



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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## THURSDAY, 26 MAY 2022

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The Legislative Assembly met at 9.30 am.

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

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

### SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

#### National Reconciliation Week



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, this morning I was proud to host Reconciliation Queensland's breakfast launch of 2022 National Reconciliation Week. At this morning's event, we were joined by video link with various regional communities across Queensland. I also wish to acknowledge that today is National Sorry Day. We should never forget the mistreatment of First Nations peoples who were forcibly removed from their families and communities which are now known as the stolen generations. At its heart, reconciliation is about unity. Reconciliation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and the wider community is a mark of our progress as a nation. Of course, we still have much work to do.

It is a cause that I wholeheartedly support both as the Speaker of this parliament which has a Reconciliation Action Plan, but, more importantly, as a father of three Aboriginal children. The Parliamentary Service has been a leader among Australian jurisdictions in promoting reconciliation over many years. We were the first jurisdiction to have an Indigenous liaison officer, now known as the First People's liaison officer, in 2008. It is a very important role and Marjorie is carrying it off with distinction. The Parliamentary Service adopted a Reconciliation Action Plan in 2020. On behalf of the Parliamentary Service, today I restate our commitment to that Reconciliation Action Plan and to reconciliation. I commend these efforts and the service's commitment to reconciliation to the House.

### MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

#### Cory, Mr DW, AM



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.33 am): I move—

1. That this House desires to place on record its appreciation of the services rendered to this state by the late David Wheatcroft Cory AM, a former member of the parliament of Queensland.
2. That Mr Speaker be requested to convey to the family of the deceased gentleman the above resolution, together with an expression of the sympathy and sorrow of the members of the parliament of Queensland, in the loss that they have sustained.

David Cory AM was born in Warwick on 3 August 1928 and was educated at Warwick Central State School and Brisbane Grammar School. After school, Mr Cory worked as a farmer and grazier on the property 'Vermont' near Warwick. His lifelong dedication to the Warwick community is clear to see. He became patron—and was awarded life membership—of the Warwick Show Society, the Turf Club and the Tennis Association. From 1961 to 1965 he was chairman of the Warwick branch of the United Graziers' Association. Then came political service as a member of the Country Party. He won a by-election for the seat of Warwick on 19 October 1963. Doesn't that show the depth of history of this place, Mr Speaker? Here we are in 2022 with a condolence motion for someone who was first elected almost 60 years ago when Frank Nicklin was the premier of Queensland, Robert Menzies was the prime minister of Australia and John F Kennedy was in the White House.

Mr Cory was the member for Warwick for 14 years until he retired at the 1977 election. As well as his dedicated representation of the people of Warwick, he was on various committees from 1969 to 1977, including subjects of particular interest to him such as primary industries and lands—an important role in important matters. In passing, I also note that one of the committees he served on was the parliamentary Refreshment Room Committee. I confess that I am not totally clear on the purpose of the Refreshment Room Committee. Perhaps the Clerk could enlighten us?

**An honourable member:** It's called the CLA.


**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It is not called the CLA! I am sure that Mr Cory attended to his duties with diligence. He was also a delegate at the Australian Constitutional Convention in 1972 and 1973 and at Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conferences in Canberra in 1970 and 1971. He was part of a parliamentary delegation to Japan and South-East Asia in 1973 and a trade delegation to the Middle East in 1975. When he retired in 1977, he said he could not achieve any more in this place. We take that as a positive—not that he had nothing left to offer but that he had left nothing undone.

Compliments can be rare in this place, unfortunately, so let me quote the words of Labor leader Tom Burns on Mr Cory's retirement—

I found David a decent fellow to fight a campaign against, and I never felt that I should change my opinion of him.

So, there you go. The record shows that courtesy does exist and that Mr Cory was well regarded even by his political opponents. From 1986 to 2002, he was chair of the Rural Lands Protection Board. In 2001, he was awarded the Centenary Medal in recognition of his service to the environment. In 2004, he was made a Member of the Order of Australia. These were very fitting tributes, and his family should be enormously proud of his life. I acknowledge and welcome in the gallery Mr Cory's son, Ben, and daughter-in-law, Margo.

David Wheatcroft Cory AM passed away on 14 February aged 93 years. A service to celebrate his life was held at St Mark's Anglican Church in Warwick. I place on record the government's thanks for the years of service Mr Cory gave to the institutions of our democracy and to the Queensland community. On behalf of the government, I extend my sympathy and that of this House to his family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.36 am): Today this House is paying tribute to David Wheatcroft Cory, the member for Warwick from 1963 until 1977. It is interesting to note that when David Cory was elected, as the Premier said, nearly 60 years ago, Frank Nicklin was premier and leader of the Country Party, Alan Munroe was minister for industrial development and leader of the Liberal Party and Jack Duggan was the leader of the opposition and leader of the Labor Party. There were still three members serving in the parliament who had been members of both the ALP and, after the 1957 split, members of the Queensland Labor Party. Few facts could so clearly demonstrate the very different environment into which Mr Cory was elected.

He was a son of Warwick. He was born in Warwick in 1928. His significant education was undertaken in Warwick. He farmed in the Warwick area and he raised his family in Warwick. He served the Warwick community before his election to this place through a myriad of local organisations—the United Graziers' Association, the Warwick Turf Club, the Warwick Tennis Association and as a councillor on the Warwick Show and Rodeo Association.

Only months after the 1963 state election the Country Party member for Warwick, the minister for agriculture and forestry, Otto Madsen, died and David Cory was elected in the subsequent by-election. It is interesting to note that the ALP campaign director in that by-election was Tom Burns, later the member for Lytton and deputy premier in the Goss government.

David Cory brought to this House a passionate belief in, and an unrestrained zeal for, the needs of his constituents. While he continued to champion the interests of primary producers in Warwick, he was equally conscious of the contribution of secondary industries, principally those involved in the processing of the agricultural products of his electorate such as grains and dairy.

At the core of his concerns was the need to establish reliable water supplies for domestic use and irrigators. He very much favoured the construction of stage 1 of the Leslie Dam and, once that was near completion, he campaigned unceasingly for the commencement of stage 2 to increase storage capacity. That the capacity of the dam was increased is due so much to his tenacity and strength of advocacy.

Along with the need for water supplies, David Cory was equally determined to see improvements in soil quality. He was aware of the growing demand for quality grains and saw the introduction of soil-enriching legumes as a means of achieving this objective. He was a supporter of decentralisation and fought hard to maintain young people in the regions. His speech on the address-in-reply in August 1964 summed up his concerns for Warwick when he said—

We must do everything possible to increase the job opportunities in the area by developing our industries so that when the young people leave school we do not lose them to other areas. We must increase the production of our land as well as the volume of our industries.

David Cory served in this House for 14 years. In 1977—at the relatively young age of 49—he chose to retire, feeling that his prospects of contributing further were limited. He then decided to pursue other options and made a magnificent contribution outside of this place. On the last day the parliament sat before being dissolved that year, then deputy premier and treasurer Bill Knox, referring to David Cory's service on the justice committee, noted—

I appreciated very much his down-to-earth contributions on that committee, and we have all appreciated his company in this House and elsewhere.

... he has always been a major contributor to both the debates and the dignity of this House.

In his retirement, he expressed a view on the proceedings of this House which still apply. The *Warwick Daily News* reported him as saying—


In practical terms, insults achieve nothing—they don't build dams or fix railways.

Mr Cory served this House, his party and his community with distinction and there are many who would no doubt regret he failed to achieve higher office.

After his retirement from parliament, he served 20 years on the Rural Lands Protection Board. He was vocal in his campaign for greater support for research into ways to reduce dingoes, mice and plant pests throughout rural regions. It was in this capacity in 2004 that he was recognised as a Member of the Order of Australia. He remained a stalwart of the National Party and then the Liberal National Party in Warwick after he left the parliament. His retirement did not diminish his passion for his cause. His successor, Des Booth, summarised the views of many when he said—

Wherever David went, he always exhibited the hallmarks of a gentleman.

The opposition places on record our appreciation for David Cory's contributions. We extend our sincerest condolences to his wife, Margot, who cannot be with us today, their son, Ben, and his wife, Margo, who are both in the gallery, and to his entire family. Vale David Cory.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (9.41 am): 14 February this year saw the sad passing of the former MP for Warwick, David Wheatcroft Cory AM, at the age of 93 years, as we have heard. On behalf of the people of Southern Downs, I extend to David's wife, Margot, and his son, Ben, and Ben's wife, Margo, and family our sympathies and thoughts at this time of loss.

I am very proud indeed to say a few words about this great yet deeply humble man. I will leave the task of memorialising David as the farmer, friend and family man to those who are perhaps better placed to do his story full justice. As a successor MP for the district which David once represented, I want to publicly venerate him for his time in parliament and as one of our community's great parliamentary representatives, on par with giants such as former premier TJ Byrne, Otto Madsen and Lawrence Springborg. In doing so, I hope that I will add some further lustre to his already shining reputation.

David was born in Warwick in 1928 and his lifetime spanned a remarkable period in Queensland's political history. I am sure that I speak for everyone who knew David during his long life when I state that he was a gentleman to all. We have already heard the Premier and the opposition leader remark upon how David was respect and liked across the political divide. That is definitely true. He was also a straight shooter and a man who never surrendered his values to expediency. As a respected farmer and grazier, David was well in touch with his community and he exhibited a genuine and practical dedication to the public good. It was a dedication which served him well and served our district well when he was Warwick's member of parliament.

David was elected to the state parliament as the member for Warwick on 18 October 1963, at a by-election caused by the sudden death of the beloved Otto Madsen, who had been the Country Party member for Warwick since 1947 and a popular and effective primary industries minister in the government of Sir Frank Nicklin. The going was not easy for David at his first election. In our neck of the woods, those chosen by local party members to succeed a well-respected departing MP usually

suffer a significant adverse swing at the polls. This was certainly the case for me when I took over from Lawrence Springborg. So it was for David too. He achieved a slender 51 per cent majority against Labor at the 1964 election, representing a 10 per cent primary vote swing against the Country Party's previous result under Madsen six months earlier at the 1963 general election. As a new MP, David exerted himself faithfully and enthusiastically, and it was not long before his qualities as a representative and advocate for his seat were recognised, with solid two-party preferred results of 66, 61, 62, and 75 per cent in his favour at the 1966, 1969, 1972 and 1974 state elections respectively.

Much of the basis for his success must be attributed to his wife, Margot, who, for much of David's time in parliament, functioned as his electorate secretary, for it was not until 1973 that members of parliament were afforded offices and electorate staff. Margot's affinity for detail and business-like approach made her an invaluable asset, and their partnership assured that the electors of Warwick would receive prompt and careful attention to their queries and concerns.

Politics is never simple, and MPs of consequence understand that while compromise is necessary there are also times when you have to stick to your guns—even if doing so runs counter to one's own personal and political interests or to those of powerful people. One of the things which I admired about David was his polite but firm refusal to compromise on matters of significant principle to him. It was known in political circles at the time that David did not get on well with Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, who had narrowly become premier after the retirement of Sir Frank Nicklin in 1968 and the subsequent sudden death of his successor, Jack Pizzey, after only six months in office.

There is no doubt in my mind that David would have made a very effective minister, but in politics ability is not always the decisive consideration in matters of promotion—that is to put it politely, I think. I am sure many of us hold that dear to heart. I think I am on firm ground in saying that David, had he been willing to toe the line and to be silent when matters of importance to him were at hand, would have made the ministry and would have done a fine job in any portfolio.

The question is: how did he differ from Sir Joh? I asked David this question once. He revealed in his answer, which was tastefully understated, much about himself. In essence, David was a coalitionist. He valued and respected the then Liberal Party's role in governing with the Country Party in coalition. David knew instinctively that governing Queensland was a job for a broad church of city and country representatives, with a reasonable spectrum of political values. This sensible pragmatism, it seems, put him at odds with Sir Joh's famously ruthless and unaccommodating approach to coalition. Hindsight strongly suggests that it was David who was right, because in 1983—this is long after his departure from parliament—the government's coalition agreement ended with irreconcilable differences between the two party leaders. David and I believed that that event, to a significant extent, laid the ground for the loss of government by the Nationals in the 1989 state election to a resurgent Labor Party under Wayne Goss.

I think that it says much about a politician when, while still in the fullness and prime of his political career, he decides to hang up his armour and ride home to the farm. That is what David Cory did. After serving his community in parliament for more than 14 years, he decided not to contest the 1977 state election, at which he was succeeded by popular National Party member Des Booth. The Country Party had become the National Party on 6 April 1974, which happens to be my birthday. I thought I would just pop that in.

David went on to continue his leadership in and love for his community. He was active in the Warwick Show and Rodeo Society, Warwick Polocrosse and also spent many years as a member, and later chairman, of the Rural Lands Protection Board. David was fittingly recognised with the award of the Centenary Medal in 2001 and later in 2004 as a Member of the Order of Australia for his work in rural land protection and the control and elimination of invasive pests.

Over the years since I became our MP, I would every couple of months pop in to see David and Margot at their Murrays Bridge property. I was always assured of a friendly cup of tea and a slice of cake, but, more importantly, of receiving the wisdom and advice of a forerunner who had already seen and done everything that I was facing as a country MP. I would marvel at how David could relate events—in the first person, mind you—in Queensland political history where he himself was a participant. He was there. He could relate to me firsthand the famous personalities and quarrels of days past and share the nuggets of truth which remain as lessons today. David's stories and advice admitted me to the puzzling but enduring certainty that everything changes and yet everything stays the same.

I have made my share of mistakes and boo-boos, but I never went wrong when I sought and followed David's advice. As long as God spares me, I will always remember David Cory. How could I ever forget the quiet man with iron in his soul. Vale David Wheatcroft Cory AM.





**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (9.49 am): David Wheatcroft Cory AM was born in Warwick in 1928. He was a farmer and a grazier on the property 'Vermont' at Warwick and Swanfels Valley. He married Margot in 1967 and his son, Ben, is here with us in the gallery today.

David Cory was elected at a by-election for the electorate of Warwick following the sudden death in office of the former member, Otto Madsen, who had only just been re-elected at a state election. My eldest sister, Dulcie, is named after Otto Madsen's daughter, Dulcie Madsen, who passed away during childbirth.

My father knew David well as they were of a similar age and both lived in the Southern Downs. Both shared a passion for all matters that concerned pests, weeds and, more often than not, wild dogs and dingo fences.

David served as the member for Warwick for 14 years. In his final speech he made the statement, 'I have made many friends and I do not think I have made any enemies over that period.' That statement really captures the kind manner in which David Cory conducted himself throughout his life.

I came to know David when he was reappointed chairman of the Rural Lands Protection Board during the Borbidge government. He served on the Rural Lands Protection Board for some 20 years. As chair of the board, we often saw him in the minister's office and out and about in the field.

He did a great amount of work on the realignment, rebuilding and maintenance of the dingo barrier fence—one of the longest structures in the world. He oversaw many of the negotiations to ensure the fence continued to protect the sheep country from wild dogs without causing too many issues with the cattle producers.

Given his primary producer experience, he always had a practical and common-sense approach. He put in place a management structure for the dingo barrier fence staff, strategically locating them throughout Queensland to ensure the integrity of the fence at all times.

David was a very hands-on chairman and took a personal interest in ensuring the dingo fence was effective. One day he went out to inspect a very expensive grid across the Alpha Road near Tambo. That grid was referred to as the 'golden grid' by the previous Rural Lands Protection Board chairman. On David's visit he confronted the local Tambo Shire Council foreman about the 'golden grid' and its costing. The foreman advised David he should take the matter up with the former mayor of the Tambo Shire Council. David soon learnt that the former mayor happened to be the minister who had appointed him as chair of the Rural Lands Protection Board. I do not think much more was said about the 'golden grid', except to say that it was an excellent piece of infrastructure that is still effective today. I recall visiting the 'golden grid' with other members of this House when one of parliamentary committees was at Tambo looking at wild dog exclusion fencing.

David understood the needs of travelling stock. He was instrumental in ensuring that travelling stock had the appropriate watering points along the long paddock. He also encouraged councils to do the same.

In 2004 he was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for his service to the environment, particularly in the areas of rural lands protection in Queensland and through animal, weed and pest management.

He was patron of the Warwick Polocrosse Club, which hosted several world polocrosse championships. David attended them all. He did not miss a polocrosse carnival. Even when his eyesight was failing, he could still hear the games and loved attending the polocrosse. At the games his many friends and family would keep him informed of who scored and what a penalty was for.

His elixir in life was Bundaberg Rum—and in his case it proved to be correct. David left a legacy in his achievements in the electorate of Warwick and in his love for rural and regional Queensland through his work on the Rural Lands Protection Board.


His family, who are here today, can be proud of his achievements for this state. I want to acknowledge his contribution and extend my deepest condolences to his family.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, will you please indicate your agreement with the motion by standing in silence for one minute.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

## SPEAKER'S RULING

### Anticipation Rule


 **Mr SPEAKER:** On 31 January 2022, the Education, Employment and Training Committee tabled report No. 15, *Inquiry into the operation of the Trading (Allowable Hours) Act 1990*. Notices of motion, House to take note of committee reports, No. 2 relates to that report.

Yesterday, the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing introduced the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. That bill implements a recommendation of the inquiry and report by the committee. A bill is a superior form of proceeding to a motion. Thus any issue of anticipation favours a bill.

It is clear that any debate of report No. 15 of the committee is likely to be anticipatory of the bill in terms of standing order 231. Accordingly, I rule that the debate of the committee report will need to be either postponed until after the bill has been dealt with or discharged from the *Notice Paper*.

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

### School Group Tours

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to advise that we will be visited in the gallery this morning by students and teachers from Narangba Valley State School in the electorate of Kurwongbah and Coolumb Beach Christian College in the electorate of Ninderry.

## PETITION

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

### Far North Queensland, Crime

**Mr Last**, from 5,661 petitioners, requesting the House to address the level of crime in Far North Queensland by undertaking a number of measures to reform the youth justice system and child safety [\[715\]](#).

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPER

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

MINISTERIAL PAPER


The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment (Hon. Dick)—

[716](#) Manual for the National Tax Equivalent Regime January 2022 (Version 12)

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Cost-of-Living Rebate

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.57 am): Cost-of-living pressures are hitting the people of this state hard. There is the cost of fuel that impacts on the cost of food and groceries. For people on low and fixed incomes, it is especially hard, forcing them to make difficult choices. In many cases it means going without.

Today I have good news for Queensland. We are going to provide Queenslanders with a \$175 cost-of-living rebate. The \$175 rebate will be provided on electricity bills and is only possible because the electricity assets of Queensland are owned by the people of Queensland.


The combined value of this rebate is \$385 million. This is not the first dividend Queenslanders have earned from their power assets. Over the past four years Queenslanders have been paid \$575 because they kept their electricity networks in their own hands. This brings the total amount paid in electricity dividends to \$1.185 billion.

This dividend is not available in states that sold off their electricity assets. This dividend offsets strong economic headwinds impacting electricity prices. The war in Ukraine has led to higher gas prices linked to global oil prices. The Callide C4 generator has also been offline for repairs following an

explosion. We are also disadvantaged by the former federal government's lack of a national energy policy. It is only because Queenslanders own these assets that this \$175 cost-of-living rebate is available.

Mr Speaker, \$175 may not sound like much to some people, but for those facing these hard choices it is a help. It is further proof that the people of this state made the right choice—the strongest choice—that continues to pay dividends.

### Hate Crimes

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.59 am): Ours is a freedom-loving society. Lives have been sacrificed in wars defending that ideal. We believe in free speech but accept that with that freedom comes responsibility. No-one is free to vilify or spread hate, and my government is moving to make that law. I am proud to announce that the public display of Nazi hate symbols will be banned in Queensland. It will be a criminal offence to display those symbols to promote hatred and cause fear. Religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism will be exempt, as will displays for educational purposes.


We do not do this lightly or without good reason. Late last year police seized a Nazi flag flown near a Brisbane synagogue. Only a few months earlier a train carriage in the suburbs was graffitied with swastikas and Nazi slogans. The member for Capalaba had a swastika painted on his electorate office. The Queensland Jewish Board of Deputies said it shows a rise in anti-Semitism that cannot be ignored. Our government agrees. Let me make this absolutely plain: Nazism is evil. Evil triumphs when good people do nothing. We will not do nothing and allow this evil to grow.

I thought those who promoted these hideous ideas were to be pitied. Instead, I say they deserve to be punished. Their crimes are not harmless, nor are their ideologies. They are to be called out, confronted and condemned. I want to thank the parliamentary Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, which has examined this issue. I table the government's response to its report.

*Tabled paper:* Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 22, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes, government response [\[717\]](#).

The committee has made 17 recommendations. The government accepts all 17. We will consult further with the legal community and others and introduce a bill in the second half of this year. To those who promote these symbols of hate I say this: your community condemns you, and your days of spreading ignorance and hate are over.


### Palliative Care

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.01 am): Every Queenslanders has the right to die with dignity. This week marks National Palliative Care Week, a time when we acknowledge the right of all Australians to access high quality care when and where they need it. Improving access to quality palliative care is a priority for our government. That is why we have committed to reforming Queensland's palliative care system and invested \$171 million over five years to improve services.

Today I can announce that as part of our palliative care reform package we will invest \$55 million to boost palliative care in regional, rural and remote Queensland—once again a government for all Queensland. Services will commence from early October, benefiting Queenslanders across nine hospital and health services, including: Cairns and hinterland, the north-west, Townsville, Mackay, the central west, Central Queensland, Wide Bay, Darling Downs and the South-West Hospital and Health Service. After a rigorous independent process I can confirm that Blue Care has won the tender to provide these services.

This funding will deliver holistic palliative care for thousands of Queenslanders in regional and remote areas. It will cover home care, bereavement and support services, telehealth and on-call and 24/7 nursing care. This is not just about health care, it is about quality of life. This initiative will ensure that more Queenslanders spend the rest of their lives in comfort, close to families and friends.

### National Reconciliation Week

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.03 am): Today is National Sorry Day, a time to reflect on the hurt and suffering of stolen generations and unite to work towards a better future. From the 1800s to the 1970s, it is estimated that between one in three and one in 10 children were separated from their families, including thousands of children here in Queensland.

26 May is the anniversary of the tabling of the *Bringing them Home* report, which documented the horrendous suffering of our First Nations people at the hands of governments and institutions around Australia. That is why on this day in particular we acknowledge the wrongs of the past and remember the profound grief, suffering and loss caused by the forcible removal of those children. Tomorrow also marks the beginning of National Reconciliation Week, which runs from 27 May to 3 June. The 2022 theme Be Brave, Make Change urges us to tackle the unfinished business of reconciliation.

I am pleased to confirm that our government is doing just that. We have introduced Queensland's Reconciliation Action Plan to deliver social, economic and cultural outcomes for Indigenous people. We have established the Queensland First Children and Families Board. We are the first government to appoint a First Nations housing adviser. We are working with First Nations people to co-design a whole-of-government and community strategy as part of our response to the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. We are establishing the Office of the Chief First Nations Justice Officer. We are establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Chief Health Officer. We enabled legal recognition of traditional Torres Strait Island child rearing practices. Thank you, member for Cook. We are implementing a partnership approach to deliver the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. We introduced the Local Thriving Communities reform to enable Indigenous communities to make decisions on the future of their people. We are progressing the Path to Treaty, one of the highest priorities of our government, which is backed by a \$300 million fund to promote reconciliation and healing.

This House issued a formal apology to the stolen generations in 1999 and a national apology was made in 2008, but the work of reconciliation is never done. National Sorry Day serves as a reminder to us all that we must continue to acknowledge and reflect on the wrongs of the past. I am pleased to confirm that tomorrow, along with Minister Enoch, I will unveil a new memorial in Anzac Square to honour Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women who served our country, and I am looking forward to the Queensland Reconciliation Awards next week. We will continue to work with First Nations people around the state to acknowledge the wrongs of the past, bridge the gap, and support Indigenous Queenslanders to have a greater say in the future of their state.

### Symonds, Mr A



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.05 am): Andrew Symonds was an outstanding player who made an unforgettable contribution to Queensland and Australian cricket. He was an all-rounder of the highest skill whose batting, bowling and fielding entertained so many fans all over the world. He was a highly valued member of Australia's test and one-day teams, and Sheffield Shield followers remember his wonderful performances for Queensland. On behalf of our government, I again offer our deep condolences to Andrew Symonds' family and friends. A public memorial will be held tomorrow in Townsville at Riverway Stadium. The members for Thuringowa and Mundingburra will represent the government.

The tragedy is that many other families this year are also grieving. More than 120 people have lost their lives on Queensland's roads this year, and I assure the House that they are all in our thoughts. As the Minister for Transport always says, we will not let up on our efforts to curb the road toll.

### Bush, Ms J



**Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.06 am): Yesterday I highlighted the contributions of so many to the campaign to curb alcohol fuelled violence. Of course, one of the greatest contributions was from the member for Cooper. Jonty's father was tragically killed by a single punch. Her campaign highlighting the dangers of a single punch led to her being awarded the Young Australian of the Year. I think it is important that this House acknowledges her efforts.

### Cost-of-Living Rebate; Hydrogen Industry



**Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.07 am): The Palaszczuk government understands the pressures that increasing costs are placing on Queensland families. It feels like everything is going up: food, petrol, groceries and bills, things that Queensland families cannot go without. That is why we are delivering Queensland households a \$175 cost-of-living rebate that will make balancing budgets just that little bit easier. This cost-of-living rebate is only possible because we did not sell our electricity assets. Be on the lookout for the \$175 cost-of-living rebate on your energy bill later this year.


Today I would like to announce funding for another great hydrogen project in Queensland. The Palaszczuk government will provide up to \$2 million to the Goondiwindi Regional Council to make its wastewater treatment plant one of Australia's first to produce hydrogen. This innovative approach to kickstarting our local renewable hydrogen economy will see the power generated from a 2.5 megawatt solar plant produce hydrogen from treated wastewater that will be sold to local customers, including agricultural users and heavy industry. Oxygen generated during the production process will go back into aerating wastewater, improving the treatment plant's efficiency.

The integration of wastewater treatment and renewables to create hydrogen will be a model for other councils as the use of renewable hydrogen energy increases. It is an example of the Palaszczuk government's commitment to transition to a clean energy future that promotes innovation and delivers economic growth and highly skilled jobs for Queenslanders. Mayor Lawrence Springborg says, 'This project has the potential to save our ratepayers millions in the replacement cost of the existing aging infrastructure as well as reduce the ongoing operational expenses.'

Recently I was in Gladstone to announce that leading Australian land and marine tourism transport operator, SeaLink, would build a hydrogen ferry here in Brisbane to transport workers to and from Curtis Island. Just before that, I was in Emerald with Emerald Coaches. Their hydrogen fuel cell electric buses will service school routes and mine sites and be capable of travelling hundreds of kilometres a day on a single tank of locally produced green hydrogen. I look forward to the rollout of even more successful applicants under the Palaszczuk government's Hydrogen Industry Development Fund in the near future.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will commence at approximately 10.40 am.

### **Cost-of-Living Rebate; Budget**

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.10 am): Labor governments always govern for people who are doing it tough—people who are disadvantaged, people who need help with rising prices, the forgotten people who got left behind by the Morrison government. That is why I am so proud that our first major announcement from the forthcoming state budget is the cost-of-living rebate for the owners of Queensland's electricity assets—the people of Queensland. Why is it that our government can help people on their power bills when they need it most? It is because we own our energy assets.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member for Maroochydore is standing in front of the camera.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! I call the Treasurer.

**Mr DICK:** Can I just say it again. That is why I am so proud that the first major announcement from the forthcoming budget is the cost-of-living rebate for the owners of Queensland's electricity assets—the people of Queensland. Why is it that our government can help people on their power bills when they need it most? It is because we own our energy assets. This is \$385 million going into the pockets of hardworking Queenslanders, and that is money well spent.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The level of interjection is too high, members on my left. I ask that you cease your interjections or I will start naming members.

**Mr DICK:** Every one of those \$385 million is money well spent. This is just the start of the good news for Queenslanders in the countdown towards next month's state budget. In around one month's time, all members will see the eighth budget of the Palaszczuk Labor government, and I could not be more excited because I think it will be the best Labor government budget yet. The budget will show that Queenslanders are continuing to reap the rewards of our state's superior management of COVID-19. Just as we demonstrated in our last budget, compared to our competitor states, Queensland will have a faster return to surplus, smaller deficits and much lower debt. Lower debt is a good thing. It means a lower interest burden and it creates the capacity to invest in the infrastructure that our growing state needs.

The budget will also reflect the fact that Queensland's domestic economy is 6.3 per cent larger than it was before COVID, driven by strong retail sales, strong investment and strong jobs growth. By comparison, Australia's GDP is only 3.7 per cent larger. Importantly, the budget will reflect the fact that Queensland has led the way and has completely dominated the nation when it comes to jobs growth. There are now 145,500 more Queenslanders in work than there were before COVID-19.

**Mr Lister:** How many of them worked in the Premier's media unit?

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

**Mr DICK:** We heard a lecture earlier today from members opposite about not insulting other members of parliament. That lasted about five minutes. Since the depths of the pandemic in May last year, more than 348,000 Queenslanders have found employment as Queensland continues its economic recovery. In net terms, 400,000 Queenslanders have found work under our government since 2015.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** That is more than 1,000 jobs each week, every week, since our election. Strong employment growth will continue because the budget will show us backing new industries and new innovation. That means not only more jobs but also more high-paid and high-skilled jobs. We will also be investing in better services in key areas like education, child safety, police and health. We are checking the numbers, but it is shaping up to be the biggest health budget in Queensland history. That is not all.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection. Someone said 'every year'. The members opposite cut the mental health budget in this state when they were in government. They were the first state government ever to do it. Imagine cutting funding to mental health. That is the LNP legacy.

The budget will fund better roads and transport, more infrastructure in regional Queensland and more investment in agriculture. Very importantly, the budget will fund the recommendations of the first report of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce. This will be a budget for all Queenslanders, a genuine Labor budget that will set up our state to take advantage of the golden decade ahead.

### Cost-of-Living Rebate



**Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.16 am): I too acknowledge National Sorry Day and join with other members of the House in committing to continued genuine action on reconciliation.

We know that affordable, reliable power is critical to Queenslanders, and we know that every dollar counts. Today, the Premier has announced a cost-of-living rebate, putting \$175 back into the pockets of Queensland families. Like providing free flu jabs, we will do everything we can to keep costs down for Queenslanders. It is only because Queenslanders own their energy assets that Queenslanders are in control of their power bills—because Queenslanders said an emphatic 'no' to the LNP's slash and burn, sack and sell-off. It means we can act, while families in other states are being sluggish with hikes to ensure the profits of their power companies' overseas shareholders. It means we can act when international price shocks are pushing up the cost of living for families across the nation.

**Mr Hart** interjected.


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

**Mr de BRENNI:** It means we can act when Russia's invasion of Ukraine has sent the global cost of power soaring. It means we can act when wild weather has impacted supply. It means we can act to keep a lid on the bills. It means we can act to curb future power price rises, by investing in more renewables and more energy storage in Queensland.

There is no escaping the reality. Queenslanders are feeling the cost-of-living hangover of nine years of a failed Abbott-Turnbull-Morrison government—a decade of energy chaos, leaving this nation exposed, despite having the world's best renewable resources. It is a hangover the former prime minister tried to keep a secret from Australians. Media reports have revealed the coalition delayed the Australian Energy Regulator's price announcement until after the federal election last Saturday. It is a hangover from Morrison's cocktail of rising inflation, coupled with the slowest wage growth in a

generation, and a campaign of deceit that has now been revealed that existed right up until 6 pm on Saturday night—with the national economy in a mess, a trillion dollars of debt and little to show for it, and a flat line on renewables investment from the former Australian government. Instead of subsidies to overseas fossil fuel, they should have joined this state in backing renewables and energy storage. That is what this government will do. We will support Queensland households, and we will invest in Queensland's future to deliver cheaper, cleaner energy for all Queenslanders.

### Regional Community Forums

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.19 am): I join you, Mr Speaker, and others in acknowledging National Sorry Day. The Palaszczuk Government has always been a government for all of Queensland—the cities and right across the regions. One of the ways we do that is through our regional community forums which give those living in our regions greater access to government and ministers, and better opportunities to influence government decision-making.


Since the forums began, I have been a proud member of both the Wide Bay Burnett-Fraser Coast forum and the Central Queensland forum. I am looking forward to my first regional forum in my new area of the Darling Downs-South West soon. It will be chaired, expertly I am sure, by the members for Ipswich and Ipswich West, and I will be joined by the assistant minister for hydrogen and member for Bundamba.

Families and businesses in Darling Downs-South West, like Queenslanders across the state, are feeling cost-of-living pressures. I welcome the Premier's announcement of \$175 off energy bills which will go a long way to assist Queensland workers balance their home budgets. Workers in the private sector across Australia have experienced stagnating wages for far too long, and bargaining is at an all-time low. That is why the Palaszczuk government is supporting families and advocating a minimum wage increase that keeps up with the cost-of-living pressures.

We have also been working hard to save energy costs for our school communities. Our Advancing Clean Energy Schools Program has now installed more than 197,000 solar panels on nearly 900 schools right across Queensland. This makes a major contribution to our 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2030. It is also expected to reduce energy costs in our schools by around \$10 million per year and support over 550 jobs.

I am delighted that thousands of these panels have been installed in my new community forum region of the Darling Downs-South West, including: Goondiwindi State High School in the Southern Downs electorate with 270 panels installed, and Toowoomba State High School in Toowoomba North electorate with 568 panels installed. Over the last five years, we have invested nearly \$380 million to provide new and improved education infrastructure for the region, such as the wonderful \$15.4 million classroom building which I opened at Harristown State High School. Whether you are a school student in Toowoomba or a business owner in Cairns, the Palaszczuk government is a government that listens and delivers for all of Queensland.

### Floods, Recovery

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Alger—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.22 am): Many communities across Queensland, impacted by rising cost-of-living pressures and the flow-on effects of the COVID-19 pandemic now face further hardship with the flooding rain of recent weeks and months. The Queensland government has been quick to mobilise support and provide assistance to affected communities. Grants and support services have been activated for people in areas hard-hit by the flooding. Community recovery hubs were very quickly set up in impacted communities. These hubs are places where people can speak to community recovery workers, apply for grants, access emotional support and be referred to other support organisations.


As of today, payments totalling around \$23.8 million have been distributed, benefitting more than 100,000 people impacted by flooding events since late February. Applications for financial assistance continue to be processed by my department as quickly as possible. These grants, of up to \$180 per person and \$900 for a family of five or more, support eligible residents experiencing financial hardship as a result of recent flooding events. They help cover the costs of essential items, such as food, medication and clothing, for people who have been directly impacted by this disaster. I know the Premier's announcement this morning of a \$175 cost-of-living rebate will be incredibly welcome news for all Queenslanders, especially those impacted by recent devastating flooding events.

The peak body representing the network of 127 Queensland government funded neighbourhood and community centres across the state report that even prior to the recent flooding events, there has been a significant increase in the demand for the supports and services available through these centres. Increasingly, our neighbourhood and community centres have had to support Queenslanders in crisis moments, many of whom are presenting at centres for the very first time.

Earlier this year, the Palaszczuk government provided a one-off funding boost of \$20,000 to each of the 127 state funded neighbourhood and community centres across Queensland to support centres to respond to the increased demand on centres since the onset of COVID-19. In addition to this \$2.54 million funding boost, we have also delivered on our \$1.7 million commitment to place Neighbourhood and Care Army Connect workers in 15 centres across Queensland. This year has presented many challenges to so many Queenslanders already impacted by more than two years of a global pandemic and rising cost-of-living pressures. The Queensland government will continue to work with local communities and our service partners to ensure the necessary supports are in place.

I join with my colleagues and others across the chamber in acknowledging that today is National Sorry Day, a day to reflect on past policies that saw the horrific removal of First Nations children, to acknowledge the sometimes ugly and uncomfortable truth of our shared history, and to lean on the strength of our collective humanity as we commit to action beyond sorry. It is a day of reflection and a day to reaffirm our commitment to voice, treaty and truth, something that has seen a renewed commitment from our federal government and a commitment that the Palaszczuk government continues to honour.

### Coronavirus, Health System

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.25 am): I also acknowledge that it is National Sorry Day today and reflect on the great words that we just heard from the minister. I advise the House that the stress our health system was under during the first Omicron wave, being the first statewide outbreak of COVID, and the unprecedented floods that we saw at the start of the year, is reflected in the latest Queensland Health performance data for the first quarter of this year which has been published today.

The Omicron wave in the first quarter of the year is like nothing we have ever seen before. It pushed our staff and our health system to the limit, but we were able to manage this wave and keep the numbers of lives lost relatively low. We did not see the type of devastation that we saw across the world: no decisions about who got life support, as in the UK; no mass graves or makeshift mortuaries as in Italy; we did not have to change our environmental laws as California did so that they could operate 24-hour crematoriums; and we did not need to stand up makeshift hospitals as they did in New York at Central Park.

Despite the significant impact of Omicron, patient off-stretcher time improved at some of our hospitals compared to the previous quarter. This includes large metropolitan hospitals like Gold Coast University Hospital and the RBWH, but the state average has been impacted by a decline in a small number of facilities in Metro South. While we know more needs to be done to improve the situation and we are already taking action, this quarter sees patient off-stretcher time being met 58 per cent of the time.

It should be noted that our Queensland patient off-stretcher time data cannot be directly compared to other jurisdictions. In Queensland, we measure patient off-stretcher time within 30 minutes. This is a measure from when an ambulance arrives at hospital until the patient is transferred to the care of the emergency department. In other jurisdictions, like New South Wales and Victoria, they measure transfer of care, which is the time from when a patient is first seen by the emergency department triage nurse until when they are offloaded from the ambulance stretcher onto an emergency department bed or different POST times. With this variation, it is not possible to make an accurate comparison with our Queensland POST data.

Despite the significant pressures on our system, the median wait time for the 567,464 people who attended our emergency departments was 15 minutes. For our most urgent presentations, 99.6 per cent of category 1 patients were seen in time. While there was an 8.9 per cent decrease in emergency presentations compared to the same quarter last year, that is largely as a result of significant decreases in lower acuity patients presenting to our emergency departments over that period.

Due to the Omicron wave, we had to postpone elective surgery statewide for less urgent categories for seven weeks from 8 January to 28 February. This was communicated early on in the wave. It was a crucial measure to bolster hospital capacity. It is a decision that was mirrored by jurisdictions throughout the country, and the world, when facing their COVID waves. This has led to an



increase in waiting lists, with 58,895 now waiting for elective surgery, which is a 6.5 per cent increase compared to the same quarter last year. However, our hospitals were still able to provide elective surgery to 23,130 Queenslanders. The median wait time for elective surgery treatment was 28 days.

The Omicron wave significantly constrained the ability for specialist outpatient appointments to proceed, which saw the long-wait list grow to 106,458 people. As we pass through the first Omicron wave, we are confident we will be able to bring these numbers down.

As I observed, this performance data cannot be divorced from the context of the unprecedented wave. This includes staff furloughing, including a peak of 6,000 Queensland Health staff in either isolation or quarantine, with a baseline of 3,000 to 4,000 furloughed staff throughout the course of the wave. This trend was also present in our Queensland Ambulance Service, with a peak of 465 furloughed staff. We are still living with the impact that COVID is having on our staff today including 1,600 currently furloughed, which will only increase with the flu season. We also had staff unable to get to work for a number of days when the floods hit in February 2022.

Our staff have also had to follow stringent infection control. While these measures served to keep staff and patients safe, they extended the time associated with day-to-day activities. Queensland Health's screening procedures added time to admission and discharge of patients in both emergency departments and inpatient wards. This was important to ensure vulnerable patients were not unnecessarily exposed to the virus. Our bed capacity was pushed, with more than 928 beds being occupied by COVID inpatients in addition to the over 500 beds occupied by long-stay patients who should be in aged and disability care.


Despite this significant pressure, our hospital system performed as best as it could.

**Mr Mickelberg** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:** We took decisive action to ensure we could withstand the worst elements of the Omicron wave. From the moment we opened our borders we knew that our health system was going to be put under even more pressure. However, our world-class health workers responded with care, compassion and professionalism. Our community worked with us to get through Queensland's first wave of COVID. To all of those Queenslanders and health workers, I say thank you.

### Small Business Month

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.31 am): I too acknowledge that today is National Sorry Day. While we cannot right the wrongs of the past, we can take responsibility for the future. Today is the last sitting day of Small Business Month and it has been such a great month celebrating the wonderful, diverse businesses that we all know and love across Queensland and highlighting how important small business is to our communities and to our economy. The Palaszczuk government places enormous importance on supporting small business. It is one of the key pillars of our \$14.5 billion COVID economic recovery plan. In fact, throughout COVID we have invested around \$2.5 billion in loans, subsidies, grants and a range of other supports to help small businesses survive, grow and thrive.

This month it has been fantastic to announce a range of new and continuing initiatives. Our Small Business Friendly Council initiative is a great way to help businesses address costs. After starting the month at our Small Business Friendly Council conference in Townsville, I have since co-signed Small Business Friendly Council charters with Cassowary Coast and Brisbane city councils. A total of 33 councils have now done this, there are five in the wings and more to come. I announced our \$6.75 million business wellness package, recognising the toll on mental health that the past few years have taken. We had the first meeting of my new Queensland Small Business Advisory Council. Our Queensland Small Business Commissioner position officially became permanent.

We celebrated the 20th anniversary of our milestone program Mentoring for Growth, which has provided free one-on-one advice to countless small business owners with excellent results and we have released and announced a range of grants programs: Business Basics, Business Growth, the Social Enterprise Sector Development grants and the Social Enterprise Development grants; but wait, there's more. Today I am very pleased to announce that: we will provide an additional round later this year of our very popular \$5,000 Business Basics grants; the Palaszczuk government will extend the ability of its entrepreneurs and business owners to meet the costs of their business and to meet the local, state and federal government requirements of opening and running a business; and we will be extending our Business Launchpad initiative, a one-stop shop which makes it easier for businesses to identify in one go the licences or permits a business needs from all three levels of government.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Cairns, member for Maryborough, member for Scenic Rim, you are all warned under the standing orders. Take your conversations outside. Minister, apologies for the interruption.

**Ms FARMER:** In addition to the system we have set up for businesses in food and beverage and residential construction, we are adding three new sectors over the coming year to Business Launchpad. That is retail trade, non-residential construction and accommodation.

This month I have also enjoyed travelling throughout the state meeting small businesses and discussing their issues through all sorts of different opportunities. I want to thank the members for Mansfield, Nicklin, Cook and Greenslopes for the special events they invited me to for that purpose and of course the many members who brought in local businesses to our networking event last sitting. I know we are sneaking in events with the members for Ipswich, Bundaberg and Springwood just slightly out of the month because we could not fit them all in.

I thank an important body, the Business Indigenous Reference Group, which has completed its six-year term this month and is now working towards setting up a peak body for Indigenous business. I also thank Luke Terry and White Box for the events this month which are the prelude to the Social Enterprise World Forum, which will be held in Queensland this September. There has been so much going on. I say a huge thankyou to all our small businesses. They are the heart and soul of our community and they are important.

### National Reconciliation Week



**Hon. CD CRAWFORD** (Barron River—ALP) (Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships) (10.35 am): I begin by offering my support for the Premier's electricity rebate, especially for our seniors, many of whom are facing significant cost-of-living pressures. Today's announcement will go a long way.

Voice, treaty, truth: three significant words; words that began once as a movement and that are now forming parts of government policy across this state and across this nation. As an Australian, as a Queenslander and as a minister in a Labor government, I was filled with emotion when our Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, used his victory speech on Saturday night to give a full commitment to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.


This clarion call puts First Nations people at the pinnacle of federal government policy. As we move into National Reconciliation Week 2022 we are challenged by this year's theme: 'Be Brave. Make Change'. I want to recognise my fellow cabinet ministers in this Palaszczuk government who lead departments through significant change in embracing First Nations culture and a new age of doing government business. As a nation and as a state we are embracing that challenge. Across this country we are witnessing a change that many thought they would never see in their lifetime: a change that embraces a national identity that is grounded by two of the oldest living cultures on the planet; a change that requires us to be courageous in our commitment to truth telling and honest about our shared industry; a commitment to voice, treaty and truth.

Last month I joined the Waka Waka people as the Federal Court of Australia formally recognised them as native title holders of almost 114,000 hectares of the Burnett region. This landmark decision comes after a long, hard fought journey to win back land justice. Under native title law, the Waka Waka people had to prove they still had connection to their lands, and they did. This moment was a shining light in what has been a deep, dark history of dispossession of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in this state, one that built on the 30-year legacy of the High Court Mabo decision which overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius, or 'nobody's land'.


Every move we make to right the wrongs of the past such as acknowledging the native title rights of traditional owners is a positive step on the path to truth telling, healing and true reconciliation. Traditional owner James MiMi spoke about what it meant to get native title over Ban Ban Springs, a sacred site and traditional meeting place and the home of the piebald eel.

It is my hope that path to treaty and native title provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities to live dignified lives, generate wealth, create jobs and build career pathways for Indigenous youth. This is our opportunity to recognise the past, respect one another and reset the relationship with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Queenslanders toward a fair, just and united future.

## ABSENCE OF MINISTERS

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.39 am): I advise that the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport, and Engagement and the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence will be absent from question time today. The Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment will answer questions relating to matters within the portfolio of the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement, and the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services will take questions on behalf of the Attorney-General, Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence during question time today.

## SPECIAL ADJOURNMENT

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (10.39 am), by leave, without notice: I move—


That the House, at its rising, do adjourn until 9.30 am on Tuesday, 21 June 2022.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## STATE DEVELOPMENT AND REGIONAL INDUSTRIES COMMITTEE


### Alleged Unauthorised Disclosure of Committee Proceedings, Referral to Ethics Committee

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (10.39 am): In accordance with standing order 268(1), I rise as the chair of the State Development and Regional Industries Committee to report that a matter involving the potential unauthorised disclosure of a confidential committee proceeding has arisen and that the committee has resolved to recommend that the matter be referred to the Ethics Committee for consideration. The matter is associated with the disclosure of a submission from a councillor of the Bundaberg Regional Council made on 15 December 2021 to the committee in relation to its inquiry into the Office of the Independent Assessor. On behalf of the committee, I advise the House of the referral so that standing order 271 can be invoked.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will conclude today at 11.40 am.

### Ambulance Ramping

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.40 am): My question is to the Premier. Moments ago, the government finally released the long-awaited hospital and health figures. Ambulance ramping has soared to 42 per cent, breaking all records—the worst ambulance ramping in the country. Shockingly, ramping has hit 55 per cent in Ipswich and QEII; 62 per cent in Logan and Redlands; and 67 per cent at the PA Hospital. How can Queenslanders who need an ambulance in their hour of need trust the Palaszczuk government to heal the Queensland health crisis?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the Leader of the Opposition for the question. Obviously, the member was not listening to the Minister for Health or the Treasurer. Next month's budget will see a record spend on health. As I have said time and time again in this House, I assure every Queenslanders that we are giving this due consideration and we are taking these issues seriously. What have I done? I have spoken to the new Prime Minister to put health on the National Cabinet agenda.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We will be discussing health, because the former prime minister failed to address these issues. Secondly, the health minister said that in other jurisdictions different data is captured. I reject the premise of the Leader of the Opposition's question.

Let me also say: Queenslanders are smarter than the Leader of the Opposition. The people of Queensland know that in the first quarter of this year we were going through a deadly COVID wave, when Omicron went through our state and through the nation.

For two years, because we kept the borders closed and kept Queenslanders safe, Queenslanders were able to lead their lives as close as possible to normal. When New South Wales and Victoria had to close their elective surgeries—not just for days and not just for weeks but for months—Queenslanders kept Queensland open.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** With the Omicron wave we saw furloughed staff. That had a big impact on the health system. The Leader of the Opposition should not think for one moment that this is not happening in other states. Let me quote from the *Sydney Morning Herald* today. It states—

New South Wales Ambulance getting 500 more daily calls than before the pandemic.

So it is not happening in New South Wales, Leader of the Opposition?

**Mrs D'Ath** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take the interjection of the Minister for Health. It is captured differently. Listen to this—

NSW Ambulance Commissioner ... said this week that the number of calls paramedics are attending is 'genuinely in the unprecedented category', with ambulances responding to a near-record 116,000 cases in April.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Leader of the Opposition is warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** It says here, too, that 'ambulances are consistently ramped' in New South Wales—

**Mr SPEAKER:** The Premier's time has expired.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—'where paramedics are stuck'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—'outside hospitals'—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—'waiting hours to offload patients'.

**Mr SPEAKER:** It is the only warning I will give any minister today: if your time has expired, I will ask you to resume your seat.

### Emergency Departments, Waiting Times

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** Moments ago, the government finally released the long-awaited hospital and health figures. The rate of patients not seen on time in our emergency departments has climbed to 27 per cent—more than one in four people not given care within the clinically recommended time frame. How can Queenslanders in our emergency departments trust the Palaszczuk government to fix the Queensland health crisis?

**Mr SPEAKER:** You will need to address the question to a minister. It is required so that the person can hear it and listen.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Premier. Moments ago, the government finally released the long-awaited hospital and health figures. The rate of patients not seen on time in our emergency departments has climbed to 27 per cent—more than one in four people not given the clinical care they deserve within the recommended time. How can Queenslanders in our emergency departments trust the Palaszczuk government to heal the Queensland health crisis?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member. Of course they can trust the government. I care about people and families. I care about their safety and I care about their families. This week, we are so concerned about people ending up in hospital with the flu that we are offering free flu vaccines. Does the opposition leader support free flu vaccines? Does the member for Kawana support free flu vaccines? Does the member for Moggill support it? Do they support it?

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Kawana, you will cease your interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** The opposition will not have to wait long. Let me say very clearly, loudly and proudly: we will deliver a record health budget—the likes of which Queenslanders have never seen before. On this side of the House, we care about people. We care about families. We care about their health—unlike those opposite, who closed the Barrett adolescent centre. They did not care about mental health. They cut the budget and sacked the nurses. What about the member for Moggill? They fought with the doctors.

Queenslanders can have absolute faith that I care about them, I care about their families and I care about their health. That is why we are committed to growing our hospital bed numbers. That is why we are committed to working with the federal government on two significant issues. The first is looking at moving the number of aged-care people who are in our hospitals but who should not be in our hospitals, because Scott Morrison and the LNP did nothing for seven years. We will look at aged-care residents who are currently in beds in our hospitals. They should be in the community, with their families and friends. Finally, there are also over 400 people currently in hospital with COVID.

**Mr Bleijie:** So it's their fault?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I take that interjection. That just goes to show what is wrong with the LNP in this state. The member for Kawana is symbolic of what is wrong with health care in this state.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

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

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Those opposite do not have long to wait. They will see a record health budget for families across the state. I am very proud of the health budget that we will deliver.

### Rural and Regional Queensland

**Mr TANTARI:** My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on her government's commitment to rural and regional Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Hervey Bay for the question. The member for Hervey Bay knows how important the cost-of-living pressures are on his community. I know that the members of his community will absolutely support the free flu vaccines to keep them safe during this unprecedented flu season and also the cost-of-living rebate today for electricity prices. Once again our government is delivering for all of Queensland. We are listening and we understand the pressures that families are under, such as high fuel prices and the impact of higher grocery prices. This will go a long way in helping with some relief. We are also looking at helping other communities across the state.

I acknowledge the Queensland Country Women's Association which celebrated its centenary this year: 100 years of providing outstanding service. They helped us with the floods, as members will remember, and the droughts. They are always there to lend a hand and to also stop people from feeling social isolation. I want to thank the members on both sides of the House who attended yesterday, and President Sheila Campbell and the centenary team, Christine King and Marina Taylor. I also want to acknowledge the minister for agriculture who was there.

Previously our government had announced \$1 million to help do up Country Women's Association halls right across the state. In a pre-budget announcement yesterday I was very pleased to announce an additional \$1 million to continue that great work. The first grant has helped over 50 halls. In the member for Hervey Bay's electorate in Urangan \$22,800 went on roof repairs; in Julia Creek \$47,400 provided for a new kitchen and floor covering—and I must say they have the best scones; in Beaudesert, in the Scenic Rim, \$24,300 was spent to replace the roof; in Chinchilla there was \$19,400 for plumbing and painting; and in Jericho, \$23,000 provided for roof sealing and cladding. We are a government for everybody—all the members can thank me later—because we care about all Queenslanders.

In fact, let me say it again: the Labor government looks after the bush better than the LNP—better than the Liberals and better than the Nationals. It is a wonder that they have not split. Our regional forums will be happening next week where my ministers and I will be out across the length and breadth of Queensland with our assistant ministers.

### Specialists, Waiting Times

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Moments ago the Palaszczuk government finally released the long-awaited hospital and health figures. Now an extraordinary number of Queenslanders—259,884 people—are waiting just to see a specialist so they can get the health care that they need. How can Queenslanders in dire need of surgery trust the Palaszczuk Labor government to fix the Queensland Health crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. What would be nice is if the opposition actually acknowledged the incredible work that was done over the first quarter of this year, despite an unprecedented circumstance that this state has never seen. There is no quarterly data that we can measure this performance data against in our history of recording performance data that shows that there was another type of pandemic so that we can see the effect on the system.

This is despite what we went through over those three months with our first statewide outbreak of COVID, where over 6,000 staff fell, over 900 beds were taken up with COVID patients and floods hit. In just two hospitals on the northside we had 500 staff who could not make it to work for a number of days. I had other health workers sleeping at the hospital because they could not get home. They were doing double shifts and stepping in even though it was not their work time just to keep the hospital going when those floods hit.

I am pretty proud of what our hospitals have achieved over the first quarter of 2022, including the fact that Gold Coast University Hospital, RBWH, Sunshine Coast University Hospital, Cairns Base Hospital, Nambour Hospital and Robina Hospital all actually had an improvement in their patient off-stretcher times despite what we were facing. The Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service had all category 1 patients seen within the clinically recommended time of two minutes, as did Central Queensland, as did Central West. At the children's hospital all category 1 patients were seen within the clinically recommended time of two minutes. These were impressive outcomes considering what they were facing.

**Ms Bates:** What about the patients waiting to see a specialist?

**Mrs D'ATH:** If those on the opposite side want to talk about waiting lists, yes, we have hit just over 106,000 on the long waitlist, but they had 104,000 on the long waitlist and they did not have a pandemic. What was their excuse? What was their justification for having 104,000 people on the long waitlist and the ramping that they had and the delays in getting outpatient appointments? What was the reason that the LNP could not do its job properly? What we are facing is national pressure across the country that every political party other than the LNP in Queensland actually knows is happening. You can see reports across this country on a daily basis, including from a Liberal National Party in New South Wales which acknowledges the pressures.

**Ms Bates** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:** The only people in the entire country who do not understand why there is pressure in the hospital system right now is the LNP in Queensland and the Leader of the Opposition.

### **Outback Queensland, Tourism**

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is to the Deputy Premier, 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 attract tourists to businesses in outback Queensland and is the Deputy Premier aware of any alternative approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Keppel for her question. As the Premier has just said, it is this Labor government that is supporting the bush. One way we are doing that is by supporting businesses in the bush through the Remote Area Boards program. The Remote Area Boards represent local areas. It is their job to identify and deliver economic development projects. The five Remote Area Boards represent 60 per cent of Queensland. The Palaszczuk government is very pleased to support them with \$1.5 million worth of funding over the two years of the program. That will provide each of the Remote Area Boards with \$150,000 per year.

In this round we are really pleased to see \$90,000 of Palaszczuk government funding going to CWQ Brewing Co, the first local brewer in that part of Queensland in over 100 years. The recent trial run that they ran last year sold out really quickly. I was pleased to try it at the Remote Area Planning and Development Board dinner. I can report to the House that the CWQ Brewing Co. brews all taste fantastic. The artwork on each of the cans celebrates the proud history of three Western Queensland towns, Longreach, Winton and Barcaldine. I am sure the Premier's favourite of the three might well be Winton. The Winton can celebrates the Chinese settlers. Given the member for Kawana's obsession with the Premier's puppy, maybe he might want to try the Winton lager too. My favourite is the Barcaldine lager which celebrates the striking shearers who first formed the great Australian Labor Party out there in Barcaldine.

The Palaszczuk government is pleased to support businesses and tourism, manufacturing and industries right throughout the state, including in outback Queensland. As the Premier says, it is this side of the House that supports the bush, that supports business in the bush, that supports creating new product offerings to attract tourists and visitors—they might even do some work while they are there. We are incredibly proud to continue to support RAPAD and the fantastic work that they do, including by supporting CWQ Brewing Co.

### **Elective Surgery, Waiting List**

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Moments ago the Palaszczuk government finally released the long-awaited hospital and health figures: 58,895 Queenslanders are now stranded on the elective surgery waiting list. How can Queenslanders on this waiting list trust the Palaszczuk Labor government to fix the Queensland Health crisis?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. The member should, and I am sure he does, know that that figure also includes people who are within the recommended time for those surgeries as opposed to waiting beyond the clinically recommended time. It is a combined figure. I also feel I should correct the record. I said that the LNP in Queensland are the only ones who do not get what is happening with the health system in this country, but the Morrison government also did not get it. Possibly that is why they are no longer in government.

As I have said, I am extremely proud to be part of the Palaszczuk government that saw us through the first two years of COVID. I am proud not just of how our health system responded but also of how Queenslanders responded by supporting their communities. I am referring to the helpers and the volunteers who went out to support people. We will remember that people had to quarantine and isolate in their homes for 14 days at a time. It was Queenslanders who were getting care packages ready and taking them to people's doorsteps, walking their dogs for them, and caring for and checking in on their neighbours and loved ones. Queenslanders did that. It was the Queensland Palaszczuk Labor government that supported putting together that volunteer base to support the community. While we are so proud of our health work force, we are just as proud of the people of Queensland for what they did in coming together as a community over the past 2½ years to deal with COVID.

It has been a trying and difficult time globally. Around the globe thousands of health workers died from COVID while caring for others. Millions of lives were lost. Globally health workers are burnt out. Health workers in the UK had to decide who they left unventilated in corridors because they did not have enough ventilators. We remember when they had to dig mass graves to bury the dead.

Those on the opposite side are laughing. They think this is a joke.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms Camm:** The minister can't even answer the question.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take that interjection. I answered the question, if the member for Nanango had been listening in the first couple of minutes. We are very proud of the way we have responded across our health system and across the community. We are proud of the way that we are continuing to manage this pandemic across Queensland.

*(Time expired)*

### **Budget, Priorities**

**Mr McCALLUM:** My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer outline to the House the Palaszczuk government's priorities for next month's Queensland budget and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Bundamba for his question. I know that the member for Bundamba and his community will warmly welcome the \$175 in cost-of-living relief our government has announced today. We are doing it for the people who live in Bundamba and across the rest of Queensland.

**Mr O'Connor** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** The budget I hand down next month will build on the hard work of Queenslanders throughout the pandemic. It will be the dividend for their dedication and resilience. It will deliver the things that Queensland Labor governments always deliver. The 2022 Queensland budget will continue

to protect the health of Queenslanders. It will protect Queensland's economy through the opportunities that our emerging energy revolution presents for heavy industry, new industries, and advanced and traditional manufacturing.

I will tell the House what it will not do. It will not roll a wrecking ball through the Queensland economy, which is what happened in the first Newman LNP government budget. Fourteen thousand public servants were sacked. It was the first Queensland government ever to cut funding to mental health. In fact, the LNP's cut to mental health was the largest cut of its kind ever made by a state government and it included the closure of the Barrett adolescent centre. At the centre of it all was the Leader of the Opposition who was a cabinet minister and revelled in it. Without any sign of a global pandemic, it was the start of a journey by the LNP to \$10 billion of budgeted deficits.

How did the ratings agencies react to the fiscal failure of the LNP? After the 2012 LNP budget, Moody's downgraded Queensland's outlook from AA1 stable to AA1 negative. Fitch went further, downgrading Queensland's rating from AA positive to AA. No infrastructure was built. The LNP bragged about cutting infrastructure. They were picking fights with everyone. We had bigger deficits and rating downgrades.

I know those opposite like to talk about debt. I can advise the House that, as of today, Queensland's books carry \$17.3 billion of debt borrowed by the Newman-Nicholls-Crisafulli government. The LNP's \$17.3 billion millstone is more than what is on the books from the Beattie and Bligh governments to which members opposite compare themselves all the time. What big infrastructure projects did we get from \$17.3 billion worth of LNP debt? 1 William Street, an edifice that the members opposite built to themselves! That is what we got from \$17.3 billion of LNP debt. This is a grim warning to every Queenslanders of what Queensland will face if they ever haunt the budget and treasury benches again.

### **Bundaberg Hospital, Clinical Incidents**

**Mr BENNETT:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Two days ago the minister said that there was only one nurse involved in cases of unprescribed medicine being given to patients at the Bundaberg Hospital. Yesterday the minister said there were several nurses. How can the people of Bundaberg trust that the minister is across the detail and will ensure that this matter will be dealt with?

**Mrs D'ATH:** As the member knows, yesterday I gave him a thorough overview of the circumstances surrounding it and have been completely transparent about that.

### **STEM, Women and Girls**

**Mrs McMAHON:** My question is to the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister update the House on the STEM Girl Power Camp and advise how the Palaszczuk government continues to promote opportunities for women and girls? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Macalister for her great question. Coming from a career in the armed services, she knows firsthand the importance of creating opportunities for women in male-dominated industries. The Palaszczuk government is committed to supporting every Queensland student for the jobs of the future. For too long the fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics have been largely dominated by men so it is important that we do everything we can to lift underrepresented groups such as women. You do not change this overnight. It is because women are not prevalent in a lot of those industries that we have a large gap between male and female earnings in this country. It is sad that nothing has really been done over the past 10 years to try to narrow that gap.

That is why, since 2016 when we came to government, we have invested around \$766,000 to run the STEM Girl Power Camp. It is all about year 10 girl power. We started with 22 girls and now have 60 girls attending. Last week it was an absolute pleasure to catch up with those year 10 girls who come from across the state. We had students from Blackwater to Varsity Lakes and all the way up to the Torres Strait. It was wonderful to see how enthusiastic they are. In meeting those young women I was impressed by their passion and enthusiasm. Their energy is infectious. It is a relief that we have a federal government that understands what we need to do to close this gap.

When it comes to trust, I know who the women of Australia trust to deliver outcomes for women: they trust the federal Labor government and the state Labor government. Even when it comes to trust in the health system, I can tell the Leader of the Opposition that he is no Peter Malinauskas. We look forward to working with the Albanese federal Labor government to bring about women's equality in the



workplace and representation in those occupations that we know they need to be in. We have free TAFE and we will work with them to boost numbers in trades. Cheaper child care is an absolutely essential part of having women in the workplace. We will implement every recommendation from the *Respect@Work* report. Following its lead we are introducing 10 paid days of family and domestic violence leave and investing \$77 million in consent and respectful relationships education. Finally, what a breath of fresh air it is that we can work with a federal government to implement these changes, which we know will make a fantastic difference for women. We look forward to it.

### **Bundaberg Hospital, Clinical Incidents**

**Mr PERRETT:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The minister said that no harm was caused to patients at Bundaberg Hospital who had been administered unprescribed medication, but media reports claim a patient died shortly after being discharged. Did someone die after being administered unprescribed medication at Bundaberg Hospital?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for the question. The member needs to be very careful about inferences in relation to the clinical review. I have provided to this House the outcomes of the review completed by the hospital and health service—not what has been done by the media or reports in the media but what has actually been undertaken by the hospital and health service. I have been completely honest and up-front about what I have had provided to me. In addition, I have indicated that Clinical Excellence Queensland is reviewing the circumstances of that. Even though someone may at a later date die, you have to prove that there was a causation with the actual incident itself. I have nothing in front of me that says—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The information that has been provided to me is the information that I provided to this House yesterday.

### **Energy Industry**

**Mrs MULLEN:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Can the minister advise the House how the Palaszczuk government continues to show leadership in energy transformation?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I applaud the Assistant Treasurer for holding this LNP opposition to account for its absence of policy on renewable energy and for holding the LNP to account on its opposition to our Buy Queensland procurement approach. On this side of the House we know that the transport industry presents a terrific opportunity to decarbonise our economy and to grow more jobs in more renewable industries. This Assistant Treasurer has been instrumental in supporting the delivery of Queensland's Electric Super Highway with chargers made right here in Queensland, the elimination of the Queensland government fleet internal combustion engines and the elimination of more emissions from QFleet. She has been instrumental in supporting Queensland's first Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy and Australia's first hydrogen superhighway with electrolyzers made right here in Central Queensland.

This government has its foot firmly on the renewable energy accelerator. Thanks to nine years of resistance to electric vehicles, Australia is in the slow lane. The Palaszczuk government once again is stepping up. Today I can confirm that I will propose a national group-buying arrangement for government fleet EVs across the nation. By aggregating our collective electric vehicle demand, we can work directly with EV companies to tackle supply shortages. We can put Australia at the front of the order queue instead of last—last where Scott Morrison and the new Leader of the Opposition have put Queensland.

Car maker Kia has 500 of its new EV6s available right across the country. Tesla now has a nine-month wait for its Model 3. Back in March, Hyundai launched only 100 of its brand new SUVs nationwide. All this is because of the Morrison government allowing Australia to become an automotive Third World. With fuel at just over \$2 a litre, look at who is ruining the weekend now! In Queensland, the opposition leader used his one chance when in power to get rid of every single electric vehicle in the Queensland government fleet. It is no wonder that Australians have driven the Liberal National Party straight into opposition where its anti-electric vehicle, anti-renewables rhetoric belongs.

Today I call on the Leader of the Opposition to take responsibility and to issue an apology to every Queensland motorist feeling the pain when they fuel up their car. I do not think he will because we know the LNP has zero plans and zero targets, just like Scott Morrison had zero vision for Queensland.

### Health System

**Mr MINNIKIN:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to the worst ambulance ramping in the nation, extraordinary blowouts in ambulance response times, ED wait times and surgery wait lists worsening, and hospital and health figures released months late to Queenslanders. Will the Premier follow Anna Bligh's lead and admit that Queensland Health is broken?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I reject once again some of the premise of that question. Perhaps the opposition can get its facts right. As we said, there is different data collected across different jurisdictions.

How many times did the member for Chatsworth ring the former prime minister and say, 'Health needs to be on the national agenda?' Zero. I will not be lectured to by anyone on that side when not one of them raised with their former colleagues any question about putting health on the national agenda. We know that very shortly the opposition will be led by someone who knows a lot about the health system, Peter Dutton. We only have to go back to an article that was written when as health minister Peter Dutton—I admit this article is seven years old—was ranked as the worst health minister in 35 years in a poll of doctors.

**Mr Dick:** By doctors!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** By doctors. It will be interesting to see what the new federal Leader of the Opposition—I do not think there is any opposition!—will say in relation to health in this country. Will he support health being discussed on the national agenda? What will the doctors say? Will the doctors talk to him about putting health on the national agenda? They are the fundamental issues.

We have put in place a Care4Qld Strategy of over \$260 million looking at the pressures that are currently on our health system. Let me also say to those opposite that there are pressures on the health system right across the country. Yes, there are pressures in Queensland but there are pressures right across the country. I publicly thank all of our health workers in Queensland. We have thousands of people who are off at the moment due to sickness and who are not working.

Our hospitals are not working at full capacity because the staff are sick. Why are they sick? They are sick with COVID. I am happy to give a lesson here. They are sick with COVID and they are also sick with influenza A. What are we doing about it? We are vaccinating our Queensland population. I notice that New South Wales and Victoria are also looking at following Queensland's lead. Once again, Queensland is setting the lead when it comes to these issues.

**Mr Minnikin:** Thanks for the lesson!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you. You are welcome.

*(Time expired)*

### National Reconciliation Week

**Ms LUI:** My question is of the Minister for Seniors and Disability Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships. Can the minister provide an update on how the Palaszczuk government is supporting communities to celebrate National Reconciliation Week?

**Mr CRAWFORD:** I thank the member for Cook for the question and also reaffirm to the member for Cook our government's support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, many who reside in the vast and sizeable Cook electorate. As we celebrate the commencement of National Reconciliation Week, I am pleased to update the House that we have announced the recipients of the 2022 Celebrating Reconciliation grants. This year a total of 38 organisations received a share of \$155,000 to promote truth telling, understanding and reconciliation between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and non-Indigenous Queenslanders. Grassroots organisations received grants of up to \$15,000 to host events in their local areas to bring together Aboriginal, Torres Strait Islander and non-Indigenous Queenslanders in celebration.

As this year's theme reminds us—'Be Brave. Make Change'—it is timely to commemorate two significant milestones in the reconciliation journey that reflect this year's theme so strongly. The first is the successful 1967 referendum to change how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were referred to in the Constitution. Of course, next week we celebrate Mabo Day on 3 June, the 30th anniversary of that High Court decision of 1992, a watershed moment in our nation's history that overturned the legal fiction of terra nullius or 'land belonging to no-one'.

This landmark decision forever changed land law in Australia through the establishment of native title rights recognising that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have occupied the lands, winds and waters of this country for millennia. In the member for Cook's electorate, we have provided funding to support 30th anniversary Mabo Day celebrations with feasting, dance performances and community activities in Bamaga, Mossman Gorge and on Thursday Island. The Torres Strait community should be immensely proud of the legacy of Eddie Mabo.

Whether people are in the Torres Strait, Gold Coast, Hervey Bay or Mount Isa, there are National Reconciliation Week activities in their areas that we have funded. This government is committed to reconciliation, not just this week but every day. Queensland's Path to Treaty journey is underway, and now we have a federal Labor government committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

I urge all members of this House to engage in the reconciliation movement and understand in their backyards—their electorates—who the traditional owners are, have conversations with the families and understand the history of their electorates, particularly that of the stolen generations and the frontier wars, as we move forward in this new era in Queensland.

### **Housing, Federal Labor Government**

**Ms BOLTON:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier be advocating to the Prime Minister for desperately needed assistance to urgently address Queensland's ongoing housing and emergency accommodation crisis, including to get a commitment to retain the National Rental Affordability Scheme, and ensuring that any housing initiatives federal Labor committed to are extended beyond the first home owners criteria?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Noosa for her question. We acknowledge that there are a lot of housing pressures facing not just those in Queensland but those across the nation as well. I am quite sure that people in the member for Noosa's electorate will be very appreciative of the cost-of-living measures we announced this week to help ease that burden.

I think there will definitely be a new dawn when it comes to dealing with the issues of housing with both Labor governments working together. We acknowledge that having a roof over one's head is absolutely critical. That is why we have put in place more than \$2 billion worth of housing initiatives across this state and are continuing to build new social housing as well.

In relation to the National Rental Affordability Scheme, I am quite sure it is something that the housing minister will raise with her counterpart once the new ministry is sworn in. I am advised that in the LNP's last federal budget they continued to strip away nearly \$100 million in housing and homelessness funding from Queensland at a time of unprecedented pressure on housing nationally. What did the member for Everton do about that? Did the member for Everton contact his counterparts about cutting \$100 million in funding? I do not think so. The LNP provided no increase in Commonwealth rent assistance to ease the pressure on low-income renters. The LNP walked away from the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing in Queensland. The former federal LNP government did not even have a housing policy. There we go. That says it all!

We will continue to put our investment in. I thank the Treasurer and the Minister for Housing for the great work they are doing, especially around the Build-to-Rent initiative, growing our housing stock across the state and our commitment to look at more remote housing. The NQROC mayors were down here yesterday. They were raising that as a real pressure in their communities. I thank them for coming down. It was a great opportunity to catch up with them.

### **Palliative Care**

**Mr O'ROURKE:** My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Can the minister update the House on what the government is doing to support Queenslanders having access to palliative care services across our state?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. I know he understands the importance of investing in palliative care for all Queenslanders. As the Premier noted earlier this morning, this week is National Palliative Care Week. In support, Parliament House has been lit up in navy and maroon between 23 and 26 May. This year's theme, 'It's your right', seeks to recognise the important role palliative care plays in our state and to raise awareness of what services are available to all Queenslanders. I would like to acknowledge the professionalism and dedication of the thousands of people throughout our state who provide palliative care services for Queenslanders. We can deliver palliative care services which offer both support and grief counselling to family members caring for a person with a life-limiting illness.

As the Premier advised the House, the contract has now been awarded for palliative care services to be delivered across regional, rural and remote Queensland. This includes funding frontline services outside of South-East Queensland to enhance access to palliative care. I look forward to seeing Blue Care deliver supportive and considerate palliative care services to all Queenslanders because allowing people to exercise genuine choice at end of life and die with dignity is essential.

Palliative care is an important part of the end-of-life process. That is why the Palaszczuk government is increasing funding for Palliative Care Queensland to \$340,000 a year until 2025-26 to help the peak body continue to perform important advocacy work in Queensland. Palliative Care Queensland has a very strong record in representing palliative care providers, consumers and their families. We are proud to partner with them to ensure Queenslanders have access to quality palliative care.

I also take this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible work of Ambulance Wish—a charity program of Palliative Care Queensland and proudly supported by the Queensland government. It is about to be expanded to Townsville. Ambulance Wish recognises the importance of supporting each other in times of loss, ageing, dying and grief. They continue to illustrate the way we should always care for our dying—with dignity and kindness. It has been an honour to attend a couple of the Ambulance Wish events and to be part of their inaugural fundraiser as well. I encourage more people to get involved in the next ball and big fundraising event.

I acknowledge that being a palliative care nurse or support worker is a difficult job. Every time I meet someone who works in this space they are smiling because they say it is such an honour and privilege to be there and hold the hand of someone who is needing that support at the end of their life and to support their family.

*(Time expired)*

### **Coronavirus, Vaccination Mandate**

**Mr KNUTH:** My question without notice is to the Premier. It is evident that numerous public services, particularly health and education, are under severe pressure because of staff shortages throughout the state. Will the Premier move to immediately withdraw all current vaccination mandates to allow all employees to go back to work to alleviate pressure on delivering these vital services?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. It is a very important question. We will continue to take the health advice. At this point in time there is no move to make those changes.

### **Federal Labor Government, Jobs**

**Ms PUGH:** My question is to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. Can the minister update the House on what the federal election means for secure jobs and wages for young people in Queensland?

**Ms SCANLON:** I thank the member for Mount Ommaney for the question. According to the Resolve Political Monitor, young people listed cost of living as their No. 1 issue going into this most recent federal election. Today our Palaszczuk government is making it that little bit easier for households by providing a \$175 cost-of-living rebate. This is part of our government's proud track record of keeping energy prices low here in Queensland.

We can only do this because we have kept our Queensland government-owned generating assets in public hands—no thanks to those opposite who drove electricity prices up by 43 per cent in this space. In fact, they spent \$70 million of taxpayers' money trying to privatise these assets. The Leader of the Opposition was so passionate about privatisation that he was the only Newman government minister who took the extraordinary step of crossing the picket line of electrical workers who were trying to keep those assets in public hands.

We know that the LNP are not just passionate about privatising assets; they are also very passionate about keeping wages down. After bragging about low wages being a deliberate design of the Liberal National Party economic plan, they spent last month campaigning against a \$1 an hour pay increase for the lowest paid workers in this country. In fact, just last week the new leader of the Liberal Party, Peter Dutton, described the \$1 an hour pay increase as 'pretty disturbing'. This is the same Peter Dutton who we are supposed to believe is suddenly some big softy. He is apparently gentle and caring. Certainly someone who is gentle and caring would not say that a \$1 an hour pay increase for the lowest paid workers was not worthwhile.

What I think is pretty disturbing is a decade of attacks on young people, telling struggling renters that the answer to affordable housing is to just go and buy a house.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Coomera, you are warned under the standing orders. It has been a while.

**Ms SCANLON:** What I think is pretty appalling is that they allowed real wages to go backwards. What we have learnt is that the Liberal National Party has made a conscious decision to elect a man who has been described as the worst health minister in 35 years who did not put downward pressure on costs for households. In fact, he was the architect of the GP copayment. Those opposite want to say that they care about health care but they are just about to elect a bloke who was about to make it more expensive for households to go to the GP.

It is only Labor governments that take real action on cost of living. The LNP can never be trusted in this space. We know their track record of cutting, sacking and selling.

### **Forensic and Scientific Services, Review**

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The integrity of the Forensic Scientific Services is essential to maintaining confidence in our legal system. Considering this, will the minister ensure that Queensland Health does not choose the person who leads the review into itself?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for her question. If the department is not identifying and appointing the reviewer, who do they suggest should? If I did it, they would probably say it was political interference. Whenever there is an independent review, it is down to the government and the government agencies to find those independent reviewers. I have previously talked about the fact that there are very few people across the country who have the qualifications to undertake this type of review. I am certainly not going to take advice from the member for Whitsunday on this issue.

We are very close to finalising that appointment process. It is being done by the department. It is normal practice. That is what would occur. We are making sure that the person is independent. Why is it taking a while? It is because there is such a small group in the country who does this work and there is the potential of conflict of interest because they also work in the same field. To ensure that we have as much independence as we can, they are going through a proper due diligence process to get the best possible reviewer.

### **Community Safety**

**Ms McMILLAN:** My question is of the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services. Will the minister update the House on the delivery of frontline emergency workers to protect the community and their property? Is the minister aware of any alternative approaches to community safety?

**Mr RYAN:** I thank the member for the question and for her strong commitment to the Palaszczuk government's record investment in increasing resources for the Queensland Police Service—over 2,000 extra personnel by 2025. Earlier this month we celebrated a graduation at the Oxley academy—another 70 graduates coming to the front line. Next week they are off to Townsville, with more than 40 new constables joining the Queensland Police Service.

The difference when it comes to resourcing the Queensland Police Service cannot be more stark between those opposite and us: we hire and they fire. The difference was highlighted even at the last election—the last election being just a few days ago. The Morrison government went to that election with budgeted cuts to the Australian Federal Police—\$500 million over three years to Australia's security services—unbelievable cuts. That is what they do though. Who can forget at the last state election when those opposite did not match our historic investment? They did not match our historic investment which was budgeted for which means that they would be sacking police once again. Let us have a look at the comparison.

To date, in the Brisbane region our government delivered 100 extra police, and next financial year there will be 80 extra coming online. Under those opposite, they would have sacked 130 police. In the central region, which includes Rockhampton, Mackay and Gladstone, we have delivered 94 growth positions, and next year there will be 45 extra coming online. They would have sacked 125.

In the northern and far northern regions, which include Townsville, Cairns and Mount Isa, so far we have delivered 218 growth positions, with 100 more coming next year. They would have sacked 180. In the south eastern region, which includes the Gold Coast and Logan, we have delivered 162 growth positions, with 35 more coming next year. They would have sacked 60.

In the southern and north coast regions, which include the Fraser Coast, Moreton Bay, Ipswich and Toowoomba, we have delivered 229 growth positions, with 90 extra coming next year. Mr Speaker, I am glad you are sitting down, because they would have sacked 300 police officers from those police regions.

When it comes to investing in the front line, we always deliver. We make election commitments and we deliver. They go to the election with commitments to cut. They cut the front line. They do not back the front line. You can always count on a Labor government to support the police here in Queensland.

### **SPER, Data Security**

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Treasurer. It has been revealed that 10,300 motorists' fines and private details have been sent to the wrong people. Is service delivery so poor that the government cannot even deliver letters to the right Queenslanders?

**Mr DICK:** I genuinely thank the member for Toowoomba South for his question because it is my annual question from the opposition! Give a bit of a cheer for the member for Toowoomba South.

**Government members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr DICK:** Not too much. That is enough. I thank the member for Toowoomba South. It is a pity we do not have more time. If he asked me two more questions, we could be done for the entire parliamentary term!

In response to the question, I put on the record that I am advised that SPER collects unpaid fines and penalties on behalf of issuing authorities. That includes local authorities, universities, state agencies and issuing authorities like the Brisbane City Council.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members to my right!

**Mr DICK:** In undertaking these functions, SPER issues more than 2.4 million notices a year. I am advised that a processing error occurred on 9 May 2022 when data was provided from a third-party issuing authority to SPER's external printing and mailing provider. I do not lick the stamp on 2.4 million letters. We get someone else to do it.

The data incident resulted in an estimated 10,300 debtor notices being incorrectly addressed to other debtors. The Under Treasurer has initiated an external forensic review and Clayton Utz has been engaged. That is a law firm. We have engaged a law firm because in matters like this the state always reserves its legal position. A legal firm has been engaged to oversee the forensic review and to protect the state's legal position if further action should be taken.

There is an interaction here with a third-party issuing authority. I am not saying that it is the Brisbane City Council, but that is one of the authorities that has sent us data.

The member for Toowoomba South makes allegations about the Labor government, but let's see what the independent forensic review says. If it is in fact the Brisbane City Council—an LNP controlled council—I hope he makes the direct and same criticism about his LNP colleagues. Let's have a look at it. I do not know the reason for the data problem or what happened. That is why we are doing the review. The members opposite—

**Opposition members** interjected.


**Mr DICK:** I do not know the reason, which is why we are conducting the forensic review. What I would encourage all Queenslanders to do is this: pay your fine when it is due so it does not go to SPER. When it goes to SPER, pay the fine. They should not follow the lead of people like David Gibson, the former LNP police minister, who refused to pay his fine, did not open his mail and entirely ignored—

*(Time expired)*

**Mr SPEAKER:** The period for question time has expired. Members leaving the chamber, please do so quietly as a courtesy to speakers on their feet.

## **TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Message from Governor**

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.40 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The message from Her Excellency recommends the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill. The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

TRANSPORT LEGISLATION (ROAD SAFETY AND OTHER MATTERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2022

*Constitution of Queensland 2001*, section 68

I, DR JEANNETTE ROSITA YOUNG PSM, Governor, recommend to the Legislative Assembly a Bill intituled—

A Bill for an Act to amend the Motor Accident Insurance Regulation 2018, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 25 May 2022

*Tabled paper:* Message, dated 25 May 2022, from Her Excellency recommending the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[718\]](#).

## Introduction



**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.40 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Motor Accident Insurance Regulation 2018, the State Penalties Enforcement Regulation 2014, the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Road Rules) Regulation 2009, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Registration) Regulation 2021, the Transport Operations (Road Use Management—Vehicle Standards and Safety) Regulation 2021, the Transport Planning and Coordination Act 1994 and the legislation mentioned in schedule 1 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Transport and Resources Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022 [\[719\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[720\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[721\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill 2022. The bill brings to the House amendments that will: improve road safety; increase the range of allowable motorised mobility devices; make improvements to court and other processes; bring equity and consistency to landowners and occupiers whose land is affected by transport project works; and make minor enhancements to transport and housing legislation.

Road safety is an issue that affects all of us. So far this year we have tragically lost 126 people on Queensland's roads. The Palaszczuk government is absolutely committed to reducing the number of tragedies on Queensland roads, with an ultimate goal of zero deaths in Queensland. Unfortunately, we continue to see the fatal five all too often—speeding, driving fatigued, drink and drug driving, driving distracted and driving without a seatbelt—as major contributing causes to deaths on our roads. There are often multiples of those at the same time. That is why we are rolling out an Australian first in terms of seatbelt and mobile phone detection cameras.

Using your mobile phone while you are driving is the equivalent of driving with a blood alcohol level of .07 to .1, which independent road safety research is clear about. With fines of over \$1,000 and four demerit points for distracted driving, we are sending a clear message to Queenslanders that this dangerous behaviour must stop. It is vital that our investment in road safety provides the people of Queensland with targeted, innovative and effective road safety solutions.

The Camera Detected Offence Program, or CDOP, was introduced into Queensland to enable the use of camera technology to reduce road trauma by deterring unsafe and illegal driving behaviours. CDOP uses certified and approved fixed and mobile cameras to detect prescribed offences on Queensland roads. The types of cameras currently used by CDOP include: speed cameras, red-light cameras, combined red-light and speed cameras, point-to-point speed cameras, automatic numberplate recognition cameras for unregistered and uninsured vehicles and vehicles transporting dangerous goods in tunnels, and the new mobile phone and seatbelt detection cameras introduced last year.

Over the past 25 years, section 117 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 has ensured that penalties in excess of the costs of administering the program are dedicated to road safety education and awareness programs, road safety accident and injury rehabilitation, and improving the safety of state controlled roads where accidents most frequently happen. In 1997 Queensland became the first jurisdiction in Australia to legislate the investment of revenue from camera detected penalties into key road safety priorities. This legislative framework has served the people of Queensland by providing dedicated funding to road safety initiatives, including: the Targeted Road Safety Program; the Community Road Safety Grants program; flashing school zone signs; StreetSmarts road safety campaigns; and blood products for road crash injuries. This clear policy intent has not changed.

With the recent release in April this year of the Queensland Road Safety Strategy 2022-31, it is timely to review, clarify and modernise the legislation. This will ensure CDOP funds are prioritised and reinvested to reflect Queensland's use of the Safe System approach and support targeted initiatives that will help Queensland achieve the road safety targets we have committed to in the Road Safety Strategy; that is, to achieve a 50 per cent reduction in lives lost and a 30 per cent reduction in serious injuries on Queensland roads by 2031.

These are ambitious targets, however, we do not accept that serious road trauma is the price for mobility. The development and implementation of road safety initiatives that use new approaches, innovation and proactive measures is needed. We need to support research and development, trials and the delivery of new solutions where trials are successful. We also need to be guided by data and tailor road safety initiatives to the needs of different regions and types of road users throughout the state. We have a very vast and spread out state.

Under the amendments to the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 in this bill, the fines from camera detected offences will continue to be available for road safety education and awareness programs such as the StreetSmarts campaigns and flashing signs in school zones, safer road infrastructure, and rehabilitation programs for people injured in road crashes. The amendments make it clear that CDOP funds in excess of administration costs may also be applied to developing and implementing new or improved initiatives that enable improved road safety behaviours or practices. This may include adopting new approaches, innovation and more proactive measures.

This can include, for example, supporting working with road users, employers and community groups to motivate and influence safe road user behaviour through incentivisation through enabling participation, collaborating and sharing expertise, partnerships and undertaking proactive research. It may also include new and emerging targeted programs of work designed to reduce road trauma, such as: the trial and evaluation of distinct and increased drug driving deterrence, education and driver awareness programs; anti-hooping technology; and expanding the reach of the automated numberplate recognition technology program across the enforcement network.

Funding under this provision will also continue to be available for improving infrastructure, including applying infrastructure related technologies to improve safety on state controlled roads. Funding allocations will not be limited to where crashes have already happened. It will be able to be allocated proactively for sections of state controlled roads where crashes have not yet happened but where analysis shows a risk of serious crashes exists. Importantly, the allocation of infrastructure funds will be prioritised using a risk assessment methodology. The amendment also confirms that funding for programs or initiatives under this section may be applied for a limited term on an ongoing basis where proven effective thorough evidence based assessment by road safety experts. The use of CDOP funds may enable innovation and support being proactive and must focus on initiatives that will reduce the trauma happening every day on Queensland roads.

In terms of mobility reforms, this bill also includes positive changes for members of our community who rely on mobility scooters or motorised wheelchairs. Currently, the rules around use of mobility scooters and motorised wheelchairs apply mass and speed capability limits. When these rules were first applied, they reflected the range of devices available for purchase at that time and aimed to stop inappropriate devices being used.

However, with the development of devices outside of these limits to suit individuals with varied mobility and support needs, the National Transport Commission undertook a review of the regulation of motorised mobility devices. As a result of the NTC's recommendations, I am proud to implement changes into Queensland that will make it easier for people who need to use these devices to choose the device that best suits their needs. These changes will allow the registration and use of motorised



wheelchairs of any weight and mobility scooters up to 170 kilograms, aligning to Australian standards. These changes will assist people who require heavier and more powerful devices—such as when the user requires special equipment attached to the device—to better choose the device that best fits their needs.

Another road safety initiative in this bill relates to legal protections for health professionals who report on a non-Queensland driver licence holder's medical fitness to drive. Currently, section 142 of the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995 provides protections from civil liability and liability under an administrative process if a health professional, in good faith, reports on the medical fitness to drive of a patient who is a Queensland driver licence holder. However, the same protections do not currently apply if they report on a non-Queensland driver licence holder's medical fitness to drive. The amendments in this bill will ensure a consistent approach and provide the same protection for health professionals reporting on Queensland or non-Queensland driver licence holders.

The bill also includes minor amendments to the Transport Infrastructure Act 1994. The amendments clarify that TMR and authorised persons can undertake accommodation, or make good, works on land that has been affected by the establishment of a rail project.

Road safety is everyone's responsibility, and I urge everybody in this chamber from all parts of the state to do their part to promote road safety. It is a message that we need to get across and that we need to do a lot more on. We need all members to play their part in reducing road trauma. We all have credibility in our own communities and that is important to get this message across. I urge everyone to please support that. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.52 am): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.


Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Transport and Resources Committee

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Resources Committee.

## CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (11.52 am): I welcome the students in the gallery.

I present a bill for an act to amend the Casino Control Act 1982, the Casino Control Regulation 1999, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, the Collections Act 1966, the Gaming Machine Act 1991, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, the Keno Act 1996, the Lotteries Act 1997, the Wagering Act 1998 and the Wagering Regulation 1999 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[722\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[723\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[724\]](#).

The bill's primary intention is to strengthen casino regulation following unprecedented national scrutiny into casino integrity. To this end, the bill includes important amendments to Queensland's casino legislation to pre-emptively address public concerns about integrity within casino operations and ensure Queenslanders have confidence in our robust laws. The bill also seeks broader amendments to Queensland's suite of gambling legislation. For example, it seeks to modernise the gambling acts to provide regulatory agility and scrutiny, particularly around innovations such as cashless payment methods.

The bill improves the government's ability to consider and evaluate gaming technology and to ensure that innovations can be balanced with appropriate player protections. The bill also improves the government's ability to keep up with best harm minimisation practice in gambling environments. Finally, the bill amends the Collections Act 1966 to implement national cross-border recognition for the authorisation of charitable fundraising.

Recently, we have seen a series of independent inquiries across Western Australia, New South Wales and Victoria exposing widespread and serious integrity, compliance, governance and risk management issues at casinos operated by Crown Resorts Ltd. While Crown does not have a presence in Queensland casinos, allegations of a similar nature have been levelled against the Star Entertainment Group, which is, through its subsidiaries, the licensee and operator of the Brisbane and Gold Coast casinos and will also operate the new Queen's Wharf Brisbane casino. These allegations have resulted in the New South Wales government conducting an investigation into the operation of Star's Sydney casino property. A public inquiry established by the New South Wales Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority and chaired by Mr Adam Bell SC is ongoing and expected to deliver a final report by 31 August 2022.

The Queensland Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre, Austrac, are independently but collaboratively also investigating allegations against Star. The various regulator investigations into Star have not yet concluded, and the bill does not pre-empt or rely on outcomes of these investigations. The inquiries and allegations across multiple casinos and jurisdictions have already raised public concerns about the efficacy of state laws to effectively ensure casinos operate with the highest standards of integrity and accountability at all times.

The measures being introduced in this bill are proactive and have regard to the nature of the risks identified in the national casino environment. These measures include a number of crucial changes to the Casino Control Act that have been identified to immediately enhance oversight of casinos in Queensland. This sends a strong message about the standard of conduct both the government and the community expect of casino operators in this state. The proposed changes have been informed by an examination of the findings and key recommendations from other jurisdictions' completed inquiries.

The bill reflects that the ability to conduct casino gaming is a lucrative privilege bestowed only through licences issued by the state. It therefore applies appropriately stringent requirements on casino entities to enhance accountability and transparency in their dealings. It does this through a number of reforms.

Firstly, the bill imposes a new duty on casino entities and associates to comply with all reasonable requests made by the minister or regulator to do everything necessary to ensure that the management and operation of a casino is conducted fairly and honestly. The bill also proposes a new requirement for casino entities to self-report breaches of the Casino Control Act to the regulator as well as breaches of approved casino procedures and certain other obligations the casino entity may be a party to. A broad prohibition on providing false or misleading information is also proposed.

The bill addresses the currently limited options available to government in disciplining casino entities. The only meaningful disciplinary action currently available is action against the licence, casino lease or casino management agreement. However, suspension or cancellation of a casino licence or the termination of a casino lease or casino management agreement would have major impacts on innocent parties such as casino employees, local suppliers and the state. Accordingly, the threshold at which disciplinary action can be taken against a casino entity is fairly high.

To ensure there are other meaningful consequences for misconduct and breaches of the law by casino entities, the bill provides that the minister and Governor in Council can impose a financial penalty on a casino entity as a form of disciplinary action. The minister may impose a penalty of up to \$5 million, and the Governor in Council may impose a penalty of up to \$50 million. The matters which must be considered by the minister and the Governor in Council in arriving at the amount of a penalty and clarifications and enhancements to the grounds for disciplinary action are addressed in the bill.

Despite the bill providing for a financial penalty to be imposed on a casino entity as a form of disciplinary action, the bill does not change the power of the Governor in Council to cancel or terminate licences or agreements in circumstances where it is imperative in the public interest to do so. The bill also provides that the costs incurred by the chief executive in association with disciplinary action may be recovered from relevant casino entities. It is intended to encourage casino entities to more readily and accurately respond to disciplinary procedures and to discourage some of the behaviours attributed to some Crown subsidiaries in other states.

The bill also increases the maximum penalty for casino entities failing to observe the control system approved by the chief executive which provides the agreed procedures for the casino. The maximum penalty for a breach of the control system will increase from 200 penalty units to 400 penalty units. The maximum penalty for interfering with an inspector's duties will be increased from 40 penalty units to 160 penalty units. These reforms reflect the importance of control systems and inspector duties to the overall integrity of Queensland casinos.

The bill also expands the circumstances in which the minister or Governor in Council may issue a letter of censure to a Queensland casino entity and allows the government to publish the letter to enhance the public accountability of casinos to the people of Queensland. To reflect the complexity of modern casino operations, the bill expands the information-gathering powers of the regulator and responsible minister. It creates a broad power for the chief executive and the minister to seek information relevant to the administration of the act from a casino entity, or a person associated with a casino entity, and for that information to be provided on oath or affirmation if appropriate.

The bill also introduces the ability for the minister to direct a casino entity to engage and pay for an external adviser on terms decided by the minister. The external adviser will enquire into and report to the minister on any matter related to the operation of a casino or the conduct of a casino entity as well as other things. This is necessary because the complex breadth of casino operations may expand into territory that is beyond the specific expertise of a casino regulator.

The bill clarifies that the minister may, when considering the suitability of an entity associated with a casino in Queensland, take into account the findings of other state and Commonwealth investigations into the entity or a related entity, such as another subsidiary of the same parent company. This will include relevant findings by interstate inquiries.

The bill also removes a provision of the Casino Control Act deemed to be inconsistent with human rights and removes redundant requirements from casino employee licensing requirements.

In relation to the second intention of the bill, which is to modernise the gambling acts to improve regulatory agility, the bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's election commitment to examine a transition to safe, cashless gambling. The commitment recognises that the decline of cash has been accelerated by COVID-19 and that consumers increasingly expect the availability of non-cash options.

A transition towards more traceable electronic transactions may also have benefits in addressing some of the money laundering concerns identified in some gambling operations interstate. It was in fact a recommendation of the Finkelstein inquiry that Crown Melbourne be directed to phase out the use of cash for gaming transactions over \$1,000. Both Crown and Star have indicated a willingness to transition to cashless solutions. It is important to note that the bill does not facilitate instant, widespread cashless gambling in all gaming venues across Queensland. Rather, it ensures that cash alternatives can be considered for use in gambling and approved, if appropriate, by the chief executive under all gambling acts.

The bill also amends the gambling acts to provide where necessary a regulation-making power dealing with the methods of payment that may be used in connection with the gambling activity authorised by the relevant gambling act.

The bill establishes frameworks under which cashless systems and technology must be approved and made to undergo technical evaluation if considered necessary before their use in the gaming market. The bill clarifies that all gambling technology approvals issued by the chief executive may be subject to conditions. The bill provides the chief executive with a consistent, guideline-making power across the gambling acts which may be used; for example, to advise gambling providers of the chief executive's attitude towards the operation of cashless gaming and of what will be required in technical submissions.

In terms of cashless gaming technologies and procedures, the conditioning, guideline-making and harm minimisation measures in the bill will provide the government with the flexibility to ensure that existing measures reducing harm from cash gambling such as cash input limits and the requirement that larger wins cannot be accessed until the next trading period can be replicated or enhanced for non-cash gambling as required, even if the form of future payment methods cannot be anticipated.

To ensure that the harm minimisation objectives of each gambling act can continue to be applied to broader emergent technology and practices in regulated gambling industries, the bill also allows the Governor in Council to prescribe harm minimisation measures in a regulation. This will allow for a more responsive regulatory approach to future gambling innovations. To further modernise the gambling acts, the bill removes a requirement for gaming rules to be notified via gazette in favour of the department's website.

The bill's amendment of New Year's Eve gaming machine hours formalises an existing administrative arrangement that has been in place since 2000 by automatically providing that gaming on New Year's Eve may be conducted until 2 am on New Year's Day, regardless of the licensee's regular gaming trading hours. This practice aligns gaming trading hours with New Year's Eve liquor trading hours which are statutorily extended until 2 am on New Year's Day.

The bill seeks amendments to the Wagering Act to allow the state's exclusive wagering provider, Tabcorp subsidiary UBET Queensland Ltd, to conduct wagering on simulated race or sporting events approved by the minister. The amendment will allow Tabcorp to retire an existing virtual wagering product, Keno Racing, and seek approval of alternatives that are not reliant on the Keno draw.

Betting on virtual events will only be possible within bricks and mortar TAB agencies and outlets and the bill will prohibit the wagering licensee and its agents from taking bets on virtual products via telecommunications or online.

Finally, the bill addresses a national commitment to recognise registration with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as an authority to conduct fundraising in Queensland. Charities registered with the ACNC will no longer be required to apply for a fundraising authorisation in Queensland and need only notify the Office of Fair Trading of their intention to fundraise here. The proposal reduces red tape for charities wishing to operate in Queensland, including in a solely online capacity.

To ensure appropriate oversight, entities which obtain a deemed registration under the new model will still be subject to the conduct requirements under the Collections Act 1966. For charities which seek local registration, the bill also removes a little-used public objection process which will potentially speed up charity registration. The ability for the public to seek the removal of a local entity's registration post approval will remain. I commend the bill to the House.

### First Reading

**Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (12.11 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

### Referral to Legal Affairs and Safety Committee


**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Hart): Order! In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee.

## EVIDENCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 25 May (see p. 1393), on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (12.11 pm), continuing: Yesterday I was outlining the work that a police officer currently does when attending a domestic and family violence incident. First, they need to establish the context of the incident, the relationship of the parties involved, the incident that occurred and the identity of the person most in need of protection. To do this, police must separate parties and witnesses and obtain brief outlines and statements. While previously, depending on the level of threat at the scene, this could have been taken in a notebook or other recording device or, these days, a body worn camera, this recorded evidence was only sufficient to inform an officer's decision on what action to take next. In order for an officer to take further action by way of making an application for a domestic and family violence order or to investigate a breach of a domestic and family violence order or any other potential related criminal offence, the officer had to arrange for the victim to attend a police station to obtain a formal written Justices Act acknowledged statement.

It is quite possible that currently a victim may be afforded the opportunity to provide a 93A statement for this purpose, which is a far easier and quicker process than a typewritten statement. However, the likelihood that a current general duties officer, who does the bulk of domestic and family violence jobs, is ICARE trained to capture this statement is highly unlikely. This means that arrangements will have to be made for the victim to attend the police station for the purposes of obtaining a typed statement. In many cases this cannot happen at the time of the incident. It may be due to the lateness of the hour or the ability to get the victim back to a police station, particularly if there are children involved and the care of those children precludes a trip to the station. The police may also be tied up with processing or locating an offender. That means it has to happen at a later time, taking into account the availability of both the victim and the police officer.

This does mean there are delays in obtaining that statement, that vital evidence. This impacts on the officer's ability to progress an investigation, particularly where criminal matters are being investigated. Delay means that details may be lost because the victim's recollection decreases over time and also because after the initial incident, which was potentially quite traumatic, the victim again has to restate the entire event in fine detail to the officer and that becomes quite an invasive process. I do appreciate the provision in this particular piece of legislation to take the complainant's wishes into account in relation to whether the body worn camera statement provided to police at the time will be used later on.

One of the other things I want to comment on briefly is the training requirements and what training the police would receive. During my policing career I spent quite a lot of time developing training products. In my last posting at the domestic and family violence unit I was responsible for developing the statewide training package for the DV legislation that came out at that time. I can assure all members of the House that in developing these products, it is not just the police who are involved; other stakeholders also assist in developing that. When we talk about a trauma informed process, those who are involved in the sector and those who know about trauma informed practices are involved in putting together this training package.

In relation to the evaluation of this pilot, I can advise members of the House that QPS training packages and pilots have been evaluated numerous times by independent bodies. That may often be universities or other such organisations that have a special interest in domestic and family violence and also court related processes. I do look forward to seeing the evaluation of this pilot, much as we saw the evaluation of the pilots that were run in other states.

I do note some of the submitters within the legal fraternity were concerned about the idea that should a victim's body worn camera statement not be as emotive as another's—for example, if a victim was to give a clear, calm, considered statement—that may play against the victim. If that is the case, if that is what a judicial officer might take from a body worn camera, I would suggest that perhaps we need some more training for our judicial officers so they understand that no two DV incidents are the same, no two pieces of evidence are the same and it is complex. While I understand that the body worn camera footage that police will record might be quite emotive, quite graphic in some instances and contain language that might otherwise not be available to us in this House, not all victims respond in the same way because not all DV incidents are the same. I know we have had significant judicial training opportunities over the last couple of years. If police have to go through further training to understand and record these statements sufficiently, I certainly hope that our judicial officers who sit and weigh this piece of evidence also get the same amount of training.

The last thing I would like to touch on in this bill is in relation to the coroner's report into the death of Daniel Morcombe and the impact of the testing of human remains in criminal proceedings. The loss of Daniel Morcombe is obviously a touchstone point in Queensland history. Along with several other academy staff and hundreds of recruits, I was involved at the crime scene on the Sunshine Coast as we got on our hands and knees for weeks and months on end and scoured the bushland for human remains. I do know what it is like to be waiting and waiting to find just a little piece of a human remain that just might be the key to unlocking an entire criminal investigation. I do understand and I appreciate the work of the Morcombe family in making sure that this amendment is brought forward. I absolutely commend the work they have done. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart):** Before I call the next speaker, I remind the House of those members who are on a warning until 1 pm. They are the members for: Southern Downs, Toowoomba South, Burleigh—hopefully he is safe—Buderim, Cairns, Maryborough, Scenic Rim, Nanango, Broadwater, Kawana, Mudgeeraba, Bonney and Coomera.



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (12.19 pm): I rise to speak on the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill which seeks to support our force in major trials by giving them further powers to enforce their evidentiary commitment to making a place a safe place. I cannot begin to offer the expert advice that the member for Macalister would offer as a former serving police officer.

As a layperson, I would certainly support through this House any additions that give certainty to outcomes of criminal prosecutions, not only for the prosecution but also for the defence. Making it clear means that judicial officers on both sides have a clear pathway to determining a right and proper outcome as the courts determine the outcomes of these prosecutions.

The body worn camera changes in this bill will be of enormous assistance in obtaining direct and verifiable evidence. This has been the case with many other pieces of legislation that have come to this House; for example, relating to environmental officers. It makes sure there is a proper and definitive record of what has occurred, both for the people involved in the case before the courts and for the people pursuing a line of argument in their prosecution.

The member for Macalister referred to training, which is an enormously important aspect of any new addition to the service, particularly in obtaining information in the right and proper manner. It has to be stressed that the people who are involved in protecting us—the ‘thin blue line’, as it were—require the right training and need to be afforded the best opportunity to deliver their outcomes with certainty and credibility in the judicial process. That is another important part of this legislation that we are pleased to support. We support at all times the opportunity for our Police Service to have better outcomes in their objective of keeping Queenslanders safe.

We recognise the wonderful job that our Police Service does. We do not want to impose further impediments, making it more difficult for them to deliver on their processes; however, we certainly wish to assist in every way possible in terms of giving them the opportunity to bring about a better decision-making process in the pursuit of legal justice in this state.

The member made mention of coroners in relation to DNA evidence. I had the great fortune of having Assistant Commissioner Brian Wilkins on the Gold Coast; I think he has moved on from the service these days. He was instrumental in bringing the Morcombe case to a conclusion—to their great credit. One of disappointing aspects of that particular case was the public disclosure of how it occurred, mainly because it will affect future opportunities for the force as miscreants will be aware of some of the great processes that the Police Service thought up to bring that horrible case to a conclusion. I congratulate Assistant Commissioner Brian Wilkins on his initiative in that particular case, bringing forward the DNA evidence that resulted, without a doubt, in apprehending the miscreant behind that terrible crime.

I understand that the legal fraternity is a bit concerned about some matters, as the legal fraternity always is. That is their role in this life, unfortunately: everyone who comes before the court is innocent. It reminds me of the *Wizard of Id*, to be honest.

**Mr Nicholls:** It might have saved your bacon a few times!

**Mr STEVENS:** I take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. The lawyers of the world have a job to do; I respect that. As long as people keep paying, they will keep doing it. The fact of the matter is that they will have a lot more to work with, with the evidence that this bill allows them to gather. There will not be as many questionable decisions.

I refer to a matter that came before me when I was the member for Robina. The ‘justice crew’ from Bond University were adamant that a particular convicted killer in Surfers Paradise was innocent, mainly because he would not take his parole option. I was not totally convinced, because when we have a conviction in these matters it is supposed to be beyond reasonable doubt. This evidence will help put decisions beyond reasonable doubt. They were asking for new DNA testing of all the evidence. The parents of the girl killed in the toilets at Surfers Paradise were in South Africa and were terribly aggrieved over the whole situation. I did go to the attorney-general at the time; I think it was Cameron Dick. He agreed to do a retesting of DNA under our new testing regime. Guess what? The results came back confirming the previous results. A lot of people in jail say they did not do it—even in their own minds they did not do it—when they have done it.

The additional evidence we will gather as a result of this legislation will see us take a giant step forward in bringing a lot of matters to a conclusion. I support this bill 100 per cent. We support the agencies working collaboratively to bring about outcomes that are defensible in our judicial process—that is incredibly important—and counter the notion that people who did not do it might be in jail. We

might get a few more admissions from people who are in jail. The provisions in the bill relating to evidence, particularly in domestic violence and so on, will help bring about resolution of those matters. It is very important. I support the bill.



**Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (12.26 pm): As the member for Mermaid Beach said, it is always a pleasure to speak after the member for Macalister, because the way she speaks about subjects such as this is informative for the entire House. I rise in support of this very important bill today. In particular, I wish to speak about the changes that address the ability of adult victims of domestic violence to have videorecorded footage used as their primary evidence.

The change to this legislation pilots the use of body worn camera footage as the victim's evidence-in-chief in court for matters before Magistrates Courts in two trial locations. It will mean that victims will not have to live with the trauma of retelling their story multiple times and relive the trauma they have experienced. They will still have to attend the court and be subject to cross-examination.

The bill includes a range of safeguards designed to limit the trauma and protect the privacy of domestic and family violence victims. In addition, it requires the complainant's informed consent—that is really important—for statements to be taken by trained police officers like the member for Macalister. We are very proud of her work in this space in developing training modules to ensure that the 40-odd per cent of police work that involves domestic violence is as trauma informed as it can possibly be.

I will outline some of the other safeguards in the legislation. When determining whether or not to present the complainant's evidence-in-chief in the form of a recorded statement, the prosecution must take into account certain factors including, of course, the wishes of the complainant. Informed consent is absolutely critical.

There are limitations on the editing and altering of statements and there are strict provisions that limit the disclosure of copies of recorded statements, similar to provisions applying in relation to statements of children and persons with an impairment of mind under section 93A of the Evidence Act. Offences are also included relating to unauthorised possession, use and publication of those statements. QPS advise that the modelling shows there should be significant time savings for frontline police and significant benefits for victims of family and domestic violence, including that in most instances police officers will no longer need to take domestic violence victims from their homes back to the police station at all hours of the night to obtain a typed statement.

We have heard in the House before, and I said earlier in this speech, that domestic violence callouts comprise around 40 per cent of all police work. The impact of this pilot model on the hours that our police invest in this component of their work could be significant. The truth is that we cannot possibly know exactly how much it will affect the police workload. I think it is important to be clear that that is a welcome side effect rather than the primary purpose and intent of this change in the legislation. In my view, there will be a number of significant benefits to this trial and I, along with many other Queenslanders I am sure, will be eagerly awaiting the outcome of this pilot.

To give a little bit more detail about this pilot, the legislation allows for a 12-month pilot that will run simultaneously in two magistrates court locations: Ipswich and Southport. Further consultation will occur as part of the operationalisation of the pilot by the Queensland Police Service and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. The provisions in the bill apply to criminal proceedings for a domestic violence offence, which is defined to include breaches of a domestic violence order as well as other criminal offences such as an assault committed in a domestic violence context. The videorecorded statement is intended to replace the need to take a written statement. However, a written statement may still be obtained in certain circumstances, for example, if the complainant withdraws consent to the taking of the videorecorded statement.

The proposed legislative amendments do not bar a police officer from obtaining a written statement from the victim after a videorecorded statement is obtained should the victim recall further information or seek to clarify a matter in the video. Obtaining a clarifying statement and disclosing same to the defendant or the defendant's legal representative would ensure natural justice and procedural fairness is afforded to the accused. The rules of evidence also permit a prosecutor to seek further information from the victim during evidence-in-chief in furtherance of a videorecorded statement if it is required.


I chose to speak today on this particular aspect of the legislation because I know many survivors of domestic violence who have been retraumatised through the process of providing evidence in court, thereby having to relive one of the most cruel and devastating moments in their life. The current approach is not as trauma informed as it could be. It requires victims to relive this incredibly troubling and difficult moment in their life in front of an audience. We heard the member for Macalister beautifully

articulate the need to be a good victim, a victim who presents well and shows that trauma, and that in itself can be traumatising. In addition to reliving it, there is that pressure to relive it in a way that is even more draining and traumatising to the victim who is just trying to seek justice and redress.

To me, this trial is about so much more than just these two particular locations for domestic violence matters. This trial provides real hope that there could be a successful template to see if videorecorded evidence could be presented in other criminal matters. There are many victims of crime that could potentially benefit from this trial should it be successful and we are able to expand it. I have certainly had members of my community make representations to me that if this trial is successful they would be very keen to see it rolled out in future areas of the criminal justice system to ensure that victims of crimes right across Queensland, not just in these two pilot locations, have access to this excellent model of trauma informed police work and trauma informed justice.

Today is Sorry Day and I want to finish my contribution by paying my respects to First Nations people. Last year I had the privilege of reading a fantastic book about domestic violence: *See What You Made Me Do* by Jess Hill. Some members of this House may have read it. It is available in the Parliamentary Library. It is a fantastic overview of domestic violence in Australia today. I encourage all members of the House to read it. It has some excellent chapters about First Nations women in particular and the impact of domestic violence on them. I lend my voice to all of the members of this House in recognising this important day. I thank all members who were able to attend the Reconciliation Breakfast hosted by the Speaker.

As I have said, I think this piece of legislation is incredibly important. It potentially opens up a new frontier in trauma informed justice and redress for victims of domestic violence today, but in the future we could see this template applied far more broadly right across Queensland and I think that is absolutely wonderful. I commend our wonderful frontline police officers for the work they do. In my community of Mount Ommaney we have exceptional police officers who work incredibly hard when it comes to domestic violence matters and we are very lucky to have them. With those few words I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.36 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. From the outset I acknowledge the victims of domestic violence across Queensland, including victims of elder abuse, abuse within the family unit and coercion. I also acknowledge that this is not a gender-specific issue. I do not like the idea of anyone looking at domestic and family violence through a gender lens. It happens to transgender people, males, females and children.

A policy objective of this legislation is to establish a statutory framework that allows protection against the disclosure of the identity of journalists' confidential informants, known as shield laws. This provision will be introduced to ensure that journalists across Queensland come into line legislatively with other states across Australia to ensure protections are in place for them to do the important work that they do. Journalists should be able to have confidential conversations with informants to ensure good journalism. Making sure those protections are in place ensures that we have transparency in this state. It does not matter whether it is in a criminal investigation, what is going on within government or at a local level, journalists do an important job to keep the public informed and deserve this legislation.

There has been criticism in the House that this legislation does not go far enough. We should consider putting more protections in place in the future to ensure journalists can do the work that they do. The member for Mirani brought up the Julian Assange case and the fact that he is being held overseas for some of the work that he has done. Before the federal election, the incoming Prime Minister said that he would love to see Julian Assange released at some stage. Let us hope that he says something about the case of Julian Assange while he is overseas talking to representatives from the United States.


The bill introduces a 12-month pilot program to allow videorecorded statements from adult victims, taken by trained police officers, to be used as evidence-in-chief in domestic violence related proceedings. I think this will be very welcome not only as a tool that will be available to QPS officers but also to help alleviate some of the trauma for anybody involved in a domestic violence situation. Being able to use video evidence in a court room will mean that victims will not have to relive some of the pain they have experienced when being cross-examined in a court room. While I understand a number of defence lawyers may not be overly impressed with this change, I am assured that there are enough safeguards in the framework to ensure that the evidence given could not have been tampered with through editing and so on. Defendants also deserve a fair trial and we need to ensure that such evidence does not go against a fair trial. To that end, people will be keeping a very close eye on this over the next 12 months of the trial phase.



I draw the attention of the House to the provisions relating to the viewing and examination of the body of a deceased person. I believe this is part of the recommendations made by the coroner following the Daniel James Morcombe inquest. Holding a person's remains for a lengthy period can only create more anguish and pain for a family that wants to put their loved one to rest. I think it is good that the bill proposes tightening up the time frame in which a person's remains can be held to gather evidence. We also need to ensure that the appropriate testing is done to properly gather DNA and other evidence by the investigating officers and other people involved. It is very hard and very traumatic to resume a body and, of course, all evidence is gone once you cremate a body. We have to ensure that the right things can be done so that evidence is not only gathered but also preserved properly.

I turn to the provision within the bill that enables service as a magistrate in Toowoomba to be considered as regional for the purpose of a transfer decision under the Magistrates Act 1991. In my opinion and that of most regional Queenslanders, Toowoomba is not quite regional. I would hate to think that magistrates would say that Toowoomba was a regional duty. Regional Queenslanders consider Townsville, Cairns, Mount Isa and those sorts of places as regional Queensland. To think that Toowoomba will be lumped in with that is something that I have concerns about.

The KAP will not oppose the bill. I have brought up a number of things that we have concerns about. We will be looking closely at those things, especially the 12-month trial of the use of videorecorded evidence in criminal proceedings. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (12.42 pm): Today it is a pleasure to rise to speak in support of the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. There are a number of policy objectives within the bill that previous speakers have already covered. One of the really important parts of this legislation and one that has been discussed at length so far during the second reading debate is the introduction of shield laws that allow protection against the disclosure of the identity of journalists' confidential informants. The bill introduces a framework to support a pilot enabling videorecorded statements taken by trained police officers to be used as an adult victim's evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings. The bill contains provisions for a specific process for viewing and examining the body of a deceased person in criminal proceedings. This will implement the Queensland government's response to recommendation 2 of the *Inquest into the disappearance and death of Daniel James Morcombe*. The bill clarifies the operation of computer warrants in relation to bail. Finally, the bill will enable service as a magistrate in Toowoomba to constitute regional experience for the purpose of a transfer decision under the act.

The shield laws establish a really important legislative framework to ensure that journalists can more effectively fulfil their role as facilitators of communication and report on matters of legitimate public concern. The bill introduces a qualified journalist privilege in certain contexts to better protect the identity of journalists' confidential informants by creating a presumption against compelling a disclosure that would reveal the identity of the informant or allow the identity to be ascertained. The committee undertook considerable work into this matter.

I commend the committee on their report, which was tabled on 11 February. I was really interested to read the recommendations in the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's report No. 23. I was also quite surprised to come into this place yesterday and hear that the LNP had changed their position from that of those LNP members who sit on the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee such that they will be introducing amendments to the bill. In relation to the shield laws the shadow minister, the member for Clayfield, said—

While the LNP welcome this change, we believe it can go further, and we will be seeking to move an amendment to the bill to extend the operation of the shield laws to matters before the Crime and Corruption Commission.

In fact, the amendments were circulating at the time that the member for Clayfield made those comments. I was interested to hear that because, as I have said, I had read through the committee report but had not seen any mention at all from the LNP members of the committee that they supported such an amendment or thought it should be recommended. In fact, they did not even make mention of it in their statement of reservation. The member for Clayfield went on to say—

... there is no compelling reason advanced as to why the shield laws should not apply to hearings before the Crime and Corruption Commission.

...

We are still waiting for a statement from the Attorney about whether the shield laws will apply to matters before the CCC.

Not only had the Attorney-General made a statement when she introduced the bill; she had just preceded the member for Clayfield with commentary in relation to this particular point. She said—

The Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee has recognised the complexity of the existing privileges framework in the Crime and Corruption Act and recommended that the framework be reviewed. I can assure stakeholders that the government is committed to examining shield laws as part of this ongoing work regarding the operation of privileges under the Crime and Corruption Act. We need to ensure that the operation of any new privilege introduced into that framework is clear and effective. It is not simply a matter of amending this bill to remove the provision relating to the Crime and Corruption Act; we have to take the time to ensure we get the right approach and consult.

Speaking immediately before the member for Clayfield, the Attorney-General had just covered this point and had made it very clear that the government is, in fact, doing work on this topic.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** Absolutely. It was very interesting to then read page 18 of the report, section 2.1.7 'Committee comments—shield laws', which states—

Submitters supported the introduction of the proposed shield laws. However, submitters also supported the view that the laws should also apply to the CCC. Submitters acknowledged the Attorney-General's comments when the Bill was introduced that further consultation will be undertaken in relation to the CCC and that the government will be in a position to determine the most appropriate course of action in the first half of 2022. The committee supports the review proposed by the Attorney-General.

The committee, including members of the LNP, in fact supported that very review. It is there in black and white in the report.

If you turn to page 55 of the report you will find there the statement of reservation signed off by the LNP members for Currumbin and Glass House. It is not very lengthy or detailed and is only four paragraphs, but those paragraphs in no way speak to shield laws extending to the CCC. The context of this statement of reservation is actually around the pilot and the trial in relation to evidence-in-chief in terms of ensuring that we have trained police officers to take recordings. It was around getting clarity on an evaluation of a pilot, around independent assessment and around support for the people taking down those statements; it never once spoke to having amendments to shield laws for the CCC. After coming into this place yesterday—and after the LNP members on this committee entirely supported the approach of government both with their committee report and with no statement of reservation—it was alarming to find the LNP divided in that shadow ministers once again did not agree with committee members in relation to reports tabled in this place.

**Mr Power** interjected.


**Ms BOYD:** Contemptuous of committee members. I take that interjection. All too often, particularly around budget time, we are lectured to by those opposite around how the committee process is a farce and how it is not given due weight or due diligence. When the committee process is active—going through this legislation, examining these proposals—and when those opportunities are available to the members of the opposition, we do not see them capitalise on it. We do not hear them say, 'Hang on a second, we have a problem with this', or 'We do not think this goes far enough.' What we in this place see instead, not through statements of reservation or committee reports, is members of the shadow ministry saying to us, 'We know best.'

What we see from those opposite is around half an hour of meticulous mansplaining around how there should not be a democratic or orderly process by which people submit and those considerations given due consideration, where we can make proper findings and implement them from there. Instead it is, 'Here are my amendments to this bill,' with all of the commentary of, 'I think this is good. I think I know best.' It reminded me very much of the Strong Choices campaign that the previous LNP government ran where it wasted \$80 million of taxpayers' money telling people they know best.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms BOYD:** Those opposite take issue with this because they know it to be true. It is audacious.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr BERKMAN** (Maiwar—Grn) (12.53 pm): I rise to speak on the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Queensland Greens support this bill. Our view is that it does provide important and welcome reforms in relation to protections for domestic violence proceedings, shield laws for journalists and the implementation of recommendation 2 of the Daniel Morcombe inquest. Submitters have provided some important feedback on these issues. I will turn first to the shield laws.

As so many others said, the bill establishes a statutory framework to protect the identity of journalists' confidential sources. We describe these as 'shield laws'. The Greens strongly support those protections and see them as critical to a healthy democratic society and to the process of rooting out

corruption. Effective shield laws encourage sources to come forward and expose wrongdoings and abuses of power. We welcome the fact that the bill provides a function based definition of journalists which applies beyond paid reporters in news organisations and includes civilian journalists, bloggers and those engaging in journalistic functions on social media.

However, a concerning pitfall of this bill is the fact that it excludes the operation of shield laws in proceedings held by the Crime and Corruption Commission. I have also prepared and circulated amendments to ensure that the newly codified journalistic privilege does in fact apply to CCC proceedings. I table a copy of those amendments, the explanatory notes, and the statement of compatibility.

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, amendments to be moved by Mr Michael Berkman MP [\[725\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[726\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Michael Berkman's amendments [\[727\]](#).

Coincidentally, these amendments are identical to those amendments earlier circulated by the member for Clayfield and shadow Attorney-General. The proposed amendments can only be considered once under the standing orders. The shadow Attorney-General will do the honours of moving those amendments which we will unsurprisingly support in this instance.

I take a moment to consider the views expressed by some submitters on the exclusion of CCC proceedings from the shield law protections. First, I note that both the Bar Association of Queensland and the Queensland Law Society support the extension of shield laws to CCC proceedings. The submission from Australia's Right to Know coalition of media states—

The recent proceedings concerning "F" demonstrate how badly needed the privilege is both generally and specifically in relation to the CCC. If the shield does not apply to that body, journalists continue to risk being fined or jailed simply for doing their jobs.

Just to very briefly give light to the story of journalist F, this journalist refused to name their confidential source in a CCC proceeding. The Supreme Court decided that journalist F could not rely on public interest immunity. Even before we consider the protections afforded by shield laws, we know that the CCC can pursue and uncover confidential sources through the courts. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties in its submission stated—

... it is a classic illustration that people with extraordinary powers should not be exempt from supervision; they should have more supervision. The CCC, like any other body which has compulsive powers, should be required to demonstrate that the public interest outweighs the free speech interests of the journalist.

At the public hearing QCCL noted, again specifically in relation to the CCC, that—

It is a body with enormous power and a journalist should not be frightened of dealing with issues that it might be involved in and therefore threatened with the prospect of it being able to override an immunity which other bodies may not be able to.

Australia's Right to Know coalition, ARTK, also made some relevant comments in the public hearing—

The exemption of the CCC from the application of the bill is nonsensical as the shield is not absolute. The decision of whether the shield should or should not apply is made by a judge considering all the evidence and circumstances, and these decisions can and will be made to make that informed decision, including in the case of the Crime and Corruption Commission.

In addition to the public hearings and submissions, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General conducted consultation following the release of a discussion paper on shield laws. The survey results, as we have heard before, indicated that 94 per cent of survey respondents support the application of shield laws to CCC investigations. In its feedback on the discussion paper, QLS commented—this is very early in the piece—

While the CCC plays an important function in our society, shield laws should be considered to protect the identity of a confidential source in CCC investigations ... A court would act as a check and balance on this privilege and be able to hear reasons from the CCC as to why, in a particular case, the shield should be overridden.

These are clearly quite widely shared views and views that have been expressed from very early in this process. I acknowledge that the Attorney-General when introducing the bill confirmed that the application of shield laws to the CCC would be considered separately—we heard more about that just a moment ago—and that stakeholders would be consulted as part of this process. We also heard the Attorney-General's statement that the government will be in a position to determine the most appropriate course of action in the 'first half of next year'—that is, this year. The first half of this year is very nearly over—in fact, this is the final normal sitting week before we enter the new financial year—but we have scant information on any further action to this point.

As ARTK points out, if the shield does not apply to the CCC from the outset, journalists with confidential sources will remain at risk, which serves to undermine the entire purpose of these laws. Without shield law protection under CCC proceedings, the public may be deterred from speaking up and out to journalists about issues of integrity and government malpractice. If the government does not extend the shield laws to the CCC now, I am left with very real concerns that this reform could simply be put off indefinitely and may never happen.

I reiterate one final point made by the Human Rights Law Centre in its submission on the Justice and Attorney-General discussion paper. It said—

Concerns that this broad approach will hamper investigations are misplaced. Making the privilege universally available does not mean it will operate in all proceedings. In each case, a court may choose to abrogate the privilege if it is in the public interest. In our view, it is preferable to determine the application of shield laws on a case-by-case basis, rather than exempting entire classes of proceedings at the outset.

If anything, it is even more important to allow journalists to report on tip-offs about corrupt behaviour compared to other matters. Tip-offs from public servants about corrupt conduct, whether committed by public officials or by big corporations, should be protected by laws such as this. The CCC has an important function in fighting corruption, but sometimes sunlight is the best disinfectant. Giving the CCC close to a blanket power to reveal journalists' confidential sources will prevent sunlight from getting into some very dark corners.


Finally, with your indulgence, Mr Deputy Speaker, I put on the record that the Greens support the other reforms in this bill, including establishing a framework for a 12-month trial of the giving of videorecorded evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence proceedings. The objective of these reforms—that is, reducing trauma for DFV victims and survivors associated with retelling their experiences in court—is an incredibly important one. We see that the 12-month trial is an appropriate way to deal with concerns expressed about this. We further support the rest of the provisions relating to recommendation 2 of the Morcombe inquest. These are long-awaited reforms that we welcome.

Debate, on motion of Mr Berkman, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.01 pm to 2.00 pm.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

### Callide Electorate, By-Election

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): The Labor Party has absolutely given up on the bush. Despite the Premier saying that the Queensland Labor Party is all about the bush, I think the federal election result on the weekend shows otherwise. People have abandoned the Labor Party. They have abandoned the Labor Party in the city for the Greens and they have rightly abandoned the Labor Party in rural and regional Queensland—and so they should. Labor have a terrible track record in the bush.

We have the Callide by-election coming up. We are hearing the Labor Party are not even running a candidate in the Callide by-election. Imagine being a life member of the Labor Party who lives in Callide and not having a candidate who shares your values in this by-election. Shame on the Labor Party. Premier Palaszczuk has given up on the bush. She has given up on you. She has no respect for the bush. They cannot say, as the Premier does, that they represent the bush if they cannot even be bothered to stand a candidate in the bush. This side of the House—the LNP—love the bush. That is why we have selected Bryson Head as our candidate for Callide. He will be a great local member.

The Labor Party are running away from their record in the bush. They are so embarrassed. They are running away from their record on health. They are running away from their record on roads. They are running away from their record on agriculture and the resource industry. They are running away because they are embarrassed by their record—a record which includes maintenance backlogs in Central Queensland of \$1 billion alone. Over \$3 billion in Bailey budget blow-outs means that worthy road projects across rural and regional Queensland are delayed or cut.


In health, regional Queensland lacks access to basic services like CT scanners and birthing services. There are harrowing stories of women in the bush giving birth to babies on the side of the road because the Labor Party have closed maternity services in rural and regional Queensland. That is why they are running away from their record. They should be embarrassed by their record in the bush.

Is that why they are not running a candidate in Callide or can they not find a Labor comrade to run for them because of their bad record? We on this side of the House have Bryson Head. He will be a fantastic member. He will serve the community well. He is a local boy from the bush. He grew up on a farm north of Brigalow and lives in Chinchilla. He is standing to protect the agriculture, mining and trade jobs that are under threat from Labor Party policies. I say to the people of Callide: vote 1 Bryson Head—LNP.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order! The House will come to order. There must have been something good at the canteen today; we are all in a mood.

### **Cooper Electorate, Housing Development Application; Marist College**

 **Ms BUSH** (Cooper—ALP) (2.03 pm): I rise to update the House on a housing development application made in my electorate and to correct the public record about misinformation that has been circulated concerning the residents of four single-storey dwellings which have been purchased in order for this development to go ahead. If approved, this project will result in housing for almost 300 people in an area where people are urgently seeking accommodation.

This particular development has received media attention—focusing on the residents of the four properties who, according to media reports, are being evicted into homelessness. While the Brisbane City Council is the decision-maker in relation to development applications, I will always advocate that any proposed development meets our community's needs and expectations and that the rights of the people affected are upheld at all times.

I immediately visited these homes to meet with the residents and was relieved to learn that their situation had been misrepresented. What I discovered was that three of the four homes were in fact vacant, with residents having already found alternative housing. There was one remaining—Bernie—who was yet to have housing organised. When I met with him on 24 April, I was surprised to find out that his primary advocate was Woolloongabba ward Councillor Jonathon Sri, who Bernie has been talking to since about 1 April.

I immediately started working to try to find a housing solution, but it was only two days later that I finally received an email from Councillor Sri outlining Bernie's situation and requesting urgent assistance. The email, which I tabled, did not explain why he had taken 25 days to pass urgent information on to me or why Councillor Sri had found time to organise protests and media coverage but not to seek support to ensure Bernie had not become homeless.


*Tabled paper:* Email, dated 26 April 2022, from Councillor for the Gabba Ward, Brisbane City Council, Cr Jonathan Sri, to the member for Cooper, Ms Jonty Bush MP, regarding housing stability [728].

By the time this email arrived, the department of housing was already organising for Bernie to take the keys of a private apartment in his area—an amazing outcome, particularly when we have a housing shortage. Unfortunately, Bernie has rejected that offer on, what he tells me, the advice of Councillor Sri that they will be able to stop the development—an assurance I would say comes with a very high degree of uncertainty.

I would have loved the opportunity to work with Councillor Sri on finding a solution for Bernie. I have no idea what Councillor Sri's objective is here in advising a vulnerable, ageing, disabled single man to not accept a public housing offer. Protests and demonstrations are certainly an important part of a free society, but we have a duty to help those in our community who are in need. There is a risk that as politically passionate people with big goals we can sometimes lose sight of the basic duties. I would urge Councillor Sri not to fall into that trap.

While I am on my feet, I would like to give a shout-out and acknowledge the students from Marist College, in my electorate, and their teacher, Tara, for coming along to parliament today. It is great that they can be here.

### **Callide Electorate, By-Election**

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (2.06 pm): I have to ask one question: what is Labor scared of? What are they scared of and why are they not putting a candidate in the seat of Callide? What is going on? I represent a vast area of Queensland and I represent Barcaldine—the home of the Labor Party. Those 13 shearers would be rolling over in their graves because the Labor Party has abandoned regional Queensland.

The Labor Party started in regional Queensland because they wanted a fair go for regional Queensland. Now we have the Labor Party running from the seat of Callide. Why are they running from the seat of Callide? Let us test their policies? Let us test what they are doing in Queensland? Put a candidate in the seat of Callide.

What is going on in the Labor Party? Has the Labor Party abandoned Queensland? I think they have. Have they abandoned where they have come from? Yes, they have. They talk about the Tree of Knowledge. Those opposite go to Barcaldine to pay homage to the Tree of Knowledge, but they are not really from regional Queensland.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Apologies, member for Gregory. Member for Moggill, if you want to interject and involve yourself in the debate, you have to move back to your own seat. The same goes for any other member who is out of their own seat. If you are not in your own seat you cannot participate in the debate.

**Mr MILLAR:** I was on such a roll, Mr Deputy Speaker.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** And I apologise, member.

**Mr MILLAR:** Where was I? I was talking about the Tree of Knowledge in Barcaldine. There is a bit of a saying in western and regional Queensland that when cabinet goes out to Longreach or somewhere in regional Queensland that the only person who makes money out of their trips is the bloke at RM Williams in Queens Street. They get a check shirt, an Akubra hat, the moleskins and the shoes. He loves it. I think he monitors *Hansard* and what the Labor government says to find out when the cabinet is going out west and he puts the prices up. It is full price because Labor are going out west. We deserve better.

The person who is going to do a good job in Callide is Bryson Head. He is a young bloke who has a lot of ability. He is a cattleman himself. He is a geologist working in the mining industry. He has a big future being the representative for Callide.

I had hoped that Labor would give its local members out there—its local CFMMEU and AWU members—an opportunity to have someone they want to vote for. I was on the polling booth at Tieri and Blackwater and I can say that there is not a great amount of love for the Queensland Labor Party. The issues that come up are health, ambulance ramping, not being able to get elective surgery and not being able to see someone in the ED. They all think that Queensland Labor is failing them in health and education. How many teacher positions do we have vacant in regional Queensland?

**Mr Purdie:** How many?

**Mr MILLAR:** We have heaps. We have students out there not being able to complete the curriculum. I say to the people of Callide: if you want a person who is going to stand up for you and be true to you, Bryson Head is the man to vote for. He is a great man. Vote 1 Bryson Head.

### Herbert Electorate



**Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.10 pm): I start by acknowledging and congratulating the Prime Minister of Australia, Mr Anthony Albanese. It is fantastic to have a Labor Prime Minister—the very man who launched my campaign in Thuringowa back in 2014.

**Mr Saunders:** He has good taste.

**Mr HARPER:** He is a good man. I am looking forward to working with him in Townsville. I acknowledge the member for Herbert on his re-election. I want to explain what that now looks like for Townsville, as he is relegated to the backbench of the opposition. It means that the state Labor members will be the pseudo federal members working with the Albanese federal government to deliver on every single commitment that John Ring made—\$148 million in commitments that mean more jobs for Townsville. That is more than what Mr Thompson has been able to achieve in three years.

**Mr McCallum:** You'll be doing Thompson's job all the time.


**Mr HARPER:** We will be doing Thompson's job. With the federal member re-elected, what does that mean for Townsville? It means more of the same—more of blaming the state, more of blaming local government, more of playing politics. I ask the federal member: how are you going to deliver those commitments you made to community clubs and to organisations in your late three-week run-up to the election? You have let the people of Townsville down again because none of those will be delivered, and we know it.

As the pseudo federal members for Townsville, we will make sure that the \$22 million for Lansdown is delivered. We will make sure that the \$32 million for the NQ Spark industry-leading program is delivered. We will make sure that the \$70 million for the hydrogen hub in Townsville is delivered. We will make sure that the \$4.5 million for The Oasis Townsville is delivered. We will make sure that the \$2.5 million for the arts precinct at TAFE Queensland is delivered. We have to do that because we now have a situation in Townsville where the federal member has been relegated to the backbench of the opposition.

**Mr Saunders:** He'll take all the credit.

**Mr HARPER:** No. He cannot deliver. He has already let down the people of Townsville with the Houghton pipeline project stage 2—\$195 million. It is going to be us who make sure that every single one of those commitments are delivered. I thank John Ring, the candidate for Labor, up there. He has delivered more in commitments, and we will make sure that we deliver every single one of them. They will mean hundreds of jobs—thousands of jobs with the Lansdown industrial precinct and particularly around the hydrogen hub in Townsville. I say to the people of Townsville: look to your Labor members. We will make sure that we deliver. We now have a federal member who is incapable of delivering anything for Townsville.

### Business Basics Grant Program

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (2.13 pm): What a mess the Business Basics grant program turned out to be. First the website crashed minutes after going live. Then two weeks later the website opened again but, despite the assurances of the Minister for Small Business, things just got worse. Small business owners logged on at the time advised by the state government—9 am—only to find a virtual queue. It turns out that the online queue had been created without being advertised, putting thousands of small business owners at a disadvantage from the outset.

It begs the question: was there preferential treatment for some small business owners? Were some businesses told but not others? Because of that queue, the grant allocation was exhausted within two hours—two hours. Anyone halfway through their application was simply cut off.

My phone blew up and my email blew up. I know that many of my LNP colleagues were also getting calls from upset businesses in their electorates, as were electorates like Pine Rivers and Bulimba. I am sure more than one Labor backbencher was on the receiving end of some angry emails from small business owners that I was cced into—like the member for Bancroft and the member for Ipswich West. Small business owners were and still are angry, disheartened and confused by this dodgy process.


Claire from Buderim told me that she was not after a guarantee of receiving a grant; she just wanted a fair go to achieve it. She wanted to submit her application after spending weeks of planning and have it considered. Sarah from Ipswich got in touch. She said that she has a struggling small business and is the sole money earner for her family. She said grants like this are vital, not just for her business but for her family who rely on the growth of her business.

There are many stories like these—of struggling small businesses who just wanted a fair go—many who barely survived the pandemic lockdowns and more recently the widespread flooding. They desperately needed these grants to rebuild but, as usual, this government is all about the photo-op and it forgets about the follow-up. The minister dropped the ball, and it is small businesses who pay the price.

This is not the first time that a business grants program has been bungled. This is the fourth one and they have all been bungled. Business support was sluggish to be rolled out during the lockdowns and border closures and, to be fair, it was totally inadequate. Many small businesses did not qualify for financial support despite being the ones who needed it most.

This state government needs to take a long hard look at the process it uses to roll out support to businesses across Queensland because it is not working. Small business owners deserve better than to spend months preparing an application just to have it disregarded because the process and the website is not up to scratch. The minister owes it to small businesses—maybe her employer in years to come—to do better.

### Beachmere Road, Upgrade

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (2.16 pm): I have some great news today. Beachmere is an awesome township in my electorate, and I have some fantastic news for them today. Two things unite the people of Beachmere: the first is that they believe Beachmere is the best town in the world and the second is that they all want Beachmere Road upgraded to get them home sooner and safer.

Well before I was elected, Beachmere locals asked me to advocate for their road to get a much needed upgrade. That is why I went to the 2020 election with a \$7.775 million commitment to improve Beachmere Road, starting with three-quarters of a million dollars for community consultation and link planning.

Beachmere Road is nine kilometres long. It carries over 6,500 vehicles a day. It is a key connection. I was always very clear that my \$7.775 million would not do all of the work that Beachmere Road required. It would deliver important safety upgrades, but it was never going to fix the whole road.

Community consultation duly began in 2021, and locals' response to that consultation was unprecedented, with over 500 community members having their say. They told TMR that their priorities were road surface upgrades, shoulder widening and better safety. At the end of the day, Beachmere Road needed more work than my \$7.775 million commitment would cover. Today that is about to change!

I worked really hard to advocate for bigger and better upgrades to Beachmere Road, so today I am delighted to announce that our Palaszczuk government will double the funding from \$7.775 million to \$15.275 million so Beachmere Road can be upgraded all the way from Bribie Island Road to Biggs Avenue. I know that will be enormously welcome news for residents of Beachmere.

We are doubling funding for Beachmere Road to build Beachmere locals a nine-metre wide road all the way from Bribie Island Road to Biggs Avenue to get them home sooner and safer. That extra money will install a wide centre-line treatment along the length of Beachmere Road to provide a visual barrier separating oncoming vehicles, offering guaranteed safety benefits.

The extra funding also means that we will be able to build dedicated right-turn lanes at the intersection to Riversleigh Road and at the entrance to Monty's Marina to increase safety for drivers heading eastward towards Beachmere. It will also resurface Beachmere Road from Jocelyn Street to Egan Avenue so residents get a smoother, safer drive.

I thank Minister Bailey for always accepting my somewhat persistent advocacy on this matter and for really listening to the people of Beachmere about what they needed. I am so proud that our Palaszczuk Labor government is doubling our funding for Beachmere Road so Beachmere locals get their road upgraded from start to finish.

### Floods, Recovery Assistance



**Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.19 pm): Many members have discussed the impact of the recent floods on Queenslanders. We need to look at what we are doing between flood events to reduce the long-term impact on our environment and build the resilience of our communities, particularly because we know climate change will make these events more frequent and severe.

Today I want to raise the story of Bonita from Chambers Flat. In 2013 she bought her dream property right where the Logan River meets Norris Creek. Bonita thought she would retire there amongst the trees with her sheep and gardens and beautiful German-style home. Unfortunately, in the 2017 floods the river rose 26 metres and inundated her entire property, leaving only her house on a dry raised pad. There was severe erosion of her section of riverbank. Bonita initially went to the Logan council for support. She got 50 *Lomandra* plants to put along the riverbank to thicken the undergrowth. At this stage, she was not aware that the government was responsible for the riverbank. Those plants, and more, of the bank washed away in the 2021 flood event.

I have been out to Bonita's property following the most recent floods, and the riverbank is completely destroyed. There are enormous chasms as more and more land gets sucked out into the Logan River. She has already had one large blue gum fall into it. Another has had all of the land slip from underneath it, so it is only a matter of time before it goes too. Bonita has also lost sheep in the river, and her partner almost lost his life when the land began to slip beneath him while he was on the ride-on mower.

Bonita reached out to her local MP, the member for Logan, who came to visit. She tells me she did not hear back from him for months, but when he came out again this year the advice Bonita says he gave to her partner was, 'Just sell it to someone from down south who doesn't know what it looked like before.' This is certainly not a solution. I find this claim, the suggestion that a government MP mislead a potential buyer, absolutely staggering.

**Mr POWER:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. No. 1, that is completely false and misleading. I also take great personal offence—great personal offence—and ask the member to withdraw that disgusting slur.



**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): If you believe a matter is misleading, there is a process to deal with that. I am sure you are aware of it. Member for Bonney, the member has taken personal offence and asks that you withdraw.


**Mr O'CONNOR:** I withdraw. That was a direct quote from a constituent.

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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The withdrawal needs to be unqualified. That does not satisfy the standard for an unqualified withdrawal. I ask you to withdraw in an unqualified manner.

**Mr O'CONNOR:** I withdraw unreservedly. I also wrote to the minister for the environment and the Deputy Premier last October about this issue but have so far received no response. Bonita has now made the difficult decision to put her name down to have her house resumed. Investing in proper revegetation and upper catchments will be worth it; not just for people like Bonita but also our environment. Healthy Land and Water tell me it would be three to five times cheaper to do preventative work to shore up our banks rather than deal with the inevitable recovery costs. We need to do better to build resistance in ecosystems to make sure there is less chance of a tragic situation like Bonita's happening to any other Queenslanders.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Regional Development

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.23 pm): I have no sympathy for the member for Bonney's crocodile tears on the environment when his party never acts on the environment. It has to be pointed out that—

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Theodore!

**Mr BAILEY:**—they do not even have a renewable energy policy, no climate policy—

**Ms Farmer** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member for Bulimba!

**Mr BAILEY:**—and they come in here with crocodile tears for the environment—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Bulimba, member for Bonney and member for Theodore, you are under a warning.

**Mr BAILEY:** I will get to my main point. In replying to the member for Kawana, it is always a relief when he is not wearing a stuffed toy on his shoulder. He has not learned much if he is suggesting that regional Queensland is in any way neglected by this government, which again won seats right across regional Queensland at the last election—member for Bundaberg, member for Hervey Bay, two members on the Sunshine Coast—because this is a government that looks after regional Queensland. Roma Hospital, built by Labor; Kingaroy Hospital, built by Labor; road stimulus and not cuts, Labor. When those opposite were in power they cut the road budget by \$1.6 billion. Trains are made in regional Queensland and not overseas, unlike when those opposite were in government. If they got the chance they would do it again.

Who worked with the ag sector on the dingo-proof fence? It was the Palaszczuk Labor government. There is \$100 million worth of sealing coming as part of the stimulus works, including Warrego Highway upgrades, Dawson Highway upgrades and Bruce Highway upgrades, including more commitments from the new Albanese Labor government. When it comes to looking after regional Queensland, we know the LNP is all talk and no action. In fact, they are anti regions. We might remind them of that. Mr Deputy Speaker, do you remember Strong Choices? You do not ever hear the other side say those two words, do you? They were trying to sell off the Townsville port. They tried to sell off the Gladstone port. They tried to sell off all of the power stations in regional Queensland to the highest bidder. The people of regional Queensland said, 'Not for sale!'

Let's not have any rewriting of history. The fact is that the former member for Callide was treated very badly by those opposite. They shunned him in the party room. They wanted to get rid of him and they succeeded. It is not that he was very talented. At estimates he had four hours to ask me a question and he did not ask me a single one. I look forward to his mute and voiceless approach continuing in Canberra. He had a massive swing against him in Flynn. It is now one of the most marginal seats in Queensland. We will see how he performs. This is a government that looks after regional Queensland and invests in regional Queensland. We do not sack regional public servants either. We will always look after regional Queensland. That is at the core of our Labor values.

### Regional Queensland, Road Infrastructure



**Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (2.26 pm): People across south-west Queensland have suffered as a result of the neglect of the Palaszczuk Labor government and recent natural disasters. Roads have been under water; bridges, culverts and approaches have been washed out and pavements are saturated. Local governments have had their resources stretched by emergency repairs trying to get the bridges and roads open. Sadly, these roads had suffered from the Palaszczuk Labor government's neglect prior to the onset of the wet season. The estimated deferred maintenance backlog for the Darling Downs and south-west region as at 30 June 2021 had risen to \$1.3 billion. The Darling Downs and south-west have the biggest backlog of deferred maintenance of any region in the state.

This Palaszczuk Labor government has sat on its hands when it comes to addressing the backlog in this region. Not only does the region have the highest backlog but also has some of the highest number of road deaths. The RACQ rated the state's worst electorates for road deaths, and those electorates are in the Darling Downs and south-west region. Callide, Southern Downs, Condamine and Warrego all rated in the top 10 for road fatalities. The electorate of Callide tops the list. I know that the LNP candidate, Bryson Head, drives on those roads. He has been fighting for better roads in Callide. I look forward to joining him in our fight for better regional roads.

There is a pattern here: a lack of road investment and a high number of road fatalities. In contrast to the neglect of the Palaszczuk Labor government, there were good commitments from the former coalition to roads in the region, such as the \$8 million for the Warri Gate Road in the Bulloo Shire. That was a particularly hard fought for commitment. The state Labor government ignored the council's requests. There was: \$24 million for the Bollon Road and other strategic bitumen extensions in the Maranoa; a \$230,000 upgrade to the Mitchell-Bollon Road in the Balonne Shire; and a \$3 million allocation for the Cracow Road upgrade in Banana Shire in the Callide electorate. I call on the federal Labor government to honour these commitments, as it will be diabolical for people. More people will die. Councils will find it very difficult if these commitments are not honoured. I will continue to fight, and I know that Bryson Head, the LNP candidate for Callide, will also fight for better road funding for the regions. The road toll clearly demonstrates that this should be a higher priority for both state and federal Labor governments.

### Ipswich West Electorate, Shows



**Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (2.29 pm): It is show season in Ipswich, and today I would like to thank those people who make these wonderful events possible. I always have a stall at my shows, and it is a great chance to catch up with friends and make new friends. Not only is it an opportunity for families to jump on a sideshow ride, see livestock up close or eat a dagwood dog, but each of my shows has something unique about them.


Our shows would not be possible without an army of volunteers. I cannot name them all, but I would like to take this opportunity to thank the show society members. The Marburg Show was held on 7 May and I would like to thank the Marburg Show Society committee: president, Ross Buchanan; secretary/treasurer, Sue Kunde; vice-presidents, Barb Frohloff, Shane Rogers and Lynda Roelandtsd; and committee members, Gaven Anderson, Gail Schelbach, Ann-Marie Frohloff and Heather Lehmann.

The Ipswich Show was held from 13 to 15 May. With my stall, my neighbours included the members for Ipswich, Bundamba and Blair. I would like to thank the hardworking executive members of the Ipswich Show Society: president, Darren Zanow; senior vice-president, Denise Hanly; junior vice-president, Andrew Cooper; treasurer, Paul Casas; assistant treasurer, Theo Woollett; and committee members, Russell Haag, Keith Lewis, Laurie Mundt, Jillian Pattinson, Dr Chris Raymont and Rita Walton. The member for Bundamba did the acknowledgement of country at the opening of the show and honorary life memberships were presented to Jillian Pattinson, Mary Harm, Kathleen Hillan, Damian Newsham, Matthew Sharpe and Steven Green—all very deserved recipients.

The Rosewood Show will be held on 24 and 25 June. It is always a great show, and I would like to thank the Rosewood Show Society: president, Craig Christensen; secretary, Kate Hillan; treasurer, Renea Lenihan; and committee members, Harry and Sharyn Exelby, Margaret Offer, Adrienne Holzapfel, Mary and Trent Harm, Heather Knowles, Lynda Collins, Patrick Lenihan Sr, Burnie Lenihan, Mary Bryant, Dos Claus, Patrick Lenihan Jr and the Shepperton family.

When we talk about shows in Queensland, we must talk about our premier show, the Ekka—or, to give it its full title, the Royal National Agricultural and Industrial Association of Queensland show. The Ekka plays an important role with Queensland agriculture. One example of this was in 1886 when the Queensland Beekeepers' Association was formed under a canvas tent at the Ekka. Today I proudly wear an RNA tie, and I wish the RNA association all the best for a great show in 2022.

### Palaszczuk Labor Government, Integrity

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (2.32 pm): The integrity inferno under this tired third-term Labor government continues to blaze. Only a royal commission will get to the bottom of the growing list of integrity scandals dogging a state government that is more concerned with how it looks rather than how things are. Labor Inc, under the rule of the Premier, are a government for their mates by their mates and not for Queenslanders.


This week the Palaszczuk government's obsession with secrecy has reached a new low. Seven years ago, the Premier promised Queenslanders she would be open and transparent. Clearly, she has changed. This week the Premier refused to release how much taxpayers are paying to cover the legal costs of her former deputy, Jackie Trad. As revealed by the opposition, the disgraced former deputy premier is seeking to suppress a Crime and Corruption Commission report from being released to the public. Taxpayers are paying for Trad's legal fight to suppress the information. Queenslanders deserve to know how their money is being spent.

The Premier was asked in parliament to explain why her government is protecting Jackie Trad. On multiple occasions, the Premier chose to defend Jackie Trad instead of listening to Queenslanders. Jackie Trad's skiing partner, the Attorney-General, Shannon Fentiman, should, as Queensland's first law officer, put transparency ahead of her misguided loyalty to Jackie Trad. Even the CCC says Queenslanders have a right to know. The days of openness and transparency under this state government are dead. This Labor government is using and abusing its majority numbers on parliamentary committees to hide information, to stop public scrutiny and to bury the truth, rather than to champion transparency. It is disgraceful.

Then there was the shameful raid on the Integrity Commissioner's office. We have heard of allegations of a black ops unit within the Premier's department and office, going after and background briefing against the Integrity Commissioner of Queensland because this Integrity Commissioner had the courage to stand up and fight for integrity. What happened to her laptop though, which was raided from her office and apparently wiped? What was on the laptop? Why is this government so desperate to try to hide these issues? These matters need a royal commission, they need to be appropriately brought out into the public and they need to be addressed.

*(Time expired)*

### Veterans Community

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (2.35 pm): On a positive note, as the assistant minister for veterans' affairs, I congratulate the incoming Albanese government. I look forward to working with them in the veterans space. They will get some great outcomes in Queensland for veterans and their families. As the opposition spokesman, Shayne Neumann was able to secure some fantastic veterans commitments, and I very much look forward to seeing them roll out. These ranged from staffing to veterans hubs and increased payments—a really comprehensive package.

They have committed to cutting waiting times and the backlog of compensation claims by funding 500 additional staff at the Department of Veterans' Affairs to speed up claims processing. This is the very issue that the previous minister, Andrew Gee, threatened to quit over on the eve of the last federal budget, so I am really pleased to see this being addressed. They will abolish the departmental staffing cap which has stopped DVA from hiring more well-trained permanent staff to process claims faster. I have often heard from the veterans community of their difficulty dealing with contractors rather than full-time staff when they are waiting for an outcome to their claims, so this is a very positive step.

They will also roll out a network of 10 veterans hubs across Australia in areas with significant defence and veterans communities, including two in Queensland—one in Ipswich and one in the Moreton Bay and north Brisbane region. These hubs will act as one-stop shops for local veterans services, including health and mental health services, wellbeing support, advocacy, employment and housing advice, and social connection. Of course, these are building off the success of the Oasis in Townsville. As the pilot project in Queensland, we provided over \$5 million in funding to set that up in the electorate of the member for Mundingburra. I know every member in Townsville is a regular visitor to that centre.


**Mr Harper** interjected.

**Mr MELLISH:** I take that interjection from the member for Thuringowa. The federal Labor government will be boosting home ownership for defence personnel and veterans by expanding the eligibility criteria for the Defence Home Ownership Assistance Scheme. Importantly, they are increasing

the totally and permanently incapacitated veterans pension. This is a \$1,000 permanent increase in the annual rate of the TPI payment for eligible disabled veterans. That will go a long way. They also have some other fantastic initiatives, such as expanding the veterans employment program and more emergency housing for veterans experiencing homelessness through their Housing Australia Future Fund. That ties in well with our efforts in this area.

Last but not least, they are providing additional support for the veteran-led disaster response organisation, Disaster Relief Australia, which does a fantastic job. They are almost doubling its ranks of veteran volunteers to more than 13,000. I look forward to working with the incoming Albanese government on these initiatives. We will get them done. I think veterans space is a good area where different state jurisdictions and the federal government work well together. I look forward to seeing these initiatives and more roll out in the coming years.

### Regional Queensland, Health Services; Rail Network

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (2.38 pm): I rise initially to speak about the crisis we are facing in Queensland's health sector. It was bad before the pandemic started; now it is unbearable and is more acute in those remote areas, many of which I represent. If you are waiting to see a speech therapist in my area, there are 1.8 FTE speech pathologists catering for 22 schools in the north-west district. There are 10 speech therapists spread over seven organisations, and there is a six to 12-month waiting list.

I know of one mother in Cloncurry who had her kid enrolled. There were about 22 kids waiting for speechies and OTs in Cloncurry. They were being seen every 10 to 15 weeks but had funding for once every two weeks. That is not very nice. My sister in Brisbane gets interaction with those almost every day. They are the sorts of options you get here in Brisbane. If you want to live in Cloncurry, you will get one every 10 weeks. How would you like that? It is not enough.

**Ms Boyd:** They can't get staff.


**Mr KATTER:** If they cannot get staff, that is someone's problem. That is what the government should be focused on—not on the Olympic Games and not on \$250 million for satellite hospitals down here in the south-east. Is that your priority? I think these are the priorities. These are things you need to be looking at.

We have a GP shortage. There should be about 20 in Mount Isa; there are about eight. Try dealing with that. We do not have a doctor in Doomadgee, Mornington Island or Normanton hospitals at the moment. Patients are being transferred by the Royal Flying Doctor Service to Townsville and Cairns, where there are shortages as well. These are big problems. They are not going away. They were there before the pandemic and they are worse now. They need to be dealt with. I admit that some of these things are federal issues as well, but the state cannot walk away from its responsibilities here. There are no CT scanners, and renal patients are still awaiting dialysis services. These are terrible issues!

The last thing I want to talk about is cattle rail in my area. There was a tender awarded to Watco. Aurizon has been the operator for years. They were the legacy owner of the state owned assets. I heard the Treasurer this morning talking about asset sales and retaining electricity assets. Bully for you, except you forgot to mention that you sold the rail assets. Aurizon's CEO is now paid close to \$5 million a year. That role used to be filled by a director in the department who was paid presumably \$400,000 to \$500,000. Then we could not afford to employ all these people in the towns that I represent. That has killed the economies of a lot of these towns.

Now we are complaining about Aurizon, a legacy purchaser of those assets, not giving them over to the new owners. These are the problems you face when you sell these assets. Community infrastructure should be shared. There is no obligation on a private operator that has paid for something to share it with future successful tenderers. That is one of many problems created when you privatise these assets. Shame on the government for selling that. It has been a terrible legacy of the Labor government.

### Bees

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (2.41 pm): This year we celebrated 200 years of beekeeping in Australia and last Friday we celebrated World Bee Day. If ever there was an animal that deserved the enormous honour of having a day dedicated to it for its importance to our lives, it is the little bee.

Bees are essential to our existence. Every time you put a piece of fruit in your lunchbox, have vegetables or salad on your plate, have toast and honey for breakfast or put flowers in a vase, bees can be thanked for their contribution. More than one-third of food crop production relies on the humble bee. They therefore play a critical role in Queensland's agriculture industry. Thankfully we have a thriving bee industry in Queensland to help feed us and fill our shelves. That industry is served well by the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, which I was pleased to host at parliament earlier this week. I pay tribute to secretary Jo Martin and the new president, Jacob Stevens.


Honey and honey products are certainly a sweetener to Queensland's economy with a value of over \$64 million. The Premier knows how sweet her electorate is, thanks to Capilano honey. If you have not tried Queensland's very own macadamia nut honey, you have not lived. I can highly recommend it in a cup of Queensland green tea.

Our bees produce incredible honey. They also help farmers across our state and interstate to pollinate crops and trees. Queensland Beekeepers' Association estimates Queensland pollination services provide over \$2 billion of economic value to Queensland. Crops dependent on pollination by our bees include mangoes, blueberries, almonds, macadamias and pumpkin, just to name a few.

While it seems like it is all honey and roses, Biosecurity Queensland and the industry need to beware of the diseases that threaten our bees and our industries. Varroa mite poses one of the biggest biosecurity threats to bees. It has devastated beehives and industries across the world. Thanks to scientists at Biosecurity Queensland and the bee industry, we have managed to eradicate it. We still need to be vigilant against disease. My department continues to work with industry to ensure the safety of our bees.

I would like to acknowledge all of the beekeepers in Queensland for their work in highlighting the importance of the bee. I have been encouraged by the president to come out to Warwick towards the end of budget week to be involved in the ironman bee exercise in that endeavour. Without bees, all of human existence is threatened; we cannot survive without them.

### Net Zero Emissions

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (2.44 pm): The government has put Queensland on an accelerated course for net zero by 2050. In doing so, it has made statements that are rarely explained or backed by evidence. There is a complete absence of proper cost-benefit analysis of the energy transformation needed to get to net zero—not one that stands up to scrutiny at least.

**Mr Molhoek:** Bye hospitals. Bye schools.

**Mr ANDREW:** I take that interjection from the member. The whole of Australia is already feeling the growing cost of net zero policies and investment by the government, yet processes have barely begun. Change on this scale should be subject to broad public debate, not forced onto people by green ideologues and insiders, which is what is happening. Policymakers should be honest and open with the Queensland public about how much all of this will cost them and how much it will radically alter their lifestyles, their finances and their jobs.

For Queensland to have a net zero emission economy by 2050, the following will need to be achieved: transport will have to be completely electrified; industrial and domestic heat will have to become fully electrified; and the electricity sector—generation, transmission and distribution—will have to be greatly expanded in order to cope with the tsunami of demand that it will be hit with.


In terms of electricity alone, the Queensland grid will need to be almost three times bigger by 2050. Every home and building in the state will have to be rewired, as will street distribution and local substations. The mains fuse will have to be upgraded and local substations expanded enormously. The cost of electricity will increase exponentially in order to repay all of these major capital costs over the lifetime of the assets. It is also going to take an extraordinary amount of land to develop renewables up to a capacity where it can match fossil fuels. No matter how many trillions you pour into the problem, land is and always will be a finite resource. The overall land footprint needed for solar farms in Queensland could end up being the size of the state's entire protected area network. The public has no idea what will be involved in terms of land use that will be needed to develop the utility scale renewables structures that will be needed. By the time they realise it, it will be too late to go back.

Solar and the wind farms alone will eliminate farmland and vegetation forests and disrupt natural habitats. Add biofuel to the mix and pretty much all your good land will be gone. However, all this is just a tiny fraction of the costs that will be involved at both state and individual level. Net zero means a complete transformation of this state and country. We are facing 30 years of intense social and

economic disruption, greatly diminished living standards and putting the state under a command economy. Governments are not being honest with Australians. Net zero is an idea that you could only believe is possible if you have no idea how the energy economy works and—

*(Time expired)*

### Education

 **Mr POWER** (Logan—ALP) (2.47 pm): While studying at Griffith University I read the book called *Making the Difference*. It recognises the difference that a great school and great teachers can make to young lives. It really inspired me as a high school teacher of English, history and Japanese. It taught me that teaching was not only about imparting facts or learning Japanese characters or vocabulary but also about making a difference, overcoming equality and social disadvantage. That is why as a teacher I got involved with the Labor Party and that is why I am so passionate about the great schools and teaching in Logan.


One of the reasons I was so determined to stand for election in 2015 was that I saw that the LNP was not meeting the demands of Logan students. We all know that the LNP cut investment in education, but one would think that in an area growing so much in population the LNP would have invested in new schools. Unfortunately, there were no new schools at all during the LNP's time in government. One would have thought that there would at least be new classrooms invested in for Logan but, unfortunately, during the LNP's time in government there were no new classrooms in Logan.

This Labor government is investing in education in Queensland. We are investing in education in Logan. Earlier this year we saw the opening of the new primary school at Everleigh in Greenbank. That opening was attended by the member for Jordan and the Minister for Education. Recently we had the really exciting event of turning the first sod at the new school at Yarrabilba. We saw apprentices and workers on the building site. There are already more than 1,000 students at the existing Yarrabilba State School.

It is quite clear that we are investing. We are investing in the classrooms that our growing area needs. Air conditioning has already gone into all classrooms and there are also solar panels going in that will actually reduce the bills for schools.

We know that LNP cuts hurt growing areas like Logan. It might not be as bad for established areas like the member for Moggill's where they perhaps already have all the schools they need. However, for growing areas like ours those cuts really cause damage. That is why Logan cannot afford the LNP, who will make further cuts to education and will not build the classrooms, schools and education we need. That is why I will continue to fight to make a difference for Logan so that we can have the resources for our students that we need.

### Angels Kitchen

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (2.50 pm): Talking about people who are making a difference, I rise today to talk about the incredible work of Angels Kitchen in my electorate of Southport led by Tony Ludington and a wonderful team of volunteers. Every Monday or Tuesday I receive an email from them which updates me on the work of the weekend. I thought I would share a few excerpts from that email. It states—

Hi All

Team 2 on duty today. A good afternoon. Today everyone was kept busy, and all went smoothly. We had a few families come in today, and quite a few new people. Our family with the two children and pregnant mum, bought in their beautiful baby girl who was born at home one month ago, after they just returned from Angels Kitchen, a delightful family.

It is good to hear some good stories from time to time in the House. It goes on—

Huge thanks to those we serve ...—Rob at the door with the sanitiser—

It was not me; it was a different Rob—

Lauren on the bread, Sam on the sweets, Malcolm and Mark, and a new attendee, young Rueben who helped Roma with the clothes.

We have a new group who are going to go on the cooking roster, Arsha and her friends who have a Thai restaurant, and today bought in fried rice, curry puffs and other savoury delights, which went down a treat.

Stella came in to help and took the remaining bread to hand out.

It was a bountiful harvest from Oz Harvest, with a lot of—

additional food. It continues—

A big thanks to all of our drivers who bought in our items and took them back to the Benowa Logistics Hub.


Special thanks to—

Sharon and Brian, Gail, Sarah and Lily. A huge thank you!

I share this excerpt today to highlight the ongoing pressures and demands on our communities in respect of homelessness. This is not an issue that occurs in only my electorate of Southport, but it is an issue we are seeing more and more across the state. I raise it today to highlight the need for more supported accommodation and for more support from the government for the hundreds of volunteer groups across our state that provide these services.

Last Sunday afternoon the number of people they fed was 96, of which 69 were men and 27 were women. Interestingly, 38 of that group were homeless. A large number of those other people are people who live in the local area who are just struggling to get by. Being able to come into Angels Kitchen on a Sunday afternoon or evening for some groceries and food makes a big difference to those families. I just want to again say a huge thankyou to Tony Ludington, Kate Sullivan and some of the other volunteers who run this wonderful program in Southport.

### Domestic and Family Violence

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.53 pm): May is the month for domestic and family violence prevention. May is a very significant month for what it represents; it reminds us of a very sensitive topic. I rise to make this contribution in recognition of the survivors of domestic and family violence and pay tribute to those who have tragically lost their lives to this act of evil. Domestic and family violence is truly an act of evil. It does not belong in our society, it does not belong in our communities and it certainly does not belong in our homes—not now, not ever.


With May almost over it is important that we continue to talk about the issue and continue to raise awareness to send a clear message that violence will not be tolerated. As a society, we need to keep the conversation going because, as statistics would tell us, one in three women and one in four men have experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.

In Queensland over 21,000 DVO applications were lodged last year, a 17.1 per cent increase in the number of DV offences reported to police. This year 43 women have been killed by violence in Australia. At least 655 lives have been lost to domestic and family violence in Queensland since 2006. Between 1 July 2015 and 30 June 2021 a total of 280 apparent suicides were identified as being domestic and family violence related. The Palaszczuk government is taking action to end domestic and family violence. However, we cannot do it alone. Since the release of the *Not now, not ever* report in 2015, we have invested \$600 million in domestic, family and sexual violence services. We have delivered all the recommendations for government in the *Not now, not ever* report.

The Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Strategy 2016 to 2026 is the vehicle to drive change across all sectors of the Queensland community. Our government reforms provide a layer of protection for those impacted by domestic and family violence by giving greater recognition to DV survivors' perspective, prioritising their safety and reducing the onus on them to take action or leave their home. There are still too many families being torn apart with women and children making the ultimate sacrifice to leave their homes and community. For many communities in my electorate it is the disconnection from social support; women and children are forced to flee for safety and at the same time they become even further isolated from their wider support network.

I would like to acknowledge all the community organisations in my electorate doing amazing work to support families affected by domestic and family violence: Mura Kosker in the Torres Strait, Pormpur Paanthu Aboriginal Corporation in Cape York, Cooktown District Community Care and Gungarde. I also acknowledge all the local councils in my electorate who also take this on board as a community issue. They all want to see domestic and family violence banished from our community.

### Coomera Electorate, Social Housing

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (2.56 pm): In the past the member for Gaven has liked having a go at the federal government about NRAS. We will see what happens with that in the future. A *Gold Coast Bulletin* article states—

She ... wants to see the Commonwealth do more to help those people on the Gold Coast struggling to put a roof over their heads ...

"I think it needs a big response from all levels of government. We all need to play a part in this,"

She is quite right. Then she said—

It's something I'm very passionate about. I'm a young Gold Coaster, I'm not a homeowner myself, I still rent.

Goodness gracious! That is an interesting quote. She goes on—

I very much sympathise with a lot of people on the Gold Coast who are trying to get into the housing market ...

We are talking about a minister in this government who is on \$341,000 a year, or \$13,100 a fortnight, and she is trying to draw a comparison between herself and those Gold Coasters who are struggling to pay their rent. It is very disingenuous at the very least. Combined, the member for Gaven and her life partner earn \$680,000 a year on the public purse and she cannot afford to buy a house—

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr CRANDON**:—and according to the register of members' interests she has absolutely no debt. On the other hand, the member for Pumicestone was having a go at the Greens. She was talking about the members for South Brisbane and Maiwar and their status as 'wealthy lifestyle renters'. Does the same go for the member for Gaven? I call on those members to apologise. Do you call on the member for Gaven to apologise as well? Let's look at some of the figures in answer to a question on notice that I requested.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER**: All comments will come through the chair.

**Mr CRANDON**: The government was pleased to tell me that we have an additional 61 dwellings in the state seat of Coomera. That is all very well, but when we find we have lost 34 bedrooms in the state seat of Gaven, that takes the total of 61 properties down quite a bit, probably to less than 50. Let's have a look at the statistics. Since 2016 the voter population in the state seat of Coomera is up 60 per cent, from 31,000 to 50,000 voters. It rose from 37,000 at the 2017 election to 50,000. That is a 35 per cent increase. From the 2020 election through to now there has been a nine per cent increase in the number of people in the northern Gold Coast and we are talking about a measly 49 properties to satisfy the social housing needs on the northern Gold Coast.

This government needs to do more for the social housing needs on the northern Gold Coast and right across the Gold Coast and not bang on about the NRAS.

*(Time expired)*

### Federal Labor Government, Roads and Transport



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (2.59 pm): I rise, like many others today, to welcome the news that we have a federal Labor government under Anthony Albanese. I know that they will be great partners with the Palaszczuk government. I know that things will change for the better in Queensland. I especially welcome the new government because of the announcement they made about the Bruce Highway upgrade in my area. We are talking about the highway going from six to eight lanes from Pine Rivers all the way through to Uhlmann Road. It is a massive investment in our communities and a massive show of confidence in the Moreton Bay region. It is very welcomed by our communities.

Under the new Albanese government we will see a new partnership approach when it comes to transport infrastructure in Queensland, and in my area as well. Federal Labor will prove to be a great partner for our government. I know that they have a strategic focus on infrastructure delivery. They are focused on delivering an investment that can best support local jobs in our areas, invigorate local businesses and help people get home much quicker.

Labor understands the needs of Queenslanders in outer urban areas. The Palaszczuk government and the Albanese government know that transport infrastructure serves as the arteries of our communities. It pumps life into local jobs and supports businesses. For example, at North Harbour there will be 30 to 40 opportunities for new businesses to locate their transport and warehousing facilities right next to the highway. They are coming there because of its proximity to the highway and they see that it will be upgraded.

These arteries connect us to the rest of Queensland. Not only that, but they make a huge difference to lifestyle in our areas. Labor knows that transport infrastructure helps people get home quicker at night and means that people do not have to get up so early—before dawn—to go to work.

The partnership approach suits us just fine, because we are focused on delivering transport infrastructure to Moreton Bay, especially to my area in Bancroft. Our focus can be seen in the construction of the Deception Bay Road overpass that we are building with some federal money. The Deception Bay Road widening will be happening as well. I look forward to us starting planning work in the years to come on those new overpasses. We have a lot to look forward to.



## HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note

Resumed from 12 May (see p. 1172), on motion of Mr Harper—

That the House take note of the Health and Environment Committee Report No. 18, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system*, tabled on 8 April 2022.



**Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (3.02 pm), continuing: Unfortunately, the current portfolio system allows government members to block any disclosures by the use of the government's majority vote in that committee. Today's portfolio committees rely on the casting vote of the committee chair in the event of a tied vote between government members and non-government members. That can lead to a suppression of public interest matters that would otherwise be available under parliamentary privilege in an upper house or under an open meeting forum, as designated by the Committee System Review Committee in 2011. Private meetings should be the exception rather than the rule, as it currently stands under this government. We are servants of the public and the public has a right to know the reasons for our decision-making in their interest.

The portfolio system in the Queensland parliament could be a model for constitutional reform of other parliaments if applied correctly and in a nonpartisan way. I do not believe that the current domination of committees by government voting power on the committees, which can effectively mute the principle of parliamentary privilege, serves the people of Queensland well. It denies the Queensland parliament the key performance parameters of integrity, openness and accountability, which are essential benchmarks in a truly democratic society. I respectfully suggest that from here on in—

**Mr BROWN:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. My understanding is that we are currently debating the health inquiry report, and this speech has nothing to do with that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Mermaid Beach, I appreciate the commentary on committee work, but I will ask you to come back to the discussion we are having today.

**Mr STEVENS:** The first part of my speech, which I obviously did not deliver today, drew the connection between the health committee report and the portfolio committees report. This report focused on federal responsibilities in health rather than on the state issues that should have been canvassed in this inquiry. The deprivation of important information from the public realm can lead to the suspicion that the government of the day is hiding material interest matters detrimental to the honest and efficient running of the state to enhance its electoral prospects.

**Mr Krause:** Including on the EGC.

**Mr STEVENS:** I am not mentioning the EGC in this speech, thank you, member for Scenic Rim. That suspicion can morph into voter anger when constituents feel, rightly or wrongly, that matters in relation to the health system, for instance, have been withheld because of the inability of that portfolio committee to deal with matters that cover a wide range of health effects—not only in the federal sphere but also in the state sphere. That is why I am saying that the portfolio committees are the way in Queensland for this parliament to deal with these matters in an open and accountable matter. We should be having open and accountable portfolio committee meetings.



**Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise to speak to report No. 18. I look forward to hearing members on the other side talk more about this report. I am the chair of one of these portfolio committees. We have a saying, which members have heard before: if you want better answers, ask better questions. It is not that hard. I look forward to the estimates process this year. I will be making sure that all members follow the standing orders.


We are talking about what is in this report; members can quite easily get a copy out the back. My biggest takeaway from this report is the range of reasons we need a fifty-fifty funding split with the federal government. I welcome the election of the federal Labor Albanese government. It will be much better to deal with them on issues such as the fifty-fifty funding split. I know that we will get a much better reception from them than we did from the previous mob. The Morrison government made decisions that placed great pressure on our hospitals and our public health system. We know the story: over 500 Queenslanders are in public hospital beds awaiting their aged-care package. They are ready to leave our hospitals but they cannot because they cannot get an aged-care package. At last count there were 108 people in hospital beds in Metro North awaiting an aged-care package.

We know that 37 per cent of aged-care residents over 65 were taken to an emergency department at least once in 2018-19. I welcome the commitment from the Albanese Labor government to put nurses back in nursing homes. It is very clear that the former federal government was using our hospitals to provide the health care that they should have been funding. They were relying on us to do the work they should have been doing.

We know how badly they treated aged-care workers. They ignored the Productivity Commission's recommendations about the aged-care system. Aged-care workers had no choice but to go on strike to get better pay. That was something that I know they did not want to do but they felt they had to do.

I point out that this report shows that people have been flooding into our emergency departments because the Morrison-Dutton government starved our GP system. They froze Medicare rebates from 2013 to 2017. Some services were frozen until June 2020. That means people attending a long visit with a GP were facing an average out-of-pocket cost of \$41. I commend the committee for revealing this kind of information in this outstanding report.

This report also points out that GPs lost an average of \$109,000 due to the rebate freeze. They were getting squeezed. They are trying to provide this service yet the rebate freeze means they were suffering in what they could offer. It is no wonder that the AMAQ said that the rebates do not reflect the cost of providing GP services. Once again I point to the report where those opposite can read about that. It is no wonder our GPs have found it very hard to provide the services that Queenslanders need when the Medicare rebate system has been treated so shabbily by the Morrison government. There are many other reasons why we need that fifty-fifty split because of the damage done by previous LNP governments. I look forward over the coming years to working with the Albanese government to improve the system.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (3.11 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on report No. 18, *Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system*. I wish to declare that my partner is a chair of a not-for-profit aged-care facility and that this is reflected on the register of interests as required. I thank the members of the committee for their work involved in producing the report.

I also want to thank the nurses, midwives and the allied health specialists, especially those in my electorate, who I know work tirelessly to support their patients, particularly those who work in the regional hospitals of Mungindi, Augathella, Cunnamulla, Quilpie and Surat who have had long periods without doctors in their hospitals. It has been the nurses in these hospitals who have kept the doors open and kept the health facilities operating.

It is the appalling record of the Palaszczuk Labor government which has left the hardworking local nurses and the on-call medical retrieval teams to provide emergency health care and health care in those facilities. For instance, the Mungindi Hospital was without a doctor for 13 days; the Augathella Hospital, for five days in October 2021; the Cunnamulla Hospital was without a doctor for 12 days in December 2021; and the Quilpie Hospital was without a doctor for 15 days in January and February this year. I have also been advised that the Surat Hospital has had days with no doctor this year and patients have been diverted to Roma Hospital. The Palaszczuk Labor government has failed to properly resource these regional hospitals and the Minister for Health should show some leadership and help these hospitals and HHSs.

This report talks at length about the problems in health. It tried to blame the LNP government in Canberra. It is now the responsibility of the members opposite and their Labor colleagues in Canberra to deal with the problems that they have outlined in this report. It was easy for members opposite to wave this report around during the last sitting and blame Scott Morrison, but now it is up to Labor and Anthony Albanese to answer these questions and deal with the problems in the report.


**An opposition member:** It won't be easy under Albanese!

**Ms LEAHY:** It won't be easy under Albanese. Of the 40 recommendations, 36 are aimed at the federal government. Only 14 recommendations even mention the state Labor government which has a health crisis on its hands with the worst ambulance ramping in the nation. Under Labor the elective surgery waiting lists have nearly doubled. Under Labor 34 rural and regional birthing locations across Queensland have closed down. Contrast that to the LNP which, when it was in government, re-established birthing services in Chinchilla, Cooktown and Beaudesert.

The Labor members opposite want to talk about the long-stay aged-care patients in hospitals to avoid the real issues, such as ambulance ramping, the blowouts on the waiting lists and the closures of regional birthing services. I say to the members opposite that the time for talk, the time for reports, is over; it is their colleagues in Canberra that must deliver. They need to deliver for people like the worker who presented to a hospital in my electorate with a serious workplace accident—a crushed and partially

amputated thumb. It fell to the employer to transfer this patient to the Toowoomba Base Hospital as the local hospital decided the injury was not urgent enough to be flown out to Toowoomba. The local hospital did not communicate any details of the patient and on arrival at Toowoomba the patient and his employer, who was supporting him, had to go through regular admissions in the emergency department. They were quite lucky to get in actually. The Toowoomba Base Hospital did not have a surgeon who could deal with the injury and the patient was then sent to St Andrew's War Memorial Hospital in Brisbane where the operation finally occurred 56 hours after the first presentation to the hospital. The whole time the patient was in need of pain relief. The patient experienced a crude method of putting injections directly into an open wound and the nurse pushed a needle right through the thumb causing pain and traumatised this patient.

There is a health crisis in this state. Regional hospitals do not have doctors, ambulance ramping is the worst in the country, the waiting lists are blowing out and regional birthing services have not been reinstated and babies are being born on the side of highways. Quite frankly, Queenslanders deserve better from this Palaszczuk Labor government. I sincerely hope that this Palaszczuk Labor government can actually get that deal of funding from the federal Labor government, but I will not hold my breath in relation to that.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (3.16 pm): I think like all health professionals around Australia I breathed a sigh of relief on Saturday night with the election of the Albanese Labor government. I can tell members that it is going to be easy under Albanese, that is for sure. It was like you had been lying there gasping for breath and finally someone worked out how to turn the oxygen on and put it through your nasal prongs. It was like you were lying there thinking, 'Why am I feeling so flat and so low?', and finally there is someone in the office who can take your blood level and realise they just need to give you a little lolly to give you the pep up that you need. That is what happened on Saturday night.

I congratulate the chair and the members of this committee. It is an absolutely fine report; one of the best that I have ever read. I am sad that I am only going to get five minutes to talk about this report because there is so much important material that needs highlighting and debating in this chamber. It will probably not be debated that much in the new Albanese government. They will see the sense of it. It is a great report. The committee did a thorough job and pointed out some of the gaping holes in our system—problems that have been plaguing our system for quite a while, if you talk to any nurse or doctor.

Turning to recommendation 2, the Australian government to pay fair share of cost of lower acuity emergency department presentations, that is an excellent suggestion. Recently my wife had a condition, which was quite a serious condition. People talk about the shortage of GPs and doctors in the bush, and they are absolutely correct, but in Greenslopes on a Saturday morning we could not find a GP that was open and was taking appointments. We seriously considered going to the PA emergency department. We went to the GP super clinic next door opened by Kevin Rudd all those years ago. I am so glad that we did because my wife was about to give up and if she had not gotten treatment for that particular condition it would have escalated and been much more difficult to treat. The problem is that people front up to the emergency department with conditions that could be easily, quickly and efficiently dealt with in the GP network. This is not a slur on GPs. They do a fantastic job. If we had a federal government that would listen to GPs—not just the people who own GP clinics, but actual GPs who work on the ground—we would reform the system in a way that is good for patients and good for GPs.


I want to turn now to the recommendations around allied health professionals, because they are such an important part of our primary health network: recommendation 10, increasing the number of Medicare Benefits Scheme funded allied health visits; and recommendation 11, improving accessing to allied health services. The reality is if we have better integration between GPs and allied health professionals we will keep people from progressing in their illnesses. We will keep them well, which is actually the goal of every health professional that I know.

I hear many of the members talking about shortages of doctors in their areas. That is a significant and serious issue. It is why from a regional perspective recommendation 16 is so important. I was so pleased to see the new training program opening up at CQU. If we train doctors in the regions, doctors will stay in the regions. If we train nurses and allied health professionals in the regions, they will stay in the regions.

I bring to the attention of the House an issue in relation to recommendation 17, which is about reviewing and replacing the distribution priority areas classification system. Generally, this issue will affect regional and remote areas but there are certain areas where we could use reclassification in specialist health services in metropolitan areas. I am thinking of groups such as the World Wellness Group in Stones Corner.

The World Wellness Group is a specialist refugee and multicultural health service. They assess all refugees within 24 hours of their arrival in South-East Queensland. For several years now they have been asking the federal government, particularly former minister Hunt—they have been writing to him but have had zero response—for the opportunity to be reclassified because they want to use overseas trained doctors because, guess what? When you are a multicultural health service that looks after refugees, a doctor from Pakistan or Kenya who can speak the language and deliver culturally appropriate care is actually a really good thing. I hope the Albanese government looks at that and reconsiders it.

There is so much I would like to talk about in this report but I will jump to recommendation 40 and talk about the scope of practice and nurse-led models of care. There are so many opportunities if we use all health practitioners to their full scope of care. We really need to do that. We will solve so many problems just by letting people work to their full scope of practice. Great work, committee. I support the report.

 **Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (3.21 pm): It is clear that Queensland Health is in crisis. Our public hospitals are in crisis, we have a mental health crisis across Queensland and Queenslanders are losing faith in the state government's ability to provide them with timely access to health care as and when they need it. This inquiry, which was initiated by the state government for the purposes of attacking the federal government, has not delved far enough into the heart of the crisis. That should concern every Queenslanders because without an open and transparent examination of all of the issues nothing will change. Queensland needs change. I know my constituents in Buderim and residents of the Sunshine Coast do. The health minister can blame the pandemic all she likes, but the truth is that this problem existed long before we had ever heard of COVID-19.

What this inquiry does show is that the state government has lost its biggest political weapon. Thirty-six of the inquiry recommendations are directed at the federal government. The game is up because this state Labor government will no longer be able to play the blame game with Canberra; they will have to look in their own backyard. Are there issues with the provision of GP services in aged care? Yes, but to pretend the state government is not responsible for many of the failures does not cut it. Even the Australian Medical Association called this report for what it is: a blame-shifting exercise.

Fixing this crisis is far more important than political pointscoring. Yesterday, when faced with criticism of Queensland Health, we heard government ministers and backbenchers talking about themselves. This issue is not about politicians. At its core, this is about Queenslanders being able to trust that an ambulance will arrive when they ring triple 0 in their hour of need. It is about having elective surgery delivered on time so that Queenslanders do not suffer in pain for longer than necessary. It is about knowing that your loved ones will get the emergency treatment that they need in the event of an accident or serious illness.

The Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service has one of the worst performance records in the state. In fact, alongside Mount Isa, the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service was assessed as being on performance level 4, the lowest level. When the north-west district reached that level the board was disbanded, but not on the Sunshine Coast. On the Sunshine Coast the problems have been allowed to fester. The Sunshine Coast University Hospital and Nambour Hospital topped the list for the longest wait times for elective surgery in all of Queensland. SCUH is a world-class facility. It is only five years old and is located in one of the most sought-after parts of South-East Queensland to live. Previously in the House I have addressed the toxic culture under the reign of the former CEO, Naomi Dwyer. The wait times and hospital performance should never have been allowed to get to the point at which they are now.


Since raising in this chamber the issue of the toxic culture within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service, I have been approached by countless whistleblowers wanting to tell their stories—doctors, nurses, administrators. All of their problems boil down to mismanagement at the top level. The bullying and shameful behaviour by those in charge drove away experienced medical professionals. I note the issues with the attraction and retention of clinical staff in rural and regional Queensland. The Sunshine Coast is by no means rural, but I think the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service needs to take a long hard look at how it retains staff. Even under the new CEO we have seen no acknowledgement of the bullying and toxic culture that continues to pervade parts of the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service.

Around one in two ambulances have been ramped at the Sunshine Coast University Hospital and we know that Queensland has the worst rate of ramping in all of Australia. Yet in the 269 pages of this inquiry report, ambulance ramping is not mentioned once. I shake my head at the fact that the Premier and health minister are still trying to ignore the problem. They are ignoring the problem despite the LNP constantly fighting to get a better outcome for Queenslanders.

I note the latest performance data was finally released this morning. The statistics show a 255 per cent increase in the number of patients waiting longer than the clinically recommended time frame for elective surgery in Queensland. I repeat: a 255 per cent increase. We have been asking repeatedly, on behalf of all Queenslanders, for the data to be released. The only reason I can think that that data was withheld is because the health crisis has worsened, and we know it has. What the Labor government needs to understand is that hiding information from Queenslanders does not fix the problem. It does not get an ambulance to a grandfather in Mountain Creek any faster. It does not help a Buderim mother get an appointment with a specialist or a Sippy Downs girl get her surgery on time.

Queenslanders deserve better than the cover-up and blame-shifting that pervades the state government's response to the Queensland Health crisis. Queenslanders deserve openness and transparency. They deserve better.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (3.26 pm): I am pleased to support the motion. I begin by thanking the members of the Health and Environment Committee for their work on this important and guiding report. The thorough and detailed examination of key aspects of our health system here in Queensland, the number of hearings undertaken and the willingness to reach out to many communities, particularly in regional Queensland, is evidenced by the number of recommendations that have been made: 40 in total. These recommendations have the capacity to create significant and positive change in the Queensland health system if there is a willingness to engage on the part of the Australian government. I have great optimism that, under a federal Labor government, that willingness will be there and finally there will be an opportunity to make things better, not only in our national health system but also in aged care and the NDIS.

As mentioned, the report is comprehensive. It tackles a vast array of important issues in addressing the provision of primary, allied and private healthcare, aged-care and NDIS care services and the impact that this is having on Queensland's public health system. It is difficult to address all of the issues and recommendations raised in this report, but I would like to focus on a few key elements. The first issue is funding.


Australia's healthcare system is underpinned by Medicare. For those on this side of the House, this is a simple premise: we believe in Medicare, we will always support Medicare and we will continue to protect Medicare. If there is one thing Scott Morrison knew how to do it was to slowly and diligently destroy Medicare, our aged-care system and the NDIS because the LNP fundamentally do not believe in any system that offers a hand up. That is not in their DNA and it does not sit right with them, even for those who claim to have Christian values. Even Anne Ruston, who is tipped to be the new Liberal deputy leader, has some views on Medicare that send shivers up the spine of any person who supports Medicare. Her comments, 'Medicare in its current form is not sustainable into the future without some change being made,' and, 'We do need to seek some alternatives for how we are going to make Medicare sustainable into the future,' clearly show where our health system was heading.

The National Health Reform Agreement recognises that the responsibility for health is shared between the Australian and state governments. The NHRA also recognises that all governments have a responsibility to ensure the systems work together effectively and efficiently to produce the best outcomes for people, including interfaces between health, aged care and disability services regardless of their geographic location. The NHRA provides that the Australian government funds 45 per cent of efficient growth in public hospital services, with the states and territories funding the remaining 55 per cent. Accordingly, as the report points out, in theory the Australian government should fund a portion of any increase in the use of public hospital services. However, national growth in Australian government funding for public hospital services is capped at 6.5 per cent per year, including both price and volume growth. Queensland Health has stated that with health price inflation increasing as a result of COVID-19, the funding cap means that in future years the Australian government is likely to fund little if any of the growth in public hospital services arising from the increase in the public market share.

Queensland Health stated that it is critical that the Australian government waive the funding cap to ensure that it pays for a share of the increase in public hospital services. We know why that increase is important—because we are seeing the adverse impact that significant gaps in the provision of primary and allied health care, aged-care services and NDIS are having on Queensland's public health system. We see an increase in presentations at public emergency departments; an increase in potentially preventable hospitalisations and avoidable hospitalisations due to a lack of aged-care and NDIS services; older patients becoming long-stay patients in public hospitals; and people with a disability becoming long-stay patients. Only recently, the health minister revealed that currently 512 public health beds are being used for long-stay patients.

Impacts on our health system are not unique to Queensland, despite the opposition's reluctance to admit this. This is a national concern and it has a national impact. Last time I checked, we had a national government. I commend all of the health ministers on all sides of politics who have been arguing the case for increased health funding. On Tuesday, New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet declared that 'the people never get it wrong' and welcomed Labor's election victory as a chance to have fresh conversations on health reform. Isn't that telling?

The committee arranged a public hearing for this inquiry in Logan. I thank them for doing this. The member for Logan and I attended this hearing. Logan, like Ipswich and Moreton Bay, is representative of the burgeoning outer metropolitan areas of South-East Queensland with its unique needs and challenges. We see access to general practitioners become increasingly difficult, exacerbated during COVID. GPs report that they are working longer hours and seeing more complex patients, including a higher number of patients per day. I have previously raised this issue in the House. It is a really important issue for my community. The report of this committee will do something about it in terms of a national government that understands, a Labor government.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (3.31 pm): I will make a short contribution on this report. I have some good news: I will not be critical. In fact, I will talk about the importance of our committee system and about how it can work. I thank the chair, the deputy chair and all the members of the health committee, because we were looking to address a problem that had been a big problem for us for a long time in rural and remote areas: the discharge of patients from rural and remote areas. They fly out of Longreach, Boulia or Tambo and end up in Rockhampton or Toowoomba. Basically, we found that, because there was no discharge plan, those patients were discharged with no way of getting home.

When someone has a heart attack or has an emergency and they go to the ED in rural and remote areas, they are normally rushed into hospital. Then a decision is made by the excellent doctors, nurses and medical professionals that this person needs to go to Rockhampton to get that required surgery. Basically, if it happens at night, they probably turn up in their pyjamas. They have no toiletries and probably do not even have a wallet, or any personal items. They are flown out by the Royal Flying Doctor Service, which does a fantastic job, into Rockhampton. They get their treatment and then are discharged. Basically, they are sitting on a park bench at 12 o'clock at night in Rockhampton or wherever they are with no way of getting home. It is not easy to get from Rockhampton back to Boulia. There are no flights from Rockhampton straight into Boulia.

We are not talking about people with lots of money. They may be pensioners or retirees just living day to day. When we visited Longreach, we were able to sit down and have an honest discussion with some nurses and medical professionals in terms of finding a way around this in our health system right across Queensland. When people come from a rural and remote area, they need a discharge plan before they leave hospital or at least a way for them perhaps to find a motel room where they can stay for a couple of days while we try to work out how to get them home. It is not that easy when people travel from Boulia or Winton and drive all the way to Rockhampton in terms of getting nan, grandma or grandad home.

In terms of recommendation 7 of the committee's report, we are looking at this and there has been a response from the government that it is a serious issue that we need to address. It shows that with this committee system, while we in parliament are adversarial, both sides of parliament and the crossbenchers actually do some good things. I am absolutely thrilled. This is an issue that has affected me ever since I came into parliament. I am sure it affected Vaughan Johnson, the former member for Gregory, while he was in parliament. We would get a phone call that nan was in hospital, has been discharged but is sitting on the bench outside the hospital at 12 o'clock at night in the middle of winter and there is no way to get home. We need to make sure that we follow up on recommendation 7 to ensure that we put in place a discharge plan for anybody from rural or remote areas. The simplest way would be a little armband on a person's wrist that says, 'This person comes from a rural or remote area. Before discharging this person, please find a way they can be accommodated and get back home.'

Finally, this health committee report talks about aged care. I congratulate a very dear friend of mine and a brilliant servant of aged care in the Blackall district for over 40 years, Owen Stockwell OAM. Owen started the Blackall aged-care facility group, I think, back in 1974. We now have put another 10 beds into Blackall, on top of the pre-existing 30 beds. It is probably one of the best aged-care facilities in a rural and remote area. Only last week we visited Blackall to open those 10 beds. There is a bust of Owen Stockwell out the front of the Blackall aged-care facility. That demonstrates how much hard work and how much money he put into it and his dedication. He made sure that, if you are going into an aged-care facility and if you are getting to that age, you can retire in a place like Blackall, because that is where your family and friends are. I congratulate the LNP federal government on putting \$600,000 into it; the rest was raised. I pay tribute to Owen Stockwell OAM, a true man of Western Queensland.



**Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (3.36 pm): I also put on the record my recognition of National Sorry Day. The Health and Environment Committee's report No. 18, *Inquiry into the provision of primary, allied and private health care, aged care and NDIS care services and its impact on the Queensland public health system*, is very timely. I congratulate and thank all of the doctors, nurses, and allied health workers—and the auxiliary staff, namely, the cleaners, the people in the kitchen and the people answering the phones who do not always get acknowledged and recognised—because it is their contribution to the whole of those health facilities that means that we can deliver quality care to Queenslanders. I thank each and every one of them for their dedicated work. We appreciate what they do.

In living memory, we have not seen such pressure placed on our health system. This report outlines the pinch points. I am pleased to report that in principle the Palaszczuk government supports all of the recommendations. In my region, there has been huge pressure on our local GPs. At one point there were no bulk-billing clinics at all in my home city because of the former Morrison federal government's freezing of the Medicare rebate. Families relying on bulk-billing to be able to afford to go to the doctor no longer could get in to see their GP. They started using the accident and emergency department. This then became their GP service. We all know that that is not what accident and emergency services are meant for. It just puts a terrible strain on our local hospital and our local health providers. How did the former member for Dawson, George Christensen, respond to this lack of bulk-billing crisis? In his usual compassionate way—

**Mr Harper:** Did he go on holiday?

**Mrs GILBERT:** Yes. From his holiday he said, 'If you can't afford to see a GP, go to accident and emergency; it's your right.' This callous response is reflected in just about everything he ever did: 'Just flick it off to the taxpayers of Queensland.'

The member for Warrego has spoken several times in the House about the lack of doctors in her area. I have visited her area as the Assistant Minister for Health and Regional Health Infrastructure. There are wonderful people working in the health facilities in all of the places she mentioned. It has been hard to get rural generalists out to those areas when we had a former federal government that took placements from our Queensland universities and gave them to New South Wales. We are working hard in this regard in Queensland. We are setting up programs where we are training doctors in the regions. The former federal government ripped the funding for places out of Queensland and gave it to New South Wales.

I would like to ask the member for Warrego how much time she spent lobbying and begging David Littleproud to have those placements given back to Queensland so that those communities can have doctors. She cannot come in here and keep bleating if she is not going to ask those people in charge of those areas to help out. It is all talk—

**Ms Camm** interjected.

**Mr Smith** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): The member for Whitsunday and the member for Bundaberg will quit their quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mrs GILBERT:** I would love to see more rural generalists trained in Queensland. It is lucky we have an Albanese federal Labor government. Those opposite should be pleased that they are rid of the former member of Dawson. He has joined the party that does not even believe in medical science—and that is probably where he needs to be. It is not just the general public that is talking about the lack of training for doctors and bulk-billing—

(Time expired)

**Mrs Gilbert:** I was only just getting started.



**Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (3.41 pm): I apologise to the member for Mackay for cutting her off. It was a fine speech. I congratulate the member for Thuringowa and the committee for producing such a fine piece of work. There are plenty of recommendations in this report so we should not just cherry-pick a few of them.

This gives me the opportunity to talk about health. We had a debate on a motion related to health last night and there was some talk about Redland Hospital. This gives me the opportunity to talk about how the Redland Hospital in my local community is going. I also want to congratulate Anthony Albanese and the federal Labor team on being elected to government.

I note that in the member for Oodgeroo's adjournment speech on Tuesday night he called for fifty-fifty funding for the Redland Hospital. How things change the Tuesday after the election. Never before has he mentioned fifty-fifty funding. Three days after the federal election, out comes fifty-fifty funding. Let us talk about fifty-fifty funding. If he is serious about fifty-fifty funding, let us talk about the car park. Labor is tipping in two-thirds of the funding for the car park. What did the Morrison federal government tip in? It tipped in one-third. Now it is up to the Albo government to come to the party and top up with what the Morrison government was not going to tip in. We heard boo from the member for Oodgeroo before the election and now he comes in here and talks about fifty-fifty funding. I am glad he has seen the light after the election. It has taken an Albanese Labor government to come in before he has got on board with fifty-fifty—

**Mr Millar:** But why are you so critical; it is a good report.

**Mr BROWN:** It is a good report and I want to go through it a bit more. I refer to the upgrade of the Redland Hospital. Stage 1 of the upgrade to Redland Hospital includes a new ICU. The member for Oodgeroo is always commenting that we need to deliver an ICU. It was delivered in last year's budget. It was in the budget in black and white. He does not even know what is happening in his own patch. The ICU is under construction. We cannot build it straightaway. The funding is in last year's budget. Early works have already started. It is a Labor government that has delivered it.

What did we see from the member for Oodgeroo and the member for Broadwater when they were in government? They shut hospitals. They shut Wynnum hospital which serviced the north of my electorate. They sacked nurses. They think they can come in here with a track record like that and say we need to fix health when it went backwards in my electorate when they were in government. They shut hospitals and sacked nurses which put extra pressure on the system.

What do we see now in aged care? As I have said previously, the busiest day at Redland Hospital is Friday. Do members know why it is Friday? It is Friday because aged-care providers in the local area do not have any nurses or GPs on duty. What do they do with the difficult cases? They ring up the Ambulance Service and drop them off to Redland Hospital for the weekend. They stay there over the weekend. That is what they do. That is why it is the busiest day at Redland Hospital. It is predictable. It should not be predictable in an emergency department.

What else have we seen? There is a lack of GPs in our local area. The member for Redlands has raised this in the House before. Parents cannot get help overnight. I have been in the situation where we have tried to get a mobile doctor out overnight for my son when he had croup. They said, 'Don't even bother waiting; it is a six-hour wait.' What does a parent do? They have to go down to the emergency department at Redland Hospital. There is no other option. People do not want to do that because they want to use the GP services that should be available to every parent in the Redlands, but they are not.

We can also look at the NDIS. How many beds are taken by NDIS patients? The opposition likes to think COVID does not exist. They do not believe that 400 beds are being taken up by COVID patients. They do not want to talk about that. They do not want to talk about beds being taken up by NDIS and aged-care patients.

**Dr Robinson** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** I take the member for Oodgeroo's interjections. He knows his track record in health has been bad. His government shut down a hospital, sacked many nurses and tried to get doctors onto individual contracts. No doubt if the member for Oodgeroo's party gets back into government he will shut down the satellite hospital because he hates that as well. He is coming after that satellite hospital. If his party ever gets into power he is going to shut that hospital as well because he hates health care in the Redlands. He will cut, sack and sell—sell off the land for some other purpose. I am afraid for the people of Redlands if they ever elect an LNP government in this state.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## LEGAL AFFAIRS AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

### Report, Motion to Take Note



**Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (3.47 pm): I move—

That the House take note of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee Report No. 22, 57th Parliament, *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes*, tabled on 31 January 2022.



This report is dedicated to the memory of Mr Duncan Pegg, the former member for Stretton. In his time as the member for Stretton, Duncan fought fiercely for the very multicultural community he loved so dearly. I extend my sincere gratitude to Duncan's family for allowing the committee to include the dedication in our report.

Queensland does not have a piece of legislation dedicated to serious vilification and hate crimes. There are legislative provisions in various pieces of state and Commonwealth legislation that seek to respond to these issues, but it is clear from the evidence received in the course of our inquiry that people are still experiencing the devastating effects of vilification and hate crimes, and more needs to be done to address these insidious problems in our society. It is equally clear that what is needed is cultural change in our approach to such matters—unblinking recognition that such problems exist in our society and at levels that are wholly unacceptable. The committee recognised that a multifaceted and concerted approach is what is needed in order to combat the pernicious and destructive thinking and behaviour which manifests in serious vilification and hate crimes.

To that end, the recommendations made by the committee intended to achieve change by a combination of education, community empowerment and intergovernmental cooperation. While each of us have a moral responsibility to ensure that our conduct is appropriate and to ensure that we teach our children to behave properly towards each other, the unfortunate reality in our society is that there will be some people who will traverse the bounds of proper behaviour. For those persons, a deterrent sanction is needed.


The committee recommended legislative change to broaden the rubric of both criminal and civil law to capture those behaviours and impose sanctions in respect of same. What is sometimes needed for healing and a different tomorrow is restorative practices. To that end, the committee included a recommendation that the Queensland government develop a restorative justice strategy in consultation with affected communities.

Social media is a powerful communication tool in modern society. Unfortunately it has, at times, provided a platform for those who seek to harm others, very often without fear or real threat of consequences. Heartless, foolish, unintelligent and damaging content can be posted by cowards who cloak themselves in the anonymity of the internet, knowing that they will likely never be held accountable for what they say or the damage they do.

The ever-increasing prominence of social media platforms in society means that 'big tech' also needs to step up to the plate and moderate abhorrent and offensive content. The proliferation of online hate speech is not solely a Queensland problem. It is a national and global problem. Regulating social media and other platforms which enable online vilification must be addressed by the governments of Australia working together.

I thank every individual who contributed to this inquiry. Without these individuals sharing their experiences, the committee would not have been able to understand in quite the same way the very personal and devastating impacts that vilification and hate crimes have had on members of our community.

COVID pandemic restrictions limited the amount of face-to-face community consultation that was possible. We did, however, facilitate the taking of video and recorded submissions, thus permitting contributions to the inquiry that may not otherwise have been able to be made. I am hopeful that this pivot to video and recorded submissions will be something that we can continue to do into the future, thus facilitating and encouraging increased input into the work of committees, especially from First Nations communities, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, and remote and regional communities. My heartfelt wish is that this report is a precursor to real social change and that all individuals in our society take up this challenge of making our community one in which everyone is safe.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (3.52 pm): I too rise to address report No. 22 of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, *Inquiry into serious vilification and hate crimes*. I do so as a member of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee at the time that this review was undertaken. At the outset I want to commend the member for Toohey for his leadership throughout this, and I will come back to that in a moment.

I like a joke. I am a dad after all. It is a responsibility that us dads have. I usually like a lot of self-deprecating jokes. I like a good debate. I like a witty play on words, even a witty exchange of ideas and words, but I have never understood the need to vilify or express hatred to someone. I put that down to perhaps my upbringing.

I was very fortunate to have watched my father resettle Vietnamese boat people when we lived in Melbourne. I watched him work alongside Indigenous families and communities during our time in New South Wales. We welcomed South Pacific islanders into our family home. I ended up moving to and working in places like Tonga and Fiji for a period. I have grown up in more multicultural cities like Melbourne and Sydney. It has always been quite natural for me to understand that there are people who do not look like me, who worship different gods from me, who are a different gender—and that is what makes this world a beautiful place. It came as quite a shock to hear some of what continues to go on in society.

Like the member for Toohey and yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker Bush, I want to thank all of those people who put in submissions including the video submissions that you yourself, Madam Deputy Speaker, spent a lot of time working through, and those who appeared before the committee. I was absolutely sickened by some of the things that I heard.

Time is not going to permit me to go through all of the recommendations the committee has put forward. I do commend the report to all members in this House. What I did discover is that, whilst we do have laws across a range of legislation that are designed to prosecute individuals who vilify or undertake a crime based around hatred, they are possibly not understood; that they are not easily accessed; that there is potentially not the training required within police, the community or the justice system as to how they are best acted upon; and that records are not necessarily kept that specify when a crime falls under these categories rather than under run-of-the-mill Criminal Code convictions. What we learnt was that in many cases, because of things like having to get approval before they could undertake action against these kinds of existing laws, police would revert to the standard Criminal Code prosecution which meant that we had no way of really understanding when a hate crime occurred or when serious vilification occurred.


There are a number of recommendations that may seem very technical, but I think they will go some way to addressing the concerns in the community. I think the recommendations around education—education within the community, education within the peak bodies that represent many of our multicultural groups and our community centres, and education within the Police Service and within the justice system—is where the real benefit will be achieved. Those recommendations have been made. I commend them to the various government organisations and community organisations that they impact upon and ask that they give them due consideration.

It is my hope that, as a result of the testimony shared by those who came and spoke before the committee, as a result of the information that has been put together in this report and as a result of the recommendations that the committee has put forward, all of Queensland can end up in the same position that I operate from and that I opened my contribution with. We are a richer state and we are a richer nation because we bring together people from all around the world as well as the traditional owners of this land we live in. We are richer for it. We will continue to be richer for it. The day we can get rid of serious vilification and hatred will be a day when we will be an even better state and nation than we already are.

Debate, on motion of Mr Powell, adjourned.

## COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### Portfolio Committees, Reporting Dates and Referral of Auditor-General's Reports

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.57 pm): I seek to advise the House of the determinations made by the Committee of the Legislative Assembly at its meeting today. The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 136, that the Education, Employment and Training Committee report on the Trading (Allowable Hours) and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 22 July 2022; the Transport and Resources Committee report on the Transport Legislation (Road Safety and Other Matters) Amendment Bill by 22 July 2022; and the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee report on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 22 July 2022.

The committee has resolved, pursuant to standing order 194B, that Auditor-General's report No. 16 of 2021-22 titled *Contract management for new infrastructure* be referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee and that Auditor-General's report No. 17 of 2021-22 titled *Appointing and renewing government boards* be referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

## MOTION

### Suspension of Standing and Sessional Orders



**Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (3.58 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That, notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders, the member for Macalister be immediately permitted to make a statement to the House.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

## PRIVATE MEMBERS' STATEMENT

### Member for Macalister, Absence



**Mrs McMAHON** (Macalister—ALP) (3.59 pm): I rise to make a statement to the House. I thank the House for their indulgence for what will be the hardest contribution I have ever had to make, or will make, in this place.

It has not likely escaped the notice of too many members' attention that over the past 12 months I have changed somewhat, and I thank members on both sides of the House who have taken the time to check in on me. I feel I owe an explanation to my colleagues, members of this House, my electorate and the wider community. I make this statement to the House not because it is easy, but because it is hard. If more statements like this were made more regularly by people with platforms like this, then perhaps for the next person it will not be so hard.

Over the past six months I have been a member of the Mental Health Select Committee. This has been very important work, and I thank all members from both sides of the House for their contribution to the committee's inquiry. In advance of the tabling of the report next month, I would like to thank all of the submitters and contributors to the inquiry for sharing their experiences. I must admit that, while I sought to be involved in this inquiry, I went into it with a level of trepidation. The story of many of the contributors to the inquiry is also mine.

I have referred to my mental health in this House a number of times. In my first speech I made reference to the Army's mental health unit and the assistance I received as an outpatient following a particularly harrowing and tragic military training incident. A diagnosis of PTSD and anxiety adjustment disorder is certainly not uncommon after a lifetime of uniformed service. I admit that I have been comfortable with people believing that this may be the source of my most recent anxiety, but the reality is far harder to understand.

A mental health illness and its recovery is not a linear process. It is not a matter of getting a diagnosis, seeking a treatment and taking steps to recovery. It is all over the shop. Yes, I do have PTSD, but it is not something that can be cured by any number of therapies or medication. It is something you cope with; something you manage. Hopefully, those coping strategies are helpful and healthy. Over my lifetime I have used some fairly robust and positive coping strategies to deal with my PTSD, but sometimes they have a limit. For me, that was reached in the last 12 months.

It is no coincidence that the last 12 months have seen a massive national discussion on the safety of women and children in their workplaces and homes. We have heard from so many survivors, so many advocates and so many champions for those who no longer have a voice. No matter their platform and no matter their status, the more stories we hear and the more uncomfortable we make people feel, the greater the chance for change. Here today I am going to use my platform, my voice, and I am going to make you all very uncomfortable.

I am a survivor of childhood sexual assault. From the age of five I was repeatedly raped and abused when those who were responsible for my supervision after school were derelict in their duty. I was left in the care of a group of older teenagers. I still vividly remember the first and second time this occurred to me, but mercifully after that it is a blur. Most afternoons I was shopped around the neighbourhood to other teenagers, often in exchange for a can of soft drink. I could not tell you how many perpetrators were involved; I could not even quantify for how long it lasted. All I know is that my family's relatively nomadic lifestyle and structure meant that we were on the move again, saving me from this. At that time, if I was old enough to understand such things I might have thought that happenstance had saved me from an unsavoury episode, something that could be compartmentalised and kept under lock and key. It would be unfathomable to consider that the worst for me was yet to come.

I have since learned that an abused child, a groomed child, is an easy target. It is like walking around with a mark on your head that is only visible to those who seek to look for such things. At the age of nine I would look pure evil in the face for the first time. Courtesy of our church, I came into the company, and under the supervision, of the last person on earth who should ever be granted such a position: a child sex offender who had recently been released for a particularly heinous child sex crime. I cannot say for sure how strong the church thought its powers of redemption were, but they declined to notify my family, with whom he was placed.

Again my hours after school became a personal hell, but I had been through this before and my survival skills kicked in: do not cry, do not move, do not say a word. I cannot quite put into words the things that happened to me or what I was made to do. Some of those things are better locked away. The sense of dread I feel whenever an Argos investigation uncovers new exploitation material never goes away, and I suspect it never will. Luckily for me, my family was on the move again and I was unknowingly saved yet again. I understood that what had happened to me was not quite right and that something was wrong, but it would not be until a few years later that I would realise what had actually happened and how serious it was.

It just happened to coincide with my early teenage years, when I would do just about anything to avoid standing out and drawing attention to myself. I wish I had had the courage to tell my parents, my friends—anyone—any of this at the time, but on reflection I was just not strong enough. Few people ever are. I made it my mission to be a person who fits in and does everything society expects of a normal person with a normal childhood: finish school, go to uni, be a positive contributing member of society, wear a uniform, get a job, get married and have a family. I did all of those things in an attempt to be the most normal appearing person I could. It is emotionally exhausting to put on a facade, to wear a mask, to hide who you are and where you have come from.

I was chased by demons to achieve all of these things, but you can only run for so long. When I could not metaphorically run anymore, I started to actually run. My exhaustion reached its limit and my facade cracked last year. Things, memories and feelings that I had meticulously tucked away and locked in a box deep down kept threatening to come to the surface. The panic and anxiety that came with that were in many instances quite debilitating. I felt like my skin was inside out. I felt raw and exposed walking around. I was highly agitated. My ability to keep something under lock and key for 40 years was over, and I had to find other coping strategies. Admittedly, not all were healthy.

A lifetime of being introspective meant that I knew I needed help, and I sought it where I could from my GP, a counsellor, a psychologist, friends and colleagues. I knew what I had to do and I went about it in my usual methodical fashion, but recovery is not linear. I might have the strength to acknowledge and confront my past, but my ability to live with this and maintain the facade of a normal life is not so easy. I do not get closure; the only perpetrator I can name is long dead. There were clearly times when I went backwards. This acknowledgment of my past, this collapse of my facade and this recovery has cost me my family unit and my marriage.

Earlier this year I did hit rock bottom. It just became too hard to keep it all in. I was tired—so very tired. Rock bottom for me looked like walking out of the PA Hospital barefoot with what was left of my prescription medication; it was giving the answers I knew I had to give to avoid being admitted to a mental health unit. My children had found me unresponsive. Paramedics and police were called to my home. I was resuscitated; I was transported. For the unbearable stress this placed on my family late that night I am truly sorry. To my son, who had to call for help, I am also so very sorry I put you in that position.

My recovery, my way forward, is to be authentic—to let go of the facade, those coping strategies, which are more about outward appearance than inner truth. I need to be true to myself in order to be my best self. That does mean acknowledging my past truthfully and fully. I know that the guilt and shame that I have bottled up for many decades is not rational and that it was not my fault, but nothing that happened to me can be explained in a rational world. Guilt and shame fester and grow in the shadows, in the locked box where I kept everything. To get past this I must bring it into the light.

I know that I am not my past, that my trauma does not define me, yadda yadda yadda, but I stand here and I decide to make this public. Why do I shine a light on this most uncomfortable topic for me? Because I will recover loudly so others do not die quietly, because we feel powerless when those we love become victims of sexual assault, when those who mean the world to us will not reach out, because we the larger community do not talk about these things. I will talk about these things so maybe someone else will not wait 40 years to talk about these things, so maybe someone else's rock bottom just does not happen.

I want to assure my electorate and my community—many of whom have raised concerns about my welfare—that my work in the electorate and advocating for you has not wavered in the past 12 months. In fact, my ability to continue working for my community during the past 12 months has given me the focus I needed while working my way through this. I am more determined than ever to continue to contribute as a member of this government. More than ever before, I am aware of the importance of having people with lived experience such as mine in the room when decisions are made and when questions are asked. I have a voice in here and I will use it to give a voice to those who are not yet brave enough to.


I acknowledge that my recovery is not done. I know that in standing up here today it will inevitably have ramifications for my own wellbeing in the short term, and I still have my family and children to think about. With that in mind, I will be seeking a leave of absence from the House in due course. I know I need to take time to rebalance and spend with my family at this time. I thank everyone in advance for your consideration of my family's privacy during this time. I thank the House and members for your indulgence this afternoon.

## EVIDENCE AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 1440, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr MADDEN** (Ipswich West—ALP) (4.11 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 and any amendments that may be proposed by the Attorney-General. The bill was tabled on 16 November 2021 by the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence. It will amend the Bail Act 1980, the Criminal Code, the Disability Services Act 2006, the Domestic and Family Violence Protection Act 2012, the Evidence Act 1977, the Justices Act 1886, the Magistrates Act 1991, the Working with Children (Risk Management and Screening) Act 2000 and the acts mentioned in schedule 1.

The bill delivers on the Palaszczuk government's commitment to establish a statutory framework to provide better protection for the identity of journalists' confidential sources. The bill deals with a wide range of other issues concerning the rules of evidence that include: establishing a statutory framework that allows protection against the disclosure of the identity of journalists' confidential informants, known as 'shield laws'; introducing a legislative framework to support a pilot program enabling videorecorded statements taken by trained police officers to be used as an adult victim's evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings; providing a specific process for the viewing and examination of the body of a deceased person in a criminal proceeding to implement the Queensland government's response to recommendation 2 of the findings of the inquest into the disappearance and death of Daniel James Morcombe; clarifying the operation of computer warrants in relation to bail; and enabling service as a magistrate in Toowoomba to constitute regional experience for the purpose of a transfer decision under the Magistrates Act 1991.

After being tabled, the bill was referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. In its report, the committee made three recommendations. The first was that the bill be passed. Recommendation 2 stated—

The committee recommends that the Attorney-General, in the second reading speech, provide an update in relation to consideration of the issues raised by stakeholders about proposed section 14ZF.

Recommendation 3 stated—

The committee recommends that the Attorney-General, in the second reading speech, provide an update on the consideration of the issues raised by submitters in relation to the definition of 'domestic violence offence'.

In its submission to the committee, the Queensland Law Society acknowledged that many of its recommendations that it put forward in response to the bill's consultation report are reflected in the committee report. However, the Queensland Law Society advised—

While we broadly support the introduction of journalists' privilege, as stated in our previous submission, there needs to be further consideration as to how this privilege will operate in defamation proceedings, whistleblower protections and where there is the potential for misuse.

These issues have not been considered in the Explanatory Notes. Further, while harmonisation of 'shield laws' across Australian jurisdictions is desirable, the benefits from this harmonisation need to be balanced against the need for effective laws.

In response to the Law Society's concerns, the Department of Justice and Attorney-General advised—

... the provisions in the Bill will operate alongside the Defamation Act 2005 and Public Interest Disclosure Act 2010 and through the operation of a qualified privilege provides mechanisms for the court to flexibly and appropriately apply the shield law framework across the range of criminal and civil matters that may come before a court of record including defamation proceedings, and instances where a person may seek to misuse the laws.

In preparing this speech, I found myself revisiting my days at the Queensland University of Technology where I successfully studied for a degree in law. Over those five years of part-time studies, there were only two subjects that I feared failing—evidence and tax. I am pleased to advise that with hard work I passed both subjects. After I began practising law as a solicitor, I noticed that the better barristers I briefed always carried a copy of either the manual for the Queensland Evidence Act or the manual for the Commonwealth Evidence Act, depending on the jurisdiction in which our matter was being heard. It was clear to me that the rules of evidence are critical to every aspect of our court system, both federal and state.

My trials with both criminal and civil proceedings were often preceded by a hearing at which it was determined whether evidence was admissible or not admissible. These were called interim hearings, or voir dire. The decisions made at these interim hearings as to the admissibility of evidence also determined whether my client would succeed with their application or not succeed.

This bill deals with both oral evidence and physical evidence, sometimes called exhibits. An important provision of the bill relates to the recommendation made by Terry Ryan, the State Coroner, in his findings of inquest delivered on 5 April 2019 in relation to the murder of Daniel Morcombe. As the Attorney-General said in her explanatory speech delivered on 16 November 2021—

Another key reform in this bill delivers on the government's response to the State Coroner's recommendation in the findings of the inquest into the death and disappearance of Daniel Morcombe. Daniel died in what can only be described as the most confronting and devastating circumstances which no person, let alone a child, should ever have to be faced with. Recommendation 2 in the findings in Daniel's inquest recommended that the Queensland government amend the Criminal Code to ensure that a time limit is imposed on the testing of human remains in circumstances where the prosecution and defence fail to reach agreement on the identity of the deceased. The recommendation arose because of a significant delay in the return of Daniel's remains to his family in the context of the accused's trial for murder.

In his findings of inquest, Coroner Terry Ryan made a recommendation—

The Morcombe family were understandably distressed that although Daniel's remains were located in 2011, they were not released by the State Coroner until November 2012. This was after the committal hearing had commenced and Mr Cowan instructed his lawyers that he no longer required the remains for testing.


The family has submitted that the prosecution and defence should be given three months to carry out testing, after which the family has their loved one's remains returned for burial.

The Commissioner's submission noted that as long as Mr Cowan contested that the skeletal remains belonged to Daniel, it was necessary for the remains to be retained in the event that they had to be released for testing. It was also submitted that a provision of the kind sought by the Morcombe family would require legislative amendments.

I continue the quote—

I agree that is unsatisfactory that families should be required to wait until criminal proceedings are finalised before being able to bury their loved one, particularly when DNA evidence can establish the identity of a deceased person with a high degree of certainty.

In closing, I thank the Attorney-General for introducing this important bill, the members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the committee secretariat, the submitters and Hansard. Finally, I would like to thank the member for Macalister and the member for Cooper for their heartfelt speeches. We all have our stories to tell of our life before we came to this place. I acted in family law in this area. I always felt for my clients. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (4.20 pm): I would like to keep my comments and contribution pertaining to the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 predominantly to the matters relating to domestic and family violence and the videorecorded evidence as evidence-in-chief for domestic violence matters. This bill brings us up to the level of other states. In fact, within the first six months of my appointment to this House and to the shadow portfolio of domestic and family violence prevention, I had spoken at length with Queensland Police Service officers who specialise in domestic and family violence prevention who felt that this was well overdue in the state of Queensland. As we have seen, New South Wales brought this in many years ago, Victoria also began trialling the method in 2018, and South Australia introduced laws some two years ago. While it is a simple change in many ways around videorecording, it will have a significant impact when it comes to reducing trauma for victims of domestic and family violence.


One of the hardest things any victim can face, which I think we have all witnessed here in the House today, is retelling their story and reliving their trauma. At times, the culmination of that, in fact, can be to the detriment of a victim and not help them. I think that this legislation is very important. As is the nature of domestic and family violence, the power and control of a perpetrator can exert often well beyond the courtroom, as we all know. To have to sit in the same room as a person who has controlled your every move, who has controlled the way in which you react, respond, how you dress and how you speak would inhibit one as a victim in their ability to be able to tell their story truthfully without fear. We have allowed children this provision for some time across the state and, whilst different, the vulnerability of victims of domestic and family violence, predominantly women, should not be underestimated and that is why this is such an important change in our legislation.

I would like to also highlight the Queensland Police Service which outlined that some of their modelling shows significant time-saving and efficiency for frontline police. We know that that is very important, given the high demand sadly of callout that our Queensland Police Service have when it comes to domestic and family violence incidences across our state, and that it is only growing, including that police officers now will not have to take victims necessarily from their home or place of refuge in the middle of the night to be able to give victim statements. This is an improvement. I know that has been welcomed from services all across our state as well.

One thing I would like to highlight which I think has also been highlighted by my colleagues, the member for Currumbin and the member for Glass House, in regards to the use of recorded evidence as evidence-in-chief is the importance of properly trained officers in being able to gather that evidence and also to ensure that the resourcing and training is done in a trauma informed way. We know that that is the best way in which we can engage with victims of domestic and family violence, but ultimately it is also the best way that we can support them through what is a significantly traumatic process, and that also, when we want justice served, we certainly want as much detail and information that victims can share. This, I think, goes a long way to protecting victims through the judicial process.

We certainly encourage the attorney to ensure transparency in the trial to allow stakeholders to contribute to feedback and not be afraid of constructive feedback if there are ways to better improve. They are working in the system day to day. When I speak to court support workers, counsellors across our state, those within the Queensland Police Service and also victims and victim advocates, they are the real voice that we need to listen to, and it is our job as legislators to then put that into practice in a meaningful way.

Many in the House have spoken about it, and I know my colleague, the member for Buderim, will expand upon this, but I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the Morcombe family, Bruce and Denise, not only for what this legislation will bring in their quest to ensure victims and families are respected following the discovery of a victim to minimise their pain and the drawn-out process but also their ongoing education of our children, our families and our community, now nationwide. They are certainly influencing curriculum at a national level. It has left such a significant legacy to Daniel and also to their family and to other victims of homicide as well.

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (4.25 pm): I rise to support the bill. It is actually very moving to do this because I feel this bill does a number of things. The most important one, going through all the different elements of the bill, is that it is bringing these issues into a modern environment. It is recognising that we can do things differently. We can respect the rights and the manner in which families and loved ones can react in certain circumstances, and take that into account and put it into a piece of legislation that will deliver better outcomes for those who have been struck, often by very tragic circumstances.

The first key purpose of the bill is to establish a framework that allows protection against disclosure of the identity of journalists' confidential informants, known as shield laws. We are the only jurisdiction which does not have this, and it is good that we are once again moving into an area where this is the norm in other parts of the country. While the Commonwealth and all other states and territories do provide statutory protection, there is nothing in Queensland. This bill reverses that.

It is so important, which is why my constituents and I support it, to have a free, independent and effective press. The crucial role of an informed citizen is absolutely imperative for a strong democracy. We only need to look at the recent federal election campaign to understand the significance of a free press. It does not mean we are going to agree with everything that the press says. We are not going to say that we agree with everything that they write. I am sure there are many of us in this House, depending on which side of politics you are, who will agree with some and not agree with others, but

we in this House will be standing for their right to say it. Whether we agree or not, it is up to us to call it out if we do not agree, and up to the people in an informed society to cast their democratic right as to whether or not they agree with some of the matters.

Obviously there was a change across the country and a lot of what was written can either be agreed to or not agreed to. It is a great democracy that we have here in this country. Needless to say, we should be very proud of the smooth transition from one government to the other.

While journalists generally do a great job attributing the sources of their information, there are times where we know there are matters of concern. They need to be protected to facilitate ongoing access to sensitive information if it is still coming, and the bill brings Queensland into line with other Australian jurisdictions. That means that a journalist or their employer, producer or editor is not compelled to answer a question or produce a document that would disclose the identity of a confidential informant or enable their identity to be ascertained unless ordered by a court.

Shield laws are complex. They are not easy. They must strike the right balance between a journalist's obligation to maintain the confidentiality of their source and the ability of the court to have access to all relevant information in the interests of justice. There may be some cases where the informant's identity may need to be disclosed, and these laws allow the shield to be removed if it is in the public interest. How each journalist and relevant person chooses to use the protection and how the court considers each claim will vary in accordance with the facts and circumstances of each particular situation. I believe that rightly should be the case.

In relation to videorecorded evidence we are moving to establish a legislative framework to support a pilot whereby this can be used as a victim's evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings. That, I think, is a great step in the right direction because it is about supporting the most vulnerable in our communities. This method of videorecorded evidence seeks to reduce the trauma for those victims who have to keep repeating their stories and protect their privacy. Having witnessed the member for Macalister tell her story in this House and, Mr Deputy Speaker, to a certain extent hearing your own a short time ago, we do not want you to keep repeating the same. We need to move forward and hopefully this helps a lot of other people as well. There is a beauty about having these voices in the parliament. We are able to step forward and know what we need to do. We know about the unintended consequences that can sometimes come from giving evidence. This is a step in the right direction.

I note we are going to pilot this in the Ipswich and Southport Magistrates Courts for a period of 12 months. I look forward to seeing the outcomes of that. Any ongoing or expanded use of the provisions will be subject to consideration of the results of a proposed independent evaluation and any relevant recommendations of the Women's Safety and Justice Taskforce.

The last issue I want to talk about is the specific process for the viewing and examination of the body of a deceased person in a criminal proceeding, which was recommendation 2 of the Daniel Morcombe inquest findings. I join others in congratulating the Morcombes on the work they do. They deliver a fantastic education program for us in schools right throughout Queensland. Every time I see them they are going to one school one day and another school the next day. We will continue to have them speak about their experience. I want to not only thank them for their work but also other families.

I do not think I can put it into words any better than that of the member for Cooper who spoke about her personal experience in this area. As the 2009 Young Queenslander of the Year due to her tireless advocacy for victims of violent crime, she is a credit and she is an inspiration in this area. She has done great work in the area of One Punch Can Kill. She actually met with Dr Anthony Lynham and more or less brought him into the campaign. Together, they were able to change laws in advocating to reduce alcohol fuelled violence in Queensland.

Can I say how proud I am that in one of the largest safe night precincts in the state, Fortitude Valley, that type of violence is down 52 per cent. There is no doubt that the work that was done by the member for Cooper, Dr Anthony Lynham and others in this House—the previous attorney-general and the current Attorney-General and all of us who voted for those laws—has brought about a great outcome. The changes here are really about respecting the families and those tragic circumstances in which they find themselves and just making it easier for families to cope with tragedy, which is often very difficult. As we can tell from the stories we have heard in this House today, such circumstances can be extremely tragic and have lifelong impacts on one's ability to function. Whatever we can do—and I think this bill goes a long way—to minimise that trauma I think is a step in the right direction for this state.



Can I also say that the voices in relation to these changes have been heard loud and clear. If there is one glimmer of hope that comes from tragedies such as this it is when laws like this can be brought about to change the way we do things to make it easier, to respect victims and to provide for their needs at the time. That is the glimmer of hope we get from learning from those tragic circumstances.

I await the trials and the outcomes so we can make these things permanent. I think this bill does some really good work. I want to thank the previous speakers who have spoken in this House on this bill. It is very brave of them to come forward with their particular circumstances. We are very proud of each and every one of them and I thank them for sharing their experiences. On that note I commend the bill to the House.



**Mr MICKELBERG** (Buderim—LNP) (4.36 pm): I rise to address the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I do, I would like to address the personal statement made by the member for Macalister. I can only imagine how hard it was to come in here and make the statement that she made. It was courageous and brave. It shows true leadership. We should listen to the message that the member for Macalister sent. What I took away from that is we must stop at nothing to protect our young people because of the lifelong consequences.

I have gotten to know the member for Macalister since we came into this place together in 2017. My wife, Anna, and Mel have been friends for much longer having served together in the Army in Timor and subsequently in the Queensland Police Service. I wish Mel, her family and children all the best in her journey to recovery.

Now I turn to the bill. This is a bill with a dry name but it is one that deals with some very important issues. As we have heard, this bill seeks to establish a statutory framework that allows protection against the disclosure of the identity of journalists' confidential informants known as shield laws. This bill will also introduce a legislative framework to support a pilot enabling videorecorded statements taken by trained police officers to be used as an adult victim's evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings.

Perhaps most importantly, this bill will establish a process for the viewing and examination of the body of a deceased person in a criminal proceeding as detailed in the findings of the inquest into the disappearance and death of Daniel Morcombe. In my contribution today I intend to focus on the matters relating to the Daniel Morcombe inquest findings and the establishment of the shield laws. At the outset I want to acknowledge the powerful contribution to this debate made by the member for Cooper. This parliament is better for the heartfelt contributions like that delivered by the member for Cooper in this debate, and we all should be grateful for her context and lived experience.

I want to recognise the work of Bruce and Denise Morcombe in child safety and in advocating for a better legal framework to protect other families who will have their wishes respected during unthinkable times. What happened to Bruce's and Denise's son Daniel broke the hearts of everyone on the Sunshine Coast and, indeed, across the world. Daniel attended Siena Catholic College in my electorate and, like every young boy and girl, he deserved to live a full life. Local detectives and police did an extraordinary job in finding the monster that killed Daniel and finding his remains.

Bruce and Denise wanted to bring Daniel home and give him a proper burial—somewhere they could visit, grieve and talk to their son. They had to wait a painful 14 months after his remains were discovered to finally lay him to rest. No parent should ever have to experience that. This bill provides a specific process for the viewing and examination of the body of a deceased person in a criminal proceeding, a recommendation from the inquest into the death of Daniel. The LNP has been calling for this process for years and I am pleased to finally see it come to fruition.

I want to thank Bruce and Denise for their advocacy on this matter. It will provide an end to the drawn-out process in which other families, regrettably, will find themselves in the most tragic of circumstances in the future. Bruce's and Denise's service to the people of Queensland has been immeasurable.

Last year, along with many of my LNP colleagues, the minister for child safety and other members of parliament, I attended the Walk for Daniel. For the first time, my then six-year-old daughter Lara accompanied me on the walk. That morning I asked Lara what she knew about Daniel and about the Daniel Morcombe Foundation's child safety messages. I was surprised by how much information Lara had absorbed through her lessons at day care and at school. She explained how to recognise, react and report unsafe situations. She explained to me unprompted about her safety network and what to do if she or one of her friends was in an unsafe situation. Outside of 'stranger danger', that is information

which simply did not get spoken about when I was a child growing up in the 1980s. In the tragedy of Daniel's death, Bruce and Denise Morcombe have fostered the legacy of a safer society for children. For that, I am eternally grateful.

I turn now to shield laws. A statutory framework to protect the identity of journalists' confidential informants is vital. I support the LNP's amendment to extend the shield laws to include informants to the CCC. In fact, all written submissions to this bill support that position.

If the last few months have proved anything, it is the importance of whistleblowers. Public servants should not be afraid to speak out. Speaking out is often the only way to achieve change, whether it be fixing the integrity crisis or a broken health system. To be frank, before I was a parliamentarian I probably did not appreciate the importance of whistleblowers and the role that journalists have in airing issues that the public deserve to know about and where change needs to occur. I used to see things in black and white, having grown up in the military. Over the last few years I have been approached by a number of whistleblowers, specifically doctors, nurses and administrators who work within the Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service. These brave public servants should not be afraid to tell their stories but they are. Bringing Queensland into line with other states by establishing these shield laws will provide peace of mind and generate more open discussion about fixing systems of government.

The contention that these laws should not extend to matters before the CCC does not hold water, in my opinion. Given the extraordinary powers that the CCC holds, the public deserves to have confidence that they, too, are held to account. If we have seen anything in recent months it is that there has been a lack of oversight and accountability within the highest levels of the CCC. Indeed, it took a parliamentary inquiry, led by the member for the Scenic Rim, which involved many months of work, to shine a light on the failures of the CCC and a lack of due process.

These are matters that the public deserve to know about, and whistleblowers play a role in exposing such failings. Let us not forget that within the legislation we are debating a court can still overrule these protections and that, in claiming protection under these shield laws, applicants will still need to prove, on the balance of probabilities, that the public interest outweighs any unlikely adverse effect. There is a safeguard, and it is an important safeguard. All of the written submissions supported the extension of the shield laws to matters before the CCC. The government should support the amendments to be moved by the shadow Attorney-General which will extend the shield laws to matters before the CCC.

Turning to another aspect of the bill, it is well known that more needs to be done in the prevention of domestic and family violence. This bill takes another step towards protecting victims by allowing videorecorded evidence to be accepted as evidence-in-chief—something that has existed for some time for children but now extended to adults in a limited trial. Victims should not be dragged into court to recall their abuse in a room full of strangers and should by no means have to face their attacker. Other speakers have spoken about the difficulties associated with recounting such situations. We have seen an example of the courage that it takes just this afternoon in this House.

Such a course of action, where people are forced to confront their abuser, can cause additional and unnecessary trauma, and if we can avoid it we should. We must do everything we can to make the reporting of domestic and family violence easier. I support the stakeholders' calls to increase the training for police officers in this space. I know that it is a difficult space. I understand that domestic and family violence occupies much of our police officers' time, but we must do better to ensure that every cry for help is listened to.

In summary, I call on the government to support the LNP's sensible amendments as proposed and to listen to the calls for proper protections for whistleblowers in Queensland.



**Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.43 pm): Following on from the member for Buderim's comments, I acknowledge the member for Macalister's contribution. I also acknowledge the member for Cooper's contribution to this debate. It shows that we can make a difference in this place. It shows that people who have lived experience in certain areas can come into this House and make real change. I acknowledge Bruce and Denise Morcombe and what they have gone through to make change in so many different aspects. This bill contains just one of those aspects.

I support the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. This bill contains some very important reforms to improve our justice system in Queensland. A key aspect of the bill will be the establishment of a statutory framework that allows for protection against the disclosure of the identity of a journalist's confidential informant, known as 'shield laws'. Our government recognises that a free, independent and effective media and well-informed citizens are crucial for a strong democracy.

While journalists generally attribute the source of information in their reporting, they may depend on confidential informants to access sensitive information to fulfil their role as facilitators of free communication and to report on matters of legitimate public concern. A journalist may need to promise to protect the confidential informant's identity to facilitate ongoing access to sensitive information. Currently in Queensland, journalists do not have a common law privilege under which they can refuse to reveal the identity of a confidential informant. The Palaszczuk government has committed to introducing shield laws to better protect journalists and confidential informants.

This bill introduces a legislative framework to support a pilot enabling the videorecording of statements taken by trained police officers to be used as adult victims' evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings. By removing the hearsay rule of evidence, out-of-court statements can be used as evidence of the existence of facts contained in them. Allowing victims to give their evidence-in-chief by way of videorecorded evidence taken by the police seeks to reduce the trauma associated with victims having to retell their stories over and over again. It may also help reduce the ability of the alleged perpetrator to intimidate their victim.

While videorecorded evidence reforms for domestic violence proceedings have been introduced in other jurisdictions and are currently used in Queensland for certain witnesses, the evidence base relating to the use of videorecorded evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence prosecutions is continuing to emerge. Allowing an out-of-court statement to be used as evidence-in-chief represents a significant departure from the usual rules of evidence that apply to criminal proceedings, so we need to be careful that there is no unintended consequences for either the victim or the accused.

Another key reform of this bill delivers on the government's response to the State Coroner's recommendations in findings of the inquest into the death and disappearance of Daniel Morcombe. Daniel died in the most unimaginable and devastating circumstances, which no person—let alone a child—should ever be faced with. Recommendation 2 of the findings of Daniel's inquest recommended that the government amend the Criminal Code to ensure that a time limit is imposed on the testing of human remains in circumstances where the prosecution and defence fail to reach agreement on the identity of the deceased.

The recommendation arose because of the significant delays in the return of Daniel's remains to his family in the context of the accused's trial for murder. Responding to the Coroner's recommendations raises complex and unique legal, coronial and forensic issues. The amendment contained in the bill follows consultation with stakeholders and seeks to strike the appropriate balance between a range of competing issues and interests to achieve the underlying intent of the Coroner's recommendations in Daniel's case.

The bill amends the Criminal Code to clarify the process for viewing and examining a deceased person's body in a criminal proceedings and ensures consideration can be given to both the need to protect the integrity of the remains and the need to release the remains by the Coroner and not unnecessarily delay. While many respect this unique case, I hope that no family will ever have to endure what the Morcombes did. It is a necessary amendment. I am sure that it will protect Queensland families into the future.

This bill also amends the Bail Act 1980 to support the operation of a scheme that allows electronic transfer of warrants. Recent information technology enhancements have placed stronger emphasis on the electronic transfer of warrants between the Queensland courts and the Queensland Police Service in the recently introduced e-warrants scheme.

The amendment in this bill will clarify the relationship with the provisions of the Justices Act 1886 and enable the use of computer warrants in the Bail Act by making it clear that there is no requirement for a judicial officer to consider the signature of a person who issued a computer warrant in the context of dealing with a defendant who fails to surrender into custody in accordance with their bail undertaking and who is apprehended under a warrant issued in relation to that failure. This bill delivers some vital justice reform in Queensland and reflects the Palaszczuk government's unwavering commitment to a modern and effective justice system. I commend the bill to the House.



**Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (4.50 pm), in reply: On behalf of the Attorney-General, I would like to begin by thanking members for their contributions to the debate on the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. As the Attorney-General has advised the House, the bill contains important amendments ensuring the justice system is contemporary and responsive to community expectations.

I would like to now take the opportunity to respond to a number of matters which have been raised by members during the course of the debate. Firstly, some members have asked why the shield laws as proposed in this amending bill do not apply to the Crime and Corruption Commission. Can I

start by advising that the government has committed to extending shield laws to the Crime and Corruption Commission, but it is a complicated matter. If it was as easy as the non-government members of this House would tell you it is then we would go ahead and do it straightaway. However, it is not that simple.

The amendments moved by the non-government members are overly simplistic and fail to properly appreciate, let alone understand or consider, the existing framework of privileges applying under the Crime and Corruption Act. They would, in fact, add a further and significant layer of complexity and confusion and exacerbate the problem that the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee is trying to resolve in recommending the review of chapters 3 and 4 of the Crime and Corruption Act. In fact, the amendments proposed to be moved by the non-government members will amend the definition of relevant proceeding to expand it from a proceeding before a court of record to a hearing conducted by the Crime and Corruption Commission and omit the exclusion relating to proceedings under the Crime and Corruption Act. The definition of disclosure requirement is also amended to remove a reference to a court of record. However, there are still various references within the shield law provisions to a court, for example, section 14W. The Crime and Corruption Commission is not a court of record and it is unclear how the amendments would operate with the broad definition of court and proceeding in schedule 3 of the Evidence Act.

In addition, the existing approach in the Crime and Corruption Act to issues of privilege is fragmented and confusing. Not only do different privileges apply in different ways across all of the functions; the different approach to drafting within substantive provisions across the Crime and Corruption Act, including whether or not privilege is dealt with as a reasonable excuse and how it is abrogated, adds to the complexity and confusion. There are also multiple pathways through which a claim of privilege is considered. The amendments proposed to be moved to the bill are in direct conflict with the definition of privilege in the Crime and Corruption Act. The Crime and Corruption Act does not recognise journalist privilege but the Evidence Act would. This would give rise to significant uncertainty for journalists and the Crime and Corruption Commission. Adding to this confusion is the current ability of a journalist to refuse to comply with a Crime and Corruption Commission requirement on the basis that they have a reasonable excuse founded on confidentiality, which is potentially available in some context already under the Crime and Corruption Act.

The interaction between journalist privilege and confidentiality is also unclear. Further, even if the amendments had the desired effect, there are several unresolved issues, including that the Crime and Corruption Commission has powers to compel the production of information of documents outside the context of a hearing and the Crime and Corruption Act allows for noncompliance on the basis of a valid claim of privilege. The proposed amendments do not appear to anticipate journalist privilege outside or unconnected with a hearing. In addition, the proposed amendments do not provide for an appeal in relation to a Crime and Corruption Commission decision about a claim of privilege to the Supreme Court, whereas the Crime and Corruption Act provides for this. It is arguable that the proposed amendments will remove the ability for any appeal for review by the Supreme Court in relation to the Crime and Corruption Commission's consideration of journalistic privilege.

Further, the government acknowledges the support by stakeholders for extending shield laws to the Crime and Corruption Commission and the strong arguments in favour of this. The government is very open to the application of shield laws to the Crime and Corruption Commission and no decision has yet been made that they should not apply. The amendments in this bill have always been the first step. Application to the Crime and Corruption Commission work is underway, but as the amendments proposed to be moved by non-government members clearly demonstrate, it is also important that the amendments not be rushed because we need to make sure we get it right. The recent case involving a journalist and the Crime and Corruption Commission lends further weight to the government's position and highlights why careful consideration and consultation with a wide range of stakeholders and experts is fundamental to giving certainty for all involved.

The Attorney-General has already canvassed in her speech to the parliament the many complexities and the way the government plans to take this issue forward. The review of chapters 3 and 4 is an extremely complex piece of work, but it is on track and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General has been working with the Crime and Corruption Commission towards its finalisation. Frankly, the proposed non-government amendments do not address all of the issues which I have just outlined, which is why they should be opposed.

With respect to the matters raised by members in the debate about videorecorded evidence and police training and matters raised in the statement of reservation in the committee report, I will provide some further comments now. The new section 103E of the Evidence Act defines a trained police officer

as a police officer who has successfully completed a training course, approved by the police commissioner, for the purpose of taking recorded statements. An amendment to this definition is proposed to be moved during consideration in detail of the bill to further provide that the training course must be in domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence training course is not further defined in the bill because, quite frankly, it would be foolish to do so. The proposed method intends to futureproof the definition and allow the nature of the required training to be adapted as our understanding of the impacts of domestic and family violence develops or to address relevant findings of the evaluation of the pilot.

The videorecorded evidence provisions in the bill will commence on a day to be fixed by proclamation to allow sufficient time for implementation activities to occur, including police training and the development of relevant procedures and guidelines around the taking of recorded statements. As I said in my contribution to this debate, the Police Service is well advanced with that training, and the development of those procedures and guidelines and will be in a position for the trial to commence soon after the passing of this bill.

Access to a fair trial for defendants was also a topic raised by members during the debate. As outlined in the explanatory notes for the bill, the development of a time limited pilot, which will be subject to an independent evaluation, is intended to enable evidence about the victims' experience and potential for unintended consequences for both victims and the accused, together with other practical and financial impacts for courts, police and prosecutors, to be properly assessed. A key focus of the evaluation will be the impact of the use of recorded statements on the number of guilty pleas and the reasons for any change. There are also a range of safeguards in the bill which will act to ensure that an accused person can continue to receive a fair trial despite the departure from the usual rules of evidence that apply in criminal proceedings arising from the use of videorecorded statements.

During this debate members also raised the issue of the interplay of the Justices Act with the videorecorded evidence proposals contained in the bill. I can advise that the new section 103I of the Evidence Act deals with admissibility of recorded statements in a committal proceeding. The starting point for conducting committal proceedings under section 110A of the Justices Act is that a written statement of a prosecution witness must be admitted as evidence without the witness being required to appear at the committal proceeding to give evidence unless a direction under section 83A(5AA) has been made.

New section 103I operates to ensure that a transcript of a recorded statement may be admissible in the proceeding as if it were admitted as a written statement under section 110A of the Justices Act. The provision states that section 110A applies as though subsection 6C(c) of that section, which includes the requirement for the statement to be signed, were omitted.

I start by acknowledging the very important and deeply moving contribution to this debate by the member for Cooper yesterday in relation to the coronial recommendation amendments which we all heard. I thank her for sharing her lived experience with the chamber. It is so important to hear about the real impact that this legislation can have on families and the community more broadly.

With respect to the questions raised by members about time limits, I note that the Department of Justice and Attorney-General spoke about this issue at the committee hearing. They noted that the imposition of a strict time limit represents a risk to an accused's right to a fair trial and effectively imposes a disclosure obligation. While the Criminal Code imposes disclosure obligations on the prosecution, defendants in criminal trials have the benefit of important principles restricting the extent to which aspects of their defence have to be disclosed. Those principles include the burden of proof of the charges, which always falls on the prosecution, the right to silence and the defendant's right not to be compelled to give self-incriminating evidence.

At present, there is no requirement for defendants to outline their defences or procedural, evidentiary or other issues that might arise during the trial in advance, with the exception of the special matters required under sections 590A, 590B and 590C of the Criminal Code. These sections require defendants to give notice of particulars of three aspects of their defences in advance of the trial: the first being alibi evidence, then expert evidence and evidence of a representation under section 93B of the Evidence Act 1977, which relates to hearsay evidence of statements by people who are dead or mentally or physically incapable of giving the evidence.

Given the inherent complexity of the issue, the fixing of an arbitrary time frame also risks being unable to appropriately account for the many scenarios and contingencies that arise in homicide matters, noting that contests in relation to the identity of human remains are rare and the issues encountered during Daniel Morcombe's case were understood not to be demonstrative of a larger systemic issue.

As foreshadowed by the Attorney-General, on her behalf I intend to move amendments to the Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021. These amendments respond to issues raised by submitters during the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's inquiry on the bill and the recommendations made by the committee in its report as well as making a minor technical correction to the bill. I understand that those amendments have already been circulated and, of course, will be moved at the appropriate time. In respect of those amendments, I make the following comments.

Amendment 1 will amend clause 33 of the bill to insert subsection (3A) into new section 14ZF, which deals with decisions on applications. New subsection (3A) specifies that, in an application for a determination of an objection to the inspection, copying or seizing of a document or thing authorised under a search warrant, the person seeking to deal with the sealed or stored document or thing—that is, the authorised officer, chief executive of the entity that appointed the authorised officer or a delegate of the chief executive, or another person prescribed by regulation—bears the onus of proving, on the balance of probabilities, that the public interest in disclosing the informant's identity outweighs the prescribed matters mentioned in new section 14Y(1)(a) and (b).

Amendment 2 is a clarifying amendment to new section 14ZF in clause 33 that stipulates that the decision referred to in new section 14ZF(4) is reference to the decision under section 14ZF(3).

The remaining three amendments relate to provisions in the bill in support of a legislative framework for a pilot enabling videorecorded statements taken by trained police officers to be used as adult victims' evidence-in-chief in domestic and family violence related criminal proceedings. The third amendment amends new section 93AC of the Evidence Act in clause 36 by replacing the incorrect reference to section 93 criminal statement in subsection (1) with the correct reference to section 93A, criminal statement.

The fourth amendment addresses concerns raised by a submitter to the committee's inquiry into the bill and responds to the third recommendation in the committee's report. The amendment amends the definition of domestic violence offence under new section 103B in clause 37 by clarifying that both limbs of this definition under paragraphs (a) and (b) can be read separately; in other words, they do not both need to be satisfied in order to meet the definition of domestic violence offence.

The fifth amendment also addresses concerns raised by submitters to the committee's inquiry into the bill as well as in the statement of reservation to the committee's report. Amendment 5 amends new section 103E(4) in clause 37 to provide that a trained police officer means a police officer who has successfully completed a domestic and family violence training course approved by the commissioner for the purpose of taking recorded statements.

Once again, on behalf of the Attorney-General, I thank all members for their contributions to the debate. I also thank all of the stakeholders who participated in the committee process and were involved in the consultation processes leading up to the development of the bill. I thank the committee members, the secretariat and all members of the community for their interest in this matter. There are good reforms contained in this bill and I encourage all members to support it. 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

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): I note that the member for Maiwar's amendments are identical to the member for Clayfield's amendments. If two or more non-government members are proposing an identical amendment, the practice is that the amendment is moved by the member whose amendment was first provided to the Table Office. In this case, that was the member for Clayfield. Whether the member for Clayfield's amendments are accepted or negated, once the House makes a decision on the member for Clayfield's amendments the member for Maiwar will not be able to move his amendments pursuant to standing order 150.

Clauses 1 to 32, as read, agreed to.

Clause 33—



**Mr NICHOLLS** (5.08 pm): I move the following amendments—

#### 1 Clause 33 (Insertion of new pt 2, div 2B)

Page 27, lines 20 to 24—

*omit*, insert—

(1) In this division, a proceeding is a **relevant proceeding** if—

- (a) the court hearing the proceeding is a court of record; or
- (b) the proceeding is a hearing conducted by the Crime and Corruption Commission under the *Crime and Corruption Act 2001*.

**2 Clause 33 (Insertion of new pt 2, div 2B)**

Page 28, line 2, 'of record'—  
*omit.*

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

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Mr Tim Nicholls's amendments [729].

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Tim Nicholls's amendments [730].

In so doing, I would say that it is always the case that the LNP will be ahead of the Greens, especially in the seat of Clayfield. I say that just in case anyone was in any doubt about that.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** No, but I can tell you that the member for Brisbane certainly will need a lot of help and my good friend the member for Greenslopes will have the same problem.

These amendments are in relation to extending the provision of the shield laws to the activities of people called before the CCC. I listened quite carefully to the minister's response, as I have listened to the debate in the House in respect of this matter. In his response on behalf of the Attorney-General the minister said, 'The government has committed to applying shield laws to the CCC.' Then, some three or four minutes later, he said, 'The government is very open to applying the shield laws to the CCC.' The question is whether the government will or will not. Is the government committed to it or is the government open to thinking about it? That has been the problem the whole way through since this bill has been introduced.

There has been talk of reviews, but there has never actually been a statement that says that the government will apply the shield laws for journalists appearing before the CCC. This has been a cause of concern for many people, including those very many submitters to the committee and to the inquiry. I mentioned those in my speech: the Queensland Law Society, the Bar Association, Australia's Right to Know coalition, the Queensland Council for Civil Liberties and many other submitters. They all raised that issue and some noted the Attorney's comments in her introductory speech that the matter would be dealt with within six months. As I said in my speech—I listened to the Attorney—there was still no commitment in the second reading speech the Attorney gave yesterday. It is necessary for this House to consider amendments. That is why I have circulated those amendments.

In response to the matters raised by the minister, the effect of amendment No. 1 as circulated is that shield laws will apply before a court of record and a hearing conducted by the Crime and Corruption Commission under the Crime and Corruption Act. This will include a hearing under section 176 of that act in relation to the commission's function. Amendment No. 2, which omits the words 'of record', then says, 'Please note that "court" is defined in the Evidence Act, schedule 3, to include a court, tribunal, judge, justice, arbitrator, body or person before whom or which a proceeding is held or taken.' In my view this is broad enough to cover the Crime and Corruption Commission.

*(Time expired)*

Division: Question put—That the amendments be agreed to.

**AYES, 34:**

**LNP, 28—**Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Hart, Janetzki, Langbroek, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Mickelberg, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts.

**Grn, 2—**Berkman, MacMahon.

**KAP, 3—**Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1—**Andrew.

**NOES, 48:**

**ALP, 48—**Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Pairs: Fentiman, Weir; Hinchliffe, Last; Howard, Gerber.

Resolved in the negative.

Non-government amendments (Mr Nicholls) negatived.

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

**1 Clause 33 (Insertion of new pt 2, div 2B)**

Page 39, after line 18—

*insert—*

- (3A) A person mentioned in section 14ZE(2)(b), (c) or (d), who is a party to the application, has the onus of proving, on the balance of probabilities, that the public interest in disclosing the informant's identity outweighs the matters mentioned in section 14Y(1)(a) and (b).

**2 Clause 33 (Insertion of new pt 2, div 2B)**

Page 39, line 19, after 'the decision'—

*insert—*

under subsection (3)

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

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, explanatory notes to Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments [\[731\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Evidence and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2021, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Shannon Fentiman's amendments [\[732\]](#).

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 33, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 34 and 35, as read, agreed to.

Clause 36—



**Mr RYAN** (5.18 pm): I move the following amendment—

**3 Clause 36 (Replacement of s 93AA (Unauthorised possession of, or dealing in, s 93A criminal statements))**

Page 43, lines 24 and 25, 'section 93'—

*omit, insert—*

section 93A

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 36, as amended, agreed to.

Clause 37—



**Mr RYAN** (5.18 pm): I move the following amendments—

**4 Clause 37 (Insertion of new pt 6A)**

Page 44, line 27, 'and'—

*omit, insert—*

or

**5 Clause 37 (Insertion of new pt 6A)**

Page 47, line 14, after 'completed a'—

*insert—*

domestic and family violence

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 37, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 38 to 52, 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) (5.19 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.




Question put—That the bill, as amended, 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) (5.20 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.

## INSPECTOR OF DETENTION SERVICES BILL

Resumed from 28 October 2021 (see p. 3390).

### Second Reading

 **Hon. LM LINARD** (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

On 28 October 2021 the Inspector of Detention Services Bill was introduced and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee. I thank the committee members for their thorough consideration of the bill. I would also like to thank those stakeholders, organisations and individuals who made submissions to the committee and participated in the public hearing. I am pleased to inform the House that on 21 January 2022 the committee tabled report No. 21 and made one recommendation—that the bill be passed. I thank the committee for its support for the bill.

The bill before the House establishes the Inspector of Detention Services. It introduces the legal framework allowing for independent oversight of places of detention and detention services through a system of regular inspections and reviews. The Palaszczuk government is committed to protecting the human rights of all Queenslanders, including those in detention. That is why this bill is aimed at promoting and upholding the humane treatment and conditions of detainees and preventing harm to detainees. Importantly, this bill reflects the Palaszczuk government's commitment to establishing an independent inspector over adult correctional services and youth detention services in response to recommendations from several Queensland criminal justice system reviews. This government also decided to include oversight over police watch houses within the inspector's remit.

The inspector's role will be distinct from existing oversight mechanisms for places of detention due to its independence and system-wide focus to prevent harm to detainees. The bill includes provision for the inspector and oversight entities such as the Ombudsman and Public Guardian to communicate with each other and share information as appropriate to ensure efficient and effective oversight and to avoid duplication. The inspector will examine systemic themes arising from the experiences of detainees and recommend policy, practice or legislative changes to help improve the way places of detention and detention services operate and are managed. The inspector will monitor agencies' progress in implementing its recommendations and report directly to the Legislative Assembly following reviews and inspections. These functions will improve transparency and accountability.

The inspector will not investigate incidents such as riots, deaths or escapes and will not resolve individual complaints. These are functions already performed by other agencies. However, complaints made by individuals could be a source of intelligence to inform reviews or inspections of the inspector. To help achieve its purpose, the bill supports and enables people such as detainees and staff to speak openly to the inspector. Recognising the need to protect confidential information and the individuals who provide this information, the bill has limitations and safeguards on the use of confidential information.

I would now like to address several issues raised through the committee inquiry. While the submissions indicated support to establish an inspector in Queensland, some submitters raised concerns about the appointment of the Queensland Ombudsman as the inspector. The decision to

appoint the Ombudsman as the independent inspector was not one of compromise. Rather, it seeks to leverage the Ombudsman's established relationships in the detention environment and create synergies between the Ombudsman's existing functions and those of the new independent inspector.

The bill ensures that the functions of the inspector and the functions of the Ombudsman will be kept administratively separate, with officers having delegated powers and functions from either the inspector or the Ombudsman but not both. Separate resourcing will be allocated to ensure the inspector's effective operation. The inspector will report separately to parliament on its operations following inspections and reviews.

Many submitters questioned whether the Ombudsman's office would be adequately resourced to undertake the additional work of the inspector. To provide greater certainty and assurance on this issue and to mitigate any potential impacts, I can confirm that the Palaszczuk government will provide additional funding to the Ombudsman's office of \$9.38 million over four years and \$2.97 million per annum ongoing. Provision has also been made for the engagement of up to an additional 16 full-time equivalent staff for the office of the inspector. This additional funding and resourcing will ensure the inspector can effectively carry out its functions without compromising those performed by the Ombudsman. I acknowledge that adequate funding and resourcing will be key to the inspector operating effectively.

Concerns were raised by submitters regarding the inspector's scope. Under the bill, the inspector will be able to inspect places of detention, defined in clause 6 to include a community corrections centre, a prison, a watch house, a work camp and a youth detention centre. The inspector will also be able to review detention services defined under clause 5 of the bill to include the operation, management, direction and control or security of a place of detention. They will also be able to review security, management, control, safety, care or wellbeing of persons detained in a place of detention. While ultimately a matter for the inspector, this could include reviews examining health and rehabilitation services provided to detainees. The inspector can also review issues related to the security and management of places of detention such as overcrowding or sufficient staffing that may impact on the safety, care or wellbeing of detainees.

Detention services include the transport of detainees in particular circumstances. This could include transportation by Queensland Corrective Services of an adult prisoner between an authorised mental health facility and a Corrective Services facility or between prison and hospital for medical treatment for a prisoner. I acknowledge that there is a risk of ill-treatment to people in other situations where they may be deprived of their liberty. However, individuals in these situations are not without protections as there are existing oversight mechanisms that will apply. For example, a person can make a complaint about their treatment to other bodies such as to the Health Ombudsman, the Crime and Corruption Commission or the Queensland Human Rights Commission. Ultimately, this bill is giving effect to the government's commitment to implement recommendations arising from the independent reviews into Queensland's criminal justice system which focused on prisons, youth detention centres and watch houses.

As well as providing broad powers of inspection and review, the bill mandates certain regular inspections. The frequency of mandatory inspections was also raised by submitters. Under clause 8(c) of the bill, the inspector will be required to inspect each youth detention centre at least once every year. The inspector's role will complement the existing oversight mechanisms of the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs. Under section 263(4) of the Youth Justice Act, the director-general of the department responsible for youth justice is required to monitor detention centres and inspect each detention centre at least once every three months. The bill and the new Inspector of Detention Services will not replace or lessen these requirements.

In addition, each prison that is classed as a secure facility is to be inspected at least once every five years, and all or part of a particular place of detention prescribed by regulation at least once every five years. The bill's mandatory inspection requirements balance transparency and accountability by mandating inspections for certain places of detention, while giving the inspector flexibility to plan when and how to inspect other places of detention based on identified issues or risks.

While these are minimum requirements for certain places of detention, the inspector has the power to inspect any place of detention or conduct a review of detention services at any time, whether announced or unannounced. The inspector may choose to inspect places of detention more frequently, if required. Ultimately, the bill recognises that the inspector will be best placed to decide when and how to inspect places of detention based on the intelligence it gathers and the information received from other entities.

Further, the bill provides that the parliamentary committee responsible for examining the performance of the inspector may choose to consider the frequency of mandatory inspections and make recommendations if required. The bill also includes a requirement to review the act after five years to determine if the policy objectives remain valid and provisions continue to achieve the objectives.

Quite rightly, submissions commented on the need to make sure the bill adequately covered vulnerable detainees. It is well established that children in institutional settings can be more susceptible to abuse. They may lack the skills to advocate effectively for themselves, particularly within a detention environment. We know that children within a detention environment come from difficult backgrounds, display challenging behaviours and have complex needs. This can often be a result of the trauma that the child has experienced.

The Youth Justice Act, Human Rights Act, and the Australasian Youth Justice Administrators Standards outline governments' obligations to protect young people including those detained in Queensland. The principles of the Youth Justice Act promote the continuous improvement of places of detention and require the relevant director-general to take the necessary steps to ensure young people receive services to meet their needs. This includes rehabilitation aimed at avoiding re-offending.

The bill seeks to address some of these unique issues and challenges raised by the detention of young people. It will implement some of the recommendations made as part of recent child-specific inquiries such as the Independent Review of Youth Detention and the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

The bill has been developed with flexibility in mind and ensures that those vulnerable detainees are adequately supported. Vulnerable detainees could include young people and others such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, those with disabilities or those who are culturally or gender or sexually diverse.

The bill provides for a pragmatic approach, rather than being prescriptive, which was refined through consultation with stakeholders. For example, clauses 9 and 38 operate to ensure the inspector can arrange or consult with suitable people, professionals or others with the relevant skills, knowledge and experience to assist the inspector with reviews or inspections.

If a review or inspection relates to a detainee who identifies as First Nations, the inspector must arrange for an appropriate representative to assist the inspector. This must be someone who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and has authority to speak on behalf of the detainee. When delegating functions, the inspector must also ensure staff appointed reflect the social and cultural diversity and vulnerabilities of detainees, including representing persons who identify as a First Nations person.

The bill recognises the unique vulnerabilities, as I mentioned, of children. That is why the inspector must arrange for a suitable person with the appropriate expertise in child trauma and the prevention and identification of child sexual abuse to be present when conducting a review or inspection that relates to the detention of a child whether in a youth detention centre or another place of detention.

The bill also enables the inspector to work with other oversight bodies involved with children and young people which could include, for example, the Office of the Public Guardian or the Queensland Family and Child Commission. This is to ensure the best interests of children and young people are considered and they are appropriately supported.

It will also be open to the inspector to develop and publish separate inspection standards for children and young people that consider best practice for carrying out inspections in youth detention. This has happened in other jurisdictions. These are just some examples of how the bill provides a framework to support vulnerable detainees.

Lastly, submitters commented on the bill and its relationship to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, referred to as OPCAT. Our government supports the principles of OPCAT, and the introduction of this bill demonstrates that. It is the Commonwealth government that made the decision to ratify OPCAT, which imposes broader obligations beyond just nominating a national preventive mechanism.

There are significant cost implications in properly giving effect to OPCAT. Until ongoing funding for OPCAT is resolved with the Commonwealth, Queensland will not make a formal commitment to implement OPCAT. We will, however, continue to work with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to determine how best to implement OPCAT in Australia.

In conclusion, the development of this bill could not have been achieved without the cooperation and expertise of key agencies and stakeholders. I would particularly like to acknowledge and express my appreciation to all stakeholders and submitters for their valuable input into the bill. I also

acknowledge the hard work of my colleague the Attorney-General and her department. This bill is an important step to ensure greater transparency in the way places of adult and youth detention operate. I commend the bill to the House.

**Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (5.34 pm): Prisons, jails, penitentiaries, correctional centres, detention centres, watch houses, the brig, stockades, borstal or the big house—call them what you will but they all have one primary purpose, and that is locking people up, segregating those who have done wrong from the wider community for varying periods, from overnight in a watch house for offences like drunk and disorderly to life behind bars for capital offences. It is a regimented life with strict discipline and effectively a community of the watched and the watchers—prisoners and prison officers.

Australia was originally seen as the opportunity for one big place of detention, established firstly as a penal colony. It became necessary after the British lost the American Revolutionary War in 1782, and the Americans, understandably, stopped taking British convicts. As the prisons and hulks in old Blighty filled to overflowing and became pestilent and disease ridden, the government in the United Kingdom had to take action. The result was the First Fleet of 11 ships—775 convicts were transported on six of those ships. Officials, marines and crew members and their families totalled another 645 souls and helped fill a further five ships. Indeed, Australia became a community of the watched and the watchers.

Under the command of Captain Arthur Phillip, the fleet arrived at Botany Bay on 20 January 1788. Finding Botany Bay unsuitable, Phillip sailed north to Port Jackson and found one of the finest harbours in the world. On 26 January 1788, the entire fleet was firmly at anchor at what we now know as Sydney Cove. In 1824 the penal colony of Moreton Bay was established, and I am sure honourable members in this place will know the history of Queensland well enough that I do not need to continue the history lesson.

**Mr Skelton:** We love it!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I heard someone say they love it. I am not quite sure who, but he will be in strife for saying that. Suffice to say that, by the time the last convict ship arrived in Western Australia in 1868, about 162,000 convicts had been transported to Australia. At the time Australia was being considered as a suitable repository for every poor soul who stole a shilling or a loaf of bread, the idea of prisons as places for lengthy detention had been around only for a short time.

Indeed, until the late 18th century prisons were not used for lengthy periods of detention. They were mainly used for debtors, people awaiting trial and convicts waiting for their sentences to be imposed—and that was usually death or transportation. In fact, it is amazing to consider how many offences were punishable by death. The other alternatives were usually public events designed to deter and shame. Some of these included the ducking stool, the pillory, whipping, branding and the stocks. In 1688 in the United Kingdom there were 50 offences on the statute book punishable by death, but that number had almost quadrupled by 1776, and it reached 220 by the end of the century. Most of the laws introduced during that period were concerned with the defence of property.

Grand larceny was one of the crimes that drew the death penalty. It was defined as the theft of goods worth more than 12 pence—about one-twentieth of the weekly wage of a skilled worker at the time. As the 18th century proceeded, jurors often deliberately under assessed the value of stolen goods in order to avoid a mandatory death sentence, highlighting I think something that the people who look at these things over the years know, and that is that jurors exercise a discretion not available to courts that does seek to avoid the imposition of mandatory sentences—something that we should always consider in this day and age as well. In any event, the result was obvious—overcrowded jails and overcrowded prison hulks moored in the Thames and at Portsmouth and Plymouth off the English coast.

In 1735 a prison reform movement started to get under way. The House of Commons conducted an inquiry into prison reform. Although unsuccessful at first, a fellow called William Hay, the member for Seaford in Sussex, introduced bills to the British parliament in 1736, and again in 1737, that sought to make some changes to the situation of prisoners and reform of the poor laws.

**Mr Power:** When are we getting to the 19th century?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** The 19th century is coming, member for Logan. Indeed, for you even the 20th century and the 21st century will be coming along in due course.

**Mr Power:** This is cruel and unusual punishment!

**Mr NICHOLLS:** For someone who sits in a Labor caucus, he speaks with knowledge. One of the ideas in those early bills, member for Logan, was the inspection of houses of correction. Although the bills failed to gain support, it was the start of action on the reform of prisons. Perhaps the most significant

reformer of prisons in the 18th century was an obscure country squire named John Howard. Appointed High Sheriff of Bedfordshire in 1773, he took the role seriously and commenced inspecting the prisons within his remit. He was appalled at the state of the prisons he inspected. He commenced a tour of all prisons in England and across the continent and produced a seminal work called *The State of the Prisons* in 1777.

In 1774, prior to his book being published, he also gave evidence to the House of Commons committee about the conditions he had witnessed in English jails. It led to two acts which aimed to improve conditions in jails. The first abolished jailer's fees and the second enforced improvements in the system, leading to better prisoner health. His published writings on the subject were widely read, and his detailed accounts of inhumane conditions caused dismay.

Member for Logan, you may consider that listening to me is inhumane treatment, but I can tell you that am going to continue. If the ALP government cannot organise themselves to finish on time, then we are all going to suffer together. I want to let everyone know that is the case. Take it up with the Leader of the House, because she has the capacity to do something about it. I see the member for Greenslopes escaping. I know that I should not comment on it, but he is off like he just got out of Alcatraz.

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** You will like this. I think members on the other side will like this because it goes to their philosophy. He advocated a system of state controlled prisons in which the regime was tough—which is us—but the environment healthy—which was us as well. In 1779 the Penitentiary Act authorised the construction of two prisons in accordance with those theories. Howard advocated a regime of solitary confinement, hard labour and religious instruction. The objective of imprisonment, he believed, was reform and rehabilitation, not just punishment. Since that time the use and policy behind prisons, incarceration and things like solitary confinement has continued to bedevil policymakers and administrators right up to this day.

The Productivity Commission in its 2020-21 paper—I told you we would get to the 21st century, member for Logan—reports that Australia's criminal justice system—I think this is important or I would not say it otherwise—imposes a large and growing cost on taxpayers as well as indirect costs on prisoners, their families and society as a whole. Prisons are expensive, costing Australian taxpayers \$5.2 billion in 2019-20, or more than \$330 per prisoner per day on average. More than 40,000 people were in Australia's prisons as at 30 June 2020, although many more will flow through the prison system over the course of a year. Imprisonment rates and government expenditure on Corrective Services have been rising for several decades in all jurisdictions. That is certainly the case here in Queensland, as I will demonstrate in a moment or two. Australia's imprisonment rate is above the OECD average, and prisons are already operating at or above designed capacity—certainly here in Queensland and territories that is the case—and if current policies and trends continue, there is no doubt we will continue to need more and bigger prisons with larger capacity.

While this is not the subject of this bill in strict terms, it provides context for the complexity of the issue and does highlight the size of the job of the proposed Queensland inspector of prisons. It is an enormous task. In Queensland, the latest figures from the Government Statistician's office show an annual increase in prisoner numbers of 15 per cent and an increase in the crude rate of 13.9 per cent. That is the rate per 100,000 prisoners. In numbers, that means on 30 June last year there were 9,952 prisoners in Queensland jails, almost 1,300 more than the year before. That is a very substantial increase. They are housed in 14 correctional facilities. There are obviously watch houses and three youth detention centres around the state. Even in my own electorate, Clayfield, there is the Helana Jones centre, a low-risk centre for women providing a home-style setting, on Sandgate Road. I note that this bill implements a policy taken to the last election by the government to establish an independent inspectorate to promote and uphold the humane treatment and conditions of people detained in prisons and the like. I want to advise that the LNP will not be opposing this bill.

**Mr Stevens:** We gave them a vote, remember?

**Mr NICHOLLS:** That was a long stretch even for me. I do want *Hansard* to record that I value the contribution of the member for Mermaid Beach, as I always do.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** What do they call that mask? That is the other thing I want to know. Openness, transparency and accountability in the administration of places of detention carries on the tradition of John Howard that I have described previously in my contribution from three centuries ago.

This bill introduces the dual appointment model. Section 33 appoints the Queensland Ombudsman as the Inspector of Detention Services. I do want to note why this may be considered important. I took the time to investigate the Queensland Corrective Services website to investigate how effective the Office of the Chief Inspector of Prisons, which has been set up as a subdivision of Queensland Corrective Services, has been and to see what inspections have taken place.

The website says it is updated as at 2019, so this is the latest and most available information from that website. The last full announced inspection and report was carried out at the Southern Queensland Correctional Centre, the Gatton centre, which is in the member for Lockyer's electorate and I think just past the member for Ipswich West's area. That last full report was carried out in 2013.

The Office of the Chief Inspector may have been doing inspections, but they certainly have not been put up on the website or reported about. We do have reports going to the Arthur Gorrie Correctional Centre from 2012 and a follow-up in 2013; Borallon in 2009 with a follow-up in 2010; and the women's correctional centre. The others are there; it is just that nothing has happened since 2013. One wonders what the Office of the Chief Inspector has been doing in the absence of reports on the website that say they have been doing something. They may have been, but certainly the website does not update that information. The website also does not update prisoner number information. You have to go to the Government Statistician's office to find that. Queensland Corrective Services' information, at the very least, seems to be two years old. In fact, the Queensland Government Statistician gets his information from the report on government services by the federal government, the famous RoGS that we all know and hear about. We know that not much has been happening in this space.

There are many arguments about the model that would best serve the policy intent behind the bill. I have listened to what the minister taking up the cudgels on behalf of the Attorney-General said in her contribution to the debate a few minutes ago. There are many arguments about the model that would best serve the policy intent behind the bill. I think it would be fair to say that this model might be considered the most economical model utilising, as it does, the existing offices and facilities of the Ombudsman. I also note the minister's contribution in terms of the funds that will now be made available to support the Ombudsman in its role, and this answers one of the major queries that was raised by the vast majority of submitters.

It is important to note that the vast majority of submitters did not support the dual model and mainly supported the creation of a separate inspectorate. That was the evidence of many of the submitters—including Sisters Inside, knowmore and a number of other organisations. They all supported that. A fellow called Mr Steven Caruana wrote a very lengthy and detailed submission. He previously worked for the inspector of prisons in Western Australia and the Commonwealth in a similar role.

Minister, I understand you said \$9.3 million over three years—I think that was in your speech, which I am sure you will recall immediately—and \$2.4 million ongoing, which is another number that springs to mind. There will also be 16 extra staff going into the Ombudsman's office. That goes some way to addressing the concerns of submitters to the committee that it would be another obligation lobbed on to the Ombudsman's office that they would have to do with their existing resources. That additional funding will certainly be necessary, given the scale of the task I have identified in relation to the size of the state, the number of detention centres, the workload that is required and the potential to expand that to other areas given the definition that was identified in the legislation, such as the movement of prisoners or people in detention from one place to another. I think that is good news and it goes some way to addressing concerns that would otherwise be raised, rather than it just being lobbed on to everyone else.

It is important to identify a number of key comments made in some of the submissions. Mr Caruana wanted to amend the bill, and he said that appointing the Ombudsman does not align with the acceptance of recommendations arising from several past reports, including the reports of Mr Walter Sofronoff, the recently retired Chief Justice of the Court of Appeal. He suggested that we should reconsider the decision to appoint the Queensland Ombudsman as the Inspector of Detention Services and we should instead create a standalone independent statutory authority, like the Western Australian Inspector of Custodial Services.

He sought to include a number of other amendments to include a national preventive mechanism, including an obligation to submit proposals and observations on existing and draft legislation. He made other suggestions, including a requirement to ensure that the annual report is provided to the

UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Commonwealth Ombudsman. That was for the purpose of OPCAT, which the minister addressed as well. Throughout the submissions, there is a lot of reference back to OPCAT and its operations. There are a number of issues there.

The Public Advocate raised issues regarding settings that are disability specific, such as acute mental health facilities, the Forensic Disability Service and some disability and aged-care settings; otherwise it cannot comply with OPCAT. The Queensland Council for Civil Liberties supported the bill but highlighted the five years it has taken for the government to finally implement the recommendations from the Sofronoff inquiry and that the implementation is not as was recommended by Mr Sofronoff. I have already mentioned Sisters Inside. The Queensland Network of Alcohol and other Drug Agencies wanted to make some amendments because of the potential limits to health, particularly in relation to consent. The CCC in their submission provided by the former chair, Mr MacSporran, supported part 2 of the bill and looked at it in terms of being able to carry out their investigative duties of the inspector as a public official. That is the other side of the equation, if you like. The Queensland Nurses and Midwives' Union made submissions, and the Australian Lawyers Alliance had something to say about it. Quite a number of other organisations went down the path of making suggestions on how the matter could be improved.

I think the government has considered the matter and has come up with a model that it believes meets the obligations. The provision of funding to enable the Ombudsman to carry out the role of inspector of prisons, as well as the additional staff necessary to carry out that task, will address a number of those concerns. It is a model that we will watch with interest. The experience in Tasmania has been less than satisfactory, but as I understand it the Ombudsman in Tasmania already had a number of other roles and obligations and this was another one heaped onto them in order to get an inspectorate going. Ultimately, that has been less than successful in terms of the workload required. If I recall correctly, there is one person to do it and one research officer who is on 0.9 of an FTE. That certainly does not fill the bill.


We will hear from a number of people in relation to prison officers who are concerned that their views are not being taken into account and that they are somewhat offended that they might be considered to be engaging in torture and the breach of human rights. This has come through the Together union on behalf of the hardworking prison officers. We know there have been significant issues in some of our correctional centres and prisons. The work they do is difficult work, often conflicted work and dangerous work. We saw that in the Townsville detention centre where a prison officer lost an eye four or five years ago. The prison officers were concerned that they would be overlooked and categorised as some form of thuggish bully from movies of the 1950s and 1960s.

**Mr Stevens** interjected.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I do not think I will take that interjection at this time. As worthy as I feel it would have been had I been able to hear it through his mask, I think I will just carry on.

Those prison officers are working in difficult conditions and deserve the support of the government and all of us in this place for the job they do in difficult places. I think the member for Mermaid Beach said this morning that prisons are full of people who did not commit the crime and who do not want to be there. They want to get out a lot of the time, so it is a very difficult job to maintain discipline in those places.

The LNP will not be opposing the bill. We will keep an eye on how it goes through the appropriate processes of the reports of the inspector and the estimates process. We are pleased to see the funding that has been announced by the minister to enable that project to go on. We look forward to seeing it established and we look forward to seeing its reports. As it was when that obscure country squire John Howard in the 18th century started his review of prisons, inspection, openness and transparency are the way that we will see humane conditions in our prisons and in our prison system. We are a better society for that all the way through.

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (5.57 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Inspector of Detention Services Bill 2021. The main objective of the bill is to give effect to the Queensland government's commitment to establish an independent inspectorate to promote and uphold the humane treatment and conditions of people detained in prisons, community corrections centres, such as the Helana Jones Centre, work camps, youth detention centres, police watch houses and other places of detention. The bill also addresses recommendations from a number of reviews into the Queensland criminal justice system including: the Independent Review of Youth Detention, the Queensland Parole System Review; *Taskforce Flaxton: an examination of corruption risks and corruption in Queensland prisons*; and the Queensland Productivity Commission's report entitled *Inquiry into imprisonment and recidivism*.

The committee in its report No. 21, which was tabled in the assembly on 21 January, has recommended to the Assembly that the bill be passed. This bill gives effect to the Queensland government's commitment to establish an independent inspectorate to promote and uphold the humane treatment and conditions of people detained in prisons, community corrections centres, work camps, youth detention centres and police watch houses. The purpose of the Inspector of Detention Services is to facilitate greater transparency and accountability in the way that places of detention, and the people detained within them, are managed. The focus of the inspector will be on the prevention of harm and this focus will examine the systems and the lived experiences of people detained.


Since 2016, there have been a number of reviews into the Queensland criminal justice system which have recommended the establishment of an independent inspector over adult correctional services, youth detention centres and/or police watch houses. There is currently no single body whose primary function is the independent oversight over places of detention and detention services through a system of regular inspections and reviews, with the aim of promoting and upholding the humane treatment and conditions of detained persons.

The committee invited both government and non-government stakeholders across a range of sectors to make written submissions on the bill. As part of their examination, the bill—

Debate, on motion of Mr Russo, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Moggill Electorate, Infrastructure

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (6.00 pm): There are serious infrastructure issues that must be addressed and prioritised across suburbs in the electorate of Moggill and, more broadly, the western suburbs of Brisbane. Specifically, with the current Mount Crosby Weir Bridge being severely damaged and closed to traffic, and dam water releases impacting Colleges Crossing and also recently Bells Crossing, this has meant that local residents, including families and students, have sustained ongoing travel and commuting impacts which have had negative social and economic consequences.

With the recent severe weather and flood event of February and March of 2022, there are also a number of matters pertaining to emergency service and disaster management agency coordination. These are the subject of ongoing local government and state government reviews and, in the case of the Brisbane City Council, now published recommendations. The resolution of these issues requires mature collaboration between all levels of government. I have had ongoing conversations with the federal member for Blair, Shayne Neumann MP; the state member for Ipswich West, Jim Madden MP; and also Councillor Greg Adermann who is the Brisbane City councillor for the Pullenvale ward. I have to say that my LNP colleague, Councillor Adermann, is certainly working tirelessly on behalf of local residents on many of these issues. I can advise the House that there are plans to have a formal meeting with all the aforementioned elected representatives to discuss all relevant matters in order to find sustainable and funded solutions, some of which are underway but need to be expedited, such as the new Mount Crosby Bridge.

When local crossings are flooded, with resultant sustained damage, there is no doubt that urgent assessment and rectification must be prioritised by relevant agencies and appropriate levels of government.

There also continues to be the significant issue of local traffic congestion across the western suburbs of Brisbane. In fact, as reported yesterday in the *Courier-Mail* and by the *Westside News*, the Brisbane City Council's latest *Greater Brisbane Key Corridors Performance Report* shows that eight out of the 17 slowest roads in Brisbane are in the west side. In the same report, the RACQ's Traffic and Safety Engineering Manager, Mr Gregory Miskowycz, made the observation that—

The relentless wet weather has certainly caused increased traffic and slowed down commute times. Flooding of cross-river links around Ipswich has also exacerbated congestion on the Centenary Motorway and Moggill Road.


There are also specific longstanding road and public transport infrastructure issues pertaining to suburbs in the electorate of Moggill. In relation to Moggill and Bellbowrie, there are many who have been calling for a feasibility study on bridge infrastructure at Bellbowrie. This needs to be diligently considered via detailed community consultation and careful consideration to avoid any unintended consequences.



Finally, I call on the Palaszczuk state Labor government to invest in a new school hall, performing arts centre and student services administration block, as well as library facilities and classrooms, in accordance with Kenmore State High School's infrastructure master plan. There also must be the delivery of a new high school for residents and families of Mount Crosby, Karana Downs and surrounding areas.

I have discussed all these matters with various government ministers and also met with departmental officials over many years. Further delays are unacceptable, and it is simply unfair when it comes to the needs of local residents for such infrastructure not to be funded.

### Federal Election; Bruce Highway Upgrade


 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (6.03 pm): How good is Australia? How good is Anthony Albanese? What an outstanding result for our communities and our country. On the weekend, they tossed out that terrible government, the government that said it was never their job to deliver outcomes for communities, to help communities in need, and elected someone who is committed to standing up and committed to making communities better places.

I wanted to put on record my appreciation and acknowledgement of Rebecca Fanning, the Labor candidate for Longman who fought an outstanding fight in the Longman electorate. Whilst she did not get there on the day, she certainly has made a positive contribution already to the community because she was able to secure a number of commitments from Anthony Albanese and Labor which will now be delivered and will now result in better community outcomes for the Longman community. I wanted to celebrate those commitments and I look forward to them being delivered.

It is great that the Minister for Main Roads is here because this first commitment is an outstanding partnership, one that those opposite would never deliver, and it is to upgrade the Bruce Highway. Federal Labor made a commitment of \$586 million to widen the Bruce Highway from six lanes to eight lanes on the stretch from Anzac Avenue, Mango Hill to Uhlmann Road in Caboolture South. In addition, there is \$200 million to widen the Bruce Highway from Dohles Rocks Road to Anzac Avenue, Mango Hill. All through that stretch we are going to have eight lanes of Bruce Highway which will go a significant way to alleviating congestion.

In addition—and these are the really exciting ones—Rebecca Fanning and Labor made a commitment of \$3 million for a splash park at Centenary Lakes, Caboolture. This will be a real attraction for the community. I know that the young people of Caboolture and surrounds are already excited about that splash park, and I am looking forward to seeing that delivered. In addition, the Snakies—the Caboolture Snakes Rugby League Club—have received a commitment of \$3 million for a new clubhouse. That will be very well received and it is a very much needed project because that clubhouse was severely impacted by the recent flooding event. It is an historic club, over 70 years old, and has hundreds and hundreds of members. They will all benefit as a result of an Anthony Albanese Labor government. Finally, a commitment to primary health care. We know Scott Morrison turned his back on primary health care; it is why we had a GP crisis. Federal Labor made a commitment of \$3.75 million to reopen the Morayfield Health Hub. Well done, Albo!

### Road Infrastructure

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (6.06 pm): Does anyone complain about the Ipswich tollway today? I certainly do not. I am happy to pay to use a road built by private enterprise to facilitate easy traffic flow out west of the Brisbane-Gold Coast corridor. The events of this week on the M1 make it absolutely clear that an alternative to the M1 from Brisbane to the Gold Coast must be embarked upon immediately. I have been crying out for this no-brainer piece of infrastructure since the M1 passed its use-by capacity years ago, and a four-hour delay on Tuesday caused by an 11-car pile-up and another heavy accident today make it abundantly clear that a solution to this dangerous embarrassment of a road needs to be addressed now.

The only way that I can see a broke state government and a financially stressed Albo federal government is for both parties to engage the private sector, like the light rail, and get a tollway underway today. The so-called Coomera Connector is but a bandaid fix for the 160,000 cars a day using the M1 and, by the time it is built, the car problem will have jumped to 200,000 cars per day. Accidents and gridlock will be of Los Angeles proportions. It is totally the fault of inaction by this Labor state government in hiding from the necessity to address a problem as obvious as the nose on your face.

The government boasts how wonderful it is having all these people move to South-East Queensland and enjoys the added income from stamp duty, GST and other taxes, yet it fails to address the singular economic and lifestyle inhibitor of South-East Queensland through its failure to address road traffic explosion.

The alternative M1 was on the original Albert Shire town plan, the first in Queensland, in 1974, but was later removed to appease rural interests. With South-East Queensland developing as an urban region and the state government insisting on huge numbers like 60,000 dwellings be incorporated into city plans, it is absolutely essential to provide adequate road infrastructure to cater for these massive increases in road users or risk losing the livability factor that attracts people to move here in the first place.

The 2032 Olympics will be a laughing-stock if we cannot move people from the Gold Coast to Brisbane in a timely manner, so it is even more important to get cracking on a solution right away. The political buck-passing that engulfed the Goss Labor government over the so-called 'koala highway' cannot be repeated for the current alternative M1 as our population has doubled since that argument held up an alternative route for years. For those who do not want to pay a toll, there is always the free current M1 if they are happy to take a little more time and accident risk while driving from the Gold Coast to Brisbane.

### **Redlands Electorate, Volunteers; Redland Rhapsody Chorus, Santry, Ms L**



**Ms RICHARDS** (Redlands—ALP) (6.10 pm): Can I start my contribution by sending my love and support to the member for Macalister after her contribution this afternoon. She is brave, she is courageous and our parliament is better for her voice in this place. All Queenslanders are better for her voice in this place.

Redlanders lost an amazing Redlander on 17 April in Laurel Santry. Laurel was an amazing performer for the Redland Rhapsody Chorus. She lost her battle with cancer. She was the assistant director there. I send to her family my deepest condolences on behalf of all of our community. I send to the Redland Rhapsody Chorus family my deepest sympathies. I know how much pain they have been going through in her loss.

Since the last sitting we have had Mother's Day, which is celebrated by many. Every Mother's Day Redland Rhapsody Chorus have gone with me into our aged-care facilities and brightened the days of many. From Renaissance to Marbello to Tranquil Waters to Salford Waters, their voices have brightened the days of many at our Mother's Day celebrations. I thank the Redland Rhapsody Chorus and again I give my deepest sympathies to the Santry family.

Talking about seniors, we have also had an amazing Seniors Expo in the Redlands. I thank Minister Crawford for coming out to the Redlands to our Donald Simpson Community Centre and for sharing really valuable information with our Redlands community on all of the rebates and concessions that are available for our seniors community. We had people there giving expert advice on elder abuse. It was a really fantastic day, and Minister Crawford was absolutely delighted to see the engagement of our seniors there on the day. It was a fantastic event. I thank all of the departmental staff who came out and supported the day. It really does make a difference when you can share very valuable and useful information.

Since the last parliamentary sitting week we have also seen National Volunteer Week. I do not think there is anybody in this chamber who does not want to say thank you to our volunteers in our community. The hours they put in are absolutely incredible. It was my delight, along with the member for Capalaba, to host a volunteers thankyou event in the Redlands. From our frontline personnel, our SES, coastguards, VMR, P&Cs, museums, history groups and progress associations, when we sit back and reflect there are so many organisations that contribute so strongly to the fabric of our community. On behalf of everybody in this place, I would say happy National Volunteer Week to all of our volunteers. We could not do it without you. You make our communities a better place. At every opportunity we should be out there celebrating and thanking all of those volunteers who make such a huge difference to our community. To all of the Redlands volunteers I say thank you very much for all you do.

### **Toowoomba North Electorate, Law and Order**



**Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (6.13 pm): Imagine locking your house and yet being woken to someone kicking in your door. Imagine locking your house only to find someone standing over you while you are asleep. Imagine locking your car only to watch it being driven out of your driveway.

Imagine going to a shopping centre only to be assaulted and have your car stolen. Imagine feeling unsafe in your own home. Imagine spending thousands of dollars on home security to feel protected and then imagine watching the person who caused you that mental and financial heartache being released on bail just one day after you provided all of the evidence.

What needs to happen for these acts to not be what my community in Toowoomba is facing but for them to be just figments of my imagination? What needs to change is the Palaszczuk Labor government needs to get serious about what is going on in Toowoomba. We need to take seriously the complaints we have had from our community and the pain that this is causing, the terror it is causing to some of our aged people.

The things that need to change are really very simple. Whether it be the Premier, the Attorney-General, the police minister, the youth justice minister, they all have a role to play. I urge the police minister to send the commissioner to Toowoomba. Let's get serious with curbing what is going on. It is absolutely disgusting. The increasing crime we have seen in Toowoomba has been absolutely disgusting. We have been calling for sensible changes for a long time now.

What needs to change? There needs to be a legislative change in this place to bring back the breach of bail offence. Just this week recorded in my newspaper is a story of a teen who was arrested and within 24 hours, despite the objections of the police prosecutor, despite the objections of Child Safety and everybody else, that teen was back on the street simply because the legislation is not tough enough. I thank Michael Nolan for reporting on it.

There is another story of an old lady being attacked in the shopping centre and having her car stolen. We need legislative change—that is critical—but we also need more police resources. We do not just need a sugar hit and different police resources moved around. Whilst that might deal with the immediate problem—and I would welcome it to deal with the immediate problem—the long-term solution is more police resources on the ground, so legislative change and more police resources. The most important part is we need early intervention. We need community support programs. We need to stop this before it starts because my community is living in fear.

A petition is being launched today that calls for these changes. I insist on these ministers taking the issue seriously and getting on with fixing the crime problem in Toowoomba, whatever it takes.

### **Sunnybank/Salisbury Meals on Wheels**



**Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (6.16 pm): On 2 April representing the Premier, I had the great honour to attend the 50th anniversary of the Sunnybank/Salisbury Meals on Wheels. I am going to go into a little bit of the history of how the Meals on Wheels started in Sunnybank/Salisbury.

In February 1972 Father Tom Hegarty called a public meeting in the hope of forming the Sunnybank/Salisbury Meals on Wheels. The object was to provide one meal per day, five days per week to people in distress by reason of sickness, age or any other special circumstances. That was approved by the management committee. At the end of the first week, ending 14 April 1972, payment for 40 meals was recorded at 40 cents each. Today the cost is about \$9 a meal and, by today's standard, it is great value for a highly nutritious meal. By the end of 1974, Meals on Wheels had a waiting list of people needing service. On 9 September 1974 the Upper Mount Gravatt Meals on Wheels commenced and then in April 1976 the Acacia Ridge Meals on Wheels started.

It is important to note that Meals on Wheels not only deliver meals but also provide a vital service to isolated members of the community—the frail, aged and disabled, to name a few. These volunteers are often the only link to the outside world for many housebound people who may not have families to look after them and check to see if they are alright.


Today Sunnybank/Salisbury Meals on Wheels deliver on average 550 meals per week, and on 30 March they delivered their one-millionth meal. This is not just food but someone to say hello and ask, 'Are you okay?' I have had the great honour of delivering meals to members of my community for Meals on Wheels on many occasions. During these visits I have had some great conversations. The one element that was common in most of these was that they were alone and were delighted to have someone just to say hello.

At Christmastide I encouraged Meals on Wheels to make rum balls to give out to the attendees at the seniors Christmas event. They not only made the rum balls but also packaged them into Christmas bags for me. I should also let the House know that I acted as a food tester and can attest to the fact that they tasted as good as they look.

In May 2021 the Hon. Leeanne Enoch moved that the Community Support and Services Committee inquire into social isolation and loneliness in Queensland. The committee's task was to inquire into and report on the nature and extent of the impact of social isolation—

*(Time expired)*


### North Queensland, Youth Crime

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (6.19 pm): The crime cycle in North Queensland continues to turn like a self-perpetuating rat wheel and the residents of Townsville have had it up to here. The state government continues to treat this problem with kid gloves. Recidivist youth offenders are laughing at the system. Whenever the government feels the pressure, it reaches into the pockets of consolidated revenue—our money—and throws serious amounts of cash at yet another microwave-reheated youth justice program that we are assured will work this time. Monitoring and reporting back to the public on the successes is near on non-existent, but that does not matter because the only KPI we care about is a drop in break and enter and unlawful use of a motor vehicle crimes and I can assure members in this House that that sure is not happening.

Here are a few examples of the failures: in 2016 the Townsville Stronger Communities Action Group was created. It was designed to bring together multiple agencies to help young people get back on track. It was spruiked as the solution to Townsville's youth crime problem. It was reviewed after five years and the government admitted it had not monitored it and was unsure of its success. In 2021 it was revamped as the Townsville Stronger Communities Early Action Group. The government has refused to release the full review. In May 2020, \$11.9 million for the Co-Responder Program was announced, which created police officer and youth and justice officer teams that operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week to monitor youth who are at risk or on court orders. They operate in Townsville, Cairns, Mackay, Rockhampton, Moreton, Brisbane North, Logan and the Gold Coast. No data is kept on the co-responder teams' performance, so the community does not know if it is working or not. In July 2020 \$5.6 million worth of funding was announced to be delivered over four years for trials of on-country programs in Cairns, Mount Isa and Townsville. No data has yet been provided on the success of this program or whether or not one child has completed the program. In 2021, as part of its new youth justice legislation targeting hard-nut offenders, the government pledged a \$98.4 million funding package to support the legislation and trial GPS monitoring devices. Only two devices have been trialled on offenders in North Queensland. That is a fail.

But there may be light at the end of the tunnel. Recently, the West Australian McGowan Labor government announced it would spend \$15 million towards an on-country residential facility to provide an alternative to detention. Does that sound familiar? I am calling on the Palaszczuk government to immediately follow Western Australia's lead and trial Katter's Australian Party's relocation sentencing policy to act as a real deterrent to recidivist youth offenders with the intent of putting the brakes on this rat wheel of crime.

### Bayside Community Fund

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (6.22 pm): I am so proud to represent the electorate of Lytton. I am really proud of our wonderful community members who support each other, from our youth to our elderly. It is a vibrant and engaged community. We look after each other and we take care of each other each and every day, from sport for little kids to music classes and dancing for the elderly. I am really proud to know so many of these people and engage with them. Like the member for Redlands, I acknowledge the great volunteers who work in my electorate. I am proud of the great volunteers who work in my electorate each and every day. They come out and support each other no matter what it is. We have a great Meals on Wheels. I acknowledge Ken Edwards, who has just retired after too many years to count, for his dedication to Meals on Wheels.


I would particularly like to talk about an exciting new initiative that we have created in the bayside. We have created the Bayside Community Fund. This fund will be a lasting legacy that members of our community can donate into. It is managed by the Queensland Community Foundation, an organisation set up by the late Brian Grenham, a good friend of mine, and the Hon. Mike Ahern who was a former premier of Queensland. This fund creates in-perpetuity funding. Funds are invested through the QIC and reinvested back into the sub-fund, which is what I am creating.

We have put together a steering committee to create the Bayside Community Fund. With like-minded community members, we are gathering together and engaging with the community to seek donations towards our Bayside Community Fund so that we can support the vast range of organisations

in our community which give back so much to our community to make it the beautiful, vibrant place that it is. I am tremendously proud to be part of the Bayside Community Fund and proud of the people who have joined with me to make this a possibility in my community.


Yesterday the Bayside Community Fund had its launch here at Parliament House with the Hon. Leanne Enoch and the Hon. Margaret McMurdo who is the chair of the QCF. We will be hosting an event on Friday night at the Royal Queensland Yacht Squadron to officially launch our Bayside Community Fund. I am really proud of my community.

### Off-the-plan Developments, Sunset Clauses

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (6.25 pm): Tonight I rise on the issue of sunset clauses that destroy so many families in my area, throughout South-East Queensland and greater Queensland. I note that the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the member for Waterford, spoke about this in a matter of public interest this week. I have been dealing with many families who are absolutely horrified and distraught about what is happening to them. They entered into a contract to buy a property off the plan in good faith with a developer, only to have that property sold out from underneath them. In Queensland and every other state in Australia when you enter into a contract, when you shake a person's hand, that contract should hold. In this case it does not. I know there is some movement on this issue, but I say to the Attorney-General that we need to move quicker to protect these families and investors.

One such family paid a small fortune to get plans drawn for a house on a block of land. That block of land was sold from underneath them for a financial gain of over \$100,000. There are other stories where the developer has almost doubled their money. It is wrong. I ask the Attorney-General to fast-track this legislation. There is legislation in other states that works. New South Wales implemented legislation in 2015. It has been tested in court. Justice Drake stated that it is a fair outcome for both buyer and seller. In the ruling he made he forced the developer to pay the legal costs because he felt that what the developer was doing was purely for financial gain. There needs to be a fair balance point. These laws cannot come soon enough. We have families whose sunset clause time limits are coming up. They too will be stuck in this awkward conundrum. I plead with the Attorney-General to fast-track these rules and give these people some hope.

### Stretton Electorate, Lions Clubs

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (6.28 pm): I would like to recognise the extraordinary achievements of local Lions clubs and their members. This year is the 75th anniversary of the formation of the very first Lions club in Australia. Today there are over 1,100 Lions clubs across the country. Over the past 75 years, Lions have grown to become Australia's largest service club organisation. Last year alone they raised more than \$28 million for medical research, health care, disability assistance, emergency response and environmental projects. Each year Lions donate more than two million hours of support to lift up our communities and develop our young leaders. Some of the wonderful achievements of Lions clubs include supporting the development of the cochlear implant, helping to fund research into the Gardasil vaccine, establishing the Lion Eye Institute and continued research into spinal cord injury and Alzheimer's disease.

My local area has a number of fantastic Lions clubs that do amazing work for the community, including the Calamvale Lions, Pinelands Lions, Macgregor Lions, Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese and Lions Club of Brisbane United Asia Business. When Brisbane was hit hard by flooding earlier this year, Lions members were out and about helping their neighbours and raising money for flood appeals. President Flora Fang and the Lions Club of Brisbane Chinese hosted a flood appeal fundraising dinner at the famous Landmark Restaurant, raising \$26,000. The Calamvale Lions were also out at Sunnybank Hills Shoppingtown raising money to donate to the Lions Australia Foundation National Flood Appeal.

They provide not only charitable service but also social service. I give a special mention to Carl Miller and the team from the UA Lions for their spectacular Christmas party last year. I am very much looking forward to attending the Calamvale Lions changeover breakfast in a few weeks time. Though they are a smaller club, they certainly punch above their weight. A big thankyou to president Amanda Harrison and treasurer Jenny Maguire for all the hard work they have done over the past 12 months. In April I attended the 45th anniversary dinner for the Pinelands Lions Club. I congratulate Ian Smith, Hugh Cullen and the team. On the night, they calculated that since the club was chartered they have given about 179,000 hours of volunteer work and over \$1.1 million donated towards my local community—a fantastic effort.

This Saturday is also the 50th birthday for the Macgregor Lions Club led by President Kathy McCarthy. It is being held at the fantastic Runcorn Tavern. I will be there. I am sure it will be a fun filled event. Indeed, with so much community service, there is so much to celebrate and I am incredibly proud of the Lions clubs and what they do for our local community.

The House adjourned at 6.31 pm.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijie, Bolton, Boothman, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Camm, Crandon, Crawford, Crisafulli, D'Ath, Dametto, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Frecklington, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Healy, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, 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, Skelton, Smith, Stevens, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Watts, Whiting