



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Hansard Home Page: <http://www.parliament.qld.gov.au/work-of-assembly/hansard>

Email: [hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au](mailto:hansard@parliament.qld.gov.au)

Phone (07) 3553 6344

## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

### Tuesday, 30 November 2021

Subject	Page
<b>ASSENT TO BILLS</b> .....	<b>3751</b>
<i>Tabled paper:</i> Letter, dated 24 November, from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 24 November 2021.....	3751
<b>ADDRESS-IN-REPLY</b> .....	<b>3751</b>
Presentation to Governor.....	3751
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b> .....	<b>3752</b>
Absence of Members.....	3752
<b>PETITIONS</b> .....	<b>3752</b>
<b>TABLED PAPERS</b> .....	<b>3752</b>
<b>MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS</b> .....	<b>3754</b>
Coronavirus, Update.....	3754
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3754
Resources Industries.....	3754
Weather Event.....	3755
De Lacy, Hon. KE, AM; Fouras, Hon. D, AM; Dollin, Mr RH; Drescher, Ms J.....	3755
Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities; Neville Bonner Bridge.....	3756
Health System.....	3756
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3757
Mental Health Services, Parliamentary Inquiry.....	3758
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3758
Curragh Mine, Death.....	3759
Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.....	3759
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3760
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3760
Coronavirus, Vaccination.....	3761
Renewable Energy.....	3761

# Table of Contents – Tuesday, 30 November 2021

<b>REPORT</b>	<b>3762</b>
<b>Auditor-General</b>	<b>3762</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Auditor-General Report 6: 2021-22—Regulating animal welfare services</i>	3762
<b>PRIVILEGE</b>	<b>3762</b>
<b>Speaker's Rulings, Various Matters</b>	<b>3762</b>
<b>SPEAKER'S STATEMENT</b>	<b>3762</b>
<b>School Group Tours</b>	<b>3762</b>
<b>LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE</b>	<b>3763</b>
<b>Office of the Information Commissioner, Report</b>	<b>3763</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Information Commissioner Report 1: 2021-22—Compliance audit—Sunshine Coast Regional Council: Sunshine Coast Regional Council's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)</i>	3763
<b>QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE</b>	<b>3763</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Testing</b>	<b>3763</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Comments by Premier and Minister for the Olympics</b>	<b>3763</b>
<b>Regional Queensland, Coronavirus Vaccination</b>	<b>3764</b>
<b>Sexual Harassment</b>	<b>3765</b>
<b>Far North Queensland, Coronavirus Vaccination</b>	<b>3765</b>
<b>Health System</b>	<b>3765</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Prevention</b>	<b>3766</b>
<b>Mental Health Services</b>	<b>3767</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Economy</b>	<b>3768</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Health System</b>	<b>3768</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Vaccination</b>	<b>3769</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Health System</b>	<b>3770</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Vaccination</b>	<b>3770</b>
<b>Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate</b>	<b>3771</b>
<b>Maritime Safety, Superyachts</b>	<b>3771</b>
<b>Health System</b>	<b>3772</b>
<b>Agriculture Industry, Coronavirus Vaccination</b>	<b>3772</b>
<b>Specialist Outpatient Waiting List</b>	<b>3773</b>
<b>Central Queensland, Economy</b>	<b>3773</b>
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>3774</b>
<b>Business Program</b>	<b>3774</b>
<b>BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL</b>	<b>3777</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>3777</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, government response</i>	3777
<i>Tabled paper: Media article, undated, titled 'Rio Olympics Chief Cops Bribery Rap'</i>	3786
<b>MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST</b>	<b>3792</b>
<b>Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance</b>	<b>3792</b>
<b>Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Leader of the Opposition, Performance</b>	<b>3794</b>
<b>Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment</b>	<b>3795</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Photograph depicting a drop box at the Queensland Titles Office</i>	3795
<b>Regional Queensland, Infrastructure</b>	<b>3796</b>
<b>Domestic and Family Violence; Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Investigation</b>	<b>3797</b>
<b>Greenslopes Electorate; Coronavirus, Vaccination</b>	<b>3798</b>
<b>Forensic Disability Service</b>	<b>3799</b>
<b>Growing Queensland Business Roadshow; Coronavirus, Vaccination</b>	<b>3800</b>
<b>Department of Education</b>	<b>3801</b>
<b>Cashless Debit Card</b>	<b>3802</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Extract from the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Continuation of Cashless Welfare) Bill 2020, page 14</i>	3802
<i>Tabled paper: Bundle of documents regarding the use of cashless debit cards</i>	3802
<b>MOTION</b>	<b>3803</b>
<b>Order of Business</b>	<b>3803</b>
<b>POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL</b>	<b>3803</b>
<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>3803</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Statement, undated, from the Parole Board Queensland, concerning backlog in parole applications</i>	3820
<i>Tabled paper: Document, dated 24 September 2021, from Senior Judge Administrator, Justice Bowskill, titled 'Supreme Court of Queensland: Protocol, Applications for Judicial Review—Parole Board Queensland'</i>	3820
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Courier-Mail, dated 4 November 2021, titled 'Gold Coast policy launch "I Live my Life Without a Knife" campaign'</i>	3836
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Gold Coast Bulletin, dated 4 November 2021, titled 'Parents of slain Gold Coast teen Jack Beasley join mission to end knife crime'</i>	3836
<i>Tabled paper: Article from the Courier-Mail, dated 17 June 2021, titled 'Sian Kingi murderer Barrie John Watts' parole bid sparks push to nation's toughest laws by state government'</i>	3837
<i>Tabled paper: Extract from the website of Kent Saddlery, Stanthorpe detailing products</i>	3839
<b>Consideration in Detail</b>	<b>3842</b>
Clauses 1 to 57, as read, agreed to.	3842
Schedule, as read, agreed to.	3842
<b>Third Reading</b>	<b>3842</b>
<b>Long Title</b>	<b>3843</b>

# Table of Contents – Tuesday, 30 November 2021

<b>MOTION .....</b>	<b>3843</b>
<b>Order of Business .....</b>	<b>3843</b>
<b>BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL .....</b>	<b>3843</b>
<b>Second Reading .....</b>	<b>3843</b>
<b>ADJOURNMENT .....</b>	<b>3846</b>
<b>Beaudesert Hospital, Maternity Services; Waste Facilities .....</b>	<b>3846</b>
<b>Logan Electorate, Coronavirus Vaccination .....</b>	<b>3846</b>
<b>Currumbin Electorate, Queensland Border .....</b>	<b>3847</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Nonconforming petition regarding border communities.....</i>	<i>3848</i>
<b>Fentiman, Ms SH .....</b>	<b>3848</b>
<b>Coomera Electorate .....</b>	<b>3849</b>
<b>Springfield Central State High School; LAVO .....</b>	<b>3849</b>
<b>Gold Coast, Hooning .....</b>	<b>3850</b>
<i>Tabled paper: Bundle of documents relating to hooning in Surfers Paradise.....</i>	<i>3851</i>
<b>Townsville.....</b>	<b>3851</b>
<b>Gold Coast, Crime.....</b>	<b>3851</b>
<b>WorkAbility NDIS Jobs Roadshow .....</b>	<b>3852</b>
<b>ATTENDANCE .....</b>	<b>3852</b>



## TUESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2021

---



The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### ASSENT TO BILLS



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have received from the Deputy Governor a letter in respect of assent to certain bills. The contents of the letter will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the letter for the information of members.

The Honourable C.W. Pitt MP  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly  
Parliament House  
George Street  
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Speaker

I hereby acquaint the Legislative Assembly that the following Appropriation Bills, having been passed by the Legislative Assembly and having been presented for the Royal Assent, were assented to in the name of Her Majesty The Queen on the date shown:

Date of Assent: 24 November 2021

A bill for an Act to amend the Queensland University of Technology Act 1998 for particular purposes

A bill for an Act to amend the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Rules 2014, the Governors (Salary and Pensions) Act 2003, the Liquor Act 1992, the Oaths Act 1867, the Powers of Attorney Act 1998, the Property Law Act 1974 and the Queensland Building and Construction Commission Act 1991 for particular purposes, to repeal the Domestic and Family Violence Protection (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020 and the Justice Legislation (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Documents and Oaths) Regulation 2020, and to make minor and consequential amendments of the legislation mentioned in schedule 1

These Bills are hereby transmitted to the Legislative Assembly, to be numbered and forwarded to the proper Officer for enrolment, in the manner required by law.

Yours sincerely  
Deputy Governor

24 November 2021

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 24 November, from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor to the Speaker advising of assent to certain bills on 24 November 2021 [\[2006\]](#).

### ADDRESS-IN-REPLY

#### Presentation to Governor



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I have to inform the House that Her Excellency the Governor will be pleased to receive the address-in-reply at Government House on Thursday, 9 December 2021 at 4 pm and I invite all honourable members to accompany me on the occasion of its presentation.

Attendants will be circulating in the chamber a list for members to indicate if they will be attending and if transport is required. Cars will depart the porte-cochere at 3.20 pm sharp to convey members to Government House and return. Members wishing to proceed to Government House using their own transport should aim to arrive by 3.40 pm to join other members.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### Absence of Members



**Mr SPEAKER:** I have received advice from the members for Mirani, Kurwongbah and Nicklin that they will be absent from the sittings of the House occurring from 30 November to 2 December 2021. The members' notifications comply with standing order 263A.

## PETITIONS

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

### Abergowrie Road, Upgrade

**Mr Dametto**, from 308 petitioners, requesting the House to widen Abergowrie Road and address dips, blind spots and other safety hazards to road users from Trebonne through to St. Teresa's College, Abergowrie [\[2007\]](#).

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

### Greyhounds

**Mr O'Connor**, from 5,709 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce a publicly available system that tracks greyhounds for their entire life including breeding, naming, raising, training, racing, retirement, rehoming and death [\[2008\]](#).

### Harpers Crossing, Bridge

**Mr Krause**, from 442 petitioners, requesting the House to upgrade the single lane Harpers Crossing, Mount Alford Road, Boonah to a two-lane bridge and in the short term implement increased traffic safety by undertaking a range of measures [\[2009\]](#).

### Children, Health Services

**Mr Andrew**, from 9,154 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw directives that justify a decision to deny parents/carers/guardians attendance at a children's hospital, children's hospital accommodation or any child's medical appointment [\[2010\]](#).

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

### Daylight Saving

18,507 petitioners, requesting the House to consider introducing daylight saving into Queensland, or at the very least in the south-east of the state [\[2011\]](#).

### Coronavirus, Mental Health Impact

845 petitioners, requesting the House to hold the Premier and the Chief Health Officer accountable for their policies which have led to a mental health crisis in Queensland [\[2012\]](#).

Petitions received.

## TABLED PAPERS

### PAPERS TABLED DURING THE RECESS (SO 31)

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

19 November 2021—

[1976](#) Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements—Queensland Government Implementation—First progress report 2021

[1977](#) Better Regulation Taskforce: Regulatory Review Project, September 2020

[1978](#) Better Regulation Taskforce: Regulatory Review Project—Queensland government response October 2021

[1979](#) Queensland Better Regulation Update, 2021

[1980](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3597-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 583 petitioners, requesting the House to legislate to introduce Binding Citizen Initiated Referenda

[1981](#) Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator—Annual Report 2020-21

[1982](#) National Heavy Vehicle Regulator—Annual Report 2020-21

23 November 2021—

[1983](#) Queensland Police Service—Surveillance Device Warrants Annual Report 2020-21

24 November 2021—

[1984](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 19, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Queensland Family and Child Commission

25 November 2021—

- [1985](#) Auditor-General Report 5: 2021-22—Managing Queensland's transition to renewable energy
- [1986](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3633-21) presented by the member for Traeger, Mr Katter, from 631 petitioners, requesting the House to subsidise essential media access in a printed format to rural and regional Queensland, the same way that other essential services are subsidised in regional areas to support equity and access
- [1987](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011 and the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008
- [1988](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3631-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,015 petitioners, requesting the House to mandate that all employees who face members of the public in their day to day work to be vaccinated against COVID
- [1989](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3593-21) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 2,362 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure fully informed consent for all COVID vaccinations
- [1990](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3596-21) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 1,107 petitioners, requesting the House to withdraw all permits for sites where waste is under the ground water table, fully excavate all waste out of the affected voids and reinstate all affected voids with "Clean Earthen Fill"

26 November 2021—

- [1991](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 14, 57th Parliament—Small Business Commissioner Bill 2021
- [1992](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021
- [1993](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Leader of the Opposition, matter dismissed
- [1994](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Leader of the House and Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, matter dismissed
- [1995](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Member for Bancroft
- [1996](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment

29 November 2021—

- [1997](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 16, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 1 September and 12 October 2021
- [1998](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3612-21) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 389 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure all MPs and their political staff are fully vaccinated against COVID before being allowed into Parliament House
- [1999](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3636-21) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) from 16 petitioners, requesting the House to use the existing rail corridor between Kuraby and Wembley Road until such time to allow for proper community awareness and the conduct of an independent assessment on the proposed new rail corridor at Trinder Park

#### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

##### STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2021:

- [2000](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 166
- [2001](#) Proclamation commencing remaining provisions, No. 166, explanatory notes

Education (General Provisions) Act 2006:

- [2002](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 167
- [2003](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 167, explanatory notes
- [2004](#) Education (General Provisions) (Prescribed State Schools) Amendment Regulation 2021, No. 167, human rights certificate

##### MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman)—

- [2005](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Balancing life and liberty: The second annual report on the operation of Queensland's Human Rights Act 2019, 2020-21

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Coronavirus, Update



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): I can advise that there are no new community cases of COVID in Queensland. There have been two cases of COVID detected in Queensland overnight in hotel quarantine. Both cases were in quarantine after travelling from Melbourne. Yesterday there were 6,612 vaccines administered by Queensland Health. I am pleased to say that 86.27 per cent of Queenslanders have had at least one vaccination dose and 76.08 per cent have had two doses.

If there is one thing we can predict about coronavirus, it is its unpredictability. Four days ago, Delta was our biggest concern. Now, we face the uncertainty of an unknown enemy in Omicron. While there is much unknown about the Omicron variant, its very existence has prompted a strong global response. As I said yesterday, I will attend a national cabinet meeting today where I expect to receive the most up-to-date information. Our plans to allow quarantine-free interstate travel for fully vaccinated people have not been affected. Queensland is in such a strong position because we still require 14 days hotel quarantine for international arrivals. Our cautious and measured approach means anyone who has recently arrived from countries where Omicron is circulating is already in hotel quarantine in Queensland.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.35 am): I am proud that Queensland is on the way to being fully vaccinated. Our most recent Super Schools Weekend was an outstanding success, adding 6,784 to those vaccinated—57.22 per cent of those were getting their first dose, which is a fantastic result. We know that vaccination is key to Queenslanders being protected in our community and our continued economic recovery. There is still more we can do to protect Queenslanders, especially those most vulnerable.

Today I can announce that the Chief Health Officer will be mandating vaccinations for people who work in designated high-risk settings. This includes mandatory vaccinations for school staff and workers in both state and private schools. We are taking this strong action to protect vulnerable Queenslanders. It is action that is consistent with other states and territories such as New South Wales and Victoria. If you cannot be vaccinated, we want to make sure those around you are vaccinated. If you are in a high-risk group, we also want to make sure those around you are vaccinated. If you are at higher risk of coming into contact with someone who has the virus and passing it on to others in our community, we want to make sure you are vaccinated.

The designated high-risk settings where mandatory vaccination will be in effect are schools and early childhood centres; correctional centres and youth detention facilities; and airports. We know that children under 12 cannot access the vaccination. We want to do everything we can to protect these young people. That is why it is important for their protection that those around them take every step they can to prevent the virus spreading in schools and early childhood centres. Airports are the gateway to the virus entering Queensland. That is why we continue to insist on hotel quarantine for international arrivals. There are vulnerable people in our corrections systems.

From 17 December, workers in these settings will be required to have had at least one dose of the vaccination. Workers will need to be double dosed by 23 January, in time for the start of the new school year. Our strong measures are over and above the vaccine mandates for Queensland's police officers and health workers and in addition to the public health and social measures linked to vaccination status, including mandatory vaccinations in aged care; hospitality venues; indoor entertainment venues; outdoor entertainment activities; festivals; and Queensland government owned galleries, museums and libraries.

My message to Queenslanders is clear: please roll up your sleeve to get vaccinated and protect Queenslanders as we unite families in time for Christmas. If you are not already vaccinated, the best Christmas gift you can give is to get vaccinated. Your actions will help protect you from the virus and protect the most vulnerable in our community.

### Resources Industries



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.39 am): Queensland's resources have been a mainstay of our economy and as our state goes forward the industry comes with us. Every year—and especially this year—it is a highlight to address the



Queensland Resources Council because our partnership is long and fruitful, and it stays fresh with a balance between traditional strength and new initiatives. The sector contributes billions of dollars to our economy and employs tens of thousands of Queenslanders.

As the Minister for Resources knows, this year's employment figures are the highest on average in more than 10 years, since the last mining boom. Our commitment to the sector has been shown this year, including through the approval or expansion of metallurgical coal mines and Queensland's first vanadium mine, and the expansion of domestic gas supply and land for exploration. The QRC says that for the 12 months to September industry spending on exploration is 40 per cent higher than it was two years ago. We have also entered into partnerships for our new economy minerals and for renewable energy.

As CEO Ian Macfarlane emphasised, the QRC shares our target of net zero emissions by 2050. The sector knows that Queensland has the resources below the ground combined with the renewable energy above the ground to be a clean energy superpower. We have released the draft Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan to transform the sector by 2050, to fast-track new economy minerals production and processing, to trigger new regional industries and to cut red tape to drive new projects and jobs. The plan will focus on six key areas: growth and diversification, environmental protection, sustainable communities, First Nations partnerships, a safe and resilient workforce, and regulator efficiency. The resources sector has played a key role in our history, including through metallurgical coal and LNG. Now we are perfectly positioned with minerals, renewable energy and hydrogen for the clean energy industrial revolution.

I place on the record my thanks to the resources sector for keeping our economy going and keeping people employed, which has not happened in other parts of the world. It is because of our strong health response that the economy has been able to keep going. I put on the record my sincere thanks to the resources industry. We are proud to partner with them.

While we place enormous value on the resources industry, we place an even higher value on its workforce. I take this opportunity to extend our deepest sympathy to the family of Clark Peardon and the families of all mineworkers who have tragically lost their lives. Every step to progress the industry must and will be matched by the highest regard for and attention to workplace safety and respect for workers.

### Weather Event



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): Wet and wild weather has battered many parts of the state in the past 24 hours, damaging roofs, knocking down trees and making the morning commute hazardous for many motorists on our roads. I am advised that SES crews responded to 77 requests for assistance in the past day. The central and north coast regions were the worst affected areas, with a small number of requests in the Brisbane, south-east and south-west regions. Three swiftwater rescue teams have been deployed to Chinchilla, Roma and Goondiwindi, even attending to a truck that was swept off the road on the Cunningham Highway in the early hours of this morning.

The Bureau of Meteorology predicts that there will be plenty more wet weather to come before the week is out. Over coming days we are expecting significant rain in the south-east along with heavy rainfall and thunderstorms in other parts of the state, including the north coast and south-west regions. With catchments swollen due to recent rainfall, localised flash flooding will remain a threat throughout Queensland over the next week.

If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that when the going gets tough Queenslanders get going. I encourage all Queenslanders to prepare for storm season now. Look out for weather alerts on the Bureau of Meteorology website and contact the SES if you need assistance. And remember: if it's flooded, forget it.

**De Lacy, Hon. KE, AM; Fouras, Hon. D, AM; Dollin, Mr RH; Drescher, Ms J**




**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.43 am): I offer my condolences to the family of Keith De Lacy, who passed away last week, and pay tribute to his service to Queensland. Keith De Lacy was a member of this parliament for 15 years and, of course, was Queensland's treasurer from 1989 until 1996. We will always remember the reforms of the Goss government during those historic years and the role that Keith played. I note that he was a big champion for Cairns and the Far North of our state.

I also note that former Speaker Jim Fouras was farewelled yesterday at the Greek Orthodox Church at South Brisbane. I extend my sympathy to his family and I acknowledge his service to the state. We will have further opportunity in this place to acknowledge the passing of both former members and pay respects to their service, as well as that of the late former member for Maryborough Bob Dollin.

I also take this opportunity to mention the passing of a former Beaudesert mayor, Joy Drescher. Joy will be well remembered for her service and dedication to the Beaudesert shire, now the Scenic Rim Regional Council. I offer my condolences to her family on behalf of the government and this parliament.

### **Coronavirus, Quarantine Facilities; Neville Bonner Bridge**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (9.44 am): The federal government has delayed the reopening of our international borders due to concerns about the Omicron COVID-19 strain. That is the right call while our health experts assess the risk and severity of the new strain. It also shows that our regional quarantine facility is absolutely vital to the health response while we manage emerging strains. Next year we will need our hotels for tourists, visitors and business travel. We need dedicated, purpose-built facilities for if and when we need to quarantine arrivals.


The Palaszczuk government has never shied away from being cautious and well prepared, and that foresight has stood Queensland in excellent stead. We will not be without available accommodation, as are some other states now. This morning Jennifer Westacott, the head of the Business Council of Australia, told ABC Radio National that we should be delivering purpose-built quarantine facilities across the country, just like we are doing here in Queensland. It shows business can see the enormous risks if we cannot properly quarantine people with emerging strains.

We have moved quickly to build the accommodation facility we announced. The federal government's Pinkenba site could be a welcome addition to our quarantine capacity, but they have already halved their proposed capacity and even their half-sized facility will not be ready until well into next year. We are awaiting details of a lease agreement with the Commonwealth.

On the other hand, Wellcamp has undergone a rapid construction period. While the weather has slowed some construction on site, delays are being closely monitored with Wagner Corporation to ensure the facility is ready as soon as possible. I thank all the staff working around the clock to make this happen, particularly the construction workers who are on site in these wet conditions. Currently there are over 400 local construction workers on site. Now is the time for the Morrison government to put politics aside and start actively supporting Queensland's dedicated regional quarantine facility.

I mention another important milestone on another important project. Yesterday the education minister and I went up onto the Neville Bonner Bridge to see the three sections of steel superstructure that were uplifted last week. Two arch segments, both measuring 60 metres long and weighing in at 90 tonnes, were installed and will hold up a crowning arch sitting 30 metres above the river. The bridge will provide a vital link connecting what will be two of Brisbane's busiest social and entertainment precincts, South Bank and Queen's Wharf Brisbane. We are at the beginning of a golden decade for Queensland leading into the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games and these projects are not only transforming our city but also creating jobs.

### **Health System**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.47 am): The health of Queensland is central to the mission of the Palaszczuk Labor government. Ensuring the health of Queenslanders is the foundation of our economic strategy, which is why every year we increase the health budget. That increasing investment means more Queenslanders receive health care; it also means increasing economic opportunities. That is why last Wednesday the Deputy Premier; the Minister for Health; the Minister for Science, Meaghan Scanlon; the Assistant Minister for Treasury, Charis Mullen and I were joined by over 200 potential investors to hear from successful Queensland companies and organisations such as Ellume, Stryker, Patheon and Aspen Medical, all sharing why Queensland is the place to invest.

Through partnerships between business, industry and government, we are creating highly skilled jobs and continuing to showcase Queensland as an unrivalled location for investment, including in health care, health research and development, and health manufacturing. All of this means that Queensland is in the box seat to attract innovators, ideas and investment to fuel the ongoing growth of our state's economy. The idea that we have cut \$400 million from the health system is ridiculous.

**Dr Miles:** You should know a cut when you see one.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the Deputy Premier. If that were true, upwards of 3,000 staff would be sacked, in which case they would be on the streets.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition will cease his interjections.

**Mr DICK:** The productivity dividend that is implemented within the health system is internal to the health system, and every last dollar is invested back into the front line. It is also important to note that a focus on efficiency within the health system—

**Mr Bailey** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Miller will cease his interjections. Treasurer, you have the call.

**Mr DICK:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. It is also important to note that a focus on efficiency within the health system is not new; it has been underway for many years. In fact, it was introduced in the 2012 state budget. In 2012-13 the so-called 'efficiency requirement' was set at three per cent on hospital and health services.

**Mr Crisafulli:** That was nearly a decade ago.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition: it was a decade ago. He remembers well; he was a cabinet minister.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** An even higher efficiency requirement—

**Dr Miles** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order!

**Mr DICK:** In fact, in 2012-13 the so-called 'efficiency requirement' was set at three per cent on hospital and health services and an even higher efficiency requirement was imposed on West Moreton, at 4.6 per cent. This compares to two per cent currently. The 2012 efficiency requirement was on top of actual health cuts that saw over 4,000 health workers sacked. The Palaszczuk Labor government—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for McConnel will cease her interjections. Member for Southern Downs, let's not have a repeat of previous weeks.

**Mr DICK:** The Palaszczuk Labor government will never go back to those dark days. The Palaszczuk Labor government has never cut health funding and never will. We will always back the front line and we will always back health.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination



**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.51 am): The Palaszczuk government has a sensible and measured plan to reunite families and protect Queenslanders from COVID-19. We are close to 80 per cent double dosed, and when that happens our borders will reopen. With the new Omicron strain on our doorstep, it is now more urgent than ever that Queenslanders go out and get vaccinated. We take the health of children in our care very seriously indeed. We have a responsibility to protect the more than 500,000 children under 12 in Queensland schools—and even more in early childhood centres—who cannot yet get vaccinated. We have a responsibility to parents and carers who want to know their children are in safe—particularly in education and care—environments.


We have always listened to the health advice and taken appropriate action. We were the first state to move school and early childhood staff into the priority 1B vaccination category. We have had great results from that, with more than 85,000 vaccination doses delivered, and that does not include those teachers and staff who receive their vaccine at their GP or pharmacist.

Today we are taking further strong action to protect those in high-risk settings such as schools and early childhood centres—action that is in the best interests of our children, young people and staff. The health directive to be issued by the Chief Health Officer will mean that all staff and volunteers in schools and early childhood centres, unless they have an appropriate medical exemption, will need to

have their first vaccination dose by 17 December and be double dosed by 23 January, prior to the commencement of the 2022 school year. This will include Department of Education staff who go into schools and early childhood centres as part of their work. It will include those going onsite to provide cleaning, repairs and maintenance. This will apply to all sectors, government and non-government. It brings us into line with the mandates in every other mainland state and territory.

This afternoon with my department I will be briefing key stakeholders on the announcement, including professional associations, unions and representatives from the independent, Catholic and early childhood sectors. This action will ensure we keep our children and our education workforce safe and keep our schools and early education centres open. This action will help keep all Queenslanders safe.

### **Mental Health Services, Parliamentary Inquiry**


 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (9.53 am): When it comes to demand for mental health services, we know that 70 per cent of GP presentations in 2021 are mental health related, up from 61 per cent in 2017. We also know that 10 per cent of the population received MBS supported mental health care in 2019-20, almost twice the rate from the past 10 years. An estimated 2.2 per cent of the Queensland population has received specialist clinical mental health care from Queensland Health services in 2020-21. The Palaszczuk government invests approximately \$1.8 billion annually in mental health. This includes: \$350 million for the *Connecting care to recovery 2016-2021* mental health, alcohol and other drugs plan; \$205.8 million in capital projects to establish 89 new mental health beds and upgrade existing inpatient and subacute treatment beds; \$61.9 million for the continued rollout of suicide prevention crisis responses and enhanced services; and an expansion of the Queensland Ambulance Service's Mental Health Co-Responder Program.

In addition, we know that COVID has further exacerbated demands on our mental health services in Queensland. That is why we invested \$74.5 million in the Mental Health and Wellbeing package, which includes: \$46.5 million to support Queensland mental health responses; and \$30 million for non-government providers to prepare and respond to the pandemic. The Palaszczuk government is in the process of finalising a new five-year plan for Queensland, informed by extensive stakeholder consultation and a needs analysis. We are also currently negotiating with the Commonwealth to finalise a new national mental health and suicide prevention agreement and five-year bilateral arrangements for state and Commonwealth government investment in mental health.

Primary health wait times and out-of-pocket expenses have also exploded under the Morrison government. Out-of-pocket specialist costs have increased by nearly 51 per cent across Queensland since 2012-13, and out-of-pocket GP costs have increased by 33 per cent across Queensland since 2012-13. The Australian Association of Psychologists report that the Medicare rebate for psychology visits has increased by only \$2.65 since 2006. The Australian Association of Psychologists also have reported that raising the Medicare rebate will enable more psychologists to bulk-bill, enabling more clients to stay in treatment so their condition is adequately treated and allowing greater retention of psychologists in the profession.

The Palaszczuk government knows that we need to shine a light on mental health and better understand the needs and demand pressures arising from COVID but also more generally across the mental health system in Queensland. That is why the Palaszczuk government will be establishing a parliamentary inquiry into mental health services in Queensland. We are confident that our parliament can play an important role in shaping the future of our mental health services in Queensland.

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (9.57 am): Queensland's police officers and emergency services personnel have been on the front line of community safety throughout the pandemic. They have been on the borders, in the airports and in hotel quarantine helping to keep the virus out to keep the community safe and protect our economy. They have also led by example when it comes to vaccination.


Over 99 per cent of police officers are vaccinated, and now they are going to the next step. Police officers who vaccinated early are now getting their third or booster shot; in fact, just last week when I was in Mount Isa Deputy Commissioner Paul Taylor—whom you know very well, Mr Speaker—who has responsibility for police in all regional areas across Queensland, received his booster shot. It was a great example to the people of Mount Isa but also to other police officers and the broader Queensland community about our commitment to community safety.

I also acknowledge the staff and officers of Queensland Corrective Services who have stepped up and worked hard to keep COVID out of correctional facilities. It is an extraordinary effort. As the Premier has just announced, those who work in correctional facilities now will be required to be vaccinated. This is a sensible decision that will protect staff, officers and their families and the broader community. This is further strong action by the Palaszczuk government to protect vulnerable Queenslanders and to keep the community safe.

I also pay tribute to our lifesavers. A few weeks back lifesaving clubs along the Queensland coastline hosted vaccination clinics over the long weekend. This resulted in a large number of Queenslanders getting their very first COVID vaccine jab. Since then, Surf Life Saving Queensland has taken another important step to support community safety. Surf Life Saving Queensland has now mandated that all volunteers and staff over 16 years of age will have to be vaccinated by March next year. Surf Life Saving Queensland stated that it believed that this requirement is the best way to ensure the safety and wellbeing of its members and beachgoers in the ongoing fight against COVID-19. They said that the requirement would help minimise the risk of infection and the spread of infection when lifesavers conduct rescues throughout the patrolling season.

Whether it is our police, emergency services personnel, correctional staff and officers or lifesavers, they all give so much to support community safety. Through their actions and through their example, these first responders and emergency services personnel keep the community safe. Vaccination is the key to keeping the virus at bay and vaccination is the key to Queensland's strong economic recovery.


### Curragh Mine, Death

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.00 am): On Sunday, 21 November I was advised of a serious accident at Coronado's Curragh mine near Blackwater. Tragically, Mr Clark Peadon, a mineworker, passed away after being struck by a dragline propel shoe. I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences and those, I am sure, of everyone in this House to the family, friends and colleagues of Mr Peadon, as well as to his comrades at the Blackwater miners' union lodge where he was vice-president.

I would like to recognise the professionalism of the first responders from the Curragh mine, the Queensland Ambulance Service, the Queensland Police Service, industry safety and health representatives and the Queensland Mines Inspectorate who attended the site in the early hours of Sunday morning. The Queensland Mines Inspectorate has commenced its statutory investigation into the nature and cause of the incident. The impact tragedies have on our tight-knit regional communities cannot be understated. These communities must be and are at the forefront of our minds when it comes to mine safety. Any loss of life on a Queensland mine site is completely unacceptable.

I call upon the mining industry to take the lead in bringing change to ensure the safety of our workers and to invest real effort in protecting them from hazards, wherever they may arise at any time of day. Every worker must be confident of their safety on the job and of their ability to speak up about safety. The mining industry must continue to take positive steps to give workers that confidence. I will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with all resource workers to stop tragic incidents like this from occurring as any loss of life on a Queensland mine site is unacceptable.

### Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (10.01 am): I rise to update the House on the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce chaired by the Hon. Margaret McMurdo AC. I can confirm that the task force will be finalising its report today and I look forward to receiving the report from the task force chair and being briefed on its findings this Thursday. I can also advise that I will be releasing the task force report on the same day to ensure that the many hundreds of Queenslanders who have bravely shared their stories can read the recommendations of the task force.

I would also like to acknowledge the incredible work of the task force members. These are complex issues. Queensland is leading the way. We will make sure we get legislation against coercive control right to avoid any unintended consequences. I also want to acknowledge all of the victim survivors who shared their experiences with the task force. The task force received over 700 submissions, the overwhelming majority coming from women with a lived experience. These submissions are available on the task force's website, and I would encourage everyone to read through them. One woman wrote in her submission—

There were no laws of coercive control, and I couldn't explain it to the people around me so how could I explain it to the police.

I want her and all of the countless survivors who have come forward to know: we see you, we hear you and we believe you. I have heard from countless women who were victims of this insidious form of abuse but did not know how to describe what was happening to them to anyone else. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government has committed to legislating against coercive control. A big part of this work will be to educate the community on how to recognise and report coercive control.

Today is part of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence. Now in its 30th year, this is an important opportunity to raise awareness about violence against women and how together we can end it. Tonight, parliament will be lit up orange as part of the 'Orange the world' campaign. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your support. I encourage all members to use this campaign as an opportunity to raise awareness of all forms of men's violence against women.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination



**Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (10.04 am): I thank tourism industry leaders for backing Queensland's vaccination plan to unite families and reach that 80 per cent full vaccination rate that is so important to us all. They understand that it is the only pathway to recovery for tourism operators and they are getting results.

In the last month, we have seen terrific vaccination outcomes in holiday destinations. Cairns is 76 per cent fully vaccinated, up from 65 per cent at the start of November. The Gold Coast has reached parity with the state average at 76 per cent and is within striking distance of 80 per cent. Noosa, the Sunshine Coast and the Fraser Coast have already tapped 80 per cent full vaccination on their way to 90 per cent. The Whitsundays has put in a big effort this month, but with thousands of interstate visitors on their way, only 63 per cent of residents are double jabbed. The silver lining for the Whitsundays is that 84 per cent of residents have had their first dose.

I welcome today's announcement by the Premier to mandate full vaccination for airport workers, which our larger airports have called for. Reopening the border to the fully vaccinated is boosting the aviation confidence that is crucial for recovery. That is why the Palaszczuk government has committed \$10 million to attract more flights to Queensland airports. Virgin Australia has added five services, or an extra 30,000 seats, each month to deliver a 70 per cent spike in accommodation bookings on the Gold Coast alone. Rex has expanded its destination network and Bonza has a jobs bonanza ahead of next year's launch of their regular services to regional Queensland.

In another vote of confidence in Queensland's economic recovery plan, tourism investment is rebounding. Leases for three iconic Great Barrier Reef resorts have been snapped up by new domestic investors. These green shoots of tourism recovery are growing with every fully vaccinated Queenslanders.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination



**Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.06 am): Getting vaccinated is the best way to drive Queensland's economic recovery and reunite our families for Christmas. That was certainly the message at the regional forums held last week—one of which was held in Gladstone. Leaders from government, community and industry came together to reinforce the message that the vaccines are safe, effective and our best defence against COVID-19. Industry leaders in Gladstone took the opportunity to talk to our government about the way forward as we reopen our borders. We are all united in Central Queensland. The only way to stop an influx of COVID coming into our hospitals, workplaces and homes is to get the jab. We need to come together to protect our families, friends and communities.


In Central Queensland we are on the right track, but there is certainly more to do. In Gladstone the rate has jumped significantly. That is great to hear. Some 84.9 per cent of people in Gladstone have had their first dose and 69.4 per cent have now had their second dose. We cannot be complacent. COVID is on our doorstep and we know that it will search out the unvaccinated. We must continue to turn out for our first and second doses and our booster shots when they are available.

I was thrilled to visit the Rockhampton vaccination hub on Tuesday last week to announce a huge milestone—100,000 doses delivered through the Central Queensland Health and Hospital Service, for a total of 232,000 doses delivered right across the HHS, GPs and our wonderful local pharmacies in regional Queensland. This is massive for Central Queensland and it means the majority of people are coming together to protect each other, our economy and their jobs. It is clear that our community wants to do the right thing and is ignoring the fake news spread by a very vocal minority.

In Gladstone, Rio Tinto have had over 900 workers take up the opportunity to get the jab at work with onsite vaccination programs at the QAL, Yarwun and BSL operations. Even better than that, they are also inviting families to come in and get the jab with their working partners.

I am pleased to advise the House that Rio Tinto will be holding more vaccination clinics at sites over the next two weeks. The Palaszczuk government is proud to be working with industry and with businesses to make sure that Queenslanders are protected.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.09 am): The Queensland government's Check In Qld app continues to be a success, with more than five million downloads and over 752 million check-ins since its inception. Key to Queensland's economic recovery is, of course, vaccinations and, with borders set to open in just a few weeks time, mandates will be in place requiring proof of vaccination at some businesses and locations. To make it easier for businesses and Queenslanders, you can now link your COVID-19 digital vaccination certificate to the Check In Qld app. Well done, Mr Speaker. I am very pleased to see that.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** I've done mine too.


**Ms ENOCH:** Well done, Premier. This allows Queenslanders to show proof of vaccination and check in simultaneously at businesses and locations across the state. Fully vaccinated Queenslanders can now link their COVID-19 digital certificate from their Medicare Express Plus app or their MyGov website to the Check In Qld app with just a few steps.

More than 820,000 Queenslanders have now already successfully downloaded their COVID-19 vaccination certificates to the Check In Qld app—the Premier amongst them. The federal government also allows a COVID-19 vaccination certificate to be downloaded to your smartphone using your Apple Wallet or Google Pay. Alternatively, provision of a printed copy of your immunisation history statement can also be used. Being vaccinated against COVID-19 gives us the best chance of keeping our communities safe and helping us get back to doing more of the things we enjoy.

From 17 December, it will be a requirement to show proof of vaccination at a number of mandated businesses and locations including pubs and clubs, music festivals and entertainment venues. On Sunday I visited the Queensland Performing Arts Centre, where QPAC chief executive John Kotzas spoke of how the centre was ready for these changes and how linking COVID-19 digital certificates to the Check In Qld app would make it easier for them to verify vaccination information for patrons at upcoming productions such as the shake & stir theatre co.'s *A Christmas Carol*. As this production will run from 2 to 24 December, patrons will need to be fully vaccinated to experience this holiday favourite during the production's final week.

I am so pleased by the commitment of QPAC, the arts and cultural sector and of course the support of all Queenslanders who rolled up their sleeves and got vaccinated. It has also been fantastic to see businesses right across our state embrace the Check In Qld app and support our COVID-19 recovery effort. I encourage everyone to upgrade to the latest version of the Check In Qld app and download their COVID-19 vaccination certificate to get their green tick. Of course, if you have not already got your vaccination, now is the time to go and get it.

### Renewable Energy

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.11 am): Under the Palaszczuk government's leadership, renewable energy investment in this state has gone from almost nothing in 2015 to over \$10 billion today. In just six years, we have almost tripled the amount of renewable energy generation—up from seven per cent. As the year draws to a close, it is an opportunity to reflect on progress in energy.

For the year to date, renewables generation is now at 20.02 per cent of consumption. It all started with our commitment in our first term to achieve a target of 50 per cent renewable energy by 2030. We are building on our strong record with new connections this year including the 58-megawatt Kennedy Energy Park near Hughenden, the 120-megawatt Gangarri Solar Farm near Wandoan and the 26-megawatt Middlemount Sun Farm near Toowoomba. We recently surpassed the 700,000 solar

rooftops milestone—a nation-leading achievement. Thanks to the Powering Queensland Plan, Queensland is on track to meet the target with a pipeline of 2,900 megawatts of renewable projects underway or committed. Our forthcoming energy plan will further chart our course to being a renewable energy superpower.


Today I announce that Queenslanders can now track month to month how we are progressing towards achieving the Queensland renewable energy target. You can now go online and explore where renewables projects are located via an interactive map. Today I can also announce that Queensland has moved ahead of Victoria, Western Australia and the Northern Territory in the WWF's second renewable energy scorecard—a report that spotlights the best renewable energy policies and initiatives from around nation.

In a report tabled last week, the Auditor-General noted the Palaszczuk government's energy plan will communicate our vision for the transformation of the energy system, as well as noted lower prices are due to this government's success in delivering more renewables. I can inform the House that the Department of Energy and Public Works is implementing all of the Auditor-General's recommendations.

Last Wednesday, our progress was further confirmed when Australia's Energy Market Commission announced that Queensland power prices are forecast to decrease by \$126. Now, Queenslanders are forecast to enjoy the lowest power prices in the National Electricity Market at a decade low, with the cost of electricity set to decrease to rates lower than 2010-11. That means more renewables, cheaper prices and more money in the pockets of families and businesses, boosting Queensland's economic recovery.

## REPORT


### Auditor-General

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, in late-breaking Speaker's statements which may or may not have been hidden behind other statements, I have to report that I have received from the Auditor-General *Report 6: 2021-22—Regulating animal welfare services*. I table the report for the information of members.

*Tabled paper:* Auditor-General Report 6: 2021-22—Regulating animal welfare services [\[2013\]](#).

## PRIVILEGE


### Speaker's Rulings, Various Matters

 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 26 November 2021, I tabled four rulings regarding matters of privilege: a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Capalaba alleging that the Leader of the Opposition breached the Queensland parliament broadcast terms and conditions on 18 November 2021; a ruling relating to a complaint by the Manager of Opposition Business alleging that the Leader of the House deliberately misled the House in response to questions asked during question time on 26 and 27 October 2021; a ruling relating to complaints by the members for Moggill, Glass House, Mudgeeraba, Surfers Paradise and Burleigh alleging that the member for Bancroft deliberately misled the House on 13 October 2021; and a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Mudgeeraba alleging that the Treasurer misled the House in response to a question asked during question time on 14 October 2021.

I rule that in all four matters it did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to all four matters so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of those matters under the standing orders they should do so immediately, identifying the matter they wish to speak to.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT


### 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 Toolooa State High School in the electorate of Gladstone and The Hall State School in the electorate of Rockhampton.



## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Office of the Information Commissioner, Report

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (10.16 am): As chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I lay upon the table report No. 1 to the Queensland Legislative Assembly for 2021-22 from the Office of the Information Commissioner Queensland titled *Compliance audit—Sunshine Coast Regional Council: Sunshine Coast Regional Council's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld)*.


*Tabled paper:* Information Commissioner Report 1: 2021-22—Compliance audit—Sunshine Coast Regional Council: Sunshine Coast Regional Council's compliance with the Right to Information Act 2009 (Qld) and the Information Privacy Act 2009 (Qld) [2014].

The report reviews compliance with the legislation and guidelines that give effect to the right to information and information privacy and makes recommendations for improving the council's compliance. I table the report in accordance with the requirement in section 184(5) of the Right to Information Act 2009 and section 193(5) of the Information Privacy Act 2009. I commend the report to the House.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.17 am.

### Coronavirus, Testing

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.17 am): My question is to the Premier. In March 2020, the Premier signed a national agreement to share the cost of PCR testing. After a week of chaos, where stranded Queenslanders were told they would foot the bill, the health and tourism ministers said sorry. Will the Premier now apologise for adding further anxiety to Queenslanders who just want to come home?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. This issue has been addressed at length and the matter has been sorted.

### Coronavirus, Comments by Premier and Minister for the Olympics

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. During a chaotic week the Premier said the federal government wants to give Queenslanders COVID for Christmas. Does the Premier stand by this statement?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. I say to the Leader of the Opposition: I want Queenslanders to be safe this Christmas. That is my absolute focus—to look after people in this state and make sure they are safe. As we know, there is a real threat globally with a new variant that has been announced. I have said very clearly that I look forward to the discussions today at national cabinet to hear more about this variant.

It is our intention to continue to unite families in the lead-up to Christmas but, as I have said time and time again, it needs to be done in a measured way. That is why in Queensland we still have 14 days mandatory hotel quarantine for international travellers. Today I want to hear how many international travellers have come into New South Wales and Victoria from those hotspots who are now travelling around the communities. These are very serious issues. As we said today, I have made it very clear that we are now making vaccination mandatory for workers in key settings where there are vulnerable people. On that side of the House there is silence when it comes to mandatory vaccination.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to two points of order: firstly, standing order 118(b), relevance. The Premier was asked a very specific question about a statement she made and whether she stands by it. My second point of order is under 118(a), debating the point. I ask that the Premier be drawn back to the very specific question about her statement and whether she stands by the Prime Minister wanting to give Queenslanders COVID for Christmas.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I agree that the question was fairly direct and distinct points were mentioned. It could also be argued that the question asked was seeking an opinion, even if it was about the Premier's own statement, so I will allow the Premier to continue.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is why I want Queenslanders to be safe. That is why this government is building a quarantine facility at Wellcamp. That is why we are committed to doing that to make sure Queenslanders are safe. We heard the comments when we were condemned for doing that. They said

we would not need it; it would be a white elephant. Now people are coming out and saying that there needs to be national quarantine facilities right across the nation. I stand by these comments. We do need to make sure—

**Opposition members:** Oh!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I stand by the comments—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—on mandatory quarantine facilities—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier! I have called the House to order. I have tried to give you some guidance. Members to my left, a point of order was raised asking for the question to be answered. The question has been answered yet it seemed to draw your ire. I ask that we hear the answer being provided by the Premier. Premier, you have 43 seconds left. Do you have anything further to add relevant to the question?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Absolutely. Those opposite called for our borders to be opened 64 times. We would have had a wave of COVID in Queensland if Queenslanders had listened to anyone on that side.

**Dr Miles:** They wanted COVID last Christmas!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take the Deputy Premier's interjection. On this side of the House we will stand up for Queensland families, we will stand up for the Queensland community and the Queensland—

*(Time expired)*

### **Regional Queensland, Coronavirus Vaccination**

**Mrs GILBERT:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for Trade. Will the Premier update the House on how Queensland's vaccination rollout is progressing in the regions, and is the Premier aware of any alternative views?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mackay for the question. We know how important it is for Queenslanders to get vaccinated to help prevent them from getting COVID. It is a pretty simple equation that those opposite do not seem to understand. Despite members—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—of the party opposite who do not support mandatory vaccination, Mackay has come out in droves to get vaccinated. The member for Mackay should rightly be proud of those members of the public. It is not a laughing matter, Leader of the Opposition: vaccinations are important. Those opposite want to trivialise it. Queenslanders are marching out to get vaccinated because they want to keep their communities safe in time for Christmas.

**Ms Grace:** They are the ones we are supporting.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. In Mackay first-dose vaccinations are absolutely terrific. I am so proud: they are at 89.1 per cent. There has been a 4.2 per cent increase on the previous week for double-dose vaccinations. Since 24 October the Mackay region's single-dose vaccination rate has increased by 21.2 per cent, and that is despite George Christensen trying to talk down our vaccination program. Mackay residents have voted with their feet, and they have come out to support the vaccination program.

Across regional Queensland we are seeing similar results. In north-west Queensland I am proud to say there has been a 3.2 per cent increase in single-dose vaccinations; they are now at 77.3 per cent. In Townsville there has been another two per cent increase, to 85.2 per cent. In Central Queensland there has been a 2.6 per cent increase, to 83.1 per cent. This is fantastic news. Wide Bay is at 88.6 per cent, up 2.2 per cent. Darling Downs and Maranoa are at 89.2 per cent first dose, up 1.8 per cent, and south-west Queensland is at 87.3 per cent.

I say to the Leader of the Opposition and those opposite that Queenslanders support getting vaccinated. Why do they support getting vaccinated? It is because they do not want their families to get COVID. Those opposite may want to undermine our vaccination program, but Queenslanders will stand

strong and united because there is nothing more important than protecting our families. That is what drives this government; that is what drives me. It is about time those opposite got on board and supported us.

### Sexual Harassment

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Premier. When announcing the appointment of a gender and equity officer the Premier said, 'Sexual harassment is a big issue. Sexual harassment needs to be addressed.' Will the Premier act to address sexual harassment and overrule Queensland Health's decision to allow a senior bureaucrat to return to work after being found to publicly rate women on their sexual desirability?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I am not aware of that issue. I am happy to look into it.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left! I will wait for silence, members.

### Far North Queensland, Coronavirus Vaccination

**Mr HEALY:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on the state's vaccination rollout and economic recovery plan for Far North Queensland?

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Leader of the Opposition!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** So rude!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, resume your seat. Leader of the Opposition, I believe that you are directing your comments to those on the other side. I warn you under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Cairns for that very important question. What I do know is that people in Cairns are coming out and getting vaccinated. We have seen a two per cent increase in the Cairns community: 87 per cent of people in the Cairns region are now vaccinated, which is terrific. We know that Cairns and the tropical Far North are domestic tourism destinations, and we need to make sure that vaccination rates increase even more. I want to see Cairns well over 90 per cent, and they are on the way to doing that. Because we have had a strong health response the economic recovery has been able to continue in Cairns.

I want to thank Minister Crawford, the member for Cook and the member for Cairns for joining me last week in the rain to open the Smithfield bypass—an election commitment of this Labor government—\$164 million well spent. It just goes to show that construction and work were able to continue on that program because of our strong health response.

In other parts of the world and other parts of the country industry has been shut down, but not in Queensland. I am so proud of what Queenslanders are doing. I am so heartened to see these vaccination rates. A month ago I was really concerned, but Queenslanders are coming out and doing the right thing. They are wanting to do this and they are making us all proud.

Already, the Smithfield bypass means that it is taking less than five minutes to get from Trinity Beach to the Caravonica turn-off. To get from Trinity Beach to the airport turn-off, it is now taking just 13 minutes in the morning—a trip which used to take up to 25 minutes. Of course there was local content utilised and there were local workers utilised. I also want to thank the organisers for that terrific opening. It would have been nice if the rain had stayed away a bit longer. I thank the Minister for Transport for dropping his umbrella and all the water over my back. I will remember that! We are investing in transport and infrastructure. Our strong economic recovery is still happening right across this state.

### Health System

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Since this government came to power, ambulance ramping, surgical wait lists and ED times have all blown out. Now it has been confirmed that over \$400 million has been cut from hospitals over three years. Will the minister concede that the government's frontline cuts and mismanagement have fuelled the Queensland Health crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I wondered if they were going to walk into this chamber and make that claim of a \$400 million cut. Clearly they have, so I will be writing to you about that, Mr Speaker, not surprisingly. The Treasurer has clearly outlined that there is not a \$400 million cut to the HHS, but, as we know, the

opposition are not very agile when it comes to this. They think, 'We've already got the question written. What do we do? Should we ask it? Should we not ask it? We'll ask it anyway.' Well done for throwing the member for Toowoomba South under the bus.

We certainly refute the allegations made. Those on the other side actually know that we have seen improvements since we put in the additional funding under Care4Qld. We have seen improvements in relation to patient off-stretcher time and lost time. We will continue to invest in those areas.

This question is from an opposition whose leader actually said when they were in government that their cuts would not impact on frontline services and, 'Whilst you have to feel for those involved, you have to live within your means.' That is what they said of the \$1.6 billion cut to health—that you have to live within your means, but you have to feel for those involved though. How considerate of the Leader of the Opposition! They come in here talking about alleged cuts when we have funded over \$22 billion and every single hospital and health service has seen an increase in their funding in this year's budget—no cuts to their funding, no cuts to their staff.

We do not have to go back to 2012. We just need to go back to the last election. Their promise at the last election of extra staff would have seen fewer health workers going into the health system, including paramedics, over the four-year term than what Labor is delivering. The health system would be worse off under a Liberal government, not to mention how they would have handled COVID. We know what that would have meant. It would have meant that we would have had this virus into this state not this Christmas but last Christmas. It would have been spreading through the community, thousands of people would be infected and, sadly, there would have been loss of life. I am very proud of what the Palaszczuk government is doing to invest in our health system in Queensland.

### **Coronavirus, Prevention**

**Ms KING:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline to the House what the Palaszczuk government is doing to protect our community from new variants of COVID-19 and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. I know she is concerned for the vulnerable members of her community, particularly on Bribie Island, and what this new strain might mean for them. We now know that the federal government are also concerned about what this strain might mean. They have reintroduced government managed quarantine for arrivals from key countries. That is a sensible approach, but it underlines how we need dedicated quarantining facilities. Hotels have been important, but they also have weaknesses and we need to purpose them back to being hotels.

Throughout this pandemic, being prepared has served us well—whether that was all of the ventilators we bought or whether it was the stockpile of PPE—and next year we will have our own purpose-built, dedicated quarantine facility. It leaves some of those opposite with egg on their face. Some of them said that it would be a waste of money building a facility like this. One of the Toowoomba members called it just doodles and drawings. Another one said it was dead and buried and would never be built. Well, it is nearly built and it is dearly needed.

I went for a look to see what the Leader of the Opposition had to say about it and whether he was for or against it. All I could find were weasel words—just as he has never been able to say if he is for or against the borders, how he has never been able to condemn those anti-vax fake unions, how he has never condemned the anti-vax marches, how he cannot even bring himself to say the word 'mandate'. In fact, this morning he could not even say if he thought members of parliament should be vaccinated. Well, members of parliament are leaders of their community, and the Leader of the Opposition should be enough of a leader to say that community leaders should be vaccinated.

We can see those on the backbench over there wishing they had more of a leader, but instead they are stuck with this weak man, with barely a shadow of a shadow. He is too scared to say anything about anything—whether that is quarantine facilities, whether that is mandated vaccinations, whether that is our borders. Queenslanders want leadership on these issues—on quarantine, on vaccinations, on borders, on mandates. On this side of the House, they have that leadership. On that side, they have nothing.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I ask the Deputy Premier to withdraw a statement particularly relating to weakness of a man individually.

**Dr MILES:** I withdraw.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members, I wish to give clarity. You can suggest that an idea or a policy is weak, but I will not allow those comments to be directed at members in this chamber.

### **Mental Health Services**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the crisis involving Queensland's mental health system and the announcement this morning that the government will conduct a review. With our mental health funding amongst the worst in the country, our hospitals in crisis and Queenslanders stuck across the border—

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I am going to start again, Mr Speaker, if I may. I was rudely interrupted.

**Government members:** Oh!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my right! Member for Kawana, I did not hear an interruption. You may have, and I understand that, but please continue your question.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. With our mental health funding sitting amongst the worst in the country, our hospitals in crisis and Queenslanders stuck across the border, causing mental health issues, why does the Palaszczuk government only take action in a moment of crisis and when the issue hits the media?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Buderim, you are warned under the standing orders. Members, I have made myself clear. If the question has been asked and the minister has just risen to their feet and there are interjections, I will be harsh on those interjecting.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order on whether or not that question contained an opinion.

**Mr SPEAKER:** No, it did not.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. As I clearly outlined this morning, we believe it is appropriate to have an inquiry into our mental health system, not only the state mental health system but also the whole public and private health system. We know that there are a lot of market failures in the private sector that are pushing people into our public hospital system.

**Opposition members:** Oh!

**Mrs D'ATH:** Here we go: 'Oh, don't look over there. Don't talk about the federal government. Don't talk about their responsibility. Oh, we would not want to do that!'

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Kawana and the member for Gregory will cease their interjections.

**Mrs D'ATH:** As I said in my ministerial statement, there is a bilateral agreement and a national partnership agreement being negotiated with the Commonwealth right now. The health ministers have written collectively to the Commonwealth about mental health and needing urgent investment right now because of the extra pressures we are seeing because of COVID. We are seeing an increase, particularly in adolescent mental health. We are seeing an increase in eating disorders particularly among our young people. That is very concerning. We are seeing this nationally, but we are wanting extra funding and support right now while we work on that longer term plan in mental health.

However, we are also very proud of the investment we are making. We are very proud that it was the Palaszczuk government that built Jacaranda Place, the new 12-bed statewide extended treatment and rehabilitation service for adolescents with severe and complex mental health needs. Those opposite say, 'Oh, you only do this in crisis,' but those opposite created a crisis. They created a crisis when they closed down the Barrett centre and they still have not apologised for that. The credibility of those on the other side who talk about investment in health—

**Mr Brown:** They cut it.

**Mrs D'ATH:** They cut it—I take that interjection from the member for Capalaba. They cut it, while we are investing in mental health beds. We are investing in community infrastructure. We are investing in supporting our hospitals and our paramedics with the Queensland Ambulance Service with the co-responder model to support mental health. We know that there is more work to be done. That is why we are establishing the parliamentary committee. We know that this will help with the overall demand in relation to bed capacity, ramping and everything else because of the increase we are seeing in this space. We do not shy away from that demand and those needs. That is why we have announced this inquiry today.

### **Coronavirus, Economy**

**Ms BOYD:** My question is to the Treasurer and the Minister for Investment. Will the Treasurer please update the House on the obstacles Queensland faces on our path to economic recovery from COVID?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Pine Rivers for her question. She is a strong supporter of vaccination in this state, along with every member on this side of the House. Throughout the pandemic our state has learnt time and time again that our vigilance against COVID must be unwavering. As we saw in Sydney earlier this year, a single uncontained case can result in months of lockdowns, billions of dollars of lost economic activity, soaring budget deficits and, most tragically of all, the loss of hundreds of lives. Today Queensland's discipline and vigilance have put us in the box seat for economic recovery, but we cannot rest and our government will not rest.

We are watching intently to see what the new Omicron strain means for Queensland. In the meantime, we will continue to work as hard as we can to get as many Queenslanders as possible vaccinated. We know being fully vaccinated is the safest way for all of us to fully ensure we retain the freedoms we have fought so hard for during this pandemic. That is why it is the fully vaccinated who will be able to go to pubs, club, galleries and concerts. That is a policy we stand behind, no matter the opposition.

We know that members of the LNP in this state dangerously and recklessly seek to undermine that plan for vaccination at every turn. We have seen it from federal MPs like Phil Thompson in Townsville, George Christensen in Mackay, and senators like Matt Canavan and Gerard Rennick who allegedly represent this state in the national parliament.

What are we seeing from those members opposite? From the Leader of the Opposition, even this morning on 4BC, we had the 'something, something, something'. 'We have asked questions,' he said. Isn't that a demonstration of leadership? 'We have asked some questions.' The Leader of the Opposition also seeks to channel his hero, Donald Trump, talking about people on 'both extremes'. Both extremes? If the member wants to talk about 'both' sides, there are two sides: there are those who are vaccinated and support those who are vaccinated, like our government, and there are the extremists that the current Leader of the Opposition seeks to encourage and endorse.

The Leader of the Opposition cannot bring himself to say that our government's plan on vaccination protects Queensland lives, protects Queensland family and small businesses and protects Queensland jobs. What is more, this is exactly what is happening on the other side of the border in New South Wales. Just ask Bob Katter Senior, who was excluded from a pub in Tamworth because he could not show proof of vaccination. There is one thing sure and certain about the Leader of the Opposition: on the most critical issue of our time—vaccination—his words mean nothing.

### **Coronavirus, Health System**

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. I refer to the Premier's comments that 'we are not ready for COVID'. The government declared a public health emergency on 29 January 2020. If our hospitals are not ready, what has the minister been doing for the past 671 days other than cutting \$400 million from our hospitals?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for the question. What I have not been doing for the last 671 days is undermining our health response to COVID. I have not been calling for the borders to be opened 64 times; that is what I have not been doing over the past 671 days. I have been calling out those who are anti-vaxxers, the fake unions—

**Ms Bates** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Mudgeeraba will cease her interjections.

**Mrs D'ATH:** We have been preparing. I do want to take issue with the member's question, in her verballing the Premier, in relation to our preparation in our health system. I am happy for those opposite to provide the whole quote, the whole transcript of whatever they are quoting from—we know they like to be very selective—but the fact is that we have been preparing. In fact, we were the first in the country to announce a health declaration, while those on the other side said we were overreacting. That is what we were accused of—overreacting. 'That thing called COVID, come on! What is it? It can't be that bad, surely.'

Since March 2020, Queensland Health has continued to undertake extensive planning and preparation work for the significant increase of COVID cases. We have been very fortunate—not lucky, fortunate—and that is because of leadership from our Premier and leadership from our Chief Health Officer and our health officers to get us to where we are. We have managed to avoid our hospital system being overrun with COVID cases for almost two years now.

Our planning has included expansion of emergency department and ICU capacity, purchase of additional PPE and ventilators and extensive planning for Hospital in the Home. It is not just our public hospital system; we are working with the Royal Australian College of GPs and the AMA as well, who will be partnering with us. Our local GPs will be partnering with us to support people who will have Hospital in the Home support when those cases come.

Our strong COVID response means that we will also have the majority of the population vaccinated when we have to start living with this virus. This is so important when we have a new variant coming. Remember, New South Wales were only four per cent vaccinated when their outbreak started in June. Melbourne, Victoria was only 20 per cent vaccinated. We are over 80 per cent first dose. We will get to 80 per cent double dose and we will get to 90 per cent double dose. We are in the best position to prepare for this virus coming.

*(Time expired)*

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise how the Palaszczuk government is supporting school communities to be protected against COVID-19 prior to the borders being open and are there any impediments to this plan?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Mansfield for her question. As an excellent former high school principal, she knows how important it is to keep our school students safe. I know that she will join the Premier and me today in our announcement to mandate vaccination, joining every other mainland state and territory in Australia, to ensure that we keep our students safe when they return in 2022. All staff and education providers across both the government and the non-government sector will be required to undertake mandatory vaccination before the start of the new year.

I thank schools for the role that they have played in opening their gates and hosting hundreds of vaccination centres over the weekends. They have linked with the Department of Health to provide some of the most accessible vaccination hubs to date. It has been very successful, with tens of thousands of people coming in. The best part is that most of them had received their first dose, which is excellent.

When we talk about impediments, the only impediment to reaching our vaccination target that I can find are the elected representatives from the Queensland LNP. They cannot bring themselves to say the word 'vaccination'. In fact, those opposite are almost willing us to not get to the 80 or 90 per cent vaccination rate. They cannot answer simple questions about mandates. They cannot support the doublespeak from the Leader of the Opposition and the shadow health minister about supporting mandatory vaccination of health workers. I hope that we can get them to support mandatory vaccination of our education staff and volunteers that we have announced here today, but I am not holding my breath.

There was chaos in federal parliament last week with Queensland LNP senators Canavan and Rennick and lower house member George Christensen crossing the floor, all trying to get the crumbs of the votes from those anti-vaxxers siding with One Nation—even voting against their own government. I mean, you could not write this if you wanted to, in relation to not supporting those who are taking that step and getting vaccinated in this state.

We hear doublespeak from the Leader of the Opposition in this state. We hear doublespeak from the Prime Minister as well. The only impediment to us reaching our goal in Queensland is the manner in which LNP members, at both the federal and state levels of government, are conducting themselves. They should be ashamed.

### Coronavirus, Health System

**Mr PURDIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health. In October, the Minister for Health said that the Queensland hospital system could cope with COVID. Last week, the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society and AMAQ said that Queensland has inadequate ICU capacity and will not cope. Who is right: the minister or the health professionals holding our hospitals together in a crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. As I said in my previous answer, we have been preparing since 2020 for this virus to come into our communities and, sadly, into our hospitals. We are in the best position, compared to every other jurisdiction on the east coast of Australia, for when this virus comes because of the vaccination rates we have now.

We are confident that system-wide we are going to be able to manage, but it will put a whole system under stress. Let us not underestimate that: the system will be under stress. Decisions will need to be made about the suspension of surgeries and the reallocation of staff to manage workloads because it is not going to happen uniformly across the state. We know that the areas of the state with the lower vaccination rates will be impacted the most. Many of those are regional areas, with smaller hospitals and ICU capacity. The health workers know the stress that is coming.

We are doing everything we can to be as prepared as we can, including being able to manage people in the home when they are asymptomatic or have mild symptoms, but I am still concerned about the consequences of this virus moving into our community because of our vaccination rates. It will still put extreme pressure on our health workers. We owe it to our health workers—if for no other reason than that—to get vaccinated. They are the ones who are going to be holding the hands of loved ones who are isolated from everyone else; who are going to have to put people on ventilators; who are going to see people pass away in front of them, not with their loved ones, and pass on last messages over the phone, if they are fortunate enough to do that.

We have invested and continue to invest in additional beds. A total of 600 beds could be operational straightaway if the Commonwealth would step up in terms of aged care and disability.

**Ms Simpson** interjected.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Maroochydore and Treasurer, please cease your interjections.

**Mrs D'ATH:** These are really serious issues, but those on the other side have done nothing but undermine our response on COVID and our rollout of vaccination throughout the entire process. If they wanted to help, they would be standing up and backing in vaccination. That is what they should be doing. They should back in our health workers. They will not use the word 'mandatory'; they cannot quite get that word out of their mouths. That is because there are some on that side who do not agree with that. We are as prepared as we can be. We will continue to work with the health sector to ensure we can manage the virus.

### Coronavirus, Vaccination

**Ms PEASE:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is raising Queensland's vaccination rates and any alternative views?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. It is great because I can now continue on from what I was just discussing. This is more important than ever. There is breaking news that there is a new case in New South Wales of the Omicron variant. This person has been in the community. This is the first case we have seen where the person has been in the community and has attended a number of venues in New South Wales.

Honourable members should remember that there have been over 170,000 cases and over 500 deaths from one case of Delta that started on 16 June, and today is the first case of Omicron in the community in New South Wales. We do not know where that is going to lead, but we know where it can lead because right now we are living with the example of what happened in New South Wales from that one case of Delta. What we do know is that Omicron is more infectious. We are still to find out how dangerous it is and how sick it makes people; however, we know that it is more infectious, which means it can spread even quicker, so the message is: get vaccinated.

The opposition leader needs to stand up and categorically back in our mandatory vaccination for businesses that takes effect on 17 December—no ifs, no buts or, 'Oh, I'm asking questions. Oh, I'm not sure. Oh, there's two extremes.' That was an extraordinary comment by the Leader of the Opposition:



'We have people at both extremes and what is needed is a dose of reality in the middle.' This was after being specifically asked about mandatory vaccines. If in answer to the question 'Do you support the mandatory vaccination?' the Leader of the Opposition says, 'We have people at both extremes,' he is saying that he thinks mandatory vaccination is one of those extremes, even though it has led to a significant uptake in the rate of vaccination in this state.

Every single day that thousands of people come out and get vaccinated means thousands more people who hopefully will not get infected, will not end up in our hospitals, will not end up in ICU and will not end up dying. That goes for every single day that more people come out and get vaccinated. However, the Leader of the Opposition shows no leadership whatsoever because he cannot bring himself to back in mandatory anything when it comes to vaccination, because he is beholden to what is happening in those back rows of his party.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question without notice is to the Premier. Hundreds of thousands of Queenslanders, regardless of vaccination status, location or demographic, are standing united in opposition to mandates that segregate. Will the Premier stand shoulder to shoulder with these Queenslanders and reassess those mandates they genuinely see as morally and ethically wrong, are untenable for our small businesses and create divisions within our communities and families?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for her question and the answer is no. We on this side of the House stand for vaccines; we stand for the strong public health measures and the stance we have had to take to keep Queenslanders safe.

I can advise the member that in Noosa currently 91.4 per cent have had their first dose—so the member's community supports vaccination—and double dose is 81.6 per cent. The member knows that her electorate is a tourist destination. We also now know that this is the pandemic of the unvaccinated. If Delta is to come into Noosa, which it eventually will, it will hunt out the unvaccinated, so these are measures that are put in place to keep Queenslanders safe.

As the health minister said, I am very concerned that there is a community case of Omicron circulating in New South Wales. I am very much looking forward to hearing the briefing from the Chief Health Officer and the Prime Minister later on this afternoon. This is very worrying. It is very worrying about what we do not know about this variant. The fact that countries have closed their borders indicates to me that it is far more serious than Delta. We will be taking that advice this afternoon and I am quite sure the Prime Minister will be updating the nation following that national cabinet meeting.

My message to Queenslanders is that they need to get vaccinated. Those rates in Noosa are the levels that we want to see right across the state, and those levels are being driven up. As we have announced in terms of mandating the workforces in schools and early childhood centres, I am encouraged by the positive comments already coming in from families thanking us for protecting the most vulnerable in the community. Parents of children with a disability are saying that this is the right course of action. At the moment children cannot be vaccinated. There are tests being done—clinical trials—in the US, and we will be watching that very carefully, but parents have concerns. They are concerned and now we are making it mandatory for the new year to make sure that the vulnerable people in our community are protected. That is our children and it is also those children with a disability—highly vulnerable populations. We stand strong on the decisions that we are making.

*(Time expired)*

### **Maritime Safety, Superyachts**

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister update the House on how Maritime Safety Queensland is keeping waters safe on the Gold Coast due to the increasing number of superyachts?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the member for Macalister for her interest in maritime safety. Since the pandemic started we have seen a big increase in the level of boat ownership in Queensland, including superyachts. I am very happy to report to the chamber that Maritime Safety Queensland has allocated \$50,000 for the metocean sensor which will make it easier for superyachts to manoeuvre in the Gold Coast Broadwater—a good initiative from Maritime Safety Queensland. The *Australia* superyacht has been spotted at the Broadwater and is owned by Clive Palmer. We know he loves having the LNP hierarchy on his superyacht for parties on election night, and he has a bigger superyacht so he will be

able to have a bigger party this time! We have recently seen the bromance between Campbell Newman and Clive Palmer—perhaps the only mandate the two of them believe in. We have a preference deal between Palmer and Campbell Newman—birds of a feather, you would have to say.

You would have to wonder who is going to be at the party on the superyacht, because there is no shortage of anti-vax LNP federal MPs such as Matt Canavan, Gerard Rennick and George Christensen all going against their party and crossing the floor in federal parliament but not hauled into the Prime Minister's office like the member from Tasmania—wrong gender. If you are a bloke, you get treated differently. If you are a woman in the LNP, you get a totally different level of treatment.

If you are going to have a party on the superyacht and run it like they ran their anti-vax policy, you would have no life jackets, you would have no dinghy and you would have no social distancing. Forget the superyacht operator manual; just google it and choose whichever one you like! I say: thank God for Maritime Safety Queensland.

Who would be invited? Perhaps it would be the member for Mudgeeraba, a member of the anti-vax union. She would be very welcome on the yacht. Why is the superyacht in Broadwater? Obviously it must be to be close to the Leader of the Opposition's electorate. We know he called Campbell Newman 'someone special'. He would be a key person to invite, but it is time for the Leader of the Opposition to stand up for Queenslanders' health and not be a pretend leader, a faux leader, a little Newman, a lapdog for Canberra—that is what he is doing; he never stands up for Queensland—or a son of Morrison but to stand up for Queensland and come out and support the vaccine mandates that save people's lives. That is what a real leader looks like.

### Health System

**Mr BENNETT:** My question is to the Minister for Health. In Bundaberg it takes patients more than eight weeks to get a breast cancer scan because there is no permanent radiographer employed at the Queensland Health facility. Does the minister accept that the \$400 million cut during the Queensland Health crisis fails the people of the Wide Bay?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. As I said, there is no \$400 million cut. I will be writing to you in relation to that question, Mr Speaker.

### Agriculture Industry, Coronavirus Vaccination

**Mr WHITING:** Mr Speaker—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Great Odin's Raven! That really has grown in!

**Mr WHITING:** Stayin' classy, Queensland!

**Mr SPEAKER:** Sixty per cent of the time it works every time.

**Mr WHITING:** The joke never tires. My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister advise how the agriculture sector is responding to the push to get Queenslanders vaccinated for COVID-19?

**Mr FURNER:** I thank the member for Bancroft for his question and support his ongoing achievements in getting his electorate vaccinated. Like all members of this cabinet, over the last several weeks I have been going around the regions of Queensland making sure that people are getting vaccinated. That is one thing we do in the Palaszczuk government—one thing we are committed to and will continue doing. I am double vaccinated and I say to all Queenslanders that they should aspire to that goal as well.

Within the agriculture sector, there is an understanding that vaccinations are necessary and essential. For example, the tick fever vaccination is essential to limiting the impacts of that pest but, like ticks, the worst pest is often in politics. While there is no barrier for anyone in a leadership position to encourage vaccination of Queenslanders, it is really disgraceful that any opposition frontbencher cannot clearly say, 'Get vaccinated.' This was highlighted on 4BC radio when the LNP's health spokesperson was asked three times whether she supported the mandate for health workers' vaccinations and three times she refused to do so. Even worse, the false organisation that the member belongs to has had signs reportedly at anti-vaccination gatherings. This is a false organisation pretending to be a union that on its website makes it clear that if one wants to see the rules of the organisation one has to go to level 2 of a specific building to access that document. It is a Vogon level of making the information difficult to access.

As someone who was involved in the union movement for many years as the secretary of a union, I support members getting vaccinated. The association to which the member belongs is not a union. It is an organisation that all rational Queenslanders should steer clear of. It clearly does not have the interests of its members at heart.

When I speak to people in meatworks, whether that be in Brisbane, on the Darling Downs, in the Lockyer Valley or in Wide Bay, I am pleased to hear them say that their workers are 100 per cent Q fever vaccinated, another example of a requirement to be vaccinated in these workplaces. Their COVID-19 vaccination levels are climbing. They are aiming for 100 per cent. Woolworths have announced their expectations for vaccines and I congratulate them on their efforts. As Queenslanders we should do everything in our power to support everyone getting vaccinated. By being vaccinated we help ourselves, we help our community, we help the economy and we help the people who live in communities right across Queensland.

### **Specialist Outpatient Waiting List**

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. In July there were 230,000 patients on the specialist outpatient waiting list. In the last quarter alone an extra 15,000 people were added, a rise of seven per cent. Is this further proof a \$400 million cut during the Queensland Health crisis fails these patients?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am very proud of the work that our health workers are doing in our hospitals. It has been an extremely difficult couple of years trying to manage elective surgery. The nationally agreed suspension of elective surgery last year, endorsed by the national cabinet, led to a backlog of surgery. Our health workers have done an incredible job to catch up on that work, but, of course, we have had additional lockdowns and outbreaks that have impacted on hospitals as well as hospital staff and have led to further pressures on elective surgeries.

Despite all that, between 1 June 2020 and 1 July this year we had an 87 per cent reduction in elective surgery long waits from 5,166 down to 629. In the 2020-21 period 148,273 people underwent elective surgery in Queensland public hospitals, an increase of 15,175 or 11.4 per cent, despite the pressures and demands on our health system. Despite COVID and the disruptions, performance returned to pre-COVID levels in 2020-21, with 88 per cent of those Queenslanders referred to a public hospital for an elective surgery treated within clinically recommended times, including 94 per cent of patients in category 1. In June 2020, 76.9 per cent of Queenslanders received elective surgery within the clinically recommended time. In June this year it was 90.7 per cent. On 1 July this year the list of those waiting clinically longer than recommended for an elective surgery was 629, an 87 per cent decline on the peak of 5,166 in May last year.

In 2016 we launched our Specialist Outpatient Strategy, an investment of over \$6 million to address long waits. The long wait list has fallen by almost 31 per cent. The list now stands at approximately 71,000, well down from the 104,000 left by the Newman government. In two years the long wait list has fallen from 21,986 under the LNP to 892 as at 1 July this year, a decrease of 96 per cent. In four years the long wait list has fallen from 5,130 to zero. In 2020-21, 499,400 Queenslanders received their first specialist outpatient appointment, an increase of 41,191 on the previous year. That is the answer to the member's question.

### **Central Queensland, Economy**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister update the House on the outcome of the recent Central Queensland regional community forum and how Central Queensland can remain an economic powerhouse?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. Thanks to the Premier's regional community forums initiative, I joined the Minister for Education and the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water in Central Queensland. We know that region is an economic powerhouse. As members on this side of the House can attest, a healthy Central Queensland economy means a healthy Queensland economy. At the forum the message from workers, business and community leaders was clear: get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated will keep Rocky's beef industry thriving and healthy, getting vaccinated will keep Gladstone's gas exports pumping and healthy and getting vaccinated will keep our renewables and green hydrogen industry moving forward, growing and healthy. Central Queensland's vaccination rates are on the up and up, now at 68 per cent double dosed. We know that Central Queenslanders can and will get the job done.

While this region, critical to Queensland's economic health, is get vaccinated against COVID-19, there is another insidious disease threatening Central Queensland. It is the LNP disease. The symptoms are severe. It starts out as an irritation, a ringing in the ears, a senseless noise. It has been found in Rockhampton with at least one carrier, Senator Matt Canavan, deep in the grip of the nonsense it spreads. Symptoms include shedding misinformation and panic in resource communities. It has been identified in Callide where one sufferer has been showing symptoms of a debilitating blindness to the reality of climate change. It has even popped up in Dawson where reported symptoms have included sudden outbursts of conspiracy theory and unintelligible ramblings. Most concerning is the identification of a super spreader, identified down south in the shire around Cronulla. This carrier, struck down by the LNP disease, displays its worst symptom: he is simply unable to tell the truth. From one day to the next he cannot even remember the stories he has made up. Worse still, he is so gripped by the LNP disease he spends his time spreading these stories trying to fool innocent Australians into joining his delusions: his delusions on jobs, on climate—on just about anything.

But there is good news. A cure has been found. Just as vaccination will save Central Queensland from COVID-19, Queenslanders can rid the nation of the LNP disease. They can give Morrison their very own jab at the ballot box this May.

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

## MOTION

### Business Program



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.17 am): I move—

1. That the following bills will be considered during this week's sitting:
  - (a) the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill, and
  - (b) the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.
2. If any bill listed in 1. has not completed all stages by 5.15 pm on Thursday, 2 December 2021, Mr Speaker:
  - (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
  - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to pass the bill without further debate
  - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
  - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.

The motion before the House is straightforward. It contains two bills to be completed by 5.15 pm on Thursday this week. These bills are the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill, both important pieces of legislation for Queensland. I note there will most likely be very keen interest in the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill and I look forward to hearing the contributions of members in relation to this foundation legislation for the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Members will note that the time frame for completing these bills is 5.15 on Thursday. This is to allow for the valedictory debate to commence and be concluded in a reasonable timeframe to allow the important lighting of the Christmas tree and thanks to the staff at that event. This is also the final business program motion for 2021. I take the opportunity to thank the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and their team, in particular the parliamentary attendants, who have worked in and around this chamber during each sitting day ensuring the parliament is ready and available for members to conduct the work we were elected to do. It is a noteworthy achievement.

It has again been a difficult year managing COVID and the parliament. I thank all members for their willingness to accommodate the ongoing changes that we have had to make this year. Of course I want to thank the Business Committee. Monday evening is always an enlightening experience. I thank the member for Noosa and my ministerial colleague, Minister Bailey, and, of course, the Manager of Opposition Business, the Clerk and the attendants for their support throughout the year.



**Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (11.19 am): I cannot say that I have the same level of enthusiasm for attending the Business Committee meeting on a Monday night as the Leader of the House. It is the bane of my existence and I hate going. I do not want to go because I think the whole committee should be abolished. The Leader of the House is easily excited about meetings and things but, as I said, I am not so excited and enthused.

In fact, I was not intending to speak on the motion today—believe it or not; I was not—but I will take this opportunity to address a very serious issue in the motion. Before I do so, I also thank the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and all of the attendants. I know it is very difficult for them with a chaotic Labor government, as has been the case over the past 12 months in particular. I pay tribute to the Clerk, the Deputy Clerk and all of the attendants and parliamentary staff for all of their efforts this year. I thank the Leader of the House for the occasions when we do work well together. I am waiting for her to take offence or object. In the interests of parliament and to respect the rights of the members in this place, we do work well together on issues.

**An opposition member:** You're going soft, Jarrod.

**Mr BLEIJIE:** I do have to be careful what I say because I do not want to cause offence to my members. The business program motion does not reflect what happened in the Business Committee meeting yesterday. Yesterday the Business Committee was advised that we were going to debate the Olympics bill and then we would finish the police bill, which we were halfway through. Out of courtesy, I contacted the Leader of the House this morning to say that the Notice Paper is not reflective of what happened at the Business Committee yesterday when we were told that we would finish the Police Legislation (Efficiencies and Effectiveness) Bill. We are already halfway through that debate, which we started during the last sitting. The Leader of the House came back to me and said that, no, the Notice Paper is correct. However, it names a completely different bill, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, which we have not started yet.


This goes to the point that I have been making for five years: there is no point in having the Business Committee. Last night would have been a very rare occasion when I actually let it all go through and did not object because we have already started the bill and are halfway through it so it would have reached its natural conclusion this sitting. Alas, now it may not because it is sitting at No. 3 on the Notice Paper and its status is resumption of the second reading debate. It appears we may not finish it. It shows the complete mess and chaos that this parliament operates in.

The Business Committee is a joke and the Business Committee meetings are a joke because what the opposition and the crossbench are told will happen changes overnight or changes in the morning. Half an hour before question time I was advised that the Notice Paper is correct and that what we were told yesterday was essentially incorrect, meaning we will possibly not finish the police bill. Luckily, our shadow minister for police is ready to go on all of these matters and, called at short notice, will be able to address the second item on the Notice Paper, the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

This goes to show that, despite all the preparedness that the government think they have for the parliamentary sitting, things change at a whim. They have the numbers in the House so they can change things. Whatever we are told in the Business Committee might not necessarily be what happens the next day. As I said, I was not intending to speak on the business program motion. I was intending to let this go through. I was going to support and encourage it, and give the Leader of the House one more opportunity to convince us all how great this process of parliamentary democracy is. Alas, I cannot allow that to happen because again it shows the complete chaotic mess that this has become and how redundant the Business Committee is. I have to say that it is more redundant now that the Minister for Main Roads is on the Business Committee. At least the previous member contributed something. This member's amateur thespian routine every single week—

**Mr Mander:** He's so good at it.


**Mr BLEIJIE:** I take the interjection; he is quite good at it. We have a professional thespian on the committee. It is just a joke. The whole thing should be abolished to save members' time. Let the government do whatever they want to do because that is effectively what happens anyway.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.24 am): I join with the Leader of the House and the member for Kawana in thanking all staff, the Clerk of the Parliament and all the crew for their support and their work throughout the year. I wish them a merry Christmas. I hope they have a good break. They always support the parliament with the highest level of professionalism.

I wondered how the member for Kawana would spin a speech that is essentially the same speech he gives every time. The new spin is, 'We don't need the committee at all.' Of course we know that the member for Kawana will keep coming back to the committee because he gets five minutes, which he

almost always uses to the last second, to essentially audition for *Bridgerton*. That is pretty much what he is doing. He is not making much progress on that but there will be a future series so, if he can polish up his act, he might be able to send in an audition tape. I know the member has a great interest in the English monarchy so he has probably watched *Bridgerton* about three or four times over. When I hear the member for Kawana speak on the business motion I cannot help but think of *Bridgerton* and wonder what role he would like to play.

This is the usual business motion. It is the usual process. There is nothing untoward. There is no contradiction that I can see here. The motion deserves to be supported.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (11.25 am): While I choose not to use my entire five minutes, I want to put on the record that I kind of regret not being at the meetings myself when I see the dynamics between the member for Kawana and the Leader of the House and I hear the contributions from the member for Miller. It makes me wonder what is spoken about at the Business Committee meetings.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Kawana: apparently not much. Certainly what is discussed there is not often borne out in the House. My underlying concern with the motion week after week comes back to the philosophical, that is, what we have seen over the past couple of years in the sessional orders and what has been removed from the opposition. We are at the end of another year of talking about this motion time and time again. We will continue to hear the same arguments from the member for Kawana because they ring true every week, week after week. When the sessional orders were first changed after the 2017 election, to make a point the opposition lost private members' statements, consideration in detail has been guillotined time and time again, debate has been guillotined time and time again, and family friendly hours have meant that regional members cannot get back to their electorates.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I take the interjection from the member for Everton. They are family friendly hours for those representing city electorates but not for those representing regional electorates. They actually disadvantage significantly those of us who want to get back to our regional electorates.

The member for Redcliffe and the member for Miller might not like what the opposition have to say but we will keep saying it. We will keep arguing the case for a fairer go in this House. I refer to the bills before the House this week relating to the Olympics Games and police powers. The Olympic bill, for instance, should be spoken on by many regional members because everybody in the regions is interested to know what the Olympics will mean for their patch. It might be the Brisbane Olympics but all of Queensland is hoping to gain something from the Olympics. The regions deserve to have their fair say. I will not take up my entire five minutes, unlike my learned colleague the member for Kawana, but—

**Mr Bleijie:** Don't let them off the hook.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I am not auditioning for the Netflix series referred to by the member for Miller. Philosophically, this side of the House will never give up our right to put forward the interests of our people in this place. We will never ever give up the fight to make sure our regions, our electorates, are represented in this House. The government can rest assured that next year, when the debate on the business program motion comes up, we will be in here fighting for these issues.

Fundamentally, one of the main reasons we want to keep speaking on this motion is that we do not trust the government to manage the affairs of this parliament. Time and again, we have seen a misuse or abuse of parliamentary process. That is why the member for Maroochydore is our shadow minister for integrity, because we care so deeply about it. It is why the Leader of the Opposition has spoken about reforming the estimates process, because we care about parliamentary process, integrity and the estimates process. We will not ever give up defending the rights of the parliamentary process and to make sure that this side of the House has its voice heard. Next year the government should be ready for the opposition to be back fighting the business program motion stronger than ever and to make sure that everybody on this side of the House has their voice heard on any bill they choose to speak on.

Motion agreed to.

## BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

Resumed from 27 October (see p. 3290).

### Second Reading



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (11.31 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 was introduced into the Legislative Assembly on 27 October 2021, declared urgent and referred to the Economics and Governance Committee. I note that the committee tabled its report on the bill on 26 November 2021. The committee's report made seven recommendations. I table a copy of the government's response to that report.

*Tabled paper:* Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021, government response [\[2015\]](#).

I thank the chair, the member for Logan, and all members of the committee for their prompt consideration of the bill. I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the organisations and individuals who made submissions in relation to the bill. The passage of this bill which will facilitate the establishment of an organising committee, referred to as the corporation, and its board is an important first step in delivering on the Queensland government's commitments under the Olympic host contract and laying the foundations to successfully deliver Queensland's 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

My government is committed to ensuring that this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to host the Olympic and Paralympic Games has lasting benefits for all Queenslanders. Queensland's greatest single economic opportunity comes from hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, the world's greatest sporting event. The next two decades bring an enormous opportunity to transform social, economic and environmental outcomes across the whole state. Over the next 20 years the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games is forecast to generate \$8.1 billion in benefits for Queensland and \$17.6 billion in benefits for Australia, including: increased international tourism and trade, estimated at \$4.6 billion for Queensland and \$8.5 billion nationally; approximately 91,600 jobs in Queensland and 122,900 jobs across the nation; \$3.5 billion in social benefits to Queensland and \$9.11 billion nationally including improvements in health, community connectedness and civic pride; and a 10-year pipeline of construction, jobs, trade, investment opportunities and legacy projects that will benefit Queensland for decades to come.

One of the greatest examples of vision and innovation for the 2032 games includes using the iconic Gabba stadium as the home of our games. The Gabba has more than a century of history and it is in active use most of the year. A raised pedestrian plaza will connect the Gabba to the Cross River Rail station already under construction nearby. Right now our first underground rail network, Cross River Rail, is being built. It is a huge project supporting 7,700 jobs. Cross River Rail adds 10 kilometres to our rail network and six new stations, further connecting all of our Olympic venues. It means the Gabba will be a two-minute train ride from a new Albert Street station in the CBD, connecting to the rest of our rail network and providing access for people of all levels of mobility from right across the region.

More broadly, the Cross River Rail project and other planned upgrades will unlock the bottleneck at the heart of the rail network, benefiting the entire South-East Queensland network. Further significant transport infrastructure will also be required to support the games, with our bid based on upgrades and expansion of public transport infrastructure already planned and underway. By 2032 the transport corridors connecting the three games zones across South-East Queensland will have increased road and rail capacity, connecting important tourism destinations and accommodation on the Gold Coast, Sunshine Coast and Brisbane. Together with the Brisbane arena, we will have eight Olympic competition venues hosting 14 sports all within walking distance of each other and connected by hundreds of bars, cafes, restaurants and world-class hotels.

The 300-hectare Northshore Hamilton priority development area, the proposed site for the Brisbane Olympic village, will be transformed along with the Gold Coast Olympic village at Robina and will provide for further housing into the future. In total there will be 21 venues in Brisbane, seven on the Gold Coast and four on the Sunshine Coast. There will be opportunities for events at the new North Queensland stadium in Townsville, for athlete training in Cairns and Mackay, and for events across regional centres including Logan, Toowoomba, Redlands and Ipswich—just to name a few.

It is not just South-East Queensland that will benefit but the whole of Queensland, not only from the estimated \$8.1 billion in social and economic benefits but also from the opportunity to accelerate long-term development plans needed for sustainable regional growth. Regional tourism operators will be able to leverage the great global exposure generated by the world's biggest and best event to promote Queensland's iconic tourist attractions. Engaging local industry and generating jobs are two of the key objectives of the Queensland government. A Queensland-first procurement strategy will be adopted which will give local and regional businesses an opportunity to be part of the significant supply chain associated with delivering the 2032 games.

In terms of venues, two regional games venues will receive major upgrades, creating an exciting sport and community legacy for regional Queensland. Both the Toowoomba sportsground and Barlow Park in Cairns will receive upgrades to sporting and spectator facilities that meet the needs of their growing communities ahead of hosting the preliminary football events. Major upgrades will include increasing the permanent spectator capacity of both venues to 5,000 which will support Cairns and Toowoomba to attract major events into the future.

I now turn to the seven recommendations made in the committee's report. The committee's first recommendation is that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support—considering we have the games! The committee's second recommendation was that I further explain the scope of clauses 9 and 10 of the bill and outline any broader legislative recognition of the importance of an inclusive and consultative approach to delivering Brisbane 2032 during debate on the bill. The Queensland government supports this recommendation. I am pleased to provide a further explanation of the scope of clauses 9 and 10 of the bill and outline existing legislative recognition that will reinforce our consultative approach to delivering Brisbane 2032.

The overarching purpose of enshrining the objectives, key activities and requirements of the corporation within clauses 9 and 10 is to ensure that the corporation has a legislative obligation to successfully deliver Brisbane 2032. Of note, clause 9(2)(b) requires that the corporation comply with its obligations under the Olympic host contract. As part of this contract, the corporation must ensure that all pre-election commitments, guarantees and obligations in relation to Brisbane 2032 are delivered. This includes delivering on the commitments made in the publicly available final response to the International Olympic Committee's future host questionnaire, which has a dedicated section on the proposed approach to community engagement.

Clause 10 outlines certain matters that the corporation must have regard to, comply with and use its best endeavours to do when performing its functions. This includes: that the corporation have regard to and comply with the Olympic Charter, the *IPC Handbook*, the *World anti-doping code*, the *Athletes' rights and responsibilities declaration*, and the *Olympic movement code on the prevention of the manipulation of competitions*. Compliance with these documents will ensure that the corporation adheres to principles of good governance, fairness and equity in sport when planning and delivering the 2032 games.

Clause 10 also requires that the corporation procure its goods and services in accordance with the Queensland procurement policy except where inconsistent with the Olympic host contract. Engaging local industry and generating jobs are two of the key objectives of this government. This clause will ensure that Queensland businesses can capitalise on the decades of investment, growth and opportunity that Brisbane 2032 will bring to our great state.

Broader legislative recognition of the importance of an inclusive and consultative approach to delivering Brisbane 2032 is contained in section 7 of the Public Sector Ethics Act 1994 which provides that public sector entities, which includes entities established under acts such as the corporation, and public officials of these entities accept and value their duty to engage the community in developing and effecting official public sector priorities, policies and decisions.

The committee's third recommendation was that I encourage the board of the corporation to engage with and provide a voice to those affected by its games infrastructure planning and decisions through commissions. This will help ensure that development associated with the games is achieved in a community focused, forward-thinking manner and will support the present and future needs of local families, businesses and the wider community. The Queensland government supports this recommendation. I intend to write to and engage with the corporation, once formed, to encourage consultation and engagement by the corporation with those affected by games organising and planning.

With respect to games procurement activities, as I have just mentioned, the bill already makes clear that the corporation will ensure goods and services are procured in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy. These procurement rules focus on getting value for money as well as supporting our economic recovery from the pandemic and good outcomes for local Queensland



businesses, suppliers and workers. However, it is important to note that the corporation will not itself be responsible for delivering infrastructure. The Queensland government, working in partnership with the Commonwealth government and relevant local governments, will continue to ensure extensive consultation with affected communities regarding infrastructure, planning and decisions. In particular, engaging local industry and generating jobs are two of the key objectives of this government and we will ensure that local businesses are aware of and benefit from our infrastructure investment.

The committee's fourth recommendation was that I clarify the operation of clause 40(3) of the bill and why the declaration that the directors present constitute a quorum for making a decision in respect of subclause (1)(b) and not (1) in its entirety. The Queensland government supports this recommendation. I am pleased to provide clarification to the House about the drafting and operations of this clause. The bill's explanatory notes describe that clause 40 provides that, unless the board otherwise directs, the director who discloses an interest must not be present when the board considers the matter relevant to the director's interest or take part in any decision-making about the matter. The director must also not be present when the board considers whether to give a direction under subclause (1). Subclause (1)(b) contemplates that the directors present at the meeting may direct otherwise—that is, they may allow the director who has disclosed an interest in a matter to take part in making a decision of the board about the matter.

The rationale for clause 40(3) applying to clause (1)(b) and not (1) in its entirety is that there is no need to specify a special quorum for subclause (1)(a) because it deals with who may not be present, not whether a decision of the board may be made in that instance. Consequently, the board may only otherwise direct under subclause (1) if a regular quorum under clause 34, excluding the disclosing director, is present. The drafting is consistent with section 33(5) of the Queensland Veterans' Council Act 2021, which was recently considered by the Economics and Governance Committee and passed by the Queensland parliament.

The committee's fifth recommendation was that my department continue to engage with the Australian Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee to ensure that the corporation and its board are supported by a transparent and accountable legislative framework that appropriately balances the need for confidentiality of sensitive information with mechanisms for access to information in the public interest. The Queensland government supports this recommendation. I can advise that my director-general has written to both the Australian Olympic Committee and the International Olympic Committee reinforcing the Queensland government's expectation that information held by the corporation is proactively released where it is in the public interest to do so and in accordance with the Olympic host contract.

The letter highlighted that the corporation and its board will be subject to Queensland's right to information framework under the Right to Information Act 2009. The Right to Information Act is designed to make more information available to members of the community and reflects the Queensland government's commitment to release information administratively as a matter of course, unless there is a good reason not to, with application under the Right to Information Act being necessary only as the last resort.

The bill will only exempt the release of documents received or created by the corporation that comprise information communicated in confidence by or for the AOC or the IOC such as private information. The provision was requested to be included by the IOC and AOC as it provides these entities, and particularly the IOC, certainty that the corporation can protect the confidentiality of certain sensitive commercial, financial and operational information under its control like international sponsorships. Further, the provision is consistent with the existing treatment of commercial-in-confidence information under the Right to Information Act and also the arrangements that were in place for the Sydney games. Notwithstanding this, it is the Queensland government's expectation that other information held by the corporation is proactively released where it is in the public interest to do so and in accordance with the Olympic host contract.

The Queensland government understands that the proactive release of public information improves public administration and the quality of government decision-making and will similarly improve the administration of the corporation. The proactive release of information by the corporation would also reflect and further enforce the IOC's long-term commitment to transparency and reform and align with recommendation 14 of the Olympic Agenda 2020+5 to strengthen the Olympic movement through good governance.

The committee's sixth recommendation was that I undertake to further engage with the Commonwealth government regarding the necessity of retaining clause 8(2) of the bill relating to exemption of Commonwealth parliamentarians from the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and advise the

Assembly of any further advice received as to the grounds for its inclusion. The Queensland government supports this recommendation. In a draft version of the bill all board directors were initially subject to the Crime and Corruption Act. Following consultation, the Commonwealth government specifically requested that any Commonwealth parliamentarians on the board be exempt from the application of the Crime and Corruption Act.


I can advise that the Hon. Stirling Hinchliffe, Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, has written to the Commonwealth government to seek further grounds and clarification on why it was requested that the Crime and Corruption Act not apply to Commonwealth parliamentarians. In relation to this matter, I also note that during the committee's inquiry the Crime and Corruption Commission raised concerns with the effect of clause 8(2) which could arguably provide a blanket exemption from the operation of the Crime and Corruption Act for Commonwealth parliamentarians on the board.

This was not the policy intent of the clause. The intent was to have the exemption only apply in relation to their involvement with the corporation. Accordingly, an amendment will be moved during consideration in detail to ensure that Commonwealth parliamentarians on the board are not exempt in all circumstances from the broader application of the Crime and Corruption Act. The amendment will provide that the exemption only applies to their role as a director on the board, reflecting the original policy intent. Following enactment of the bill, the Queensland government will monitor the operation of clause 8(2) and review the requirement to retain the provision.

The committee's seventh and final recommendation was that I consider amending the bill to include a provision to require the destruction of criminal history information after it is no longer needed. The Queensland government agrees in principle to this recommendation and has given further consideration to such an amendment but believes that changes to the bill are not required. As highlighted in my department's letter to the committee on 16 November 2021, clause 32 of the bill creates a new offence for a person who possesses criminal history information because the person is or has been a director or another person involved in administration of the act to disclose another person's criminal history information other than as provided for under clause 33. The maximum penalty for breach of this provision is 100 penalty units.

During the drafting process, inclusion of a requirement to destroy criminal history information after it was no longer required was contemplated. However, it was considered that destroying criminal history information was only one of several potential administrative steps that could be taken to help ensure confidentiality in accordance with clause 32. This includes the secure storage of information and placing organisational restrictions on the accessed information. Such provisions were not considered necessary to include in the bill. Further, the persons referenced in clause 30 of the bill will need to abide by the Information Privacy Act 2009 and related guides.

As well as driving sporting, health and wellbeing outcomes for all Queenslanders, the 2032 games will also drive investment in new skills, capacity and supply chains, particularly across areas of construction, manufacturing and tourism. I once again thank the committee for their prompt consideration of the bill and all of the organisations and individuals who made submissions on the bill. Consistent with the committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (11.48 am): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill and, in doing so, express the opposition's heartfelt support for the games and for this bill. During the course of my contribution, I will reflect on some of the clauses in the bill. I wish to place on record my thanks to the Premier for addressing some of the issues raised by the committee. I thank the committee for its work in examining this bill. I will raise some concerns I have with some of the clauses in the hope that they can be reflected on.

I wish to start by acknowledging a little bit of the history of this. It is a reflection of what can happen when levels of government work together. I have to say that across all levels of government—all parliaments—the willingness for this to occur has been excellent. We as an opposition from day one have backed this. We have not sought to dog whistle. I know some have tried to weaponise this debate. It does not have to pit one part of the state against another. It can be something that benefits all Queenslanders. It can be a unifying moment for this state. It can be the time when the eyes of the world look at Queensland. When we think about Expo 88 and what it did to the psyche of Queenslanders, this can be that dialled up to a whole new level. That is why it is so important that this bill is passed and we begin the journey to prepare ourselves for what is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for this state.

Having reflected on all three levels of government and on the way that we have conducted ourselves as an opposition in terms of our wholehearted support, I want to pay tribute to the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, led by the Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner, who has been an ardent supporter of this. I also wish to reflect on the maturity and depth of the other mayors in the greater south-east. These games bear Brisbane's name, yet mayors right across the spectrum have got behind them. I think that is testament to the quality of mayors that we have in the region and indeed mayors throughout Queensland who have sought to ensure that their communities can see that there is something in this for them. I will explain why in just a moment.

It would also be wrong for any contribution not to reflect on former lord mayor Graham Quirk. Quirk believed in this—he backed it and he backed it hard.

**Mr Stevens:** He started it.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I take that interjection from the member for Mermaid Beach. He did start this and he did so at a time when others doubted it. He remained focused and disciplined in getting broader support from across different levels of government, different political persuasions and different mayors and, in true Graham Quirk fashion, he did it in a respectful and dignified way. We would be wrong not to acknowledge him and indeed the efforts of Sallyanne Atkinson in the previous bid who also saw the opportunity to put Brisbane on the map. I want to pay tribute to both of them.

I want to see these games be more than just a focus when the event is on. If we do things properly, this can be generationally beneficial for Queensland. I will reflect on infrastructure in a moment because of course that is very important. I think it is also a golden opportunity for tourism—that is, not just tourism in the south-east but tourism in every part of Queensland, including the Outback. It is great to have my good friend the member for Gregory in the chamber; I almost called him the member for Miller! That would not have worked well—different spelling and different locations. The member for Gregory wants to ensure that during the games when people look at Queensland they do not just look at Brisbane; they look at Queensland as a whole. The games will impact across the board from the magnificent Far North and the great offering there to the sandy beaches of the Gold Coast, the hinterland of the Sunshine Coast, Magnetic Island, the Whitsundays, Toowoomba—

**Mr Lister:** The Granite Belt!

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** And the magnificent wines of the Granite Belt. It is a golden opportunity for Queensland tourism. We cannot expect people to rock up in 2032 and it will all be hunky-dory. We have to develop a 20-year tourism plan for Queensland. We must have a 20-year tourism plan and it must be in three parts. The next decade has to be about product development and we have to get serious about that. Part of that involves looking at our natural attractions and finding a way to create environmentally special tourism opportunities that do not just protect the environment but enhance it.

Enhancing the environment does not mean locking it away. It means allowing people to respectfully use it, as we have seen in other parts of this nation and the globe. It can be done, but it is difficult because there are those who have different views. There are those who believe that the only way to protect a national park is to lock it up, not maintain it and not let anybody go into it. I do not share that view. I think it can be done in a respectful way. I think it can be enhanced, I think you can make a few dollars and I think you can put that money back into improving the environment and creating jobs for kids and for people who want to invest and be long-term partners in the tourism industry in the process. We have seen other states—Tasmania is front and centre—and other nations such as New Zealand do that effectively. We must use this as an opportunity to develop new product for the tourism industry.

We need to have an aggressive strategy built around 2032 that builds on that euphoria to get people before, during and after the games to come and experience the buzz that will be around. If the product development is right and if the eyes of the world see a well-run games in 2032, we will then have a decade of opportunity where we can bask in the afterglow when Queensland will be on people's minds—the great Olympic city of Brisbane, the great state of Queensland. That is a tourism strategy that is not just about the short window of the games.

No contribution discussing the Olympic and Paralympic Games is complete without reflecting on the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast—a great project and a great event that proved the Gold Coast's capability to host an event, but it was a missed opportunity in some regards because so much emphasis was put on telling people about traffic chaos and gridlock and not being able to get there that people quite frankly stayed away.

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I probably should not take that interjection because there were some quotes from the government messaging that the member for Gaven may wish to reflect on that could have been a little more helpful. In the spirit of a wonderful event, let us just say that the Commonwealth Games proved the Gold Coast's ability to run events. It proved the Gold Coast's ability to be a wonderful city with a diverse offering of lifestyle and accommodation. Some of the facilities there are world-class. We absolutely must make sure that we encourage people to come here and experience an amazing event, but I stress that it cannot just be about the event. It needs to be about product development and promotion and then we really need to rev things up in the years following.

I mentioned before that the event has to benefit the entire state. We are all Queenslanders and we all want to see this event succeed. Benefiting the whole state can mean different things for different areas. For some areas it might mean an opportunity to host an event. That is huge. Whether it is the smallest of rounds through to a major event that attracts thousands, it allows the eyes of the world to look at all of Queensland and see the great product differentiation and the great diversity we have in our cities and towns. It is also about upskilling people to build the infrastructure we need. If we do it right, there is nothing stopping suppliers from small regional areas from becoming Olympic Games and Paralympic Games suppliers. That is a great opportunity. We have seen that done successfully. Whilst there were errors made during the Sydney games that we can learn from, they also found a way to ensure that smaller businesses from throughout New South Wales made a contribution to building infrastructure for the games—and we must do that. If we do, the buy-in that we will get will be something special for all of us to reflect on and enjoy.

Infrastructure must be delivered on time and on budget. It is here that we say to the government: do not squander the opportunity that comes with the goodwill from other levels of government, and indeed the IOC in helping to fund operations of these games, to build infrastructure on time and on budget. We have seen a culture in this state where that does not occur. Every time there is a major project the budget for it blows out. The time lines blow out. The movement of the different line items to different sections of the budget continues to get murky. The government has an issue with building things on time and on budget and it cannot be the case for this. We have to be able to deliver more infrastructure. We have to make sure that we leverage contributions from other levels of government.

When the eyes of the world are looking to us to deliver a world-class games, let us build world-class infrastructure, not the kind that people will use only during the games. Let us look at the opportunity to build the road network and the public transport network that a growing region needs. Let's have a look to plan for water and sewerage. Let's have a look at where we are going to source our quarrying materials. What are the long-term opportunities to set up not only the greater South-East Queensland region but all of Queensland? How can we use this to deliver planning for infrastructure on time and on budget?

I will come back to where I started: we will be wholeheartedly supporting this bill. As the shadow minister for the Olympic and Paralympic Games I am particularly pleased to see the opportunities this presents, but I seek to raise a couple of concerns in relation to clauses 65 and 66, the right to information provisions. In her contribution the Premier mentioned sponsorship, and I get that. I completely get that we are dealing with a body that will engage in long-term contract deals and TV rights, and that is something that should be protected as commercial-in-confidence. I get that in the future we will be dealing with the travel logistics of world leaders and extremely high-profile people, whether they are athletes, administrators or people in positions of authority. I get that that information has to be protected.

I also come back to my philosophical view that, in relation to information, the going-in position should always be that it is shared—that is the first position—and then exemptions should be bolted onto that subsequently. I am particularly concerned about how loose some of the clauses are. My concern is that, if the government starts seeking to bring things in under the guise of this bill and this committee, people will not be able to access it and, quite rightly, ask questions about costings. We have a culture where the government can be prepared to spend, I do not know, \$150 million on a deal and not be willing to share that sort of information.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It could be any project. On behalf of all Queenslanders I ask the government to look at and reflect on these concerns. Go in with the premise that information belongs in the public domain. Where it should not be, you then justify the reason for that information to be in the public domain, and that is how you build trust. That is how you make transparency matter. That is how you bring integrity to the way you conduct yourself, because openness and transparency matter. So it is

with the conflict-of-interest provisions. I will comment on what the CCC said about the conflict-of-interest provisions in relation to governing. The CCC said that this bill presents 'corruption risks' and continues—

... the Bill proposes to 'carve out' duties owed by elected officials as a result of their elected office from the requirements regarding conflicts.

The CCC further notes—

If a conflict arises between an elected office bearer's duties and their role as a director on the Corporation it should be declared and managed.

These concerns especially relate to clauses 37 and 44, and the Premier has dealt with a very small portion of that. I would just make the point that the people who sit on this board will have a vast array of skills. They will be people who will continue to work in different industries, and so they should. It needs to be diverse. There needs to be the best people sitting on this board. But good governance involves not asking people not to be on the board: good governance asks that conflicts of interests are declared and easily managed. I am not for one moment suggesting that the people who sit on this board should not have other interests. Of course they should. That is the way to have the best and brightest minds.

I am asking that conflict-of-interest provisions be declared and managed, and that is the same for every board. It is the same for elected officials. It is the same thing that happens in council chambers across the state, listed companies and P&Cs. If you sit on a P&C and you are in the electrical game and a contract comes up that cuts across your business, you declare what it is and you deal with it. That is the way that governance operates from the smallest organisation to the largest. In the interests of transparency, accountability and integrity I do not see a provision that says that conflicts of interest should not be declared and managed as being good for governance. In fact, I think it breeds a culture where people will be concerned. For an event that means so much to Queensland it is important that people have faith.

Let me conclude by talking about the bit of the games that people really want to see: the opportunity for homegrown people to do their state and nation proud at home. Whilst the games are important for our infrastructure and tourism, they are also pretty important for a generation of Queenslanders to feel good about themselves and a generation of kids to believe in themselves—particularly kids with disabilities. That is why it is so important to see the focus on the Paralympics and the truly moving stories of the games: the Paralympians. We all love the contest that comes with the Olympic Games and the dedication of people who spend their life making incredible sacrifices to win gold. The Paralympics has an added little hurdle; that is, people who have overcome setbacks in their life, whether that be from day one or because of tragedy, and that makes it particularly special. By hosting these games a generation of young Queenslanders today may very well be motivated to start really buckling down and training hard. Wouldn't it be amazing if on the back of us hosting the games someone can fulfil their dreams and become an Olympian or a Paralympian.

The opposition will be supporting the bill; the opposition will be supporting the games. The opposition looks to not only play its part for many years to come in government from 2024 to ensure that the infrastructure is delivered in the right manner but also in the next three years to make sure governance arrangements are open and transparent and the government is held accountable for the things that matter as part of the Olympics and Paralympics bid.



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumbidgee—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (12.07 pm): If you love Brisbane and Queensland like I do, it is hard not to be incredibly excited about the decade ahead of us. I remember how the Commonwealth Games and Expo changed our city and our region, and an Olympics will change our city even more.

Our strong health response has put us in the box seat to deliver a great 2032 games. It is one of the reasons we were so well-placed to bid for the games. While the rest of the world was battling the pandemic we were able to focus on the future and win the hosting rights. Australia is only the second country after the United States to host the summer games in three different cities: Melbourne, 1956, and Sydney in 2000. Hosting the 2032 games will forever change Brisbane and Queensland just like it did those cities. We will join a list that will go: Tokyo, Paris, Los Angeles and then Brisbane.

We are not a sleepy country town anymore and we certainly will not be one in 2032. We are currently working with businesses right across the state to make sure the Olympics are a great success and that we create as many jobs as we can in every corner of the state. It will create \$8 billion in economic and social benefits, 91,600 jobs and kickstart a pipeline of infrastructure projects with lasting

legacies, including new and refurbished sporting infrastructure. It will accelerate long-term regional priority projects such as transport infrastructure for a better connected and productive state. It will align the games with national, state and regional plans and investments across three levels of government for infrastructure, community facilities, capacity and capability. It will build on our existing infrastructure investments such as the \$5.4 billion Cross River Rail and five new and upgraded stations plus design contracts now awarded for the Pimpama, Merrimac and Helensvale North stations on the Gold Coast.

Roma Street will become the state's biggest public transport interchange. The precinct there will have two hectares of new publicly accessible open space added to the Roma Street Parkland. There are 65 six-car passenger trains to be built in Maryborough for use on the South-East Queensland rail network.

Then there are the health benefits to hosting the Olympics. It promotes volunteering, civic pride and social cohesion. Schools and young people can get excited about the sporting pathways generated for elite athletes. I know there is a whole generation of young Queenslanders training extra hard now, hoping to one day represent Australia at the Brisbane, Queensland games. In my house there is a very eager seven-year-old practising her gymnastics every day—usually while I am trying to watch TV.

The Olympics provides a platform to accelerate and amplify everything from healthy and active community initiatives to arts and culture, sustainability, tourism, trade and local business opportunities. The redeveloped Queensland Performing Arts Centre will be completed and will be a huge drawcard for international visitors. Imagine visitors staying in one of the new five- or six-star hotels at the \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf development and being able to walk across the new Neville Bonner Bridge to the new QPAC for a show. This is after they might have spent the day watching sport at the Gabba—thanks to our massive upgrade of the stadium and construction of a pedestrian plaza to the Cross River Rail Gabba station—or perhaps they will visit one of the other 32 venues hosting 28 Olympic sports. The games are expected to attract 3.6 million international visitors—what a way to showcase our state to them.

The games will do for Northshore Hamilton what Expo 88 did for South Bank. The athletes village will be on Economic Development Queensland owned land within the Northshore Hamilton PDA. It will provide 10,729 beds for the Olympic Games and more than 5,000 for the Paralympics. The village dining hall will be on a two-hectare site. Planning is already underway to make sure that dining hall is full of Queensland produce—our beef, lamb and seafood and wonderful fresh fruit and veggies. Athletes like to eat and here in Queensland we have the best. The legacy of the village precinct is already incredibly important. Post the games, it will deliver a diverse residential offering, including aged-care, retirement living, social and affordable housing, key worker, hotel, build-to-rent and market accommodation.


Then there are the medals. I just visited a gold mine 130 kilometres south of Townsville that is hoping to be standing on the podium with our athletes in 2032. In Ravenswood, they have mined millions of ounces of gold dating back to 1868. The Palaszczuk government approved new mining leases and paved the way for the \$300 million extension of the gold mine two years ago. Last month, I extended the prescribed project declaration for Ravenswood's mine expansion project for an additional two years. This job-generating mine currently employs over 350 full-time workers, and plans are in place to expand the workforce to over 400 full-time employees. It could be supplying the gold for the many medals our great Aussie athletes will win in 2032. Wouldn't that be a great Queensland success story?

The games we deliver in 2032 will also be climate positive. This is a chance to accelerate the transition to a zero net emissions economy by 2050 and reduce emissions by at least 30 per cent. Our focus on hydrogen and renewables will see us do this. Our \$2 billion Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund is all about creating the partnerships to get new projects and jobs—for example, the Fortescue Future Industries electrolyser manufacturing plant in Gladstone, one of the world's largest manufacturers of electrolyzers. The renewable energy fund is part of the \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund, which brings together the government's flagship industry development programs to boost the state's industry footprint, create jobs and strengthen Queensland's economy to 2032 and beyond. By the time the games roll around, I hope that Queensland will be a renewables powerhouse and Queenslanders will be enjoying the jobs, economic prosperity and electricity prices that come with that.

The Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021 is a significant milestone in our work towards Brisbane 2032. The bill, which has been endorsed by the IOC, will establish the organising committee for the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games as an independent statutory body and its board. The organising committee will be responsible for overseeing the delivery of critical aspects of the Brisbane 2032 games, including accommodation for athletes and officials at locations

like Northshore Hamilton that I have talked about as well as cultural and ceremonial events, such as the opening ceremony at the redeveloped Gabba. Importantly, the bill sets out that at least 50 per cent of the nominated directors on the board will be women. The bill also includes safeguards for the state and taxpayers while giving the committee independence, establishing it as a statutory body.

Together, all of these initiatives are ensuring the games will be a catalyst for strong economic growth, more jobs and better connected and resourced communities in Brisbane and beyond into the South-East Queensland region and throughout the entire state. Can I say how honoured I was to be asked by the Premier to assist her with the delivery of the games infrastructure. I am genuinely excited about the future of Brisbane and Queensland. The next decade will be epic. We will see Brisbane really step on to the world stage. We will showcase to the world everything we love about our state—from the Daintree to Gondwana, from the reef to the outback, from our love of sport to our fantastic beer, wine and food. I cannot wait. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.16 pm): As the member for Mermaid Beach and a member of the opposition, I support the first piece of legislation that has come in as a result of Brisbane winning the 2032 Olympic Games bid. Why wouldn't we? It is Roman politics 101—we put on a big spectacular event for the constituency and everything will be directed towards that fabulous event over the next 11 years through the media and politicians. We even have the Cross River Rail being attributed to the Olympic Games, even before Brisbane was declared as the Olympic Games venue.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! Members, this has been a fairly wideranging debate and I am going to allow quite a bit of latitude. The member will be heard in silence.

**Mr STEVENS:** We support this first step in relation to setting up the board for the 2032 Olympic Games. We thank the former lord mayor, Graham Quirk, for giving us the opportunity to have this legislation in this House because of his lobbying in the first instance of the federal government. When the state government realised that the federal government would fund it fifty-fifty, they jumped on board as well. We then had the successful bid in Tokyo, and we are going forward with this legislation for the new board.

This legislation in some ways disappoints me. We understand that this is the Brisbane Olympic Games, just like LA and Sydney. We noticed in the draft legislation that in relation to the local government make-up of the board we had the lord mayor, which is only appropriate, and a person of opposite gender to the lord mayor. However, it basically now comes down to the lord mayor's pick. I found it very disappointing to see in the media that the lord mayor has made his pick before the legislation has passed. I believe his pick is going to be the mayor of Redlands, as per the media statement. I find that hard to understand, because the Gold Coast conducted a very successful Commonwealth Games—and the members over there would agree with that—but the experience gained from that Commonwealth Games is not being utilised at this stage by including the representative of the City of Gold Coast, which happens to be the mayor. I note there is an opportunity for the mayor to be included as part of the other 20 members other than the local government members.

I hark back to an era when the Indy was flagging. Then sports minister Bob Gibbs moved it to Tom Burns, a great Labor politician—they could do with his talent here today, I can assure you. Tom Burns called the then mayor of the Gold Coast directly—that would be me—and said basically, 'You have to get onto this Indy committee to take the Indy event out to the community. It will not work unless we have the local government support for the event.' We did and it went on to be a very successful event. This particular board needs to include the major representative—I am not talking about the mayor here today; it could be the lady mayor next time through or whatever—but it should be the mayor of the Gold Coast, with nine of the events being on the Gold Coast. There is no representation obviously because of a bit of a spat over the CoMSEQ involvement of Gold Coast in the original lobbying for the event.

I cannot understand why it has moved in this direction. I hope, in the interests of a smooth operation of the Olympic Games board deliberations, that Queensland's second largest city of 600,000 people, right next to the Brisbane venue, if you like, for the Olympic Games, will have inclusion. Every man and his dog is barking that Kate Jones will be one of the board members. She is not a Gold Coaster, even though some people have tried to pursue that line of thinking. We need a Gold Coast representative who can assist with furthering the success of the 2032 Olympic Games preparedness and actually deliver on matters in the Gold Coast area.

One of the other things the committee discussed was in relation to the transparency and accountability of this particular bill and of board activities. One of the matters of concern the Right to Information Commissioner spoke about in her presentation to the committee was the fact that there

were exclusions for certain members of the committee and certain issues of the committee. Her advice was that those necessary would be protected by the current right to information legislation here in Queensland and was not necessary to be in this bill.

I table this little document from the weekend's newspaper in relation to the Rio Olympics—not long ago, 2016—where the court has sentenced the former president of the Brazilian Olympic Committee to 30 years in prison for bribery.

*Tabled paper:* Media article, undated, titled 'Rio Olympics Chief Cops Bribery Rap' [2016].

It was not that long ago. In fact, the reason given to the committee for those exclusions was that the 2000 Sydney Olympics legislation contained protections for people. Obviously the fellows who organised the Rio Olympics were not aware of the protection that would be put in place for them.

It is unclear why privacy matters have been raised when the protection is there now, as advised by the Right to Information Commissioner herself, to protect the integrity and accountability of the members of that board. In terms of the federal members, as was alluded to by the Premier in her speech, it is questionable why those members were exempted from the CCC legislation. We want this Olympic Games to be a true, accurate, transparent and accountable games on all sectors so that whoever is getting paid by the taxpayers of Queensland and the federal government is honest, open and accountable. I would hate to see anyone jailed, as in Rio, after the 2032 Olympic Games has been completed.

We all look forward to the Olympic Games being a great success, and today is the first step in enacting legislation for the board to commence. It is an urgent bill, we understand. As a committee we put together matters reasonably quickly to accommodate the urgent setting up of the board, even though the games are 11 years away. I look forward to the board members, when they are announced—with Commonwealth agreement, as I understand, in the selection process—being a true reflection of communities that will have great input into the success of a very important event in 2032.

We are not having Christians versus lions in the Colosseum on Saturday night. This is a very important event for Queensland, the success of which we will all hang our hats on. The board members, when they are finally announced, will be of great interest. I hope it is fair and equitable and particularly that the Gold Coast as a community has an important role to play.

 **Hon. SJ HINCHLIFFE** (Sandgate—ALP) (Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement) (12.25 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill. I acknowledge the previous speaker's role, alongside his fellow members of the Economics and Governance Committee, for their prompt consideration of the bill and all the stakeholders who have made submissions to the bill. I say to the member for Mermaid Beach that I appreciate his classical allusions today, but I suspect that in relation to the Olympics it should be more Greek origin than Roman origin where he should seek his classical guidance.

The passage of this bill and the establishment of the organising committee is a critical step to not only deliver on this great opportunity but also meet the requirements set out in the Olympic host contract and lay the foundations to deliver a successful 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games. Success starts with the right governance and oversight from the outset. On this day, 3,887 days before the opening ceremony of the 2032 games, it is important that we get those arrangements right. We need to keep in mind that it is a condition of the Olympic host contract that the organising committee is established within five months of our announcement as a future host. Timing is critical and we have been working tirelessly with games partners to finalise these arrangements.

The bill establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games as an independent statutory body responsible for delivering most operational elements set out in the Olympic host contract. The committee will become a statutory body under Queensland legislation because it will allow the committee to operate at arm's length from the state with control over its own funds, providing the necessary operational and financial independence to get the best outcomes. This will see the committee coordinating and delivering the sports program, ticketing, sponsorship, opening and closing ceremonies, volunteers and athlete transport.

A board of directors will oversee the committee's operations, becoming the highest decision-making body to ensure that the Brisbane Organising Committee performs its functions in a proper way—properly, effectively and efficiently.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our Olympic and Paralympic partners who currently make up the Olympic Candidature Leadership Group for their help in creating the composition of this board over the last few months, including the Australian Olympic Committee, Paralympics



Australia and our local government and federal government partners. I particularly want to pay tribute to the federal Minister for Sport, Senator Richard Colbeck, for his collaboration in consulting on the formulation of this board. I look forward to continuing to work collaboratively with all of our games partners as we move forward. I thank the Premier for her confidence in enlisting me to be of particular support to her in this task.

Games partners submitted over 80 unique pieces of feedback on the bill, and the 2032 task force engaged with the partners directly to work through this feedback and determine any necessary changes. The Economics and Governance Committee also received 21 submissions on the bill from various stakeholders. I note the Economics and Governance Committee tabled its report on the bill on 26 November with the seven recommendations that were made. The Premier has outlined the government's response to those recommendations.

The establishment of the Organising Committee for the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games is only the beginning of that journey towards 2032. The bill allows the framework to establish the organising committee, but it also creates the consultative structures that will sit under it. The organising committee will engage with and provide a voice to all sections of the community involved in the games through the establishment of commissions which will draw representation from the local community, regional representation, Indigenous representation, multicultural communities and the broader community sector including housing and homelessness services to name just a few. The establishment of these commissions will help respond to concerns raised by the Economics and Governance Committee in recommendations 2 and 3, which emphasise the importance of the organising committee adopting a consultative approach.

We have all heard about the statistics of the benefits that are delivered by the games, but how does that translate to the everyday Queenslanders? The games are a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for everyone in Queensland to get involved because we are going to need thousands of chefs, wait staff, bus drivers, security guards, tour operators, cleaners and volunteers. That is just for the two weeks of the Olympic Games, let alone whatever else is required for the Paralympics. In the decade leading up to 2032 there are procurement opportunities for businesses right across Queensland to help build the venues, stadia and villages needed, with the Buy Queensland procurement policy firmly implanted in the procurement process for the games. The supply chain opportunities for Queensland in agriculture, agri-tourism and the tourism industry are unparalleled. The opportunity to supply the best Queensland food and fibre to the world is incomparable. I know that Queensland farmers and their broader industry will be reaping the benefits.

There is no doubt the games will have a huge impact on our state from boosting tourism and building mass legacy transport infrastructure to creating a new sports economy based on Queensland innovation, entrepreneurship and technology. As we build momentum towards hosting the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games there is the perfect opportunity to position ourselves as a major location for sport innovation, integrating technology to improve the experience of fans and athletes alike.

As Minister for Sport, I know that hosting a home Olympic and Paralympic Games is a huge health and wellbeing benefit standing there ready, inspiring greater participation in grassroots sport for all Queenslanders. It will also be a catalyst for us to identify the next generation of Olympic and Paralympic heroes. This is why the Palaszczuk government is investing more than \$29 million over the next two years in the Queensland Academy of Sport to fund the critical staff, equipment and programs needed to ensure success. Over the next two years the QAS will undertake a statewide search for around 400 talented young athletes, paving new elite sporting pathways all the way to the 2032 Brisbane games. Our regional kids of today are also our homegrown Olympians of tomorrow.

Hosting the games also gives us the opportunity to build the state's profile as an international major events destination. On the immediate horizon we have Queensland helping to host the ICC Men's T20 World Cup in 2022 and the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup. Australia has also been named as the preferred host for the 2027 Rugby World Cup with games to be played in Brisbane and Townsville.

As momentum builds towards the 2032 games, we are expecting to see huge interest from several world and national sporting bodies in holding high-quality, major events here in Queensland. Queensland also has the opportunity to attract national sporting organisations and their competitions and high-performance programs, with conversations already underway with numerous sporting bodies.


Not everyone knows that the IOC's new rules, known as the 'new norm', allow us more flexibility in how we deliver an Olympic and Paralympic Games that utilise existing infrastructure, making it therefore more cost effective. Approximately 84 per cent of venues included in the Brisbane 2032 master plan are existing or would be temporary, and the federal government, as we have heard already today, has committed to 50 per cent funding of any critical infrastructure for the games. The new norm

allows the games to fit the city, not the city to fit the games. A great example of this is the redeveloped Gabba stadium, which will be used for the opening and closing ceremonies and for athletics. It will have a capacity of 50,000. Note this: at 50,000 it will be the smallest opening ceremony venue since the Amsterdam games in 1928 when their Olympic stadium had a capacity of 33,025. This ensures that we will be left with no white elephant venues but, rather, a state-of-the-art, fit-for-purpose stadium that will be used all year around by AFL, cricket and many other sports.

2032 is more than a few weeks of sport. It is about using the platform of the world's greatest event to deliver for communities right across Queensland. It is two decades of legacy opportunities—10 years leading into and 10 years on the other side—where opportunities for Queenslanders are there to harness what we want to achieve out of the world's biggest event.

Another of my portfolio responsibilities is to support engagement with the business and community sectors across Queensland to develop the legacy plan, strategic framework and delivery of programs. Work is already commencing on what pre-legacy projects might look like from grassroots sport infrastructure to significantly expanding Paralympic high-performance facilities to broader social goals. We have already seen and heard others refer to the fact that GC2018 achieved some great firsts, including the first multisport event to have equal numbers of events for men and women, the largest parasport program in Commonwealth Games history, the first games to have a Reconciliation Action Plan and, significantly, it proved we can host world sporting events on a global scale, paving the way for this 2032 bid.

2032 is an opportunity for us to deliver a legacy program that will benefit not only sport in Queensland for generations to come, but cultural, social and employment opportunities that will transform Queensland, placing us on that global stage for the remainder of the 21st century and beyond. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MANDER** (Everton—LNP) (12.35 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. I have been fortunate enough to live in this city my whole life as I am a born and bred Brisbanite. Over the last 60 years, believe it or not—I know it is hard to believe—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** It is quite amazing, isn't it? Over that period of time I have seen not only the great sporting events but also the cultural events that have been held in this city. I include the 1975 and 1976 grand finals where Wests beat Easts and Redcliffe two years running. I know others would not, but I regard those as very significant. More importantly, I speak of the 1982 Commonwealth Games and the 1988 World Expo. I have great memories of those events; they were great experiences. I remember sitting in the stands at ANZ stadium for the athletics and I was not to know that not long after that I would be refereeing out in the middle of that field when the Broncos switched their headquarters to ANZ stadium. Who can forget Expo? That was six months of fantastic exposure to the world and it brought the Chicken Dance to prominence across the city as well—not that I ever did that sort of thing. It was a great experience and it was great for our city.

Of course, since then we have had the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast which, other than a few little hiccups, was regarded as being successful as well. In this country and in this state we run events well, particularly sporting events. The 2032 Olympic Games being awarded to Brisbane, to bring the greatest show on earth to our city and my home city, is something that excites me greatly. I am looking forward to the day that that occurs.

I want to thank the Leader of the Opposition for giving me the opportunity to be the shadow minister for Olympic and Paralympic sports and regional engagement. I think that is very important. It would be wrong to not admit there is a degree of cynicism in regional Queensland about these games and it is important that those issues are addressed. It is important that regional Queensland feels that they are involved. It is my understanding that there are events in only Cairns, Townsville and Toowoomba during the games. I have heard already some of the comments about preparation events being held in some of the regional cities, and I think that is appropriate. I think that would be a good way of making sure that regional Queensland was involved. There will also be training camps and other experiences prior to the games. That is where we really need to get the regions involved because it is important that everybody in this state gets behind this. Regional Queensland also needs to understand that if the capital city grows, that is good for the whole state as well. Sometimes I think that is forgotten.

Securing the Olympic Games is an important contribution or addition to the history of our state. I am happy to be the shadow minister for an aspect of that contribution. It is appropriate to recognise those who had the original vision. Members might remember that when Sallyanne Atkinson was the lord mayor of Brisbane in the 1990s, she and others had a vision for the Olympics.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** I think Roy Harding started it.

**Mr MANDER:** Is that true? There you go. I did not know that. I will take your word for that.

Those people who went before us had vision. Brisbane was probably not quite ready in those days. I pay credit to those people who 'have a go', signal that this is something that we aspire to do and have vision. I hope that those who are still alive will see their dream come to fruition.

I want to recognise the Council of Mayors South East Queensland. To be honest, this group drove the project from the beginning. Their motivation was to have a catalyst to bring about the infrastructure that this city so desperately needs, particularly connectivity between our major centres—Toowoomba, the Gold Coast, Brisbane and the Sunshine Coast. I know from my electorate in the north-west suburbs of Brisbane that the traffic congestion is a nightmare along Old Northern Road and South Pine Road in the mornings. We need solutions, because we do not want to become a city bogged down in congestion. I hope that the Olympic Games will be a catalyst for infrastructure change, particularly in transport, where it is so desperately needed.

I thank the Council of Mayors South East Queensland. In particular, I mention the mayors of the big three areas: Graham Quirk with Brisbane City Council at the time; Tom Tate down on the Gold Coast; and Mark Jamieson on the Sunshine Coast. I know that they were key drivers in this area. Their submission was great, because it was very practical and showed that it could be possible.


What is important—and I think it was already mentioned by the opposition leader—is that these games have bipartisan support. In fact, without bipartisan support it would have been difficult for us to secure the games. Both at the federal and the state level, we are wholeheartedly behind the games, and we will do everything that we can to help them be a success.

As previously mentioned, the object of this bill is to establish the organising committee for the games and to undertake the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the games. This committee will make that happen, so it is important that we get the right people, who are suitably skilled and rightly motivated. I am confident that the bill outlines how that can be done best, which is important.

There is no doubt that these Olympics will bring great things to our city. We have already talked about how it will motivate younger people to be involved with sport—not just to win or to succeed but to be healthy and active. Not only will that benefit those individuals, it will benefit us as a society if we can prevent many of the health issues that beset people later in life through inactivity.

There is the promotion and tourism aspect of being on the world stage. We will be mentioned in the same breath as London, Moscow, Los Angeles, Paris, Rio and Beijing. Brisbane will now be mentioned with those names leading up to the games and long after it as well. Of course there will be economic benefits in hosting these games. I note what the minister said about the 'new norm' for the games; that is a very relevant point to reassure people that the financial risk of being a host city is minimised. We still have to do things well, but the fact that we are responsible for the infrastructure provision and not the operational cost of the games is important.

There are a couple of items of concern, which I will not repeat, about right to information and conflicts of interest—the opposition leader outlined those very well. We did seek some reassurance and clarification from the IOC to ensure that those aspects were appropriate, but it is important that we are seen to be transparent and that we follow due process. With those few words, the opposition wholly supports this bill, as we do the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (12.45 pm): Many members here have spoken about the incredible events we have put on in this region: the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast and the 1982 Commonwealth Games in Brisbane. We have to remember that in this place the Jagera-speaking peoples, the First Nations people, have gathered and put on sporting contests—indeed, especially on the Gabba—for perhaps thousands of years. It is right and proper that we recognise that this is a continuing history. It is right and proper that we recognise that this bill wants to include Aboriginal people in the formation of the board and speaks about a reconciliation action plan, knowing that our partnerships with the Aboriginal people of this region and indeed the whole state will be central to the wonderful event we will put on.

I want to speak about conflicts of interest. Many members may be thinking that I would be a participant in the games in 2032, but that is not the case. I think we all have a fantastic conflict of interest in that we will all benefit so much. I have another conflict of interest in that my children will be inspired by the games and the ability of those who take part in such a world-class event. That is a conflict of interest that we all share and it is a wonderful one.

One of my first memories of the Olympic Games is of Daley Thompson winning a gold medal in the decathlon in 1980. He and many other athletes inspired me to do Little As. That is why I was so passionate—many members will have noticed—about a Jimboomba Little As athlete, Ash Moloney, becoming the very first Australian to win a medal in the decathlon, which is a truly exceptional all-rounder event. My interest was piqued in Tokyo when I saw Ash build and build and when I looked at his points total. I knew that he was definitely in medal contention before the last event, the 1,500 metres. Famously, Daley Thompson was absolutely hopeless at the 1,500. Although he was the decathlon world record holder, he would consistently finish last in the 1,500. I wondered whether Ash was the same sort of athlete—someone who could get points in all of the other events but then fail. That was my worry. I looked up his previous event results and worked out exactly how many seconds behind he had to finish and knew that he was still in medal contention. It was incredibly exciting to see that event and see him deliver one of his best performances. It was certainly a clutch performance. Those are the types of inspiring things we will see in our own Brisbane Olympic Games.

As I said, I did Little As. Sydney to me was very special because of two of the guys who did Little As with me at the Sunnybank Little Athletics club: 'Jumping' Jai Taurima, who won a silver medal in the long jump; and Blair Young, a great friend of mine and high school teacher, who competed in the 400-metre hurdles and the 4x400-metre relay.

Those were really inspirational connections to our own home games in Sydney and it is going to be even more incredible to share those stories of the next games. There is then how much of a contribution we make to international friendship, international solidarity and international partnerships. We heard some contributors be cynical about the games, but I think those who are hosting these games should celebrate the fact that when we come together to compete vigorously as nations we do so peacefully under the banner of the Olympic Committee and we contribute so much to world peace and so much to world understanding and so much to world connection. Indeed, at the Commonwealth Games we made so many business connections and so many connections for industry through that friendship and fellowship. This Olympic Games opens up an even greater capacity for those in the world to share and have fellowship and friendship, and of course the greater Queensland and Australian community will no doubt benefit from the games.


The Queensland Olympics is really a recognition—a recognition of not just the fantastic resources we have in the South-East Queensland region and not just that we did a great job on the Commonwealth Games with reasonable costs in terms of events going forward; it is also a recognition of the health response that this nation and especially this state put in place. The IOC saw a great partner ready to make hard decisions about health and resources to get results and it knew that that was the type of partner it wanted to go forward with. Some might say that other nations were so swamped by COVID that they were not ready to put in a bid, but I like to put it in the positive in that the Premier's health response showed the IOC that, although it was already on track to take the bid from Brisbane, we were absolutely the right people to partner with because we had the ability to make those tough decisions to keep our community healthy.

I wish to speak to the committee's role. We examined the bill and asked for submissions and then held hearings. I thank the department for the excellent work it did in providing us with information and feedback, and that is why we as a committee very proudly and unanimously recommended that the bill be passed to set this up. We noted that submitters wanted an inclusive, consultative approach and we asked that the government continue to explain what will be going on. I am really proud of the fact that the three ministers involved in this are absolutely committed to that through the Reconciliation Action Plan, the Paralympics and consultation with the community where we are leaving a fantastic legacy. Recommendation 3 notes that the commissions are going to be vital in delivering on that. The commissions will be the bodies that take in community feedback, even to the point of single sites, and make sure that communities are consulted. There are some technical amendments to do with quorum. Recommendations 5 and 6 are the difficult ones for the committee. We note that this is a partnership. We are working with the federal government, and working very successfully and we wish to continue that, so this is not to be critical or destructive of that fantastic partnership. We are working with the IOC and we are not giving it ultimatums. Rather, we are working very much in partnership.

On that issue, I have to note that I was really disappointed that the Leader of the Opposition failed to understand some of the broader issues to do with the Right to Information Act and wished to play politics on it when we know that we have to work with the Olympic Committee going forward. I wish to see us work with it to show that, under the new norm, part of it should be modern governance instruments that give confidence to local communities, and I know that we will do that as much as

possible. We also note that the provisions under our Right to Information Act would be commercial-in-confidence where there are those arrangements and we need to work through that with the International Olympic Committee to see how we can best incorporate that and give it confidence under this new norm structure.

I also note that we need to have that same partnership with the Commonwealth. I applaud the deputy chair, who questioned the federal government's request to exempt its members from CCC legislation. I would urge that the bill be passed without amendment but that the federal government take on board some of the comments from the deputy chair and ask for some future amendment when we are looking at a different bill. However, I want to remind the House that it is vitally important that we put this infrastructure in place and that as a government we work hard with all partners given that the Olympics minister reminded us that we have only 3,887 days left. Also very importantly, for those who had concerns about the financing of the budget, this is a very different Olympics from, say, Rio or Montreal. These games will be under the new norm where over 80 per cent of the venues are done under existing investment. As the minister said, we will have a fantastic new Gabba. Although it will be fantastic and the right size for our city, it will be the smallest main stadium and presents great value and a great legacy going forward. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (12.55 pm): Mindful of the time, I rise to make a short contribution to the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The Olympics represents what Queenslanders are all about—aspiration, inspiration and, at the crux of it all, teamwork. While this will be the third time our nation has hosted this event, for Queensland it will be the first. This is an historic time for every one of us and we commit to investing our efforts into ensuring the benefits of this international event are realised in every single part of this state. For at least the next decade and beyond, our state in all her glory will be showcased across the globe as we commence the well-worn path to Olympic glory, for it is as much about the opportunities that will be afforded in the lead-up to this unrivalled and unparalleled event.

It is imperative that our heavy investment leaves a lasting legacy for Queenslanders everywhere in the form of much needed infrastructure, a highly skilled workforce and a comprehensive tourism strategy that will help us capitalise on the event in the lead-up to it and leave a long-lasting legacy post 2032. This has specific implications for my own electorate of Ninderry on the Sunshine Coast which will be home to four key venues and a host of sports, including football, cycling, basketball, marathon, mountain cycling and kiteboarding. We need to see this investment translate into long overdue road upgrades including the duplication of the Sunshine Motorway, which I am pleased to see planning has now commenced for. It must also deliver on the extension of heavy rail into Maroochydore—a critical link in our region's connectivity—along with a rapid bus network that feeds into this rail line so locals and visitors can move around safely and at ease.

The next 11 years will be crucial for our region, which will play an extraordinary role in the delivery and the success of the 2032 games. Ensuring collaboration across all three levels of government to secure this much needed and long overdue infrastructure is delivered will be my key focus—a focus shared by federal colleague and my neighbour, the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympic Games, Ted O'Brien, whose advocacy to date has been instrumental. I look forward to continuing to work with Ted as we deliver for our region. I also acknowledge the work of my fellow Economics and Governance Committee members for their role in examining this bill and to those who made a submission. There is broad support for this much anticipated legislation that will enshrine the Brisbane 2032 Olympics and Paralympics, and rightly so. What is also clear is the monumental role of the organising committee, which this legislation will establish. It is important that this legislation is underpinned by transparency and accountability to ensure that Queenslanders, regardless of where they live, can be confident that their hard-earned taxpayer dollars are being spent wisely and will continue to reap benefits long after the games have concluded.

That brings me to the very legitimate concerns raised during the committee's examination of the legislation—namely, the exemptions from the Right to Information Act. A number of submitters, including the Information Commissioner herself, questioned the need for these overly cautious and potentially undemocratic provisions. She went on to suggest that the existing RTI framework already includes provisions to enable the protection of information where it would be contrary to the public interest to disclose that information. It is the opposition's firm view that exemptions to the Right to Information Act should only be used in exceptional circumstances and there has been no clear rationale or assurances provided during the committee's examination of the bill that the exemptions to the RTI Act will not be used inappropriately. This is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for Queenslanders and they

deserve and expect full transparency from this state government which, in the past, has shown an increasing tendency to shield itself from full public disclosure. Concerns have also been expressed about the conflict-of-interest provisions in the bill.

When it comes to the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games, there are no second chances. Queensland's brand and reputation will be placed under intense scrutiny in the years and months leading up to the 2032 games and there is no room for complacency. Only the strongest measures to protect and ensure the integrity of the games by virtue of the role of the organising committee will suffice. These concerns aside—and by no means are they trivial concerns—the opposition supports this bill and welcomes the opportunities this legacy-creating event promises to deliver for Queensland. This will only be achieved if the state government leaves its self-interest at the door and from the passing of this bill pledges a new era of accountability and transparency that Queenslanders have been pleading for. Then, and only then, will the 2032 Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games truly be an Olympic legacy that all Queenslanders stand to benefit from. I commend the bill to the House.

Debate, on motion of Mr Purdie, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



**Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): After all the heartache and uncertainty of the last 18 months, today was an opportunity for some contrition: for the leader of this state to understand what those Queenslanders stuck on the other side of the border, those Queenslanders who have been unable to reunite with loved ones and those Queenslanders who have seen mixed messages have been feeling and say sorry in the same way that two ministers in her cabinet were able to do. Those ministers were big enough people to stand up and reflect on what happens when decisions are made poorly and not communicated well. On two occasions the Premier was given that opportunity and was not able to even apologise for the heartache that has been caused by asking Queenslanders to foot the bill for a decision that runs contrary to one that she took 18 months before.

She doubled down when she said that another level of government wanted to give some of its citizens COVID for Christmas. What a ridiculous statement from the leader of the state. What an unbecoming statement from somebody who is in charge of a state at a time when people are looking for leadership. In its third term this government is so smug it dismissed comments from a dozen women in the Public Service about claims of sexual harassment and said that somehow the Premier had not seen those comments made. That is either being very dismissive or not being across your brief; either way it is not the trait of a good leader.

Then we had the defence of the savage cuts to the front line by the great showman who is the Treasurer, who with bluster and bravado made all sorts of crazy allegations, who justified the cuts on the basis that a former government who he spends his entire time berating did the same thing so that was then the justification for it. Then he said it was not a cut; it was an efficiency dividend. What a salesman pitch that is.

An efficiency dividend will not buy you more beds, an efficiency dividend will not employ more nurses and an efficiency dividend will not fix the Queensland Health crisis. An efficiency dividend is known by another name when you are a frontline staff member. An efficiency dividend is known by another name when you are a patient waiting at the end of a phone for an ambulance that will not turn up. It is known as a cut. We will raise this on behalf of every Queenslanders who, as the shadow health spokesperson will always say, picks up the phone because their child is having an asthma attack, when dad is having a heart attack or when grandma has fallen with a broken hip and is laying in pain for many hours. Does anyone think that an ambulance officer who signed up to be a paramedic wants to sit at the end of a ramp? Of course they do not. They want to help someone in their hour of need. That is why they signed up. Because of the actions of this government they feel powerless to act.

There has been a slide in Queensland Health. It is not because of coronavirus. There has been a slide over the last seven years. This efficiency dividend over the last three years has magnified these cuts to a whole new level. It sees ambulance ramping at over 40 per cent across the state. It was 15 per cent when this government came to office. In some hospitals it is two in three. It is nearly 66 per cent in some south-east hospitals. Two in three ambulances that turn up wait longer than recommended and that means problems at both ends of that ramp.

When it comes to elective surgery, right now nearly one in 10 surgeries are not completed within the clinically recommended time in Queensland. Right now more than 57,000 people are waiting for elective surgery. That is an increase of 25,000 since the government took office. In relation to specialist outpatient appointments—the waiting list to get onto the waiting list—there are 245,000 people on the waiting list. That is one in 20 Queenslanders. As the member for Glass House clearly outlined, most concerning is that has increased seven per cent in the last quarter. That is a system in crisis.

We have put forward our positive suggestions. They have come from town halls where we have listened to honest Queenslanders. At every one of those there has been a staff member of Queensland Health, either past or present, who were there to tell their story and give their suggestions. The government berates anyone who dares question a system that is in crisis. It is not the fault of the doctors, the nurses or the paramedics. It is the fault of a minister who is not over her brief and a government that is more concerned with how things look than how they are.

There are now two hospital surgery reviews underway. From what I can see from the government's actions, I am not sure they want to get to the bottom of the problems. I am not sure they are looking for what has culturally gone wrong. I am not sure they are looking to find if there is a 'Dr Death' operating in a Queensland hospital. They are looking to run a protection racket for a minister who, quite frankly, is not up to the job. In Caboolture the minister was forced to expand the review for two weeks when it was revealed that patients were not even interviewed. Patients who tried to be interviewed were not even given the opportunity. When the report was handed down we saw the most disgraceful statement which said that their horror stories that had changed their lives did not form part of the review, it ran in parallel.

In Mackay the minister did not even know a review had been undertaken. She did not know about the loss of accreditation. The opposition had to reveal that in a 48-hour period two people died in clinical incidents. One had a stent inserted on the wrong side of their body.

**Mrs Gilbert:** You traumatised those nurses. You should apologise to them.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Finally we hear the member for Mackay, the assistant health minister, say something about the Queensland Health crisis in her backyard. Right now I can only see the top of the member's head because the member has ducked a little bit. This is the first time I have heard a comment from the member for Mackay. What the member for Mackay could do right now is stand up and demand a voice because those patients are looking for someone with a bit of ticker. They are not looking for a nodding donkey, somebody to run excuses. They are looking for somebody to stand up in Mackay and have a crack. They are running out of patience with the member for Mackay because they are seeing a lot of nodding heads, not a lot of leadership. Right now that hospital is in crisis and it needs the member to stand up—not to make a snide remark. She is yet to make a comment about Mackay hospital in here.

As the year draws to a close, I seek to draw to the attention of the House not only the crisis in Queensland Health but also the infrastructure crisis where the maintenance backlog is now over \$6 billion, where the budget blowouts of an individual minister now tallies over \$300 million for Gold Coast Light Rail, \$600 million for the Coomera Connector and over \$2 billion for Cross River Rail despite it being hidden in multiple buckets.

I draw to the attention of the House education, where our NAPLAN results sadly are slipping and where Queensland is in a skills crisis with 13,000 fewer apprenticeships than the government promised to deliver. I draw the attention of the House to crime, where juvenile crime is out of control, where a brave security guard just doing his job can be rammed, where a mum taking her daughter for an ice-cream can have a car allegedly run through a light and cause great trauma to that family. We will continue to fight for a system that is broken and demand that breach of bail becomes a criminal offence for young thugs.

There is a construction industry crisis in which the QBCC is the very definition of a government organisation void of leadership, with staff leaving, undue influence of the board, and complaints from home owners and small business owners. On the environment, which the government claims to be the great defender of, the Auditor-General has shown that they do not have a plan to achieve renewable energy targets. Greenhouse gas emissions are now higher than when the government came to office and it will take them a mere 1,000 years to achieve their own target for protected areas.


As 2021 draws to a close Queenslanders are asking: have we been here before? This is a third-term government that promised one thing about managing finances before an election and broke that promise after. We have a health system that was described as a basket case and that has

continued to get worse in the final term. There have been infrastructure blowouts and a crime crisis, and we all recall the decaying corpse of the Bligh government. This time, no scare campaign, no electoral gerrymander, no muck racking and no failure to say sorry will save what is an embarrassing third-term Labor government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Before I call the next member, member for Broadwater, I ask you to withdraw some unparliamentary language that you used in relation to another member in this place.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** I withdraw.

### **Palaszczuk Labor Government, Achievements; Leader of the Opposition, Performance**

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (2.10 pm): It is the last sitting week of the year, Queenslanders are 76 per cent double vaccinated, we are so close to opening up to families and friends for the holidays and it is beginning to look a lot like Christmas. In the 12 days of Christmas tradition, I have my own advent calendar for 12 days of great things the Palaszczuk government is delivering. It took a lot to narrow it down to 12 but here we go—and, in a gift I am sure all members will appreciate, I will not sing it.

On the first day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering Cross River Rail. On the second day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering Queen's Wharf Brisbane—there are 1,300 workers on site there right now. On the third day we are delivering the flagship \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund, creating jobs in traditional and new industries right across the state, which certainly has a ring to it. On the fourth day we are delivering a \$2 billion Queensland Renewable Energy and Hydrogen Jobs Fund to support infrastructure that creates jobs.

On the fifth day of Christmas we will build the electrolyzers that the world needs, in Gladstone with Fortescue Future Industries. On the sixth day we are delivering for local councils with the \$200 million very popular Works for Queensland funding program, which is creating 3,600 jobs. On the seventh day we are supporting two new residential developments in Carseldine and Oxley, which are going to be 100 per cent solar and battery neighbourhoods, saving homebuyers there thousands of dollars a year. On the eighth day the Growth Areas Team is responding to population growth challenges in South-East Queensland, including the Caboolture West development that will generate close to 23,000 jobs.

On the ninth day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct in Townsville. On the 10th day we are preparing for disaster season—grants are now open to help councils avoid flooding and lower their insurance premiums. On the 11th day of Christmas we are getting on with building the quarantine facility at Wellcamp so that we can keep Queenslanders safe from new variants of COVID-19. Finally, on the 12th day of Christmas the Palaszczuk government is delivering the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games, which will generate \$8 billion in economic and social benefits and create 91,600 jobs, all while putting Brisbane on the world stage. As I said, it was a tough job to cut it back to just 12.


While we on this side of the House head into the festive season with optimism, it is more like a Dickensian Christmas carol on the other side. The words Charles Dickens used to describe Ebenezer Scrooge could just as easily apply to the Leader of the Opposition: squeezing, wrenching, grasping, scraping, clutching and covetous. The Leader of the Opposition is doomed to spend another Christmas with the Ghost of Christmas Past. What a terrifying tale the ghost of his past has to tell. He might be desperate to forget his past but we will not forget. The ghost of the opposition leader's past begins with 14,000 jobs cuts and plans to sell just about everything we own when he was a cabinet minister in the Newman government.

The opposition leader's visit with the ghost of Christmas present will not look much better either. In 2021 he did nothing but criticise our health response. He attacked our hardworking doctors and nurses. He continued to undermine our border restrictions that kept Queensland and Queenslanders safe. He never—not once—put Queensland's interests ahead of Scott Morrison and their LNP bosses in Canberra. He gave permission to anti-vaxxers by being too weak to make his shadow health spokesperson quit her role in an anti-vax fake union. He cannot even say the word 'mandate'. He refused to support our crucial quarantine facility at Wellcamp.



I say to the Leader of the Opposition: Christmas is a time to change your ways. I have learned that there are some others on that side who have plans for the ghost of Christmas future that might visit the Leader of the Opposition. If he does not change his ways, the vision of the future is not a kind one. His stint as leader will come to an end with nobody there to mourn it. Meanwhile, on this side, we will keep on delivering for Queenslanders for Christmas and beyond.

### Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): Often at this time we witness the Treasurer launch into a personal attack of one kind or another, similar to what we have just witnessed from the Deputy Premier. Picking the petty political point of the day, we watch him yelling and staring down the opposition leader, as he did in the last term with the member for Nanango, or he will be picking on the member for Mudgeeraba. He is always seeking to intimidate—not by the power of his argument but by the vitriolic nature of his delivery. Those petty political points will rarely, if ever, relate to what he is actually paid to do—that is, be the Treasurer. We all know why. The Treasurer is not really that interested in being treasurer. His eyes are on another job. The Treasurer is a policy-free zone—an intellectual vacuum. I cannot remember a single macro-economic issue on which he showed leadership or even interest. In fact, what did the Treasurer do to the one government agency that could deliver him ideas? He shut it down!

The Treasurer survives on talking points and talking big, but deep down there is simply nothing there. If there was something there, we would be hearing from the Treasurer about how Queensland will improve its comparatively poor economic performance and how reform could potentially deliver productivity gains across the economy. If the Treasurer had his mind on the job he would have known the state's debt number. If he had his mind on the job he would have asked serious questions about the taxpayer investment in Virgin. If he had his mind on the job he would not get caught up re-tweeting the health minister's botched tweets. If he had his mind on the job he would have known the location of the Olympic International Broadcasting Centre, which was agreed to by all levels of government pre Tokyo. If he had his mind on the job he would have prioritised business support over media releases and fluffy pooch photos.

If he had his mind on the job the budget would have better considered its assumptions prior to Queensland businesses being locked down in the first month of this financial year. If he had his mind on the job he would not offer irresponsibly gratuitous advice to the federal member for Leichhardt; instead, he would have taken the financial assistance on offer from the federal government. If he had his mind on the job he would have offered a pathway back to a AAA credit rating. If he had his mind on the job he would not obsessively rant about the member for Mudgeeraba and others, throwing about misrepresentations with impunity. However, there is just nothing there.

Recently, global ratings agency Fitch Ratings assigned New South Wales a AAA credit rating with a stable outlook. They highlighted that the state's strong economic management during COVID was one of the reasons. Currently, New South Wales is the only state in Australia with a AAA credit rating. Here in Queensland Labor did not just lose our credit rating at the height of a boom; the Treasurer now corporatises assets like the titles office to prevent another downgrade.

I could not help but notice the image recently produced about the titles office. We know that an outrageous valuation valued the Queensland titles office at about three times its New South Wales equivalent. Surely the government can deliver a more professional front to an asset the government says is worth \$7.8 billion. Is this really how an \$8 billion company presents itself to the world? Is this really the best customer service experience—

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is using the document as a prop and I request that it be tabled.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will be tabling it, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Thank you. Can you can stop waving the document around?

**Mr JANETZKI:** I table it now.

*Tabled paper:* Photograph depicting a drop box at the Queensland Titles Office [\[2017\]](#).

Is this really the best customer experience Queensland offers for the country's most expensive titles searches? The Property Council executive director, Jen Williams, recently noted in the *Sunday Mail*—

... broader tax reform is needed to ensure Queensland regains the mantle of the low-taxing state.

How could we forget the horror of the Trad budget that loaded Queensland up with more debt—long before COVID—and taxes including the foreign land tax surcharge and additional foreign acquirer duty? With inflation rising across the western world, supply chain and logistics challenges and serious shortages in supplies and labour, let alone private capital, how will the Treasurer prove that we are open for business and the government is ready to join with the private sector to build the Queensland of tomorrow ready for the Olympic Games?

In 2022 we will continue to call for leadership from the Treasurer on these important questions for our future. My fear is that after waiting for the Treasurer to provide economic leadership there is simply nothing there.

*(Time expired)*

### Regional Queensland, Infrastructure



**Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.21 pm): The year 2021 has been a fantastic year to be the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. I have been unashamedly focused on regional development. I have travelled the length and breadth of this wonderful state from Goondiwindi right up to the cape. I absolutely love engaging with regional communities. Throughout my travels this year I have spent time with local councils, industry reps, manufacturers, farmers and community leaders.

The message is clear—our investment in the regions is supporting jobs and helping grow regional economies. Our manufacturing grants programs are supporting more than 6,800 jobs and generating more than \$110 million in private sector investment. We also have a proud record when it comes to water, investing over \$2 billion in water infrastructure and planning for Queensland's water needs, delivering 2,300 jobs.

Recently I was onsite with the member for Rockhampton at Rookwood Weir, which has nearly 200 workers on the job of which nearly 130 are local Central Queensland workers. The Palaszczuk government champions regional Queensland, and we will certainly continue to do so. What regional Queensland needs is more champions in Canberra instead of the anti-vaxxer LNP rabble we have to put up with right now.

We need real leadership. The new year will bring an opportunity to toss out this rotten federal LNP government and bring real representation back to regional Queensland. Enough about that. Now is a special time of year for the members opposite; in fact, it is a very sentimental time of year. Christmas is a time for sharing, a time to reflect on the year past and the year ahead. With that in mind, I have written a poem I would like to share with everyone here this afternoon—

T'was the sitting before Christmas, when all through the House

Not an MP was stirring, not even Jon Krause

Neil Laurie has tabled petitions with care

In hopes that adjournment soon would be there

The LNP were nestled all snug in their beds while visions of Campbell Newman danced in their heads

The Speaker resolved, in his chair, not to snap, and let's not forget to give Hansard a clap

Then out on the green there arose such a clatter, I sprang from my desk to see what was the matter

Imagine my shock when who greeted me there was the member for Callide just blowing more hot air

Hearing him waffle, I couldn't help but groan

He's got no idea, he's got no plan, he hasn't even got a backbone

And then, just to make it sound even more strange, he's on 7.30, denying climate change

With little regard for workers and jobs, it's just no surprise he's a hydrogen snob

Opposed to net zero, without reason or rhyme, the only fantasy here is is it worth the voters' time?

An optimistic fellow, giving Flynn a red hot go, he won a preselection that could have gone to Nanango

More rapid than eagles, his loony pals they came, and he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name:

George Christensen, Matt Canavan, Malcolm Roberts, Clive Palmer, Pauline Hanson and Campbell Newman

All these birds of a feather!

As a state MP I've been mediocre at best!

Send me to Canberra where I can be worse than the rest

What a stark contrast to our state government team


His anti-vax mandate, with ideas too extreme

The election next year is the chance for a fresh start

Flynn needs Matt Burnett, a leader with heart

One last thing before I say 'goodbye', Merry Christmas to all and to all a good afternoon.

## Domestic and Family Violence; Metro North Hospital and Health Service, Investigation

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (2.25 pm): This afternoon, we learnt of a young Logan mother Mary Benedito, who was murdered, allegedly by her intimate partner, and leaves behind an 11-month-old son. We send our deepest condolences to her family in their time of grief. In this 16 days of activism to end gender based violence against women—and having just recently attended the Premier's white ribbon breakfast—on behalf of all women across this state, this government needs to do more. I am tired of hearing the words of the Attorney-General, 'We must do better.' The Attorney-General, the police minister, the minister for housing, the Minister for Health and the Premier, on behalf of women, we demand more. We are tired of women being murdered at the hands of their intimate partners. These were preventable deaths of women who now are leaving behind children to be raised by their family members.

This government needs to show some accountability, because the buck stops with it. For the Premier's benefit—and clearly she is not across her brief given that she has almost 20 media staff—11 women have come forward since June 2020 with alleged claims of sexual harassment at Metro North Hospital. I stand up today to speak on behalf of those women. Who knows how many more will come forward over the coming weeks as they share their courage and their stories of assault?

The complaints were made against a senior manager. For the Premier's benefit, if she checks the major news outlets she will see the stories of these young women. I refer to the offensive nicknames, to the derogatory naming of women's breasts and to rating the attractiveness of patients and staff. Victims allege that he would play a game of 'root or boot', a judgement of whether or not one would have sex with a person. Another woman stated that on her first day he invited the staff member to the cafe, naming it the 'Rape Dungeon'. When speaking about former staff members, he laughed, 'We broke her.' That woman was 22 years old. This is bizarre behaviour.

There are allegations where he pressured young women to be a part of their social media accounts; where he would interrogate staff after office drinks as to why he was not invited to continue on; and a working culture where one victim says it was just like a kindergarten except the culture was of absolute terror and fear. These women have been failed by Queensland Health and by the cover-up of a toxic culture. These women are furious with the findings of an internal investigation—not an independent investigation.

On 8 November the *Courier-Mail* reported—and the Premier's media team should go and check this—about the victims. One former employee stated that it was appalling and inadequate, that the response from beginning to end says one thing: they have always and will always protect the reputation of the organisation and that they make it so difficult for complainants to come forward—they want women to give up and go away. Queensland Health's response has been one of victim blaming. These women do not feel heard. These women do not feel that there are any consequences for these gross actions.

I believe these women. The opposition believes these women—not one woman, not two women but 11 women. This state government does not want to see it. In fact the Premier was so disrespectful to those women today that she would not even take my question on notice or look into it or say she would get back to me. She was dismissive and instead spent the next three minutes answering a Dorothy Dixier and saying, 'No-one here seems to pay attention to ministerial statements.' This state government pays lip-service to victims. It pays lip-service to women and it takes no action. If the health minister or the Premier do not take action and if he does not go then the minister needs to go. We will not let up until there is accountability. It is very clear that the minister and the Premier have lost touch.

*(Time expired)*

### Greenslopes Electorate; Coronavirus, Vaccination



**Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (2.30 pm): I am proud to stand in this chamber as part of a government—one of only a few in the world—that can announce that after a pandemic we have 90,000 more jobs than we had before the pandemic and an unemployment rate hovering around the five per cent mark. We have not achieved that by accident. That is something that has been achieved by hard work, diligence, careful planning and attention to detail. I congratulate the Premier, Treasurer, Deputy Premier, every minister and every single member on this side of the House for backing in jobs.

I want to talk about how we have achieved these things. It is about the path out of COVID and the path to COVID recovery. We have done it in a number of ways. We have invested in infrastructure. We build things. We build more than just one building for ourselves across the road. We build things in every community. In my community that means new classrooms and playgrounds in schools like Nursery Road State Special School, Holland Park State School and Whites Hill State College. It means building transport infrastructure like the Veloway which is getting people home safer. It means building sporting infrastructure like we are doing at Easts.

It means backing small businesses. I was so pleased to see Orange Maple Properties and World Wellness Group in Stones Corner last week receive Business Boost grants and Social Enterprise Growth Grants. Do members know what that means? It means more jobs in Stones Corner. It also means training people. Career Employment Australia and Vision Australia once again received Skilling Queenslanders for Work programs. It was great to see the Institute of Culinary Excellence receive their first Skilling Queenslanders for Work program. I congratulate the mighty Alison Taafe and her team for putting in for that program and being successful. I know that they will turn out many great workers whom we desperately need across the hospitality industry.

It means working to expand the economy. That is exactly what we have done. The advanced manufacturing partnership we have with Rheinmetall is creating jobs in Ipswich. When we create a job in Ipswich or create a job anywhere in Queensland we create a job in Greenslopes. There is the clean energy work we are doing and the recent announcement that Fortescue is investing in hydrogen which will create jobs into the future. Underpinning that will be the expanded resources industry that we need.

In the film and television industry we have the TV studios at Hemmant. This is creating many employment opportunities in—

**Ms Pease:** Hollywood in Hemmant.

**Mr KELLY:** Hollywood in Hemmant. I take that interjection. We know that not all industries are doing things easily so we have to have targeted assistance. That is what the government has done through the Holiday Dollars program. This is COVID recovery—infrastructure investment, backing small business, training people, expanding industry and targeted assistance. This is how we have more jobs after a pandemic. This is how we lower unemployment.

I now turn my attention to rebutting some of the nonsense about vaccination being said in the community. Malala, Martin Luther King, Archbishop Romero, Nelson Mandela, Emma Miller, Peter Lalor and Eddie Mabo—these are the names that come to mind when I think of a freedom fighter. I will tell members one name that does not come to my mind—that is, the self-proclaimed freedom fighter, the member for Mirani. He does nothing but peddle misinformation and nonsense in the community that is damaging and dangerous.


He wants to talk about choice. Let us talk about the choice that the 120,000 nurses, doctors and other health workers around the world made to go to work to care for people with a disease that we did not understand and then did not go home. Let us talk about their choice. He wants to talk about freedom. What freedom do those 120,000 people who perished as a result of caring for people with COVID-19 enjoy now? I will tell members what freedoms their families have. They have the freedom to mourn and the freedom to grieve.

The member keeps mumbling about people who have been harmed by vaccinations. No health professional denies that people are injured or even killed by vaccinations. There are risks associated with every single medical procedure. We need to balance those risks. The risk of widespread death from virus and microbial infection is well known and well documented and far outstrips the risk from vaccination. I assume the member uses Panadol. Guess what? It is a risky medication that has caused death. Would the member want a general aesthetic if he were having an operation? I reckon he probably would. Guess what? The risk of dying from a general aesthetic is much greater than having a vaccination.

The member is misguided and wilfully ignorant. He is no freedom fighter. To take that title is an insult to every man and woman who has served our country to defend our democracy. I call on the member to stop peddling misinformation and withdraw these nonsense statements in the community. Only the Palaszczuk Labor government is working to keep all Queenslanders safe.

*(Time expired)*

### Forensic Disability Service

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (2.35 pm): I rise to speak about a Queensland government service that has been the subject of a damning Ombudsman's report and the subject of lines of questioning in budget estimates both in 2019 by the former shadow minister for disability services, the honourable member for Moggill, and in 2020—at this time last year—by me in my capacity as shadow minister for disability services. Here we are two years later where it appears nothing has changed and the Forensic Disability Service is still not operating as intended. There have been two separate investigations—one by the Ombudsman and one into the toxic culture of the FDS—two different interviews that staff took part in which resulted in two separate reports.

The Forensic Disability Service was established, and I quote from the Ombudsman's report 'as a facility for the exclusive purpose of providing secure care to people subject to a forensic disability order, or equivalent interstate order, on the basis of an intellectual or cognitive disability and not a mental health condition'. Unfortunately, this purpose of secure care remains unfulfilled. This has consequences for innocent staff and other Queenslanders.

I have received a letter from a former Forensic Disability Service staff member which details some very serious allegations. It is concerning that Queenslanders, including this person, feel compelled to come to the opposition to raise such issues because of the failures of internal processes. We have seen it with this government with the Queensland Building and Construction Commission and the email leaks and the former senior staff and whistleblower allegations of interference. We have also seen it in the Queensland health system with scores of Queensland victims sharing their stories publicly after their complaints to the government fell on deaf ears. In these latter cases, only opposition pressure has caused the government to hold further investigations and inquiries. Today, another inquiry has been announced into mental health services.

Now it is happening in another very sensitive area with the Palaszczuk Labor government unable to deliver important services for Queensland's forensic disability population. This has potentially serious consequences for the safety of Queenslanders as well as the staff in the FDS. One alleged issue, as mentioned by this whistleblower, is that, in response to concerns raised by the Ombudsman's report 'clinicians who held relevant expertise and qualifications were and continue to be systematically removed and replaced by non-qualified staff with no clinical skills'.

It is further alleged that staff with no clinical qualifications hold positions of operational seniority over clinicians and registered health practitioners. Treatment modalities determined by non-clinical staff for FDS clients trumpeting staff expertise has obvious dangers for innocent Queenslanders as these patients are sometimes in our community enjoying limited community treatment. Another alleged issue raised relates to significant public safety concerns which 'continue to be ignored with the general message to Forensic Disability Service staff being that "we are not minimising risks we are managing them"'.

Taken together, these two allegations of non-qualified staff replacing and overruling clinicians and the potential endangerment of Queenslanders may be seen to have come to a head in an alleged incident where 'a [Forensic Disability Service] client who is an untreated disabled sex offender was brought to a public library during story time, at the Client's request under the pretence of assumed rehabilitation'. Further to public safety concerns it is alleged that numerous Forensic Disability Service staff 'have been physically assaulted (some hospitalised) as a consequence of Forensic Disability Service client interaction with unskilled workers, managers, senior executives and administrative staff'.


A final issue involves the victimisation of the Forensic Disability Service staff. The whistleblower alleges that 'the management style of the workplace attempts to deliver results by lying, deceiving, bullying and intimidating staff'. It is further alleged that senior executives of the department of disability services undertook a systematic removal of staff who contributed their confidential insights into the two separate reviews of the Forensic Disability Service.

I am calling for other former employees to contact the opposition. The LNP believe there should be an independent investigation into the maladministration of the FDS to address concerns about staff safety and assaults, bullying, client neglect, community safety and excessive spending of taxpayers'

money. There has been an Ombudsman's review and subsequently the parliament via estimates has constantly had reassurances from the current and previous minister that the issues raised therein have been resolved. We are not confident that they have been resolved because the evidence is to the contrary. More needs to be done and there needs to be a further investigation, as I have called for today.

*(Time expired)*

### **Growing Queensland Business Roadshow; Coronavirus, Vaccination**

 **Ms HOWARD** (Ipswich—ALP) (2.40 pm): It was my honour to represent the Palaszczuk government at the 2021 Growing Queensland Business Roadshow in Ipswich last week. The Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement recently said that the Palaszczuk government's Buy Queensland approach is unashamedly pro Queensland. That is what the Buy Queensland approach is all about—backing Queensland businesses all the way. We are doing this by buying local every time, supporting jobs for Queenslanders and boosting the state's economy through ensuring Queensland dollars circulate here.

There was a fantastic turnout at the Ipswich business roadshow, with more than 100 local business owners and representatives coming to the event. In fact, we had to expand the event due to the level of demand. I am a huge supporter of local businesses in Ipswich and I thank the minister for bringing this event into our city.

After the challenges that our local businesses have faced over the past two years in particular, it is great to be part of a Queensland Labor government that is backing local business through our Buy Queensland approach. Our Queensland business roadshows have been travelling across the state and, in addition to Ipswich, have visited Rockhampton, Bundaberg, Beenleigh, Toowoomba, Cairns and Morayfield. We also did a further two sessions in Townsville on Monday.

Businesses have been able to access a wealth of information through the roadshow session such as how to sign up for alerts that will let them know when contracts are up for tender in their fields; what the Queensland government's plans are for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and advice on how they can be a part of that Olympic journey and how to boost their businesses along the way. As at 18 November 2021, 2,435 supplier representatives had registered their interest in receiving updates on Olympic procurement. Our roadshows help strengthen Queensland's business environment. They do this by creating more resilient businesses that can weather economic storms like the COVID pandemic, creating jobs to keep Queenslanders working, and ensuring the future of workers and local businesses to secure the future of Queensland's economy.

The best way at the moment that we can strengthen Queensland's business community is by making sure we all get vaccinated. We have just heard an excellent contribution by the member for Greenslopes that really puts things into perspective when it comes to vaccination. Businesses need a high level of certainty that they can continue to operate without the fear of lockdowns or state border closures. By all of us getting vaccinated, we can bring back that certainty. Let's face it: lockdowns are bad for business, but we have to remember that for most of this pandemic lockdowns were the only weapon we had against outbreaks because we did not have the vaccine yet or because only a few of us were able to get it at the time. Fortunately, Queensland has not had to lock down for extended periods like New South Wales and Victoria, but in the times that we have had to small businesses have borne the brunt of those lockdowns. They have been forced to shut down and lose revenue. Staff were impacted by lost wages and reduced hours.

Over the past few weeks I and other MPs have had our email inboxes bombarded by people vehemently opposed to COVID vaccines. I doubt that many of these people have any idea about the real-world costs that businesses and workers have faced due to lockdowns or when having to shut down for deep cleaning due to a COVID case having visited their business premises. This is the world of uncertainty and disruption that people opposing the COVID vaccines want us to live in.

The fact that some federal and state MPs from the LNP, One Nation and the Palmer United Party back this strange world view shows that they are happy to put misinformed ideology above the needs of our local business owners and workers. We heard from the member for Greenslopes that 120,000 frontline health workers have lost their lives trying to save lives. The least we can do is get vaccinated. It is our pathway out of uncertainty and disruption. Getting vaccinated means that lockdowns can be a thing of the past—and masks too. Businesses can plan for the future. Workers can be sure that their jobs are secure. If you want to support local business owners and their employees, get vaccinated. If you want to support our frontline health workers, get vaccinated.

The Palaszczuk government is committed to opening our state's internal border when we hit 80 per cent full vaccination. We are doing this so that we can reunite families and allow interstate visitors into Queensland. We are getting ready for that and so are our businesses. It is great to see that in Queensland we are now over 76 per cent fully vaccinated. In the Ipswich LGA, 75.3 per cent are fully vaccinated. We are going to hit our target of 80 per cent and the majority of Queenslanders and businesses are looking forward to it.

*(Time expired)*

### Department of Education



**Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (2.45 pm): I rise to bring to the attention of members of the Queensland parliament serious allegations pertaining to the Department of Education and specifically the Integrity and Employee Relations Unit. A former employee of the Queensland Department of Education and another public servant who is currently on long-term sick leave within the Department of Education have approached me in my capacity as the Liberal National Party's shadow minister for education. They have sought formal public interest disclosure status via myself as a state member of the Queensland parliament.

Having taken formal advice from the Clerk of the Queensland Parliament, who referenced schedule 5 of the Queensland parliament's standing orders, I then formally wrote to the Crime and Corruption Commission asking them to assess the matters raised and to advise me of their intentions. With respect to the formal correspondence I sent to the Crime and Corruption Commission, it was indicated in that correspondence that, had a formal response not been received back from the Crime and Corruption Commission by 26 November 2021 in relation to the intention of the Crime and Corruption Commission to assess and/or investigate the matters, it would then be my intention and responsibility as an elected member of the Queensland parliament to raise such matters in the Queensland parliament. I did not receive a response from the Crime and Corruption Commission by 26 November.

Having met with both complainants and carefully listened to the information of the circumstances which they described, I was deeply shocked and gravely concerned; hence, I do not take this step lightly in raising these matters in the Queensland parliament. Allegations from the two complainants included workplace bullying, maladministration, nepotism and cover-ups within the Department of Education specifically related to complaints about teachers that were effectively dismissed without due process and investigation. I am very concerned about the specific allegations of alleged criminal conduct, including the fabrication of evidence, hacking and reprisal action against public servants.

One specific allegation that shocked me—and one that would equally shock all Queensland parents—was a case of a teacher allegedly committing a heinous act against several students. The teacher allegedly admitted to forcing children into inappropriate physical acts including forcing students to squat in a corner as a punishment for simply talking. The public servant who was a senior investigator within the Department of Education spoke to the Office of the Human Rights Commission about this specific allegation, and it was confirmed that the actions of the teacher were an act of torture and should be addressed accordingly. It was reported to me that no reprisal action was taken against the teacher by the Department of Education and, when the investigator pursued the issue, he was put on a performance management plan and reprisal action commenced against this public servant.


Both the former public servant and the public servant still with the Department of Education referenced documented examples of bullying and provided evidence of departmental procedures not being followed, as well as further references of computer hacking and material breaches of code of conduct and relevant standards by senior executives within the Department of Education. These allegations are deeply disturbing, yet they are only the latest in a long line of serious workplace cultural and management issues that have beset the Department of Education under the Queensland state Labor government.

Hundreds of thousands of Queensland parents, students, teachers and staff entrust the Queensland state government to operate the Department of Education in a manner which ensures that the highest standards are met and maintained and where the safety of students, teachers and employees of the Department of Education are paramount. On the basis of the information that has been provided to the Liberal National Party opposition, and in view of countless other reported failings, it is absolutely clear that the state Labor government is failing to deliver the world-class education system that Queenslanders deserve.

Finally, there is also the serious matter of the principles of natural justice and welfare not being afforded to public servants who seek public interest disclosure or whistleblower status, because in this instance it seems to be problematic with respect to those two public servants who have sought assistance from the LNP opposition. As I indicated, one public servant has already left the Department of Education whilst the other is on long-term sick leave with the department due to the circumstances of this situation.

Clearly, both public servants and Queenslanders alike are rapidly forming the view that the Labor state government is losing control of the education system. I take this opportunity to say to the Minister for Education and the newly appointed director-general that these are serious matters which need to be looked at. These public servants have raised a raft of issues in relation to their particular unit. Time is of the essence in resolving those matters as they seriously pertain to students and student welfare issues, and I would encourage them to look into these matters as a matter of priority and urgency before the conclusion of this year.

### Cashless Debit Card

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (2.50 pm): Pensioners are Australia's battlers. They have worked all their lives and deserve to enjoy their retirement, but Scott Morrison, Michelle Landry, Matt Canavan and the LNP are out to stop 2.6 million Australian pensioners from having a meal at a pub, buying a scratchie or fresh fruit and veggies at the markets by forcing all pensioners onto the Cashless Debit Card across every corner of Queensland.

**Mr Bennett:** That's just not true!

**Ms LAUGA:** I will be pleased to inform the member for Burnett over the next four minutes. Anne Ruston, the federal LNP Minister for Families and Social Services, admitted in a Channel 7 interview—We're seeking ... to put all income management onto the universal platform which is the Cashless Debit Card ...

The LNP has also enshrined the Cashless Debit Card for pensioners in the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Continuation of Cashless Welfare) Bill 2020. I table a copy of the bill for members' information.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the Social Security (Administration) Amendment (Continuation of Cashless Welfare) Bill 2020, page 14 [\[2018\]](#).

**Ms LAUGA:** I wonder if the member for Burnett was at the LNP State Council.

**Mr Bennett:** I was, actually.

**Ms LAUGA:** The LNP State Council passed a motion calling for the card to be expanded across Queensland. I take that interjection from the member for Burnett. How many of those members opposite were present at this LNP State Council when they made this decision? How many of those members opposite voted in support of the Cashless Debit Card to be rolled out across Queensland?

**Mr Bennett:** I did.

**Ms LAUGA:** I will take that interjection from the member for Burnett, who just confirmed that he did vote in support of rolling out the Cashless Debit Card across Queensland.

We have an aged-care crisis that remains unaddressed and not responded to, Medicare rebates for critical hip, hand and shoulder surgeries that were cut under the cover of COVID from 1 July, and now the LNP want to force age pensioners onto the cashless pension card. We should not be surprised. The LNP's plan to expand the card and force pensioners onto it means the government would be able to control where pensioners and vulnerable Aussies spend 80 per cent of their income.

It is not like an ordinary bank debit card. The government and a private company would control when, where and how pensioners can spend their own money, what kinds of shops they can and cannot shop at, and what they can and cannot buy in those shops. There are already three venues in Central Queensland where these cards cannot be used: Pacific Hotel, Keppel Bay Sailing Club and the Frenchville Sports Club. I table a copy of a list of the Cashless Debit Card's blocked merchants.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents regarding the use of cashless debit cards [\[2019\]](#).

I encourage all members to have a look at the list of blocked merchants in their respective electorates. It is quite concerning that at a large number of them—over 800—you are not able to use these cards. It is absolutely awful that people are already banned from buying a coffee, meal or beer at



these three venues using the cashless welfare card. Two of these venues are community clubs that support local sporting teams. It concerns me greatly that anyone on the cashless welfare card will not be able to pay for their kids' or grandkids' sport registration fees and uniforms at these sporting clubs. How many other venues are going to be blocked in Central Queensland when the LNP rolls this card out to pensioners?

They even have a secret technology working group committee with the big banks, Australia Post and all of the big retailers that is trying to work out how they can do product-level blocking to control exactly which products people can buy. It is disgraceful. This government thinks it knows better than Australians how to spend their money. The vast majority of pensioners manage their money perfectly well. They know where every cent goes. If this card scheme gets through, pensioners would not be able to pay cash to buy cheap food at their local market, second-hand goods, a meal or a beer at the RSL, or give cash to their grandkids. This shocking scheme comes after eight years of cuts to the pension and attacks on pensioners by the Liberals and Nationals. Mr Morrison is not on the side of pensioners.

I am calling on the federal member for Capricornia and LNP Senator Matt Canavan to: apologise to Australian pensioners for the cashless pension control card plan; repeal all legislation that enables the cashless card and scrap the scheme; cancel the contract with Indue, the private company that runs and profits from the cashless card scheme; and stop the further privatisation of Centrelink. Labor will fight the federal government's plan to expand the shameful Cashless Debit Card and force it onto pensioners. A federal Labor government would abolish the privatised card. Labor will continue to fight this cruel card. Only an Albanese Labor government will scrap it completely if elected.

## MOTION

### Order of Business



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (2.55 pm): I move—

That government business order of the day No. 1 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## POLICE POWERS AND RESPONSIBILITIES AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 15 September (see p. 2768).

### Second Reading



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (2.55 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 1 November 2021 the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee tabled its report on its examination of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The committee made only one recommendation: that the bill be passed. I applaud the committee for the work it has done in its consideration of this bill. The committee ensured that all stakeholders had the opportunity to provide comment on the bill, and I thank those members of the public who contributed to this process.

The bill amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 and other legislation to provide a number of public safety benefits and efficiencies. It expands the existing police banning notice regime so that it applies to a person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant place. The amendments will give police enhanced powers to ensure reportable offenders are not accessing child exploitation material via digital devices.

Amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act regarding assumed identity legislation will provide greater safety to our officers who carry out vital undercover work. The bill also provides various operational efficiencies and protections for the Queensland Police Service in relation to the monitoring of surveillance devices, and the inclusion of nine Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences as reportable offences under the Child Protection Act 2004 will further enhance community safety. This means that those offenders who are convicted and sentenced to a period of imprisonment or a supervision order for those offences are placed on the national child protection system.

Importantly, the bill will provide greater protection to our valuable and much cared for police dogs and horses and corrective services dogs. Two new indictable offences punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment will apply to people who wilfully and unlawfully seriously injure or kill a police dog or horse or a corrective services dog.

I will now turn to the amendments to the Corrective Services Act included in the bill which are aimed at protecting victims and their families from retraumatisation and increasing the safety of the broader community. The amendments to the Corrective Services Act in this bill achieve three broad purposes: firstly, limit the retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a robust new framework for parole decisions about a life sentence prisoner who has committed multiple murders or who has murdered a child; secondly, they strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains; finally, they provide greater flexibility and support to Parole Board Queensland, allowing the board to respond to increased workloads and the risk different prisoners pose to the community.

Firstly, I will turn to the new framework for parole decisions for life sentenced prisoners who have committed multiple murders or murdered a child, as defined under the bill as restricted prisoners. Under Queensland law, a life sentence is for life. Consequently, a prisoner sentenced to life imprisonment will spend the entirety of their life either in custody or under parole supervision. These prisoners have all received life sentences in relation to multiple murders or the murder of a child. These are some of the most heinous crimes that not only impact those close to the victim but are deeply felt by the broader community.

Furthermore, parole is not a right or entitlement. It never has been. There will always be the possibility the prisoner might never be released on parole. Nothing in this framework alters that original sentencing decision. These new laws aim to protect those who have endured the pain and suffering of losing a loved one as a result of the offences committed by reducing further retraumatisation that the parole process may cause.

In addition to amendments relating to parole for life sentenced prisoners convicted of multiple murders or the murder of a child, or captured by the no-body no-parole framework, clause 11 of the bill extends the period of time the board can restrict any life sentenced prisoner from reapplying for parole, following a refusal of their parole application, from 12 months to up to three years. Where a restricted prisoner declaration is not made, the bill also introduces an additional barrier to parole by creating a presumption against parole. This provides that the board must refuse to grant the prisoner's parole application unless satisfied the prisoner does not pose an unacceptable risk to the public.

In relation to the appropriate decision-maker for restricted prisoner declarations, the new framework proposed by this bill gives discretion for the president of the Parole Board Queensland to make a restricted prisoner declaration, limiting the prisoner from being considered for parole for up to 10 years. In making a restricted prisoner declaration, the president must consider whether it is in the public interest to do so. This includes considering: the nature, seriousness and circumstances of the offending; any risk the prisoner may pose to the public if granted parole; and the effect the prisoner's release may have on a victim or eligible person.

The board is the sole authority in Queensland for parole decisions after a prisoner has been sentenced. Empowering the president to make restricted prisoner declarations is consistent with this function. The Corrective Services Act requires that the president have the qualifications, experience or standing equivalent to that of a judge. The president is, therefore, considered to be appropriately qualified to make decisions regarding the application of a restricted prisoner declaration.

I would like to now make a comment on the human rights considerations relating to these provisions. In line with legislative requirements, when introducing this bill I tabled a statement of compatibility setting out why, in my opinion, the bill is compatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act. Under the bill, a restricted prisoner has been sentenced to life imprisonment for multiple murders or the murder of a child. The prisoner's liberty has already been lawfully forfeited following their trial, conviction and sentencing before an independent Queensland court.

As representatives of the community, the government is responsible for determining the appropriate policies for the management of prisoners once dealt with by the court system. With this, the new framework seeks to balance the human rights and dignity of life sentenced prisoners who have committed multiple murders or the murder of a child with that of the victims' families, friends and the wider community. The primary aim of the restricted prisoner framework is to protect victims' families, friends and the broader community from further trauma caused by restricted prisoners being considered for parole at ongoing short intervals. This serves to protect and promote the rights of victims and the broader community. It places an additional barrier on a prisoner who presents an unacceptable risk to

the community from being released into the community. Ultimately, the amendments aim to achieve an appropriate balance between the limitations placed on the rights of an individual against the importance of safeguarding victims and their surviving family members against retraumatisation that flows from these parole applications.

Amendments in this bill also strengthen the intent of the no-body no-parole provisions introduced initially into the Corrective Services Act in 2017 by this government. Protecting victims is front and centre in this framework. The no-body no-parole framework refers to the principle that a prisoner convicted of a homicide offence who refuses to adequately assist police in locating the victim or victim's remains should not be granted the privilege of parole. As such, a primary focus of the no-body no-parole framework is to encourage timely cooperation from these prisoners by denying parole release until such time as the Parole Board Queensland is satisfied the prisoner has satisfactorily cooperated in identifying the location or last known location of the victim's remains. In September last year, this government made a commitment to the Homicide Victims' Support Group to update the ministerial guidelines to the Parole Board Queensland to state that timeliness must be a significant consideration for no-body no-parole decisions. With the passing of this bill, that will now proceed.

The amendments in this bill also address that issue by allowing the board to decide to consider a prisoner's cooperation at any time after sentencing. This earlier consideration will prompt a submission from the prisoner and encourage their cooperation much earlier in their sentence. The amendments also place a clearer restriction on prisoners reapplying for parole if their cooperation is not considered by the board to be satisfactory. To further support these amendments and feedback from the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group, the ministerial guidelines to the board are now being updated to clarify that timely cooperation is a significant consideration for no-body no-parole decisions. The updated guidelines will be published after commencement of the bill. It is important that affected prisoners understand the impact of these changes. I have therefore asked Queensland Corrective Services to individually engage with each affected prisoner to ensure they know what changes are being made and how this may impact their future parole prospects.


I take this opportunity to pay tribute to all members of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group for their strong advocacy on this matter. As the group's CEO has said, 'We took this to government. Government listened. And we are very pleased with the outcome.' I am also reminded of the words of Bruce Morcombe when we introduced this bill in June this year. He said, 'Today is a day I won't forget.' I pay tribute to the Morcombes today for their tenacity in advocating for those who have lost loved ones.

I turn to the amendments that support the operations of the Parole Board Queensland. The board has experienced an increase in applications over the past number of years, related to prisoner increases as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the associated increase in applications for exceptional circumstances parole. The amendments included in this bill provide the board with greater flexibility to respond to the risks different prisoners pose to community safety: firstly, by extending the period of time the board can restrict a life sentenced prisoner from reapplying for parole from one year to up to three years; secondly, by providing the board with greater flexibility in altering the quorum requirements for particular parole matters; and, finally, by temporarily increasing the time frames the board has to make parole decisions by 60 days.

I would like to address some of the matters stakeholders have raised. In relation to the proposal around the extension of restriction on reapplying for parole for all life sentenced prisoners, submitters to the committee process raised concerns regarding the new proposed length of restrictions on life sentenced prisoners reapplying for parole following refusal. Currently, the board can only restrict the prisoner for reapplying for a maximum of 12 months. This is not an adequate time in all cases where there may be limited prospects that the prisoner's circumstances have changed in that short amount of time. This allows such prisoners to reapply for parole yearly, creating the potential for undue stress and trauma to victims and families of victims of these offences. This amendment addresses this situation by providing the board with a broader discretion to set a restriction period of reapplying for parole for up to three years.

In relation to comments around the temporary extension for time frames, I note that some comments have been made about that. This amendment is aimed at assisting the board to manage the immediate volume of matters it has before it. This is a temporary measure; it is not a permanent measure and it is not an isolated measure. This government recently announced extra funding for a temporary fifth operating team and the continued operation of a temporary fourth operating team for the board. These additional resources are already working to assist the board in reducing delayed decisions.

In conclusion, this bill represents the Palaszczuk government's commitment to protecting victims, their families and the broader community as well as taking a strong stance on the parole decisions for prisoners who have committed some of the most heinous crimes in this state's history. I commend the bill to the House and I encourage all members to support it.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (3.10 pm): I rise to contribute to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I state at the outset that the LNP will not be opposing this bill. However, there are a number of provisions contained within this bill that members on this side of the House will be speaking to, not the least of which are the changes to parole decisions and the delays around the processing of parole applications.

I note the main objectives of the bill are to reduce knife crime by expanding the police banning notice regime to apply to a person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place; to limit retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or who has murdered a child; to strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains; to provide the Parole Board Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety; to create administrative and operational efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service, enhance intelligence gathering about dangerous drugs and ensure Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences are updated in Queensland legislation; and to create indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a Queensland Corrective Services dog, a QPS dog or a QPS horse.

Firstly, I will speak to the amendments relating to knife crime, specifically around licensed premises, where alcohol is sold and in safe night precincts. When it comes to safe night precincts, I can offer real-world input because during my time in the Queensland Police Service I was tasked with implementing the safe night precinct in Townsville from scratch. That was a huge undertaking and made a significant difference to that particular community at the time. I remind all members of the House that it was an LNP government that implemented safe night precincts. While there have been changes since their introduction, the provision of a safe place for socialising is something the LNP has always, and will always, support.

The bill intends to expand the police banning notice regime by empowering police to exclude persons in possession of a knife in contravention of section 51 of the Weapons Act for a period of no longer than one month. I note references in the explanatory notes to two recent murders involving knives in safe night precincts and to the fact that police are 'increasingly concerned with the disregard shown by some offenders'. The increasing carriage of knives in public places and the propensity of offenders to use knives in altercations in public places is cause for concern. This is a worrying trend identified by our police officers on the front line and it is only right and proper that we should be beefing up the laws around the carriage of knives in a public place.

Given the ongoing issues in our justice system, I would also ask the minister to clarify how the period of one month was arrived at and ask the minister to comment on whether that period does indeed allow sufficient time for the charge to be heard in a court of law.

Safe night precincts are located in key entertainment areas across Queensland. Regardless of where we live, Queenslanders are entitled to a safe night out and that is why the LNP is supporting the amendments before the House, allowing the trial of handheld scanners for locating knives. I also add that section 51 of the Weapons Act relating to the possession of a knife in a public place or a school does not apply to a person who carries a knife on his or her belt for performing work in primary production. There is a lot of scuttlebutt out there about that and I wanted to put that on the record here today.

I will now move on to the amendments that relate to civilian police employees and contracted translators. Hollywood would have us believe that monitoring phone calls, messages and surveillance devices involves sitting in a van for a few minutes until the criminal mastermind inadvertently reveals his dastardly plan. Nothing could be further from the truth. While one of the strengths of the men and women who serve Queensland in the Police Service is their diverse backgrounds, it is not always possible for police officers to translate languages other than English. For that reason, civilian police employees and contracted translators are used to assist during surveillance and communication interception operations. Given the multinational approach that some criminals are now taking, it is even more imperative that communications in languages other than English can be interpreted in a timely manner. That is why the LNP supports these particular amendments.

I note that there is a reference to section 14 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act which relates to the security of facilities. I also note that the bill will permit QPS civilian employees and contracted translators to monitor surveillance devices without the need for constant police supervision.

Whilst I have absolute faith in our police, I would like the minister to clarify that the safety of civilian police employees and contractors will always be utmost in considering whether it is necessary for a sworn police officer to be present during surveillance operations.

I mentioned earlier the tendency for criminals to become multinational in their approach. The internet is partly responsible for enabling that to happen. While this technology provides improved access to education and health care, there is always an undeniable dark side. It is often said that enforcing the law is a game of cat and mouse and, while it is not a game, it is an apt description. The criminals are the mice and our police are the cats, doing their absolute best to keep up and to outmanoeuvre the criminals. Included in their arsenal for tackling some of the most heinous and serious crimes is the option for our police to use an assumed identity.

Given the nature of the criminal element they are investigating or gathering information on, the dangers that apply to officers operating under an assumed identity are extremely high. Backstopping is possibly the best defence that an officer or other person using an assumed identity has. In these days of communication in the virtual world, a birth certificate or other paper document may be of little to no use.

While the explanatory notes mention the need to address potential financial risks, these amendments deal with something far more important than money. Effective backstopping can literally be the difference between life and death for persons using an assumed identity. I value the sacrifices that these officers make and acknowledge the dangers they face and, for those reasons, the LNP wholeheartedly support the strengthening of backstopping.

There is no doubt that a watertight, long-term history for an assumed identity is necessary to ensure minimal threat to the safety of the officer while also minimising potential financial losses should a police operation be compromised. It is for those same reasons that I will not be opposing the amendments to allow for the use of assumed identities for training purposes and also the amendments relating to the delegation of power for granting and administering assumed identities. As more complicated and technological methods are used by criminals to not only commit their crimes but also to attempt to conceal them, it is vitally important for our police to keep pace.

It is a well-known saying that justice must not only be done but it must be seen to be done. With that and ensuring a fair trial, open courts are a cornerstone of our legal system. The closing of a court, especially for the trial of an adult, is quite rare and, in order for our police to maintain any advantage they may have over criminals, it is absolutely vital that some methodologies are protected from being either deliberately or inadvertently revealed.

Again, it is necessary to refer to the dark side of technology. For many of us, our mobile phone is so much more than a phone. It is a diary, a way to access information and, in more recent times, a way to help tackle a pandemic. Unfortunately, there are those who use devices like phones and computers to both commission and attempt to conceal their crimes, and it is only with the use of confidential methods that these crimes can be prevented or prosecuted.

To ensure these methods continue to be of use in tackling crime, it is essential that they remain confidential. For that reason, I will be supporting the amendments to provide the necessary protections to do just that.

One of the key themes of this bill is the use of information, particularly for detecting and prosecuting crime. The proposed amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act relating to prisoners held in police custody is a way to ensure police can access information from a consenting prisoner to assist with the performance of the functions of law enforcement agencies. It is important to note that the provisions provided by these amendments will not be used frequently and that any assistance provided to police is provided with the clear consent of both the person providing the information and with the approval of a magistrate.

Furthermore, the person providing information must be an adult, may seek legal counsel and the application must be approved by an officer at the rank of detective superintendent or higher prior to application being made to the magistrate. I note that these particular amendments are due to the fact that prisoners are routinely being held at police watch houses pending their transfer. This bill will amend the PPRA to allow police to remove a sentenced or remanded prisoner from police custody to voluntarily provide information to assist police. That information can often be the difference between solving or not solving a serious crime.

Queensland Police Dog Squad officers and Corrective Services dog handlers have a special relationship with their four-legged partners that for most people is difficult to understand. These dogs are their partners. They are so much more than a pet. They are invaluable in helping our police and corrective services officers perform their duties. I have personally witnessed police dogs in action on numerous occasions and I can attest to the special bond that exists between a handler and a dog and the crucial work that these animals do. Similarly, our mounted unit have a special bond with their horses. As a horse owner, I can also attest to the role that our mounted police unit performs. Should our police and corrective services dogs and horses be protected? Absolutely they should!

Regardless of any particular skill set they are trained for, the arrival on scene of a police dog is widely welcomed by all police officers. It may not be so in the case of the offender, but I can assure honourable members that, as a former police officer, it was a pretty welcome sight when the dog handler turned up with their dog. Whether it is a general duties or a drug dog, the assistance provided by these police dogs is invaluable. Make no mistake: an attack on a police or corrective services dog or a police horse is an attack on a member of that service. No-one condones animal cruelty and no-one tolerates attacks on police or correctives services animals. Those on this side of the House welcome the introduction of a new indictable offence for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a police or corrective services dog or a police horse punishable by a maximum period of five years imprisonment.

As we have seen from time to time from this government, a large proportion of the amendments contained in this bill are reactive in nature. Changes to the monitoring of surveillance devices and ensuring access to technology are in response to changes in criminal behaviour. Changes to banning notices are directly in response to two tragic deaths, and it is not just this bill. Amendments to the Youth Justice Act were triggered by a tragedy. No-one in this place would object to legislation to address emerging trends in crime, but it is only right to question why reactive legislation quite often has taken so long under this government.

One such example is the amendments to allow Queensland to participate in the Enhanced National Intelligence Picture on Illicit Drugs program. The explanatory notes refer to benefits that participation in this program would provide, including assisting police to disrupt local drug crime and chemically profiling domestic samples to assist in identifying precursor source countries including routes of manufacture—and what a great opportunity that provides.

During my time in the Police Service I saw for myself the damage that is caused to our community by drugs, and I am sure I am not alone as a member of this House who is contacted on an almost daily basis about drugs affecting a family or a community. Yet Queensland has dragged the chain. We have a police minister who stood in this House talking about strong borders and the effect on crime. Yet here we have a national program that, according to notes tabled by the same minister, can assist with combatting the drug trade across borders.

One would think that if stopping crime at the border was really a priority, this police minister would be at the front of the queue. It has now been 11 years since the ENIPID program began and Queensland is the only Australian jurisdiction that does not participate. That is a failure of all governments since 2010, but the lion's share of that failure lies with this Labor government due to the fact that Labor has held power for eight of those 11 years. In fact, the current police minister has held that position since November 2016—over five years now. When it comes to tackling the scourge of drugs in our communities, he has effectively ignored the opportunity to make a difference for five long years.

Every single Queensland finds crimes against our children abhorrent. That is why, even after they are released, the people who commit these offences can be subject to monitoring, and it is why the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act includes the power for police to inspect a digital device in the possession of a reportable offender convicted of a prescribed internet offence. What do these powers do in the real world? They ensure that these convicted offenders are included on the national child offender system. That means that these convicted offenders need to keep police informed of personal details such as their whereabouts and any reportable contact they may have with children. It is a safety net of sorts and according to the explanatory notes, it will assist the QPS to effectively manage those reportable offenders in the community.

One would think that protecting children from these types of offenders would be a top priority for a government, and so it should be. Why then has it taken until now for this government to act on a recommendation from the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management and the Council of Attorneys-General made in June 2019? It has taken more than two years to implement a recommendation that back in June 2019 was described as something that should be done as soon as practicable. It is this government that says including additional offences in schedule 1 of the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act will 'satisfy the position of the

council'. No, Minister, these amendments will protect children. That should be his first priority, not satisfying a council of ministers and attorneys-general, yet it has taken two years to do exactly that. That inaction speaks volumes.

Speaking of protecting children, the LNP fully supports the addition of Commonwealth Criminal Code offences as disqualifying offences in relation to the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act. Naturally, the LNP also offers its full support to amendments ensuring more culturally appropriate wording when referring to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. There can be no greater pain for a family than the loss of a loved one at the hands of a murderer. Whilst our police do their utmost to assist, it is a sad fact that for some of those families closure may take years or even decades to achieve if it is ever achieved.

One thing that can assist with providing closure is the location of the victim's remains, allowing the family to mourn and to say their farewells in accordance with their wishes and on their own terms. Withholding the location of a body extends the suffering of victims' families, and all efforts should be made to attempt to minimise the grief that families experience in these circumstances. The concept of no-body no-parole is one that can assist the family and friends of victims of homicide, but we must be conscious of the fact that a person convicted of homicide has been proven to have planned to kill someone. Currently consideration of no-body no-parole is triggered by a relevant prisoner applying for parole. I note that the amendments strengthen the original intention of the no-body no-parole policy by incentivising prisoners to provide earlier cooperation in locating the remains of a homicide victim by allowing the board to consider the prisoner's cooperation and their subsequent decision on whether or not to make a no cooperation declaration in relation to the prisoner at any time after sentencing.

I mentioned earlier the pain felt by a family after the loss of a loved one at the hands of a murderer. This pain is amplified many times over when the victim is a child or the offender has murdered multiple people. I am talking about Daniel Morcombe, Sian Kingi and Tiahleigh Palmer. I know my colleagues will have more to say on these horrific murders in their contribution to this debate. Make no mistake: these offenders belong in jail and the families and friends of the deceased should not have to go through the pain of these monsters applying for parole on a regular basis. For that reason, the LNP supports this amendment that authorises the president of the board to declare that a restricted prisoner must not be considered for parole for a period of up to 10 years. I certainly hope that is the case in most of these instances.


I note that the new framework sets a higher threshold for the granting of exceptional circumstances parole for prisoners who are subject to a restricted prisoner declaration. This takes account of the seriousness of their crimes and the ongoing impact on victims' family and friends as well as the broader community. Of course, there should be a presumption against parole where a restricted prisoner declaration is not made. Community safety must be paramount. As members of parliament, we should be listening to our communities and making sure prisoners who are convicted of these types of crimes stay behind bars, where they belong.

This brings me to the final amendment, which is the one titled 'Supporting the Parole Board Queensland'. You can dress this up however you like and call it what you like, but the fact remains that we have a crisis within the parole system in Queensland which has necessitated this minister moving amendments to extend the parole consideration time frames under section 193(3) for a period of six months. The blowout in the time frames for the consideration of parole applications has had far-reaching consequences. In his contribution my colleague the member for Clayfield, the shadow Attorney-General, will expand on the impact that those delays are having on our court system and on state finances.

Suffice it to say, this government have taken their eye off the ball when it comes to ensuring parole applications are considered in a timely manner. The fact they have had to move this amendment is confirmation of the failings of the government in this space. The LNP has made it clear that we will support legislation that provides good outcomes for Queensland and for Queenslanders. There is no greater responsibility for a government than to keep Queenslanders safe. While we will support legislation that provides good outcomes, we will not hold back on ensuring that the government are aware that they are being scrutinised and that they are being held accountable, as they should be.

Queenslanders want to feel safe in their homes. Queenslanders want to see less crime and they want to see the people responsible for those crimes held to account. This bill contains amendments that are truly necessary to address crime, and they are well overdue. While this bill is not the answer to reducing crime, it does address issues which are raised by our judiciary, police, corrective services officers and the broader community. It supports our police and corrective services officers, giving them the direction and additional tools that they need to do their jobs more effectively. Make no mistake: the

scrutiny of this government and the bills they introduce will continue. However, the very least that we can do as members of parliament is to ensure we give our emergency services the tools and resources they need to keep our community safe. For that reason, I will not be opposing this bill and I urge other members to do likewise.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.32 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The policy objectives of the bill are as follows to: reduce knife crime by expanding the police banning notice regime to apply to a person, namely an adult, who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public space; limit retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentence prisoner who has committed multiple murders or who has murdered a child; strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise early prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains; provide the Parole Board Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to the increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety; create administrative and operational efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service, enhance intelligence gathering regarding dangerous drugs and ensure Commonwealth child sex abuse offences are updated in Queensland legislation; and create indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a Queensland Corrective Services dog or Queensland Police Service dog or horse, reflecting the seriousness of the offences in line with community expectations.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into the Legislative Assembly and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 15 September 2021. The committee's report No. 15, which was tabled in the Assembly on 1 November, has recommended to the Assembly that the bill be passed. The bill is a comprehensive amendment bill and proposes several legislative amendments that are designed to keep Queenslanders safe. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee examined the bill and heard from stakeholders during the inquiry.

I will now deal with the new parole framework. The bill introduces a new framework for parole decisions about restricted prisoners. The prisoners captured under the amendments in this bill have committed some of the most heinous crimes in Queensland. These prisoners are those who are serving life sentences for multiple murders or for the murder of a child and those who have not cooperated in locating the body or remains of a homicide victim. These amendments are about changing the overall policy for no-body no-parole, but they do strengthen the policy by incentivising prisoners to cooperate earlier. Where a restricted prisoner's declaration is not made, the bill introduces an additional barrier to parole by creating a presumption against parole. This provides that the board must refuse to grant a prisoner's parole application unless it is satisfied that the prisoner does not pose an unacceptable risk to the public.

The government is ensuring that the public interest is the primary consideration when deciding whether to make a restricted prisoner declaration. The government acknowledges the harm, grief and trauma that is caused by these prisoners. This is why we continue to implement robust legislation that is tough on crime and equal to the harm those prisoners have caused. The government is providing the opportunity for victims themselves, if they want to be involved—I will restate that as I know it is important: if they want to be involved—to determine the way they are involved in this new process. However, they will not be compelled. Instead, a discretionary process will be adopted through the victims register to allow eligible persons to decide the level of engagement they want with the restricted prisoner process.

It is intended that these amendments provide a higher level of scrutiny of those prisoners who commit those more heinous crimes prior to their release from custody. The strengthening of the no-body no-parole framework will introduce a discretion for the board to consider a prisoner's cooperation at any time after sentencing, instead of requiring this consideration to wait until the prisoner applies for parole. The board will be required to make no-cooperation declarations about a prisoner where the board determines the prisoner has not cooperated satisfactorily and restrict the prisoners subject to a no-cooperation declaration from applying for parole. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee noted that the declaration of a prisoner as a restricted prisoner could be made by the court rather than by the president of the Parole Board.

Transparency in the parole decision-making process ensures members of the community can remain confident in the legitimacy of parole decisions and clearly understand the factors the Parole Board considers when releasing prisoners to parole. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee inquiry showed there was support for the publication of written decisions to increase transparency and public accountability of the board's decisions; however, submitters to the inquiry considered that decisions to publicise parole determinations should not be made lightly and should not be subject to an automatic




rule. Several submitters raised concerns in relation to the need to protect personal information. The committee also received a confidential submission providing examples of the impacts of publication of confidential information not only on the prisoner but also on those connected to the prisoner.

Publication of certain parole decisions is an approach taken in some other Australian jurisdictions, including both Tasmania and Western Australia, which publish parole decisions as determined by their relevant governing policies. In introducing the power to require publication of certain parole decisions as prescribed by regulation, similar to the approach taken in those other jurisdictions, the information the board publishes should be clear, informative and succinct.

In relation to knife crime, the amendments to the legislation expand the scope of banning notices to include persons who unlawfully possess a knife. This will be an addition to what constitutes disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent behaviour and will make possessing a knife in a public place or school a contravention of section 51 of the Weapons Act. There were several submitters who raised concerns in relation to these provisions. They argued that the administration of police banning notices can have unintended and undue consequences. The Queensland Police Service advised that the intent of police in issuing banning notices is to provide immediate protection to members of the community enjoying a safe night out by curbing and deterring alcohol and drug related violence in liquor precincts and, in relation to possessing a knife, the police advised that section 51 of the Weapons Act allows for a reasonable excuse for possession, including to prepare or cut food or for normal utility purposes.

The bill further addresses inefficiencies identified by the Queensland Police Service where it has determined the requirement for constant police supervision of civilian monitors and contracted translators. There is sufficient rigour already in place around who can be authorised to carry out these duties. Addressing this requirement for significant direct police officer supervision will be time saved and will enable frontline police officers to be redeployed to increase Queensland Police Service policing capacity.

The bill also introduces child sexual abuse prescribed internet offences. This is to ensure that police can use existing digital device inspection powers for those particular Commonwealth sexual offences to disrupt recidivist child sex offending cycles and effectively manage reportable offenders in the community. In addition, the amendments support the national agreements which called upon states and territories to progress legislative amendments to expand their registration and supervision schemes to apply to Commonwealth child sex offenders. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee acknowledges the seriousness of these offences. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (3.42 pm): Whilst this bill proposes many amendments to various pieces of legislation, first and foremost I want to address the aspect of this bill that makes changes to our parole laws—changes that have come about as a direct result of the advocacy of the Kingi family, changes which the Kingi family would like to be known as ‘Sian’s Law’. These changes seek to limit the retraumatisation of victims’ families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or murdered a child.

Under ‘Sian’s Law’, the president of the Parole Board Queensland will be able to make a declaration that a prisoner who is convicted of killing a child and serving a life sentence or convicted of multiple murders and serving a life sentence and becomes eligible for parole cannot be considered for parole for a period of up to 10 years. Under the proposed laws, there is no limit on the number of declarations that can be issued to these prisoners which means that the decision to block parole for these monsters could be made on a rolling basis. Also, the president of the Parole Board Queensland will be able to make the declaration irrespective of whether the prisoner has already made an application for parole.

Just to give some context to the genesis of this law, here is the history of the Kingi family’s advocacy for this legislative change. Thirty-four years ago almost to the day today, 12-year-old Sian was abducted in Noosa. Her body was found seven days later. She had been raped, tortured and murdered. Fifteen days later her murderer, Barrie Watts, was arrested and charged. On 28 February 1990, Sian’s murderer was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. At sentencing, the judge remarked—

The sentence for murder is life in prison and in my view the sentence should mean just that.

In November 2020, Sian’s murderer became eligible for and applied for parole. The Kingi family was notified and they found themselves in a traumatic and difficult situation where they had to provide affidavits and evidence as to why the man who raped and murdered their child should not be granted parole. The Parole Board framework now requires that the Parole Board finalise applications within

three months, but due to the backlog and the broken parole system in Queensland the Kingi family had to endure the uncertainty of whether or not their child's murderer would be released on parole for almost a year.

On 6 June 2021, Sian's family, friends and teachers launched a petition and 72,000 people signed it. On 16 June 2021, the member for Ninderry tabled that petition in the Queensland parliament calling on the government to toughen the laws, to keep the worst of the worst and monsters like Barrie Watts out of our community. On 17 June 2021, the day after the petition was tabled, the government announced there would be new parole laws for the worst of the worst for offenders like Barrie Watts. The government announced 'Sian's Law' and on 15 September 2021 the police minister introduced the bill that we are debating here today that contains these parole laws. The atrocities committed against Sian and the advocacy that followed by Sian's family and friends should be rightly acknowledged by this parliament. Their voice on this issue has brought about legislative change that we are debating today, and I thank them for it.

Turning now to the other aspects of this bill which the LNP is concerned about, as the Prisoners' Legal Service noted during the public hearing, there are no quick fixes for the parole crisis we are currently facing and, sadly, it seems this bill will do very little to fix our broken parole system. The government has failed to draft legislation that will have a real effect on the delays currently faced by the Parole Board. This is despite having six months to plan and draft effective legislation.

LawRight wrote to the ministers for justice, police and the Treasurer on 15 March this year outlining serious backlogs and delays facing the Parole Board. A month later, LawRight and the Prisoners' Legal Service sent further correspondence to the ministers detailing the cost of these backlogs to Queensland. The Prisoners' Legal Service has estimated the cost of the Parole Board backlog is \$3.9 million per month. At the time of their correspondence, the Parole Board estimated there were over 1,500 matters that were already out of time. That is a cost to date of \$31.5 million to Queensland.

The Parole Board's backlogs cannot be fixed with this rushed legislation. Kate Greenwood from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service was right when she said that the system is largely counterproductive and it is a mess, that the delays from the Parole Board are unacceptable, that Queensland's prisons are overcrowded and without meaningful legislative change they will only continue to get more crowded, and that prisoners are not being released the way they used to be because of the Parole Board delays. The very real effect this has on our community is that all of the positive benefits the community gets from a parole system—the services, the keeping of parolees on the straight and narrow—is being disregarded.

Introducing the new parole process for life sentenced multiple or child murderers is great, but it will not fix the broken parole system. In fact, as these new parole measures will only apply to life sentenced multiple murderers or child murderers, notwithstanding these are monstrous offences, the number of life sentenced multiple murderers or child murderers currently in our prisons is relatively small. This measure in the bill, while important, does nothing to address the Parole Board backlog. So what does the government propose in order to fix the Parole Board backlog? This bill also grants the Parole Board a temporary extension to the legislative time frames for parole decisions to be made. This proposal is a black-and-white admission from the Palaszczuk Labor government that the Parole Board is unable to keep pace with the current applications for parole. This proposal will reverse time frame reforms made by the 2016 Sofronoff report. The recommendation as written under sections 892 and 893 of the Sofronoff report states—

The Parole Board should be required to decide applications for parole within 120 days of the application being made by a prisoner.

This allows prisoners to know, up to two months in advance, what the date of their parole will be and it allows the Probation and Parole Service time to take appropriate steps to prepare the prisoner for release, because we know that disruptions to the ability of prisoners to plan for employment, housing, Centrelink and vital community connections and the associated negative impact on mental health are all connected to the likelihood of that prisoner reoffending.


However, this proposal is a transparent attempt to paper over an administrative failure to comply with the recommendations in the Sofronoff report. An extension of time to consider applications is little more than an attempt to fix what is essentially funding deficiencies within the Parole Board. This is a poor fix to a very real problem and it will neither assist parolees nor the community in general. In fact, the effect of this will be that people will unnecessarily remain in custody for longer. The Parole Board's backlog in decisions inevitably will increase the risk to community safety. This is perhaps best

demonstrated by reports in the *Courier-Mail* from September this year that stated, incredibly, that some judges are adjusting their sentences, reducing the terms of imprisonment, to take into account the delays in parole decisions.

Then there is the issue of youth crime which this bill completely misses the opportunity to fix. Constituents in my border community have been plagued by an uprising in crime, especially juvenile crime. One Currumbin local reached out to me after she and her neighbours joined the ranks of thousands of Queenslanders who have been terrorised by young criminals. My constituent has been broken into several times by kids as young as 14 and they have made a mockery of our criminal justice system, posting videos of themselves driving in my constituent's stolen car at 180 kilometres an hour. Our community knows that crime is running rampant. The minister knows it and he needs to do better. These young criminals know it. They know that under this weak state Labor government they can and they will get away with it. We deserve better from this Queensland state government, which is why it is so disappointing that this bill does not address the youth crime pandemic.

Then there are the amendments in this bill that are well overdue, amendments such as including five Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences as prescribed internet offences in section 21B. The amendment is to ensure that police can use existing digital device inspection powers for these particular Commonwealth sexual offences, including grooming, to disrupt recidivist child sex offending cycles and effectively manage reportable offenders in the community. As a former federal prosecutor who prosecuted child sexual abuse offences, I know how important this amendment is and I support any measure that will assist Queensland police to manage such offenders, but it has taken this government more than two years to act on this. The Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management and the Council of Attorneys-General recommended that these amendments happen back in June 2019. They described them as something that should be done as soon as practicable, yet two years on we are only just seeing them.

While this bill is certainly not the answer to reducing crime in Queensland, it does address some matters that must be addressed and need to be addressed, which is why the LNP will be supporting the bill and not opposing it. Make no mistake, this Queensland government has lost control of crime and our parole system is broken.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (3.52 pm): I rise today to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. As always, a very sincere thanks goes to the secretariat for their tireless work in this area and also to my fellow committee members: Peter Russo, member for Toohey; Jonty Bush, member for Cooper; Sandy Bolton, member for Noosa; Laura Gerber, member for Currumbin; and Mr Andrew Powell, member for Glass House.

I rather like our Queensland police. In fact, I like them a heck of a lot. Our police do an immensely difficult and incredibly dangerous job, all while trying to balance the rigors of shiftwork with family life and all while being exposed to so much graphic violence that their mental health and physical safety is under constant assault. If it is not PTSD it is the much less talked about but equally damaging vicarious trauma. The silent wounds that these conditions inflict on our police do not disappear when the shift is finished or when the officer retires. Indeed, these conditions keep corroding long after the critical incident is dealt with and filed away.

Not only do our police face these demons and the ever-present and often tragic consequences of these mental health concerns; they do it all while engaging in the most commendable goal that any job can ever have: to keep us safe. They keep our borders secure during pandemics, they keep our roads safe and as fatality free as possible and they confront and stare down some of the darkest elements in our society in order that the rest of us can flourish in safety. Rapists, thieves, murderers, child sex offenders and anyone else who breaks their social contract and cannot live within our society's laws are all held at bay by our police.

No institution should be above scrutiny or criticism, and our police are no exception, but I do ask that those who take it upon themselves to criticise our police have the good grace and the good sense to do so from the position of an informed opinion. Every time an officer is involved in an incident I am constantly amazed at the ill-informed criticism that is directed at our police. For example, I had no idea there was such a prodigious number of expert marksmen within some sections of our social media communities. Indeed, those who are not Google trained firearm experts appear to be YouTube inspired specialists in control and restraint and self-defence techniques. These people are ever ready to vilify police with a level of online expertise that I am quite certain either does not exist or has never actually been put to the test in the real world.

Let those who are quick to judge our police understand that being a real pro at *Call of Duty* on a PlayStation is a vastly different proposition to having to draw a Glock and carry out a stoppage drill while in a life-threatening, high-pressure situation. It is with this in mind, cognisant that our police deserve every shred of assistance that we can give them, that I support this bill for the assurance it gives to the victims of crime and the acknowledgement that it gives to our police, including our four legged police, for a continuing job well done.

The bill's objectives are not contentious and can be summarised into a number of broad categories: a reduction in knife crime by expanding the banning notice to include an adult who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public space; a new framework for parole decisions as they apply to multiple murderers and those who have murdered children; strengthening the no-body no-parole framework; assisting the Parole Board Queensland with its workload and risk assessment; improved administration for the Queensland Police Service and enhanced intel gathering; and the creation of an indictable offence for killing or injuring a Queensland Police Service or Corrective Services dog or a QPS horse.

To briefly expand on some of these points, changes to the no-body no-parole framework did attract some concerns from submitters around a perceived punitive nature or around restricted prisoners. However, the Queensland Police Service provided that so far as the victims are concerned there is an adverse impact around yearly parole applications coming from life sentenced prisoners and that the board's ability to not consider a parole application for a further three years was a balance between the life sentenced prisoner's ability to seek parole and the wellbeing of the victim's family.

The amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, specifically clause 38, will expand the scope of banning notices for the possession of a knife. QPS advise that these amendments will further dissuade the unlawful possession of a knife in these public areas because these changes will be in addition to any court proceedings that may be commenced against a person. It is vital that we support police in their efforts to get as many blue shirts out into the community as possible, not only to engage in criminal investigations but also to help them as much as we can as they seek to get on the front foot and roll out more traditional, and I would argue equally as effective, proactive community policing. I believe that amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation clauses 39 and 44 will assist in that way. It seems an inefficient use of resources to require continuous police officer supervision for civilian employee monitoring surveillance devices. The community rightly hopes and expects that these blue shirts will be out and about performing frontline duties, preventing, investigating and responding to crime and not supervising non-sworn staff members.

Before concluding, I would like to expand on what I believe is a very important aspect of the bill that might otherwise go unnoticed or perhaps not afforded what I consider to be its due significance. The bill amends the Police Service Administration Act and the Corrective Services Act to create an indictable offence to wilfully and unlawfully kill or seriously injure a police dog, police horse or a corrective services dog. The offence is focused on single acts or assaults/retaliation on a police or corrective services animal as opposed to prolonged suffering or torture. I have never seen a police dog or horse in action, and I have no doubt that they are magnificent, but I have seen a corrective services dog at work more times than I can recall and they too are magnificent. These dogs and their highly trained and extremely professional handlers are an invaluable asset to public safety and the safety of custodial staff within our prisons. Whether providing an extra layer of security to an external escort or responding to a code yellow, these dogs are a sight to behold when they are in full flight.

It will surprise no-one to learn that adult prisons are violent and dangerous places. When a unit misbehaves there is nothing more reassuring for the staff than to hear on the radio that the Delta Unit is responding up the walkways. I should add that that reassurance applies only to the staff. For unruly prisoners, a corrective services GP dog commands instant respect. They have a wonderful calming effect when compliance is required from an unruly unit. Those dogs must be protected as they are often called to the most dangerous and violent incidents. The changes in the bill will offer them a new level of protection that I am confident the community expects. Hurting an animal is always repulsive; hurting an animal that is employed to protect the community is doubly so.

With the indulgence of the House, at this point I acknowledge the stupendous Woodford Correctional Centre dog handlers, the most effective and professional dog squad in the state. I thank them for their role in keeping my peers safe and for keeping me safe in my few decades on the job. To Shannon and the Delta Unit at Woodford, thank you very much, gentlemen. I commend this bill to the House, as I would commend any bill that supports the men and women of the Queensland Police Service who keep us safe on a 24/7 basis.



**Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (4.00 pm): I rise to address the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 as a fellow member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee alongside yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker, and the members for Toohey, Cooper, Caloundra and Noosa. It was another excellent opportunity to dissect and unpack legislation, to hear from individuals and organisations that had concerns, and to represent them in the committee report. I take this opportunity to acknowledge the committee secretariat. Renee and her team do a fantastic job in assisting us.

As others have said, this bill addresses a number of acts and a number of elements of those acts. There is widespread support for the vast majority of what we find in the bill. I add my compliments and thanks to the Delta Unit at Woodford Correctional Centre for the work that the handlers do with their dogs, as the member for Caloundra just mentioned.

I will limit my comments to the amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 and, firstly, two changes that we in the LNP welcome, although with some minor reservations. I refer to the amendments that limit the traumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentence prisoner who has committed multiple murders or murdered a child. At this point I recognise, as you did, Madam Deputy Speaker, the Kingi family. I also recognise the work of my colleague the member for Ninderry, Dan Purdie. As a father I cannot begin to fathom or comprehend the relived agony that families such as the Kingis face. That is why 72,000 people joined with the Kingi family and the member for Ninderry to oppose the release of Sian's killer. It is why 72,000 people sent a message to the Parole Board and, ultimately, to this government. I am pleased that this government has listened.

Life sentence prisoners convicted of multiple murders or the murder of a child will now be looked at by the president of the Parole Board. The president will have the power to declare that a prisoner in that cohort is a restricted prisoner and must not be considered for a parole period of up to 10 years. In considering whether to declare a prisoner to be a restricted prisoner under proposed section 175H, the criteria to be considered includes, amongst other things, the offence or offences for which the restricted prisoner was sentenced to imprisonment, any risk that the prisoner may pose to the public if the prisoner is granted parole and, importantly, the likely effect that the prisoner's release on parole may have on an eligible person or a victim. I respect that some have a view that that is contrary to fundamental rights to have criminal charges decided by a court or a tribunal. However, in these handful of instances the community is within their rights to demand that individuals convicted of such heinous acts as the murder of Sian do not get such regular access to parole consideration. Indeed, as you mentioned, Madam Deputy Speaker, the sentencing judge basically said that in that instance life should mean life. As the bill states, this will ultimately reduce the traumatisation of victims' families and friends and we welcome it.

We also welcome strengthening the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate the remains of homicide victims. Several weeks ago, as I do each year, I joined Bruce and Denise Morcombe on their Walk for Daniel. I really do not know how they do it. I see the strength with which they both confront not only that day but each and every day. They have been able to turn a terrible tragedy into a powerful message for our school students not only around this state but also around the nation. I know that they have worked with this government and other governments to make sure that our laws are strengthened. I again thank them for what they have done. I thank them for what they have done in my community of Palmwoods. I thank them for what they have done for the safety of children around this nation.

The final amendment that I want to address relates to extending by 60 days, albeit temporarily, the time applications within which parole should be dealt. As we said in our statement of reservation, this is nothing more than an admission that the Parole Board is failing and that it is unable to keep up with current applications for parole. Do not just take our word for it; that is what a number of stakeholders said during our committee hearings. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Service highlighted that 'the parole system has become even more overloaded, the prisons are overcrowded due to prisoners facing extraordinary delays to get parole applications considered at all, and consequently the parole system has effectively become log jammed'.

The Queensland Law Society stated—

Whilst we acknowledge that the timeframes are intended to be extended temporarily, in our view, the proposal coupled with existing delays in parole applications and suspensions will mean that more prisoners will be held in custody for longer than they should otherwise.

The Queensland Law Society further argued—

... 120 days is already a very significant amount of time for an independent Parole Board to consider someone's liberty. The Society's view is that extending that and giving them more time is an attempt to fix what are funding deficiencies in the Parole Board. The effect of it will be that people will remain in custody for longer. If we want to look at it on a cost analysis basis, it will be an enormous cost to the government to continue to detain those people for longer because the Parole Board cannot make decisions within 120 days. To give them extra time for no reason other than insufficient funding is a poor fix to this problem. The Society's position is that 120 days is more than enough to make those important decisions about people's liberty.

Time and time again over the course of six or seven years under this Labor government, we have seen that they cannot get the systems right and they have to come in here with legislative amendment to cover up for their failings. That has been called out by submitters at our committee's hearings. This is not going to fix the problem; it is just giving them a temporary reprieve.

**Mr Minnikin:** It is a bandaid.

**Mr POWELL:** It is a bandaid; I take the interjection from the member for Chatsworth. It is a bandaid that will not solve the problem but will have a cost implication for the government, a cost implication for our corrective services and, more broadly, a cost implication for our society. We will not be opposing this legislation but it has to be pointed out that, once again, we are making a legislative amendment to address this government's inability to do their job—that is, to do the things they have been elected for. The LNP will support the bill but the broader public needs to understand what this government is doing.



**Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.08 pm): Our communities have again had to relive the horrors that convicted child murderer and rapist Barrie Watts perpetrated simply because he was allowed to apply for parole again. The Noosa and Sunshine Coast communities have been clear through the 72,000-strong petition, on which I thank the member for Ninderry for his work: those who commit heinous crimes should not have the ability to continually apply for parole, creating ongoing trauma for victims' families and friends. There is a need to protect Queenslanders from this harm.

The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 proposes a new framework to reduce this retraumatisation. It authorises the president of the Parole Board to make a restricted prisoner declaration on a prisoner who has committed multiple murders or has murdered a child. This cohort of prisoners must not be considered for parole for a period of up to 10 years. It should be noted that this is up to 10 years—not every 10 years.

Submitters including the Queensland Law Society, Sisters Inside, Prisoners' Legal Service and the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties raised concerns, including with the application of parole, in that this creates a presumption against parole, is punitive and onerous and provides little further protection to the community. Whilst those concerns are noted, fundamentally it must be remembered that parole is not a right. The setting of an eligibility date by the court does not grant parole, which must always be weighed against its impact on the community and particularly as it relates to the further traumatisation of victims and their families.

Several submitters and witnesses at the hearings brought forward their concerns with other aspects of the parole system which impact detrimentally both on the overcrowding of the prison system and on individual prisoners. Even though outside the capacity of this bill, these must be urgently addressed. These included the timeliness of processing parole, with prisoners whom a judge has deemed should be on parole still waiting long periods due to the backlog of cases.

Recommendations that have been put forward by organisations such as Sisters Inside must be considered. This includes whether court ordered parole could be applied to all cases with, for example, sentences of under five years instead of the three years as it is now. This will take simple cases out of the purview of the Parole Board and have them processed quickly, which then frees up prison resources as well. In addition, outdated administration processes prevent all information being presented at the one time, which slows down the process. They also highlighted the need for housing for those seeking parole, especially for those who were homeless before their prison term.

Mr Walter Sofronoff QC's 2016 *Queensland parole system review* report had as its No. 1 recommendation that there be a review of the parole system in Queensland in 2022, after five years of operation of the new board, to see if the system has improved processes. It is understood that data collection and preparatory work has commenced, but the terms of reference of the review will be key and these do not appear to be available yet. There were 91 recommendations in total, of which the government accepted 89. The question remains: how many have been implemented and why have the others not been implemented?


The Queensland Law Society and the Queensland Council of Civil Liberties suggested that parole hearings should be done publicly, with a judge presiding, as it relates to the rights for prisoners to have criminal charges decided in an open and transparent court. Submitters possibly have not considered the additional resources this would take and the further slowing down of the parole process. We must remember that a court has already made a determination of guilt and sentenced accordingly. Parole is a decision-making process about what has occurred since that sentence was handed down, and the Parole Board's president is required to have a level of skill, qualifications, experience or standing equivalent to that of a court judge. Further, public hearings would defeat the entire purpose of protecting the families of victims from being retraumatised every time the parole question comes up, which currently could be every year. Ultimately, Queenslanders are not interested in who makes the determination, just that justice is served and that systems which do not serve us well are rectified.

The bill has additional provisions including replacing archaic terminologies with ones that recognise and respect the distinct cultural identity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. As well, there are sensible amendments to the Police Service Administration Act 1990 and the Corrective Services Act 2016 to create new indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a QPS dog or horse or a QCS dog.

Amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 seek to dissuade the unlawful carrying of a knife in a public place. Several submitters argued that these amendments are not preventive but rather punitive in nature and will prevent people from attending the banned areas at other times when they might be seeking medical support or employment services. However, they only need not carry a knife.

Lastly, amendments to the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012 are to permit QPS civilian employees and contracted translators working as monitors to utilise surveillance devices without constant police presence. While this change may free up police time, QPS should monitor the implementation of this amendment to ensure the surveillance remains appropriate and does not impact on possible future evidentiary matters.

In closing, I thank our chair, fellow committee members and the secretariat for their work. I also thank the minister, who listened to the calls for this change from the Kingi family and through 'Sian's Law'. I also thank submitters and attendees at public hearings and briefings held as part of the examination of this bill. Again, I thank our incredibly hardworking police for what they do every day.

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (4.15 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. As others have done, I start by thanking my fellow members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their work on this bill. I also thank the secretariat for their work—for managing the volume of work they have and for managing us as a committee. I think that is a fantastic effort on their part. I also thank, as have others, those who made submissions. It is important to acknowledge that recently the committee has worked on a few bills that have drawn on the expertise of particular services and agencies. In addition to running their services, they are also responding to our committee, providing really thorough, comprehensive, detailed and well-researched submissions. We could not do this work without them. I specifically acknowledge them.

The committee made one recommendation: that the bill be passed. The bill includes important amendments to reduce the retraumatisation of victims' families, to provide clarity to our laws where clarity is needed, and to create efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service. Amendments to the Corrective Services Act will strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate the remains of a person whose life was taken through homicide. It will also provide the Parole Board Queensland with the flexibility to manage its workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety.

The police related amendments in the bill include: expanding the scope of police banning notices to include people who unlawfully possess a knife; creating new indictable offences for persons who seriously injury or kill a corrective services dog, police dog or horse; including nine Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences as reportable offences and five Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences as prescribed internet offences; and including the Commonwealth offences against children as disqualifying offences under the working with children act 2000. It will allow for independent monitoring of surveillance devices by police employees; allow for the provision of drug samples to law enforcement entities for national intelligence gathering; extend the current legal protections afforded to sworn officers from revealing police methodologies in a court proceeding; provide for efficiencies to the legislative scheme for assumed identities; and extend the court removal orders to apply to prisoners in police custody who assist police.

I will now expand on the proposed amendments to the Corrective Services Act. These include amendments that will introduce a new discretion for the president of the Parole Board to declare that a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or murdered a child, otherwise to be known as a restricted prisoner, must not be considered for parole for up to 10 years. It will provide that a restricted prisoner subject to a restricted prisoner declaration must meet a higher threshold for exceptional circumstances parole release and, where a declaration is not in force, creates a presumption against parole which will place the onus on a restricted prisoner to demonstrate that they do not pose an unacceptable risk to the community.

In relation to the no-body no-parole framework, the bill introduces a new discretion for the board to consider a prisoner's cooperation in locating a homicide victim's remains at any time after sentencing, instead of requiring the board to wait until the prisoner applies for parole. Where the board has determined that a no-body no-parole prisoner has not provided satisfactory cooperation, the prisoner is restricted from reapplying for parole where there is no new cooperation. The purpose of this amendment is to encourage early cooperation from offenders to help locate the body of their victim. As other members have said, I cannot overstate the importance of this to surviving loved ones of victims.

Homicide is the most violent crime to contemplate. The families I have worked with in the aftermath of homicide value the ability and opportunity to give their loved one a final and decent farewell. Some families do not accept that their loved one has been murdered. I know that might be difficult to comprehend, but some people are in denial until they get to see the body of their loved one. The inability to do that can interrupt the grieving process.

We cannot imagine the slap in the face to a family where offenders do not cooperate or, even worse, actively thwart police attempts to recover a person's body, they are found guilty, sentenced and then in order to be paroled some 15 years later they finally disclose where the body is. We are wanting to tighten that and encourage early cooperation so that families can have some sense of closure.

No-body no-parole is the policy that a prisoner who has not provided satisfactory cooperation in finding the remains of a victim should not be granted parole. These amendments make it clear that the Parole Board Queensland can initiate consideration of a no-body no-parole prisoner's cooperation in finding the remains of their victim without waiting for the prisoner to apply for parole, which may be decades after the offending. The amendments provide that if the board is satisfied a prisoner has not provided satisfactory cooperation in locating their victim's remains, the board must make a no-cooperation declaration in relation to the prisoner, preventing the prisoner from applying for parole unless there is a change in circumstances. A no-cooperation declaration must state: the reasons the board is not satisfied the prisoner has given satisfactory cooperation; the day of the decision that the prisoner may not apply for parole unless the prisoner is given notice of satisfactory cooperation at a later date; and the prisoner can, at any time, make a reconsideration application.


The reconsideration of a no-cooperation declaration provides a continued incentive for a prisoner to provide cooperation in locating a homicide victim's body. The president or deputy president of the board will only call a meeting to reconsider a prisoner's no-cooperation declaration if they are satisfied the prisoner has given police additional information, there has been a change in the investigation to locate the victim, there is a material change in the prisoner's capacity to cooperate or it is in the interests of justice. If leave is granted, the board will again consider whether the prisoner has provided satisfactory cooperation. If the board considers that the prisoner has provided satisfactory cooperation, they will provide the prisoner notice that the no-cooperation declaration ends and the prisoner is able to apply for parole under the usual provisions. This does not mean that parole will be granted. If the board considers the prisoner has not provided satisfactory cooperation, they will advise the prisoner that the no-cooperation declaration remains in force.

Prisoners subject to a restricted prisoner declaration must meet a higher threshold for release on exceptional circumstances parole. To be granted exceptional circumstances parole, the board must be satisfied it is justified to make the order because the restricted prisoner is medically diagnosed as being in imminent danger of dying or incapacitated to the extent that they are not physically able to cause harm to another person and does not pose a risk to the public. For no-body no-parole prisoners subject to a no-cooperation declaration, exceptional circumstances parole is not supported until that prisoner has provided satisfactory cooperation in identifying a victim's remains. This maintains the existing approach for no-body no-parole and exceptional circumstances parole under current section 193A.

This bill also extends the period a life sentenced prisoner can be restricted from reapplying for parole following a refusal of their application. A prisoner can now be restricted from reapplying for up to three years, instead of one. This framework is an important part of our promise to reduce the



retraumatisation of victims' families. It applies to those who commit the most heinous crimes. Other members have touched on the submissions of victims' families surrounding this issue. The minister rightly pointed to the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group. I would like to do the same. It plays a tremendous role in Queensland working with the loved ones of victims of the most serious crimes. This is something that they have advocated for for some time. I thank them for their advocacy on this. In addition to all the work they do, the fact that they are turning their mind to how to make Queensland safer is testament to their values. I congratulate and thank the minister for hearing those concerns and acting on them. I encourage all members to support this bill.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (4.25 pm): There is a lot in this bill. It amends six pieces of legislation and at least two regulations, including a COVID regulation. The shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, has already gone through a substantial number of the opposition's concerns in relation to the legislation and its effectiveness and what has led to this debate today. I will focus mainly on the changes brought about by clause 21 of the legislation. If ever there was a sign that this government and this minister have lost control of the Parole Board situation in Queensland and needed evidence to be put in front of people, it would be this particular clause. This clause is designed with little or no explanation for the change in time frames within which the Parole Board must hear applications.

The bill covers changes to six acts and a number of regulations, as I mentioned. The extension in time periods for the hearing of parole applications are introduced in part 3, clause 21 of the bill. They deal with changes in the time within which parole applications are to be heard. In effect, the time period within which the Parole Board must decide an application is to be extended from the 120 days they are currently to 180 days. In certain circumstances, usually when the board requires further information to be able to make an assessment, it will be extended to 210 days.

The time period during which these new rules are to be effective for what is defined as a new parole application after the bill commences is 180 days—that is, if a prisoner makes an application after this bill commences then it is 180 days—pursuant to the definition of 'temporary extension period' in proposed section 351H. For other purposes, including parole applications that have been made but not decided before the bill commences, the time period is 390 days. That is 13 months. That is because the changes are stated to be temporary and indeed proposed section 351K states new part 6 is to expire 390 days after commencement. While the provision expires almost 13 months after commencement, it is hard to say it is in total a short-term measure.

It is also important to note that the amendments have retrospective effect given they change the existing rules that would apply to parole applications made under section 180 of the act currently on foot. In effect, these changes give the seemingly overworked and under-resourced Parole Board an extra 60 days to do its job and decide parole applications.

This is typical of Labor governments in this place. I have seen a few—far more than I had ever hoped to or wished to—but that is my fate and I bear it gracefully. I take pleasure in highlighting their ongoing mistakes and the repetition of issues from the past. It is typical of a Labor government. When Labor cannot meet its own legislatively mandated standards, what do they do? Do they try to work harder? Do they try to say that they have to fix the problem? Do they accept responsibility? What do they do? They change the goalpost. They do it every time. We saw it when they lost the AAA credit rating in 2009. We saw it when they decided to sell assets in 2009. They just keep changing the goalposts.

It is like a sprinter who says, 'I think I'll go for my personal best, but I'm not going to get it doing 100 metres. So you know what? We'll make it 90. Why not! Let's do it that way.'

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The member for Logan would be an expert at that. He would be a sprinter who would say, 'Oh, no. It's all a bit too hard, boss. I can't get there. Why don't we shorten it?' That is what this bill is about. It is typical of Labor governments. They change the time frames. They move the goalposts. They do not fix the problem.

What exactly is the problem? A reading of the explanatory notes would not give anyone any sense of what the problems are that are currently plaguing the Queensland parole system. It simply says—

The Board is experiencing unprecedented demand to determine applications for parole.

That is it. That is the whole explanation for these changes. The problem quite clearly is this: the Parole Board is not making decisions on applications within the current mandated time frame.

In April this year the Prisoners' Legal Service wrote to the government, including the minister, and estimated the year-to-date costs of parole delays—this was at April 2021—of \$31.5 million, or almost \$4 million a month. That excludes the costs of judicial reviews brought by prisoners who do not get their applications heard in time. As at April, the Prisoners' Legal Service noted 137 judicial review applications had been made in 10 months, compared to 13 the previous year—a tenfold increase. They estimated delays of over three months beyond the statutory period in hearing parole applications. That is another 90 to 100 days on top of that.

In submissions to the committee report on this bill, Sisters Inside highlighted the case of one female prisoner who was still waiting for a decision at 330 days. That is almost a full year overdue. The Law Society reported similar concerns in a letter written to the Treasurer on 16 April. On 24 March this year, the Parole Board itself reported it had around 2,100 applications and that 75 per cent of those were outside the statutory time frames for decision-making. Here is what it said in an undated, conveniently for the Parole Board, notice back in June—

The Parole Board Queensland has a significant backlog in parole applications.

There has been a significant increase in prisoner numbers, with approximately 1,000 more prisoners now held in custody compared to a year ago.

A fourth team is now operating ...

The Board will continue to do everything that it can to decide parole applications as quickly as possible.

Applications for a parole order received in June 2021 are not likely to be heard before March 2022.

That is nine months outside the time frame. I table that notice in case people lose it because it is hard to find now.

*Tabled paper:* Statement, undated, from the Parole Board Queensland, concerning backlog in parole applications [2020].

What is the end results of those delays? Prisoners are taking the Parole Board to the Supreme Court to get it to do what it is supposed to do within the time frame it is supposed to do it. For the year ending 30 June 2021, 325 judicial review applications were filed in the Supreme Court seeking decisions from the Parole Board, and since then the situation has got worse. The *Proctor* magazine reported on 27 September that the Supreme Court was hearing up to 15 judicial review applications a day. On 27 September, Justice David Jackson was scheduled to hear nine applications alone.

The situation is now so bad that the Supreme Court has issued a practice direction that sets out a protocol. It has a draft order attached to it that names the Parole Board as the respondent. The first order says that the respondent must 'meet and consider the applicant's application'. There are two subsequent orders and then order No. 4 states, 'The respondent pay the applicant's costs of the proceeding'. Now we have taxpayers meeting the costs, via the Parole Board, of prisoners who are bringing an application because the government cannot actually get the Parole Board to hear applications within the time frame it set for itself.

Here is the question I put to the minister: how much is being paid out as a result of those orders? We know that there were 325 of them. In fact, it has now got so bad that, in the three months from 1 July to 30 September, there were 286. There were 300 plus in a full year; in the first quarter of this year there were 286 judicial applications. The costs keep going up because the QCs and the lawyers on a judicial review in the Supreme Court are not coming at a cut rate, particularly if they are acting on behalf of the Parole Board and they are defending it. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Document, dated 24 September 2021, from Senior Judge Administrator, Justice Bowskill, titled 'Supreme Court of Queensland: Protocol, Applications for Judicial Review—Parole Board Queensland' [2021].

It is like the bad old days of the Bligh government in 2008 when criminals were winning payments of up to \$7,000 for criminal compensation because the Parole Board would not make decisions. It is not just those costs. We now have estimates that, with a backlog of 2,200 applications and 2,000 Parole Board suspensions, there are two jails worth of prisoners awaiting decisions—two jails worth! How much are we spending building new jails because this government cannot process and resource the Parole Board to consider applications?

Then there is the cost to justice. Earlier in the year Supreme Court Justice Tom Bradley was reported as unleashing on the delays, and recently judges have started adjusting sentences to take into account the parole delays. There is a Court of Appeal decision—the Crown against Watson of 19 October where they specifically say the judges need to take into account the delays. They immediately suspended a four-year sentence and set the bloke free. This government is presiding over a failure. It does not serve the community, taxpayers or justice.

*(Time expired)*



**Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (4.35 pm): I rise to speak to the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, particularly the amendments to the Corrective Services Act which were announced in parliament on 17 June this year—the morning after a petition, signed by 72,000 people, was tabled in this House calling for Sian Kingi's killer, Barrie John Watts, to be refused parole and calling for tougher laws to help protect the community from monsters like him.

I have witnessed firsthand the excruciating pain experienced by families and friends in the wake of atrocious murders and abuse and the ultimate life sentence they are confined to. I believe the amendments in this bill to the Corrective Services Act will achieve their objective of limiting the retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for multiple and child murderers.

The genesis of this bill belongs with Sian Kingi, her family and friends and our community. I have been working closely with Sian's family since they reached out to me after they were notified that the psychopath who raped, tortured and brutally murdered their 12-year-old daughter had applied for parole. It essentially felt like this put the family in a show cause situation, forcing them to relive the atrocities of the past—furnishing affidavits and the like in an attempt to convince the Parole Board to keep their child's killer in jail.

The family felt they were being ignored at every turn, particularly as the Parole Board's decision, which is required to be resolved within three months, dragged on for almost a year. Grief stricken and speechless, the Kingi's quiet voice of desperation grew to a resounding roar of 72,000 people—72,000 people who remember the atrocities committed against Sian and the monster who committed them; 72,000 people who joined her family, her friends and our community to send a clear message that Barrie John Watts, and the worst of the worst offenders like him, should remain behind bars. This legislation is the direct legacy of that journey.

The Kingi's pain and suffering will never go away. Nor will the Morcombes be spared the trauma of losing their son Daniel at the evil hands of Brett Cowan. At least now these two Sunshine Coast families—and indeed families of victims all over Queensland—can be assured that there will be a legislative pathway to keep convicted killers and multiple murderers from ever menacing the community again. At last, at the discretion of the president of the Parole Board, life sentences could mean just that. This is what the community rightfully expect.

The government has stated that the proposed laws 'will support community safety and are aimed at reducing the level of trauma experienced by the families of the victims of violent crimes'. They are about protecting the victims' families and protecting the community. These laws are a response to the community's outcry that up until now a life sentence does not mean a killer will remain incarcerated for life; that the Kingis and Morcombes deserve restorative justice; that these killers are bad people, not just mad people, and are unlikely to ever rehabilitate.

Queenslanders have been screaming out for tougher laws across a range of crime classes. The government has much to do in this space and we in opposition will continue to hold them to account. This government is known to be soft on crime. However, this stance on parole is a welcome relief at least to my Sunshine Coast community who are, unfortunately, all too familiar with child killers. My community welcomes this new message to killers. It is about time that we sent a message to the worst of the worst—that these laws are here to comfort and protect us from the likes of Watts and Cowan ever being released to reoffend.

While there are a number of amendments in this bill that relate to a raft of legislation, I am obviously most interested in the fact that under these proposed laws the president of the Parole Board Queensland will be able to make a declaration that a person who is convicted of killing a child and serving a life sentence or convicted of multiple murders and serving a life sentence and eligible for parole will be blocked from obtaining parole for a period of up to 10 years.

Under the proposed laws there is no limit on the number of declarations that can be issued to these prisoners, which means that a further declaration could be issued for up to 10 years at the expiry of the previous declaration and so on for decades. Also, the president of PBQ will be able to make this declaration irrespective of whether the prisoner has already made an application for parole.

We all know too well, as I outlined above, that when a prisoner applies for parole this can retraumatise families, friends and our communities. These new laws are aimed at shielding those who have lost loved ones from unnecessary pain and suffering and protecting their families, friends and the broader community from unnecessary trauma. Even if a declaration is not made by the president of PBQ, a new presumption against parole will also be introduced for prisoners who fall into this cohort. This means that these prisoners will have to prove they do not pose a threat to the community before they are even considered eligible for parole.

I will now touch on another aspect of this bill that aims to strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains. The bill provides for the board to initiate a process to make a no-cooperation declaration for a person in prison even before the person becomes eligible for parole. By making this declaration the board bars the person subject to it from applying for parole. This is a timeliness provision. Those opposite know full well that it was the LNP in opposition who proposed the no-body no-parole laws months before the government introduced the draft legislation to the House. This is another example of where the LNP has led the government to legislative change.

I guess the remaining question is: on the whole, does this legislation make Queenslanders safer and do the amendments go far enough? Aside from what I believe are significant advances in keeping the worst of the worst killers behind bars, the proposed amendments have been described by LNP committee members as a 'collection of measures bundled together to give the appearance of a concerted response to curb crime'. Concerningly, committee members report that the hearing process highlighted a number of failures of the Parole Board Queensland.

According to the explanatory notes, the amendments are designed to provide for the temporary extension of parole consideration time frames under section 193(3) for a period of six months. This extension will provide an additional 60 days from receipt of a parole application for the board to decide. Commencement of the temporary extended time frame will be by proclamation. The opposition regards this proposal as little more than an admission that the Parole Board is unable to keep pace with current applications. The statement of reservation states—

It is a transparent attempt to paper over an administrative failure to comply with the recommendation from the Sofronoff Review that applications for parole should be dealt with within 120 days.

Anecdotal evidence suggests courts are discounting sentences in the expectation that the Parole Board will be unable to hear applications within the appropriate time. At the same time applications for judicial review are costing thousands of dollars and consuming valuable court time because the Board is unable to meet its obligations.

Simply extending the time for the Board to consider applications will assist neither the applicants nor the community generally.

While this is concerning, I reiterate that my voice today is to support the legislative changes brought about directly by Sian Kingi and the 72,000 people who supported her friends and family in demanding that Barrie John Watts and monsters like him lose their right to ever be reintegrated into society. To her family, friends, our community and me, these new laws will be forever known as 'Sian's Law'. Her parents have told me they believe this is a fitting tribute and a lasting legacy to Sian. In 1990 the sentencing judge said to Watts—

The sentence for murder is life in prison and, in my view, the sentence should mean just that.

'Sian's Law' is deeply profound and personal to her family, friends and our community, and I commend it to the House.



**Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (4.43 pm): The Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 includes important amendments to: reduce the retraumatisation of victims' families; provide clarity to our laws where needed; create efficiencies for the QPS; and deliver benefits for the Queensland community.

When a family loses one of their own through murder the innocent victim, the family, is left to live out a life sentence of grief that is exacerbated when they have no body. They therefore cannot respectfully hold a funeral or say goodbye to their loved one. Having a body for a funeral does not take away the full trauma experienced by families. It does, however, give families the peace of mind of knowing the final resting place of their loved one. This is important part of our culture.

The establishment of the no-body no-parole policy was considered as part of the Queensland Parole System Review conducted by the Hon. Justice Walter Sofronoff. The review included 91 recommendations to reform Queensland's parole system, including the introduction of the no-body no-parole policy. His Honour commented—

... the community would be right to feel indignation, if a convicted killer could expect to be released without telling what he did with the body of the victim.

Unfortunately, my community—like many other communities—has families who have experienced this every day since the murder of their son, daughter or other family member. Tim Pullen's body has never been found. I have met his parents; they are good, decent, loving people. Tim's parents and his siblings deserve to know where their son and brother's remains are. They deserve to have a small amount of closure.

The no-body no-parole framework is founded on the view that prisoners who withhold the location of a homicide victim's body or remains prolong the suffering of the victim's family. All efforts should be made to minimise this sorrow. By making a prisoner's parole contingent on cooperation, the no-body no-parole framework is designed to incentivise prisoners to come forward and assist with any investigation into the location of a victim's remains. Currently the board's consideration of no-body no-parole will only be triggered by a prisoner making a parole application. If the prisoner does not make a parole application the board is not able to consider them under the no-body no-parole framework.


The amendments included in this bill, which were developed in response to concerns raised by stakeholders, are intended to strengthen the current framework and incentivise earlier cooperation by prisoners before they reach parole eligibility, which may be 20 years for some prisoners. They do this by enabling the board to consider no-body no-parole at their discretion at any time after sentencing. This can occur without the prisoner having to make a parole application. Once the board has considered a prisoner's cooperation under the no-body no-parole framework, if the prisoner has not cooperated satisfactorily the amendments also place a clear restriction on the prisoner applying for parole through the making of a no-cooperation declaration. If a no-cooperation declaration is in place, a clear process is provided for the prisoners who have not cooperated satisfactorily to have their cooperation reconsidered.

The earlier a prisoner satisfactorily cooperates, the more likely that cooperation will be useful in locating a victim's remains. Early cooperation minimises the risk that natural disasters such as bushfires, cyclones, floods or environmental changes through development or animal activity may impact on any opportunity to locate victims' remains even with satisfactory cooperation. There is also the risk that the prisoner may pass away before they have cooperated, particularly where they are not incentivised to cooperate as early as possible. It is tragic for those families who want someone to inter and say goodbye to.

To complement these amendments, the Palaszczuk government made an election commitment to update the ministerial guidelines to the Queensland Parole Board to reflect that the timeliness of a prisoner's cooperation is a significant consideration in no-body no-parole matters. The amendments included in this bill to strengthen the no-body no-parole framework demonstrate the commitment this government has made and continues to make to victims' friends and families to attempt to minimise their prolonged suffering. This is something very important that we can do for our community.

This bill will provide the Parole Board Queensland with the flexibility to manage its workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety. Police related amendments in the bill include: expanding the scope of police banning notices to include people who unlawfully possess a knife; creating new offences for persons who seriously injure or kill a corrective services dog, police dog or horse—these animals are working to keep us safe and they deserve our protection; including nine Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences as reportable offences, five Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences as prescribed internet offences and Commonwealth offences against children as disqualifying offences under the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act; allowing for independent monitoring of surveillance devices by police employees; providing drug samples to law enforcement entities for national intelligence gathering; providing for efficiencies to the legislative framework for assumed identities; and extending court removal orders to apply to prisoners in police custody who assist police.

Amendments proposed to the Corrective Services Act include: introducing a new discretion for the president of the board to declare that a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or murdered a child must not be considered for parole for up to 10 years; and providing that a restricted prisoner subject to a declaration must meet a higher threshold for exceptional circumstances parole release. The amendments in this bill are good for the community. They keep us safer. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (4.52 pm): Before I start, I want to make a comment in relation to the member for Mackay's contribution. If the member for Mackay wants to know why I looked up in aghast when she mentioned those beautiful people Leanne and Gary Pullen, the member only need go and speak to her colleague, the police minister, to understand why we on this side of the House get so upset when the Pullens are used as political pawns by the Labor government. That is why we get upset. It is thanks to the member for Everton who fought hard for the Pullens to make sure the no-body no-parole framework came into this House. It was politicised by that police minister and the Pullens were politicised by that police minister, and that is why we get upset on this side of the House. I say to the member for Mackay: not only did I not interject, but I am more than happy to give my whole speech to this because it is offensive that the Labor government continue to use people as political pawns for their own publicity.

I rise to contribute to this bill that is before the House. The shadow police minister and the shadow Attorney-General made comprehensive contributions to this bill, but there are many important issues that I would like to address.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I am happy to take that interjection from the member for McConnel because it is the member for McConnel who does not even believe that people are real—the people who are the whistleblowers who come to us—because the government is not listening to them.

**Ms GRACE:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I take offence and I ask that it be withdrawn.

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** I withdraw. There are two issues relating to this bill that I will address today—or maybe three—that would not have been here had it not been for the tragic murder and death of not just children but people and the advocacy of two very brave and very strong families fighting for change so no other families have to go through what they have been through. This bill is nowhere near enough, but it is a start. This bill needs to do more than the limited window-dressing to achieve an outcome that will reduce crime in this great state.

Among the many people whom members in this House wish to remember, I want to put on record the families of Sian Kingi and Jack Beasley. I would like to add my voice in support of what we in the opposition are calling ‘Sian’s Law’ in honour of Sian Kingi. So many of us remember the story of Sian Kingi—a beautiful, young 12-year-old girl from the Sunshine Coast who in 1987, 34 years ago, was abducted, brutally raped, tortured and murdered by Barrie Watts and Valmae Beck. At the time, I was not much older than Sian, and this horrendous murder changed so much for young women. It was the stuff of nightmares. I was in an all-girls school at the time, and this tragic case highlighted the need for so many of us to change our ways, to change our patterns and to become wary. We followed the case with horror on a daily basis, but we have a chance here today to provide a lasting legacy to Sian Kingi and her parents, Lynda and Himi.

‘Sian’s Law’ is the result of an important petition—a petition which was launched by Sian’s family, friends and teachers when Barrie Watts became eligible for parole in November 2020. Just 10 days after that petition started, it had been signed by 72,000 people. That is an astonishing number of people. We never hear about that number of people signing petitions here in parliament. I want to put on the record our thanks to the member for Ninderry who, on 16 June this year, tabled that petition. He fought on behalf of the Kingis for that petition to be brought to the attention of this government. It was to send a clear message to the Queensland Parole Board to keep Barrie John Watts behind bars for that atrocious crime. We now see this bill before the House.

I congratulate everyone involved in the petition for their determination to make this happen. Until then, Sian’s family had been stonewalled and ignored for almost a year, awaiting word of whether Barrie Watts would be released. It is simply hard to imagine the pain that must have caused them. The Parole Board is supposed to finalise applications for parole within three months, but the backlog and the broken parole system here in Queensland under the incompetent Palaszczuk government meant the family endured a full year of uncertainty. It was not until 14 October that they finally learnt that Barrie Watts’s parole bid was rejected.

I am honoured to stand here to support Sian’s family, friends and the broader community to back this bill, but I also want to put on the record my thanks to the member for Ninderry for being such a passionate fighter for the community and for the determination he has shown to keep people like Barrie Watts out of our community. I will return to the Parole Board if I get time.

I want to turn to another section of the bill that amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act to expand the scope of banning notices to include persons who unlawfully possess a knife. The objective is apparently to reduce knife crime. A couple of years ago, thanks to the strong advocacy on the issue of knife crime by Sam O’Connor, the member for Bonney, I met two of the bravest people I know. They are Brett and Belinda Beasley—an incredibly strong couple, friendly, quick to smile, generous and salt of the earth people.

Brett and Belinda are the proud parents of Mitch and Jack. Jack was always the life of the party, the energy in the room and was loved by everyone, say his parents. He was a talented footballer and had just started his apprenticeship and had the whole of his life ahead of him. Tragically, on 13 December Jack’s life was cut short in a senseless act of violence. Jack was 17. Jack and his mates stopped at an ATM on the way to their night out and he was stabbed to death. His alleged killer was


carrying a knife. Brett and Belinda Beasley have established the Jack Beasley Foundation with the catchphrase of 'Detect knives, save lives'. This foundation provides education to schools around the dangers of carrying knives. I encourage everyone in this House to promote the Jack Beasley Foundation to their local schools.

In the future, we in this House need to do more to reduce and stop knife crime on our streets. One trial is in place—an initiative at the Beasleys' suggestion to the government. The trial is in place, allowing police to wand a person to ascertain if they are carrying a knife. This as well is thanks to the Beasley family. Here is where we know that this bill simply falls short. It does not go far enough to do what needs to be done here in Queensland: to ultimately reduce crime in this great state of ours. I note that the statement of reservation to the committee report states—

Unfortunately, this legislation, to a significant extent, appears to be little more than window dressing to convince Queenslanders that the state government has a commitment to making communities safer and ensuring that those who commit crimes are subject to adequate penalties.

The proposals appear to be a disparate collection of measures bundled together to give the appearance of a concerted response to curb crime.

As we have heard from the shadow minister, the member for Burdekin, more needs to be done in this House to curb crime in this state. The Palaszczuk government need to get their head out of the sand. They need to listen to more people. They need to see what is actually going on in front of them, not wait years and years to implement federal ministerial council directions. Nothing will bring Sian and Jack home to their loved ones, but hopefully today we will make a small step towards letting them both rest in peace.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.02 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I start with the statement of reservation from the members of the LNP on the committee. Before I do that, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of the minister. I would like to thank all of the submitters. I would like to thank all of the committee members who participated in this inquiry and thank the secretariat staff.

For the statement of reservation to describe this bill as window-dressing is completely and utterly insulting to all of the people involved in that process. It is further insulting when we consider that the sum total of the contribution from the people levelling this allegation of window-dressing in the areas of police and corrections was to sack 300 people during their time in office and dress some offenders in pink jumpsuits. That was their idea of major reform in this area. Normally the LNP like to wear blue, but in this case they opted for pink. I do not know why they chose the pink jumpsuits, but if that was their idea of good, solid, sound reform in corrections, I would like to suggest that they go back to the drawing board and start again.

The reality is that this bill is a series of measures that support community safety and put victims first. It was the subject of significant consultation before being brought to this parliament. Then, as happens all of the time during a committee process, there was significant consultation after the bill was brought to this place. To suggest that it is window-dressing is insulting to all of those people who have taken the time to engage in that consultation process.

Our police budget has seen the biggest boost to police in three decades—2,025 police over five years, including 1,450 frontline officers. Contrast that to the 110 senior police officers and, all up, more than 300 police personnel who were let go during the Newman government. It is truly laughable that those opposite would come in here and accuse us of window-dressing. Their plans to water down security measures to stop contraband getting into prisons, their plans for privatising prisons—

**Mr Ryan** interjected.

**Mr KELLY:** I take that interjection. I do not really want to discuss that, but I will take that interjection. All of those things go into the mix. If you want to talk about window-dressing, there it is writ large right in front of you. It is really shocking and disgraceful that the members of the committee would be so disrespectful to this process that they would use those sorts of words in a statement of reservation, but that is something they are very good at.

They claim that they are the only people who have a moral lock on standing up for community safety. I am proud to be part of a government that has taken a whole range of measures in relation to community safety. Crime is important. Domestic violence is important. Keeping kids safe is important. Keeping kids from swallowing button batteries is important. It is important to make sure that people do not become victims of natural disasters and, if they do, that we safely get them to places where they can rebuild their lives. All of those things are part of community safety. This is a government that looks

at all of those aspects of community safety. When I hear those opposite talking, it sounds like they are actually in government. They come in here and talk as though they have come up with all of these great ideas.

**Ms Grace:** Yes, that's right. We wouldn't have thought about it without them!

**Ms Pease:** And then they do a statement of reservation.

**Mr KELLY:** I take those interjections from the members for McConnel and Lytton: 'We support the bill, but we're going to pop up a statement of reservation. The bill does nothing, but we're going to call it Sian's bill.' That statement is so ridiculous—with absolutely no disrespect to the Kingi family. There is no logic in those opposite coming in here and saying, 'The bill does nothing, but we're going to try and take credit for it.'

I turn to some of the specific aspects of the bill that I think are important. I would like to start with the no-body no-parole framework that is contained in the bill. I thank the minister for the work that has been done in relation to this matter. I, fortunately, do not know anybody whose loved ones have been victims of homicide, and I hope that remains the case throughout my life; however, I have had personal experience of people who have had a family member go missing, and it is devastating for those people. It is really, truly devastating for people. It is the not knowing. It is the inability to get closure that is devastating for people.

In these situations, we have to remember that a court of law has proven beyond reasonable doubt that a person has murdered another person and has jailed them for that heinous crime yet we are unable to locate the body. You have to consider the level of evidence that must have been proffered to find a person guilty beyond reasonable doubt, to make that finding of murder in the absence of a body. For that person to go to prison and refuse to assist in locating the body is a crime upon a crime. It is, in my view, reprehensible that people would not allow families to have that closure—that they would not allow families to find the remains of their loved ones, to bury them and to have an understanding of their last moments. I know from the reading I have done in relation to the process of grieving and healing that, no matter how traumatic and painful your loved one's last moments were, for many people to know and truly understand and be able to see the place gives them great succour, comfort and the capacity to heal and move on. I fully support the no-body no-parole framework.

I also want to touch on expanding the scope of police banning notices to include people who unlawfully possess a knife. In common with a lot of parents, my kids are hitting that age where we have moved on from the point where they laughed at my jokes and thought I was funny all the time, we would spend a lot of time together and I would know exactly where they were most of the time. As they hit the mid to late teenage years they want their freedom and we want to give it to them. However, there is nothing scarier than sitting at home on a Sunday night wondering where our kids are when it first starts to happen. Everyone who has had that experience will know what it is like. When we add in the fear of knife crime, which is becoming more and more prevalent, it becomes even more scary. So it is good to see these provisions that are going to allow the police to seek banning notices regarding people who think it is appropriate to either carry or use a knife in any circumstances for any purpose. It is good that those people are to be banned from going to places where young people might gather.

I would like to commend the Jack Beasley Foundation for the work they have done in this area. I would also like to commend the Queensland Police Service. I was pleased that they came out and conducted a number of mobile Police Beats in the electorate of Greenslopes. One of the issues they were focusing on, particularly when talking to younger people, was their initiatives around educating people about knife crime. To me it is similar to where we have gone in terms of the one punch issues. Yes, it is important to penalise those people who do the wrong thing; it is important to take all measures we possibly can to make people safe. The best thing we can do with young people is actually go out there and try to educate them and make them understand before they make a bad decision to pick up a knife and take it on a night out either to protect themselves or, in some deluded sense, think it makes them more important or more capable of having a good night out. We need to make those young people understand the serious consequences that could arise as a result of those decisions. I commend the police and the Jack Beasley Foundation for that.

There are many other parts of this legislation that I would have liked to talk to if I had more time. It is not window-dressing. It is serious reform. In relation to those who describe it as window-dressing, that says volumes about their lack of credibility in this area. I think this bill is going to go a long way towards addressing a whole range of issues, particularly in the area of no-body no-parole, and giving a lot of parents in the community a lot of comfort around knife crime. I commend the bill to the House.





**Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (5.12 pm): Those honourable members who have heard me speak in this House before will know that I am very proud of my record as a police officer in the state of Queensland and particularly my time as the officer in charge of police at Laidley for 13 years. Leading and managing police is a very interesting job and something I found very rewarding—serving our community and keeping them safe. I took the Laidley Police Station from a nine-man station in 2004 to a station with 27 staff, including a Child Protection and Investigation Unit in 2017, after a station upgrade in 2015.

As honourable members would appreciate, my background gives me a strong understanding of the impacts that resourcing and legislation have on police. In 2012-13 the total operational police in the state per 100,000 population was 290. That is 290 operational police per 100,000 people. The 2021 *Report on government services* outlines that in 2020 that number fell to 285 operational police per 100,000. With the state population now well over 5,300,000, that is approximately 265 fewer police. With fewer police officers, they have less time to be proactive. With 265 extra police, that is almost 500,000 hours during which police could be proactive—that is, out there catching baddies, as the children would say.

It is critical that this House makes every effort to either lift the resourcing to police or make changes to legislation or regulation to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of policing. I call on the minister to keep fighting for additional resources from cabinet and in the budget for more police so that we can lift their numbers once again and help them catch more offenders.

Before I go into more detail on the bill, I take the time to thank all the police and their families across Queensland. In particular, I want to thank the Darling Downs and Ipswich Police Districts which serve my local community. To the police at Helidon, Gatton, Laidley, Lowood and Forest Hill, including the Gatton Criminal Investigation Branch, Laidley Child Protection and Investigation Unit and the Forest Hill Stock Squad, as we still call them, I want to say thank you for the great work you do for our community.

On 15 September this year the minister introduced the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill into the parliament. I thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for the detailed consideration of the bill. The purpose of the bill, as outlined, is to: reduce knife crime by expanding the police banning notice to apply to an adult person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place; limit retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentence prisoner who has committed multiple murders or who has murdered a child; and strengthen the no-body no-parole framework. It also provides the Parole Board of Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose; and creates administrative and operational efficiencies for the Police Service to enhance intelligence gathering about dangerous drugs and sexual offences. The bill also creates indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a Queensland Police Service or Corrective Service dog or horse.

I support my colleague the member for Ninderry in his call for the proposed new parole laws to be named 'Sian's Law'. The new parole framework for life sentenced, multiple or child murderers should recognise the sad events of 1987. Sian's parents, Lynda and Himi, would be honoured if we referred to these new laws as 'Sian's Law' and I think it would be a fitting tribute to her and the family and provide a lasting legacy.

On 27 November 1987 Sian Kingi was abducted in Noosa. Seven days later her body was found raped, tortured and murdered. Barrie Watts and Valmae Beck were arrested and charged on 12 December 1987. In February 1990 Watts was found guilty and sentenced to life imprisonment. The sentencing judge's comments are very clear. A news article states—

"The vulgar crime shows you to be an evil man void of any sense of morality," he told Watts.


"The sentence for murder is life in prison and in my view the sentence should mean just that."

In November 2020, distressingly, Watts was eligible for, and applied for, parole—close to the anniversary of Sian's murder. The family was notified and were effectively put in a show cause situation where they had to provide affidavits as to why Watts should not be granted parole. What an absolutely traumatic experience for those who have lost so much already. The Parole Board is supposed to finalise applications within three months but, due to the backlog and broken parole system in Queensland, the Kingi family had to endure the uncertainty of this situation for almost a year. The Kingi family felt that they were being ignored and stonewalled at every turn, and on 6 June Sian's family, friends and teachers launched a petition.

A total of 72,000 people signed that petition and on 16 June my colleague the member for Ninderry, Dan Purdie, tabled that petition in parliament, which asked the government to toughen the laws to keep the worst of the worst and monsters like Barrie Watts out of our community. That is 72,000 people who remember the atrocities committed against her and the monster who committed them. In just 10 days her family and the community put out a call to keep Sian's killer behind bars, and that call was answered. The petition is clear evidence that Queenslanders firmly agree Barrie John Watts is an unacceptable risk to the community and if he were to be released, it is tragically predictable that he would reoffend.

The day after the petition was tabled, the government announced tough new parole laws for the worst of the worst offenders like Barrie Watts, and the LNP supports that position. On 15 September the minister introduced those new laws. The atrocities committed against Sian and the recent campaign by her family and friends should be acknowledged and should be rightfully and directly attributed for this legislative change with her name. The least the minister and the government could do is to recognise the family's request, but if the minister will not include this name then I make a personal plea on behalf of the Kingi family to the media to recognise the new framework for life sentenced multiple and child murderers to be recognised as 'Sian's Law'.

As I outlined earlier, with approximately 265 fewer police per population compared to 2012-13, it is vital that we provide police with more efficient ways of doing their job or increase their resources. One of the most effective police tactics is to simply go out and catch baddies, as the children say. Officially known as proactive policing responses, these responses across the state are well down on previous levels. I call on the minister to get the additional resources in order to serve the people of Queensland with the Police Service they deserve.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (5.20 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill proposes several amendments to address knife crime, parole issues, enhance intelligence gathering, update Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences in Queensland legislation, and create indictable offences for injuring a Queensland Corrective Services dog or Queensland police dog or horse.

According to the explanatory notes, the main objectives of this bill are to reduce knife crime by expanding the police banning notice regime to apply to a person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place; create administrative and operational efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service and enhance intelligence gathering about dangerous drugs; ensure Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences are updated in Queensland legislation; create indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a corrective services dog or a QPS dog or horse, reflecting the seriousness of the offences in line with community expectations; amend a number of issues regarding parole and the Parole Board; limit retraumatisation of victims' family and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about life sentenced prisoners who have committed multiple murders or who have murdered a child; strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise early prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains; and provide the Parole Board Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety.

Much was made by the minister in his speech that these measures will help to make our community safer and ensure that those who commit crimes are subject to adequate penalties. In reality, as the statement of reservation notes, these amendments appear to be a disparate collection of measures bundled together to give the appearance of a concerned response to curb crime. They are issues that do not focus on reducing crime but rather address issues raised by police in the operation of their duties.

Law and order issues have featured as one of the top 10 concerns worrying Gympie residents in every electorate-wide survey I have conducted since I was elected in 2015. Residents are continually concerned about crime and sentencing, penalties for criminal offenders, policing and youth crime. The government's response to criminal activity and its record on reducing crime is woeful. Queenslanders need and deserve better than that. The bill has numerous technical measures which have not been previously legislated. It is hard not to conclude that they have been added solely to make this legislation appear to be a complete policy package.

This bill aims to expand the police banning notice regime. It will empower police to exclude persons in possession of a knife in contravention of section 51 of the Weapons Act for a period of no longer than one month. The focus here is on knife related crime in key entertainment areas such as

safe night precincts. Everyone should feel safe when going out at night, which is why the LNP supported the trial of handheld scanners to detect knives. According to the explanatory notes, police are increasingly concerned with the disregard shown by some offenders. They even made references to two recent murders involving knives in safe night precincts. Such changes should be made in a timely manner, which is something the government has failed to do.


Notwithstanding the changes to knife crime issues, it is important to recognise that in some industries people need to carry a knife in their work. Knives are a legitimate tool of trade for primary producers. Only two months ago a 75-year-old grandfather in Chinchilla was innocently caught for carrying his tool of trade. For those in the government who do not understand the working culture outside the city, it is an essential piece of equipment. Just as a firearm is a tool of trade, so is a knife. A primary producer always carries a knife—a penknife or a pocketknife—on his belt.

While the LNP supports the concept of no-body no-parole, the amendments relating to the Parole Board show that it is failing. It is about covering the mismanagement of parole by the government. The government is asking for more time. According to the explanatory notes, the amendments will provide the temporary extension of parole consideration time frames under section 193(3) for a period of six months. This extension will provide an additional 60 days from receipt of a parole application for the board to decide. Commencement of temporary extended time frames will be by proclamation. This is simply an admission that it has failed to keep up with the applications. They are only temporary measures to simply clean up the backlog.

The new norm for the government as a solution for not meeting the deadlines, for not being productive or addressing issues in a timely manner is to create extensions. There is no explanation in the explanatory notes or the first reading speech how this extension will lead to better or informed decisions from the board. All this does is massage statistics about delivering within time frames. It will neither assist the applicants nor the community. It will not assist Queenslanders and make them safer. It will not save costs to the taxpayer.

The statement of reservation notes that anecdotal evidence suggests that courts are discounting sentences in the expectation that the Parole Board will be unable to hear applications within the appropriate time. At the same time applications for judicial review are costing thousands of dollars and consuming valuable court time because the board is unable to meet its obligations. It is disrespectful, ignorant and shows poor governance to legislate to cover up mismanagement.

In dealing with criminal activity, with empowering our police the government is reactive; it is not proactive. It prefers spin over substance. The minister has taken five years to finally participate in the Enhanced National Intelligence Picture Illicit Drugs program which helps to disrupt local drug crime. That is five years to engage in a program of chemically profiling domestic samples to assist in identifying source countries and routes of manufacture. The government has taken more than two years to make amendments to ensure police can use existing digital device inspection powers regarding child sexual abuse cases. The recommendation from the Ministerial Council for Police and Emergency Management and Council for Attorneys-General was made in June 2019. The government has taken more than two years to implement the recommendation which in June 2019 was described as something that should be done as soon as practicable. The government and minister talk about being strong on borders and about addressing crime, but the reality is that it is neither. I do not oppose the bill.

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (5.27 pm): I rise to support the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I rise with some disappointment noting some of the speeches of the opposition and the very disappointing statement of reservation that utterly dismisses all of the good work of this bill by simply calling it window-dressing. In contradiction, we have heard so many speeches from those opposite who have either said that they were good measures first put forward by the LNP or that these measures are so important that they should be named after a victim. This is a complete contradiction and really disappointing considering the complex issues and the complex powers we are dealing with.

In my area I am very moved about the no-body no-parole measures and the enhancement of them from a young victim who is before the courts at the moment, so I will not speak about it. When we look at the difficult circumstances in our electorates and the pain that the family goes through not knowing where their sister or daughter is, that is something that this bill hopes to rectify in the difficult world of criminal prosecutions. This is a case that is still before the courts so I will not speak any more about it, but I feel very emotional about the good work that this bill does to try to give some closure to those families.

This bill proposes several important amendments that are squarely focused on keeping the community safe and deterring crime. It strengthens offences relating to cruel acts against police dogs, horses and corrective services dogs and introduces tougher parole laws for prisoners serving life sentences for some of our most heinous crimes. The bill is an example of the Palaszczuk government's proactive approach to legislative reform to keep the community safe.

Too often a young person, and this happens within the area of Browns Plains and Boronia Heights, makes the mistake of going armed with a knife. They do that without thinking through the consequences that can ruin both their life and, of course, the life of their victim. It not only ruins their life, it impacts their family members who go through the pain of seeing them prosecuted and the family of the victim who suffer the loss of their loved one. That is why police, especially in Logan, are working to increase safety. I draw the attention of the House to the fantastic 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign to make young people aware of the enormous consequences. This campaign won a medal in 2021 at the Australian Crime Prevention and Violence Awards. The message that we should all spread to young people is that living your life with a knife does not keep you safer and can ruin two lives and two families.

One of the most important amendments in the bill concerns expanding the existing police banning notice regime in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000. It applies to a person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place contrary to the Weapons Act 1990. Police banning notices give the police the option to ban a person from a relevant public place if they are satisfied the person is acting in a disorderly, offensive, threatening or violent way and their ongoing presence poses an unacceptable risk to the public's enjoyment of that space. In this case relevant public places include licensed premises, safe night precincts and a public event where alcohol is sold. It is aimed squarely at reducing the opportunity for people to make poor choices with knives. It is aimed at keeping the community safe.

I cannot emphasise enough to the young people in the Logan area that the Queensland Police Service's 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign is incredibly important. A knife is not going to keep you safe. It can be turned on you and hurt you, but it is more likely to ruin both yours and another's life. This trial program in Logan saw a 23 per cent decrease in knife related offences occurring in public places from October through to early 2020 and a sustained reduction going into 2021. I emphasise to the young men in Logan to tell your mates, 'I live my life ... without a knife' and you can too. It is not going to keep you or us safe.' It also builds on the work of police involved in the trials of metal detecting wands on the Gold Coast to disrupt knife crimes in that region. There is no doubt the results of the wanding are keeping Queenslanders safe at our safe night precincts on the Gold Coast. Weapons are being detected and they are being seized.

This government is committed to improving community safety and responding to emerging crime trends that place the community at risk. We need to take steps that not only send the message to adults but also demonstrate to young people that you can live your life without a knife. The Queensland Police Service is dedicated to creating a safer community and working tirelessly to detect and disrupt the carriage and use of knives within the community. We need to give the police the legislative framework to support these efforts. Too often the police see the devastating consequences of knife related crime, in particular the detrimental impacts on young people. Amendments like this, along with the 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign, are focused on crime prevention and crime disruption. They aim to influence Queenslanders to make the right choices for themselves and their community. This government expects these amendments to enhance public safety by reducing knife crime in and around public places and improving public confidence in these public spaces. We want people to feel confident when they are out and about in the community, particularly as we venture out more as COVID-19 restrictions ease.

I want to recognise the local police in my area, especially at the new police station which the police minister supported. I recognise Senior Sergeant Nathan Booth who leads a passionate team that is committed to reducing crime in Yarrabilba and Logan Village; Senior Sergeant Peter Waugh of Jimboomba—where the police minister has been several times to meet with officers—who does a fantastic job, especially in the growing area of Flagstone which I share with the member for Jordan; and, of course, Mick Leafé who has recently returned to take over as the officer in charge of Browns Plains Police Station after doing some other operational duties. They are extraordinarily passionate about getting the 'I live my life ... without a knife' message out to young people and the message that if you get involved in a tragic fight or confrontation having a knife does not make you any safer, it means that there can often be tragic consequences. Those consequences can see you face serious jail time,

which hurts both you and is extraordinarily damaging to your family who are going to miss you, but also could have, even worse, the tragic consequence of taking the life of someone else in our area of Browns Plains, Boronia Heights, Jimboomba or Yarrabilba. No-one wants to see that moment of madness with a knife.

As I said, I was deeply disappointed that the statement of reservation called these important measures, especially those in relation to knife crime, simply window-dressing. That is not the way we should address this issue. We should not play politics with these positive, worthwhile amendments. The amendments align with community safety. It is simply common sense. I encourage all members to support the bill. I commend this bill to the House and urge those opposite to not make silly comments such as those contained in the statement of reservation that this is simply window-dressing.



**Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (5.35 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of these sensible but, in many cases, overdue changes. I firstly commend the exceptional work of the member for Ninderry for standing up for his Sunshine Coast community, the advocacy that he has undertaken and his excellent contribution earlier. I am a proud Gold Coaster, but our city undoubtedly has an issue with knife crime so I want to focus my contribution in particular on the aspects of these amendments seeking to address that issue. Over the past five years knife carrying has steadily been increasing. We have had five deadly stabbings on the Gold Coast in the past couple of years, with many more close incidents that very nearly could have been fatal, including multiple occasions at the Coomera and Helensvale train stations. There was even a hunting knife used in front of my local Baskin-Robbins, which is a popular tourist spot in Labrador, and knives regularly appear in the middle of Southport and Surfers Paradise.

The one incident that I have raised many times in this House before is the tragic story of 17-year-old Jack Beasley from Parkwood. Just before Christmas in 2019, in our peak tourism season, at around eight o'clock at night in the middle of Surfers Paradise he was stabbed to death—allegedly murdered. I want to put on record my thanks to the member for Nanango for everything she did for the Beasleys. She came to the coast many times to meet with Brett and Belinda. In fact, on one occasion the Prime Minister was in town and I think she could have rescheduled but she decided to keep that important meeting with the Beasleys that we had. Her support, both personally as a mother with a daughter the same age as Jack and in her role as then opposition leader, was very much appreciated, as was her beautiful contribution on his death. I look forward to seeing her back on the Gold Coast on the anniversary of Jack's death on 12 December for the second annual Walk for Jack where we will also be joined by the opposition leader, the member for Broadwater, who represents the Hornets club where Jack played, the member for Surfers Paradise and the member for Theodore, who I have not checked is coming but it is in his electorate so I will make sure that he is there.

Jacko's death devastated my community and they mobilised to do something about it. Our advocacy has been channelled through the Jack Beasley Foundation which led to the knife wandering trial within the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. That started in April and the data has so far been nothing short of startling. It is a sad indictment of the scale of this issue on the Gold Coast, which is the tourist capital of our nation, but it also thankfully gives us some idea about the types of people these expanded banning notices will include in these changes. As of 28 November the trial has seen around 2,500 people wanded, with 58 weapons found, leading to 42 Weapons Act offences identified by offenders with an average age of 23, with many other offences picked up through the random wandering, including, the police tell me, many drug offences.


I also pay tribute to some of the exemplary officers involved in Jack's case. On the last sitting of parliament, the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group awards acknowledged those detectives by giving them the Damian Leeding Compassion in Policing Award. Making that even more special was the fact that Damian's mum, Julie Waters, made the presentation. I put on record my sincere thanks to detective senior constables Ash Shepherd, Natalie Harrison and Shane Fry for their exemplary service and going above and beyond to show empathy towards Belinda, Brett and Mitch as they dealt with the unimaginable loss of their son and brother throughout what has been a lengthy court process and the investigation that came before it.

The changes before us will expand police banning notices by empowering police to exclude persons in possession of a knife in contravention of section 51 of the Weapons Act for a period of no longer than one month. They are in direct response to knife incidents in the safe night precincts and the fact that police are increasingly concerned with the disregard shown by some offenders. Queenslanders should be able to head out at night and expect to remain safe. As the Beasleys' local member of parliament, I have been proud to advocate for wandering laws. Earlier this year we supported the

amendments enacting the trial of the handheld scanners for locating knives. Based on the data I just outlined, I have every confidence that the Griffith University review will recommend that they be continued and expanded.

Laws are just one aspect of this. To achieve real change we need to educate people, particularly young people, about the consequences of using knives. I commend the Queensland Police Service for their 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign. I thank the member for Logan for his support and his earlier comments. He is right that a lot of young people take a knife with them because they think they need it for their own safety, but the reality is that it makes them far less safe. I was very proud to be at the Gold Coast launch of this program with the Beasleys and I look forward to it being rolled out in some of our local schools. I will continue to do all I can to help the Beasleys and the foundation in their vital work to make sure that no family or community has to go through what they have gone through.

To wrap up, these laws are a start but we need so much more to reduce crime in our state. I do not oppose the bill.

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (5.42 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is effectively Labor's *Courier-Mail* headline omnibus bill. It is a collection of reforms that they have forced their poor drafters to cobble together based on media statements or to paper over their failures. It is their attempt to make it seem like they are tough on crime and that they care about protecting vulnerable members of society and, sure, there are some changes around reportable child sex offences that do that. However, in reality, their other media-friendly proposals like a restricted prisoner parole scheme and allowing police to ban people from public spaces will seriously limit human rights, especially those of vulnerable and marginalised people.

Hidden amongst it all is the government's apparent solution to their disgraceful parole delays crisis. That solution is to simply legislate their way out of dealing with out-of-time applications and removing people's rights to judicial review. At the start of October in Queensland there were 4,410 people in prison waiting for their parole applications to be considered. That includes over 2,000 new applications and another 2,400 or so for parole suspensions, some as minor as not showing up to an appointment. The average wait time to have a parole application considered is now 194 days, which is more than 44 days over the statutory limit.

This is a steadily escalating crisis that, according to groups such as LawRight and Sisters Inside, is costing the state around \$20,000 per prisoner per month or almost \$4 million every month. Meanwhile, prisons are dangerously overcrowded with a record-breaking 10,219 people imprisoned in Queensland at the end of September this year. If we invested in getting out of prison people who have reached their parole date and who are determined not to pose a danger to the community, we could likely empty an entire prison. Instead, this government commissioned a KPMG review, which they now refuse to share publicly, and introduced this bill to extend the statutory time frame for considering applications.

In practice, this means that, for people whose parole applications have not been considered within the statutory time limit, the option to apply for judicial review is taken from them. That applies retrospectively which, as the Queensland Law Society pointed out, contradicts fundamental legislative principles. It also contradicts the recommendations of the 2016 *Queensland parole system review* report, which noted that the statutory time frames were too long and recommended a reduction to a 120-day limit. This government failed the assignment and now they are rewriting the criteria in the hope that they might pass.

The worst part is that this will not even fix the problem. Many people's applications are already well past the new maximum time frame. Without structural changes or a shift in the government's lock-em-all-up approach, more people will be locked up for longer periods. This government continues to frame that as a good outcome even though it disproportionately impacts First Nations people, disabled people and poor people, and even where it violates their fundamental rights.

The Prisoners' Legal Service is one organisation that has been on the front line of this crisis. I want to share one story from their solicitors about support they recently gave to an Aboriginal man from Cherbourg. He is a man who cannot read or write. He was given an immediate parole eligibility date by the court in November 2020 and lodged his parole application in December 2020. While waiting for a decision he received multiple letters from the Parole Board telling him that his application would be considered within 10 days. Over 300 days passed and he received no decision. During that period three of his close family members passed away. He was unable to attend their funerals or engage in his cultural obligations around sorry business. Missing their funerals compounded his pre-existing trauma and loss as well as that of his community.

Due to his illiteracy and his inability to pay the court filing fee associated with judicial review proceedings for out-of-time parole decisions, he remained in prison until he made contact with the Prisoners' Legal Service. After multiple attempts to communicate with the Parole Board urging a decision to be made, PLS helped him file a judicial review application for the board's failure to make a decision and the Parole Board released him shortly after that application was filed. By the time he was released he had been eligible for parole for 387 days and more than a year had passed since he first applied. Putting aside the personal impact of that delay—and it honestly feels crass to monetise this—it cost \$111,000 to keep him in prison during that period.

The Sisters Inside submission refers to similar stories throughout the parole delays crisis. Their submission states—

Parole delays have resulted in loss of housing, including private and social housing, and the removal of children. Women have sat in prison as family members have died, and as their children have been hospitalised with sickness and injury, all while knowing that they are past the date they are eligible for release.

This bill is taking away the option of judicial review, which is the only avenue open to those people. Since January this year, the Prisoners' Legal Service has dealt with more than 2,000 matters regarding parole delays. Despite this, the government persists with its absurd tough-on-crime mentality and kicks the can down the road instead of looking at real solutions—solutions like properly funding the board to deal with the backlog; like increasing the funding for community legal services; like building more public housing, investing in community health services and decriminalising drugs.

While the government seek to paper over their mistakes and detract from the growing media scrutiny of the parole delays crisis, when it comes to the restricted prisoner parole framework they are desperate for attention. The bill creates a new parole framework for people serving a life sentence for multiple murders or the murder of a child. Under the proposed framework the president of the Parole Board can declare that a restricted prisoner must not be considered for parole for a period of up to 10 years. Even if that declaration is not made, the bill creates a presumption against parole, with the onus on the prisoner to demonstrate that they do not pose an unacceptable risk to the community. The bill also sets a higher threshold for exceptional circumstances release.

Let us be clear about what this really is. It comes from a media statement responding to one specific case where a man convicted of a particularly heinous crime was nearing the date when he would be eligible for parole. While it sounds good for the government to say that they will keep him in prison, they did not need this bill to do that. As many submissions pointed out, the likelihood that someone like Barrie Watts would actually get parole is slim to none. As the minister himself told us in an attempt to defend the ongoing parole crisis, parole eligibility does not guarantee parole.

It also sounds good to say that they will limit the retraumatisation of families by limiting notifications of parole applications but, again, we did not need a bill to do that. The committee report states—

... no evidence is provided to support the assertion that victims' families, friends and the community experience trauma caused by restricted prisoners being considered for parole under the currently permitted yearly intervals. There is no evidence that restricted prisoners in fact apply for parole each year. It is not apparent how persons other than those required to be notified would find out that a life prisoner has made an application for parole.

In fact, the committee report says that the statement of compatibility with human rights is missing information and does not adequately justify the reforms in this bill. It says these reforms may even require the government to make a declaration overriding its obligations under the Human Rights Act to address the incompatibility with human rights. The Queensland Human Rights Commission submission points out that the rights of victims and prisoners are not mutually exclusive and states—


Parole provides an incentive for rehabilitation and a process to facilitate reintegration into the community. Removing that incentive and process risks undermining community safety.

It is a well-established principle that the non-parole period of a sentence represents the punitive element of a sentence as opposed to rehabilitation, deterrence and protection. This bill removes the regular opportunity to consider rehabilitation that parole offers. It also creates the potential for rolling declarations that would preclude the prospect of release despite rehabilitation, which effectively amounts to arbitrary or indefinite detention. The Queensland Law Society, Prisoners' Legal Service, Sisters Inside and the committee's report all raised concerns about this effective life sentence without the possibility of parole, yet here we are set to legislate it anyway.

It seems obvious that this part of the bill has been written in response to this single, media-driven matter rather than any broader policy need. Unfortunately nothing, this bill included, is going to take away the trauma of victims' families. For the government to frame it this way is disingenuous, disrespectful and irresponsible.

On a related note, I also share concerns raised by groups such as ATSILS and the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties in their submissions about the no-body no-parole framework. While I fully understand and sympathise with families' need for closure after experiencing such a tragedy, we cannot ignore the possibility that this framework is applied to wrongfully convicted people and that the proposed changes mean they may never be released. I am short of time but want to finish with a quote from the Prisoners' Legal Service submission. It states—

In the long-term, it is not possible for the Queensland Government to build its way out of the problems of mass incarceration or the parole backlog by creating additional prison beds. Attention should be redirected from short term fixes to addressing the underlying causes of a failing criminal justice system.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (5.52 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. The bill was tabled by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services on 15 September 2021. It was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, with the committee chair tabling its report in November 2021. The committee made only one recommendation: that the bill be passed.

The bill proposes legislative amendments to a wide range of acts and regulations including: the Child Protection (Offender Reporting and Offender Prohibition Order) Act 2004; the Corrective Services Act 2006; the Corrective Services and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020; the Corrective Services (COVID-19 Emergency Response) Regulation 2020; the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000; the Police Powers and Responsibilities Regulation 2012; the Police Service Administration Act 1990; the Terrorism (Preventative Detention) Act 2005; and the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000.

I am always happy to support good law reform. Laws should be modified and shaped over time to better reflect the social values that society feels are important. The law cannot stand still. As social values and public interests change, the law should change. This bill provides good law reform for a wide range of acts. As the minister said in his introductory speech—

This bill is all about keeping Queenslanders safe. This bill introduces the strongest laws in the nation when it comes to keeping the worst of the worst behind bars.

This bill honours our promise to shield victim's families from unnecessary trauma. This bill will mean that those who take the life of a child or who commit multiple murders and are serving a life sentence can be banned from even applying for parole for a period of up to 10 years. No other jurisdiction in Australia has those laws, but we will.

The proposed amendments to the Corrective Services Act 2006 will provide for a new parole framework for life sentenced multiple or child murderers. It will introduce a new framework for parole decisions about restricted prisoners. The bill will: give discretion for the president of the board to declare that a restricted prisoner must not be considered for parole for up to 10 years—a restricted prisoner declaration; ensure that the public interest is the primary consideration when deciding whether to make a restricted prisoner declaration; provide a higher threshold for exceptional circumstances parole for restricted prisoners; and insert a presumption against parole for restricted prisoners.

Where a restricted prisoner declaration is not made, a new framework creates a presumption against parole, thereby placing the onus on the prisoner to demonstrate that they do not pose an unacceptable risk to the community. These measures are designed to reduce the retraumatisation of victims' families while protecting the community and ensuring confidence in the parole process.

The proposed amendments do not change the overall policy for no-body no-parole; namely, that a relevant prisoner must be refused parole unless they have cooperated satisfactorily in locating a homicide victim's remains. Rather, the bill aims to strengthen this policy and incentivise prisoners to cooperate earlier by introducing a discretion for the board to consider a prisoner's cooperation at any time after sentencing instead of requiring this consideration to wait until the prisoner applies for parole.

It will also require the board to make a no-cooperation declaration about a prisoner where the board determines the prisoner has not cooperated satisfactorily. Restricted prisoners subject to a no-cooperation declaration will be restricted from reapplying for parole and a no-cooperation declaration will be considered only where leave is granted by the president or the deputy president of the board.

Currently the Parole Board is experiencing unprecedented demand to determine applications for parole. Amendments to the Corrective Services Act included in this bill will provide the board with greater flexibility to respond to this increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety. The efficient and effective operations of the Parole Board play a vital role in ensuring confidence in the criminal justice system in Queensland but also ensuring the humane management of prisoners.



The bill will also expand the existing police banning notice regime in the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act so that it also applies to an adult who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place. A public place means a licensed premises, a public place in a safe night precinct or a public event where alcohol is sold. This means that, in addition to any court proceedings, police may commence action against a person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place. Police can also issue a banning notice to the person. The banning notice will exclude that person from the area for one month. As the minister said in his introductory speech—

This proposal is aimed at reducing the opportunity for people to make poor choices with a knife in high-risk areas and builds upon the government's knife-detecting trial in the Gold Coast's safe night precincts and the Queensland Police Service's 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign.

The bill also proposes to protect police methodologies with regard to unlocking electronic storage devices. Currently, under section 803 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000, 'Protection of methodologies', there is limited protection to police officers in court proceedings by allowing them to claim privilege and not disclose certain information about police methodology. The locking and encrypting of electronic devices such as mobile phones and computers is a common strategy used by criminals to defeat the investigating activities of police should the device be seized.

Approved police and staff members from the QPS's Electronic Evidence Unit use numerous confidential methods to access and download these devices seized by police. The Queensland Police Service is employing and training several non-police personnel to perform this technical work and consequently they require the same statutory protection as police officers in any relevant court proceeding. The bill therefore amends the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 to afford QPS staff members a legal protection from revealing police methodologies in court.


The bill also amends the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 to further strengthen the blue card system by including additional Commonwealth Criminal Code offences as disqualifying and serious offences. The bill also creates two new indictable offences, punishable by up to a maximum of five years imprisonment, for a person who wilfully and unlawfully seriously injures or kills a Police Service dog or horse or a Corrective Services dog. Due to the limitations of the serious animal cruelty offence, the appropriate charge is section 468 'Injuring animals' of the Criminal Code. That offence is only punishable by a maximum of two years imprisonment unless the animal is stock, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment.

The simple offence under the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act is considered inadequate to address the violent nature of the offenders' actions in injuring police dogs and horses. The minister stated in his first reading speech—

The Police Service Administration Act already has a simple offence to injure or kill a police dog or horse. The reason for the new indictable offences is that the simple offence is, quite frankly, inadequate to appropriately deal with the criminality of some serious offending. Sadly, this was the case in February last year when police dog Kaos was stabbed by two offenders after they fled from a stolen motor vehicle. These faithful servants deserve the best protection we can offer. I also acknowledge the advocacy of the Queensland Police Union, including General President Ian Leavers, on this particular point, to ensure that this offence was appropriately punished by Queensland law.

Thankfully, Kaos survived the attack, but had he died it would have cost the QPS \$29,000 to replace him. The new offence is intended to adequately protect Police Service and Corrective Services dogs and police horses by providing parity with other like offences.

In closing, I thank the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services for introducing this important bill, the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the committee secretariat, the submitters and Hansard. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.02 pm): I rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for their consideration of the bill before us. As we have heard from other members, the main objectives of the bill are to: reduce knife crime by expanding the police banning notice regime to apply to a person—adult—who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place; limit retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or who has murdered a child; strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains; provide the Parole Board Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety; create administrative and operational efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service, enhance intelligence gathering about dangerous drugs

and ensure Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences are updated in Queensland legislation; and create indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a Queensland Corrective Services dog or Queensland Police Service dog or horse, reflecting the seriousness of the offences in line with community expectations.

I acknowledge the contribution of the shadow minister, the honourable member for Burdekin, and that of other MPs. To achieve the stated policy objectives, the bill proposes several legislative amendments. In my contribution, I would like to focus on three amendments in particular; namely, the amendment of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 which expands the police banning notice regime to apply to a person—adult—who unlawfully possesses a knife; the amendment of the Corrective Services Act 2006 which limits the retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or murdered a child; and the amendment of the Corrective Services Act 2006 which temporarily extends the legislated time frames for the Parole Board to decide a parole application by 60 days.

In Queensland, as elsewhere in the country, there is a rising rate of random knife crime, particularly among youths. The dangerous and devastating consequences of carrying or using a knife in public cannot be understated. In December 2019, 17-year-old Jack Beasley died from a knife wound on a night out in Surfers Paradise. I note the member for Bonney is in the chamber. He has certainly been very active in working with Jack's parents, Brett and Belinda Beasley, who have inspirationally channelled their pain and grief into something positive by establishing the Jack Beasley Foundation in their son's honour. The foundation is focused on educating and driving change around youth violence. This was a particularly shocking incident—and I know it is still before the courts—in terms of its effect on the local community. For a young man who was out with friends in Surfers to die was a terrible tragedy.

In May this year, a 12-month wandering trial commenced at the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts—both of which are in my electorate—in an attempt to curb knife related crime. A couple of Thursdays back, at the launch of the 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign, which I note the member for Ipswich West among others mentioned, police revealed that in the first six months of the trial they had arrested 95 people on 122 charges and seized more than 50 weapons, including axes, swords and large knives. I table a *Courier-Mail* article detailing this.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 4 November 2021, titled 'Gold Coast policy launch "I Live my Life Without a Knife" campaign' [\[2022\]](#).

Among the almost 1,500 people wandered, 600 of whom were juveniles, children as young as 13 had been found with weapons. At the launch it was also announced that those at Schoolies—the Queensland week of which has just concluded—would be wandered around the clock. The 'I live my life ... without a knife' campaign was launched by the Queensland Police Service and the Jack Beasley Foundation and aims to educate young Queenslanders and empower them to make the right decisions. I table the *Gold Coast Bulletin* article detailing this.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Gold Coast Bulletin*, dated 4 November 2021, titled 'Parents of slain Gold Coast teen Jack Beasley join mission to end knife crime' [\[2023\]](#).

I commend the Beasley family for their efforts here. I know that they have been on the phone not just to the honourable member for Bonney but also to other Gold Coast members. The former leader of the opposition, the member for Nanango, Deb Frecklington, also met with the Beasleys over the last year. They have been passionate about working together with the Police Service to try to educate young Queenslanders about the importance of safety. Wherever young people go they should not feel like they should have to take knives with them.

As I have mentioned, the Beasley family have shown resilience in advocating for change in this space. I will be proud to stand with them in a couple of weeks from now at the Walk for Jack event to be held on Sunday, 13 December—the anniversary of Jack's passing.

Returning to the amendment as proposed, the QPS has stated that the intent of police in issuing banning notices is to 'provide immediate protection to members of the community enjoying a safe night out by curbing and deterring alcohol and drug related violence in liquor precincts'. It is also hoped to create a strong disincentive for people carrying knives in the first place.

Turning to the new parole framework for life sentenced or child murderers, it would be remiss of me not to highlight the efforts of the member for Ninderry with respect to the new laws being proposed. The new measures were announced the morning after the member for Ninderry tabled a petition,

launched with the Kingi family, with more than 72,000 signatories opposing the release of Sian Kingi's killer, Barrie John Watts, launched following Watts's application for parole. I table the *Courier-Mail* article detailing this.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Courier-Mail*, dated 17 June 2021, titled 'Sian Kingi murderer Barrie John Watts' parole bid sparks push to nation's toughest laws by state government' [2024].

The horrific kidnapping, torture, rape and murder of 12-year-old schoolgirl Sian Kingi in November 1987 shocked Queensland and the whole nation. So too did Barrie Watts's plea for freedom in June this year. It is a positive that these amendments are being proposed. However, it must be said that the Kingi family's drive to see the law changed, together with the unwavering support offered by the member for Ninderry, forced the government's hand.


The bill makes amendments that introduce a discretion for the president of the board to: declare that a restricted prisoner must not be considered for parole for up to 10 years—a restricted prisoner declaration; ensure that the public interest is the primary consideration when deciding whether to make a restricted prisoner declaration; provide a higher threshold for exceptional circumstances parole for restricted prisoners; and insert a presumption against parole for restricted prisoners. These amendments, once passed, ought to be referred to as 'Sian's Law' as a tribute to her. These new laws are the legacy of Sian and the Kingi family.

Finally, I would like to consider the amendment which seeks to extend the legislated time frames for the Parole Board to decide a parole application by 60 days. The proposed amendments will apply to both existing and new parole applications. For the temporary extension period, the Parole Board must decide either an existing parole application or a new parole application within 180 days of receipt or, if the board defers the application to seek further information in accordance with section 193(2) of the Corrective Services Act 2006, 210 days. The explanatory notes of the bill state that the amendments are to 'provide the Parole Board Queensland ... with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety'.

Several submitters to the bill took issue with the amendments to increase time frames for parole decisions in view of the already overcrowded prisons. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services stated—

... the parole system has become even more overloaded, the prisons are overcrowded due to prisoners facing extraordinary delays to get parole applications considered at all, and consequently the parole system has effectively become log jammed. Any further restrictions to applying for parole would have a disproportionate effect and introduce procedural unfairness where none need exist. For that reason alone, all the proposed changes to the Corrective Services Act should be removed from this bill.

Whilst there are a significant number of amendments proposed within this bill, I am looking forward to seeing these proposals, should they be passed, actually reduce crime, punish offenders and help victims' families.

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (6.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the bill, a bill which creates some of the strongest laws for victims and their families in this country. It includes changes to the parole decisions around child murderers and multiple murderers, giving relief to the families of victims going through that process. It also strengthens no-body no-parole measures. It gives flexibility to the Parole Board in situations that arise in their day-to-day dealings. It also empowers police officers to reduce knife crimes in our community.

I want to focus on a particular section of the bill that creates two new indictable offences for persons who seriously injure or kill two animals that I love—that is, dogs and horses. I even love them when I am losing money on them on the weekend! Clauses 6 and 49 of the bill create two new indictable offences, punishable by a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment, for people who wilfully and unlawfully kill or cause serious injury to a police dog or horse or a corrective services dog. The new indictable offences will be inserted into the Police Service Administration Act and the Corrective Services Act respectively. They will supplement the existing simple offences to injure or kill a police dog or horse or a corrective services dog.

The reason for the new offences is that, while there are a number of offences for injuring or killing animals throughout the Queensland statutes, none of the offences adequately deal with the unique circumstances when an offender seriously injures or kills a police dog or horse or a corrective services dog. For example, the simple offence under section 10.21B of the Police Service Administration Act only has a maximum penalty of 40 penalty units, or two years imprisonment. The equivalent Queensland Corrective Services simple offences only have a maximum penalty of 100 penalty units, or two years imprisonment. The only other applicable offence is section 468, (Injuring animals), of the Criminal Code, which is also punishable by a maximum of two years imprisonment.

Previous attempts to charge offenders under section 242, (Serious animal cruelty), of the Criminal Code, which carries a maximum penalty of seven years imprisonment, have proven unworkable. That offence requires proof the offender intended to inflict severe pain or suffering to the police dog or horse—in effect, to prove the torture of the animal. This unfortunately was the case in February last year when police dog Kaos was stabbed by two offenders after they fled from a stolen motor vehicle. Kaos suffered a 15-millimetre, full-thickness laceration in the mid-oesophagus, damage to the trachea and nerve damage. Kaos received urgent life-saving veterinary care before returning to active duty and has recently retired. I congratulate Kaos on a fantastic career.

The proposed new offences will also better align Queensland with other states such as New South Wales, South Australia and the Northern Territory—all of which have specific offences punishable by a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment. The online community support for police dog Kaos and requesting consideration of a more serious offence was quite extraordinary. I thank the minister for listening to their cause. These two new offences are about protecting our valuable police dogs and horses and corrective services dogs so they, in turn, can continue to protect our community. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr WEIR** (Condamine—LNP) (6.16 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the debate on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. According to the explanatory notes, the main objectives of the bill are to: reduce knife crime by expanding the police banning notice regime to apply to a person who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place; limit retraumatisation of victims' families and friends by introducing a new framework for parole decisions about a life sentenced prisoner who has committed multiple murders or who has murdered a child; strengthen the no-body no-parole framework to incentivise earlier prisoner cooperation to locate a homicide victim's remains; provide the Parole Board Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety; create administrative and operational efficiencies for the Queensland Police Service, enhance intelligence gathering about dangerous drugs and ensure Commonwealth child sexual abuse offences are updated in Queensland legislation; and create indictable offences for wilfully and unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a Queensland Corrective Services dog or Queensland Police Service dog or horse, reflecting the seriousness of the offences in line with community expectations. I do not intend to speak to all of those but I will speak to some of them.

The bill introduces a discretion for the president of the Parole Board to declare that a restricted prisoner must not be considered for parole for up to 10 years. This would only apply to those who have committed the most heinous of crimes such as murder. We support this amendment. When someone commits the crime of murder they have crossed a line that excludes them from the right to freely mix in our society. It is a crime that deserves the heaviest of penalties being applied. This is recognised by the amendment proposed to the Corrective Services Act 2006 to extend the maximum period, from 12 months to three years, that a life sentence prisoner can be restricted from reapplying for parole after having their parole application refused by the board.

Whilst I support the amendments I have already mentioned, the amendment that extends the time frame by 60 days for the board to decide a parole application does raise some concerns. The explanatory notes state that the amendments are to provide the board with 'greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety'. I do not accept that. This is because of this government's incompetence in managing the Parole Board—pure and simple. This extension of time is so that the minister can stand and say that the Parole Board is meeting its time frames—which is something that it is failing to do now.


The minister has form in this regard, for there is a bill before the House—indeed, we have commenced debate on that bill—which extends the time frame for the weapons licensing board, because this was another service that was not meeting its time frames under this minister.

The concerns I have regarding this amendment are twofold. The Condamine electorate, like most others in the state, has a juvenile crime problem. We recently had a series of offences ranging from car theft to burglary, but the most frightening for the victims involved were home invasions. These offenders came out from Toowoomba and were going around the towns surrounding Toowoomba such as Kingsthorpe, Oakey and Biddeston. It was a very terrifying time for residents. The police did a great job; they made a number of arrests and order was restored. It was the Oakey police that led that investigation. The problem is that these offenders were well known to police. As I said, the police did a great job but the problem is what happens from there.

Instead of a custodial sentence, all too often these offenders are given little more than a slap on the wrist and released to continue their antisocial behaviour. We know that our youth detention centres are overcrowded and understaffed, which means there is simply no room for some of the recidivist offenders, so they are released. This is another in a long list of failures by this minister. Not all offenders are recidivist offenders. For various reasons they can find themselves on the wrong side of the law and in custody. For these offenders rehabilitation is the ultimate goal, but this is being put at risk by the long waiting list to have their parole heard. Simply placing an extension on the time frame is not a solution to this problem.

I do support the banning notice that has been brought in for those who are in possession of a knife in a public place. Unfortunately, that crime is on the increase and we have heard some real-life stories from the Gold Coast about that. Knife crime has increased, particularly amongst young people. Often in a moment of rashness they can commit an act that will result in the taking of a life. There is no need to carry a knife in a public place unless you are a tradesman. Farmers often carry knives. As a farmer myself, I always had a pocketknife in my pocket. Unless you have a legitimate purpose there is no need to carry a knife. I understand there are protections for certain people who will still be able to carry them as a tool of their trade.

Dogs and horses do an incredible job with the police force. Dogs can often go in places where it is unsafe for an officer. We all love our horses. We know that a lot of retired racehorses find themselves in the Police Service, so they should be protected. As many in this House have said, we support our police officers. They do a wonderful job in very difficult circumstances most of the time, so we will support any legislation that will help them discharge their duties.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (6.23 pm): I too rise to speak on the Police Powers and Responsibilities and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. I would first like to address the reduction in knife crime. I think that the government is making a sensible move here. I am particularly pleased that there are exceptions made for those persons who have an occupational requirement to carry a knife. When I think of such occupational necessities I think of the stockmen and farmers you see at the bar at O'Mara's Hotel in Stanthorpe wearing a hobble belt, a leather pouch and a knife, in many cases the blade of which is much shorter than the sheath because for three generations it has been sharpened. It is a necessary tool of the trade for those persons.

It would be remiss of me if I were to stand in this House and talk about that occupational requirement without alerting the House to the wonderful products that are made by Kent Saddlery in my electorate of Stanthorpe. Lyle Kent, Helen Kent and their staff—

**Ms Farmer:** Great company!

**Mr LISTER:** Thank you for that. I know that the minister has visited them. I thought that just for the benefit of the House I would table a picture of the knife pouches that they have and also a picture of the great proprietor himself, Lyle Kent, wearing a pair of leather braces and a hobble belt. I wear braces in parliament but I do not wear leather braces. Maybe I will start.

*Tabled paper:* Extract from the website of Kent Saddlery, Stanthorpe detailing products [\[2025\]](#).

In all seriousness, I was concerned about this bill. It has exposed the ineptitude of the Palaszczuk government by allowing the parole system to become so congested and delayed that justice is not being done to individuals. The state has also been occasioned a great deal of cost.

I note the explanatory notes state that one of the objectives of the bill is to 'provide the Parole Board Queensland with greater flexibility to respond to increased workload and the risks different prisoners pose to community safety'. That is a very glib statement which does not present the real situation here. If we have two whole prisons worth of offenders who are waiting for parole and they have their parole applications delayed, that is an extraordinary figure. I wonder whether they are the two prisons the state government spent \$111 million on privatising. The Parole Board has a duty to consider parole applications before it, and the government cannot walk away from their role in failing to resource it properly.

As the member for Clayfield said with great gusto earlier today, it is the proclivity of this government—and Labor governments always—that when they cannot meet their KPIs and legislative standards they come in here and change those standards as part of an omnibus bill. I heard the member for Clayfield talk about things like the sale of assets and so forth. It seems that whenever things get too tough, rather than embark on serious reform, rather than look at the end result and work backwards from that like a good administrator would do, they change the law or throw money at the problem. But at the end of the day, the problem still exists.

The problem we see is that by increasing the period in which a decision has to be made by 60 days they are making it retrospective. There are people in the system now whose applications have been delayed who are going to be subject to this being imposed on them, even though they submitted their applications earlier. We heard it is costing \$4 million a month. That is a very significant figure. That money would fix a lot of roads in my electorate. It would fence a lot of farmers from the wild dogs that attack their sheep from the state forests in the national parks that the Labor Party managed so poorly. It prevents prisoners who wish to prepare to transition into society again from having certainty. It inhibits their ability to make preparations to organise how their life will work once they get outside the walls of the prison.

I also see that the bill will create an indictable offence for unlawfully killing or seriously injuring a police dog or corrections dog, and I applaud that. I am sure that every member of this House would agree, but what about other animals? Those vegan protesters who have invaded farms, feedlots and dairies in my electorate have always got away with a slap on the wrist. They are still subject to summary offences. In some cases they have spread poisons around which offend the animals and caused the staff at Carey Bros abattoir to go to hospital after being overcome by a toxic chemical. To the best of my knowledge, those proceedings all finished long ago in the Magistrates Court. All of the offenders were given a meagre fine and were able to stand on the steps of the courthouse, rejoice in the slightness of that fine and proclaim they are going to do it again. It is great to see this happening, but I think that when farm animals are terrorised, imperilled or endangered by the actions of farm invaders the offenders ought to be subject to being charged with an indictable offence. Of course, we know that the preferences of those who are doing these things ultimately go to the Labor Party, so the Labor Party cannot be too harsh on them. They need them to be out on the streets so they can vote in the next election.

I was watching the minister's second reading speech, and he said that the bill was about protecting victims' families and communities. We have heard many members on this side of the House talk today about crime in their communities. I heard the members for Condamine and Currumbin talk about crime in their communities. I also represent communities that have crime problems—in particular, the town of Goondiwindi. This is a fabulous town; it is a remarkably excellent town.

**Mr Last:** Hear, hear!


**Mr LISTER:** I thank my colleague for that. In spite of the fact it is a wonderful town—and it has been declared by Bernard Salt, the esteemed demographer, to be one of the greatest towns in Australia—there is a crime problem there. I would like to see the minister say to the people of Goondiwindi that he is protecting families and victims in the community, because in my opinion—and I am sure in theirs—he is not. We need a serious look at the juvenile justice system.

To be told that punitive measures against juveniles are not the answer is not the answer, because at the end of the day the same kids are getting out night after night to commit the same crimes—the same vehicle thefts, the same burning of vehicles and dumping them in the Condamine River, the same property offences, the same offences of breaking into people's houses and terrorising people, and the same offences of driving vehicles into the front of businesses to steal lollies and cigarettes. It is not good enough that we are told that the community will have to tolerate crime until the Labor Party's social measures have eliminated the cause. That is not on. I know I speak conclusively for the people of Goondiwindi in making that statement.

The government said that they are protecting victims' families and the communities, but they are really hollow words in an electorate like Southern Downs where a wonderful town like Goondiwindi is plagued by youth crime. Youth crime is doing a great deal of damage to the esteem of good, law-abiding people. Those who uphold the law and live by the law are having their houses broken into and their vehicles stolen, and I want to see an end to that. I call on the minister and the government to not just tinker around the edges but to accept that good, law-abiding people are entitled to protection from those offenders. If the minister came out to Southern Downs and spoke to the people of Goondiwindi, he would understand that.

Nobody wants to be told that the interests of offenders are superior to the interests of people who live by and uphold the law. I speak of people like Chris and Gail Henry, who operate the 5 Star Supermarket in Goondiwindi. The shadow minister and member for Burdekin, along with the opposition leader, came out and met Chris Henry and saw the more than \$20,000 worth of damage that was done to his shop when offenders stole a vehicle, drove into the front of the shop and stole lollies and cigarettes. He and his staff suffer great harm when that occurs—harm to their dignity and financial harm in terms of their working hours and the cost of repairing the business. That is just one of many cases in my electorate of Southern Downs.

I also speak of Aileen Norman, who has had her house broken into on three occasions. On each occasion, the keys to her vehicle have been stolen by children and the car has been taken and either driven into the Macintyre River or burnt. On the most recent occasion, she had her car keys hidden under her pillow and the offenders came into her house and stole the keys from under her pillow. Any fair-minded person thinking about how she might feel right now would understand that we need to do something about these kids and get them behind bars.

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.33 pm), in reply: Under this bill, Queensland will have the toughest parole laws in the nation—tough parole laws for child killers and multiple murderers, the worst of the worst, and tough parole laws that will keep them behind bars for longer. This bill is about putting victims first. It is about protecting victims, their families and local communities—shielding them from further trauma. This bill means that a person convicted and serving a life sentence for killing a child or a person convicted and serving a life sentence for multiple murders and eligible for parole can be blocked from obtaining parole for a period of up to 10 years, with the potential of further periods of up to 10 years and so on for decades.

The bill has a range of important reforms. I note the comments of those opposite, including the member for Burdekin's positive feedback that these amendments are needed. For example, there is tougher action on knife crime by expanding the police banning notice regime to apply to an adult who unlawfully possesses a knife in a relevant public place, such as a licensed premises in a safe night precinct. It builds on the police campaign of 'I live my life ... without a knife' which a few members spoke about, including the member for Logan, and the government's police wandering trial in the Surfers Paradise and Broadbeach safe night precincts. They are both important initiatives to boost community safety.

Interestingly, what the member for Burdekin did not say about safe night precincts is that the LNP in government failed to fund the extra police and police training to patrol safe night precincts. They reneged on a \$20 million promise to the Queensland Police Service to support policing in those safe night precincts. We remember that the General President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers, took out a TV ad in 2015 criticising the truthfulness and lack of support of those opposite.

This bill creates a new indictable offence for a person who wilfully and unlawfully kills or seriously injures a police dog or horse or a corrective services dog. They are faithful servants of community safety and they deserve our protection and support. This offence will be punishable by a maximum of five years imprisonment. I again refer to the General President of the Queensland Police Union, Ian Leavers—

**Mr Fumer:** A great man.

**Mr RYAN:** I take that interjection from the minister, who is a former employee of the Queensland Police Union. I commend Ian Leavers for his strong advocacy on this aspect of the reforms we are debating today.

This bill also includes important reforms to protect children through Commonwealth Criminal Code offences around the grooming of a child, child abuse material and child sex exploitation. A number of these offences were only introduced by the Commonwealth this year. Our government is moving quickly. We had an election and we have introduced this legislation as quickly as possible. Over the past four years, Queensland police who work in this area have helped rescue 774 children nationally and worldwide through the investigation and analysis of seized data from over 150 million media files. I take this opportunity to commend our world-leading Taskforce Argos and their colleagues within the Queensland Police Service for their excellent work.

We have heard a lot from the opposition about aspects of this bill. I have often said in this House that we have to look at what they do and not what they say. On the issue of protecting children, particularly around those sex offences against children and how to ensure that those who commit those heinous crimes are held to account, I note that one of the greatest travesties in the statute books of Queensland was when the LNP changed the monitoring regime for child sex offenders. Overnight, 1,700 child sex offenders were removed from monitoring. These are criminals who rape children. Because of those opposite and the legislation and amendments that they passed, we saw that overnight 1,700 of those heinous criminals were not monitored by police. It is extraordinary. It is one of the greatest travesties to ever be seen in this parliament and on the statute books of Queensland.

I now turn to amendments to the Corrective Services Act in relation to parole which are included in this bill. Parole is not an automatic entitlement; it is not a right. There is no guarantee that a prisoner eligible for parole will get parole. The Parole Board Queensland is independent and makes its decisions



in the best interests of community safety. Because of this government's strong laws and the relentless efforts of the police, there are now more offenders spending longer in custody and detention more often. This, in addition to an increase in exceptional circumstances parole applications arising from the COVID-19 pandemic, has led to an increase in the number of parole applications.

The government continues to provide the independent Parole Board Queensland with substantial support, just as it has done right from the board's establishment. Since the Queensland parole system review, the government has increased Parole Board funding by over \$6.1 million—going from \$4.2 million in 2016-17 to over \$10.3 million in 2020-21. This represents a 145 per cent increase in funding and is indicative of this government's significant and ongoing commitment to deliver an effective parole system. Extra funding announced this year will support the continued operation of a fourth temporary operating team and has enabled the establishment of a fifth temporary operating team.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the president, CEO and members of the Queensland Homicide Victims' Support Group for their collective strong advocacy around changes to the parole system to better protect victims and their families.

To complement the reforms in this bill, updated ministerial guidelines will come into effect around the timeliness of prisoners' cooperation in no-body no-parole matters before the Parole Board Queensland. This means the board must place greater emphasis on whether a prisoner gave information to the authorities in relation to the location of a victim's remains in a timely manner. This government will always put victims' families first. It was a Labor government that reformed the parole system—the biggest parole reforms in recent history—and it was a Labor government that heavily invested in a professional and independent parole board.

I will now address some of the specific issues raised by members during the debate. The member for Burdekin referred to protection for civilian staff with regard to the monitoring of surveillance devices. I am advised that civilian monitors will be operating from a desk in a police establishment. There is no change from current practices in this regard. Further, the civilian monitors will be appropriately supervised. This amendment simply removes the need for constant and individualised police supervision.

I thank all members of the parliament for their contribution in this debate. I also acknowledge the hard work and dedication of the very committed members of Queensland Corrective Services and the Queensland Police Service for their valuable assistance in the development of these reforms. I would like to particularly highlight the efforts of Tom Humphreys, Annika Hutchins, the team from the Queensland Corrective Services Legislation Group, Paul Friedman, Tony Brown, Ian Carroll, John Henderson, David Flynn and the Queensland Police Service legislation team for their significant efforts in not only supporting the development of this policy but also ensuring that this bill comes before the House and, in turn, becomes good law which keeps all Queenslanders safe. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

### Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 57, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

### Third Reading



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.42 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a third time.


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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.



### Long Title

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.43 pm): I move—


That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

### MOTION

#### Order of Business

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Acting Leader of the House) (6.43 pm): I move—

That government business orders of the day Nos 3 to 7 be postponed.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.


Motion agreed to.

## BRISBANE OLYMPIC AND PARALYMPIC GAMES ARRANGEMENTS BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 3792, on motion of Ms Palaszczuk—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (6.43 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. As part of the Economics and Governance Committee that considered this bill, I acknowledge that it was declared an urgent bill due to the requirement to have the legislative framework in place within five months of the signing of the Olympic host contract, which occurred on 21 July 2021.

I say at the outset that I am a big supporter of the Brisbane 2032 bid, having backed it from the bid stage, because I can see the amazing benefits on offer when hosting the world's largest sporting event. I say this as an elected representative here in Queensland and acknowledge the benefit that Brisbane 2032 will have for regional Queensland as well. I also stand here as a passionate advocate for my city of Logan and can see the transformative potential of having Olympic infrastructure and events in my city. World-class facilities and athletes in our backyard is transformative in terms of not only infrastructure and the jobs that come with building and maintaining such facilities but also the commercial flow-on benefits from becoming a destination—not just for a 16-day period in 2032 but also for the years leading up to and after the games.

Logan City Council was involved in the South East Queensland Council of Mayors, CoMSEQ, that first put forward the idea for the games bid. I know that Logan is not currently on the Australian Olympic Committee map as a site for a sport, but I can assure the people of Logan that I will be advocating tirelessly until Logan is on the Olympic map.

I note with interest submissions from the Gold Coast City council and those put forward by the member for Mermaid Beach that advocated that the Gold Coast should be represented in positions allocated to local government mayors. I found this interesting since the Gold Coast was not involved in the initial CoMSEQ proposal and lobbying. During the committee inquiry, when I asked the question of the task force, I was advised that the Gold Coast City council only came on board with the bid in 2020—five years into the bid process. I understand that the Gold Coast has many world-class sporting venues, courtesy of the considerable investment by all levels of government for the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and therefore has initially been allocated a number of potential Olympic venues for 2032. Good on them! However, to turn around and demand a spot on the organising committee is a bit rich, particularly now that the games have been awarded and they are once again no longer part of the council of mayors.

I think we have all been at university and had the experience where a student in the group project is missing in action for most of the work, turns up right before it is due, throws in a few contributions here and there, disappears and fades when it is handed in and then demands to be the student that collects the prize at the end. I can say categorically that Logan says no, because if you cannot pay your fees or dues then you should not be reaping the rewards.

This bill, in essence, sets out the legislative framework for the body that is colloquially known as the organising committee, referred to in the bill as 'the corporation', and sets out the composition of the committee, referred to throughout the bill as 'the board'. The composition of the board is currently set at 20, although the bill does not place a cap on membership so it may grow as required by the challenges of the day. The board is made up of six different components: five members from the international and Australian sporting committees, two athlete representatives, five independent directors, two local government representatives, four state government nominees, and four federal government nominees. Clauses 17 to 20 outline the eligibility for each of these components, with clause 17 providing gender diversity requirements for a number of the board positions and clause 18 providing a requirement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representation among the independent nominees.

In examining the bill, the committee made seven recommendations in total, including that the bill be passed. I thank the Premier for responding to those recommendations in her speech this morning. I would like to expand on why the committee came to some of these additional recommendations.

First I would like to examine recommendation 3, which refers specifically to the impacts of games infrastructure planning and construction on local communities. During the inquiry process the committee received a significant number of submissions from community members and community groups predominantly in and around the Woolloongabba area where, I understand, there will be significant impact from the Gabba redevelopment on those local communities, and I note the submission and representation from the local school co-located next to the Gabba.

I asked a number of these representatives who attended the public hearing some questions. I think what they really wanted to see was recognition within the Olympic framework that the board had to take into consideration the impact of the development during construction of the facilities and during the conduct of the games. As long as there is a mechanism such as the establishment of a commission specifically to look at the impact on local communities, that will suffice. Unfortunately, there will be a significant number of communities that will be impacted, particularly during construction. It is somewhat untenable for every single one of those communities to have a position on the organising committee. The Premier responded this morning and identified that correspondence will be sent to the organising committee, once it is established, to encourage the creation of a framework in which those local communities will be consulted and have a voice on how those facilities and events will impact them.

The other recommendation I would specifically like to address is recommendation 6. Clause 8 of the bill indicates that the organising committee will be subject to the Crime and Corruption Act except for any federal members of parliament who may be appointed to the board. I thought that was really quite interesting. When I read the opposition's statement of reservation they were really big on accountability and transparency for this Olympic Games. They mentioned a more structured conflict-of-interest framework. They mentioned tightening up the right to information framework, but do honourable members know what they did not mention? They did not mention the fact that the federal government stipulated that any federal member of parliament who might be on the committee would be exempt from the Crime and Corruption Act. This seemed kind of strange considering there is no federal equivalent such as an ICAC that could hold them accountable. I asked the task force why on earth this clause was inserted into this bill. Apparently it was a specific stipulation of the federal government that, should any of their nominees who happen to be a member of the federal parliament be appointed to the board, they would not be subject to the Crime and Corruption Act. Imagine that. Imagine my surprise that that was not included in the opposition's statement of reservation.

I acknowledge the Premier addressed the House this morning and said that an amendment will be moved which specifically outlines the remit of a crime and corruption committee with respect to federal members. I note also that the minister has written to the federal government to please explain why they have stipulated that, because the task force was not given any particular reason why that clause must be inserted. I look forward to hearing about the correspondence from the federal government as to why their members—everyone else on the organising committee will be subject to the provisions of the Crime and Corruption Act—are not. I really look forward to hearing that response because, as we know, the opposition is all about transparency and accountability. I look forward to the Premier responding to the House on that particular issue.

All those questions notwithstanding, this bill is the first bill that this House considers in the establishment of the Olympic Brisbane 2032. This is the first step in many that this House will take. I look forward to seeing who some of these nominees will be and whether the Gold Coast gets a guernsey. I do note that some of the athlete representatives have already been nominated. I am looking forward to not only seeing the composition of this board but in great depth seeing Logan being included. I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (6.53 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Brisbane Olympic and Paralympic Games Arrangements Bill 2021. The primary objectives of the bill are: to establish the Brisbane Organising Committee for the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games to undertake and facilitate the organisation, conduct, promotion and commercial and financial management of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games; and to establish a board of directors of the corporation to ensure the corporation performs its functions in a proper, effective and efficient way.

As the House is aware, Brisbane was elected as the host of the 2032 Olympic and Paralympic Games by the International Olympic Committee on 21 July 2021 following a majority vote of the IOC members at the 138th IOC session. On the same day the Premier, the Lord Mayor of Brisbane City Council and the president of the Australian Olympic Committee executed the Olympic host contract with the IOC.

The effort to secure the games was a testament to all the parties that banded together and showed great tenacity to go and win the rights to host the world's biggest multisport event and bring the games to our shores in 2032. The solidarity shown by all parties clearly displayed what can be achieved when politics is put on the backburner and the interests of Queenslanders are put first. The passion and determination shown in securing the games were evident to the people of Queensland and more so to the IOC when they made the determination to grant the games to Brisbane. I have no doubt that this collective drive would have been the determining factor that gave the IOC the confidence that Brisbane 2032 could do the job.

This bill sets out the requirements in the Olympic host contract. Under the Olympic host contract, the IOC entrusts the state of Queensland, Brisbane City Council and Australian Olympic Committee with the planning, organising, financing and staging of the Brisbane 2032 games in accordance with the terms of the Olympic host contract and the IOC's Olympic charter. The Olympic host contract requires that within five months following the execution of the Olympic host contract—by 21 December 2021—or at a later date agreed to by all signatories of the Olympic host contract, the host must form an organising committee as an entity endowed with legal personality under the laws of the host country and in such a manner as to provide for maximum efficiency with respect to its operations and its rights and obligations under the Olympic host contract. The Olympic host contract also requires that certain persons be members of the organising committee's highest executive board with full voting rights.

The Economics and Governance Committee tabled report No. 20, which details the extensive deliberations of the EGC and clearly articulates that the impacts of the awarding of the games to Brisbane will be felt not only for the immediate period leading up to the games but for at least a decade after as Queenslanders go about charming people from across the world and from many walks of life and experience to make Brisbane and Queensland their home for the duration of the lead-up and after the games are complete.

Being a regional member in this parliament, I believe the awarding of the 2032 games will have a significant economic impact by providing regional communities surrounding Brisbane and the various event locations with the opportunity to tap into the sustainable development of infrastructure and the vast array of economic activities that come from the flow-on effects of downstream merchandising and the supply chain demands that will come from having many hundreds of thousands of participants, officials, volunteers and visitors all requiring various levels of service, let alone the cultural interchange that will come from having the many and varied sporting countries arriving in Queensland for the games. This cultural exchange will also leave a significant impact on maturing relationships between our state and many countries far and wide. The opportunity for business growth leading up to and off the back of the games will be enormous and will drive our state economy for the decade and beyond as businesses try to enhance their market share by putting themselves front and centre on the world stage and either move or enhance their facilities to capture more market share.

In accordance with the requirements of the Olympic host contract, the bill establishes the Brisbane Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games as an independent statutory body with a board of directors overseeing its operations. The board of directors will be made up of the president or honorary life president of the Australian Olympic Committee, the president of Paralympics Australia, any active members of the International Olympic Committee residing in Australia, any members of the International Paralympic Committee residing in Australia, the chief executive officer of the AOC, a recent Olympic and a recent Paralympic athlete confirmed by their respective athletes commissions, five independent directors nominated by the minister with the consent of the Prime Minister, up to four persons nominated by the Prime Minister, four persons nominated by the Premier, one person nominated by the Lord Mayor, and the Lord Mayor. The size of this board of directors is


similar in size to the board for the Sydney 2000 Organising Committee, which was 15 strong, and for the London 2012 games, which had 18 in number. The Brisbane 2032 board will be less than half the size of the Tokyo 2020 committee board, which was 45 in size at any given time.

To facilitate participation of elected representatives on the board, the bill contains special disclosure-of-interest requirements and provisions dealing with confidential information. For the athletes and youth of our state and across the country, when this announcement was made you could see for many the inspiring vision in their eyes as they realised that their Olympic dream could one day be realised by participating in an Olympic Games in front of their nation at home. I have no doubt that among those inspiring athletes the next Cathy Freeman or a squad member of one of our great teams like the Boomers or the Matildas or the Hockeyroos will emerge to drive our nation to gold. The legacy of the games will be significant. Once the 2032 Olympics are over, Brisbane and Queensland will have the legacy of having some of the best world-class sporting facilities and cutting-edge sporting technologies all in place to keep our nation and state athletes at the forefront of world sporting achievements for many years to come.

Debate, on motion of Mr Tantari, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Beauresert Hospital, Maternity Services; Waste Facilities


 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (7.00 pm): Tonight I call on the government to protect maternity services at Beauresert Hospital. History must not be allowed to repeat at that hospital. That history tells us that the Labor government in Queensland allowed maternity services to wither away in the early 2000s and it was only the LNP being elected in 2012 that saw maternity services restored along with a host of other services that come with having a strong maternity section.

Lawrence Springborg and the LNP delivered for Beauresert but now recent reports indicate that Labor is again intending to cut midwife numbers at Beauresert Hospital, with six set to go out of a full-time-equivalent total of 23. That is a big cut and means less birthing in Beauresert, more risk of roadside births and a risk to other services as well because doctors who work in obstetrics also provide other services at the hospital. What is worse is that I understand that some midwives are being told that they can keep their job but only if they transfer to Logan Hospital. Yes, they are being pilfered by Logan Hospital because the government and Queensland Health have not been able to plan properly for their workforce to ensure there are enough midwives at Logan Hospital. We should not have to have less because there is a staffing shortage at Logan Hospital.

Beauresert deserves better and the government needs to guarantee the position of every midwife working at Beauresert Hospital at the moment—all 23 full-time equivalents, each of whom wants to stay there for the moment. This maternity service has been held up as an excellent example around Queensland, especially for rural and small hospitals, and it should be built up, not taken away from. Beauresert needs more health services, not Labor's cuts, and I call on the government to protect it. I will stand with those midwives, those doctors and all of the families in our region, and this also includes those families from adjoining regions such as the electorates of Logan and Jordan, who need this service to be defended. We need more services at Beauresert, not Labor's cuts. Once again, we see that only the LNP will stand up for services at Beauresert Hospital.

In the time remaining I also call on the government to do the right thing by the people of Willowbank and the people of Ipswich in relation to the proposed call-in of a Wanless dump proposal at Willowbank in the western part of my electorate. If it is going to call in that proposal, it needs to knock on the head the landfill part of that proposal. That is what Ipswich City Council did. It voted to approve the recycling element of the proposal and to refuse another dump for Ipswich. If the minister is going to call in that proposal, he should do the same thing and make good on the hot-air promises of this government to do something about waste in Queensland.

### Logan Electorate, Coronavirus Vaccination

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (7.03 pm): It is a pity that the member for Scenic Rim was not as passionate when the government that he was a part of cut the midwifery services to Browns Plains and the member for Waterford—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. The House will come to order. The member for Scenic Rim was heard in relative silence, so the member for Logan will be heard in relative silence.

**Mr POWER:** It is a pity he was not as passionate about the cuts he made to midwifery services in Browns Plains when the need was so great.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Pause the clock. I have just asked the House to come to order. I will start warning people, even this late in the day.

**Mr POWER:** I want to update the people of Logan on the exciting new figures for first COVID-19 vaccinations in Logan. Yesterday the Jimboomba area increased to 85.9 per cent, an increase of two per cent, and the Browns Plains SA3, which includes Boronia Heights and Regents Park, increased to 86.3 per cent, an increase of 2.3 per cent. Excitingly, that means that the Browns Plains SA3 is now above the statewide average by just 2.3 per cent. This is an exciting milestone in the electorate of Logan's race towards 90 per cent. That is right: when so many on the other side said that Logan would never get to 80 per cent, the people of Logan proved them wrong by racing past 80 per cent and now we are racing on to 90 per cent.

For those who just have not found time to get around to it, it could not be easier to go to the Grand Plaza car park on Browns Plains Road in front of the food court. You can walk in at any time and get a COVID-19 vaccination on the spot. You can also go quickly to many GPs and chemists to get vaccinated. For those who are still unsure or who are seeing some of the misleading information on the internet or from LNP members, they should know that, with almost nine out of 10 residents they meet already vaccinated, they can simply ask people about their experience. Alternatively, simply go to your GP and ask them about the experience of hundreds and thousands of local patients who have already been vaccinated. We know that it is safe, although we know that with almost all vaccines when there are millions or billions who take a vaccine there are tiny risks. We have been transparent about this. However, the risks of catching COVID are profoundly greater. We know it is safe and we know it protects the vaccinated by reducing the chance that they catch COVID and reducing the chance of hospitalisation or death.

We also know that if people do not catch COVID then they will not be passing it on to families, friends or workmates. A recent study showed that you are 50 per cent less likely to pass COVID on to your immediate household if you are vaccinated. I know that the decisions that we are making are tough, but no-one wants to be part of a chain of transmission that ends in serious hospitalisation or death of someone in our community. No-one seriously argues that given these facts people have a right to be at an increased risk of passing on a dangerous disease and to be in areas of known high transmission. That is why I am urging everyone in Logan: let us race on towards 90 per cent and get vaccinated as soon as possible.

### **Currumbin Electorate, Queensland Border**



**Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (7.06 pm): Currumbin constituents have had a gutful! The Queensland state government has all but forgotten about our—

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

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock.

**Mrs GERBER:** I withdraw. They have had enough—

**Mr STEWART:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member on her feet used unparliamentary language and I ask her to withdraw.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will hear the point of order in silence, thanks. The member has withdrawn. I would ask you to avoid using unparliamentary language.

**Mrs GERBER:** This week is the last week this Queensland parliament will sit for the year and, true to form, this government still has not released the promised plan for our border community. Queensland's 80 per cent vaccination target is looming and we need the plan for our border community to be released so that we can have a bit of certainty and a bit of hope for Christmas. Enough is enough. I have had an overwhelming response to my community petition calling on the Queensland Labor government to, one, release the plan for the border community; two, exempt border locals from the 72-hour testing requirement; and, three, reinstate our previous safe border bubble so that people can

travel for community sport, so that they can travel to support our struggling Coolangatta businesses. I have 1,311 signatures in seven days on this petition, and that number is growing daily. I table a copy of that for the benefit of the House.

*Tabled paper:* Nonconforming petition regarding border communities [2026].

The people who signed this petition also shared with me their stories, and they are heart-rending. I wonder what the Premier would say to Mandy from Coolangatta, a small business owner. She signed the petition and said—

... every day is stressful and a struggle! Not knowing if staff will show up or more so if they are allowed to. How many guests will be cancelling today because of the unknown, and will I ever get to meet our 2 new grandchildren before they start school!

What about Alison, a single mum from Coolangatta? She shared—

My kids had to move primary school ...

**Mrs Gilbert** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** This is not funny, member for Mackay. Alison continues—

My youngest cried himself to sleep for weeks ... Every day he asks when he can go back to his old school. On his Letter to Santa all he asked for was for the border to reopen so he can return to his old school and see his friends. He hasn't seen any of them since July. It's heartbreaking.

How about Pam from Bilinga? She writes—

I am a disability care worker. I live in Bilinga but I work in Banora, which has meant many days sitting in my car for hours to cross the border.

Jo-Anne, also from Bilinga, wrote—

I work as a fitness instructor across the border in Chinderah. I had to give up my job. It was not financially viable to line up for two hours to cross the border to teach a 45-minute class.

Gillian from Elanora shared—

My husband and children are not able to see our entire family as they live across the border. We are impacted significantly both mentally and emotionally by not being able to see them, this has been a very difficult time.

We have consistently asked for the same thing from the Premier and this state government. We have shouldered this burden so the Premier can stand up here in this chamber and say that she kept Queensland safe. It is about time this Queensland parliament and this government stood up for the border community and released the plan so that we can have some certainty for Christmas. The best Christmas present this Premier can give us is to release the plan.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mrs GERBER:** You all should be listening. This is an important topic. It is important to my community.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! The member's time has expired. The House will come to order. I do have a blank sheet of warnings here. I want to keep it that way.

### Fentiman, Ms SH



**Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (7.10 pm): I always say that you can't be what you can't see. That is why the Palaszczuk government has taken the issue of women's representation and women's leadership incredibly seriously. Having strong female role models is what brought many of us to this place. Tonight I want to talk about one of the influential women in my life: my nanna, Shirley Hilda Fentiman, who passed away last month at the age of 94.

Shirley was born in another time, when women certainly did not serve in cabinet. In fact, when she was born in 1927 Queensland was yet to elect a female MP to the parliament. Over her lifetime so many things changed. Despite many challenges, she always had the most wicked sense of humour and it is her mischievous laughter that I will miss the most.

Like so many women of her generation, Shirley raised three kids—my dad, Eric, the eldest, and Dianne and Peter—and supported her husband, my grandfather Frank, who we now know clearly suffered from PTSD after returning from World War II. She was always an incredibly fun nanna—always the first to sit down and play games and get involved with whatever my sister and I were up to.


It was following the passing of my grandad that she found her life's passion for travelling, socialising and giving back to the community. She joined the National Seniors and became very active in the Coorparoo branch. She travelled the length and breadth of Queensland with her friends on bus

trips and even ventured overseas on cruise ships with the National Seniors. Nothing could stop her. I am so pleased that she lived her life to the full and took the opportunity to experience so many adventures.

We celebrated nanna's life at the Memorial Gardens Chapel in Rockhampton on 3 November. It was lovely to travel up there with my dad and my sister and join Dad's family, including so many of my extended family, especially cousins I had not seen in many years, and share stories and memories about our nanna. Thank you to my Aunt Dianne for her moving eulogy and a big and heartfelt thanks to my cousin Kelly, her husband Russel and son Will for their generosity in caring for and having nanna live with them in Gracemere in the last few years of her life. Thank you, Kelly, for always telling those hardworking health staff that nanna was only joking when she used to tell them they had to look after her or she would call her granddaughter, the Attorney-General. I am here in this place because of the strong women in my family who came before me. Vale, Shirley Fentiman, and thank you so much for all your love and support.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Condolences, member. It is not surprising to find a Coorparoo local giving back to the community.


### Coomera Electorate

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (7.13 pm): With this the last parliamentary sitting week of the year, it is time to reflect on the year that was. There have been some interesting challenges, with COVID-19 continuing to impact all of us. Coupled with that, the Coomera electorate has seen population growth continue unabated. At the close of the roll for the 2020 election we had just over 45,700 voters. As at 29 October this year that number has grown to 48,543, an increase of almost 2,850, or 10.6 per cent. That is almost 31 per cent over the average, far higher than any other electorate in the state. We are also the youngest electorate in the state, with an average age of about 30. We have by far the largest population, at more than 84,000 residents; the largest population under 25 years, at more than 40 per cent; and the largest population under 15, at 27 per cent. We have 22 schools now, with the new Coomera Special School opening in 2022. To put that in perspective, in 2009 we had nine schools. The student population is just under 20,000 within the electorate and another 2,500 going to school in adjoining electorates and elsewhere. All of this growth adds to the challenges. Infrastructure is not keeping up with growth, as evidenced by recent media reporting that four of the five busiest roads on the Gold Coast are in the Coomera electorate. A lack of medical services and so much more adds to the burden.

I will turn now to another important topic. At this time of year we celebrate the end of school for our year 12 school leavers. To all the year 12 students getting ready for their next chapter, whether it be tertiary education or the workforce, I wish you safe passage and promise you that your hard work will be rewarded and that there is so much for you to explore in this amazing world we live in. I am sure it feels like forever that you have been wearing a school uniform. In that time you have witnessed the amazing transformation of the technology you use every day. With the last two years of school you have lived with COVID-19, just to challenge you a little more. How could anyone have imagined, when you started in prep, that the technology you carry around today would help you manage your days and sometimes control you? Well, now to the future and more of the same exponential growth in technology. Hopefully you will also experience exponential growth in your skills and knowledge. Take the time to explore and decide what is next for you and your future—but be quick about it once you have made up your mind. If you do not, just like old technology you will run the risk of being left behind.

I wish you all the very best for a successful, happy and healthy future. There are so many challenges ahead of you, but I have faith that with determination you can succeed and achieve your dreams. I am a firm believer in the idea that you make your own luck in life through thoughtful planning, so I wish you good planning and good luck.

### Springfield Central State High School; LAVO

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (7.16 pm): Last week we saw some significant announcements by the Palaszczuk government that support education and jobs in the Jordan electorate and our broader region. During the 2020 state election, our government committed to delivering a new high school for Greater Springfield. We have experienced significant enrolment growth in recent years and we are forecast to grow even more. In fact, over the next two decades, more than 3,300 school-age kids are expected to move into the area. Our wonderful Springfield Central State High School campus is bursting at the seams with almost 2,000 students, and despite some recent welcome additional buildings, including a new hall, there is currently no space left to expand. After a fairly exhaustive search for


suitable land, the Queensland Department of Education has now purchased a site in Springfield's knowledge precinct. Given the site is adjacent to the Springfield TAFE and the University of Southern Queensland Springfield campus, there was a real opportunity to do something unique and different with the site.

Last week I was very pleased indeed to welcome the Minister for Education, Grace Grace, to Springfield where we were able to announce that we would be expanding the very popular Springfield Central State High School and building a senior campus for years 10-12. This new 'vertical' school will be built to open in term 1, 2024. Stage 1 will include general and specialist learning areas, a performing arts centre, a multipurpose sports hall and ample green space. This school will be part of an education and vocational hub and we are so excited by the opportunities that will allow collaboration and growing partnerships between the school, our VET sector and the university to help our students secure well-paid and meaningful employment and careers.

We know that new technologies will play an important role in creating jobs in our communities so I was absolutely thrilled with the announcement that Australian energy technology company LAVO will establish the very first hydrogen fuel cell manufacturing facility in Greater Springfield. The \$15 million facility is being supported by the Palaszczuk government's Invested in Queensland program, part of our \$3.34 billion Queensland Jobs Fund. Last week the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment, as well as the Minister for Energy, Hydrogen and Renewables, joined me for this very exciting announcement.

Construction of the new facility will begin in early 2022 and should be completed by the end of the year. Importantly, this project will create up to 200 construction jobs over the next 12 months and once fuel cell production ramps up there will be almost 170 operational jobs in our region. The fuel cells will be used in the world's first hydrogen energy storage system for homes and businesses developed in Australia by LAVO and the University of New South Wales. Partnering with companies like LAVO is part of our government's COVID-19 recovery plan to propel our next phase of economic growth. It is great for Queensland and really great for the Jordan electorate.

### Gold Coast, Hooning

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (7.19 pm): Gold Coasters are at their wits' end when it comes to hooning. Hoons continue to terrorise and cause misery for locals from Main Beach through to Surfers Paradise and south to Broadbeach. To shed some light on how much hooning is impacting those communities, I would like to share some of the concerns voiced to me by my constituents. One Surfers Paradise constituent recounts—

It is common practice for hoons to do donuts in the carpark, cnr of Ferny Avenue & Cypress St, about 10pm-1am.

I table that correspondence.

Another constituent, a long-term unit owner at the Regent Apartments in Aubrey Street, Surfers Paradise, explains the disturbance that hooning causes to the high-rise living area. As he sees it, the main areas affected area Remembrance Drive between the traffic lights opposite the Thornton Towers corner and the Isle of Capri bridge, which he says have become a 24/7 drag strip. He states, 'The excessive exhaust noise is magnified off the buildings exaggerating the problem.' I table that correspondence.

I shared a conversation with a constituent who lives on the 30th floor of the Chevron Renaissance and holds similar sentiments regarding the loud exhausts of cars being driven along the Esplanade at Surfers Paradise and in surrounding streets. Residents have also turned to the Surfers Paradise community Facebook page to discuss the ever-increasing number of cars and motorbikes with loud exhausts that are out of control in and around Surfers Paradise. As one resident rightly questions—

There are noise pollution laws. Why aren't they enforced?

I table that comment.

As cited in a recent *Gold Coast Bulletin* article, which I will table, there have been around 170 reported traffic complaints in Surfers Paradise over the past year, of which 10 related to noisy vehicles. In the same period and within the same precinct, police carried out enforcement action after 13 alleged offences, including the dangerous operation of a vehicle and unnecessary noise or smoke.

There is a legal framework in place to put the brakes on hoons. Chapter 4 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 is one tool in the legislative arsenal that grants impounding and forfeiture powers to police to address deliberate driving behaviour that is both frustrating and dangerous to other road users and nearby residents. The problem is that those laws are not being enforced; indeed, it seems that they are being ignored.




Given the latest reported available figures are from 2018, during the last sitting week all three of my questions on notice requested answers from the police minister to paint a picture of the number of vehicle impoundments, immobilisations or forfeitures for the 2019 calendar year to date. I table documents that I mentioned.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of documents relating to hooning in Surfers Paradise [\[2027\]](#).

Another tool in the legislative arsenal is infringement notices. Earlier this year I asked the police minister how many infringement notices had been issued for modified silencing device offences for each region in Queensland. Basically it was 149, 173 and 168 over the past three years. There is a lack of law enforcement. Hoons are not being put on notice for their selfish driving behaviour. It remains the case that Labor does not get the Gold Coast.

### Townsville

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (7.22 pm): I rise to talk about the great year it has been for my home town of Townsville. The global pandemic has made for an unpredictable 12 months, but Townsville has a resilient community and we have taken the situation in our stride. Not only has Townsville ridden the bumps that the roller-coaster of a pandemic has thrown at us; our economy is thriving.

As a proud local member of parliament and member of the Palaszczuk government there have been so many highlights from the year that I could talk about that it is hard to pick a favourite. However, the Townsville State of Origin match was certainly unforgettable. It was a spectacular event that showcased the Queensland Country Bank Stadium and Townsville to millions of people not only around Australia but around the world. Just ask any footy fan in Townsville: it is the centre of the Rugby League universe. The Palaszczuk Labor government bringing Origin to the city only cemented that, member for Cairns.


In addition to events, our government continues to invest in major infrastructure projects in Townsville. We are investing in the job-creating \$232 million channel upgrade at the Port of Townsville. The project will support our emerging hydrogen industry and the resources sector, particularly in growing our new economy minerals sector. Our government is actively supporting that sector in the north and this year approved Queensland's first vanadium mine. Only last week I welcomed the Treasurer to Townsville to announce that our government will build and own a common-user vanadium processing plant in the city.

Along with the member for Mundingburra and the member for Thuringowa, as resources minister I know how important the North West Minerals Province is for Townsville, which is why we are backing it. The reason Townsville's economy has grown is because of our health response to the global pandemic. People have done the right thing, following health directives and getting vaccinated.

Just last month I went to Palm Island with 'the Hammer', Cowboys and Maroons star Hamiso Tubai-Fidow, to promote the importance of getting vaccinated. It encouraged locals to get the jab when they saw a role model like the Hammer on Palm Island. It was hammer time!

One nurse was nearly in tears when three girls from the Bwgcolman Community School got their jab after speaking with the Hammer. For months she had been encouraging them. It was really inspiring to play a tiny part in ensuring that those girls are now protected against COVID-19. As a government we will continue to make sure that everyone knows the importance of getting vaccinated as it will help our economy recover and it will keep the people of Townsville safe.

### Gold Coast, Crime

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (7.24 pm): I rise to add to the comments made by the member for Surfers Paradise. I have similar issues in my electorate of Burleigh. Quite frankly, I am getting sick and tired of this government shoving their heads so far into the sand that they have not seen daylight for years. They ignore the issue and then reinvent history. They have a wonderful record of that.


Two weeks ago some of my neighbours, who are both in their 90s, heard a noise downstairs at their property. The gentleman of the house went downstairs and saw somebody standing in his backyard. That person threw a paver through the window. The glass smashed everywhere and the gentleman's legs were cut. Those two 90-year-olds had a patron saint living next door who came to their rescue, only to be stabbed by the assailant. Luckily, that person has been caught. The government should tell those 90-year-olds that they are tough on crime because those people do not believe it. The gentleman who was stabbed does not believe that this government is tough on crime.

Over the weekend hoons were racing around Tahiti Avenue, Palm Beach. They rolled a car and I gather that somebody was injured. Luckily no bystanders were injured. The government should tell the people who live in Tahiti Avenue that this government is tough on crime because they do not believe it. We are seeing massive increases in graffiti throughout Burleigh and Palm Beach. The government should tell the business owners whose shopfronts are painted and damaged by young vandals that this government is tough on crime because they do not believe it.

It is called the 'thin blue line' for a very good reason. It absolutely is a thin blue line at the moment because this government is way behind in providing police for our police stations. Numerous times in this place I have spoken about the police numbers at the Palm Beach Police Station. About 35 officers are allocated to the station but at any one time there are only 30-odd police there, which means that when people call the police they cannot come. They have to prioritise the calls they attend.

It has got to the stage when people do not call the police. They call my office to say what has happened. I say, 'Have you called the police?' They say, 'We don't call the police because, quite frankly, they don't come.' That is not the police's fault. It is the government's fault because they have not allocated enough police. Earlier today the member for Lockyer told us that police numbers per 100,000 are down. This government is failing at its prime responsibility of keeping our people safe.

### **WorkAbility NDIS Jobs Roadshow**

 **Mr O'ROURKE** (Rockhampton—ALP) (7.28 pm): Last week I attended the WorkAbility NDIS Jobs Roadshow. It was a mass recruitment event for people wanting to find work in the disability or community services areas. The roadshow was a chance for jobseekers to meet local employers face to face, talk about the jobs that they have available and hear about the various organisations to get a feel for whether that organisation is the right fit for them. It was also an opportunity to have speed interviews with jobseekers. People learnt more about the industries and met local employers. It was a great chance for jobseekers to put themselves out there. A broad range of jobseekers attended including students, school leavers, existing workers looking for a new opportunities, people returning to work and people looking to switch industries such as from tourism to retail or construction and so on.

The NDIS jobs roadshows have been successfully running all around Queensland over the past two years, through both online and face-to-face events, to help grow the NDIS workforce as the disability services sector expands. It is really exciting that job events were taking place in Rockhampton and helping to create local jobs.

There are thousands of jobs available in Queensland to meet growing demand. The NDIS is growing massively and there are jobs available for support workers, registered nurses, transport drivers, physios and occupational therapists and in back-of-house roles such as admin coordinators and rostering officers. This is an industry that offers career permanency and opportunities for personal growth and to upskill in many of the organisations.

Since the NDIS rollout in 2016, half a million Australians now benefit from NDIS and there are approximately 9,100 disability service providers. As part of the growing care and support sector, including aged care, the Australian government estimates that one million workers will be needed by 2050. In Queensland approximately 96,000 people benefit from the NDIS. In Rockhampton there are about 2,350 NDIS participants and 260 NDIS registered service providers. I do not think people realise how big this sector is. I thank all the NDIS workers for the support and assistance they provide to some of our most vulnerable.

The House adjourned at 7.31 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyce, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dameetto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Kelly, King A, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Mickelberg, Miles, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Mullen, Nicholls, O'Connor, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Perrett, Pitt, Powell, Power, Pugh, Purdie, Richards, Robinson, Rowan, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Simpson, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Weir, Whiting