability of that adult be considered. Similarly, while GPS tracking may be effective on establishing the whereabouts of some young offenders, concerns raised included the ease in which they can be cut off and that the age bracket specified is not consistent with the ages of the cohort targeted within the bill.

There were some glaring gaps revealed during the public inquiry phase of this process, including reports that intervention does not occur until the fifth or sixth court appearance, by which time behaviours and self-beliefs have been ingrained. The second reported gap is the lack of funded services available in impacted communities at the most critical and at-risk time of after 5 pm. This is not acceptable for our youth and our families nor frontline delivery staff or residents in these communities. The announcement from the minister that extra funding will be made available for after 5 pm services is welcomed. However, reports of duplication in services requires assessing.

We should be encouraged that the former QPS commissioner Bob Atkinson will undertake an independent evaluation on the efficiency of the full suite of reforms over a six-month period and report to the new youth justice cabinet committee. More encouraging still is the decision of the Queensland Audit Office for plans to conduct an investigation in 2021-22 to examine the effectiveness of youth justice diversion and rehabilitation initiatives. The foundation of this audit is the premise that addressing the root causes can help young people better connect with their communities and reduce the risk of those committing future crimes. The QAO's website provides a means for those who wish to contribute to its audit and I look forward to its conclusions.

As noted in my statement of reservation, five areas require further investigation. These were identified through the public consultation process but were technically outside the scope of this bill. These included for the courts a potential option 4 when sentencing in response to requests for


low-security, remote live-in facilities with holistic community programs such as on country that are accessible by families so they can participate.

To ensure communities are kept safe and decrease offending, returning offenders back to the environments that nurtured the criminality makes no sense and that environment needs to be part of the rehabilitation. We heard of many fabulous and successful programs as part of efforts to prevent reoffending, and the statistics of the 90 per cent who do not reoffend are seen as testimony to that. However, for that 10 per cent who are not responding to these efforts, participating in programs alone is not sufficient to ensure the safety of the community, hence relocation sentencing was considered essential.

In addition, further support for youth Murri courts in Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa is needed and we should identify each as a pilot to gather benchmark data. Most importantly, offenders and their family environments must be assessed at the first court appearance to identify supports needed.

I note that amendments have been proposed by the members for Morayfield, Burdekin and Traeger and I thank them for their commitment to improve this bill. As I asked of my committee, it would be invaluable if we could work together regarding recommendations or amendments before the report is tabled. This would improve the process of committee and promote a bipartisan approach in order to deliver better outcomes. I thank our chair for considering what could be achieved in the future. Accordingly, as noted in my statement of reservation, while I support the passage of this bill and its efforts for greater safety, that support should not be seen as endorsing these measures as a solution that will deliver to either side of the debate the outcomes sought.

In closing, I thank my fellow committee members, our chair and secretariat for their work. To the many submitters and attendees at public hearings, the department and our organisations and frontliners, your commitment to both this bill and the safety of our communities is deeply appreciated. Together we saw and heard firsthand the magnitude of the task ahead. Be assured that you are not alone in your efforts. May your persistence be reflected in our efforts to ensure that you have legislation that promotes greater respect, responsibility and accountability as well as consequences that you each seek in your own way. It does take a village to raise a child and we are all part of that village.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (11.50 am): I rise to make a contribution in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The tragic deaths of Matt and Kate Leadbetter and their unborn son Miles hit my local community very hard. As their representative I felt it personally and I was determined to see change occur. I note the many conversations I had with the Premier, the Attorney-General and the youth justice minister following the incident. It has resulted in change. I am so glad that they listened to me but also, more importantly, to my community.

We all want a safer community and a criminal justice system where offenders are held to account for their actions. The action taken in this bill builds on the government's \$500 million investment in the youth justice system, our over \$600 million investment in the police and our five-point youth crime action plan. These investments are making a difference, but we can do more. Our new laws will reverse the onus so that young offenders charged with a serious indictable offence while on bail will need to demonstrate to the court why they are not a risk of reoffending and they are not a danger to the community before they are granted bail.

The new laws give the courts power to seek assurances from the parents or 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 young offenders commit an offence while on bail the court will consider that an aggravating factor and sentence them accordingly, and allow courts to consider the option of electronic GPS monitoring devices for 16- and 17-year-olds as a condition of bail.

Let me be clear, we are seeing some progress in the youth justice system. Our investments and our five-point plan are resulting in the lowest number of youth offenders in a decade. It is down around 30 per cent. During our community forum, officers in the local Redlands community told us that youth offending was down across our region. However, there is a small cohort of hard-core recidivist youth offenders doing significant harm to our communities. It is this cohort that this legislation seeks to address. We are taking a hard line. Youth offenders charged with serious indictable offences whilst on bail, including unlawful use of a motor vehicle, will need to demonstrate to the court that they are not a risk of reoffending before they are granted bail. This provision aims to put a brake on serious recidivist offending. This will be reinforced by the addition of specific reference to the protection of the community around recidivist high-risk offenders in our youth justice system.

The amendments will also trial giving courts the option of electronic monitoring as a bail condition for high-risk recidivist offenders. This was a recommendation in the report of the former police commissioner, Bob Atkinson. Focusing on parental responsibility is a key part of the changes in this



bill. The courts will be given the power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that they will assist young offenders in complying with their bail obligations when considering the granting of bail. These changes are intended to proactively encourage parents to take responsibility and to engage in bail decision-making processes to mitigate the specific risks that the bail decision-maker has identified.

I will now make some comments in response to comments from the opposition on breach of bail. The fact is that breach of bail did not exist under the previous LNP government. There are many ways to breach bail, such as failure to comply with a curfew or failure to reside in an approved residence. None of these breaches were ever an offence under the LNP's law. Only committing an offence while on bail was an offence. The LNP introduced an unworkable law: that of committing an offence while on bail. This law did not work as a deterrent. The fact is that the offender would, as a consequence of the LNP's law, receive a lesser penalty. The fact is the LNP laws did not reduce recidivism. I am advised that of those convicted of the offence in that time, more than 90 per cent reoffended within 12 months and more than 94 per cent within the two years.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Walker): Pause the clock. Direct your comments through the Chair, thank you. The member for Capalaba has the floor so he will call the interjection if he wishes.

**Mr BROWN:** I would like to move on—


**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr FURNER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Maroochydore, you are now on a warning.

**Mr FURNER:** You have pre-empted my point of order, thank you, Deputy Speaker.

**Mr BROWN:** I will move now to the issue of hooning which is addressed in this bill. It is an issue in my area, particularly at Wellington Point. I note the work that we have done with the local council to fund CCTV cameras. Since they were installed a couple of months ago they have been effective. We have seen reports this week by the ABC that they have been working. The changes that are proposed will add an extra measure in addition to those cameras. For a very long time the residents in that area have put up with hooning. Council has done good work in redesigning the point and bringing in traffic controls and also working with the state government in relation to grants for CCTV. I have no doubt the measures in this bill will go further and ensure that we capture more hoons and that they face the full force of the law. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.57 am): Let me give the member for Capalaba and the Labor Party some home truths on youth justice.

**Ms Pease** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will get to the member for Lytton. It may be okay for the member for Capalaba to say that the Attorney-General and the Minister for Children and Youth Justice have now listened to him after the very tragic circumstances that happened to his constituents, which is very worthy; however, tragic circumstances have been happening around other communities in Queensland for years and the government has not acted on any of them.

The government has kept changing little bits of legislation, but the reality is that Labor will never get it right on youth justice because it will always be soft. Those opposite will always put the criminals before the victims of youth crime. They will get rid of breach of bail and detention as a last resort because it is in their DNA to be soft on young criminals.

Let us remember that when the LNP won government we got rid of the jumping castles, the bucking bulls and the Xboxes from the youth detention centres. That is what Labor were doing. They were making sure that the kids had computer games and Xboxes. There was a swimming pool in Cleveland—

**Ms Fentiman** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I will get to you in a second, Minister. This is what the Labor Party does. The ministers keep interjecting. Let us look at crime statistics under the LNP government compared to the Labor government. Last week at the Queensland police symposium, the Griffith University's Social Analytics Lab released statistics that make it clear that in 2015, when the Labor government was elected, crime spiked upwards. Before that, under the LNP, it was going down. These are the QPRIME statistics.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Are you going to table that, member for Kawana?

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Absolutely. I table a copy of the statistics that show that under the LNP government crime went down and under the Labor Party crime went up.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Trends in youth offending in Queensland' [551].

The QPRIME data presented at last week's symposium on youth crime by Dr Molly McCarthy shows that from 2015 to 2016 the number of young people recorded for offences shot up by almost 2,000. The same statistics show a significant decrease in the number of young people recorded for offences between 2011 and 2015. Isn't that a surprise? The LNP changed the laws in 2012 to 2015 and youth crime went down.

**Mr Mander:** That's just a coincidence, mate!

**Mr BLEIJIE:** It is more than a coincidence; I take the interjection. The 2014-15 independent annual report by the President of the Childrens Court showed that incidents of youth crime fell by five per cent that year. Is that another coincidence? A strong LNP government changed the laws and put the victims ahead of the criminals and crime went down by five per cent, but the Labor Party would have us believe that nothing changed in the youth justice space. What absolute rubbish! Those are the facts according to not only the police crime statistics but also the judge responsible for the Childrens Court of Queensland. In his report the president said that in that period crime went down by five per cent. That is more than a coincidence. The report also states—

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of juvenile defendants disposed of in all Queensland Courts shows a slight increase, although in 2014-15, there was a 8.7% decrease from the previous year.

I ask Labor Party members: is that another coincidence? I think not! The report continues—

The trend line in relation to the ten year comparison of the number of charges against juvenile defendants continues to rise, although in 2014-15 there was a 4.9% decrease from the previous year.

There was an almost five per cent decrease in charges between 2014-15. For the haters out there—and there are a few—there is evidence that the LNP government's actions on youth crime were having an effect.

**Mr Bailey:** A failure; a total failure.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection from Minister Bailey. 'A total failure', he says. I have just shown the statistics. Youth crime started to go up as soon as the Labor Party was elected. I can also show the minister the youth justice bill dated 2015. It was the first bill that former attorney-general Yvette D'Ath introduced into this House. Can members guess what the objectives of that bill were? According to the explanatory notes the objectives of the bill were—

1. Remove boot camp ...
2. Prohibit the publication of identifying information about a child dealt with under the Youth Justice Act 1992 ...
3. Remove breach of bail as an offence for children;
4. Make childhood findings of guilt for which no conviction was recorded inadmissible in court when sentencing a person for an adult offence ...

And here we go; this is Labor law in 2015—

5. Reinstate the principle that a detention order should be imposed only as a last resort and for the shortest appropriate period when sentencing a child;
6. Reinstate the Childrens Court of Queensland's ... sentence review jurisdiction and expand the jurisdiction ...; and
7. Reinstate into the Penalties and Sentences Act 1992 ... the principle that imprisonment is a sentence of last resort and a sentence that allows the offender to stay in the community is preferable.

There we go: Labor's objective was to make sure that a sentence that allowed the offender to stay in the community was preferable. That was Labor law in 2015. Labor members should not come in here and try to tell us that they are strengthening the laws to better protect the community because we know that, when Labor changes the youth justice laws, crime increases and the number of offenders increases. The community is less protected under Labor laws.

That was their bill in 2015, but then they had to change the law. In 2016 they had to move amendments because there was a crime spree in Townsville. Then they introduced bail houses. Where are the bail houses now? Then they abolished bail houses. They introduced a new law to replace bail houses, which they say strengthened the law. Unfortunately, people died in our communities so Labor said, 'This is now a priority for the government.' Community safety has not been a priority for this Palaszczuk Labor government for six years. Premier Palaszczuk has been the premier for six years and we have seen an increase in juvenile crime across the state.

They have had Minister Farmer, former attorney-general D'Ath, Minister Fentiman and now Minister Linard dealing with this issue. While Minister Linard is a very nice person, at her first press conference, at which she announced that she was going to strengthen the youth justice laws in the state of Queensland, she stood in front of the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre with her colleague the

member for Mundingburra, who had just been slapped with a police banning order for a fight that had broken out at the Mad Cow Tavern. I note that yesterday his police banning notice finished. I say to the people of Townsville: be careful because the member of Mundingburra is coming for you; he will be out this weekend, nightclubbing and partying. I would be very careful given the amount of alcohol he consumed at the Mad Cow Tavern.

**Mr FURNER:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under section 236 of the standing orders on relevance. I ask you to bring the member back to the bill that we are discussing today.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I ask the member to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** The Minister for Youth Justice announced the legislation that is before us today with the member for Mundingburra. I understand why the minister does not want me to talk about the member for Mundingburra and his police banning order. You have to watch the company you keep when you are making press conferences about youth justice. Surely someone in her office said, 'This is not a good idea, minister'?

I note the amendment to ban tracking devices. I have read the committee report. The person who came up with that was from Sisters Inside. Debbie Kilroy, a convicted drug trafficker, is advising the Labor government. Debbie Kilroy wants to get rid of prisons in Queensland. She wants to abolish Queensland prisons. Now the Labor government is taking the advice of a convicted drug trafficker, as they have done in the past because they put her on the Sentencing Advisory Council as well. That is shameful.


I pay tribute to our hardworking police officers from right around the state. It is not their fault that youth crime has exploded; it is the fault of the Palaszczuk Labor government. It is because of the weak and hopelessly incompetent Labor ministers that youth crime has exploded across the state. The only way that the community will be safe is by supporting LNP laws and that is why we are introducing the amendment for breach of bail. The LNP has shown that we are always stronger and tougher on youth crime. Labor just make announcements, like when Minister Ryan goes out and says, 'People want kids who steal Kit Kats to be put in jail.' No, we do not. A week later he says, 'We're going to have the toughest laws in the country.' What a fool is the member for Morayfield, Minister Ryan. For goodness sake! No-one takes him seriously. No police officer takes this minister seriously.

**Mr RYAN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to two points of order. I find the remarks personally offensive and also they are unparliamentary remarks.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I withdraw. I table a copy of the LNP's achievements in youth justice when in government. Can members guess what? Crime went down! The statistics speak for themselves. Communities will be safer under an LNP government.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Attorney-General and Minister for Justice: Keeping Queenslanders Safe—What we have done so far' [552].

(Time expired)

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (12.08 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. These amendments send a clear signal to all Queenslanders about what is important to this government, which is keeping our community safe. The amendments proposed by the bill respond to a small cohort of youth offenders who continue to offend and endanger the safety of the community. Again, our amendments demonstrate our commitment to community safety.

I want to start my contribution to the debate by talking about the families that are doing it tough. Of course, youth crime is often connected to families that are experiencing domestic and family violence, addiction to drugs and alcohol and mental health problems.

Early intervention has to be paramount in trying to reduce youth crime in our communities. It is referenced in Bob Atkinson AO's 2018 *Report on youth justice* as one of the four pillars: early intervention, keeping children out of court, keeping children out of custody and reducing reoffending. The Palaszczuk government knows how crucial early intervention is in keeping our communities safe, which is why we continue to invest in the prevention of domestic and family violence, with over \$152 million invested in 2020-21, supporting families through programs like PPP and continuing to tackle the significant and harmful impact of drugs on families and communities.

The bill seeks to amend a number of pieces of legislation including the Youth Justice Act 1992, which is to be amended to strengthen bail and sentencing laws. The bill strikes a sensible balance between the special protections afforded to children in the youth justice system because of their adolescence as well as the expectation that the law will strive to protect the community and keep it safe.

Clause 24 of the bill proposes the creation of a presumption against bail for youth offenders. The presumption will operate as it does for adults. A child who finds themselves subject to the presumption against bail must show cause as to why their continued detention is not justified. If the test cannot be met, the court or police officer considering bail for the child must refuse to release the child onto bail. A child will find themselves subject to this reverse presumption if they are arrested for committing a prescribed indictable offence while on bail for another indictable offence.


The definition of 'prescribed indictable offence' includes all indictable offences where the maximum penalty is 14 years or more imprisonment, except where the charge is simpliciter drug possession, and it includes certain other indictable offences carrying a maximum penalty of less than 14 years imprisonment for an adult including choking, suffocation or strangulation in a domestic setting, wounding, dangerous operation of a vehicle, assault occasioning bodily harm, attempted robbery and certain instances of unlawful use or possession of a motor vehicle. The designation of these additional offences as prescribed indictable offences ensures this measure will apply to those offenders who have a tendency to repeatedly commit offences of considerable seriousness and ones that threaten community safety.

Clause 26 of the bill proposes to further amend the Youth Justice Act to provide a legislative basis for a location based trial of electronic monitoring. The amendment follows the recommendation from the 2018 *Report on youth justice* from Bob Atkinson that the government examine the use of electronic monitoring, together with community or home detention, as an alternative to detention in a youth detention centre. A court will only be permitted to make a bail condition requiring electronic monitoring where the accused person is aged 16 or 17 years and has been accused of committing a prescribed indictable offence and has previously been convicted of an indictable offence. The bill relies upon the same definition of prescribed indictable offence as applies to the presumption against bail. The bill requires a court to order that a suitability report be prepared and then considered by the court to ensure the courts do not set up the child to fail.

Clause 21 of the bill seeks to make changes to section 48AA of the Youth Justice Act. This section sets out matters to be considered by courts and police officers when making decisions in relation to bail. The bill proposes to allow a police officer or a court to have regard to indications of willingness of parents or other people to support an accused child to comply with bail, or notify the authorities of changes in circumstances which may affect the child's compliance with bail, or notify the authorities where bail is breached.

In the context of bail, there is an often quoted line from the Queensland Court of Appeal decision of *Williamson v the Director of Public Prosecutions* in which Justice of Appeal Thomas stated, 'No grant of bail is risk-free.' The risk referred to in that quote is the risk that an accused person will not appear in court as required or that they will commit a further offence. The decision goes on to recognise that the risk that one of those things will occur is always present. That is why conditions are imposed upon bail, to address the risk that something will occur. The amendments to the bail provisions of the Youth Justice Act proposed by the bill, in my view, will go some distance to reduce these risks further. These amendments are appropriately targeted to the cohort of youth offenders who have a proven capacity to reoffend while subject to bail, and they are a measured response to recidivist youth offending.

The bill provides the courts with additional powers to impose conditions to further mitigate risk. Balanced against the grant of those powers is the requirement to consider the appropriateness of using them, having regard to a child's human rights and their personal circumstances. Importantly, these amendments do not affect the exercise of judicial discretion. Collectively, the amendments proposed in the bill reinforce the importance of community protection and demonstrate the Palaszczuk government's absolute commitment to achieving it. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (12.14 pm): It is with a sense of déjà vu that I today rise to address the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, a bill that is the Palaszczuk Labor government's latest insipid response to a youth crime crisis that is of their own making. It is a problem which has spiralled out of control across Queensland because the Palaszczuk Labor government have been unwilling to act decisively and swiftly. This bill is just the latest example of that failure. If these matters were not so serious, it would be laughable that we are here today debating another youth justice bill when less than two years ago the government pushed through a youth justice bill with provisions that sought to release more youth offenders onto bail, ignored recommendations for GPS tracking of youth offenders and put Queenslanders at risk. No doubt we will be back again in coming years when Labor's latest weak laws also fail to keep Queenslanders safe.

While the problems with youth crime in places like Townsville and Cairns are well known, Labor's soft-on-crime approach is now resulting in a creeping wave of youth crime extending right across Queensland. Residents on the Sunshine Coast must now contend with regular break and enters, vehicle thefts and worse. Our community has had enough. Data from the Queensland Police Service shows that between 2017 and 2019 the number of offences committed by youth offenders rose considerably across the Sunshine Coast. In my electorate, in Buderim the number was up 646 per cent; in Mountain Creek up 252 per cent; and in Sippy Downs up 404 per cent.

Despite the government's suggestions to the contrary, not only are the number of offences up; so too are the number of repeat youth offenders. Between 2017 and 2019, the number of youth offenders rose significantly across the Sunshine Coast. In my electorate, in Buderim the number of youth offenders was up 300 per cent; in Mountain Creek up 228 per cent; and in Sippy Downs the number of youth offenders was up a staggering 720 per cent. The statistics do not lie. We have a problem with repeat youth offenders and they are holding our community to ransom.

Sadly, the statistics are only part of the story. All too often I hear from Sunshine Coast locals who have been directly impacted by crime or who live in fear. Over recent weeks, the communities of Sippy Downs and Brightwater in my electorate of Buderim have been besieged by young offenders breaking into houses and stealing vehicles. The result has seen single mothers who can no longer drive their kids to school or pick up groceries, tradies who cannot earn an income, and widows who live in fear because the safety of their home has been violated. My community is sick and tired of being held to ransom by young criminals who break into homes, steal cars and terrorise residents. Something needs to change and the government's latest response to this problem does not go far enough.

One year ago today, two retirees who live in a usually nice, safe street in Buderim were sitting down for dinner, minding their own business, when three juveniles violently invaded their home. I met with the couple and they described the three kicking in the door before forcing entry to their house. Then two of the young juveniles pulled knives on the couple before demanding their car keys. Thankfully, while the husband held the assailants at bay with a chair, the wife called police. When the young assailants were advised that police were on their way, they fled. Due to the swift action of the couple and police, the three boys, who were aged 13, 14 and 15, were promptly arrested and they were each charged with break and enter, stealing and two counts of attempted robbery. I have since been advised that the three have been sentenced and they were indeed recidivist youth offenders who had been charged with similar behaviour in the past and, no doubt, since.


Despite their actions and their history, perhaps the most concerning fact is that those three young offenders were released on bail before breakfast the next day. They were released on bail less than 12 hours after they pulled a knife on retirees. It is not good enough. Such a course of action simply does not align with community expectations. I table an article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily* which details that incident.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Sunshine Coast Daily* online, dated 23 April 2020, titled 'Elderly man fends off armed teens with chair' [553].

It is time for there to be consequences for those who disregard the law, regardless of their age. Since Labor came into power in 2015, crime in Queensland has spiralled out of control. It is time for this weak Labor state government to give our local police the laws they need to crack down on those who seek to bring harm to our community, and this bill does not achieve that. While many of the provisions contained in this bill are welcome, they do not go far enough. The use of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for 16- and 17-year-old offenders is a positive step, but it does not go far enough. It would not have applied to any of the young offenders who accosted the law-abiding retirees in my electorate who were just trying to enjoy their dinner.

**Mr Stevens:** They're a badge of honour.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** No doubt they are a badge of honour, member for Mermaid Beach. We need to see breach of bail implemented in order to ensure that there is a consequence for those who choose to disregard the law time and time again. Labor need to put community safety ahead of the rights of young criminals. Bail for offenders should be a privilege, not a right. Breach of bail will provide a consequence for disregarding community expectation. Labor's solution of implementing a circumstance of aggravation provision does not achieve that. I will support this bill because it does take some positive steps to address the problem, but, simply put, more needs to be done.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Again, I find myself rising to oppose dangerous, kneejerk, disgraceful legislation—legislation that is backed in by both Labor and the LNP, which are apparently on a unity

ticket when it comes to locking children up. Having attended the committee hearings in Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane, I have to say that it has been incredibly disappointing to see Labor buying into the politically motivated propaganda of the LNP and their News Corp mates.

One of the most egregious parts of this bill is the proposal to allow the court to order a GPS tracker as a condition of bail for some 16- and 17-year-olds. The Human Rights Commission called the government's evidence offered to support these monitors 'misleading and contradictory', and I agree. There is no evidence these GPS monitors will reduce youth reoffending. Rather, they will increase stigma, they will prompt racialised violence and vigilantism, and they will reduce young people's engagement with education, employment and support services.

Typical of the overall approach taken in this bill, GPS monitors will separate and isolate the most vulnerable kids from their community. They are a message that these kids do not belong anywhere but the criminal legal system. Evidence from the UK even says kids prone to offending may seek these monitors as a badge of honour—as a symbol of belonging to the only group that has ever accepted them.

I was especially surprised to hear the minister stand up in his second reading speech and say that these trackers were recommended by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson. What the Atkinson report actually recommended was that the government consider, with serious caution, electronic monitoring as an alternative to incarceration. Yet the minister's own department says, as is quoted in the committee report, 'These provisions do not facilitate electronic monitoring as an alternative to detention.'

The New Zealand study the government cites in its explanatory notes, far from justifying the measures in this bill, notes significantly lower rates of reoffending for those detained at home with electronic monitoring versus those imprisoned. While this does not compare GPS trackers on bail with no trackers on bail, it suggests that incarceration increases reoffending.

The department knows there is no evidence to support these trackers so it will call it a trial instead. They will use young kids in Queensland—disproportionately First Nations kids—as guinea pigs. Do they think that by removing the word 'tracking' they can separate this from the traumatic colonial practices inflicted upon Indigenous people? As my federal Greens colleague Senator Lidia Thorpe says, 'The colonial neck braces have now given way to ankle monitors.' The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr BERKMAN:** Hear this out.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock! Members, cross-chamber chatter will cease. I cannot hear the member on his feet.

**Mr BERKMAN:** The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Sisters Inside, Amnesty International and the Queensland Indigenous Labor Network all agreed with the submission from the Institute for Collaborative Race Research that these laws are 'unjustifiably authoritarian, punitive and racist, that they will disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and that they are likely to exacerbate the existing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody'. First Nations kids are less likely to be offered diversion and more likely to be impacted by any tightening of bail conditions and are around 28 times more likely to be imprisoned. They will be the ones hit hardest by the presumption against bail that this bill creates.

For folks unclear exactly what this means in practice, let me give an example—and it is one provided by ATSILS, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service. A 10-year-old child who is charged with stealing a can of soft drink and then released and charged again would, by default, be held in custody until their case is heard. In trying to show cause that their detention is not justified, this child could compromise their right to silence. Police are unlikely to release them anyway because, under the proposed amendments, that would just mean more paperwork for the officer to justify this decision.

I was frankly stunned to hear police in Cairns admit during the committee hearings that their officers will likely trump up charges against children so they meet the thresholds for this new law to apply. What a terrifying abuse of power against kids who could still be in primary school. Even more concerning is the likelihood that the presumption against bail will lead to more kids being held in adult police watch houses, with overcrowded detention centres where 87 per cent of the children there are already detained on remand.

Just a year ago both sides of this House were agreeing that it is unacceptable to have children kept in police watch houses. Suddenly the government no longer thinks it is a problem. The department's response to concerns, as outlined in the committee report, was, 'It is standard operational policing practice for a child who has been arrested and who is not suitable for release to spend time in a police watch house before appearing in court.' It is run-of-the-mill stuff apparently!

The minister is seriously trying to say that this reform will deter young people from committing further offences on bail. Let me put it perfectly clearly: it will not. I am not just saying that because I am ideologically opposed to keeping children as young as 10 locked up—as crazy as that may seem to some in this House. I am saying it because the evidence is clear. We cannot punish kids into rehabilitation. A young person's frontal lobe is still developing. This is the part of the brain that drives impulse control and understanding consequences. Children, especially those who have experienced trauma, do not have the neurological capacity to understand or respond to the punitive measures in this bill.

Like GPS trackers and the presumption against bail, First Nations kids will also be disproportionately impacted by the bill's proposal to allow police to use hand-held scanners in safe night precincts without any reasonable suspicion or warrant. Evidence from the UK on stop and searches shows about six for every 1,000 white people are targeted for these searches versus 54 for every 1,000 black people. That pattern will likely be repeated here because, as the Queensland Indigenous Labor Network notes, 'Policing and justice in Queensland is not colour blind.'

Studies from Victoria and the UK show stop and search practices do not reduce offending and there is no relationship between increased searches and a decrease in knife crime. It is frankly ridiculous for the government to compare this suspicionless scanning power to mandatory scanning in places like airports where everyone is scanned as a condition of entry, not just whoever the police choose. If this goes ahead, the 12-month review must look at who is being scanned and where.

The government has repeatedly claimed this bill is all about targeting a small cohort of recidivist young offenders, whom they call the hardcore 10 per cent. In fact, the minister in his second reading speech called these young people the 'hard nuts', presumably because the government thinks these children, including 11-year-olds, are something to be cracked. The way this government and the opposition are labelling and vilifying these children is despicable. Sisters Inside note that it 'sets children and the community against each other when, in fact, better responding to children's rights and needs is the strategy most likely to keep the community safe'. I keep returning to an African proverb I heard that captures this problem so well: a child who is not embraced by the village will burn it down to feel its warmth.

Who are these kids—the so-called hardcore 10 per cent; the *Courier-Mail's* kid crims? They are overwhelmingly some of the most marginalised and vulnerable kids in Queensland. They are cross-over kids from child protection. They have a background of trauma, family violence, substance misuse, unstable housing, fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and disrupted education.

They are kids like the young woman who addressed the committee hearing right here in Brisbane who has extensive trauma and a significant offending history. She said these laws would not have helped—they would have further criminalised her—not because she was choosing to rebel but because the system had fundamentally failed her. My heart really hurts remembering her words when she said, 'If someone just cared about me—and not only between the hours of nine and five, Monday to Friday—I think a lot of things that happened would not have.'


As Siyavash from the Youth Affairs Network of Queensland said, the message from these children is: 'love us more than we hate ourselves'. That is what this comes down to: kids need love and support, not cops and prisons. Instead of the punitive, kneejerk approach in this bill, we should address the root causes of offending like poverty, homelessness and substance misuse. We should build more public housing, make public transport free, and fund a universal free school breakfast and lunch program available to every student in a Queensland state school.

We should divert the funds we are currently spending on cops in schools and more youth prisons towards culturally appropriate wraparound services that are available when kids need them. We should raise the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to at least 14 to eliminate that early contact with the criminal justice system that we know increases offending later in life—but no. Instead of treating children as children who need love and support, this bill feeds the fear and division around a concocted 'youth crime crisis'.

The Youth Advocacy Centre says it will 'take us backwards 10 years'. Change the Record's assessment is even more grim. They say the bill 'will drive the cycle of incarceration and offending, trapping children in a criminal legal system which makes it more likely that they will continue to offend



as adults, become homeless, suffer mental ill health and ultimately die an early death'. It is a shameful bill that will do absolutely nothing to improve community safety. In fact, it will make us less safe. I condemn the government for its spineless attack on the most vulnerable in our society.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (12.31 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The youth justice system is broken. The government has been tinkering with it and continues to tinker with it. Tinkering around the edges will not fix it. It is an indictment on this government that we have yet another bill trying to fix our broken youth justice system.

This government has continually scrapped several measures that the LNP introduced to keep the community safe. Scrapping the measures has had a cumulative effect which has resulted in little deterrence. It has resulted in police being hamstrung in their efforts to combat crime. It has resulted in growing community outrage about an ongoing wave of juvenile crime. This bill is the government's latest reaction to community outrage. It is supposed to demonstrate a tougher approach to recidivist juvenile crime.

The explanatory notes outline a number of policy objectives regarding strengthening the justice bail framework; codifying the sentencing principle, including a reference to protecting the community from recidivist youth offenders in the charter of youth justice principles; providing a trial of powers for police to stop a person and use a handheld scanner to scan for knives in safe night precincts; and enhancing measures against dangerous hooning.

The explanatory notes state that the bill will strengthen the youth justice bail framework through: trialling electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for some 16- and 17 year-old offenders, to be reviewed after 12 months; permitting the court or police, when determining bail, to consider whether a parent or guardian is willing to support the offenders to comply with the bail conditions and meet bail conditions; 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 in granting bail, it cannot be the sole reason for keeping a child in custody.

This government has a legacy of double standards on youth justice. It has a legacy of cynical media spin. It has an appalling record of kneejerk responses because in its heart it really does not want to deal with youth crime. The statistics—those that are not massaged—tell the truth about Labor's incompetence and reluctance to dealing with youth justice. Anecdotal evidence from cities and regions tells the truth. Survey after survey across the state tell the truth.

The litany of Labor's so-called action plans, reviews and amendments to legislation show that Labor does not know how to deal with crime. In the last five years it has scrapped the LNP's breach of bail offence; made childhood findings of guilt inadmissible when sentencing for an adult offence; made detention a last resort for sentencing a child, and when that does occur it is to be for the shortest period; and made sentencing a last resort and preference given to allow the offender to stay in the community.

Labor has a legacy of rushed policy of transitioning 17-year-olds from adult prisons to youth detention centres. There was no forward planning. Youth detention centres became overcrowded so Labor simply remanded children in watch houses. It has a legacy of a failed action plan in 2016, another in 2019 and last year it announced yet another one.

When it weakened bail laws two years ago the LNP warned that it 'will result in more youths who commit serious offences that put the community safety at risk being released on bail'. The government has rejected attempts by the LNP to strengthen laws to provide security and safety for our communities. It has refused to accept the reality of youth crime and the public's concerns.

In a survey of my own electorate last year, crime and sentencing topped the list of issues worrying local Gympie residents. Almost 1,500 residents, or 6.6 per cent of households, responded to my survey. Out of a possible 36 responses, they identified penalties for criminal offenders and law and order issues among their top 10 concerns. The top four priorities were tougher measures to deal with dangerous offenders, 95 per cent; offences against children, 94.3 per cent; domestic violence, 91.3 per cent; and juvenile offenders, 88.65 per cent.

Law and order also came under the spotlight, with 84.5 per cent concerned about illegal drug use in the region, and 78.6 per cent did not think current sentencing of criminal offenders reflected community standards. People are clearly frustrated with extremists being let off with their criminal behaviour—84.5 per cent of respondents wanted to give the police more powers to protect farmers from extreme animal activists and 79.86 per cent believe penalties against illegal trespass on properties was inadequate.



This bill focuses more specifically on youth offenders because of a growing perception that current policies are contributing to lawlessness. It is contributing to lawlessness that is breaking out in certain locations and threatening public safety. Labor has been forced into this legislation to get out of a political problem and growing backlash. This legislation is a kneejerk response to that outrage because it is in Labor's DNA to go soft on crime.

A look at some headlines in the 18 months before the last election were supposed to demonstrate a tough approach. They were: 'Amendments to help young people stay out of detention', 'Hardline on Youth Crime', 'Youth crime Queensland: Police Minister Mark Ryan doubles down on claims courts not locking kids up properly', and 'New bail laws to target repeat youth offenders'. It was nothing more than media spin.

The reality is that, if it had dealt with the issues, we would not have seen a media release from the Premier in February promising 'Tough new action to target repeat offenders'. That headline was in direct response to the tragic death of a couple on Australia Day, two weeks earlier—a couple hit by a stolen car driven by a 17-year-old driver under the influence of drugs and on bail. That headline was because of a juvenile crime wave in Townsville.


**Mr BROWN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on sub judice. I think we have to be very careful about matters that are before the courts right now.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Member for Gympie, I ask that you observe the sub judice rule and, if a matter is before the court, to be careful in relation to your description of the facts of that matter.

**Mr PERRETT:** Thank you for your guidance, Madam Deputy Speaker. As I said, the statistics about reoffending, whether in youth bail houses, while on bail or restorative justice, are confronting. There were 5,648 offences committed by 210 young people post bail house. That is in the three years the bail houses were in operation. One child committed 255 offences. So 210, or 85 per cent of the 255 residing in a bail house, reoffended. Labor's solution was to scrap bail houses. It refused to admit that the scrapping was because of the high rates of reoffending.

Of those who were on bail in the two years from December 2018 to December last year, 3,744 reoffended, 179 committed more than 30 new offences and 944 committed between 10 and 30 new offences. There were 1,518 young people who participated in restorative justice conferences in 2018-19—38 per cent of them were charged with an offence in the six months after their earliest conference date. Of these, 353 have been charged with three or more offences. That is all under Labor's watch. Most confronting for all of us is that under this government a total of 9,885 proven offences were committed by children aged 10 to 13 between 2018-19 and 2019-20. The offences were committed by young children who are only becoming teenagers.

The problem is Labor's failure to maintain a consistent policy line. It has resulted in a scattergun approach. Labor's quick fixes will not combat lawlessness. On their own these proposals will not result in any significant changes in behaviour by that small number of juvenile recidivists who appear to be at the centre of the current outbreak of lawlessness. This bill will not meet community expectations and I urge the government to support the LNP amendments.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (12.40 pm): 'Amendments to help young people stay out of detention', 'Hard line on youth crime', 'New bail laws to target repeat offenders'. They are all titles of various ministerial media releases produced by the Palaszczuk government over the last two years in response to lives lost as a result of tragic incidents across Queensland. They each suggest in various ways some form of movement towards a solution to the youth crime epidemic sweeping across Queensland. These headlines resonate of a government with an inconsistent policy focus and have culminated in a failure on youth crime prevention in Queensland. As I will outline shortly, the truth is that there are minimal—some would say no—consequences to a youth 14 years or over who breaches bail conditions, including sensible court ordered curfew or other limiting conditions.

Today I take the opportunity to speak on the government's latest approach to youth justice: the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would like to pass on my appreciation to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the committee secretariat and submitters to the bill for their consideration. Introduced in this House on 25 February, the bill can be traced back to a media statement by the Premier released on 9 February titled 'Tough new action to target repeat youth offenders'. This statement outlines the government's latest policy on youth justice and outlines the contents and goals of this bill.

I am genuinely concerned that this bill will not achieve its objectives. The bill's primary aim is to demonstrate a tougher approach to recidivist juvenile offenders through a strengthening of the youth justice bail framework. It is hoped that this would be achieved through four legislative provisions. These include: the required fitting of electronic monitoring devices to some of the worst recidivist offenders; to create a presumption against bail for some youth offenders; and to seek an assurance from parents and guardians that bail conditions will be complied with. The bill also amends other acts to enshrine in legislation the existing common-law principle that offending whilst on bail is an aggravating circumstance when the court is imposing a penalty.

Taken at face value, the bill appears promising. Unfortunately, on deeper review cracks begin to show. The government has been forced to propose this legislation through its own legislative failures as a result of the growing perception that our state's existing policy towards youth crime has done little more than contribute to lawlessness and threatened public safety, including the tragic loss of life. On their own these proposals will not result in any significant change in the behaviour of juvenile recidivists. Instead, they will join the ever-growing pile of attempts by the government to protect Queenslanders from youth offenders.

Since the government came to power in Queensland the Youth Justice Act has been amended dramatically. From the now scrapped transitioning of 17-year-olds into youth detention centres to the weakening of youth bail laws, those opposite have rushed from one position to the next to the detriment of Queenslanders. With a history like this it is easy to see one why one may not have a lot of faith in these changes. Indeed, under Labor's crackdown on youth offending reoffending has increased. Between 2018 and December last year 3,744 young people reoffended while on bail; 944 of these offenders committed between 10 and 30 new offences while awaiting court appearance; and a further 179 committed more than 30 new offences.

The government's failed bail house program also did little to curb reoffending. During the three years that youth bail houses operated in Queensland, 210 of the 255 youth placed in the bail houses went on to commit a total of 5,648 other offences. One particular notorious youth committed more than 250 other offences. These figures demonstrate the need to target the worst of the worst repeat offenders.

Minister, this is a very big missed opportunity. As we have all noted, youth justice is a complex issue and it needs a multifaceted approach. Two of the biggest missed opportunities are the limited application of fitting electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for recidivist high-risk offenders; secondly, the introduction of breach of bail conditions as an offence. It is not just the LNP asking that conditions in relation to electronic tracking devices be extended to other youth. Senior Sergeant Hunter from Cairns, in answer to a question during the inquiry, suggested that the trial be extended to take in younger offenders. Mayor Jenny Hill also sought that these surveillance devices be applied to any repeat offenders who were above the age of criminal responsibility. Remember that these are the worst repeat offenders. We are not talking about shop stealers; these are criminal offenders and we should extend the trial to more than just 16- and 17-year-olds.

The second huge missed opportunity is the lack of powers for police to arrest youth for breaching bail conditions. I recognise that the government is codifying increased punishment for committing an offender whilst on bail, but this is the back end of the criminal justice system. A breach of bail offence for youth offenders who breach bail conditions would enable police to intervene at the front end in the community at the time and help keep the community safe. As many know, I was a former police officer. As the officer in charge of the Laidley police division, I was responsible for the efficient and effective policing of the district. Together with my team, we dealt with these offenders.

Minister, there is an opportunity to get this bill right. If the offence of breaching the conditions of bail was enacted, then police could focus their attention on these repeat offenders. Many of those opposite repeat the claim that the previous LNP breach of bail offences did not work. The government claims that, because almost 90 per cent reoffended, breach of bail did not work. These statistics do not mean breach of bail as an offence did not work; it means that those repeat offenders keep reoffending because they are the worst of the worst young offenders. The government's own statistics say that 10 per cent of youth offenders, about 340 across the state, commit 48 per cent of offences.


I agree with others that children need love to grow and prosper, but these are the worst youth offenders. This is evidence that we need to empower our police with the offence of breach of bail conditions and implement other solutions for diversion and consequences for action that work. My informed position is that this is the missing link. Right across the state police know there is only a limited

number of people in our community who commit offences. There is an even smaller number who are repeat offenders—as the numbers say, 340—and, as I have already said, police statistics confirm that, so to produce a bill that does not target these offenders just does not make sense.

I will give the House a practical example: a 14-year-old repeat burglary offender who has been placed on well thought out court ordered curfew conditions. That offender is out in public outside of those conditions in the middle of the night, whether by his or herself or with another group of people. Under the current law and with this current bill, police are not able to do anything to that youth at the time except take his or her name and address and make a further application to the court. If the police had the offence of breaching bail available to them, they could intervene, arrest that child, take him or her to a place of safety or home, or deal with them in another way. There is an invaluable educative effect in having these powers. Without these powers youth like I have described—only 340 across the state—have become uncontrollable and are teaching other youth how to get away with their offences.

The Palaszczuk government's record on youth justice is a record of failure after failure. Constant deviations in policy position and rushed reform have resulted in absolutely no improvement in youth offending or public safety. Do the right thing and support the LNP's amendments to ensure that there are real consequences for action. Give the police tools to intervene in the cycle.

While I am speaking on this bill, I want to give a shout-out to the great work of the Helidon police, the Gatton police, the Laidley police, the Lowood police and all of our specialist services who cover the Lockyer police area and the Lockyer state electorate. I would like to place on record my sincere appreciation of the Darling Downs police district and the Ipswich police district for their continuing support of our community and the resources flowing into our community. I call on the minister to consider breach of bail as an offence so the police have the powers to be able to take action against repeat offenders.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.50 pm): I rise to speak to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The cohort of kids that will be most impacted by this bill are some of the most vulnerable in Queensland. QCOS estimates that this is around 400 children. We know that these kids are very likely to be living in extreme poverty with families who are struggling—families who are suffering family violence, who do not have secure housing, who are struggling with food insecurity, who are struggling with mental health issues and alcohol and substance misuse. We also know that it is extremely likely that these kids have had contact with the child protection system, have had disrupted education, have suffered significant trauma and have found themselves homeless at times. These are the kids who, through no fault of their own, were never given a chance at a safe and joyful childhood.

What are the Labor government doing to respond to these vulnerable kids? Are they funding more free public drug and alcohol rehabilitation services? Are they building enough public homes so that these families can have a safe and secure roof over their heads? Are they giving our state schools more resources to better support these kids to stay in school? Are they funding free school meals that we know would help keep kids at school or providing families with more support and resources? No. What this Labor government are doing is putting GPS monitors on children and making it easier for them to be immediately jailed—further marginalising these already vulnerable kids and trapping them in a cycle of criminalisation and reoffending.

These children have become the scapegoats for the failures of successive Labor and LNP governments. Treating children like they are hardened criminals will do nothing more than make them more likely to become hardened criminals. As Queensland's former public guardian, Natalie Siegel-Brown, has said—

Nobody in the world has ever imprisoned their way out of crime or GPS-tracked their way out of crime.

The bill is short-sighted and does nothing to address the underlying social and economic problems that drive young people into criminal behaviour.

I wish to quote from some of the submitters. The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Protection Peak, Sisters Inside alongside other First Nations advocacy bodies all agreed that these proposed laws were unjustifiably authoritarian, punitive and racist, that they will disproportionately affect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people, and that they are likely to exacerbate the existing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in custody.

**Ms Lui** interjected.

**Dr MacMAHON:** These have been drawn from submissions.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mrs Gerber): Pause the clock. Members will direct comments through the chair and cease interjecting.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Change the Record said—

The proposed laws will disproportionately impact Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are already grossly overrepresented in the Queensland criminal legal system—being incarcerated at 28 times the rate of their non-Indigenous peers.

We know that First Nations children are three times less likely—

**Ms Lui** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. The member for Cook is warned under the standing orders.

**Dr MacMAHON:** We know that First Nations people are three times less likely to be offered a caution by police and two times less likely to be given diversion away from the criminal justice system. At every single stage of contact with the criminal justice system, First Nations people are massively overrepresented. As Queensland Labor's own Indigenous network has said, 'Sadly, policing and justice in Queensland is not colour-blind.'

We know that First Nations people in Queensland continue to experience institutional and systemic racism and that there is ongoing intergenerational trauma from stolen generations and colonisation. Queensland has also seen a tripling of imprisonment of First Nations women over the last 15 years, even as rates of offending have decreased. As Sisters Inside, an organisation in my electorate, has said—

More than ever, the proposed changes reflect and reinforce colonial—

**Ms Lui** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Cook, you were warned under the standing orders. You must direct your comments through the chair.

**Dr MacMAHON:** I quote from Sisters Inside, which have said—

More than ever, the proposed changes reflect and reinforce colonial values and practices.

Just removing the word 'tracking' is not enough to separate this bill from the traumatic colonial practices inflicted on Indigenous people.

The Queensland Human Rights Commission has raised significant concerns about the bill including: that a presumption against bail may actually undermine community safety in the longer term; that increasing police powers to conduct arbitrary wand searches may unfairly impact minority groups; that the likely consequence of this bill is an increase of children in custody; and that electronic monitoring of children on bail is a serious incursion into the rights of children and families.

This is not the first time in Queensland we have heard concerns raised about the human rights impact of electronic tracking. I would like to read to this chamber a quote from 2019—

There are a number of practical and human rights concerns relating to imposing conditions of this type on children. For example, a child that wears a tracking device may be stigmatised and isolated by their peers or community, reducing their prospects of rehabilitation.

This quote was not from some bleeding-heart leftie fighting against this bill; it was actually the government's own minister, Minister Farmer, introducing the youth bill in 2019. Yet youth crime has decreased since 2019. It seems to me that the only reason why they have flipped so dramatically is Labor's rightward shift, singing from the songbook of the LNP and the Murdoch media.

The Youth Advocacy Centre has pointed out that these ankle bracelets could also prompt exclusion from school. Keeping kids in school is crucial to reducing their involvement with the youth justice system. This is why the Atkinson report specifically recommended reducing exclusions from school to support the early intervention pillar. Slapping bulky GPS monitors on kids further paints them as criminals and risks their exclusion from school, family and friends. The Youth Affairs Network Queensland, which I recently met with, wrote—

The proposed amendments to the Youth Justice Act further separate the Act from what is in children's best interest.

They also wrote—

The current approach of Queensland's youth justice system is not evidence based, effective, efficient or economically viable.

These measures also completely overlook the root causes of youth criminalisation. While both sides of this chamber have been falling over themselves to be the ones to support more punitive measures for Queensland kids, I feel as though they are forgetting who these children are. Lindsay Wegener from PeakCare, and a former frontline youth justice worker, summed this up well when she said that kids who have experienced significant trauma or racism are suddenly transformed from people worthy of our compassion and understanding to kid criminals worthy only of our derision. The Queensland Youth Housing Coalition, which I also recently met with, wrote—

... offending behaviours and homelessness sit within a symptomatic continuum of structural imbalances, poverty and social disadvantage.

Of the kids who come into contact with the criminal legal system, 58 per cent of them have a diagnosed or suspected mental health disorder, 52 per cent were totally disengaged from education and almost 20 per cent of them were homeless or had unsuitable accommodation. Of incarcerated children, 23 per cent of them had an intellectual disability and 36 per cent of them had experienced fetal alcohol spectrum syndrome. This is who we are talking about. These are the children who will only be further marginalised by this bill. These are the young people who Labor and the LNP will throw under the bus to score political points.

This bill demonstrates the lack of imagination and the narrow thinking that is so common of politics in this place. Instead of criminalising youth and playing into the hands of the LNP and the Murdoch media, Labor could have chosen to be the champions of youth in Queensland. We could be directing investment into services and support that would meaningfully reduce youth crime in Queensland.

In my own electorate, work by 98.9FM and the West End Community House has revived People's Park as a safe and welcoming space for the community and particularly First Nations people, reducing crime and giving the community a safe and welcoming place to gather. We could meaningfully be investing in social housing—housing the 16,000 children ignored by this government. We could be funding programs like free school meals, which we know improve school attendance, behaviour and engagement. We could be increasing funding for programs like Clarence Street in my electorate that offers young people a safe space to deal with drug and alcohol misuse. We could be fully funding our state schools rather than letting them go underfunded. We could be putting our hope and respect in young people in Queensland and setting them up for full and whole lives. Measures of the kind proposed in this bill instead set up youth for a life of criminalisation and institutionalisation—a cycle difficult to break out of. That is why I do not support this bill today.

Debate, on motion of Dr MacMahon, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Department of Education, Workplace Health and Safety



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.00 pm): This week principals, teachers, staff and students have returned to schools across Queensland to commence term 2, and I wish them all the best for this next term of the school year. Unfortunately for many principals and teachers across Queensland, a lot of these dedicated school staff are returning to some workplaces that are harmful, unsafe and ultimately detrimental to their own health and wellbeing. The raw facts paint a damning picture of the entrenched workplace health and safety issues that continue to befall Queensland's education system under the Palaszczuk state Labor government.

As recently reported, for the eight-month period between July 2020 and February 2021 WorkCover claims for staff at the Department of Education have continued to grow with more than \$28 million in injury claims being paid out. Of this, there have been more than 2,300 physical injury claims totalling over \$22.6 million and more than 250 psychological claims totalling more than \$5.4 million. This deterioration in the health and wellbeing of those who teach and inspire our youngest, the next generation of Queenslanders, is something that needs to be addressed as a matter of priority by the current state Labor government's Minister for Education and Minister for Industrial Relations.


Labor is failing to ensure the safety of our dedicated Queensland state school staff, where during the four years from 2015 to 2019 the number of suspensions for attacks with objects increased by 29 per cent to nearly 2,000 incidents, with the number of attacks on teachers without objects increasing

by a staggering 50 per cent to more than 3,300 incidents. Is it any wonder that the results of the Australian Principal Occupational Health, Safety and Wellbeing Survey released in February this year show that 40 per cent of surveyed Queensland school principals were either physically assaulted or threatened with violence last year? This is almost nine times greater than the general population. What is more, in the same survey Queensland principals had reported the highest rates of stress and depressive type symptoms when compared with other state jurisdictions.

Following the reporting of these increasing WorkCover claims through the Department of Education, Queensland saw an outpouring of teachers and principals who felt compelled to speak up and share their own harrowing experiences of an education system which they feel is letting them down. As reported just last week, teachers and principals have now felt compelled to share how a poor work culture with increasing workloads and growing physical and mental injuries have led to a number of incidents where staff have had to turn to alcohol and prescription medications just to cope with their dysfunctional workplaces.

There must be a zero tolerance approach when it comes to any form of violence, bullying or intimidation in our schools. That is why the Palaszczuk state Labor government must immediately develop and implement a comprehensive and sustainable strategy to urgently address this growing workplace health and safety crisis in our state schools.

### Anzac Day

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.03 pm): On Anzac Day at 6.30 am I will be at the St Mary's College field in Ipswich as master of ceremonies of the Woodend Anzac Day service. This will be my 22nd year as convener of the service, but I am just one of the Woodend volunteers who do our best to honour the sacrifices of those who served. Father Stephen Bliss, Parish Priest of the St Mary's Catholic community, will say the opening prayer. Our band The Life of Riley, comprising Maurie McGuire, Shane Hogan, Reg Ball, Jim Law and Chris Gillespie, will perform the Australian classic *And the Band Played Waltzing Matilda*, a song about the futility of war, and also end the service by leading us in singing *Waltzing Matilda*, Australia's unofficial national anthem. Participants of the service include students from St Mary's Primary School, the Ipswich Grammar School, St Mary's College, Ipswich Girls Grammar School, St Edmund's College and Ipswich State High School.

Leading us in singing *God Bless New Zealand* will be Andrew Lemalama, a year 11 student at Ipswich State High School, while students from St Mary's College will take the lead with *Advance Australia Fair*. Oscar Schulz of the Ipswich Grammar School is our bugler and Frank Byrne, former RAAF leading aircraftman, will recite the Ode.


Those laying wreaths will include families of veterans, community groups, local politicians and local schools as well as representatives from the Queensland Police Service, Queensland Ambulance Service, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services and State Emergency Service. Hosting the service will be the St Edmund's College Old Boys Association while our generous sponsors include Brothers Ipswich Leagues Club, McNamara & Associates Lawyers, MJH Flooring and Sun Engineering.

As usual, we will tell the story of one of the World War I soldiers listed on the Woodend honour stone. This year it will be the story of Private Michael Joseph McInerney, who lived in a house that still stands next to my house at Woodend. Soon after being awarded the Military Medal, tragically, Michael was killed in action at the age of 26 years. Telling this story will be Nicholas Jackson, house captain, St Mary's Primary School; Beau Brebner, boarding house captain, Ipswich Grammar School; Kasey Weir, college captain, St Mary's College; Emily Stenzel, service captain, Ipswich Girls Grammar School; and Harry Hunter, college captain, St Edmund's College.

Michael's mother, Kate Ferricks, posted a heartfelt memoriam in the local newspaper, the *Queensland Times*, that said—

In loving memory of our dear son and brother, Michael Joseph McInerney, who was killed in France, April 24th, 1918. No one knows how much we miss him. Others think the wound is healed, but they cannot see the sorrow deep within our hearts, concealed.

### Duvel, Mr K; Charleville Floods of 1990; McKay, Mr A

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.06 pm): I just wish to acknowledge Karsten Duvel, who is sitting in the public gallery at the moment. He is the youth member for Warrego. It is 31 years and one day since the devastating Charleville floods. The locals were going to have a celebration last year at the 30-year mark. However, COVID intervened. Thirty-one years on, the Murweh shire have organised five days of events this week to commemorate the floods and the first ever mud army, the work camp.

The flood inundated the town at night and I still recall one lady who told me that she spoke to her elderly neighbour who said, 'The flood, it will be fine. Just go to bed. The river will be down in the morning.' Unfortunately, this lady was awoken late in the night. She stepped out of bed in the dark and was knee deep in water in her house.

On the morning of 21 April 1990 more than 2,800 residents were taken to the airport for shelter. There were only two boats to rescue people and it was amazing there were no fatalities. The water was travelling at about 43 kilometres an hour down the streets. The town looked like a war zone once the water receded. The work camp of low-security prisoners was established to help people with clean-up, and this work camp still operates today.

Charleville now has a levee bank and a diversion channel on Bradley's Gully and the likelihood of a 1990 event is mitigated against. I commend the Murweh shire on the commemoration events and all those who have helped the residents over a period of years with the recovery. Charleville people are proud and resilient and some of the most friendly and hospitable ones you will ever meet.

I wish to make mention of Ashley McKay, a constituent of mine from Augathella and Injune. I have personally known Ashley for over 20 years. He was a loyal friend and a mentor to many, including myself. He was a fierce advocate for agriculture. He was a founding president of the Australian Campdraft Association, helped establish the Property Rights Australia organisation and played major roles in the Cattlemens Union. Ashley chaired the committee that put together broadscale tree-clearing policy under the Borbidge government. Unfortunately, Ashley was unfairly vilified and pursued for six years in the courts by successive Labor governments. He won his cases against the government.

He had a passion for stock horses and agricultural pursuits involving beef cattle production. Sadly, Ashley was killed in a horseriding accident yesterday. I extend my deepest sympathy to his soulmate, Doris, and his de facto grandchildren who managed Torres Park.

### **Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre**



**Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.08 pm): I take this opportunity to inform the House of the exceptional work that the Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre has been doing at the heart of the Hervey Bay community for over 30 years. The centre has become an integral part of our community. Over the whole of the 21 years I have been in the region it has been led by amazing, dedicated women like Joyce Chorny, who is a living legend in our community, and now the current CEO, Tanya Stevenson, who is driving forward innovation at every turn.

The extraordinary staff at the centre provide a high level of service on the more than 30 programs they run at the centre including legal and tenancy services, aged and disability care and multicultural programs, youth mentoring, employment and homelessness programs, playgroups and intensive family support initiatives. They also pioneer innovation with projects such as the Fraser Coast social plan and the new and exciting Neighbourhood Hive community space. Excellent outcomes from the programs just noted come about because the Palaszczuk government does not underestimate the significance of the work the centre does for the Hervey Bay community. I am pleased to inform the House that recently the Palaszczuk Labor government granted a further \$1.2 million to the centre to continue to provide legal assistance to the people of Hervey Bay and make this assistance available when those most vulnerable in our community need it.


Another notable new project by the centre is the Neighbourhood Hive, which is creating a Queensland-leading community space focusing on providing shared learning opportunities for skills development in a safe, welcoming environment for all members of the community, community groups and organisations. As its name suggests, the Hive represents a collective sharing of skills, programs, services and facilities that aid the development of our community. It will include a local learning hub, workshops and courses, all in a 1,600-square-metre shed right in the heart of Hervey Bay city.

This pilot project, funded for \$27,000, has grown into a community space currently valued at over \$375,000 through community and business support. This initiative got its start through the support of the Palaszczuk government's Thriving Communities grants, a well-targeted grant program that helps neighbourhood and community centres continue to be vital places where people come together and where people go when they need support.

I take this opportunity to thank the centre's CEO, her staff and volunteers for their dedication, tenacity and vision. The Hervey Bay Neighbourhood Centre is an exemplar in forward thinking, engaging with the community and the state government to ensure services are accessible, and to help

facilitate social wellbeing and enterprise. By assisting with these outcomes through grants such as Thriving Communities, the Palaszczuk Labor government is delivering for the people of Hervey Bay and keeping the Hervey Bay electorate safe and strong.

### Drought Assistance

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (2.11 pm): As noted on my register of interests, I declare that I have a droughted property in the Gympie Regional Council area. Daily I hear from graziers and growers concerned about the future of agriculture in Queensland. They are being hammered by the government's sheer incompetence. It is confronting that 67.4 per cent of Queensland is still in drought. This statistic symbolises thousands of farmers, their families and communities doing it tough—tough because the government does not address the issues it should, tough because of its inability to deliver a real worker incentive scheme, tough because of its complete hypocrisy surrounding drought assistance.

Growcom CEO Stephen Barnard said yesterday that there was a very worrying trend emerging in the way the Queensland government is managing its drought assistance to industry. The challenges being faced are unprecedented. Government responses should be targeted, tailored and timely. Unfortunately, all Labor delivers is more of its anti-farmer agenda, which highlights the agriculture minister's incompetence and complete lack of understanding. To see this you need look no further than its bungled administration of the last round of federal funding. In good faith, farmers and growers applied and made investments in emergency water infrastructure, only to discover that Queensland's funds were overspent. Labor completely mismanaged the program. Growers are no longer confident.

I welcome the federal government's announcement of an additional \$50 million for the Australian government's on-farm water infrastructure initiative. If the minister really wants to help, he should sign up and make an equal contribution. In today's *Queensland Country Life*, Queensland Farmers' Federation CEO Dr Georgina Davis urged the government to come to the table. Instead, the minister plays politics rather than putting the money where his mouth is. This is urgent. Stephen Barnard from Growcom warned—

... Queensland growers might miss out on the national support with no signal from the Palaszczuk Government they intend on signing up to the scheme and match the investment made by the Australian Government.


AgForce Water Committee Chair Kim Bremner said—

This is all about ... drought preparedness, the longer it takes for the government to effectively offer the grant, the worse off farmers are ...

The minister answered a question on notice, saying that he is 'considering the proposal'. This has been on the table for seven months. Instead of buck-passing and picking fights with Canberra, the minister should embrace real solutions. Here is an easy solution. I call on Minister Furner not just to consider it but to commit to it.

Local drought committees are meeting now to discuss the revocation or otherwise of drought declarations. I hope the minister is not delaying a decision because he is waiting on those decisions. Farmers should not be made to wait any longer for available support.

### Boyne Tannum HookUp

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.14 pm): I rise today to make a contribution about Queensland's, if not Australia's, largest family fishing competition being held in my electorate, the Boyne Tannum HookUp. I am very proud of this wonderful competition. It will showcase not only the area's natural beauty but also Queensland's southern Great Barrier Reef, which we know so many people are attracted to. This event is very important, particularly with our region coming out of the COVID crisis. It will create economic benefits not only during the three-day festival in Boyne Tannum Sands but also in terms of its live streaming in Gladstone. Not only will you be able to get out into the wonderful region of Gladstone; you will also be able to get out into the wonderful areas that surround the Gladstone area—I am trying to promote as much local tourism to our area as possible—and those areas just up the road in the electorates of Rockhampton and Keppel and into the Bundaberg region as well.

The Boyne Tannum HookUp continues to grow every year, with thousands of people travelling from all over Queensland to the Gladstone region for this festival. There is over \$200,000 in prizes this year. Last year, a record number of tickets were sold in a virtual hook-up in response to the COVID pandemic. The numbers just continue to grow. On the back of that, the Queensland government has




invested \$20,000 to help the committee promote this festival, because we want to see more people from not only Central and North Queensland but also South-East Queensland come to Central Queensland to see our wonderful area. This is particularly so in the line of fishing, not only in the seaways and the reefs but also up in Gladstone's Lake Awoonga, which has barramundi over a metre long at the moment. That is fantastic. It is great that the state government can support festivals such as the Boyne Tannum HookUp.

Not only does the Boyne Tannum HookUp create opportunities for the festival itself; it also creates opportunities for non-profit groups—the local football and soccer clubs and those groups that sell hot dogs, hamburgers and soft drinks. It puts money back into local sporting clubs as well. As I said, it is an opportunity for families to come along and see and enjoy the outdoors. I know that the Premier and the Chief Health Officer have been saying that, in running a COVID-safe event, we need to make sure we get out and about in our wonderful areas. Part of this festival is about getting out there and catching a fish. It is important. It is a big festival. I made a video to help promote it. In light of COVID, if you are feeling sick then leave your rods at home and go and get tested.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): No doubt we will be hearing about the one that got away next sitting week!

### Spinal Muscular Atrophy

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.17 pm): Today I call on this House to move for Oakley, just like the 14,000 people who have signed this petition calling on the government to support newborn screening for SMA. I table the petition.


*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition titled 'Move for Oakley Petition' regarding testing for spinal muscular atrophy [\[554\]](#).

Imagine this: two beautiful baby girls born within a month of each other, both born with the name 'Oakley', but one born in Queensland and one in New South Wales and, tragically, both born with spinal muscular atrophy, a motor neurone disease known as SMA. The difference? New South Wales's baby Oakley was tested for SMA in the newborn screening process. Her SMA was picked up at birth and, thanks to early treatment, New South Wales baby Oakey is set to live a normal life almost unaffected by SMA. For baby Oakley in Queensland the outlook is not as bright, because Queensland's newborn screening process does not include testing for SMA. Baby Oakley in Queensland did not get the opportunity to receive early treatment. Her SMA was not detected until she started showing symptoms. By then it is too late; the damage is done and can never be undone. Baby Oakley in Queensland will never sit up or walk. She needs a feeding tube and a machine to breathe. She may not live to see her second birthday. While Oakley in New South Wales is reaching all of her milestones and has the opportunity to live a good life, Oakley in Queensland is likely to become another SMA statistic.

To put this into perspective, SMA in children is not rare. It is the most common genetic cause of death in infants under the age of two. One in 35 people carry the gene. That means that two people in this chamber here today carry the gene and will pass that on to their children. It could have been any one of us that was forced to watch as our child lost the ability to move, to swallow, to breathe and eventually to pass away.

Ten weeks ago I wrote to the Minister for Health imploring her to support screening for SMA in Queensland. I am yet to receive a response, and two months is too long to wait for a child born with SMA. The minister needs to Move for Oakley. This is above politics. This is a matter pertaining to the life and death of children in Queensland and it deserves bipartisan support. We are not trailblazing with this in Queensland. This has happened in New South Wales and the test only costs \$10. It saves lives and, in the long run, it saves our health system money. We must Move for Oakley and include testing for SMA in the newborn screening process.

### The Gap, Doherty Family

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.20 pm): When we think about the suburb of The Gap in my electorate of Cooper, we think of a quiet, leafy and friendly suburb, and The Gap is of course all of those things as we know. It is a suburb filled with families, where parents ride their bikes with the kids down to soccer on the weekend, head out to the dog park and catch up with friends over a backyard barbecue on a Sunday afternoon.

However, The Gap is no ordinary suburb and last week I was just so excited to host an in-conversations evening with Brisbane author Sandy Hogan when she shared the research that ultimately went into her published work around one of these local families who lived in The Gap in the


sixties and who, in addition to being an ordinary family who went to work and went to school and caught up with friends, were in fact ASIO spies. Sandy's book *With My Little Eye* shares the story of Dudley Doherty, a gentleman who had a somewhat—and I use that term loosely—usual childhood and upbringing but who, through a series of events, went on to have the most extraordinary life once he was recruited by ASIO to gather and report on intelligence against suspected Russian agents.

What makes this story even more fascinating is not only that we could have an ASIO spy living in The Gap but that Dudley in fact recruited his entire family into the firm, as he called it. His wife, Joan, was responsible for listening in and transcribing conversations between suspected Russian undercover agents who were living in Brisbane at the time. Unbelievably Joan did not speak a word of Russian, and that is just the beginning of this extraordinary story.

This side of the chamber has fought hard to criminalise wage theft and to restore fair working conditions, so all of my colleagues may need to avert their ears for this next piece of information when I tell them that Dudley also went on to recruit his three young children who were all under 10 years of age at the time to also provide spy services for ASIO. He would take the children to public marches and protests and position them in a way that, to the average person, would look like a proud father taking photos of his children. However, he was actually surveying and taking photos of particular political agents. And my children complain if I ask them to pack the dishwasher!

Truth is stranger than fiction and it is stories like these that capture and add depth to our suburbs. The story was made public earlier this year as a result of one of the Doherty daughters, Sue-Ellen, wanting to share this extraordinary, thrilling and often funny story. It is a wonderful read and I would encourage people to pick up a copy and support a great Brisbane author. I also want to thank Mary Ryan's bookstore at Milton for hosting this with me. Mary Ryan's is one of just a few independent bookstores here in Brisbane. It is a fantastic venue in an iconic location at Park Road in Milton—a great venue celebrating an extraordinary Brisbane story.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Renewable Energy**

 **Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (2.23 pm): We have heard this Palaszczuk government talk of its renewable energy target of 50 per cent by the year 2030 on many occasions. What has become abundantly clear to me since my appointment to the role of shadow energy minister is the lack of any coherent plan to achieve this goal. I have met with a large number of stakeholders in the energy generation sector—both coal-fired and gas-fired generators, solar and other renewable energy sources, energy interest groups and industry consumers whose energy requirements are huge—all of whom have raised their concerns at the lack of a plan from this government to ensure this state will have access to reliable and affordable power during the time of changing from coal or gas generated electricity to renewables and beyond.

Indications are that some of our coal-fired generators will be forced to shut down in advance of their proposed phase-out date due to an abundance of solar power being generated during the daylight hours which will render them uneconomic. If this is correct, then this state will have times where we simply will not have enough power generation to supply the state's energy requirements. We are told battery storage and even possibly hydrogen will fill this space. However, if what I am being told by the energy industry is correct, the crunch will come long before these technologies are fully operational and ready to adequately fill this glaring space.

Whilst it is possible to get some figures regarding the power generation from solar farms, rooftop solar is now one of the largest power generators in this state and obtaining accurate figures with regard to that output is difficult. We need to know how this energy mix is going to work. Simply announcing the construction of more renewable projects is not enough. It is a little more complicated than that. What is the life of coal-fired generators such as Callide B or Tarong? What is the role of gas-fired generators in this transition? Do we even have a plan, or is the minister simply going to cross his fingers and hope that the network does not crash?

New South Wales has announced its plan and, whether you agree with it or not, it is a plan and it has been made public. The Queensland public deserves some answers. Indeed, the Auditor-General stated in the latest energy report that the Audit Office will conduct an inquiry into how the state government is managing the transition. It would appear that this is the only plan that is being developed. I call on the minister to step forward and tell industry and tell the Queensland public what the transition plan is, because, as far as I can tell, it does not exist.

## Beef 2021



**Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (2.26 pm): Beef Week is just 10 days away. For those people who have not been to Beef Week, it is like the Brisbane Ekka on steroids. Beef Australia is held in Australia's beef capital of Rockhampton every three years and is the largest event of its kind in the Southern Hemisphere, and I am proud that the Palaszczuk Labor government has committed \$1 million towards this event.

At the last sitting week Beef Australia Chairman, Bryce Camm, spoke highly of our government's recognition and endorsement of the beef sector and the significance it plays for the Queensland economy, particularly in jobs creation. He even made the comment that our farmers' friend, Minister Furner, should be the 'minister for beef'. I support that. He is a good guy. This funding will drive confidence in the industry and will ensure Beef Australia 2021 delivers an economic windfall to Rockhampton and Central Queensland.

COVID has made it more challenging this year. We will not see the international visitors, but I still think we will see 100,000 visitors through the gate from all around Australia, and I encourage them to come and experience this magnificent event. Beef Australia is a great way to showcase what is great about regional Queensland and once again highlight Rockhampton's international reputation as Australia's leader in the beef industry. There will be more than 5,000 cattle from over 30 breeds; a trade fair promoting more than 500 businesses; a symposium; seminars and property tours to deliver new research information to producers; restaurants; celebrity chefs; cooking demonstrations for visitors to appreciate the quality and flavour of Australian beef; and so much more.

For Central Queensland, agriculture is worth about \$200 million to our local economy and beef remains the biggest component of that by some margin. We are now looking to supercharge that with the construction of Rookwood Weir, which will provide a secure water supply for primary producers. We are seeing demand growing for CQ beef, especially in Asia, and I believe we need to keep looking for ways to grow that market, not just in terms of volume but in terms of value as well. One of my dreams is to see the Rockhampton Airport upgraded with coldroom storage facilities so that we can start shipping prime cuts of beef straight into major cities overseas, at premium prices of course!

## DV Safe Phone



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.30 pm): Firstly I would like to offer my deepest condolences to those suffering as a consequence of the tragic loss of life over the last 48 hours. I know that many Queenslanders are grieving as women continue to die when they should have been safe—more precious lives lost, more families torn apart, more children left without their mothers. I know that many Queenslanders are left frustrated as they want to do something to help put a stop to these terrible tragedies. Tackling domestic violence must start from the ground up.

A mobile phone is a device that many of us take for granted, but victims of domestic violence are often in situations where they are unable to even call for help. One of the first items to be smashed or removed from a victim of domestic violence is often their mobile phone. After hearing about this difficult problem from a police senior sergeant, one Buderim local, Mr Ashton Wood, decided to act and, with the help of Sunshine Coast business King IT, he has set up a charity known as DV Safe Phone in an effort to help. DV Safe Phone aims to collect unwanted mobile phones which are then refurbished and all the user information is wiped from the phone. The phones are then given to domestic violence and law enforcement agencies to pass on to victims of domestic violence.

Through this simple but important act, DV Safe Phone restores a degree of control to victims suffering from domestic violence. It provides a potential lifeline in their moment of need. I have committed to supporting DV Safe Phone and last week I stood with Ashton to announce that my electorate office in Buderim would be a collection point for residents who would like to donate their unwanted mobile phones. My LNP colleague, the member for Whitsunday and shadow minister for the prevention of domestic, family and sexual violence, has also committed to using her electorate office as a collection point. Together we are keen to support this important initiative and help make it much easier for people to donate their old used mobile phones.

As representatives of our local communities it makes sense to partner with DV Safe Phone in the knowledge that mobile phones will provide a much needed lifeline to those suffering from domestic violence. I ask all members to consider hosting a DV Safe Phone collection point in their electorate office. While it may seem a small gesture to offer up a spare mobile phone, it is an act that literally could save a life.

### **Cairns, Wharf Construction; Cairns Marine Precinct**



**Mr HEALY** (Cairns—ALP) (2.32 pm): One of the Palaszczuk government's election commitments of \$30 million to construct two new wharfs for the Port of Cairns is well and truly underway. One of these new wharfs will be located at Smith's Creek and the other at Commercial Fishing Base 2. These two new wharfs will expand the present capacity of the Port of Cairns to carry out in-water maintenance on vessels used by both the Australian Defence Force and Australian Border Force. Not only will these wharfs increase maintenance capacity; they will also in the short-term create 150 jobs in the building of these wharfs along with creating longer term employment opportunities that will come with the expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct, which is a commitment this government has given, as I have, to the people of Cairns. I also note at this stage that it was announced last week that Ports North, a statutory government body, had secured 2.8 hectares of land in Ports North to support the planned expansion of the Cairns Marine Precinct.

These two new wharfs will also provide opportunities for local and regional suppliers, contractors, service providers and the wider business community which has been severely impacted by COVID-19. This funding also covers a business case to identify how to build this initial investment and grow and develop this precinct as a key centre for the maintenance and repair of large Defence vessels and naturally taking advantage of the strategic geographical location of Cairns. This business case will also investigate the manufacture of commercial vessels required for servicing the region, which would bring more jobs, not to mention the opportunities presented by the ever-growing superyacht presence in our waters.

The existing skilled workforce, contractor base and infrastructure within the Cairns Marine Precinct allows opportunities not only for more vessel maintenance but also to explore the possibility of Cairns returning to its legacy of vessel building. This work is vital to ensure Cairns is well positioned to take advantage of future marine maintenance, repair and overhaul work. We know it is absolutely fundamental that we need to diversify our economy. Tourism is excellent, but we do need to see significant diversification.

The initiative aligns with the Palaszczuk government's Defence Industries 10-Year Roadmap and Action Plan which focuses on growing employment capability in the state and supporting Queensland defence industry firms to access new opportunities to create new jobs. Engineering, design and advisory company Aurecon Australasia Pty Ltd has started work on the Cairns Marine Precinct early works and construction tender documents. This important project is vital for our marine precinct, which will be built on the new wider and deeper shipping channel which was successfully completed by this government in 2020. A separate master planning process is also due to be completed by the end of October 2021. We are moving ahead with the diversification of our economy.

### **Veterans, Suicide**



**Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.35 pm): I rise to speak on a matter that is dear to the hearts of many Australians—the plight of our veterans. When a person enlists in the military they effectively enter a lifelong contract. They join knowing that there may come a time when they may have to put their life on the line to defend our country. Some are subjected to incredibly stressful and horrific experiences and when they leave the Defence Force it is expected that the Department of Veterans' Affairs will be there to help them when they need it. Unfortunately, as a country we have failed. Successive federal governments have taken too long to address the elephant in the room: why are our veterans killing themselves? Why, despite all the promises made by the department that they will be looked after, do these men and women feel as if they have no other way out?

From 2001 to 2017 there were 419 suicides in serving, reserve and ex-Australian Defence Force personnel. This is a national shame. Despite knowing about this, it has taken far too long for the federal government to announce their overdue Royal Commission into Defence and Veterans Suicide. My only hope is that the royal commission will give a voice to the voiceless and bring about meaningful change to help prevent veteran suicides into the future.


This Sunday is Anzac Day and we will gather to commemorate our first Anzacs and recognise the service and sacrifice of our veterans and generations of Australians who have paid the ultimate sacrifice to defend our great nation. We should also consider and acknowledge those who have lost the battle far away from the battlefield.

Our state government also has an obligation to help Queensland veterans. I note the latest bill that has been tabled. During their difficult transition back into civilian life we should be doing all we can to support them. The state can support them by: helping them find jobs—finding employment is meaningful; providing further funding for localised support programs; and even helping connect them

with men and women in our community who need role models. We can also support programs like the Kapani Warrior program that is run by Dr Tim White who works with troubled youth and veterans in the Cape York area. Dr White's program helps veterans find purpose and troubled youth find their way.

These sons and daughters gave a blank cheque when they joined the armed forces to fight for Australia; brave men and women prepared to lay down their lives to protect our country. This Anzac Day I ask all Queenslanders: what will you do—and I ask those in this House what we will do—to repay that debt? Lest we forget.

### Anzac Day; Veterans

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.38 pm): I acknowledge the contribution from the member for Hinchinbrook. He obviously has a genuine concern about veterans issues. Ahead of Anzac Day this Sunday I pay tribute to every RSL and veterans organisation hosting events. Honouring our veterans is something that should be done more than one or two days a year. Through our government's veterans' employment pathway program we are finding new careers for veterans in the Queensland Public Service as teachers, nurses, rangers, engineers, electricians and everything in between. The Queensland Public Service benefits greatly from the diverse experience and expertise of veterans, many of them supported by the veterans' employment pathway program to transition to careers beyond their Defence service.


Almost three years on from the launch of the program, over 700 veterans have joined the Public Service as teachers, nurses, engineers, electricians and in many other roles. The program has helped veterans identify skills that they can transfer easily to public sector roles, including teamwork, leadership and critical thinking. I have talked to a number of veterans over the last couple of weeks. Many of them have had much training and have many skills to offer. The difficulty is translating what those qualifications mean in the Defence context into what they mean in terms of state government roles.

Earlier this week I was very pleased to speak to a couple of veterans who currently work in the state government and who have come through very different pathways. Jen was with the Royal Australian Air Force where she specialised in supply and logistics for aircraft and specialist machinery. Now she works as a human resources adviser in the Department of Premier and Cabinet. Jen said that her defence service definitely developed her proficiency in understanding people, team culture and other skills that have helped immensely in her career since. Tom has been in the Queensland Ambulance Service for 10 years following his time in the Army, serving in Iraq in 2007 and 2008, and Afghanistan in 2010. Tom told me that while he was not a medic in the Defence Force his skill set equipped him well to make the transition into the Ambulance Service where he has worked for 10 years and continues to upskill and gain further qualifications.

Yesterday it was a real pleasure to represent the Premier at a ceremony to commemorate the 49 members of the Queensland parliament who served in World War II by adding their names to the honour board just outside this chamber. I thank honourable members who joined us for that event. I also thank the Speaker, his office and the Clerk for organising the event.

It was fantastic to hear the Premier announce this morning that our \$4 million Queensland Remembers grants program will open for applications in July. There is also extra funding for the Anzac Day Trust, which last year provided \$1.5 million to more than 200 organisations for welfare services for veterans and their families. I hope everyone can get out there and honour Anzac Day in their own way this Sunday. I look forward to doing so myself.

### Coyne, Mr T

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (2.41 pm): Today I rise to pay tribute to our dear friend Thomas Coyne, who lost his life last week at just 21 years old. Thomas was a hardworking and passionate friend, activist and comrade. He was a bright spark in the Greens and the broader movement for social justice and he was a beloved son and carer to his mum, Jo.

I remember him best, among his many roles, as the Queensland Greens rural and regional convenor and for his energetic determination and commitment to fighting for a better world. Thomas was also a founding member of the Queensland Greens Disability Working Group, the convenor for the Toowoomba and Western Queensland Greens, and our candidate for Toowoomba South just last year. He was actively involved in the Rainbow Greens. Many of us will remember Thomas, with a rainbow flag tied around his neck, leading his community through the streets of Toowoomba at the rally for the 'yes' campaign during the 2017 same-sex marriage plebiscite. I know my home town and that takes some courage.

People such as Thomas inspire us to keep showing up, to sit through the late-night committee or branch meetings, to get up at 4 am on election day and to push through the exhaustion and the disillusion to fight for a better future. I asked a few people whether they wanted to contribute something for me to read out today. There is way too much for me to say in this short speech. I will table some statements from a few in the party who best knew and loved Thomas, and I will read just a few words now.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Statements on Thomas Coyne' [555].

Alyce, who was supported by Thomas in her campaigns as a candidate, said—

Thomas was a bright light in this world. He was relentlessly committed to doing good. He was a good friend, kind, witty, and full of effervescent energy.

The Queensland Rainbow Greens said—

Thomas was a fierce advocate who cared passionately about so many social justice and environmental causes, and this world was a better place for having him as a part of it.

Senator Larissa Waters said—

Thomas' passion, drive, glorious zest for life, and wicked sense of humour will be greatly missed.

Michelle, the convenor of the Queensland Greens Disability Working Group, said—

Thomas was incredibly brave, compassionate, intelligent, loyal and so very funny. He taught me not only to accept my neuro diverse traits, but to celebrate them. We will continue the fight and make him proud. Love you forever, Tom.

I want to finish with this recent memory from my colleague, the member for South Brisbane. She said—

I last saw Thomas in person when he and other young regional members joined me for my first speech, just a few months ago. He sat in this chamber, and made his presence known—he joined the chorus from the gallery when they declared 'We're here.' We're here, Thomas, and we will keep up the fight for you.

To his mother, Jo, I cannot tell you how desperately sorry I feel for your loss. Thomas, you will be missed more than you could possibly know, mate. Rest easy.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Thank you, member. Condolences.

### Bundaberg Electorate, LNP Performance



**Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (2.44 pm): I note the contribution from the member for Maiwar. Those were very powerful words.

Most people in Bundaberg do not know it but last week the shadow cabinet was in town, which was fantastic. It was wonderful. It was great to see a nice image of them scattered around Buss Park. It reminded me of the old *Where's Wally?* books. When you open up a *Where's Wally?* book you see everybody scattered around and you have to try to find Wally. But this was not, 'Where's Wally?' This was, 'Where's the sacked shadow minister?' It took me a little time but I found the member for Burnett. There he was, grimacing at the camera, embarrassed at having to be dragged into someone else's electorate to stand shoulder to shoulder with a shadow ministry that he is no longer a part of because the Leader of the Opposition cares so much about the Bundaberg region that after the election he sacked the only shadow minister from that region and gave his job to someone from the Whitsundays. That was the first embarrassing gaff but it will not be the last.

The Leader of the Opposition stood on the banks of the Burnett River and told the media, 'I'm here for political reasons.' How inspiring is that for the people of Bundaberg? There was no apology to the nurses who were sacked under the Newman government. There was no apology to the 300 health workers from across the Wide Bay region who were sacked. There was no apology to the school cleaners—

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Mr SMITH:** Do not worry, I will get to that. There was no apology to the school cleaners who, time and time again, they try to sack. The Leader of the Opposition stood there and said, 'I'm not afraid of Canberra.' So why didn't he ask the federal member to commit to the Bundaberg East flood levee? If he is so brave, why doesn't he stand up and say that?


Talking of embarrassing gaffs, the member for Mudgeeraba, the shadow health minister, is completely inept. On the second day she said, 'Oh no—yes—sorry. There actually is a location for the new Bundaberg hospital.' Yes, there is. The Premier came up last year and announced it. The member said, 'Oh well, they're rolling it back. They're not talking about a level 5 hospital.' Can the shadow

minister explain to me what a level 5 hospital is? My understanding and the understanding of everyone else is that level 5 services go into a hospital. Does a level 5 hospital have better quality concrete? This shadow health minister is not across her brief whatsoever. You do not have a level 5 hospital; you have level 5 services and those level 5 services are going into a world-class brand new Bundaberg hospital, which the LNP would not even talk about during the election. Shame on them!

The Leader of the Opposition said that putting in works to keep the people of Bundaberg safe was fundamentally wrong. He said that it was fundamentally wrong to keep people in Bundaberg safe. Shame on them! Enjoy your *Where's Wally?* book.

(Time expired)

### Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (2.47 pm): Today I rise to speak about the No. 1 water project across Queensland, the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative. I thank Mayor Tanya Milligan and Mayor Graham Lehmann for their leadership and strategic guidance throughout the project. When I was on the council I was a part of the team that put together the project. The leadership of that group involves many stakeholders from not just the agricultural community but right across government.

Recently Stephen Robertson, a former minister in this place, led the collaborative through some really significant strategic business processes. We won \$1.4 million of competitive funding to see the business case for the project delivered. I join the mayors in thanking Stephen for his service to the collaborative.


This is the No. 1 water project because it will turn 50,000 megalitres of water into \$209 million of produce each and every year. We are very excited about this water project because it will mean water security for our valley and, importantly, it will be affordable water. I thank the minister for recently visiting the area and touring some of the assets. There is \$175 million worth of assets that are not performing and the project will see each of those assets perform above 94 per cent.

Whilst I join with the mayors in thanking Stephen Robertson, I also thank former lord mayor Graham Quirk for recently accepting the position of independent chair. Everyone in this place will be familiar with Graham's history so I will not go into that. You could not find a better person to lead the collaborative project and continue the great work that Stephen Robertson has done.

Former lord mayor Quirk has a background in strategy and corporate understanding. He also understands how to deliver great outcomes for South-East Queensland. I remind all in this place that it was former lord mayor Quirk who participated with the council of mayors in delivering the Resilient Rivers Initiative, which is contributing to the wonderful work right across our catchments and seeing point source protection put in place and money delivered to those areas. Former lord mayor Quirk is wonderfully placed to continue the great work of the Lockyer Valley and Somerset Water Collaborative. I commend this project to the government.

I thank the water minister for showing interest, but I also call on the minister to make sure that the department is putting together the application for the National Water Infrastructure Development Fund to get the money from the federal government, as well as completing the cabinet submission to see this project delivered. It is the No. 1 water project for Queensland and, post COVID, we will certainly need the economic stimulus.

### Nambour Museum; Anzac Day

 **Mr SKELTON** (Nicklin—ALP) (2.50 pm): I acknowledge the contributions of the members for Hinchinbrook and Aspley; I am speaking on the same topic. Today I rise to honour the great work of the Nambour Museum. I offer my thanks to the president, Clive Plater; the vice-president, Cherry Powell; and the treasurer, Brooke McMahon. It was my pleasure to visit the museum last week, on 17 April. It was also very special to be guided by these wonderful volunteers on a tour of the history of our region.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the siege of Tobruk, a battle that was Nazi Germany's first defeat on land in World War II. The Australian 9th Division and Royal Horse Artillery held this town for eight long months. This earned them the name the Rats of Tobruk, so called by German propaganda at the time. They wore this name as a badge of honour, in typical dry Australian humour.

Mr Gordon Wallace, the last president of the Rats of Tobruk Association, Queensland branch and one of Queensland's few surviving veterans of that campaign, died last year on 20 July. Mr Wallace was 17 and lied about his age when he enlisted in the Army. He served with the 2nd/15th Battalion of




the 9th Division. He lived to 98 and was tireless until the end in seeking the betterment of his comrades. The exhibition at Nambour Museum is a legacy to his service and that of his comrades. Vale, sir. Unfortunately, he did not live to see the naming of the 2nd/15th Battalion Room as the Gordon Wallace Room. My thoughts will be with Trish and the Wallace family on this Anzac Day.

It has indeed felt like a long time since last Anzac Day. This year we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the siege of Tobruk. We acknowledge 100 years of the RAAF and its proud legacy in the skies around the globe. I note that it is the second oldest air force in the world and at the end of World War II was the fourth largest.

Ordinary Seaman Edward 'Teddy' Sheehan has finally been posthumously awarded the Victoria Cross for his actions on the HMAS *Armidale*. The Royal Australian Navy fought a tremendous rear guard against the Japanese in getting Australian civilians and soldiers out of South-East Asia as they advanced unchecked. HMAS *Armidale* was protecting a convoy.

I am thankful to the Sunshine Coast Council and councillors David Law and Winston Johnson for ensuring that the memorials in our district are ready for this Anzac Day. I also recognise the contributions of all the schools and teachers, the many volunteers, the veterans and the community members who go above and beyond in honouring the legacy of those who did not return. On behalf of my grateful electorate, lest we forget.

### Cross River Rail

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (2.53 pm): So it begins. Here we go with that gradual watering down of the expectations of the Cross River Rail project. I stand to be corrected, but I believe that the member for Miller was a former arts and drama teacher. I hope he was a better arts and drama teacher than he was a history teacher, if he ever was, because he has a great tendency to try to rewrite history. Only 24 hours ago he said in this chamber, along with the Premier, that the Cross River Rail project will be now opening in 2025. We on this side of the chamber have always supported Cross River Rail—

**A government member:** Rubbish!

**Mr MINNIKIN:**—but it is time—

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, members!

**Mr MINNIKIN:** I would like to call out the member for Aspley, because I think that little outburst is probably the most erudite contribution he has made to this chamber. It was a moment for the highlight reel, member for Aspley.

Let us have a look at a few facts rather than some revised history. On 26 April 2020 the *Brisbane Times* carried an article with the headline 'What is Cross River Rail? When will it be finished and why do we need it?'. I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Brisbane Times*, dated 26 April 2020, titled 'What is Cross River Rail? When will it be finished and why do we need it?' [\[556\]](#).

It stated—

Cross River Rail will be finished in 2024.

Bing-bong! No, it is 2025 now, according to the member for Miller. For the benefit of the member of Aspley and some of the other backbench members opposite, what have we always said—not what would they like us to say but what have we actually said? The same *Brisbane Times* article of 26 April 2020 states—

LNP will not scrap the project.

Why am I raising this?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr MINNIKIN:** Here we go, on cue! It is about time! To compare what was promised in the past with what it has been watered down to now, let's have a look at a couple of other things. I have here the official media release of 16 April 2018 titled 'Cross River Rail funds welcomed'. I table the media release.

*Tabled paper:* Media release, dated 16 April 2018, by the former Deputy Premier, Treasurer and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Ms Jackie Trad, titled 'Cross River Rail funds welcomed' [\[557\]](#).




It was stated that Cross River Rail would open in 2024 and there would be trains running on the different sectors at different frequencies. The trouble is that we have what was warranted by this very incompetent member for Miller, who was described as 'foolish' by the CCC. What a great epitaph! What a great moniker! What a great history lesson! The media release states, 'Cross River Rail will deliver'. I table another document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, undated, titled 'Rail services delivered by Cross River Rail—then and now' [558].

This document has a column showing what it now 'could' deliver. They have effectively halved the expectations of what this project will deliver. It is disgraceful.

### **Pumicestone Electorate, Health Services; Beachmere Road Upgrade**

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.56 pm): The Palaszczuk Labor government is achieving big things in Pumicestone. It is 173 days since I was elected and already we have some important updates for the Pumicestone community. Public health care is at the very heart of my values because it truly changes lives, as it has changed mine.

When our Premier came to Pumicestone before the election to announce our new satellite hospitals for Bribie Island and Caboolture, it warmed the hearts of people old and young. With so many elderly people travelling long distances for hospital appointments, our Bribie satellite hospital is just what the doctor ordered for our community. Not a day goes by without someone asking me for an update.

Right now there is plenty of action happening behind the scenes to get our satellite hospitals built by 2023. Building hospitals takes time, but it is important to get it right. I am grateful for our community's patience while the Department of Health works together with Metro North Hospital and Health Service and the department of state development to get the groundwork right. There is a long road ahead, but I will be advocating strongly for our community through the process and sharing every milestone with members along the way. I am also looking forward to getting the word out when community consultation opens so that locals can have their say about the services they think are most important.


I take this opportunity to compare Labor's huge local investments in health with the LNP's dire health record when in government. We know that they cut 4,400 health workers across Queensland and they also sacked 731 local nurses from my health area. They planned no new hospitals. They also said that the Caboolture Hospital's \$400 million upgrades were not needed. Long ago I became part of the labour movement because Labor backs people's health. Now Labor is backing the health of the people in Pumicestone, and I could not be more proud.

I also have great news today for the people of Beachmere. Beachmere is a wonderful township, and residents tell me over and over that they like it just the way it is, with one exception—they want to see Beachmere Road upgraded. That is why I worked hard to secure a commitment of \$7.775 million for community consultation, planning and key upgrades for Beachmere Road. This money will fund key safety upgrades and build a list of the community's top priorities that I can fight for into the future.

Today I can announce that the community consultation is open. Locals can go to the TMR website, search 'Beachmere Road' and contribute their thoughts to the interactive map. It is time for Beachmere locals to have their say about what upgrades are needed most. I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that is delivering on health and roads.


## **SPEAKER'S STATEMENT**

### **Cameras in Chamber**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise the House that television pool cameras will be filming and press photographers will be taking photos in the chamber during this statement.

## **PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

### **Member for Stretton, Resignation**

 **Mr PEGG** (Stretton—ALP) (3.00 pm): Unlimited time on the clock—this could be dangerous! Mr Speaker, I rise to inform the House that, in the coming weeks, I intend to formally submit to you my resignation as the member for Stretton. It was actually exactly seven years ago today that I was formally announced as the state Labor candidate for Stretton for the 2015 election. It was almost six years ago I gave my first speech in this House. Now it is time for my final speech here.

As honourable members know, I have been fighting cancer since 2019. I have been fighting this fight alongside the 30,000 Queenslanders and 130,000 Australians who are diagnosed each year with this insidious disease. Up until this point, I have been able to effectively represent my local area while fighting against cancer. Based on my most recent medical advice, I will no longer be able to continue to both fight cancer and fight for my local area in the manner in which my community deserves.

I make this announcement with the heaviest of hearts. I do not want to leave this place and cease representing the community that I love, but I know that the decision to resign is the right one. Indeed, it is the only decision that is faithful to my values and work ethic. While I am sad to soon be leaving this place, I am grateful to have forged so many fantastic memories and achieved so much both locally and statewide. Before parting, I will take the opportunity to indulge the House with a few memories and offer some ideas for the future. Most of all, I have so many people to thank for supporting me on this journey.

I first contested the seat of Stretton at the 2012 state election. To run as a party candidate you need preselection. In the case of Stretton, the sitting member retired. Many party members encouraged me to nominate for preselection. Obviously the party has to adopt a process and timetable for such matters, as all honourable members would know. One challenge for me was that I booked some leave from my job and was travelling to the United States with my friend Troy, who is here today. We had a packed itinerary from coast to coast.

Almost as soon as our trip had begun I got a call from the then state secretary and now senator, Anthony Chisholm. He told me that everyone was looking for me in Brisbane and asked where I was. I replied, 'Las Vegas.' Let's just say we agreed it might be a good idea to return home on the next available flight. I did get to enjoy Las Vegas somewhat, drafting my first preselection email to party members at the TI—the Treasure Island Hotel—shortly before heading home. My brother Graham was generous enough to pick me up and as we were driving away from the airport asked me why I had returned a week early. 'I'm going to try to run for parliament,' I told him.

Of course, a successful preselection is no guarantee of an election win. While I was successful in gaining preselection for the 2012 election, I would not enter parliament for another three years. Being a new MP was one of the most exciting times in my life and three events in that period stick out in my mind: my first party room meeting; my first night sitting in parliament; and my first and, I promise, only filibuster speech.

I had been to the Queensland parliament a few times but had never worked directly in politics so at first I was not quite sure where everything was. I was walking to my first party room meeting with a group of MPs when I dashed off to the bathroom. When I came out the group was gone and I was unsure where to go. I called my friend the member for Logan, Linus Power, to ask where everyone was. Linus's response was, 'Somewhere on level 5.'

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr Power:** I was probably wrong about that.

**Mr PEGG:** I take all those interjections. Thanks, Linus, you were a big help that day, mate.

I eventually knew I had found the right place because of the massive media pack. The pack was surrounding two different doors to two different rooms. One led to the caucus room. The other led to who knows where. None of my colleagues were in sight. They were already in the room. I had no idea which one to take. The reporters turned to me. 'Congratulations, Mr Pegg,' one said, with the cameras rolling. I looked back at the doors and realised I was in danger of making the nightly news. The headline 'New MP loses his way' flashed through my mind alongside footage of me fumbling with different doors. I steeled myself, said a brief prayer and decided that confidence was my best strategy—something I have continued to employ since then. I smiled and walked through the door to my left. With a lot of relief, the door opened into a room of my colleagues. Crisis averted—although, in hindsight, maybe any coverage is good coverage, as they say.

I remember my first night sitting in this place. The 2015 parliament was a minority government. During my first night in parliament we debated a confidence motion. The early party room meeting at 7 am was very exciting. As an aside, I can confidently state that I no longer find 7 am meetings very exciting at all. The opposition was keen for the debate to continue as long as possible. I recall looking at the speaking list and seeing my name. After doing some rough calculations I realised I could potentially be giving my first speech at around 4 am or 5 am the next day. After going into the very early hours of the morning, I may have just drifted off during the final speech from the Premier. I am fairly sure I got a simultaneous elbow from both the member for Pine Rivers and the member for Morayfield sitting beside me. Premier, I confess it was only for a few seconds and I can assure you it was the only time I fell asleep during one of your speeches.

An early introduction to the art of the filibuster came for me during the debate on the Farm Business Debt Mediation Bill. I was on the speaking list but was assured by the whip, the member for Bancroft at the time, that there were plenty of speakers and I would not have to speak on that particular bill. The minister was the legendary Bill Byrne, a fellow Rocky boy. Debate continued long into the night. I was in the member's bar drinking a coffee—or perhaps something a bit stronger—when Bill burst in shouting 'Peggy'. He seemed really happy to see me. He had found out I was on the committee and therefore could speak for 20 minutes on his bill.

Employing the skills I had developed as a legal advocate, I made the case to Bill that I was only briefly on the committee and had not prepared a speech as the whip had told me I could be off the speaking list. I thought this was a really convincing argument. Because we were a minority government negotiations were ongoing. Bill needed me to speak, but assured me that I would not have to do the full 20 minutes. He just needed me to start speaking and he would signal when I could cut the speech.

I did ask Bill if he could arrange some notes and he said yes, so I got up to speak. As it turned out, Bill's notes amounted to bits and pieces he was finding from previous speeches, which he would periodically place on my lectern as I was speaking. Every time I looked at him, instead of giving me the wind-up signal he nodded his head in encouragement. The opposition members worked out what was going on, cheering me and even shouting to give me an extension after 20 interminable minutes. As I finished, Bill said, 'You're a legend Peggy,' and I briefly thought the speech was not actually too bad. When I walked past the adviser's box, my friend Fiona McNamara let me know in no uncertain terms her assessment of my speech. Let's just say her view was diametrically opposed to the minister's.

Parliamentary committees are important to scrutinise legislation, visit rural and regional communities and make the parliament accessible to all Queenslanders. They also do help you to get to know some opposition members better. I always seemed to be on the same committee as the member for Scenic Rim and shared some enjoyable times with those opposite. I think he was following me rather than the other way round. To the member for Condamine I say that I still have photographs of your musical performance on one particularly memorable trip to Alice Springs. Do not worry, I will not be tabling those; your secret is safe with me.

One of the biggest ever committee inquiries was for the Stradbroke island bill, and rightly so. There was a huge number of stakeholders, and we had hearings from morning until late into the evening. We visited in the low season and, after one night's hearings, the other committee members and I expressed disappointment that there was not a beer or other beverage accessible after a very long day of hearings.

The next night, after another long day of hearings, Brett Nutley, the former liaison officer of this parliament, told me some very good news. When we got into the van to return to the accommodation, he proudly said he had managed to source some beers. I could not see them anywhere in the van and asked where he had put them. 'In the seafood boxes,' he said. When we arrived let's just say it was the foulest smelling beer I have ever had, and that is coming from someone whose father was and still is a very keen fisherman. I have to say that they still tasted bloody good though!

Mr Speaker, I thank you for indulging me in sharing a few memories of this place. I would ask for your continuing indulgence to reflect on some of my proudest achievements both locally and as a part of the Palaszczuk Labor government.

In my maiden speech I spoke about the transformational power of education and I reflected on that in my own life. I am a proud product of state schooling, both primary and secondary. I have four brothers who are all here today—three of whom are triplets. Unfortunately, I am not a special triplet. I have managed to get over that through the years! Before I was elected to parliament, I was fortunate enough to work as a lawyer. I have one brother who is a doctor, one who is an accountant, one who is a journalist and one who serves in the Air Force and in fact recently served in Egypt.

State schooling has been a very important part of my life. I think it is a very important component of what we do as a state government. In the electorate of Stretton we have seen a huge investment in our local schools. I am extremely proud of the tens of millions of dollars in extra funding for local schools that I have secured during my time as the member for Stretton. We have a new performing arts centre at Stretton State College. We have new school buildings at Sunnybank Hills State School, Stretton State College and Runcorn Heights State School. We have a new op shop at Kuraby Special School. We have had a new learning centre and upgraded facilities at Kuraby State School. We have also had major upgrades at Runcorn State High School. I could go on, but what is important is what these investments really mean. What they mean is better learning outcomes and opportunities for our young people so they can achieve the best outcomes in life, because young people are our future.

I am also very proud to have helped deliver the biggest road project in the history of our local area when we improved local access to the Gateway and Logan Motorway and upgrades to Beaudesert and Wembley roads, which I know you were involved in as treasurer, Mr Speaker. I am also very proud to have achieved a much needed dedicated left turn from Macquarie Way onto Wembley Road in Drewvale. I know locals really value that.

The good news for locals is that I have been working on improving our local roads and public transport even further. There will be new and upgraded bus stops on Gowan Road in the near future and we have also committed to improve the intersection between Beaudesert Road and Illaweena Street. What do these projects mean? First and foremost, they enhance safety and save lives. Also, very importantly, they help locals get to where they need to go more efficiently so they can spend more time with loved ones.

Speaking of roads, I was really proud, as honourable members would know, to stand beside locals as we fought the ridiculous decision of the BCC to close Illaweena Street back in 2017. It was a tough fight, but we prevailed against the odds.

When local Kuraby father Hazem Hamouda was thrown into prison in Egypt on no charges, I worked with his family and his lawyers to help secure his release. After a year of fighting, we reunited Hazem with his family and our community.

Most important of all though, I am proud of our community. I have lived in the electorate of Stretton almost my entire adult life. It is a very unique part of Queensland. The usual conventions and rules do not always apply in my local area, but that is what I think makes it special. It is the most multicultural electorate in the state and that energy and drive shines through in our community. We are fortunate in our local area to have so many community minded people, and I value the friendships I have made with so many. I am proud we have worked together through the good times and the challenging times to make our fantastic community even better.

Statewide, I am proud to have been part of a Palaszczuk Labor government that has made Queensland a better place—increased funding for our schools, more hospitals, more frontline workers, supporting jobs, protecting the environment, improving workers compensation and supporting our multicultural communities.

I think there are two key factors in the success of the Palaszczuk government both electorally and in continuing to make our state a better place. Firstly is the leadership of the Premier. Having watched her at close quarters and in the community for over six years, I can say she has an extraordinary ability to connect with Queenslanders. The Premier does it in a way that is different from her predecessors. She does it in a modern way, and I have been very proud to have served under her leadership.

The other key factor is that this is a government that says what it is going to do and then does it. That sounds pretty simple in theory, but in practice few governments have been able to stick to this principle. I believe that with these two factors this government can continue to work with Queenslanders to make our state even better and will continue to achieve electoral success.

Mr Speaker, I am sure by this point it is obvious that I am incredibly proud to be a part of this government. I am proud of all we have achieved. As part of my final contribution to this place, I would like to sketch out some ideas that I hope will provide inspiration for the future.

The voluntary assisted dying debate will come up this year and there will be a conscience vote. I would very much have liked to have been a part of this debate but unfortunately that is not going to happen. I speak as someone who has been fighting cancer for 18 months, regularly attends a cancer centre and speaks to cancer patients with a terminal illness. Let us be very clear. People with terminal illnesses do not want to die; they want to live. They fight to live every day. I personally fight to live every day. There are so many positive stories of people successfully fighting cancer.

However, if you are diagnosed as terminal then ultimately you are going to face death. People with terminal illnesses want to have an option. I will not tell members how to make a conscience vote, but before making a decision I encourage every MP in this place to make sure they speak to, and listen to, people with terminal illnesses and their families. I think if you do that you will get a clear consensus view.

Having experienced cancer, I realise how important it is for patients and their families to have support. We do well in Queensland, but there is always room to improve. We need to continue to invest in research and do everything we can to fight this insidious disease. Despite many treatments for cancer

being covered by Medicare and the public health system, there are still treatments that are not covered and therefore result in out-of-pocket expenses. These include genomic testing, non-PBS medications and other treatments. For instance, genomic testing is \$6,000 to \$7,000 out of pocket and not normally covered by the public system or by Medicare. This testing can uncover treatment that can save and also prolong lives. Bill Shorten was on the right track at the last election when he talked about these issues. I have told Bill that and encouraged him and federal Labor to continue with this fight.

The other issue I wanted to mention is in relation to superannuation insurance. For most people with terminal illnesses, their insurance comes from their superannuation policy. Most of us have benefits for income protection, total permanent disability and death. Let's face it: most people who have those policies probably do not look at them in detail. The standard policy means that those diagnosed with a terminal illness generally have no access to TPD and income protection and can simply just access the death benefit early. Most people want to preserve this to support their families which is understandable. Clearly, people need to know this in advance and have other insurance options flagged with them. I think this is vitally important.

As all members of this House are aware, we are in the midst of an unprecedented challenge that will have long-lasting health, economic and social effects. While the recovery is underway, the road ahead is long. It will take patience, bipartisanship and new ideas. It is the biggest policy challenge we face. I encourage all members of this House to apply themselves to this task. I will be cheering you on. If everyone in this place is committed to the best interests of Queenslanders, I am sure we can get through—and I know the recovery is underway.

Finally, I want to speak about the perceptions of parliament and politicians. I know that is an issue close to home for everybody sitting here in this House. I think all of us in this place realise that the public is increasingly cynical about politics. I get that and it is justified in some respects. Despite this, I know that there are many people here who work very hard in this place. There is a great deal of bipartisan work on committees as we argue over what is best for the state.

All of the members I know are passionate about their communities. We always need to work to respect the institution of parliament and resist the temptation to buy into this cynicism. We need people engaged in politics and public life because it leads to better outcomes. Everyone needs to keep that in mind in everything they do.

I have saved the thankyou's until last for obvious reasons. First and foremost I want to thank my family: my Mum and Dad and my brothers Grant, Graham, Cameron and Lachlan, who are here today. I also want to thank my extended family who have stepped in and supported particularly my parents to enable them to support me. Can I say to my family members that I could not ask for better support. Thank you so much. I also want to thank Reena Augustine for all the support you have given me during such a challenging time.

I want to thank members of this House: first and foremost the Premier, for her support both as the member for Stretton and personally while I have been undergoing this terrible fight. Premier, your support has been unbelievable and I thank you from the bottom my heart. Mr Speaker, I also want to thank you for your advice, friendship and support. I know that your family has experienced the challenges of cancer firsthand, and I really appreciate our discussions and the fact that I knew I could contact you at any time.

To the Deputy Premier, whom I have known since I was 17: thank you for your friendship over many years. To Minister Furner, Minister Grace and Minister Dick, who were friends of mine before I entered parliament: thank you. I do want to thank my great mate, the member for Capalaba. I hope he is not crying over there. Not only did he step in to take over some of my committee work this parliament but he has been a great mate and such a great support. I also want to thank the member for Bancroft, who quietly took over some of my committee work during the last parliament. He got in and got the job done, and that meant a lot to me.

To the members for Pine Rivers, Maryborough, Cook and Logan: thank you for your support. I also want to thank all of my colleagues from this side of the House. You have given me unbelievable and tremendous support.

On the other side of the House—just foreshadowing that I am about to say something good about the member for Nanango—I do want to thank both the member for Nanango and the member for Broadwater for making it clear that pairs would be offered when needed for treatment. You both made that really clear to me at the outset and it really set my mind at ease. I thank you both personally for that.

To all those on the other side of the House: you have generously given me words of encouragement and support, sometimes quietly. I want you to know how much that has meant to me as well. It has really given me a lot of encouragement, and I thank you sincerely for that. Thank you to my local federal MPs, Jim Chalmers and Graham Perrett.

I want to thank my current staff: James Martin, Reem Al-Qahtani and Snow Duan. Hopefully I have not been too difficult for you over the years. I want to thank my former staff: Emily Kim, Edward Lei, Emily Hansell, Khiraan Kumar, Jessica Pugh and Ruby Chen—one of the highlights of the member for Mount Ommaney's career, no doubt. We welcome you back any time.

I want to thank Clinton DeBruyn, Merric Foley, Jacques Develder and Monique Biealanowski—the gang from the Griffith Uni Labor Club days. They remain fantastic friends and supporters of mine. I also want to thank Nicole Fitzgibbon, Kevin Court and Troy Reeves. A big thank you to Greg Moran, my biggest mentor in politics.

I also want to thank the doctors, nurses and staff at the Cyril Gilbert Cancer Centre, Greenslopes Hospital and the PA Hospital. I particularly want to thank my oncologist, Dr Warren Joubert, for everything he has done for me and his good humour while doing so. It always helps that he is also a cricket fan.

Thank you to Usman Khawaja and Dave Nilsson—otherwise known as 'Dingo'—two Queensland sporting legends and even better blokes who have provided me with personal support when I have needed it.

Thank you to everyone who has supported my election over the course of four campaigns. I particularly want to thank Labor members and supporters: David Pass, Lewis Lee OAM, Johnson Chen, Andrew Soter, Chris and Judy Hardy, Navneeta Hinz, Meripa and David Weir, Teng and Michael Murray, Jason MacAulay, Vince Kartelo, Sam Sciacca, Ganesh Selva, the Glaros family—too many to mention—Helena Langton, Ali Kadri, Deb Hodder, David Kelly, Ryan and Adam Chappell—my new favourite Chappell brothers—Manting Chen, Fahima Ahmadi, Neha Pauly, the La Maccia family, Prkruthi Guraj, Victor Yang, Angelo Economou and Jamal El-Kholed.

In conclusion, I am really going to miss this place. I am very lucky to have been able to work on so many important things and develop so many important friendships with people in this House. While I will no longer be here in person, rest assured I will always be here in spirit supporting good ideas that benefit the great people of Queensland. To paraphrase one of our late, great premiers—who was also one of my inspirations for getting interested in politics—a big thank you to the people of Stretton and the members of this House. You have been good to me. I hope I have left you a better place. I am really going to miss everyone. Thank you.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!


**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, given the last speech by the member for Stretton, I will excuse all of you for not being quiet while I stood up. Member for Stretton, this place will miss you too.

## YOUTH JUSTICE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1142, on motion of Mr Ryan—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr DAMELTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (3.30 pm): As the first speaker to speak after the member for Stretton, I would like to place on record my thanks for his service in this place. I believe I share the feelings of most people in this House that Duncan Pegg will be remembered in this place as not a politician but a parliamentarian.

I rise to give my contribution on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I will paint a picture for the parliament. It is a night in Townsville and everyone is going to bed. As they are going to bed, they are locking their doors, their windows and their security mesh screens, they are double-checking the roller door and they are putting the alarm on in a bid to try to stop the crime wave entering their house that night. Even before these control measures are in place, there is an acknowledgement that there is a crime wave in town by locals.

There are youth roaming our streets at night believing they have the right to come into your house, my house and other people's houses across Queensland. They do not fear the retribution of the legislation or the law. They do not fear being caught. They do not think the consequences outweigh

their actions. They believe they have the right and the hall pass to undertake some of these crimes against the community. These crimes include break and enter, walking into people's shops with weapons demanding money and goods, stealing and theft.

After they have been in your house and stolen your car and car keys, they take the opportunity to joy ride out in the community on our streets. They drive down the main streets of our cities and towns causing havoc, using these vehicles almost like a weapon. They do not care about the damage they do to property, they do not care about the damage they do in the community, they do not care about the fact that they are endangering lives and taking lives. We have seen lives lost across the state because of the unlawful use of a motor vehicle by young people, youth offenders and adult offenders. We have seen too much carnage on our streets. Young people are losing their lives in stolen cars in Townsville after being part of a joy ride on any given night.

We need to do things better in this House. We need to move legislation in this House that ensures we are tidying up the laws. I have a couple of facts and figures for the House for the month between 20 March and 19 April. There were 292 offences of unlawful entry. That means 292 people thought it was okay to enter someone's property, unwelcome, or break in to take something or cause wilful damage. There were 77 offences for unlawful use of a motor vehicle. That might not equate to a full 77 vehicles stolen in Townsville during that time, but it means that 77 people were included in those break and enters and stole those vehicles and caused havoc on our streets.

It does not take long to read the *Townsville Bulletin* and see what the people of Hinchinbrook and regional Queensland are dealing with right now. It is carnage every night. There is so much carnage that people are switching off. In some cases the news does not even report it because they are looking for something else to report. There were 258 offences of theft. That was not including unlawful entry. That is 258 times that people were caught stealing from either shops or people and felt like they could get away with it and were not deterred by the current legislation. There were 133 assaults across the Townsville area and 92 property damage offences. Every morning we wake up and look at the Townsville community Facebook pages and the *Townsville Bulletin*, and it is right there in our face. Something more needs to be done.

The state government has introduced this legislation to try to curb the youth crime problem we have in Townsville and across Queensland. Measures have been put in place by the state government in this bill to try to deter young recidivist offenders. A recent report found that 10 per cent of all youth offenders—which was 390 individuals to be exact—were responsible for 48 per cent of all youth crime across the state. This is a problem we have that is being coined by some police officers out there as the 'hard nuts we can't crack with the current legislation'. The legislation we are working with right now sees a revolving door situation with places like the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. In some cases, children are let out on bail by magistrates to go back onto the streets and roam and create havoc once again. This is happening night after night.

Some of the provisions in this bill take into account things that have got nothing to do with youth crime. This is not what the community were crying out for but I acknowledge that the state government has tacked these onto the bill. There have been knife offences in safe night precincts across Queensland—namely, around the Sunshine Coast and Gold Coast. There is legislation here to tighten up that knife carrying in those areas. It is also giving officers the opportunity to carry metal detecting wands to try to combat this problem.

There are also some anti-hooning laws. Hooning was never brought up, not even in the public hearings that were held by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. Hooning did not seem to be a problem for most people, especially not in Townsville, but it has been tacked on here as well. I do not understand why we need to do this right now. There should be more things in here about youth justice, not hooning.

What we are seeing though is some legislation to tighten up the bail laws to make sure there are people out there—whether they are a parent or a guardian—if these kids are granted bail. The presumption of bail is being taken away from them. They need to prove that there is someone out there who is going to make sure they behave themselves during their bail time.


There is also a trial for GPS trackers for 16- and 17-year-old children. There have been mixed feelings from the community on whether or not this will make a difference. I thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for allowing me to attend and partake in the committee hearing in Townsville. The general feeling from the community that I heard was that these laws that will be changed today do not go far enough. They acknowledged that breach of bail should be added to this bill going through the House as an amendment. They would like to see tougher penalties.

I have spoken to people in my community and I have to deliver something for them. I have people with different opinions—from ‘These kids are getting away without any repercussions,’ and ‘We need to do something better and turn their lives around,’ to ‘We should go back to corporal punishment.’ I am not suggesting we go that way, but we need to find somewhere in the middle that satisfies this. People in the community have called for the Katter’s Australian Party relocation sentencing policy to be added to this legislation as it passes through the House. They have also called for omitting section 150, I believe it is, that says that a child going through the youth justice system should only be incarcerated as a last resort.

We are seeing these kids getting warning after warning from the QPS when they are taken to the station. By the time they hit the court system they are up to their fourth or fifth warning. Then when they hit the court system they get another two or three warnings to get let out on bail or parole. What upsets a lot of people is when they are given wholly suspended sentences. That is why when we have the opportunity we will be introducing mandatory sentencing for the unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

People in the community are sick of waking up not knowing whether or not their motor vehicle is going to be at the front of their house. They are sick to death of not knowing if their tools are going to be on the back of their ute when they go to work the next morning to earn a living to pay their taxes. They are sick to death of being worried about their family members making it home safely after a night out on our roads while youth offenders wreak havoc on our streets weaponising stolen cars.

People in Queensland deserve to feel safe and they deserve legislation that protects them from recidivist offenders. I think we can do better in this House. I hope that we can pass legislation today that works as a real deterrent for young Johnny or Sarah picking up a crowbar and breaking into your house tonight.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (3.40 pm): I, too, would like to add my comments and wish Mr Pegg, the member for Stretton, all the best. Over the many years of service he has given in this chamber it has been an honour to know him.

I rise to make a contribution to the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. From the outset I would like to thank the committee members, the secretariat staff and all those who took the time to contribute to the public hearings and voice their opinions on this very important matter. Obviously youth justice is a very emotional issue, especially for the families that have been directly involved, whether that be the families who have been victims of the crime which is enveloping our state or the families of offenders. Not all of these families are what you would call poor; some of them have had very successful careers and their children have followed a wayward path. We should remember that. I have spoken to plenty of families in my electorate who are at their wit’s end and are desperate for help when it comes to their children.

Unfortunately, as a local member who tries to be out listening in my community on a regular basis doing my community roadsides, I can say that crime is a scourge on the northern Gold Coast and throughout Queensland. I regularly speak to residents about how crime has affected them such as an innocent tradie who had all his tools stolen from the back of his ute or another tradie who had saved his money and worked very hard to buy himself his dream ute only for it to be stolen. Seeing that car burnt out a few weeks later was a tragedy for him and heartbreaking considering all the effort and all the hours he put in to buy his dream vehicle.

I have also met with an elderly lady who ended up selling her property because she was sick and tired of being broken into by young people. She decided to move to a gated estate. She had lived in that house in Oxenford for many years. It is a tragedy that a person has to move to a gated estate in order to feel safe in this era.

As the member for Bonney alluded to earlier, we will never forget what the Beasley family has gone through. I want to say thank you to the Beasley family for their dedication and efforts and also to the Helensvale Hornets Rugby Union club for their dedication in getting behind the Beasley family to try to bring about systemic change in legislation to deal with knife crime. When it comes to knife crime I have to say I do feel that the use of these detection devices needs to be expanded to our major transport hubs. The Helensvale transport hub in the electorate of Bonney, just south of the electorate of Theodore, is one such ideal place, the reason being that this is an area where heavy rail, light rail and the local bus networks are all located together. This would be an ideal place to use these devices.

Furthermore, I have talked with families whose sons and daughters regularly go to Westfield shopping plazas where there have been incidents of assaults and attacks. It would be great if the precinct where these devices can be used could be expanded to these transport hubs. I ask the minister



to review this because this is very important. This is a way to deal with the problem quickly. No matter where they come from, if they use the transport network we could stop them there. That prevents them travelling to these party precincts. It certainly makes sense.

The issue of youth crime has existed for many years. I was doing a little bit of research and I remembered an article I tabled back in 2016 about crime. The headline of that article was 'Gold Coast teens are out of control with four arrested in just 24 hours.' That was from 31 August 2016. It shows us that this problem has not gone away and it has not gotten any better. If we look at the stats from Queensland Police's own website, assaults on the Gold Coast have continued to increase. They have actually doubled since 2014. It is an indictment on the government for this to be happening in a tourism capital of Australia. It also shows we need more police resources on the Gold Coast.

On the subject of the unlawful use of motor vehicles, something that I do agree with is the adjustments to the type 1 and 2 motor vehicle offences and the reverse onus of proof. I agree with that. However, I have residents who continually ring the Queensland Police Service. One gentleman lives in fear in his house—and rightly so; he lives on the side of a rather steep hill and there is a lot of hooning activity on his local street. He is terrified that a car will go straight through his living room because they regularly do burnouts and race up and down that local street. He rings the police on a regular basis only to be told that there are no units available. We need more officers for the northern Gold Coast.


The paperwork that officers have to complete when dealing with these hoons can be extensive. Even if residents have the evidence, the officers are still tied down with paperwork. That needs to be streamlined to make it a lot more efficient.

When it comes to GPS tracking devices, many residents told me that they do not feel this will make any difference whatsoever. They feel that some type of punishment that actually deals with these individuals' behaviour is crucial—punishment that ensures they understand what they have done wrong, and that ensures they are put back on the straight and narrow.

There are a lot of programs out there such as Blue Diamond Youth. It is a fantastic network that delivers corrective education for these young people. These are the types of programs that are needed. They are needed to address these young people's offending. Many of my residents feel that this bill—and I have spoken to them about it—is only a bandaid for a festering wound. They feel it needs to go further and we need to address the core of the problem.

If the government is seen to be doing something, it can get out there and get some media headlines. Fundamentally, most residents are becoming very despondent. They understand it is not the fault of the police. They blame the law courts for releasing these individuals and they blame the members in this chamber for not implementing tougher laws that deal with the problem. It is as simple as that. We need to deal with the core of the problem and we need a system. As a good friend of mine said to me many years ago, society is made up of two parts: the fear of punishment and the hope of reward; take away one of those elements and society starts failing. It is as simple as that.

As I said, we need tougher rules. With regard to breach of bail, I wholeheartedly agree with the shadow minister in that we need to take this matter further. Unfortunately, we will be revisiting this situation in the next couple of years because this legislation will not solve it.

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (3.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. A number of the objectives put forward in this bill seem to fit with the government's new tough-on-crime rhetoric but, on closer inspection, will do little to reduce youth offending. There is no question that the Queensland youth justice system needs reform. I am just not convinced that the expensive, quick-fix reforms proposed in this bill are the kinds of reforms needed. Neither am I convinced that the government has properly engaged in consultation with the communities most impacted by youth crime or those engaged on the front line of youth justice to find their views on what works and what does not.

In my conversations with people who have worked in youth justice for many years in Central Queensland, the consensus seems to be that what is needed are targeted and specialist interventions that focus on repeat offenders in the youth justice system as well as those at risk of entering it. Policy development and decision-making in the area of youth crime must be evidence based and targeted. We need political leaders to do what is right, not simply what is profitable, popular or politically expedient. Research shows that a small number of hardened, recidivist youths are responsible for the majority of youth crime in any given area.

When I spoke to some of the people in these areas, they relayed to me that peer recognition was one of the biggest issues. A lot of youth out there at the moment have mental health issues. They are on the spectrum. They are being discarded by their parents. They have left home and are trying to find

somewhere to live. They end up with gangs that push them into illegal activities. Putting GPS tracker bracelets on people is one thing, but peer recognition pushes the other youth in their gang or their area to go for the same thing: 'Oh, what did you do to get that? What sort of crime do I have to commit to reach that level?' These are some of the things we will see. Instead of GPS trackers being something that will reduce crime, they may lead to further offences being committed as they become a badge of honour.

I refer to the Carmody inquiry. In their first three months the local level alliances brought together all of the departments with an MOU from the health department that said, 'Let's look at how we can fix this up.' This is a generational issue. It is not an issue that we have just now that we can legislate for. So many government departments have to work over so many years to try to fix it. We have so many issues in that respect.

With many of the worst offenders well known to youth services providers, identification is not difficult. We can work with them. We spoke about this in Townsville in terms of 'one goal, one community'. There were Aboriginal traditional owners at the hearing who had six different properties they could take these youths to in order to work with them one-on-one in an effort to return them to the community with a different view and to change the rest of the gang below them. This is something we will have to go to down the track, because this legislation will be an interim measure that may even spike crime rather than reduce it.

The Carmody inquiry identified a number of areas that offer the best prospects of delivering reductions in offending and reoffending for a safer community. The inquiry examined each component of the youth justice system and found that there was a fragmented and uncoordinated approach to the delivery of service and response. Carmody found that most providers in the youth system were segregated within their own small area of responsibility. That is what I said.

When they first came together in Toowoomba for that first three months, more cases than ever were handled and delivered in the best way possible. For some reason we disbanded it and worked out of silos again. Here we are, facing the same issues. The next provider called on to deal with the same offender is in the dark as to the offender's history or behaviour pattern over time. Offenders go from one area to the next, whereas when offenders first started with the LLAs they went in, told their story and everyone in all the departments knew how to deal with them properly. Young people moving through the youth justice system have no coordinated monitoring and are not dealt with by a single agency on a continuous basis, so he or she is allowed to slip through the cracks.

Even the police officers are telling us that. They say that most of these kids have an opportunity in life—they just have to be given it—but, unfortunately, a small percentage of the kids will never change. They are hardened. We have to make a very concerted effort to change the way we deal with these kids. The 'one community, one standard' meeting showed me that the original traditional owners in Townsville who had these properties to go to did not care where these kids came from or what nationality they were. All they cared about was making them right, enabling them to return to society and lead a meaningful life and work in with the rest of the kids who were falling over, breaking down and returning to crime, to give these kids help from the inside. We all know that one of the best ways for people misusing drugs to deal with those issues is to go to a person who has had that problem, who can talk on the same level and turn them around. Sometimes, the hard approach does not always give us the best outcome.

The submission of Mount Isa council mentioned that there were many issues around the number of services in town and that they do not work together. The council submission states—


... there are a number of agencies involved in dealing with youth, however the actions of these different agencies do not appear to be coordinated in an effective manner or appropriately targeted at reoccurring issues.

The KAP has talked about rehabilitation camps being structured for young people and run generally by people who have themselves offended and turned their life around. Putting them into detention centres is probably not the best outcome, although for some offenders it is appropriate. If this legislation does not result in good outcomes in the community, we have to come back and look at combatting the problem in another way.

The member for Maiwar spoke about how this type of legislation can capture young children who do not necessarily pose a risk to society. It is sad. Even my grandfather faced this situation in his day. When he worked in the railways he would take away a lot of the young South Sea island boys who were causing trouble, drinking and off the rails—excuse the pun—and put them back on the rails.

I hope that we can revise this legislation if it does not work. Then we can look at making sure First Nations people—your people, Madam Deputy Speaker Lui: Torres Strait Islanders, Aboriginal people and their elders—can have a go at looking after these kids and take them under their wing. We legislated against people who used to look after their family, dishing out the discipline. They could no longer do that. Now we are legislating to try to pick up the slack in that regard.

As a society, we know what works and what does not. Legislation can never work with human nature. Human nature will always be its own thing. Each of these kids has their own issues—mental, family or a combination of many. We always have to be open to understanding and looking at that first, rather than just throwing a bracelet on them. It is the old saying ‘educate rather than incarcerate’. I am sure the minister would understand that.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (3.59 pm): I rise to make a contribution on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This is an issue that I am unfortunately very familiar with. This problem has been growing, but it has not always been like this in the north-west and in Mount Isa in particular. Whilst I have been in this job I have seen a slow increase and there has been a more acute incline in the rate of criminal activity committed by youths in the north-west. There are a number of factors that contribute to that and I want to talk about those issues. I also flag that we have a number of amendments, and I pay tribute to the member for Hinchinbrook for doing all of the heavy lifting in providing some alternatives that are missing in what the government has done.

The government has missed a very valuable opportunity to not only try to deal with this situation significantly but also send a message to those people in remote areas that this issue is as big for us in the south-east making decisions as it is for them up north. I can assure everyone that this is a burning issue in places like Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa at the moment. It is really unfair and cruel to treat those people by saying, ‘The problem’s not too bad and we’re dealing with it.’ Just offering them tinkering around the edges is bordering on cruel because they expect more from government. They pay taxes to keep us here and employ us and they expect us to stand up and do something material.

I want to offer some observations that I have made during my time in this place in dealing with this issue. Firstly, there seems to be a lot of confusion in terms of the agenda peddled by the government that there has been a reduction in crime. That has been a message that has been driven by the government which I think is completely false. I collected some data from my area, but all of the evidence comprehensively shows the opposite. Over the month of February 2021 in Townsville there were a total of 2,547 offences committed, making the offence rate 1,098 per 100,000 people. In the Cairns LGA there were 1,278 offences, making that rate 1,500 per 100,000 people. In Mount Isa there were 475 offences, making it the gold medal winner at 2,662 offences per 100,000 people.

I could be accused of what I am accusing the government of in that it is a really narrow lens to say that we are the worst, because it would appear to me that some of the offences happening in Cairns and Townsville seem a lot more intense. This goes to the point that the government cannot just look at the data alone and say, ‘Gee whiz, we’ve done a good job.’ Rather, it has to talk to people on the ground and observe what is happening. What I have observed is a sharp increase of people coming through my electorate office saying, ‘What are you doing about this? I’ve got a big problem. I’ve lived here for 40 years. My 80-year-old mother has just been strangled by a young kid. She’s been broken into for the fifth time. She’s been living here all her life. She’s 80 years old. She’s not used to this and she’s being targeted because she keeps cash around the premises. What am I supposed to do, because I’m an aged man myself and my mum’s distraught?’ That was Heiner Schulz with his mother.

What about Kim-Maree Burton who has been woken by another young kid coming into her bedroom in the night after being repeatedly broken into? She was born and bred in Mount Isa. She loves the place. She wants to live there, but she is at her wit’s end asking, ‘What do we do?’ The police are saying, ‘Well, there’s not much more we can do. We can try to pick them up.’ At the other end of the spectrum butcher Steve Clausen has been broken into again and had his butcher shop smashed up. Steve volunteers for everything around his son such as footy and sponsors everything around town. Jeff Marshall at SportsPower has kids yakking at him indicating that they will come back to steal from him the next night, which they do, when he politely tries to direct them around the shop.

We cannot ignore these stories, and they are getting worse and worse. As MPs we go to the government trying to be as constructive as we can to say, ‘Here’s the problem and here are some solutions as best as we can work them out,’ and some of these solutions are real. We have been peddling relocation sentencing for years and I cannot find one person where I live—even in Townsville or Cairns—who disagrees. They just say, ‘Anything, but it’s a good idea and that needs to happen.’ The best excuse we get for not doing it is that there is no evidence to support it. Is that how we always

conduct our decision-making? There needs to be some strength in decision-making to say, 'There's no evidence, but I can see how that would work and logic would say that that would work.' There is evidence. I remember going to Urandangi a few years ago, and Urandangi is a pretty bleak landscape. There is no mobile phone service there and there is not much on offer. There is a pub and probably about two houses.

**Mr Bennett:** A school.

**Mr KATTER:** There is a school; I know the member for Burnett worked at the school. There are old houses where people are basically living in squalor with no water connected to the houses and no power, but there was a good couple living there at the time who had a number of foster kids as well as their own kids and they were disciplining those kids at home. I went to the school and there were about 12 kids, and I could not believe it. These kids were neatly dressed. The teachers would clap their hands and the kids would start reading their books. I can tell the House that that was the best behaved class pound for pound that I have walked into—all First Australian kids. The teacher said that one of those kids had done a horrendous crime in Mount Isa, and I knew well at the time what the crime was. I said, 'He looks like one of the best kids.' He said, 'He is.' I said, 'What's the secret?' He said, 'Not much. I'm giving them attention and the parents discipline them at home and that's about it.'

The key was that they were remote. There were no distractions. There were no cars to ride around in. There was no big city. They were remote, and that is the principle to keep focused on. That is the evidence. They were the kids who played up in town. If you talk to anyone in Urandangi they say, 'The kids are always good when they're here. It's when they go to Mount Isa that they play up.' That is part of the answer then, isn't it? The next thing we have to be aware of is that kids need to be active. If we just try to sit them down and teach them something in school or if we say, 'They must be learning cultural things, and that's all they can do,' that is not going to work. Kids want to move around, they want to run around and they want to do things. We have to keep their hands busy, so we need space to be able to achieve that. It is very hard to do that when they are cooped up in Cleveland, but it is easy to do a bit of fencing or try some activities with kids. It does not have to be about cattle work, but that is an easy one to do out there.

They are the sorts of things that we can do when we get them out there. It does not need to be any one program that is built around relocation sentencing, but there are a number of programs that will work, and I acknowledge that there are a number of effective programs. However, this is the point: a judge cannot force people to go to these programs, and that is a really critical element that we are missing in all of this. It is either send them to Cleveland or put them back on the street on bail, and half of the kids are not even scared of going to Cleveland anyway. Like they say, they wear that like a badge. Whether there are ankle bracelets or not, it is irrelevant.


The point is there are only two options for the magistrate. He knows Cleveland is full anyway and so do the police, so we are having—surprise, surprise—a slowdown in the reports of crimes because people are now ringing Policelink and Policelink say, 'Go online and check this out.' If an 80-year-old mum rings Policelink, they are told, 'You'd better go online to report this.' The 80-year-old says, 'I don't really go online much.' They are then told, 'We'd much prefer you go online.' They are arguing with people to go online to report these things, so guess what happens? Even when the police do turn up they are saying that they are exasperated and say, 'There's not much we can do,' so not everything is being reported. If the government wants to keep coming back and saying that the data is not suggesting this or that, just talk to people on the ground and they will tell you what is going on.

It is very frustrating that we are not adopting some of these practices, and here is the good news for everyone: when building something out in the bush it does not need to be as prescriptive as it is in the regulations now to build a youth detention centre, so that reduces the costs to nothing. It would look just like a mining camp out in the middle of nowhere. It would have the room to look after the kids just as well, but there is no need for a fence because where are they going to go? That is when we can start connecting with these kids and start to turn these things around. We have not even talked—there is not enough time—about what the problems are at home, because at some stage the kids have to go home. This is about trying to do something meaningful with them when you get them. Relocation sentencing has to be the focus. Call it whatever you want, but the principles are remoteness and the ability of the magistrate to be able to force them to do something, because at the moment they lack the ability to do anything other than send them to Cleveland or home.

While I am on my feet in the short remaining time—and I regret that I have to do this—I have to comment on the contribution by the member for Thuringowa, who used some of his time to point out Julianne Wood, who is not here to defend herself. People attack me all of the time. If the member

wants to do that, deal with it at home. He does not have to bring it down here. Julieanne Wood did not run to make a big name for herself. I had to convince her to run for politics. She was a member of the community sticking up for herself, as we should do. I listen to those people because they help you get the right answers, member for Thuringowa, and that is why you should listen to them.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (4.09 pm): The rising crime rate in Queensland amongst young people, especially Indigenous youth, has forced a major rethink in the way the state government is looking to approach this issue. I hope there are many more reforms being prepared to bring to this place sooner rather than later. I take this opportunity to thank the police, the Police Union, the resident groups—and Julianne in Townsville, where I attended a number of meetings—the media across Queensland, especially in Cairns, on the Gold Coast and in Townsville, and the *Courier-Mail*, for their relentless campaigns to bring forward these reforms. It has been a long and frustrating campaign of false starts, hollow promises, denial and inaction. Without their efforts we would have not seen these reforms, which is a start. I share the concerns of many across Queensland that more needs to be done. My message to all those groups is let us continue to campaign to address the issues, let us continue to put pressure on the government to address the failures in youth crime policy.

While the strategies being proposed and implemented intend to reduce youth crime at various levels of the police and youth justice sectors, more solutions need to be found to overturn this negative pattern. There is evidence to suggest the most repetitive young offenders have a history of care and protection in both the child safety and youth justice systems. The current system does not effectively deal with their needs, thus many tend to move on to offend as adults after the age of 17 or 18 years. This in turn places greater strain on adult justice sector funds, services and resources to reverse the negative trend.

While the proposed reforms are well short of the expectations of many Queenslanders, the state government's priorities for youth crime by setting its attention on those 10 per cent of recidivist young people who continue to engage on a regular basis in high-risk criminal acts and behaviours has merit. This is more for Indigenous youth who remain disengaged, isolated, marginalised and living on the fringes of society, highlighting we are hardly addressing the many and diverse issues that the government really needs to address.

Many were concerned by the findings of Bob Atkinson's report into youth justice and the circumstances many of these children faced, but heartened by his attitude that we should try to fix these broken children, not incarcerate them. It has been proposed that the reforms before us take us a step back from the Atkinson report. The government is failing in its duty of care to provide a safe, caring and nurturing environment for at-risk children. The law is failing to provide any consequences for children's actions to the point that antisocial behaviours escalate over time, leading to inevitable substantial incarceration as the only solution of last resort.


I note many submissions to the committee made great suggestions. Many have been ignored. However, I will highlight some areas that were raised regularly that I believe warrant further consideration: trial a third option for the courts in the form of relocation sentencing as a deterrent and to facilitate the rehabilitation of youth offenders. The Katter's Australian Party members have talked about this. Let us have a look at this option because what we are doing over and over is not working. Include a presumption against bail for youths charged with unlawful use of a motor vehicle, in addition to the government announced breaking and entering, serious sexual assault and armed robbery charges. Amend legislation to re-introduce breach of bail as an offence for repeat youth offenders. Ensure that courts are adequately resourced so that youth offenders are dealt with in an expeditious manner and delay in judicial processes is not used as a reason for youth offenders to be granted bail. Repeal schedule 1 of the Youth Justice Act 2015, charter of youth justice principles item 18, which provides that a child should be detained in custody for an offence, whether on arrest, remand or sentence, only as a last resort and for the least time that is justified in the circumstances. Reduce the age of offenders who can wear tracking bracelets, as the majority of the said recidivist 10 per cent are under the age of 16 years. If they are willing to commit these premeditated crimes they should be willing to suffer the consequences of breach of bail as an offence and the attachment of tracking devices. Unauthorised removal of these tracking devices shall attract mandatory detention and a maximum penalty.

I have regurgitated those points from the committee's report because I thought they were important and well thought out. I do not necessarily agree with all of them, but I think we need to be respectful of the committee process and that these options should have been debated as part of a broader reform. I acknowledge there are some successful outcomes in the current legislation and we

need to be fair, but it fails to recognise where it is not effecting positive change in children at risk of re-offending and restricts the ability of the community, the police and the judiciary to act in a meaningful and constructive way.

Many of the current outcomes are destructive in the longer term. A government which sees detention, incarceration and monitoring as the only and proper response to a specific youth problem is a government which has failed our youth. In other emergency circumstances a government will take extraordinary actions in an attempt for a resolution, but in this instance Queenslanders know the government is simply throwing its hands up and admitting defeat.

This parliament needs to put its efforts into the people we are elected to represent. We have wasted years on political party lines and throwing out legislation due to ideological differences and disputes on these issues. No one side has a mortgage on good ideas. We need a cooperative reform agenda, acknowledging that sometimes all of us get things wrong. Public policy will have the good, the bad and the ugly, but let us build on the learnings and continue to reform public policy, especially social policy, for the good of our communities.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (4.14 pm): I rise to speak on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I do that can I send best wishes from myself and my family to the member for Stretton—or as I like to call him ‘the heavy hitter from Stretton’—and his family.

As we all know, unfortunately the Labor Party is soft on crime. That has been to the detriment of the people of Queensland since 2015. There are good parts of this legislation. I listened to the contribution from the member for Traeger. The member for Traeger talked about some very sensible options. We need to have these conversations frankly and openly with the people. The member for Traeger also talked about his constituents. I too have people come into my office and say, ‘I am not happy with what is happening in this electorate now. There are problems with all sorts of criminal activity. What are you doing as my local member?’ I have to say to them that it is going to take a change of government before this issue gets fixed.

There are some good things in this bill. 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 is a good start, but it needs to go further. That is why the LNP is suggesting an amendment to bring back breach of bail. Providing for a trial of powers for police to stop a person and use a handheld scanner to scan for knives in safe night precincts is another good start. I congratulate the people who have been involved in bringing that to the House. Enhancing the enforcement regime against dangerous hooning behaviour by strengthening existing owner onus deeming provisions for hooning offences is good too because hooning is a massive issue.

A day does not go by in my electorate where somebody does not come in and tell me, or I see a local Facebook community page, that somebody’s house has been broken into or a car has been stolen. Lately it has been dogs being stolen, believe it or not. I live in a high-rise now. We had some kids caught on the camera trying to break into our car park. We have had a local shopkeeper who was attacked by youths. She was pushed over by the youths and her arm was broken. We now have drug deals and fights in Palm Beach. We have not seen this in my area before.

All of a sudden these things are starting to happen. We are seeing a lot of hooning. There are a couple of areas in particular where this takes place. I talked to my wife earlier this morning and she said she was woken up in the middle of the night by cars screaming around the roads through Palm Beach. Cars are tearing up a circular road at Township Drive in Burleigh. On a Monday morning after a weekend it is always full of rubber. This is constant.


The problem is that there are no consequences for these people who are breaking the law. Our laws need to reflect some sort of consequences for these kids who are breaking the law. We need those extra police resources that some members have talked about. The Palm Beach Police Station has a manning level of 35. Most of the time they only have 30 officers there. Their morale is very low because they know they cannot do anything to stop crime as they do not have the necessary resources.

The best thing to stop hooning issues that we have seen lately is the use of the police helicopters, which are fantastic. We can thank the LNP for that. The police helicopters are operated by the lifesaving fraternity. It provides them with an income stream that allows them to fly their red and yellow helicopters. Their contract, which was extended for two years, expires next year. The reality is that they are using old helicopters. They need to buy new helicopters, but you cannot invest in new helicopters if you do not know whether you will have a long-term contract. I urge the government to put in place the necessary contracts to make it viable for Surf Life Saving Queensland to buy new helicopters that they can operate for the next five to 10 years or whatever it will take.

Cars are being stolen all the time. My car was stolen so I know exactly what it is like. Somebody broke into our house, took the keys and stole my car. They were young people. I will not talk any further about that because they were caught and the matter is before the courts. Sometimes when you make a speech in this parliament things actually happen. During the last sitting I gave a speech about EV chargers and last week suddenly three EV chargers appeared downstairs. I thank the parliament for supplying that.

People breaking, entering and stealing is obviously an issue all over the world. Yesterday Apple announced that they will be selling little tags that track things. In Australia they will cost, I think, \$45 each or \$149 for four of them. That is going to be fantastic for a company such as Apple. It will sell millions of those things because crime is almost out of control. They will sell thousands of those trackers here in Queensland.

We need to support the LNP's amendment to restore the breach of bail provision, which will mean that there will be a consequence for someone who is caught committing a crime while on bail. It is an extra punishment. It is a consequence. As I said before, those people need to be faced with consequences for breaking the law. I urge members to support the LNP's sensible amendment and to look seriously at the KAP's amendments as well.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.22 pm): I will start my contribution on the Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 by focusing on the amendment that many other members have spoken about probably only towards the end of their addresses to the House. It is a very important amendment to laws in relation to hooning and confiscation. This is a big issue of concern for parts of the Scenic Rim electorate, particularly around the Beaudesert and Mount Lindesay Highway corridors, because of our wide open roads. There are some very nice straight stretches of road that are conducive to hooning, particularly during the night. It is also an issue of concern because of the Logan police district within which Beaudesert, Tamborine, Tamborine Mountain and Canungra are located. That combination of factors means that my area is very much a magnet for hoons. I know that the member for Mudgeeraba has similar problems in her electorate, as do many members from the Gold Coast whose areas suffer from what I call the antisocial behaviour of hooning.

It dawned on me how much of an issue this is sometime last year when I spent the night in Tamborine village. Some members might not know where that is. It is not far from Logan, Beenleigh, the Gold Coast or Beaudesert. It happens to be part of a circuit for hoons in the region. From recollection, I stayed there on a Friday night and the traffic noise caused by people who were clearly engaging in irresponsible road behaviour through that village was completely overwhelming for residents. It is a rural residential area so it is not as though residences are even close to the roads. If this was happening in a more built-up area it would be highly disruptive. It was clear that people were hooning through the area in a very dangerous fashion and they were doing it with impunity. They had no fear at all that they would be detected and would have enforcement action taken against them.

Therefore, I support the measures that are being enacted through this bill to strengthen the laws in relation to confiscation and ascribing responsibility for hooning and other dangerous driver behaviour to the owner of the vehicle. Obviously that gets past a significant hurdle for police who have to identify beyond reasonable doubt—which is our criminal standard—who is driving the vehicle. That has been a real difficulty for police in that region and in many others parts of the state, I am sure, for a long time.

I have spoken about this issue many times over the years. There was a huge hoon circuit at Albert River Place, which is just across the Albert River from Tamborine. For many years—I think for all of the 55th Parliament—I lobbied the government to put in some physical impediments to take away the attractiveness of that place to hoons. Still that has not been done by Main Roads although some action was taken by the Logan City council in terms of detection and cameras. That area is now a part of the electorate of Logan. The member for Logan bears a heavy responsibility for maintaining the safety of residents around Albert River Place and ensuring that those residents not only can have a good night's sleep but also can live without the constant spectre of dozens and dozens of vehicles lined up outside their houses in the middle of the night. Sometimes those events turn into dangerous scenarios.

While I support the changes to the hooning laws, they do not go far enough. This House and the government really need to reflect on how the cultural issues that are manifested through hooning can be addressed. This is not just a traffic management problem and it is not just a community safety and disturbance problem. This is a problem about people's intolerance and disrespect for the law. They are thumbing their noses at authority and the rights of other road users to use the roads safely and without the fear of hoons causing undue menace on the roads. In my view, we cannot go too hard on people who recklessly and callously use our roads.

The thin blue line needs to be strengthened when it comes to the enforcement of traffic offences. That comes down to having more police on the roads and more police in peri-urban or rural residential areas such as the one that I represent to ensure that hooners know there is a chance that they will be caught. At the moment I am fairly sure that most people do not think they will be caught when they hoon in the Scenic Rim electorate. I am not sending a signal to people that they can do that because the police do a good job with the resources they have, but the fact is that they do not have enough resources. They do not have enough police cars and other vehicles, especially on Friday and Saturday nights when a lot of this activity takes place around the region.

I ask the government—and I ask the member for Logan to also lobby the government—for more police around Jimboomba and Beaudesert. We need more police on the beat. We need more vehicles on the roads on Friday and Saturday nights to ensure there is police coverage to deter people from using our roads in an irresponsible manner.

That is just one part of this bill—a very important part for my electorate. Of course, youth justice is also a very important issue for the Scenic Rim electorate. All members agree that preventive measures need to be taken to try to stop young people falling into a cycle or culture of crime. Someone mentioned the Carmody inquiry into child protection, which took place during the 54th Parliament. That inquiry was instituted by the Newman government and a significant number of recommendations came out of it. I think there is a huge connection between child safety and the youth justice system. The implementation of those preventive measures from a child safety point of view no doubt would bear a lot on the outcomes in the youth justice system.

We all agree that preventive measures need to be taken, but it is the hardened group of recidivist offenders who are repeatedly causing great havoc in some communities because of the revolving door of the youth justice system. That is the issue that really needs to be dealt with. It is the issue that this government has failed miserably on time after time since returning to office in 2015.

I can only reflect on and defend the early intervention measures that were put in place by the Newman government, of which I was a member, and which had the broad support of the community. I know because I was a member of the Legal Affairs and Community Safety Committee, along with many other members of this House, in the 55th Parliament when those laws were repealed.

The Childrens Court report of Judge Michael Shanahan in 2014-15 showed there was a decline of youth crime in that final year. It had been going up for years, but then there was a decline as the measures introduced by the then government came into effect. The early intervention measures were never given enough time. They were only in the very early stage and were producing positive results before they were repealed by the government because of some ideological objection to what they were called or some of the practical elements of them.

It clearly is not working. We are seeing a reversion. There is a higher group of hardcore recidivist offenders now which is causing tremendous havoc in places like Townsville as well as other parts of the state. Victims are frustrated. They are living in fear. We all pay the economic cost of that damage through increased insurance bills and the cost in terms of the heartache and the social distress that crime causes in families and communities. There is an economic impact to all of that.

At the end of the day, safety of the community must always come first. When it comes to that hardcore group of youth offenders, what is being done at the moment is not working for the community. It is not keeping the community safe as they would like to be, and there needs to be a different approach taken. In some cases that means that more people need to be detained in custody for repeatedly offending.



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.32 pm), in reply: This government has shown through its actions time and time again our determination to take action to support community safety. We listen to the community, we follow the advice of experts and we take decisive action. That is what we are doing with this bill. We are coming down hard on those who would do harm to the community. We are arming the police and the courts with the tools to crack down harder on that cohort of 10 per cent of hardcore youth offenders. These hardcore recidivist offenders are small in number but they cause much harm. With this bill, hardcore recidivist offenders will be further targeted.

I note that the LNP circulated speech notes to their members because we heard very similar contributions from all of them. A lot of them spoke about their failed breach of bail offence—‘once more unto the breach’ for this inept opposition, once more telling mistruths. The LNP is careless with the truth on breach of bail. I am advised that this breach of bail offence, as described by them, has never actually been an offence for children. Even when the National Party brought in the Bail Act in the 1980s, it was



never an offence for children. The LNP is in need of a lesson in legislative history. I am advised that a breach of bail offence has never been applied to a youth offender in Queensland—ever. What existed between 2014 and 2016 was not actually a breach of bail offence, as the LNP would call it; it was a nonsense.

What was it then? It was an offence to be found guilty of an offence whilst on bail for allegedly committing an offence. Many experts said it was unworkable. In fact, this unworkable, unwieldy finding of guilt offence did little to reduce youth crime or hold offenders to account. It was an absolute nonsense, and the statistics show it was an absolute failure. In fact, it had a failure rate of 94 per cent.

Notwithstanding the evidence, we have heard LNP member after LNP member say that they are bringing it back. They are bringing back the breach of bail offence. But—this is where it gets interesting—if you look at the amendment proposed, you see that they are not even bringing it back. They cannot even get that nonsense offence back. Sneakily, by their own amendment, they are admitting that their 2014 offence did not work. Sneakily, they are admitting it was a nonsense. They are not even bringing it back. What we have from the LNP is a breach of promise about their so-called breach of bail offence.

Under the metric set by this bill of targeting the hardcore cohort—the 10 per cent, the ones causing all the harm and grief in the community—the LNP's proposal does not specifically target that unique cohort of offenders. On the other hand, under our bill, when a youth offender commits a prescribed indictable offence whilst on bail for an indictable offence they will be required to prove to the court why they should get bail, and if they cannot they will be remanded in custody.

To be clear, police can already arrest a young person on the spot without a warrant if the young person has breached their bail or even if they reasonably suspect the person is likely to breach a bail condition before the breach has even happened. After arrest, the young person can be brought before the court, where bail can be varied or revoked. This allows the unique circumstances of each case to be taken into account.

This bill will make the current bail framework even stronger: a presumption against bail for certain offenders and GPS monitoring devices for certain other offenders. Furthermore, this bill is backed by the government's record investment in crime prevention programs such as the youth justice co-responder teams.

This government cannot support the amendments circulated by the member for Traeger. There are several fundamental flaws in those proposals. In fact, there are no explanatory notes and no statement of compatibility with human rights. Also, these amendments undermine the principles in the Penalties and Sentences Act and the Youth Justice Act and lack justification for being effective or beneficial to community safety. In one of the amendments the member also seeks to remove conditional release orders. It is unclear why the member would seek to remove a sentencing order that aims to get young offenders back on track and prevent them from coming back in contact with the justice system. On the other hand, our amendments are well considered, are supported by expert evidence and are also geared specifically towards targeting that hardcore cohort of offenders.

I turn to comments made during the debate about amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act for the use of handheld metal detectors for knives. In response to comments that these powers should have been extended to all safe night precincts or other areas and not implemented just on the Gold Coast, let me reinforce: this is a trial so that we can get the evidence necessary to consider what comes next. By restricting the use of handheld scanners to the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts, experts can evaluate that trial after 12 months and make an informed decision on a further rollout.

I take very seriously the new powers the parliament is considering for police. Part of that responsibility is that the new powers are used effectively and responsibly and are subject to review. Police will record details of the scans conducted, including using body worn camera footage, and the results of these scans. Data collected through the wandering trial will be entered into a secure police database at the end of every shift. This data will collect such information as the number of persons scanned, gender and the outcome of scanning and it will be made available as required throughout the trial. The review will be conducted by an independent body. This will ensure a thorough and fully transparent evaluation is conducted at the end of the 12-month trial.

Further, information will be provided to the Youth Justice Senior Officers Reference Group to assist in making recommendations for the structure and location of any ongoing operation of the knife-scanning scheme. This government is taking real and immediate action when it comes to this very important topic.

This government has listened to the community. This bill will strengthen laws to take tough action on hoons and is providing police with more resources to catch hoons in the act. With this bill, anti-hooning laws will be strengthened to hold the registered owner of a vehicle responsible, except in cases where the vehicle is stolen or the owner can identify another driver. New high-tech cameras, including an expanded fleet of high-tech drones, will add to the thousands of traffic cameras across the state to catch hoons. Let us not forget, a parliamentary inquiry is also examining the use of remote engine immobilisers and other technologies.

Under this bill, bail decision-makers will get more powers to order the fitting of electronic monitoring devices as a condition of bail for recidivist high-risk offenders aged 16 and 17. This is the group that was contemplated by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson. In addition, this bill will create a presumption against bail for youth offenders arrested for committing further serious indictable offences while on bail. It will be up to them—those offenders—to prove why they should get bail. Before an offender is released, the courts will also have the power to seek assurances from parents and guardians that bail conditions will be complied with. This bill will ensure that, where a further offence has been committed while a young offender is on bail, the court must take this into account as an aggravating factor when sentencing. We will also recognise that the community should be protected from recidivist youth offenders by amending the charter of youth justice principles in the act.

I will also respond to some comments made during this debate that there is no offence if a youth offender damages or cuts off their electric monitoring device. This is incorrect. If a youth offender deliberately damages the electronic monitoring device, they can be charged with wilful damage under the Criminal Code—an offence which carries with it a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. That is right: five years imprisonment. This is a first for Queensland. GPS monitoring devices will be the subject of a trial for youths aged 16 and 17 years. Again, this is as contemplated by former police commissioner Bob Atkinson.

The trial is for youths aged 16 and 17 who are charged with a prescribed indictable offence and who have previously been found guilty of an indictable offence. This obviously relates to the rebuttable presumption. A 'prescribed indictable offence' is defined in the bill to mean a life offence—an offence which would carry a 14-year prison sentence if committed by an adult—and a specific list of other Criminal Code offences which include: section 315A, choking, suffocation or strangulation; section 323, wounding; section 328A, dangerous operation of a motor vehicle; section 339, assault occasioning bodily harm; section 408A, unlawful use of a motor vehicle, where the offender was the driver and subsection (1A) and (1B) where the offence involves aggravating circumstances; and section 412, attempted robbery. These specific offences were chosen on the basis of their seriousness or high harm and the offending profile of the target cohort. This bill sets out other eligibility criteria that courts must consider before imposing the condition to ensure they are targeting this cohort with the maximum effect.

Youths who are required to wear a GPS ankle bracelet monitoring device will be monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week by a specialist electronic monitoring surveillance unit in Queensland Corrective Services. If an offender tries to access an exclusion zone or if they breach their curfew, an alert will be immediately raised in the system. Alerts will be escalated to the Queensland Police Service for a swift response. Queensland Corrective Services will also be able to alert youth justice workers as necessary.

The electronic monitoring devices used by Queensland Corrective Services are tamper resistant. Breaking or cutting the GPS straps generates an immediate critical alert at the monitoring station. This bill expressly requires courts to be satisfied a monitoring device condition would be appropriate, having regard to things such as existing supports. These new monitoring laws will be the subject of an independent evaluation after 12 months, which will help to build the evidence base required before any expansion of the use of monitoring devices can be considered. I have been given an assurance that Queensland Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service have sufficient supplies of these devices when these new laws take effect. In other words, they are ready to go.

This bill sends an important message to the community. This government has listened to the community's concerns. We are acting on the community's concerns with sensible, evidence based, workable solutions. This government has also reached out to respected former police commissioner Bob Atkinson to review these reforms.

The LNP's answer to youth crime was unworkable curfews, unworkable laws, failed boot camps, cuts to early intervention and diversionary programs, and committing at the last election to hundreds and hundreds of fewer police officers. I was also very disappointed in the contributions from the member for Maiwar and the member for South Brisbane and their offensive remarks, which obviously upset the member for Cook and others greatly.

Some members have also asked where the resources are to support this bill. This government, as announced by myself and the Minister for Youth Justice only a few days ago in this debate, is investing almost \$100 million to back these new laws and these new measures. This is over and above the \$550 million already invested in our Youth Justice Strategy. It builds on the success of our five-point action plan, which was also mentioned by many members on this side of the House.

Our strong new laws are backed by almost \$100 million in additional resourcing. We will continue the existing successful programs and bring on new services to target youth offending. We will roll out more resources to frontline workers for intensive monitoring and supervision of serious recidivist youth offenders, including those subject to electronic monitoring, and provide intensive additional support for their families. New services include: staffing and other resources to deliver a 12-month trial of electronic monitoring in Townsville, Moreton, North Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast; expanded joint police and youth justice co-responder teams to North Brisbane and the Gold Coast so all electronic monitoring trial sites will have an operational co-responder team program; enhanced intensive supervision of young people on bail through the conditional bail program, including further weekend and after-hours availability; and funded additional court and legal advocacy services.

Our funding also supports the ongoing and great work of the existing co-responder teams in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Moreton, Logan and Mackay to engage with young people at risk and monitor high-risk offenders. It will also extend our dedicated police prosecutor program to nine other locations. It will continue the good work of the community crime action committees, which is funding for specific, locally based crime prevention initiatives in 10 locations across the state. All of this comes on top of our record investment to deliver 2,025 extra police personnel over five years from 1 July 2020.

This bill is a direct response to community concerns. This bill targets that small cohort of serious, recidivist youth offenders who are causing harm to the community. This bill is about those '10 percenters'. Most importantly, it is about keeping Queenslanders safe.

In closing, thank you to the members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, to the hardworking police and corrective services officers, youth justice workers, government workers, our non-government sector partners and the community for helping us shape this bill and build a safer, more secure Queensland. I also acknowledge the outstanding efforts of my colleagues the Minister for Youth Justice, Minister Linard, and Attorney-General Fentiman and the collaborative way we tackle these very difficult, complex and challenging issues.

Finally, I acknowledge the efforts of the QPS legislation and policy team which is made up of Nadine Seifert, Damian Staveley, Ian Carroll, John Henderson, Jamie Impson, Tony Brown, Paul Friedman, Deputy Commissioner Doug Smith and Carolyn Harrison, whom I bothered on holidays. I especially appreciate Carolyn for helping.

This bill will continue our efforts to create a safer community. It will contribute to a safer, more secure Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clause 1—

Division: Question put—That clause 1, as read, stand part of the bill.

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



**Mr RYAN** (4.58 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Leave granted.

**Mr RYAN:** I move the following amendment—

**1 After clause 1**

Page 6, after line 5—

*insert—*

**Part 1A Amendment of Bail Act 1980**

**1A Act amended**

This part amends the *Bail Act 1980*.

**1B Amendment of s 11 (Conditions of release on bail)**

Section 11(9B), (9C) and (10), definition *tracking device*, ‘tracking’—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

I table the explanatory notes to my amendments and the statement of compatibility with human rights.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Mark Ryan’s amendments [559].

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Mark Ryan’s amendments [560].

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



**Mr KATTER** (4.58 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill. I table the amendments that have been circulated in my name.

*Tabled paper:* Youth Justice and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, amendments to be moved by Mr Robbie Katter MP [561].

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 34:**

**LNP, 30—**Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**NOES, 51:**

**ALP, 49—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D’Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Grn, 2—**Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Enoch, Crandon; Pegg, Bates.

Resolved in the negative.



**Mr LAST** (5.04 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 34:**

**LNP, 30—**Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O’Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**NOES, 51:**

**ALP, 49—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D’Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O’Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Grn, 2—**Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Enoch, Crandon; Pegg, Bates.

Resolved in the negative.

Clauses 2 to 24, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—



**Mr RYAN** (5.10 pm): I move the following amendment—

**2 Clause 25 (Amendment of s 52A (Other conditions of release on bail))**

Page 22, after line 12—

*insert—*

(1A) Section 52A(5), 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 25, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 26—



**Mr RYAN** (5.10 pm): I move the following amendments—

**3 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 22, line 20, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**4 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 22, line 23, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**5 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 22, line 24, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**6 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 23, line 9, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**7 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 23, line 28, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**8 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 24, line 6, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**9 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 24, lines 7 to 9, from 'court may' to 'tracking device.'—

*omit, insert—*

court—

(a) must consider making an order that the child be detained in custody until the monitoring device is fitted to the child; and

(b) may impose any other condition the court considers necessary to facilitate the operation of the monitoring device.

**10 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 24, line 11, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**11 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 24, line 14, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

- 12 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 16, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 13 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 18, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 14 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 22, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 15 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 25, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 16 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 26, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 17 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 30, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 18 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, after line 30—  
*insert—*  
(2A) For subsection (2)(a), the child may be detained in custody only for the purpose of fitting the monitoring device and for the least time that is justified in the circumstances.
- 19 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 32, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 20 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 35, 'opinion about'—  
*omit, insert—*  
assessment of
- 21 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 24, line 36, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 22 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 25, line 10, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 23 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 25, line 11, 'subsection (2)'—  
*omit, insert—*  
subsection (2)(b)
- 24 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 25, line 19, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring
- 25 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**  
Page 25, line 20, 'tracking'—  
*omit, insert—*  
monitoring

**26 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 25, line 23, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**27 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 25, line 26, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

**28 Clause 26 (Insertion of new s 52AA)**

Page 25, line 28, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

monitoring

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 26, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 27 and 28, as read, agreed to.

Clause 29—

**Mr KATTER** (5.11 pm): I move the following amendment—**2 Clause 29 (Amendment of s 150 (Sentencing principles))**

Page 26, after line 28—

*insert—*

(2A) Section 150(2)(e)—

*omit.*

This amendment relates to sentencing principles and zeros in on the changes that were made to the legislation back in 2015 which made sentences of imprisonment the last resort. To reiterate what we have been saying, the changes that are being made here today are by no means commensurate with the size or the nature of the problem we are dealing. They fall well short of the mark, especially for those kids who, for all practical purposes, need to be taken off the streets at the moment and understand there are consequence for their actions. That is not there at the moment, and we are moving this amendment so that magistrates have more sentencing options.

That is not all as bad as it seems because at the same time we are advocating alternative sentencing arrangements so that magistrates also have an option that can often be more constructive than the traditional sentencing, incarceration or detention centre, if you like, as prescribed under the act. The two are very heavily linked. We feel it is absolutely necessary to send a signal to the kids and the community that there is the option to tighten this up and there is the ability for the magistrates to be tougher on those who deserve it.

Again, I have to stress that it is bitterly disappointing that these things are falling so short of the mark when we had the opportunity tonight to arrest some of this problem and start to turn it around. That will be a long road and it is by no means covered by what we are doing tonight. I put forward that amendment in my name and ask for the support of the House.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I would like to speak in support of the amendment circulated in the name of the member for Traeger. We are seeing time after time that children are being released on bail or released without being sent to a detention centre. These young children understand the law and probably know it better than most people in this House. They know their rights and they unfortunately are laughing at every person in this House who is supporting this legislation to allow them to continue.

Time and time again, people talk about the issue of the revolving door. Like the member for Traeger just said, we have actually drafted amendments around alternative sentencing. While a child is sentenced and incarcerated, some of these programs can be forced on them. I am getting phone calls from parents and grandparents of these children who are being let out on bail or not even being incarcerated. The problem is that their parole officer or the person from youth justice who is looking after them and making sure they are going to a drug diversion course cannot find them for the day and they will not answer their phone. There is a phone call made to the parent and it is, 'I haven't seen them.' They then put down the phone and that is another day this person is out either reoffending or not engaging with the programs that are supposed to be turning them around.

While they are incarcerated—whether it is in a traditional detention centre or an alternative sentencing method—we have an opportunity to turn these people around and push them through the programs that could change their lives and stop the recidivist offending. However, right now there are children who are getting three or four chances when they go down to the police station to be interviewed for the first time, and then when they get in front of a judge it is three or four times before they get sentenced to incarceration. Unfortunately, these kids are working the system.

For example, as we debate this bill in the House, the *Townsville Bulletin* reported only an hour ago on a 12-year-old child who will not even see a courtroom, will not even stand in front of a judge, but will go through the system with youth justice to see if there is a way of turning their life around. I look at the carnage this child caused with a stolen Audi and another stolen small vehicle the day before and I guarantee that this poor child will not be turned around by being back out on the streets and they will be reoffending in the same group. I am guessing there are high fives going around the friend circle right now that this girl is back out on the streets. I guarantee that, if we do not move against this and move to change this view that incarceration should be the last resort for these children, we have no chance of turning their lives around.

**Mr KNUTH:** I had a petition signed by 5,000 Atherton Tablelanders who wanted to see the repeal of item 18 in schedule 1 of the Youth Justice Act 2015, charter of youth justice, which provides that a child should be detained only as a last resort, which the member for Traeger was stating. One of the things is that they are back on the street committing crime and many of these young criminals are actually committing crimes to try to get back into the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre. They get caught and the next minute they are back on the street. It is a badge of honour if they get into the Cleveland Youth Detention Centre so they are committing a crime but they are committing the same crime over and over again just so they can get in, get a good feed and tell their mates how great it is. It is a badge of honour. I fully support this amendment moved by the member for Traeger.

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

Resolved in the negative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Non-government amendment (Mr Katter) negated.

Clause 29, as read, agreed to.

Insertion of new clause—



**Mr RYAN** (5.23 pm): I move the following amendment—

**29 After clause 29**

Page 27, after line 3—

insert—

**29A Amendment of ss 151, 193, 204, 221, 228 and 269**

Sections 151(9), 193(4)(c), 204(4)(c), 221(4)(c), 228(6) and 269(4), 'tracking'—

omit, insert—

monitoring

Amendment agreed to.

Insertion of new clauses—



**Mr KATTER** (5.23 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 35:**

**LNP, 30—**Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**Ind, 1—**Bolton.

**NOES, 51:**

**ALP, 49—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Grn, 2—**Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Enoch, Crandon; Pegg, Bates.

Resolved in the negative.



Clauses 30 and 31, as read, agreed to.

Clause 32—



**Mr RYAN** (5.29 pm): I move the following amendments—

**30 Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 19)**

Page 29, line 14, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

**monitoring**

**31 Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 19)**

Page 29, line 19, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

**monitoring**

**32 Clause 32 (Insertion of new pt 11, div 19)**

Page 29, line 30, 'tracking'—

*omit, insert—*

**monitoring**

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 32, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 33, as read, agreed to.

Clause 34—



**Mr KATTER** (5.30 pm): I seek leave to move an amendment outside the long title of the bill.

Division: Question put—That leave be granted.

**AYES, 35:**

**LNP, 30**—Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Boyce, Camm, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister (proxy), Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

**NOES, 51:**

**ALP, 49**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**Grn, 2**—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: Enoch, Crandon; Pegg, Bates.

Resolved in the negative.

**Mr RYAN** : I move the following amendments—

**33 Clause 34 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))**

Page 30, after line 23—

*insert—*

**monitoring device** means an electronic device capable of being worn, and not removed, by a person for the purpose of the chief executive, the Queensland Police Service, or the chief executive (corrective services), finding or monitoring the geographical location of the person.

**34 Clause 34 (Amendment of sch 4 (Dictionary))**

Page 31, lines 15 to 20—

*omit.*

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 34, as amended, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.37 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Resolved in the affirmative in accordance with special sessional orders.

Bill read a third time.

### Long Title



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.42 pm): I move the following amendment—

#### 35 Long title

Long title, before 'the *Penalties and Sentences Act 1992*'—

insert—

the *Bail Act 1980*,

Amendment agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill, as amended, be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

Resumed from 25 March (see p. 889).



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (5.43 pm), continuing: In continuing my address-in-reply, at the outset I want to acknowledge the heartfelt and moving speech delivered by the member for Stretton here today. Despite the fact that we frequently have not seen eye to eye on policy issues, I know that he genuinely cares for his community and I am sure that they are better for his advocacy in this place. Peggy, all the best, mate. I am sure the thoughts and prayers of members from across the political divide will be with you during the days and months ahead.

In the first part of my address-in-reply speech I acknowledged how each of my children has shaped what I stand for. In the period since that time, the Mickelberg family has grown by one, with the birth of our son Lachlan Mickelberg on 1 April.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MICKELBERG:** I am a numbers man. Lachlan's arrival has brought our family so much joy, a little less sleep and a lot more chaos, but our whole family is excitedly looking forward to watching Lachlan's journey as he grows up. My wife, Anna, and I would like to particularly thank the midwives, doctors and staff at Buderim Private Hospital for their care and professionalism in delivering Lachlan during the COVID lockdown, with all of the associated complications that that brings. In particular I want to thank University of the Sunshine Coast midwifery student Jasmine, who guided Anna through the birth from start to finish.

When I was interrupted by the adjournment last sitting I was addressing one of the most important projects that I have been fighting for in the form of upgrades to the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road interchange. I again welcome the government's commitment of \$10 million to upgrade this dangerous and congested Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection. Each day 20,000 vehicles travel through the Sugar Road-Mooloolaba Road intersection and the resultant congestion at the intersection adds considerable trip time for locals. I particularly want to acknowledge the Minister for Transport and Main Roads who took the time to meet with me on site in March 2019. At the time he acknowledged the need for improvements, so news that construction will commence in mid-2022 is overdue but I welcome the acknowledgement of the demonstrated need for these works to be completed nonetheless.

As the Minister for Education screeched about in question time last sitting, for many months I have been calling on the government to build the new Palmview state high school so that it can open in 2022 and not 2023 as it is currently slated for. The minister's dismissive and arrogant response to my community's calls for her to get on with the job of building a high school that the government has already acknowledged is needed is a disgrace.

If the Minister for Education is genuinely here to serve the community, then she should be putting the interests of young Queenslanders at the forefront of every government decision. A decision that makes year 6 students at Palmview State Primary School attend three schools in three years does not do that. To suggest that Sunshine Coast residents should say thank you for the fact that the government is doing the bare minimum and building a primary school is nothing short of a slap in the face, yet again the Minister for Education has shown how out of touch she is. If she has any integrity she will come up to Buderim, she will front up and apologise to Palmview parents and students.

The Minister for Education's contention that a new high school could not be built in time to open in January 2022 does not pass scrutiny. Given the fact that in May 2020 construction had not yet started on a single building for the new Palmview state primary or special schools and both were able to open eight months later, I find the contention difficult to accept. I table a photo taken on 26 May last year which shows the new Palmview State Primary School building site and nothing more than a concrete slab.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting progress of new Palmview State School redevelopment [\[562\]](#).

I also table a second photo taken less than six months later which shows completed new school buildings at the Palmview State Primary School.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting progress of new Palmview State School redevelopment [\[563\]](#).

While not all of the finishing touches have been put in place, the photo even shows completed landscaping and roads less than six months later. The education department's own staff have urged me to advocate to get this school built so it is ready to open in January next year. They know they can and it should be built now. The minister also knows that it can be built if the government would get on with the job.

Despite all this, Minister Grace has decided to play petty political games. It is time for the minister to stop peddling political spin that she knows is untrue. If she does not know that it is untrue, then she is not across the facts when she should be. Queenslanders deserve a government that will govern for all Queenslanders. If Labor is serious about putting the interests of Sunshine Coast residents ahead of its own, it can show it by getting on with the job of building Palmview state high school and I call on it to do so.

Another local issue that I have been campaigning on since before I was elected in 2017 is reducing the impact of congestion on Scholars Drive at Sippy Downs. While Scholars Drive is a local road, the state government chose to build a state school at the end of the cul-de-sac, so it has been disappointing to see it wash its hands of responsibility for the issue. I will not cease until I have resolved this significant issue that is placing student safety at risk and unnecessarily delaying parents and teachers.


I have been working closely with Councillor Christian Dickson and federal MP Andrew Wallace to find a way to get the much needed funds to deliver improvements to Scholars Drive. I hope to be able to update the community in relation to our progress in coming weeks. I know that not all residents support some of the proposed solutions to resolve congestion along Scholars Drive which, I note, I took to both the 2017 and 2020 elections. Regardless, I commit to working with the community in my pursuit to resolve the longstanding issues that exist at Chancellor State College primary campus.

Another local issue that I have been campaigning on is the need for a new Queensland Fire and Emergency Services facility to ensure that Sippy Downs and Palmview residents are adequately protected in the event of a fire or similar emergency. The current response to structure fires in Sippy Downs is regularly outside of QFES key performance measures requiring that 90 per cent of structure fires are responded to within 14 minutes. This is due to the fact that the nearest permanent station is Maroochydore Fire Station which, due to travel time from its North Buderim location, is frequently unable to arrive at calls for service in the densely populated Sippy Downs and Palmview within the required 14 minutes. Auxiliary fire stations at Buderim and Kawana do not typically respond to fires in Sippy Downs and Palmview and are only used to support the response from Maroochydore Fire Station.

Disappointingly, the state government has listed for sale state owned land set aside for the construction of a new fire station and it is astounding that in his response to one of my questions the minister has suggested that a new facility at Caloundra South in Aura will service Sippy Downs and surrounding localities. How a fire station located even further away than the existing fire station is supposed to service Sippy Downs is beyond me. The result will be even worse QFES coverage for Sippy Downs.

I have met with local firefighters and the United Firefighters Union and they have told me that the land set aside for a new fire station at Sippy Downs is uniquely located and provides direct access onto major arterial roads which is essential to delivering a timely response. With the Sunshine Coast experiencing considerable population growth the demand for QFES services will only increase. A permanent fire station located on the Sippy Downs site will complement the existing permanent Maroochydore Fire Station and any proposed QFES facility at Caloundra South. I call on the state government to immediately cease plans to sell land set aside for a Sippy Downs fire and rescue station and to commit to building a permanent fire station on the land in accordance with the government's own previously identified needs.

Before I finish tonight I would like to acknowledge my hardworking electorate staff. To my current staff of Gina, Lee and Bailey I would like to say thank you for your commitment to looking after the people of Buderim and supporting me to do the same. To Tim, Cherie, Ruth, Shauna and Sandy, who have all worked in some capacity to serve the people of Buderim since I entered parliament, I would also like to extend my sincere appreciation. I know that all members of parliament realise how important the job is that our electorate staff perform so tonight I would like to say thank you. I will conclude my address by reaffirming my commitment to the people of Buderim to be an energetic, hardworking and constructive state member who puts the interests of the people of Buderim ahead of my own.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.52 pm): I would like to start by acknowledging my sister Angela and my nephew Ben who are in the gallery tonight. Ben is here because he won one of the Premier's Anzac awards last year. What could be better than going on a tour of Anzac Cove and the battlefields of the Western Front? Coming to parliament and watching your uncle give a speech! What a wonderful back-up prize that is for young Ben! What a treat the parliament has delivered for him this afternoon. I think he will well understand the famous Otto von Bismarck quote 'Laws are like sausages, it is better not to see them being made' after this afternoon's efforts.

I know this is meant to be an address-in-reply to the Governor's speech, but I feel I would like to use the time I have this afternoon to reply to the member for Stretton's speech—an amazing, magnificent speech that shows the true character of the member. I feel like the member has been a part of the entire journey of my time in the Labor Party. I have been involved in the Labor movement a little longer than the member for Stretton, having a few years on him, but my time in the Labor Party has always been marked by much contact and great friendship with the member for Stretton.

Starting out fairly early on in the piece when I would go to party functions, not having come up through the Young Labor system, it was probably pretty obvious to a lot of people that this was not my natural environment. The member for Stretton, as he is so good at doing, was able to connect with me and make me feel welcome and help me understand what is often a very complex and very difficult situation. We both shared the experience of the sting of the electorate in 2012 at different levels of government. While we were running for different levels of government as candidates in the same party we often had contact with each other at campaign training, campaign events and also fundraisers, et cetera. On many occasions we worked together to get elected to the state conference of the Labor Party as well. There was much contact there.

It was a great privilege and honour to be elected together in 2015. If I found the Labor Party confusing, I would have to say I found parliament to be even more confusing. Once again the member for Stretton on many occasions helped me to understand things here that I found difficult and confusing. Although he lashed those on the opposite side of the House when he was on his feet—there would be no-one who would deny that—I think we can all agree that outside of this House he was a charmer and a gentleman. I will come back to that in a minute. I always appreciated that he worked hard to have good relationships with as many people as he possibly could. Sometimes he was the person who reached out to those people to whom no-one else was reaching out. One memory sticks in my mind quite clearly. The former member for Bundamba, at a point where she was none too popular with the members on this side of the House, or, might I say, on that side of the House—

**Mr Minnikin:** We've always loved her!

**Mr KELLY:** I know you have always loved her. Let the record show that. At a time when the member may have felt isolated and dehumanised, the member for Stretton brought a birthday cake into our floor of parliament and rounded up everybody to sing happy birthday, share cake and have a cup of tea. That memory has stuck with me because it is important that we rise above our political differences, whether they are on that side of the House or on this side of the House. That was an important lesson to have learned.

We shared a journey together to become chairs of committees. I actually took over the member for Stretton's agriculture committee and he gave me a great deal of assistance and advice as I moved into that role in the parliament. I also followed him into the Ethics Committee, which was another environment that I found incredibly confusing. The member for Mermaid Beach will agree with that. While he would never have sought to seek any information around the Ethics Committee, certainly his general advice and guidance was always greatly appreciated.


I will come back to the member for Stretton as a charmer. Part of his treatment has been sourced where my wife works and so I have a great many friends who have cared for the member for Stretton. They all tell me how much they look forward to looking after him. There are a couple of political junkies there. They always say to me, 'When the member for Stretton gives a speech make sure you get a copy of it and circulate it. We see him here and he is a charming, affable fellow who is facing the challenges that many people that we care for in this profession face, but we want to see what he is like when he is plying his trade as a member of parliament.' I have endeavoured to pass those speeches along.

As a nurse who has worked in cancer care, and as someone who is married to a nurse who has worked in that field for three decades, it is always a challenge for people who are diagnosed and then face cancer. There is little that you can say to comfort them and unless you have been there you cannot understand that yourself. I try to encourage people to take each day as it comes, to remain strong, to maintain good relationships with your family and friends and to try to always maintain hope and a sense of humour. I know the member for Stretton is capable of all of that. He has great family and friends around him and I wish him all the best as he moves forward.

Debate, on motion of Mr Kelly, adjourned.


## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (5.59 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Defamation (Model Provisions) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 4 June 2021 and the Community Support and Services Committee report on the Queensland Veterans' Council Bill by 11 June 2021. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that the Auditor-General's report to parliament No. 17 of 2020-21 titled *Local government 2020* be referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (6.00 pm): This week we have heard a lot about the Olympic Games and the benefits they will bring to Queensland. Coincidentally, it is three years since the Commonwealth Games were held on the Gold Coast and my community is still waiting for the government's largest legacy project to be realised, that is, the Gold Coast Health and Knowledge Precinct. Construction has not started on a single project on any of the sites within the 9½ hectares of state owned land. It is not just any old land. It is next to Griffith University's largest campus, the Gold Coast University Hospital, the Gold Coast Private Hospital, the nation's largest build-to-rent project Smith Collective, the brilliant Cohort Innovation Space, as well as retail such as hairdressers and cafes, a massive parkland and one of the best Woolies I have ever shopped in. That is all on the Smith Street Motorway and the Gold Coast light rail line, within an hour's drive of Brisbane and barely 10 minutes from the beach. It is an extraordinary location but, unfortunately, the land is sitting empty.

The closest thing to work being undertaken is some trees being planted and the installation of signage to rebrand the area. That rebranding on its own is ridiculous because the name 'Gold Coast' has been removed from the marketing of the name of the precinct and the area is being called 'Lumina'. The problem is that nobody knows what that means. The fact that this is on the Gold Coast is actually one of the precinct's best selling points. Even more outrageous is the fact that the rebrand will cost around \$130,000. We were promised that 12,000 jobs would be created here. The economic boost to

our state was meant to be worth \$1.4 billion. We are nowhere close to that. Yes, we were told this would take 10 years to develop, but we are a third of the way into that. One would have expected some progress or at least a plan by now.

I compare that to South Australia's version of the precinct, Lot Fourteen. As of last year they already had over 1,000 people working there. This week they have secured Google's public sector cloud team and in the last month they opened the Australian Space Discovery Centre and announced the \$400 million Entrepreneur and Innovation Centre, which is expected to create over 400 more jobs. One might think, 'Yes, that's great but they've probably been at this for longer.' No. Lot Fourteen launched just a few months before our Gold Coast precinct.

Labor needs to stop being all talk and actually get serious about delivering this precinct. They need to work with the mayor and the council and make this transformative project a reality. This is about the future of our city. Tourism and hospitality will always be our cornerstones but we need to diversify.

### **Member for Stretton; Redcliffe Electorate**



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (6.03 pm): Before I talk about my wonderful electorate of Redcliffe, I pay tribute to the member for Stretton for his tireless contribution to his community and the people of Queensland and for his service in this parliament. It has been a pleasure to serve with him in government and as a member of the Labor parliamentary party. My thoughts and the thoughts of my community are with him as he goes forward in his journey and his fight with this insidious disease.

As I have said before, Redcliffe is the place to be. I am delighted to advise the House that Redcliffe is a finalist and in the running to be one of Queensland's top tourism towns in the Queensland Tourism Industry Council's 2021 awards. Our vibrant community has something to offer everyone. We have wonderful beaches and waterways, restaurants, cafes, sporting stadiums, sailing opportunities and much more. There is certainly something for everyone. Redcliffe is only 15 minutes from the airport so it is the place to be before you go anywhere else in Queensland. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity to vote for Redcliffe and support our awesome tourism operators.

I welcome the Premier's announcement of the expansion of the government's incredibly successful Holiday Dollars program into the Brisbane region and the Whitsundays. That is wonderful news for families. The announcement creates an exciting opportunity for people to enjoy a holiday on our pristine peninsula and magnificent Moreton Bay. There are 30,000 vouchers worth \$100 available towards tourism and accommodation experiences in the Brisbane region. I encourage everyone to holiday in our mighty Moreton Bay region and Redcliffe in particular, not forgetting that the region includes Moreton Island.

While I am on my feet I would like to call out the hypocrisy of the federal member for Petrie and the non-exclusive relationship that he has with the truth. Recently, Luke Howarth advertised that he and the federal government delivered the MRI at the Redcliffe Hospital. The federal government was embarrassed into providing an MRI licence because Labor promised it at the election and they felt that they had to match that. Let us be clear: they gave a licence but we paid for it, we installed it and we built the infrastructure to house it. It was the Palaszczuk government that delivered that MRI for the Redcliffe Hospital and for the people of the Moreton Bay region. It was not the Morrison government and it certainly was not the local federal member, who was shamed into announcing it during the election by our amazing Labor candidate, Corinne Mulholland. The federal member for Petrie might want to correct the record in federal parliament sometime in the near future.

### **Harold Walker Jetty**



**Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.06 pm): The Harold Walker Jetty at Dunwich is an iconic landmark on North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah. Built in 1987 it has provided many lifelong memories for locals and visitors alike and is used for fishing and boating and to support sea rescue. Last year I was contacted by the family of Harold Walker and concerned community members who had been told that the government planned to demolish the jetty. The government did not properly consult the community before making that decision. They blamed the local council for the deterioration of the jetty and said that it was the council's problem.

The council, Dunwich residents and the wider Straddie community rejected the government's blame-shifting. A community campaign to make the government listen then started. A key figure in the community fight to save the Harold Walker Jetty from demolition by the Palaszczuk Labor government is the late Mr Walker's son Simon. Simon contacted me with his concerns that if the jetty went then his

father's legacy might be forgotten. Harold Walker contributed much to the island community as the owner and operator of the Dunwich ferry service for over 20 years, serving not only locals but also tourists and guests who made lifelong memories on Straddie.

I am prouder than ever to represent Straddie after seeing the community rally to save what matters to them. Residents gathered signatures on a petition that I presented to parliament, wrote letters and supported Simon's call to restore and not demolish. In January we saw a peaceful protest where school students, children and families gathered to share what the jetty meant to them.

The transport minister finally relented under the weight of community pressure and agreed to restore the jetty, with \$750,000 being allocated to the restoration. However, two issues remain. First, will \$750,000 be enough? Simon Walker recently called me to thank me for my support, and I put that on the record today, but to also voice concern about what the replacement jetty might look like and if the funding is sufficient. Some believe that that amount is inadequate for the kind of structure that will do justice to both Harold Walker's memory and the community's needs.

Will the replacement jetty be like for like, the same size and with the same capacity for use? Will it allow for fishing, boating and sea rescue capacity as it has in years past or will it be a smaller fishing platform only? Simon, his family members and the Straddie community would like to hear from the minister on those matters.

Secondly, the Dunwich (Goompie) Master Plan, the government's secret master plan, must be made public as soon as possible and it must allow for proper community consultation. It needs to show how the jetty will be integrated into the plans for the Dunwich harbour.

In conclusion, the save-the-jetty campaign shows that Straddie people power does sometimes make bad governments listen and change their decisions. Hopefully there is more listening to come from a government that, until recently, has been stone-deaf to the needs of the residents of North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah.

### Member for Stretton; 4 Voices



**Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (6.09 pm): I also want to mention the very sad news today from the member for Stretton. It is a very sad day for him, clearly. Even though he tried to make us all feel better, it is a terribly sad day for him. It is a sad day for all of us, as his colleagues and friends. It is a really sad loss to this parliament. People of his calibre and his commitment to the job really keep us going. To the class of 2015, of which I am one, he feels like family. I feel like he will fight this illness that he has, just as he has fought for his electorate for so long.

We meet a lot of good and extraordinary people in this job. In my electorate a few weeks ago I met one called Jo Westh. She used to be the CEO of Orange Sky Laundry and she recently started an organisation along similar lines in support of women called 4 Voices.


**Mr Russo:** Hear, hear!

**Ms HOWARD:** I take that interjection from the member for Toohey. He clearly knows her as well. They do amazing work. 4 Voices was launched on International Women's Day last year. They have volunteers and a van and they set themselves up in locations across South-East Queensland. In my electorate they set up near Centrelink. While I was there on my first visit, a woman came in from the street. She was grinning from ear to ear. She was welcomed like an old friend. When she left, I was told her story. She had come past them and they could see that she was not in a good way. They called her over for a cup of tea and sat her down. They heard how she had been homeless for quite a few weeks after fleeing domestic violence. She was too embarrassed to go in to Centrelink because she had not bathed for a while and felt really ashamed. They talked to her, went in with her and within an hour had an emergency crisis payment for her and not long after that secured a house for her.

In their van they have computers and mobile phone chargers. Women who are homeless who may have a mobile phone but nowhere to charge it can go there to get it charged, have a cup of tea and receive support. The premise of what they do is to help women reskill and learn about technology. We know that these days digital connectivity is almost as important as social connectivity for people, and 4 Voices is an organisation that provides both. They really are quite remarkable. While I was there, another woman walked past very proudly modelling a dress they had given her to wear to an interview.

We know that there are around 50,000 girls and women who are experiencing homelessness in Australia. The number of homeless single women aged 55 and above is increasing, and with the affordable housing crisis we are seeing now that number is going to rise. Good on 4 Voices.

### Anzac Day; *Lest We Forget*

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (6.12 pm): Anzac Day, 25 April, is a sacred time to pause and remember the sacrifice of those who served to keep our country safe and whose legacy of a strong and free democratic country we have a lot to be grateful for and are charged to defend and build upon. Last year's lockdown due to COVID meant we were not allowed to gather at local cenotaphs on Anzac Day. However, thousands of Aussies rose to the challenge to commemorate the day with a poignancy of personal tribute that saw them stage candlelit vigils in their own driveways. Some will do this again with their own Light Up the Dawn ceremonies in front of their homes, while others, in areas where services have been restored, will be able to gather again. However people commemorate this special day, it serves the same purpose of keeping the flame of remembrance alight.

I am normally privileged to sing the national anthem at a number of local services on the Sunshine Coast, specifically the Mudjimba and Maroochydore morning services, and this year I will do it again. However, I have also released a professional recording of a song, *Lest We Forget*, which I co-wrote with a friend during last year's lockdown. I released it this week on YouTube and you can hear it on my YouTube channel for free and via my Facebook page. As of today it is also available on iTunes and Apple Music and I have a limited number of CDs to give away.

**Mr McDonald:** #awesome!

**An opposition member:** Will you sign mine?


**Ms SIMPSON:** Thank you very much! Part of saying thank you is always to remember and honour those awesome people who sacrificed so much. They are the ones we honour. We say thank you and we remember them. We must not forget what they have done. It also extends to the heroes of today in our health and aged-care system as well as in the military.

I wrote the song with my friend and fellow Sunshine Coast singer Tanya Maree McFadyen-Bandera. She wrote the music and I wrote the lyrics over Zoom collaborations last year, just before Anzac Day. We uploaded it to YouTube after producing it very roughly in a music room on a laptop. However, this year we recorded it professionally in a studio with producer Andrew Ironside and Glasshouse Studios. A great young Sunshine Coast resident, Mitchell Bland, shot the video which accompanies the uploaded song.

*Lest We Forget* really is about those heroes who have given so much. I hope that into the future we take their legacy and build upon it because, as the song says, freedom is not free; it takes a lot to defend it. It starts by honouring those who have given so much and building on their legacy so that we can truly leave our nation, our place, better for the future.

In closing, I also acknowledge the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg, and wish him all the best with our prayers for the future.

### Sandgate Art Society, Easter Art Show

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism Industry Development and Innovation and Minister for Sport) (6.15 pm): I am grateful for the opportunity to reflect on one of the real institutions in my local community, in 4017, and that is the Sandgate Art Society. They held their annual Easter Art Show over the Easter long weekend. There was a bit of nervousness, with the Brisbane lockdown in the days ahead of that, as to whether or not the event would go ahead or whether it might have to go online as it did in 2020, but thankfully we saw the lockdown lifted which meant the show could go on.

It was a wonderful event, with the art show coinciding with the traditional Bluewater Festival that occurs on Good Friday in line with the Brisbane to Gladstone Yacht Race, commencing in the beautiful Bramble Bay waters off Sandgate and Shorncliffe. The art show was held in the Callan Centre at St Patrick's College at Shorncliffe. I want to acknowledge all those who made it possible, particularly the President of the Sandgate Art Society, Marie Smith, and a whole range of amazing volunteers who I will come to in a moment.


I want to acknowledge the winners of the different categories. The Trevor Proud Encouragement Award was won by Beverly Masters for her piece *NightJar*. The Best in Show—Overall Winner was *The Centurion by the Sandgate Foreshore* by David Cross, an amazing piece. In the 2D category, first place was *The Weeper* by Grace Cross. In the 3D category, first place was *Rabbit Proof Fence*, also by Grace Cross. First place in the photo/digital category was *Detritus* by Linda Neil. Some amazing artists were showcased and they were judged by really well regarded and well known independent judges Wyn



Vogel and Michael Cawdrey. It was wonderful that the event went ahead again this year with support from the local community, including financial support from me, from Councillor Jared Cassidy and from other sponsors such as Sandgate Central, Geocon and Arthouse Northside.

I want to acknowledge the volunteers: Jim Hansen, Fiona Meyer, Ross Smith, Grace and David Cross, Owen and Jan Hutchinson, Paul Kateley, Helene Rawson, Sandra Walshe, Andrea Naismith, Wendy Cook, Paul Neil, Ray O'Brien, Rob and Louise Stevenson, Margaret Hickson, Shirley King, Linda Brandt, Linda Rosenthal and Margaret Pettit. One absentee was the longtime former president John Blackley, who had moved from the district. His absence from this amazing event at St Patrick's College was a shame. In reference to and in deference to the member for Stretton, I want to repeat their motto: fight the good fight.

### Remote Queensland, Bus Services

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.18 pm): A lot of issues get lost, particularly in remote and regional areas where they may not be picked up at all. One that came to my attention which was deeply concerning was the shutdown of Greyhound bus services through the COVID-19 period. The government saw fit to put a \$1.2 billion subsidy into the airlines. I understand that there are other motivations for that to do with tourism and business, but a lot of wealthy people can afford to fly between Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne whereas most people using buses cannot afford anything else. A lot of them do not have a car. In Mount Isa, 92 per cent of the people travel between Tennant Creek and Mount Isa, and I can assure you that a lot of those people do not have cars. That presents a real problem in itself.


Rex Airlines enjoyed a subsidy of some \$50 million, I believe it was. As a result of that subsidy they decided to expand their operations. They were a regional airline but they have expanded into metropolitan areas. People in Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne who are rich enough to buy a plane ticket now have more options as a result of competition. For those who live in remote areas there are no longer any options. There is no conduit to get into the territory, which I think is a big problem. The government has been notified of this. It is a big problem that needs to be solved.

While mentioning the territory, I point out that we have been talking about youth crime in this House today. Everyone is turning a blind eye to the problem there. Sitting behind this is the intervention in the territory by the federal government. They stopped access to alcohol and introduced the BasicsCard. It seemed like a great idea, but it has forced people from the territory who are addicted to alcohol and drugs to come into Mount Isa. They can cash their BasicsCard at Centrelink in Mount Isa.

What are they going to do? Of course they are going to move from Tennant Creek or the other communities in the territory to Mount Isa. We are not solving anything or helping anyone by allowing them to do that. Someone has to be tough here. Those in Mount Isa who complain the most about this are the Kalkadoon people. They keep coming into my office saying, 'You have to do something about this. These people do not belong here. They have houses where they came from. You are not helping them by letting them live in the river bed.' That is a big problem.

Lastly, with Anzac Day coming up, I want to talk about something that I am very proud of. My grandfather was the federal minister for defence in the McMahon government. The Bell Kiowa helicopter was introduced in his time. He said that it should be called the Kalkadoon helicopter so they had a big ceremony and painted a boomerang on the side of the helicopter. When they were voted out of government the name was changed. It was a wonderful testament to the area that I am from and the culture and history of the area that that name was branded on those helicopters. I believe that they have now been decommissioned. Given the 100-year celebration of the RAAF, I think it is worth celebrating that Mount Isa had that recognition in the Australian Defence Force.

### Cross River Rail

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (6.21 pm): I rise to say a few words about the benefits and transformational nature of the Cross River Rail project. This is a project that has been bouncing around for over a decade. It has a well-known history. It is this government that it is 100 per cent funding it and overcoming the blockages that have been occurring.

It will have a long-term legacy not just for this city but for this region. It sets up our public transport system medium to long term by doubling the inner-city rail capacity. We are seeing a lot of people shift onto rail. They will be able to get to where they want to go on Brisbane and South-East Queensland's first genuine underground rail line, including to a station in the heart of the city in Albert Street. This is


a fantastic project and one I have been very aware of since working on some of the communications with the current Premier when she was the minister for transport. I am very proud to be the minister responsible for it now.

To be quite frank, it is disappointing to hear some of the ill-founded criticisms—and not necessarily from whom it is predicted that would come; my comments are well known in terms of the opposition in this regard—and comments from the Greens party councillor and figures that go against their own stated values. This is very disappointing. The Greens party local councillor recently said that there will be no long-term legacy for the Olympics in relation to the Cross River Rail project. I need to correct the record.

When we held the Commonwealth Games in Queensland there was a long-term legacy despite the view being put forward by the Greens party. We saw the duplication of the Helensvale to Coomera section of the rail line allowing us to get eight trains an hour into the games. It allowed us to do Light Rail stage 2 on the Gold Coast. The Greens party might not go to the Gold Coast too often, but the public transport system there is very strong and very good because of the legacy of the games. The boom for this state for 10 years, not just around jobs but around transport infrastructure and better urban design, is a key benefit of us landing the Olympics, and let us hope we do.

The Greens party's opposition to change and progressive projects like this is obvious. What we will see is the opening up of a community heart for the first time in Woolloongabba—the Gabba precinct. Some 50 per cent of it will be open space. This is land that has never been open to the public before, yet the Greens criticise this. We see their negativity. They are supposed to support the integration of land use with transport planning, but when we actually do it they seem to oppose it and find every reason to criticise it. We see the hypocrisy of the Greens party when it comes to the reality of standing up for their own stated values. Do not listen to what the Greens party say, but watch what they do because what they say contradicts what they do. I needed to get that on the record.

### **Ambulance Service, Wait Times**

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (6.24 pm): Previously I have raised the issue of ambulance response times in my community and the reasons for this, which include that our emergency department needs to go into bypass mode when overloaded. We have fabulous health services and teams that have worked under duress for months now, due to unprecedented demand, and we need to urgently ease their load and prevent incidents such as experienced by one of Noosa's matriarchs.

This 85-year-old much loved wife and mother had two falls in six months. The first was on concrete outside a church where she lay on the ground for over 1.5 hours until an ambulance arrived. The second was in her bedroom last week. Her daughter immediately applied compression and made the first emergency call at 4.48 pm. She was advised an ambulance was on the way. Her compression efforts did not slow the bleeding so a panicked call was made at 5.09 pm. This time she was informed the ambulance was on its way but was coming from Nambour, 40 minutes away. At 5.27 pm a third call was made as blood continued to pool on the plastic that had been put under the towels. She was told an ambulance was four minutes away. It took another 30 minutes. This whole time her husband of 64 years wept.

One resident and two incidents. It was over an hour to get assistance both times. That is not the end of their story. When the ambulance arrived so much blood had been lost she lost consciousness. After our fabulous paramedics got her to respond, she continued to lose consciousness until they could stabilise her enough to transport her. This healthy and vibrant woman nearly lost her life. As the paramedics left, they apologised to the family saying, 'This shouldn't have happened.' No, it should not have happened.

That our vulnerable are at risk of bleeding to death in their own home, with an ambulance station and hospital less than 15 minutes away, is unacceptable. As her daughter pointed out, anyone with first aid training would have been appreciated to help get her mother to our emergency department, which does not bypass for drop-ins. Thankfully, after three days in hospital, this resident is now safely home and deeply appreciative of the care she received. All she asks is that this not happen to anyone else. Consideration must be given to funding volunteer first responders in our community as is available in our remoter areas. As well, the expansion of our emergency department at Noosa Hospital must be fast-tracked as a priority.

Thank you and blessings to the member for Stretton, Duncan Pegg. Peggy, as an MP, chair and a really good person, you rock and you will be very missed. I hope you will come and visit.

### Member for Stretton; Woodridge Electorate, YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament



**Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Investment) (6.27 pm): I begin my contribution this evening by acknowledging the service in this House of Duncan Pegg, who today announced his forthcoming resignation as the state member for Stretton. Duncan has been a passionate and dedicated servant of his community, and I wish him all the very best in the fight ahead.

It continues to be the greatest of honours to stand in this House and represent the people of Woodridge as their local state member. Each year that honour is shared with one of our community's strong young voices as part of the YMCA Queensland Youth Parliament. This initiative offers a unique experience for the next generation of community leaders, giving them the opportunity to propose law reform and then debate draft bills right here in this very chamber. It is a platform that helps fuel a passion for politics and positive change—the same passion all of us in this chamber share—and helps us ensure the future of our state is in safe and steady hands.

In 2021, the Woodridge electorate is fortunate and proud to have representation in the Queensland Youth Parliament from Woodridge State High School student Shahzia Gulzari. Shahzia pursued this opportunity to learn from other young Queenslanders and to benefit from their different backgrounds and the journeys they have travelled in life. Shahzia's own journey has been one filled with challenges as she and her family began their journey in Afghanistan and now continue that journey in their new home of Woodridge. Shahzia is eager to further grow her knowledge and to develop her communication skills and her understanding of our democracy.

She wants to find inspiration with this experience and make new connections from it, as does every member of the Youth Parliament. Empowered, resilient, world-changing—these are all words Shahzia has used to describe the Queensland Youth Parliament. They are also words I would use to describe Shahzia herself. I had the pleasure of meeting Shahzia recently—a year 10 student of Woodridge State High School—and the enthusiasm she has for our state and its democracy is infectious. Shahzia is already a fantastic representative for Woodridge and the City of Logan at large. I am so pleased more Queenslanders will now get to know her through this important initiative.

Young Queenslanders like Shahzia are Queensland's leaders of tomorrow. It is crucial for our state's future that their voices are heard and heard by all of us in this chamber. I cannot wait to hear from Shahzia throughout her time in Youth Parliament and beyond.

The House adjourned at 6.30 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, Palaszcuk, Pease, Pegg, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Weir, Whiting