



RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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WEDNESDAY, 12 OCTOBER 2022



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

Absence of Members



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I have received advice from the member for Nicklin, Mr Robert Skelton MP, and the member for Buderim, Mr Brent Mickelberg MP, as to their absences from the sittings of the House this week. The members' respective notifications comply with standing order 263A.

PRIVILEGE

Speaker's Rulings, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, on 27 September 2022, I tabled two rulings regarding matters of privilege and another on 7 October 2022 including: a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Burnett alleging that the member for Bundaberg deliberately misled the House on 16 March 2022; a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Callide alleging that the Deputy Premier deliberately misled the House on 1 September 2022; and a ruling relating to a complaint by the member for Glass House alleging that the Minister for Police deliberately misled the House on 22 June 2022.

I ruled that all three matters did not warrant the further attention of the House via the Ethics Committee. I now refer to all three matters in the House so that if any member wishes to exercise their rights in respect of those matters under the standing orders, they may do so immediately, identifying the matter concerned.

COMMITTEE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

Report



Mr SPEAKER: Honourable members, I table report No. 32 of the Committee of the Legislative Assembly titled *Report on the 2022 budget estimates process*. I commend the report to the House.

Tabled paper: Committee of the Legislative Assembly: Report No. 32, 57th Parliament—Report on the 2022 Budget Estimates Process [[1583](#)].

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 St William's Primary School, Grovely, in the electorate of Ferny Grove; Somerset College in the electorate of Mudgeeraba; and St Mary's Catholic Primary School in the electorate of Bundaberg. Are there any appointments to be announced?

Mr Bleijie: Treasurer?

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana, this is my time. I ask you to cease your interjections.

PETITIONS

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

Dogs, Puppy Farming

139 petitioners, requesting the House to ban puppy farming in Queensland [\[1584\]](#).

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

Burnett Heads Port

Mr Bennett, from 1,041 petitioners, requesting the House to review all current development plans at Burnett Heads Port with a view to designating the remnant forest area as a Community Environmental Park or Nature Reserve [\[1585\]](#).

Fairview Heights State School, Parking

Mr Watts, from 202 petitioners, requesting the House to utilise the School Transport Infrastructure Program for a larger parking area at Fairview Heights State School [\[1586\]](#).

Toowoomba State High School, Road Safety

Mr Watts from 180 petitioners, requesting the House to utilise the School Transport Infrastructure Program for a safer intersection at Stuart and North Streets for students of Toowoomba State High School [\[1587\]](#).

Toowoomba North State School, Indoor Sports Facility

Mr Watts, from 179 petitioners, requesting the House to provide an enclosed indoor sports facility for Toowoomba North State School [\[1588\]](#).

Nambour-Mapleton Road, Speed Limit

Mr Skelton, from 314 petitioners, requesting the House to make the speed limit on Nambour-Mapleton Road 40km/h permanently [\[1589\]](#).

Hope Island Railway Station, Parking

Mr Boothman, from 1,538 petitioners, requesting the House to allocate an additional 500 car spaces to the Hope Island train station [\[1590\]](#).

Taylor Point, Trinity Beach

Hon Crawford, from 2,360 petitioners, requesting the House to buy back Taylor Point, Trinity Beach from developers for a conservation park [\[1591\]](#).

Learner Licences

Mr Bennett, from 845 petitioners, requesting the House to review the cost and length of validity of the Queensland learner's licence [\[1592\]](#).

Rainbow Beach State School, Road Safety

Mr Perrett, from 368 petitioners, requesting the House to install flashing lights on Carlo Road and Karrawa Drive and reinstate a school crossing supervisor for Rainbow Beach State School [\[1593\]](#).

Brisbane Western Suburbs, Roads and Transport

Dr Rowan, from 605 petitioners requesting the House to ensure an integrated road and public transport plan for the western suburbs of Brisbane [\[1594\]](#).

Colleges Crossing

Dr Rowan, from 1,528 petitioners requesting the House to fix Colleges Crossing with a flood proof river crossing solution [\[1595\]](#).

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

Schools, Menstrual Hygiene Products

1,361 petitioners, requesting the House to provide free menstrual hygiene products in all schools [\[1596\]](#).

Beerwah State Forest Lot 1, AP22457

1,380 petitioners, requesting the House to block the imminent logging from going ahead and fast track Beerwah State Forest Lot 1 AP 22457 into national park [\[1597\]](#).

Strata Titles, Smoking

511 petitioners, requesting the House to introduce laws to ban smoking on strata building balconies [\[1598\]](#).

Tate, Mr T and Taylor, Mr D

656 petitioners, requesting the House to bring in a law that will allow the dismissal of Gold Coast City Council Mayor Tom Tate and Gold Coast City Councillor Darren Taylor [\[1599\]](#).

Oakey State High School, Bus Services

169 petitioners, requesting the House to assess the need for a bus stop at Kingsthorpe Skate Park for students attending Oakey State High School [\[1600\]](#).

By-Elections

1,026 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate changes to laws to allow a proportion of electors in a seat initiate a by-election within that seat in between general elections [\[1601\]](#).

E-Petitions

516 petitioners, requesting the House to modify the current e-petition system to allow analysis of the electorates which the petitioners belong as registered voters [\[1602\]](#).

Roads, Traffic Signals

354 petitioners, requesting the House to initiate changes to traffic laws to allow relaxation of standard traffic signal rules where there is extended visibility and suitable signage [\[1603\]](#).

Legislation, Citizen Veto

628 petitioners, requesting the House to allow a proportion of electors to veto recently passed legislation (or similarly, gazetted subordinate legislation) to ensure the views of the parliament are an accurate representation of the views of eligible voting citizens [\[1604\]](#).

Bundaberg Base Hospital

683 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure proper resources are available to Bundaberg Base Hospital; commence an investigation into poor performance of the hospital; and ensure the accountability of the hospital CEO and board members for proven past poor performance [\[1605\]](#).

Petitions received.

Mr SPEAKER: Get that man a drink of water!

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

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

2 September 2022—

[1272](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 32, 57th Parliament—Report on the 16th Biennial Conference of the Australasian Council of Public Accounts Committees (ACPAC)

[1273](#) Overseas travel report: Report on trade mission to the United Kingdom—Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games and London 2012 legacy projects by the Minister for Tourism, Innovation and Sport and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics and Paralympics Sport and Engagement (Hon. Hinchliffe), 27 July-3 August 2022

[1274](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3764-22) sponsored by the member for Capalaba, Mr Brown, from 6,419 petitioners, requesting the House to call upon the Minister for Local Government to dismiss Redland City Council Mayor Karen Williams

6 September 2022—

[1275](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 24, 57th Parliament—Annual Report 2021-22

[1276](#) Education, Employment and Training Committee: Report No. 25, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled on 21 June 2022

[1277](#) Mental Health Select Committee: Report No. 1, 57th Parliament—Inquiry into the opportunities to improve mental health outcomes for Queenslanders, final government response

[1278](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 11 May 2022 and 21 June 2022

9 September 2022—

[1279](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 34, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Office of the Information Commissioner

[1280](#) Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 35, 57th Parliament—Oversight of the Office of the Queensland Ombudsman

[1281](#) Community Support and Services Committee: Report No. 20, 57th Parliament—Exploring models of housing in Australia's two largest capital cities: Sydney and Melbourne 2022

[1282](#) Speaker's statement—Change of next sitting date—Passing of Her Majesty the Queen

[1283](#) Letter, dated 9 September 2022, from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding change of next sitting date due to the passing of Her Majesty the Queen

13 September 2022—

[1284](#) Speaker's statement—Change of next sitting date

[1285](#) Letter, dated 13 September 2022, from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, to the Speaker, Hon. Curtis Pitt, regarding change of next sitting date

14 September 2022—

[1286](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3734-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 655 petitioners, requesting the House to remove any provisions in the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 that permit the use of an electric collar on a dog and implement legislation to prohibit the use of electric or e-collars

[1287](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3699-22) sponsored by the member for Hinchinbrook, Mr Dametto, from 3,109 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the Biosecurity Act allowing local councils to put provisions into their biosecurity plans for the sustainable management of deer

[1288](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3744-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 880 petitioners, requesting the House to amend the provisions of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 that permit prolonged unsupervised confinement/tethering of a dog

[1289](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3745-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 922 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure legislation includes mandatory codes for provision of species-specific shelter and consider each species' capacity to tolerate extremes in weather

[1290](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3790-22) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) from 107 petitioners, requesting the House to take steps to amend section 3 of the Animal Care and Protection Act 2001 to formally recognise the sentience of animals

[1291](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to a paper petition (3793-22) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and two ePetitions (3588-21 and 3697-22), sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 408, 2,777 and 1,316 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to call for a full commission of inquiry into the management of Fisheries Queensland

[1292](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3718-22) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 430 petitioners, requesting the House to investigate the demolition and disposal of the contaminated material found in illegal pits on Toolakea beaches and adjacent Halifax Bay mudflats

[1293](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3694-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 300 petitioners, requesting the House to undertake additional community led consultation to reduce dangerous driving and improve any Queensland roads that have fallen behind road safety standards

[1294](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3746-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 398 petitioners, requesting the House to amend and expand the current Draft Southern Sunshine Coast Public Transport Strategy to the whole of the Sunshine Coast region

[1295](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3792-22) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3768-22) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 43 and 416 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to review the decision for the current design proposals for the Bauple to Tiara bypass and undertake further consultation with the residents of Bauple and surrounding areas

[1296](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3791-22) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3769-22) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 170 and 361 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to reconsider the proposed closure of Gympie Connection Road, a major arterial thoroughfare in Gympie

16 September 2022—

[1304](#) Annual Report of Electorate and Communication Allowance Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2021-30 June 2022

[1305](#) Annual Report of General Travel Allocation Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2021-30 June 2022

[1306](#) Annual Report of Air Warrant and Alternate Travel Expenditure by Members of the Legislative Assembly—1 July 2021-30 June 2022

[1307](#) Queensland Independent Remuneration Tribunal—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1308](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to a paper petition (3794-22) presented by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(3) and an ePetition (3756-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4)

from 659 and 53,540 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to request the Attorney-General lodge an appeal against the inadequate sentence imposed on the juvenile responsible for the devastating loss of Kate Leadbetter, Matthew Field and their unborn child, and enact legislative changes to curb juvenile crime

[1309](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3767-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 504 petitioners, requesting the House to provide clarification on section 151(3) of the Body Corporate and Community Management Act 1997 in relation to set up, access and operation of bank accounts for the proper management of Body Corporate funds

[1310](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3772-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 358 petitioners, requesting the House to restore whatever practices and rules that were in place for the first two years of COVID

19 September 2022—

[1311](#) Consolidated Fund Financial Report 2021-22

[1312](#) Brisbane Port Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

[1313](#) DBCT Holdings Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

[1314](#) Queensland Lottery Corporation Pty Ltd—Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

[1315](#) Queensland Treasury Holdings Pty Ltd—Consolidated Financial Report for the year ended 30 June 2022

[1316](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3757-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 938 petitioners, requesting the House to ensure legislation is changed requiring Councillors to resign their current position prior to running for a higher elected office

[1317](#) Response from the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure (Hon. Dr Miles), to an ePetition (3776-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,162 petitioners, requesting the House to consult with the community before changing the name of Moreton Bay Regional Council to Moreton Bay City Council

[1318](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to a paper petition (3796-22) presented by the member for Currumbin, Mrs Gerber, and an ePetition (3750-22) sponsored by the member for Currumbin, Mrs Gerber, from 92 and 343 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to deliver a safety upgrade to the Devil's Elbow corner of Tallegbudgera Connection Road

21 September 2022—

[1319](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 27, 57th Parliament—Subordinate legislation tabled between 22 June and 16 August 2022

[1320](#) Stadiums Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1321](#) Tourism and Events Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1322](#) Department of Tourism, Innovation and Sport—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1323](#) Department of Resources—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1324](#) Resources Safety & Health Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1325](#) Surveyors Board Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1326](#) Valuers Registration Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[1327](#) GasFields Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1328](#) Final response from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni), to an ePetition (3730-22) sponsored by the member for Glass House, Mr Powell, from 1,041 petitioners, requesting the House to replace all streetlights within Sunshine Coast Council Division 5 with streetlights that comply with the Australian Government National Light Pollution Guidelines and the Australasian Dark Sky Alliance approved criteria

23 September 2022—

[1329](#) Office of the Queensland Parliamentary Counsel—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1330](#) Queensland Audit Office—Annual Report 2021-22

[1331](#) Newstead House Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1332](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on trade mission to Vietnam by the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), 24-26 August 2022

[1333](#) Department of Environment and Science—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1334](#) Queensland Performing Arts Trust—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1335](#) Queensland Art Gallery Board of Trustees—Annual Report 2021-22

[1336](#) Library Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[1337](#) Residential Tenancies Authority—Annual Report 2021-22

[1338](#) Board of the Queensland Museum—Annual Report 2021-22

[1339](#) Department of State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1340](#) Office of the Independent Assessor—Annual Report 2021-22

[1341](#) Queensland Reconstruction Authority—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1342](#) South Bank Corporation—Annual Report 2021-2022

26 September 2022—

[1343](#) Queensland Training Ombudsman—Annual Report 2021-22

[1344](#) Jobs Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1345](#) Medicines and Poisons Act 2019: Extended Practice Authority 'Pharmacists' (version 2)

[1346](#) Crime and Corruption Commission—Annual Report 2021-22

[1347](#) Legal Aid Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[1348](#) Queensland Family and Child Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1349](#) Queensland Law Society—Annual Report 2021-22

[1350](#) Queensland Ombudsman—Annual Report 2021-22

[1351](#) Queensland Human Rights Commission—Annual Report 2021-22

27 September 2022—

[1352](#) Overseas Travel Report: Report on overseas visit by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly (Hon. Pitt), the member for Pine Rivers (Ms Boyd) and the member for Ninderry (Mr Purdie) to Canada 20-26 August 2022 to attend the 65th Commonwealth Parliamentary Association conference

[1353](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the member for Bundaberg

[1354](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympic Infrastructure

[1355](#) Department of Transport and Main Roads—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1356](#) Cross River Rail Delivery Authority—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1357](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2021-22

[1358](#) Gladstone Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22

[1359](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Annual Report 2021-22

[1360](#) North Queensland Bulk Ports Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22

[1361](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Annual Report 2021-22

[1362](#) Port of Townsville Limited—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-2022

28 September 2022—

[1363](#) Queensland Rail—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1364](#) Ports North—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1365](#) Far North Queensland Ports Corporation Limited (Trading as Ports North)—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22

[1366](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1367](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts (Hon. Enoch) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Residential Tenancies and Rooming Accommodation Regulation 2009

[1368](#) Queensland Integrity Commissioner—Annual Report 2021-22

[1369](#) Queensland Parliamentary Service—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1370](#) Department of Regional Development, Manufacturing and Water—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1371](#) Mount Isa Water Board—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1372](#) Unitywater—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1373](#) Urban Utilities—Annual Report 2021-22

[1374](#) Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1375](#) Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy—Annual Report 2021-2022

29 September 2022—

[1376](#) Queensland Treasury—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1377](#) Queensland Treasury Corporation—Annual Report 2021-22

[1378](#) Motor Accident Insurance Commission—Annual Report 2021-22

[1379](#) National Injury Insurance Agency Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22

[1380](#) Queensland Competition Authority—Annual Report 2021-22

[1381](#) Trade and Investment Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022

[1382](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3735-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 496 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use and sale of choke dog collars

- [1383](#) Response from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner), to an ePetition (3736-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 601 petitioners, requesting the House to ban the use of prong dog collars
- [1384](#) Sunwater—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1385](#) Sunwater—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-2022
- [1386](#) Seqwater—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1387](#) Seqwater—Operational Plan 2021-22
- [1388](#) Response from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Hon. Fentiman), to an ePetition (3755-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,622 petitioners, requesting the House to authorise the release of the legal costs incurred regarding the Crime and Corruption Commission's investigation of allegations against the former Member for South Brisbane
- [1389](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to a paper petition (3804-22) presented by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, and an ePetition (3754-22) sponsored by the member for Gympie, Mr Perrett, from 623 and 5,914 petitioners respectively, requesting the House to provide Gympie hospital with services and future development which the Government's own Clinical Services Master Plan says Gympie needs
- [1390](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3784-22) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 5,677 petitioners, requesting the House to retain the established and respected principle of patient-centred care and vote against the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022
- [1391](#) Department of Seniors, Disability Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1392](#) Darling Downs—Moreton Rabbit Board—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1393](#) Queensland Rural and Industry Development Authority—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1394](#) Safe Food Production Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1395](#) TAFE Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1396](#) Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1397](#) Queensland Racing Integrity Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1398](#) Racing Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1399](#) Contract Cleaning Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 21-22
- [1400](#) Community Services Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 21-22
- [1401](#) Non-State Schools Accreditation Board—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1402](#) Building & Construction Industry (Portable Long Service Leave) Authority—Annual Report 21-22
- [1403](#) WorkCover Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022
- 30 September 2022—
- [1404](#) Department of Education—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1405](#) Cleanco Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1406](#) Cleanco Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22
- [1407](#) Energy Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1408](#) Energy Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22
- [1409](#) Ergon Energy Queensland—Annual Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022
- [1410](#) CS Energy—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1411](#) CS Energy—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22
- [1412](#) Powerlink Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1413](#) Powerlink Queensland—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22
- [1414](#) Stanwell—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1415](#) Stanwell—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-22
- [1416](#) Energy & Water Ombudsman Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1417](#) Department of Energy and Public Works—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1418](#) Board of Architects of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1419](#) Board of Professional Engineers of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1420](#) Queensland Small Business Commissioner—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1421](#) Department of Agriculture and Fisheries—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1422](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3773-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,096 petitioners, requesting the House to provide a detailed and factual account of the impacts of vaccinations against COVID-19 in the community

- [1423](#) Response from the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services (Hon. D'Ath), to an ePetition (3774-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 1,642 petitioners, requesting the House to seek the latest medical advice being relied upon about mask-wearing to limit the transmission of COVID-19
- [1424](#) Mental Health Court—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1425](#) Mental Health Review Tribunal—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1426](#) Office of the Chief Psychiatrist—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1427](#) Children's Hospital Foundation Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1428](#) Mackay Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1429](#) The Prince Charles Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1430](#) Gold Coast Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1431](#) Children's Health Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1432](#) Sunshine Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1433](#) Central Queensland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1434](#) Mackay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1435](#) North West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1436](#) Townsville Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1437](#) Health and Wellbeing Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1438](#) Office of the Health Ombudsman—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1439](#) Queensland Mental Health Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1440](#) Bundaberg Health Services Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1441](#) Far North Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1442](#) Sunshine Coast Health Foundation (Wishlist)—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1443](#) Darling Downs Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1444](#) Gold Coast Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1445](#) Metro North Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1446](#) West Moreton Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1447](#) Central Queensland Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1448](#) Ipswich Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1449](#) PA Research Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1450](#) Royal Brisbane and Women's Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1451](#) Toowoomba Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1452](#) Townsville Hospital Foundation—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1453](#) QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1454](#) Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1455](#) Central West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1456](#) South West Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1457](#) Torres and Cape Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1458](#) Metro South Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1459](#) Wide Bay Hospital and Health Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1460](#) Community Enterprise Queensland—Annual Report 2022
- [1461](#) Queensland Building and Construction Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1462](#) Department of Justice and Attorney-General—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1463](#) Legal Practitioners Admissions Board—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1464](#) Electoral Commission Queensland—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1465](#) Public Trustee—Annual Report 21-22
- [1466](#) Prostitution Licensing Authority—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1467](#) Queensland Health: Notifiable dust lung disease register—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1468](#) Professional Standards Councils—Annual Report 2021-2022
- [1469](#) Professional Standards Councils—Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2022
- [1470](#) Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, interim government response
- [1471](#) Parole Board of Queensland—Annual Report 2021-22
- [1472](#) Queensland Fire and Emergency Services—Annual Report 2021-2022

- [1473](#) Queensland Corrective Services—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1474](#) Department of Health—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1475](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1476](#) Office of the Information Commissioner—Annual Report 2021-22
 - [1477](#) Queensland Investment Corporation—Annual Report 2021-22
 - [1478](#) Queensland Investment Corporation—Statement of Corporate Intent 2021-2022
 - [1479](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Limited—Consolidated annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2022
 - [1480](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Private Capital Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2022
 - [1481](#) Queensland Investment Corporation Properties Pty Ltd—Annual financial statements and directors' report for the year ended 30 June 2022
 - [1482](#) Office of the Inspector-General of Emergency Management—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1483](#) Child Protection Offenders Registry: Device Inspection Powers—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1484](#) Department of the Premier and Cabinet—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1485](#) Office of the Governor—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1486](#) Public Service Commission—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1487](#) Letter, dated 31 August 2022, from the Chair, Screen Queensland Pty Ltd, Hon. Roslyn Atkinson AO, to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, regarding the financial statements of Screen Queensland
 - [1488](#) Screen Queensland—Financial Report 2021-2022
 - [1489](#) Response from the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs (Hon. Scanlon), to an ePetition (3775-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 2,136 petitioners, requesting the House to confirm that the Queensland Cloud Seeding Research Project concluded in 2012; advise of any other cloud seeding and/or weather manipulation projects/research carried out since 2012; and that there is no current cloud seeding or any other weather manipulation activity being conducted by any agency or organisation in the skies over Queensland
 - [1490](#) Response from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk), to an ePetition (3749-22) sponsored by the member for Mirani, Mr Andrew, from 23,420 petitioners, requesting the House to submit a formal request to the Australian Prime Minister and Federal Cabinet, that no treaty, amendment, or any other binding documents be signed until a fully informed public debate and National Referendum has been held
 - [1491](#) Department of Employment, Small Business and Training—Annual Report 2021-2022
 - [1492](#) Queensland Police Service—Annual report for assumed identity authorisation and use—2021-2022
 - [1493](#) Letter, dated 30 September 2022, to the Clerk of the Parliament, Mr Neil Laurie, from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics, Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk, enclosing an approved grant by the Under Treasurer, Mr Leon Allen, in respect to the Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - [1494](#) Approved grant by the Under Treasurer, Mr Leon Allen, in respect to the Organising Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
 - [1495](#) State Development and Regional Industries Committee: Report No. 23, 57th Parliament—Animal Care and Protection Amendment Bill 2022, interim government response
 - [1496](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the State Buildings Protective Security Act 1983
- 4 October 2022—
- [1497](#) Response from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey), to an ePetition (3748-22) sponsored by the Clerk under provisions of Standing Order 119(4) from 299 petitioners, requesting the House to install a red light camera at the signalised pedestrian crossing on Moggill Road outside Indooroopilly State School
- 6 October 2022—
- [1498](#) External review of the Queensland operations of The Star Entertainment Group Limited Report—An external review involving an inquiry into the operation of casinos under s 91 of the Casino Control Act 1982 (Qld) and consideration of enhanced regulation
- 7 October 2022—
- [1499](#) Economics and Governance Committee: Report No. 33, 57th Parliament—Major Sports Facilities Amendment Bill 2022
 - [1500](#) Ruling by the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Hon. Curtis Pitt—Alleged contempt of Parliament by the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services
 - [1501](#) 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, final government response
 - [1502](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Reporting Requirements) Amendment Regulations 2022
 - [1503](#) Rail Safety National Law (South Australia) Act 2012: Rail Safety National Law National Regulations (Reporting Requirements) Amendment Regulations 2022, explanatory notes

[1504](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Tow truck Regulation 2009

[1505](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Infrastructure (Public Marine Facilities) Regulation 2011

[1506](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Transport and Main Roads (Hon. Bailey) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Standard 2010

10 October 2022—

[1507](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities (Hon. Furner) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Rural and Regional Adjustment Regulation 2011

[1508](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services (Hon. Ryan) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Fire and Emergency Services Regulation 2011 and the Building Fire Safety Regulation 2008

[1509](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement (Hon. de Brenni) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Electricity Regulation 2006 and the Gas Supply Regulation 2007

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

The following statutory instruments were tabled by the Clerk—

Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2021:

[1511](#) Voluntary Assisted Dying Regulation 2022, No. 118

[1512](#) Voluntary Assisted Dying Regulation 2022, No. 118, explanatory notes

[1513](#) Voluntary Assisted Dying Regulation 2022, No. 118, human rights certificate

Water Act 2000:

[1514](#) Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2022, No. 119

[1515](#) Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2022, No. 119, explanatory notes

[1516](#) Water Plan (Fitzroy Basin) Amendment Plan 2022, No. 119, human rights certificate

Vegetation Management Act 1999:

[1517](#) Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 120

[1518](#) Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 120, explanatory notes

[1519](#) Vegetation Management (Regional Ecosystems) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 120, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

[1520](#) Planning (Economic Support Instruments) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 121

[1521](#) Planning (Economic Support Instruments) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 121, explanatory notes

[1522](#) Planning (Economic Support Instruments) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 121, human rights certificate

State Penalties Enforcement Act 1999, Transport Operations (Marine Safety) Act 1994, Transport Operations (Road Use Management) Act 1995:

[1523](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 122

[1524](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 122, explanatory notes

[1525](#) Transport and Other Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 122, human rights certificate

Major Events Act 2014:

[1526](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 500) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 123

[1527](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 500) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 123, explanatory notes

[1528](#) Major Events (Motor Racing Events) (Gold Coast 500) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 123, human rights certificate

Land Title Act 1994:

[1529](#) Land Title Regulation 2022, No. 124

[1530](#) Land Title Regulation 2022, No. 124, explanatory notes

[1531](#) Land Title Regulation 2022, No. 124, human rights certificate

Environmental Protection Act 1994:

[1532](#) Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022, No. 125

[1533](#) Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022, No. 125, explanatory notes

[1534](#) Environmental Protection (Water and Wetland Biodiversity) Amendment Policy 2022, No. 125, human rights certificate

Nature Conservation Act 1992:

- [1535](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 126
- [1536](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 126, explanatory notes
- [1537](#) Nature Conservation (Protected Areas) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 126, human rights certificate

Public Health Act 2005:

- [1538](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 127
- [1539](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 127, explanatory notes
- [1540](#) Public Health (Further Extension of Declared Public Health Emergency—COVID-19) Regulation (No. 3) 2022, No. 127, human rights certificate

Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Act 1994:

- [1541](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 128
- [1542](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 128, explanatory notes
- [1543](#) Transport Operations (Passenger Transport) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 128, human rights certificate

Medicines and Poisons Act 2019:

- [1544](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 129
- [1545](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 129, explanatory notes
- [1546](#) Medicines and Poisons (Medicines) Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 129, human rights certificate

Casino Control Act 1982, Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Act 1999, Gaming Machine Act 1991, Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Act 1998, Keno Act 1996, Lotteries Act 1997, Wagering Act 1998:

- [1547](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 130
- [1548](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 130, explanatory notes
- [1549](#) Gaming Legislation Amendment Regulation (No. 2) 2022, No. 130, human rights certificate

Oaths Act 1867:

- [1550](#) Oaths (Document Reforms) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 131
- [1551](#) Oaths (Document Reforms) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 131, explanatory notes
- [1552](#) Oaths (Document Reforms) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 131, human rights certificate

Public Trustee Act 1978:

- [1553](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 132
- [1554](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 132, explanatory notes
- [1555](#) Public Trustee (Interest Rate) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 132, human rights certificate

Planning Act 2016:

- [1556](#) Planning (Secondary Dwellings) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 133
- [1557](#) Planning (Secondary Dwellings) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 133, explanatory notes
- [1558](#) Planning (Secondary Dwellings) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 133, human rights certificate

Government Owned Corporations Act 1993:

- [1559](#) Government Owned Corporations (Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Restructure) Regulation 2022, No. 134
- [1560](#) Government Owned Corporations (Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Restructure) Regulation 2022, No. 134, explanatory notes
- [1561](#) Government Owned Corporations (Pumped Hydro Energy Storage Restructure) Regulation 2022, No. 134, human rights certificate

Education and Care Services Act 2013, Education (General Provisions) Act 2006, Education (Queensland College of Teachers) Act 2005:

- [1562](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 135
- [1563](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 135, explanatory notes
- [1564](#) Education Legislation Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 135, human rights certificate

Gold Coast Waterways Authority Act 2012:

- [1565](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority Regulation 2022, No. 136
- [1566](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority Regulation 2022, No. 136, explanatory notes
- [1567](#) Gold Coast Waterways Authority Regulation 2022, No. 136, human rights certificate

Biosecurity Act 2014, Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

[1568](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment and Other Legislation (Brisbane River Tourism Berthing Assistance Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 137

[1569](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment and Other Legislation (Brisbane River Tourism Berthing Assistance Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 137, explanatory notes

[1570](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment and Other Legislation (Brisbane River Tourism Berthing Assistance Scheme and Other Matters) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 137, human rights certificate

Rural and Regional Adjustment Act 1994:

[1571](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Natural Disaster-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 138

[1572](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Natural Disaster-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 138, explanatory notes

[1573](#) Rural and Regional Adjustment (Natural Disaster-related Assistance Schemes) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 138, human rights certificate

Petroleum Act 1923, Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004:

[1574](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 139

[1575](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 139, explanatory notes

[1576](#) Petroleum and Gas (Safety) Amendment Regulation 2022, No. 139, human rights certificate

Fisheries Act 1994:

[1577](#) Fisheries (Spanish Mackerel) Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 140

[1578](#) Fisheries (Spanish Mackerel) Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 140, explanatory notes

[1579](#) Fisheries (Spanish Mackerel) Amendment Declaration 2022, No. 140, human rights certificate

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

The following ministerial papers were tabled by the Clerk—

Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk)—

[1580](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Premier and Minister for the Olympics (Hon. Palaszczuk) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Public Sector Ethics Regulation 2010

Minister for Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart)—

[1581](#) Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Minister for Resources (Hon. Stewart) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal Land Regulation 2011, the Stock Route Management Regulation 2003, the Survey and Mapping Infrastructure (Survey Standards—Requirements for Mining Tenures) Notice (No. 1) 2011, the Torres Strait Islander Land Regulation 2011 and the Vegetation Management Regulation 2012

MEMBER'S PAPER


The following member's paper was tabled by the Clerk—

Member for Southern Downs (Mr Lister)—

[1582](#) Nonconforming petition relating to the protection of Domville State Forest, Millmerran, from quarrying

MINISTERIAL PAPERS

Revocation of Protected Areas; Revocation of State Forest Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.37 am): I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under section 33 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal.


Tabled paper: Revocation of state areas: a proposal under section 33 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to the Conondale National Park and the Conondale Resources Reserve [\[1606\]](#).

I lay upon the table of the House a proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 and a brief explanation of the proposal.

Tabled paper: Revocation of state areas: Proposal under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 and a brief explanation of the proposal, relating to the Beerburrum East State Forest, Beerburrum West State Forest and Watalgan State Forest [\[1607\]](#).

NOTICES OF MOTION

Revocation of Protected Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.37 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 28 days as provided in the Nature Conservation Act 1992, I shall move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to:
 - (a) revoke by regulation under section 33 of the Nature Conservation Act 1992 the dedication of part of a national park, to change the class of the protected area,
 as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz

Description of area to be revoked


| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Conondale National Park | An area of about 41 hectares described as part of proposed lots 2 and 7 on AP23628 (to be described as lots 3, 5 and 6 on AP23765), to be dedicated as additions to Conondale Resources Reserve, as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
|-------------------------|---|

Description of area to be dedicated

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Conondale Resources Reserve | An area of about 41 hectares described as part of proposed lots 2 and 7 on AP23628 (to be described as lots 3, 5 and 6 on AP23765) to be dedicated as additions to Conondale Resources Reserve, as illustrated on the attached sketch |
|-----------------------------|---|

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

Revocation of State Forest Areas

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (9.38 am): I give notice that, after the expiration of at least 14 days as provided in the Forestry Act 1959, I shall move—

1. That this House requests the Governor in Council to revoke by regulation under section 26 of the Forestry Act 1959 the setting apart and declaration as State Forest of the areas as set out in the Proposal tabled by me in the House today, viz


Description of areas to be revoked

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Beerburum East State Forest | Area described as part of lot 1 on AP23631 (to be described as lots 102 and 103 and part of lot 100 on SP328637) and containing an area of about 10.055 hectares as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
| Beerburum West State Forest | Area described as part of lot 589 on FTY1876 (to be described as parts of lots 101 and 102 on SP329108) and containing an area of about 19.5918 hectares as illustrated on the attached sketch. |
| Watalgan State Forest | Area described as part of lot 898 on FTY1919 (to be described as lots 1 to 3 on SP327961) and containing an area of 18.2619 hectares as illustrated on the attached sketch. |

2. That Mr Speaker and the Clerk of the Parliament forward a copy of this resolution to the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for submission to the Governor in Council.

MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

Disaster Preparedness

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.38 am): If there is any one quality Queenslanders are recognised and admired for throughout Australia it is our resilience and our ability to get up again and dust ourselves off. In our recent history, we have never needed that quality more. Consider this: since 2011, our state has faced 100 natural disasters. Those disasters have come with a collective damage bill in excess of \$21 billion. We have endured 65 natural disasters since we have come to office, and it is imperative today that I tell Queenslanders that sadly there is more to come. We will need to find and utilise that resilience I mentioned at the outset yet again.


In light of new forecasts this week from the Bureau of Meteorology, each of us in every community needs to understand that now is the time to get ready and be ready. This week is Get Ready Week and the bureau has predicted an increased risk of widespread flooding for eastern and northern Australia,

including Queensland, for the coming severe weather season. With parts of Queensland already inundated due to recent rain, the threat of increased flooding is here already and it is real. With Australia in line for a third La Nina season in a row, the number of tropical cyclones is highly likely to increase this season and we will see them earlier—as early as November, next month. The clear message is that from flooding and cyclones to bushfires, heatwaves and giant hail, we experience it all in Queensland and now is the time to prepare.

We are still recovering from one of our toughest summers ever, and we are going to need every ounce of that renowned Queensland resilience as we go forward. The flooding this year came fast, it was unrelenting and it proved a tragic reminder of the catastrophic impacts such weather events can have. That experience tells us all that there are steps that need to be taken to ensure everyone is kept as safe as possible.

It is heartening that more than 60 per cent of Queenslanders now say they get ready ahead of disaster season and have an emergency plan in place, but we are eager to see an even higher uptake. All Queenslanders need to understand their risk, make an emergency plan and pack an emergency kit. Listen to the warnings and take advice. They should keep themselves, their loved ones, their homes and their community safe. Do not miss this window of opportunity to get ready.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.41 am): I want to say this loud and proud: this state is on its way to a future of clean, reliable and affordable energy. Our Energy and Jobs Plan powers good jobs and new industries, and 95 per cent of this investment and the vast bulk of 100,000 new jobs are unashamedly based in regional Queensland. According to the CSIRO and the Australian Energy Market Operator, renewable energy is the cheapest energy. In terms of output, the new pumped hydro dam near Mackay is the world's biggest and Borumba is equivalent to Snowy Hydro 2.0. Mackay's storage alone provides for half of our state's renewable storage. It answers the question of what happens when the sun does not shine and the wind does not blow. It acts like a giant battery, storing and releasing its energy by using gravity to feed water from one dam to another.

Its power will be delivered via a new supergrid, connecting \$11 billion worth of wind and solar farms already in existence or soon to come online, and there will be many more. Thanks to this plan, by 2032, 70 per cent of Queensland's entire energy needs will come from renewable sources. By 2035, it will be 80 per cent. In that year, Queensland's publicly owned power stations will no longer need to burn coal. They will instead convert to clean energy hubs using spinning turbines to provide strength to the energy system and hydrogen or gas to support renewables. It is clean, cheap, reliable and practical. We will do it gradually to ensure—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Members opposite do not like it. We will have some legislation next week that they can vote on. Queenslanders will soon know where they stand when we bring on that legislation.

Workers have a jobs guarantee. It provides for retraining in the new industries that will grow as a result of our Energy and Jobs Plan. As a proud resources state, this plan unleashes demand for a new wave of critical and rare earth minerals used in batteries and the like. Our commitment to CopperString opens up more of our state to these riches and it once again brings manufacturing back to our regions. None of this would be possible if the people of this state had not voted to keep our energy assets in our own hands. As economist Professor John Quiggin is quoted as saying—

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I will look at the member for Clayfield right now.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order, members.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Clayfield, I have just called the House to order. You are warned under the standing orders.

Ms PALASZCZUK: As economist Professor John Quiggin is quoted as saying, because Queensland retained public ownership of its coal plants, it was able to plot an orderly transition in a way other states could not. The Chamber of Commerce & Industry said the plan 'will support our businesses' and communities' viability'. The *Courier-Mail* said the energy plan is a 'welcome example of vision'.

The Queenslanders of 1922 could never have imagined the world in which we live in 2022. However, our Energy and Jobs Plan charts a course that sets up this state for decades to come. It takes action—real action—on climate change, which is already causing this state more frequent and increasingly ferocious natural disasters. By 2035, it will rid the equivalent of 109 million tonnes of carbon dioxide just from the electricity grid. That is the best news the Great Barrier Reef has had in years. Future generations will rightly look back at us and judge us on what we did to address these fundamental issues. With this plan, we can finally look them in the face and say that it started here; it started now.

Energy bodies, conservationists, community groups, the resources sector and unions have welcomed the Energy and Jobs Plan. The Clean Energy Council said it is a transformational plan that will set up Queensland to be a world leader on clean energy. The Australian Energy Council calls it a significant reform. The Solar Citizens say it is a significant step that will help unlock abundant, cheap, renewable energy to bring down power bills. The Queensland Conservation Council calls it a great plan to leave behind uncertainty and unlock a pathway to renewable energy.


The WWF says it is a once-in-a-century investment for a global renewable energy superpower and greater business certainty to drive down emissions and the cost of living and to give the reef the best chance. The Climate Council calls it a great leap forward in delivering clean energy, thousands of jobs and multimillion dollar economic opportunities.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Members to my left, I am hearing a continual running commentary on the ministerial statement which some things are unrelated to. I would ask you to cease your interjections so we can hear the member on her feet.

Ms PALASZCZUK: The Australian Conservation Foundation has called on the opposition leader to back the plan for emissions reduction, energy security and investment certainty. The Queensland Resources Council supports the transition to a lower emissions future and the vision to be an energy superpower. The Petroleum Production & Exploration Association says the plan understands how to secure economic benefits and minimise disruption on the path to net zero. The Electrical Trades Union says the plan will be a model in the move to cleaner energy while looking after energy workers and communities. They say their members in coal-fired power stations know that the industry is changing and that the Energy Workers' charter is the security they need. The Queensland Community Alliance says the plan is the biggest thing any government in Australia has done for a generation. They say it combines climate action and economic development. I think that sums up the plan very well.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.47 am): Today we have seen a vote of confidence in Queensland renewable manufacturing jobs less than two weeks after the launch of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, an investment in Queensland as the engine room of the clean energy industrial revolution. General Motors, the sixth largest car manufacturer globally, have entered into an agreement to invest in the Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub and buy critical materials needed in electric vehicle batteries—

Mr Lister: They invested in car manufacturing in Australia too, didn't they? They took the money and left.


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

Ms PALASZCZUK: I might repeat that so everyone is clear. General Motors, the sixth largest car manufacturer globally, have entered into an agreement to invest in the Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub and buy critical materials needed in electric vehicle batteries including nickel and cobalt. General Motors have announced that nickel and cobalt from Queensland Pacific Metals will help power a broad portfolio of trucks, SUVs, vans and luxury vehicles. That means battery materials from Queensland will be in Hummer EVs driving around Texas and it means more Queensland manufacturing jobs.

The Townsville Energy and Chemicals Hub at Lansdown will support around 800 jobs during construction and 1,700 operational jobs including 300 highly skilled manufacturing jobs at the facility and 1,400 jobs in support industries. It follows the Coordinator-General providing prescribed project status for the project and the Queensland government's commitment to providing supporting infrastructure for the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct. Queensland Pacific Metals has already secured

agreements to supply Korean companies, including one of the world's largest battery manufacturers, LG Energy Solution. Queensland's regions now stand at the centre of a new wave of investment for the clean energy industrial revolution. That means more good jobs and building a better future.


Bali Bombings, 20th Anniversary

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.49 am): Today marks the 20th anniversary of the Bali bombings. Late at night in 2002 three bombs were detonated at the Sari Club, Paddy's Bar and outside the American consulate. A total of 202 people from 20 countries lost their lives, including 88 Australians. Among those who died were seven Queenslanders: David Kent, Robert Thwaites, Nathan Swain, Jared Gane, Billy Hardy, Jodie Cearnas and Julie Stevenson.

The Bali bombings were then, and still are, the largest loss of Australian life due to a terrorist attack in history. I take this opportunity to again condemn the terrorism, violence and hate behind this tragedy and to honour and remember the victims of this terrible event.

As a mark of mourning and respect to those who lost their lives in Bali, the Australian and Queensland flags are being flown at half-mast today. This is occurring at all buildings and establishments occupied by Australian and Queensland government departments and affiliated agencies. A memorial service will be held at Parliament House in Canberra and local services are also taking place around Australia, including one tonight at Allambe Memorial Park on the Gold Coast. Twenty years on, our thoughts continue to be with the survivors, the families and the loved ones of this unspeakable tragedy.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (9.50 am): I begin by associating myself with the words of the Premier about the Bali bombing. We oppose terrorism, hate and violence at every turn. We recognise those Australians and those Queenslanders who lost their lives 20 years ago.

The investment by General Motors in Queensland Pacific Metals is a vote of confidence in the Queensland resources sector. It is a vote of confidence in Queensland manufacturing and in Queensland's ability to support the automotive industry as it goes through its own energy transition. This is exactly the type of investment confidence that our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan seeks to create. Our Energy and Jobs Plan sets a path for our state's economic prosperity for decades to come. It gives us the means to use our renewable energy riches to become a new home for advanced manufacturing and the skilled jobs that follow. This generational investment will be delivered over nearly a decade and a half. Across generation, transmission and storage, much of it will be delivered through the power companies owned by the people of Queensland.


Our power assets are an indispensable part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. We will not sell them; we will borrow to build them, to invest in Queensland's future. As we borrow to build our network for the future, we will be gradually retiring the debt that maintains our coal-fired power stations. The renewable energy assets that we will be building will enable the Queensland Treasury Corporation to issue more green bonds. These are premium bonds that attract lower interest rates and are highly sought after by international investors. Investors I spoke to on my trade missions to the United States and Canada and to Korea, Japan and Singapore made it clear to me that QTC green bonds carry a globally recognised highly sought after reputation. Following the release of our Energy and Jobs Plan, I am very pleased to advise the House that the ratings agency S&P Global has reaffirmed Queensland's credit rating at AA+ stable.

One way or the other, we have to invest in Queensland's energy future. Our coal-fired power stations are the youngest in the National Electricity Market, but to prolong their lives would have involved increasing costs. That would have involved more borrowing as well. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is not one to prolong the past; it is a plan to build the future.

The certainty created by our Energy and Jobs Plan breeds confidence in the private sector. That certainty becomes even stronger with a supportive federal Labor government. Last week federal energy minister Chris Bowen made an important announcement that will benefit our state. The Australian Renewable Energy Agency will inject \$13.7 million into the green ammonia plant that Fortescue Future Industries is looking to build at Incitec Pivot's facility at Gibson Island on the Brisbane River. Green ammonia can be used to produce low-emission fertilisers and to produce explosives for the mining industry. It can also be used to transport green hydrogen. Ammonia is a compound that the world uses

every day—a compound the world will continue to need. We have to find low-emissions methods of making it. Queensland is in the box seat for all those skilled manufacturing jobs that are needed and for a bright and prosperous low-carbon future.

Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (9.54 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan means a future of cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy for all Queenslanders. It is a plan to power 100,000 good jobs. With 95 per cent of the plan's investment in regional Queensland, two new regional training hubs will build on investments like the renewable energy training facility opened just last week here in Brisbane. It is a bold plan—one that will set the Queensland economy up for the future, delivering \$25.7 billion worth of more economic growth in Queensland by 2040.

As the Premier has said this morning, the plan has been welcomed across the state. There has been a long line of leading voices backing in the vision of our Premier, capitalising on the foundations laid by this government since 2015—everyone from the Queensland Conservation Council to the *Courier-Mail*, which said—

For the first time it maps out a way forward for how renewables could deliver the reliable energy that Queenslanders will demand into the future—

from the Grattan Institute to the Clean Energy Council, which said—

This plan will put Queensland in front of the game as far as becoming a global leader in clean energy transformation—

and from the Queensland Resources Council to the Australian Conservation Foundation, which said 'it's a big leap forward for the sunshine state'.

Then there is this independent voice that really stood out in terms of their observations. Professor John Quiggin, acclaimed economist at the University of Queensland and a former member of the federal Climate Change Authority, said that the Energy and Jobs Plan is a 'big, big deal'. His key observation, as the Premier said, was that, because Queensland retained public ownership of its coal plants, it was able to plot an orderly transition in a way other states could not.

It is decisions of this government, backed by Queenslanders time and time again, to reject the privatisation policies of our opponents that will enable this nation to be a leader rather than a drag on global climate action. Let that be a message to those who would have—or still plan to—privatised Queensland's energy system.

The Energy and Jobs Plan will cut energy sector emissions by 90 per cent by 2035. It will mean that we reach and beat our renewable energy target. It is also a plan for energy security. Under our plan the lights will stay on, because it is a plan that serves people, not profits. The Energy and Jobs Plan delivers security on two fronts: electricity reliability and job security for workers. The plan ensures as we shift to a system based on clean, cheap renewables that despatchable generation capacity remains well above forecast demand, including the maximum capacity of export to New South Wales, at all times. Queenslanders have worked hard to build a publicly owned energy system. By keeping it that way, our plan delivers an orderly transition—one that is fair and that puts people first.

In launching the plan the Premier paid tribute to the late Peter Simpson, who I am sure would have been proud to sign the Energy Workers' Charter. The charter enshrines a commitment to a jobs security guarantee for our publicly owned power station workforce—a \$150 million fund to support the workforce throughout the transition—and it delivers on our commitment to keep publicly owned power stations open by converting all of them to clean energy hubs by 2035. The plan keeps regional communities strong and delivers a bright future where it matters.

On signing the Energy Workers' Charter with government and energy companies, Electrical Trades Union state secretary Peter Ong said—

This plan is the first of its kind in Australia.'

He said—

This is an historic day for Queensland ... a model across the world ...

Earlier this week, the Australian Energy Market Operator spoke in Sydney to the nation about our plan. Their CEO said that 'in this transition people matter most'. We agree with them both. It is the hallmark of this government and this Premier to put Queenslanders first. At the core of our Energy and Jobs Plan are the people of Queensland.

School Infrastructure



Hon. G GRACE (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (9.59 am): We are putting energy efficiency and renewables at the heart of the new schools that we are building in the fastest growing parts of our state. Next year four new schools will open in Augustine Heights, Palmview, Ripley and Yarrabilba. That is a total investment of \$330 million supporting 900 good jobs and ensuring even better educational services in those communities.

The new schools will have solar panels, joining the 200,000 we have already installed in Queensland state schools—enough to power all of the homes in the Gladstone LGA. We are positioning the buildings to limit their exposure to morning and afternoon sun which will reduce the energy needed for air conditioning. There are LED lights on timers, insulation and the Augustine Heights school will even have a 4,000-litre rainwater tank to water the school's veggie garden. This approach contributes to the Palaszczuk government's \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which is all about a future of cleaner, cheaper and secure energy for Queenslanders and powering good jobs in new regional industries. By 2032 it means 70 per cent of Queensland's energy supply will be renewable, taking real action on climate change now and creating 100,000 jobs.

I have some exciting news about these new schools to share with the House. Following extensive community consultation, I can reveal their official names. The schools will be known as Woogaroo Creek State School in Augustine Heights in the electorate of Jordan; Palmview State Secondary College in Palmview in the electorate of Buderim; Ripley Central State School in Ripley in the electorate of Ipswich; and South Rock State School in Yarrabilba in the electorate of Logan. All of the names have their own stories and community input. For example, Woogaroo Creek has geographical, cultural and environmental significance for the area and the land where the school in Augustine Heights is being built. Foundation principal Kendall Seccombe said that the name was a clear winner, polling 80 per cent in the final round of online voting.

I know the new principals and their communities are very excited for day one next year, as are all local members who I am sure will warmly welcome foundation students. When the schools open in 2023, it will take the number of new schools the Palaszczuk government has opened since 2015 to 25—an investment of more than \$3 billion in brand new schools. Whether it is our schools or our Energy and Jobs Plan, the Palaszczuk government is proudly investing in Queensland's future.

Road and Transport Infrastructure; Optus, Data Security Breach



Hon. MC BAILEY (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (10.02 am): Queensland is powering towards a cleaner, greener energy supply. Clean energy and renewable projects are in the pipeline under our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, which will create 100,000 jobs across the state in new industries, especially in regional Queensland. It even includes pumped hydro with a new dam in the Pioneer Valley in North Queensland.

A huge part of this energy transition is the transformation and decarbonisation of Queensland's transport sector. Without any support from the former Morrison-Morrison-Morrison-Morrison government, the Palaszczuk Labor government—

Ms Grace: Two more!

Mr BAILEY: There were more, but for the sake of brevity. As I was saying, the Palaszczuk Labor government was the first state to release a Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy, and look at Queensland go now. We have gone from 500 registered fully electric vehicles in Queensland a few years ago to now more than 11,000 and growing and we have one of the longest electric vehicle superhighways in one state in the world.

A few weeks ago it was a privilege to be in Longreach alongside my colleague the Minister for Communities and Housing and the Assistant Minister for Local Government to commission the second of 24—two dozen—electric vehicle chargers being delivered across Western Queensland. Within 12 months or so, Queenslanders in Western Queensland towns will have the electric vehicle infrastructure enjoyed currently by those in coastal cities and South-East Queensland for local residents and of course for electric vehicle driving travellers and tourists. That is not only good for our environment; it is good for Western Queensland economies and jobs thanks to this Palaszczuk Labor government.

Even more electric vehicle chargers will be switched on in the coming months in places like Charters Towers, Hughenden, Dingo, Barcaldine and Blackall, and we are not stopping there. Electric buses are progressively rolling out right across the state as we charge towards our zero emission bus targets. Five new electric buses will be welcomed on the Sunshine Coast by our members for Caloundra and Nicklin and we have 10 more ready to go to hit the roads on the Gold Coast in the coming month.

Each of these buses will save as many as 1,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases over their life span. The decarbonisation of transport in Queensland has begun because this government is committed to clean energy and it is committed to new technology and to action on climate change essential for economic growth.

On a different topic, with regard to Optus, I want to acknowledge the tireless work of our Transport and Main Roads Customer Service staff who have been helping Optus customers get their new driver's licences and new driver's licence numbers. Regrettably, we have been told that as many as 660,000 Queensland licences have been caught up in the data breach which is really adding to the workload of our staff. I want to thank them for their continued efforts and also to Queenslanders who have been affected who have shown incredible patience with and kindness to our staff. We have had more than 62,000 requests to date and I want to thank the customers for working with our staff in a difficult situation. The numbers will continue to grow, but the efforts of our staff and the cooperation of our customers has been noteworthy and I thank them all.

Queensland Floods, IGEM Report



Hon. MT RYAN (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (10.05 am): Queensland's disaster management and emergency response frameworks are among the best in the world. This is not only because of our dedicated people—the officers, volunteers and community members who contribute to our emergency response in the face of natural disaster—but so too because of our government's commitment to continual improvement, reflection and review. Today I table the Inspector-General Emergency Management review report and the government response in relation to this year's South-East Queensland flood event.

Tabled paper: Inspector-General Emergency Management: Report 1: 2022-2023—South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, February to March 2022 Review [[1608](#)].

Tabled paper: Inspector-General Emergency Management: Report 1: 2022-2023—South East Queensland Rainfall and Flooding, February to March 2022 Review—Government response [[1609](#)].

The IGEM is recognised as the gold standard. It supports continual reflection, continual review and continual improvement of our emergency management systems, and of course the government is always committed to doing all it can to constantly upgrade and improve our approach to disaster management and do whatever we can to ensure we are best placed to respond to any future challenges.


The review report makes 19 recommendations which cover a range of areas of focus including guidance regarding flood risk and the use of the emergency alert system by responsible agencies; identifying options for strengthening the flood warning network; providing additional instructional support, training and exercise for local government users of the emergency alert system; and increasing subscription of local government opt-in information services, among other things. The Inspector-General Emergency Management report notes that the Wivenhoe Dam was well managed throughout the event and that the dam safety regulatory system is mature. The report also reflects on examples of delays in emergency alerts being issued in some local government areas. This was due to a number of factors including national system constraints and delays in processing requests from local government agencies due to messaging and targeting inaccuracies.

It is encouraging that Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has already reached out to the national administrators of the national alert system to seek its support in improving the capacity of the national system for the future. In addition, there are opportunities around improving processes relating to timings of messaging sequences to ensure highest priority messages are sent with urgency. The review pointed to a lack of training and awareness with some local government staff who the Inspector-General Emergency Management found were not aware of processes of the emergency alert system. This resulted in delays with emergency alert requests and contributed to a delay in residents receiving alerts. However, it should be said that there are a substantial number of local governments that have mature processes in place and that are already well versed in system requirements relating to emergency alerts.

While Queensland Fire and Emergency Services develops and facilitates training programs for local governments, not all local government stakeholders have always taken up these training opportunities. To encourage uptake, Queensland Fire and Emergency Services will continue to offer these training opportunities to local governments. I am advised Queensland Fire and Emergency Services has commenced implementation on all of the recommendations and has engaged with local governments already through consultative forums and educational workshops to identify areas for improvement.

I am also advised that all recommendations are on track for completion by the due dates. The government takes the safety of all Queenslanders extremely seriously and is committed to continually improving systems to ensure emergency and disaster response is best placed for the future. I commend the Inspector-General Emergency Management and his team on his report and I commend the report to the House and all Queenslanders.

Mackay Base Hospital, Obstetrics and Gynaecology Review Report

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.09 am): On 30 September the Mackay Hospital and Health Service released the findings of the investigation into its obstetrics and gynaecology service and the HHS's response to the recommendations. The report is damning in its identification of failings at multiple levels within Mackay HHS and, more particularly, the Mackay Base Hospital. The investigation team found multiple examples of substandard clinical care, poor clinical incident monitoring, poor management of safety and quality, complications and clinical deterioration and poor human resource management.

Too many women have been impacted by the failures of the Mackay Base Hospital obstetrics and gynaecology unit. Once again, I offer my unreserved apology to the women who have received inadequate clinical care because of the failures of this unit. Their courage in speaking out will not be in vain. Next Tuesday I will visit Mackay to attend a women's forum hosted by Dr Helen Brown, Acting Deputy Director-General of Clinical Excellence Queensland. The forum will provide impacted women with another opportunity to share their stories and to be updated on the pathways to compensation or further clinical advice which remain open to them.

Since receiving the investigation findings of multiple failures at the Mackay Base Hospital obstetrics and gynaecology unit, the government has acted swiftly to make improvements, including issuing a show cause notice to the Mackay HHS Board members as to why they should not be dismissed; appointing Dr Robert Herkes as a special advisor to the Mackay HHS Board to provide independent expert oversight of the response to issues raised in the investigation; and initiating a statewide health safety and quality improvement program, to be led by Dr Brown. In addition to this, Mackay HHS has created new senior leadership roles and strengthened clinical supervision, education and training.


I want to assure the Mackay community that the four clinicians involved in the clinical outcomes outlined in this report have been referred to the Office of the Health Ombudsman. A fifth individual referred to in the report has resigned from the HHS. I am advised none of these individuals is now involved in delivering clinical care at Mackay Base Hospital, nor a urologist who was suspended by the HHS last month. The opposition has made a series of claims about what it says it knew about the activities of the urologist dating back to last year. It is clear in the official *Hansard* record that I responded with the information that was available to me at the time these claims were made. It is equally clear under section 44 of the Hospital and Health Boards Act 2011 that as minister I cannot give a direction about the employment of a particular person.

It is crucial as we move forward that the public is kept informed of the implementation of the recommendations, and the HHS has given that guarantee to the Mackay community. The implementation of the 122 recommendations detailed in the investigation report is ongoing, with 47 of these already implemented. Many of the women impacted are on a pathway to clinical care and/or compensation under the process we established. Queensland Health continues to engage with the women who have been informed they do not meet the compensation threshold on other options that may be available to them. There is also a full spectrum of legal remedies potentially available to affected parties independent of the compensation pathway created pursuant to this investigation.

Our entire health system must learn from the failings at Mackay Base Hospital. While nothing can undo the distress and trauma these women have experienced, we can listen to them and learn from their experiences. I want to assure all the women who have been impacted, and the wider Mackay community, that we will do whatever it takes to create a more responsive local health service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Comments by Member for Currumbin, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (10.14 am): On 17 August 2022, during my contribution to the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and the Appropriation Bill, when discussing the report submitted by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee I made a statement asserting that the police minister has broken a promise. As that promise is not yet due to be fulfilled, I unreservedly apologise for the statement and withdraw it.

PARLIAMENTARY CRIME AND CORRUPTION COMMITTEE

Crime and Corruption Commission, Reports



Mr KRAUSE (Scenic Rim—LNP) (10.14 am): As chair of the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee, I lay upon the table of the House the following Crime and Corruption Commission reports pursuant to sections 138 and 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 and sections 314 and 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000—

- covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: section 138(2) Crime and Corruption Act 2001: Controlled Operations Committee; Report on activities—from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022;
- covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: section 146ZQ Crime and Corruption Act 2001: Assumed Identities: Annual Report: 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022;
- covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: section 314 Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000: Assumed Identities: Annual Report: 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022; and
- covering letter and report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: section 358 Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000: Surveillance Device Warrants: Annual Report: 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022.

The committee received the reports on 11 August 2022 and is tabling them within 14 sitting days of receipt, as required.

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2021-22 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee: Controlled Operations Committee—Report on activities from 1 July 2021 to 30 June 2022 pursuant to section 138(2) of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [\[1610\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2021-22 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities for corruption offences pursuant to section 146ZQ of the Crime and Corruption Act 2001 [\[1611\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2021-22 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on authorities for assumed identities relating to criminal activity pursuant to section 314 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [\[1612\]](#).

Tabled paper: Crime and Corruption Commission: 2021-22 Annual Report to the Parliamentary Crime and Corruption Committee on aspects of surveillance device warrants pursuant to section 358 of the Police Powers and Responsibilities Act 2000 [\[1613\]](#).

QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

Mr SPEAKER: Question time will conclude today at 11.15 am.

Mackay Base Hospital



Mr CRISAFULLI (10.15 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. One year ago serious issues were raised with the government about Mackay Base Hospital. The government accused us of scaremongering. Does the minister stand by those comments?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for the question. I have seen the public comments made by the opposition who have claimed that I made those comments and that I also made comments around the victims. They are false statements by the opposition. I did not make the comment around scaremongering. It is only today have they come in and now started saying 'the government' when they have been saying publicly in the media it was me, probably because they know they would be held to account as far as misleading this parliament to come in here and say it was me who was saying that.

As I stated last year, a part 9 investigation was initiated almost immediately by the then chief executive when allegations were brought forward by Beryl Crosby in relation to the gynaecology and obstetrics unit. That investigation report has only recently come down and the HHS and the government has responded quickly in relation to the implementation of those recommendations and also action against a urologist in relation to complaints that have recently been brought forward.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Members to my left, the minister is, as I hear it, being responsive to the question asked. I have made myself clear about interjections when the minister is responding to the question asked.

Mrs D'ATH: We respect the process of investigations. We respect that you must allow those investigations to be undertaken free from interference, free from external claims by those opposite or anyone else, to ensure that the investigators and anyone who wants to come forward in those investigations have the right to do that and do not feel intimidated in any way whatsoever.

I know the opposition called multiple times for this investigation report to be handed down before it was completed, which would have seen women not being given the opportunity to be heard and a full comprehensive investigation to be completed. It is important that we await those findings in relation to any allegations. That is what we did. Those opposite should be very mindful of that as they once again circulate to the community misleading information about what is happening in the health system, which I know the opposition has done in recent days.

Mackay Base Hospital

Mr CRISAFULLI: My question is to the Minister for Health. With three babies dead and women left unable to have children, a 48-hour period of horror resulting in at least one death, a stent in the wrong kidney and an undetected heart attack, revelations of alleged malpractice by disgraced surgeon Daryl Stephens and the closure of the compensation window for mothers on the same day that the damning report was released, does the health minister take any responsibility for the failings at the Mackay Base Hospital?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for his question. There were multiple statements made in that question that are inaccurate. They are inaccurate and, in fact—

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs Frecklington interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Member for Nanango, you have had a pretty good go this morning already. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: Multiple statements are inaccurate. In fact, I have made statements publicly around some of those issues so it is not the case that the opposition came in here unaware of the facts around what they just asked. For example, issues around the claim that compensation was cut off on a certain date have been clearly clarified in the media and the opposition have refused to listen to that feedback. As far as what occurred at the Mackay Hospital and Health Service, I have unreservedly apologised.

Mr Crisafulli: The question is about responsibility.

Mrs D'ATH: I take the interjection that the question is about responsibility. The Leader of the Opposition referred to the deaths of three babies. Those deaths are absolutely tragic. I expect the Leader of the Opposition to stand up and unreservedly apologise as well because one of those deaths happened in 2013 under the opposition's watch. Please do not come in here and try to play politics with what is a very serious matter. Every government has to take responsibility for what happens under their watch.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Members, I have called the House to order. If order is not brought to the House at that particular time then I will start naming members. I need to hear the answer, as does Hansard.

Mrs D'ATH: That shows that there have been failings for a long period. Sadly, the deaths date back to 2013. There were three babies lost. I will not play politics with those lives and those women. I am disappointed that the opposition thinks that they did not have any responsibility when they were in government yet the government of the day does. I have unreservedly apologised and I think that the opposition should do the same because one of those children was lost under their watch. That is a reasonable ask. I think that mother has the right to ask that. To sit there and shake their heads—

(Time expired)

Energy Workers' Charter

Mr O'ROURKE: My question is of the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on what the Energy Workers' Charter and job security guarantee, as part of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, mean for workers in places such as Rockhampton and Central Queensland?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Rockhampton for the question. I also thank the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel for joining me and the Minister for Energy at Stanwell for this very important announcement. As we know, our energy system is going to go through a rapid transformation the likes of which we have not seen in our lifetimes. This government has stepped up with a comprehensive plan worth over \$60 billion to transform our energy system to become not just a leader in the nation but also a global superpower when it comes to the transformation to renewable energy. We will have 70 per cent renewable energy by 2032. For the information of those opposite, members of parliament will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not they support that.

I make it very clear to the House that Queenslanders do support this. They understand that climate change is real. For years conservative federal governments had their heads in the sand and they refused to act on a national energy policy. Our government has stood up and, over the past year, we have developed this comprehensive plan that, as I have said in my ministerial statements, has been welcomed by resources groups, conservation groups, energy groups, Queenslanders and, of course, the unions.

When at Stanwell I had the opportunity to meet with the workers. I can appreciate that for workers who have been part of an industry for many years—that perhaps even their fathers have worked in—this is a time of transformation and transition. I was able to speak with the workers and I can say very clearly that they welcome this change. They welcome job certainty. They also know that the world is changing and that they need to be a part of that change. We have been able to transform coal-fired energy plants into clean energy hubs. That is fantastic. We are utilising the existing footprints of the energy plants. Of course, the energy companies that we own have an expanded footprint, which means that we will be able to put even more assets onto that footprint and that means even more jobs. The workers' guarantee is the first of its kind in the nation. After making my CEDA speech I immediately went to Rockhampton where I was joined by the member for Rockhampton and the member for Keppel.

Mackay Base Hospital

Ms BATES: My question is to the Minister for Health. In November last year the opposition asked the minister about 48 hours of horror at the Mackay Base Hospital. That was followed with a letter on the same day that has not been responded to after nearly one year. Did the minister not respond because she no longer believes she is responsible for the health system?

Mrs D'ATH: I have made it very clear that I take responsibility for the health system. I have unreservedly apologised to the women at the Mackay Base Hospital for the harm that was caused to them under previous governments and our own. I am working with those women and with the hospital to ensure that not just Mackay HHS but also the whole health system learns from what has occurred there.

I am happy to follow up on the letter. My understanding is that responses were provided in parliament but I am happy to go back and have another look at that. As the member would appreciate, I would rather go back and check the accuracy of her statements first because over the past couple of weeks the member has made statements about what she has raised in this chamber around one of the doctors. When questioned by the media as recently as this week she was asked about what she knew, whether she had written to me and what she had communicated.

Opposition member interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Please put that down, member.

Mrs D'ATH: She was specifically asked about the claims she has made around the urologist at the hospital, what she knew and whether she had written to me on those particular issues. The fact is that the member could not produce any factual information around the statement she has been claiming publicly for two weeks.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order!

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, you would understand why I will look at that correspondence and at what response has been given either in this parliament or in writing to the minister before I take her statements as factually correct or not.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Pumped Hydro

Mrs GILBERT: My question is to the Premier and the Minister for the Olympics. Will the Premier update the House on how pumped hydro projects from the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will benefit regions such as Mackay?

Ms PALASZCZUK: I thank the member for Mackay. Of course I am more than happy, as is my government, to continue to talk about our energy and jobs plan across Queensland. Of course, the benefits to Mackay are astronomical because in Mackay we will see the largest pumped hydro system in the Southern Hemisphere—bigger than Snowy 2.0. It will absolutely be the battery of the north. I know that the member for Kawana might not like our energy and jobs plan; he does not like plans and we know he does not like jobs. We know that they like cutting jobs.

Mr Dick interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Member for Kawana!

Ms PALASZCZUK: I was very pleased to join the member for Mackay, the Deputy Premier and the minister for energy at one of the manufacturing businesses there because they have a great opportunity to benefit. This would be one of the largest infrastructure spends—even more than the Cross River Rail—in Mackay.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Member for Chatsworth!

Ms PALASZCZUK: This investment is in regional Queensland. This is where the solar farms and the wind farms have been built since we came to office and where we increased the seven per cent into our energy renewable composition to over 21 per cent; of course, that will dramatically increase over the years to come. From those opposite we hear crickets. Remember, they were the climate change deniers. They did not like renewable energy projects going up in regional Queensland, creating regional jobs. They were climate deniers for so many years. In fact, we lost the biggest climate denier down to Canberra, so he will make a great contribution down there! This project is nation-building and it is in Mackay. We will be consulting with the local community, but there will actually be a huge benefit to the Great Barrier Reef because most of the area is either cane farms or grazing farms.

Ms Camm interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That will have a huge impact—

Opposition members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: Do you like it or not? Do you want the money spent in regional Queensland or not, because we are going to spend the money in regional Queensland? We are going to work with the federal government to build it.

Mr SPEAKER: The Premier's time has expired. Before calling the deputy leader, member for Whitsunday, this is called 'question time'. It is the opportunity for questions to be put to ministers—not shouted out as an interjection.

Stephens, Dr D

Mr BLEIJIE: My question is to the Minister for Health. On 27 October last year the minister acknowledged there was a reprimand against disgraced Mackay surgeon Daryl Stephens. Given the minister knew about the reprimand a year ago, why was he stood down only last month after media inquiries on this issue?

Mrs D'ATH: I am sure the member is aware that the suspension that occurred in the last couple of weeks was not in relation to the reprimand that they referred to last year. This goes to the comments made and the questions before that the opposition have been claiming over the last couple of weeks. If members of the opposition were aware of ongoing issues in relation to this doctor, they have not raised that beyond asking one question about whether anyone had any details. They say that they were aware of all of this information that should have been acted on, but they asked a question around whether there were any doctors. They did not mention the urologist at all. They asked whether any doctors had any reprimands, and that was the end of it. The question—

Ms Bates interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The member for Mudgeeraba will put her comments through the chair and will cease interjecting.

Mrs D'ATH: In relation to the question previously asked by the member for Mudgeeraba, I can advise the House that I was actually asked the question in the House last year on 18 November—around those 48 hours. I gave a response in this House on that day. The member for Mudgeeraba then chose to write a letter asking for me to answer the question I had already answered three days earlier. The answer is in *Hansard*. It is dated 18 November. The member for Mudgeeraba was not listening at all in question time. The fact is that the information was provided on that day.

Renewable Energy

Ms KING: My question is to the Deputy Premier. Can the Deputy Premier outline our Palaszczuk government's plan to increase renewables and secure our energy future? Is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

Dr MILES: I thank the member for Pumicestone for her question. I know that she knows how many opportunities there are in the renewable energy future for the people in Bribie and Caboolture that she represents. It is now two weeks since the Premier delivered the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, a plan that first of all outlines that we will hit our 50 per cent renewable energy target two years sooner than we anticipated. Let us not forget that that is the 50 per cent renewable energy target that those opposite opposed and said we could never achieve by 2030—now delivered two years early in 2028. That will allow us to set new renewable energy targets for 2032, the year we will host the world for the Olympic and the Paralympic Games, as well as how we will progress further targets to 2035 and 2040 onwards. It will ensure we meet our emissions reduction targets and make a massive contribution to the Australian government meeting its global commitments for remissions reductions. It will deliver cheaper, cleaner energy. We have already with renewables driven down power prices. This plan outlines how power prices will be lower with renewables not just for households but also for industry so that it can create more jobs using that clean energy to export to the world.

It outlines how we will secure the jobs of existing energy workers, guarantee their jobs and increase the number of workers as we repurpose the generation facilities into clean energy hubs. There are 100,000 jobs for Queenslanders in this plan, but we want more than that. We want to attract manufacturers here so that those supply chains are here. To deliver this plan we will need: 2,000 wind turbines, 7,000 blades, 25 million solar panels and 7,000 batteries. That is why we have released a prospectus calling upon Queensland businesses as well as businesses around the country and around the world that might want to come here to set up manufacturing facilities.

This is a plan with jobs at its heart and it is a plan that could only be delivered by those of us on this side of the House. Let us not forget how much energy prices went up by those opposite—43 per cent. Let us not forget that they wanted to sell all of the assets that we are using to deliver this plan. Those places that sold their assets, like those opposite wanted to do, cannot have an orderly decarbonisation; they are stuck with the chaos we see down south.

(Time expired)

Mackay Base Hospital

Ms CAMM: My question is to the Minister for Health. After delaying action at Mackay, the minister sat on a report for a month then initially refused to meet victims. The window for compensation was closed on the same day the report was released. Given these actions suggest the health minister has not acted for the mothers of Mackay before, how can they trust the minister to act in their best interests now?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. I never refused to meet with the mothers; that is factually incorrect. In relation to the claims about compensation being cut off on that date, that is also factually incorrect.

Energy and Jobs Plan

Mr HEALY: My question is to the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer tell the House how the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will be funded and why?

Mr DICK: Thank you for the question, member for Cairns.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr DICK: I will take the interjection from the member for Toowoomba South. You worry about piano practice and I will worry about running the strongest economy in the country.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Pause the clock!

Mr DICK: The jobs and energy—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: The Treasurer could not hear me bringing the House to order because the member for Toowoomba South was too busy interjecting. The member for Toowoomba South needs to ensure that comments are directed through the chair, as does the Treasurer. How about we start again. The Treasurer has the call.

Mr DICK: I thank the member for Cairns for this most important question about the future of Queensland energy and the future of the Queensland economy. The Jobs and Energy Plan unveiled by the Premier last month sets out a clear direction for Queensland's energy future and Queensland's future prosperity. Some of the funding will come from the private sector, principally in the area of energy generation. Now we finally have a federal Labor government that acknowledges the importance of Australia's energy transition. We will look to federal support for these projects as well.

Our government will provide equity injections for certain projects, whether it is for generation, transmission or storage through pumped hydro, and our government owned corporations will continue to work their balance sheets hard, taking advantage of high international demand for green energy bonds to fund this quantum leap in Queensland's energy system. We will borrow to build. I make it very clear in the House today that the Labor government will borrow and we will continue to borrow to build.

I am asked why we adopt this approach—why we chose this approach. The alternative is the policy approach of the LNP—to sell the whole lot; gone forever. The policy position of the LNP is to leave our energy future in this state entirely in the hands of the private sector. We have seen what is happening around the country. If the LNP had had their way there would be no way that Queenslanders would have received a \$175 public asset dividend. If the LNP had had its way we would be witnessing the disorderly and chaotic closure of power generation in this state, which is happening in southern states, driving up energy costs and undermining security and stability in the energy system in Queensland.

Mr Bleijie interjected.

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

Mr DICK: The only interest those opposite have in public investment in energy assets is if it is for paying someone to ignore science, ignore the market and build another coal-fired power station. We will not do that. We welcome private sector investment—

Mr Janetzki interjected.

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

Mr DICK:—but it must done with the government to ensure a smooth, stable and secure transition for our energy system and our economy and ensure that the energy system in this state remains under the democratic control and ownership of the people of Queensland. That is our pledge, that is our commitment and that is what we will deliver for the people as we transition to a world of clean, green electrons.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Before calling the next questioner, I want to ensure that members are aware that there have been some questions that have been borderline when it comes to them containing imputations. I will listen very carefully to questions.

Mackay Base Hospital

Dr ROWAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. In relation to Mackay Hospital, the health minister said, 'If they are doing wrong and you are aware of that, you must act. If you don't act there are consequences.' Given the minister's failure to act to ensure safety for Mackay mothers, babies and other patients, what will the consequence be for the health minister?

Mr SPEAKER: As per the statement I just made, member, I would ask you to ask the question again without imputations.

Dr ROWAN: Given the adverse maternal and surgical clinical outcomes for Mackay mothers, babies and other patients, what will the consequence be for the health minister?

Mrs D'ATH: I have responded and acted on the investigation report that was released by the HHS on 30 September. What is expected of me as the health minister is to immediately act on this report once it has been identified—not just making sure that the hospital and health service itself

implements the recommendations from this investigation but that the board is also held accountable for its role as far as governance around quality and safety under the act and also making make sure that there are lessons learnt around this investigation across the entire health service and not just the Mackay HHS. There are lessons to be learnt here around consumer complaints and also staff complaints and how they are managed and making sure that when staff believe they are not being listened to by senior leadership that they have a way of escalating that so it is known and it is acted on. It is unacceptable that that was not occurring at Mackay Hospital.

It is clear from the evidence coming out of the forensic services inquiry that again issues were being raised and senior leadership were not listening. I want to make sure that the entire health system is looking at these recommendations. We are making sure that the boards, the department and every staff member across the health service understands their responsibilities and obligations and people know the avenues available to them, whether they be a patient or staff member, to raise any concerns and ensure these things are addressed immediately.

Energy and Jobs Plan

Mr HUNT: My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise the House of the job security measures underpinning the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan and is the minister aware of any alternative arrangements?

Ms GRACE: I thank the member for Caloundra for the question. How exciting is it that the Borumba pumped hydro facility is going to be built on the Sunshine Coast, creating thousands of jobs and requiring skilled workers for generations to come. That is significant. What have we heard from those opposite, member for Caloundra? We have heard absolutely nothing. They have been stone silent.

It is exciting that the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is the Energy Workers' Charter and has the job security guarantee embedded in it. We know that traditional jobs will be impacted and need to be transitioned. The Palaszczuk Labor government will ensure that workers in these Queensland publicly owned coal-fired power stations have a secure future, choices and clear employment pathways and opportunities.

We will be legislating these in an act in this House and investing \$150 million to back our workers in this state. Guaranteed opportunities will include training and skills development, transfers between publicly owned energy corporations and dedicated future pathway managers to support workers every step of the way. Why can we do this? We were able to secure this charter with the unions. I put on record my thanks to the electrical and mining unions that have endorsed a nation-leading charter for workers in their industries. It is an outstanding effort. The other reason we can do it is that we own our assets. We were not going to sell them like those opposite.

We can do industrial relations on this side of the House because it is in our DNA. That is why. We have the trusted capabilities to deliver, unlike those opposite. Can members imagine for one second the Leader of the Opposition and the Deputy Leader of the Opposition walking into a room with the unions to negotiate a job security charter?

Dr Miles: Bring in the fake unions!

Ms GRACE: That is right. They are real unions. They do not know how to deal with those. There is not one public servant they do not want to sack. They want to walk in and negotiate a charter for job security in the energy sector. They are a joke. Only Labor can deliver this plan. This is the future of Queensland and those opposite can never deliver it.

(Time expired)

Mackay Base Hospital

Mr POWELL: My question is to the Premier. The health minister has refused to condemn comments that issues being raised about Mackay Hospital were 'scaremongering'. If the health minister won't condemn those comments, does the Premier regret making them?

Ms PALASZCZUK: You are referring to a question where I actually answered the question—

Mr SPEAKER: Address your comments through the chair, Premier.

Ms PALASZCZUK: I actually said that the health minister had commissioned the investigation. The opposition needs to learn to let investigations run their course. As we know with the laptops—

Government members interjected.

Ms PALASZCZUK: That is right—no apology. They blamed public servants. They blamed my office. It was disgusting—no apology. There was no apology for sacking all the health workers, no. There was no apology for planning to sell assets—no apology. Let's be very clear here: this is an absolutely serious issue.

Opposition members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The House will come to order!

Ms PALASZCZUK: Health is an incredibly big portfolio in this state—the biggest when it comes to the number of hospitals—over 160 hospitals; when it comes to the thousands of doctors and nurses who work in the health system—we are adding 3,100 extra doctors; and when it comes to the health and hospital boards that run them.

I am not going to pre-empt the show cause, but the hospital boards across our state have a job to do, and that job is to ensure the administration and the service delivery of the hospital that they operate under—a system that was set up by the LNP and one that we continue to adopt. The health minister has acted quickly on that report, on those recommendations, and there is currently a show cause issue there. It would be pre-emptive to go into further details, as the opposition is doing today. I have full confidence that the show cause notice will be dealt with expeditiously at the conclusion of that time.

In contrast, we are investing over \$11 billion in our hospitals across Queensland—that is a massive injection into our hospital and health system. On this side we acknowledge that health care is a big issue for families right across the state.

(Time expired)

Energy and Jobs Plan

Mr KING: My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Minister, I note support received from many in Queensland for the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Can the minister advise what alternative approaches may have been proposed?

Mr POWELL: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. That question was not addressed through the chair.

Mr SPEAKER: That is correct. I will ask the member to repeat the latter part of that question.

Mr KING: Thanks for the opportunity, Mr Speaker. My question is to the minister through the Speaker. I note support received from many in Queensland for the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Can the minister advise what alternative approaches may have been proposed?

Mr de BRENNI: I thank the member for Kurwongbah. If anyone in this place knows what a good energy and jobs plan looks like, it is the only trained linesman in this House—the member for Kurwongbah.

In ministerial statements this morning we heard about the broad support for our orderly and publicly owned clean energy transition here in Queensland. At home and globally, our Energy and Jobs Plan has broad support from unions, industry, the media, conservationists, economists, system regulators, Australian political leaders and state governments of all political persuasions—even the Greens political party. We have heard from regional mayors. They are backing the Energy and Jobs Plan too. Just a few days ago Mackay Mayor Greg Williamson said, 'Energy for us is going to be the future saviour, the job protection and the deliverable for regional Queensland, for Queensland and Australia.'

Clean Energy Council's Kane Thornton described the plan as 'bold and transformative'. The *Courier-Mail* has backed the plan through their editorial, exclaiming that the 'plan is a welcome example of vision from a government'. Ian Macfarlane from the Queensland Resources Council has backed it too. He said the plan delivered an 'enormous opportunity' for the Queensland resources sector. Al Gore backed Queensland. He said, 'We need to see more of this around the world!'

While all of these leading voices have been backing in the plan, there is one voice that has had next to nothing to say—and that is the so-called Leader of the Opposition. My team and I have searched high and low but we could not find a single statement from the Leader of the Opposition since the release of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan.

In fact, it appears the so-called Leader of the Opposition of the LNP has left commentary on our energy plan to Colin Boyce, the former member for Callide. That is somewhere between lazy and dangerous. I want to take members back to I think it was 4 September 2019. Many of us might remember sitting here when the former minister for energy, Hon. Anthony Lynham, had to explain to those opposite that pumped hydro works at night. He said—

There is this concrete wall on top of a hill and another one down the bottom. In the day the sun pumps water up. The water trickles down at night-time driving a generator.

Just this week the former member for Callide said that ‘renewable pumped hydro won’t work’ because ‘the sun doesn’t shine’ all the time. We know on this side of the House that the science is settled and the technology behind hydro is still the same.

Youth Offenders, Foster Care

Mr DAMETTO: My question is to the Minister for Children and Youth Justice. In 2020-21, 10.3 per cent of offences against a person committed by children were sexual assault and related offences. Children 14 years and younger accounted for 69.7 per cent of those victims. Can the minister ensure that juvenile sex offenders have not been placed into residential or foster care with other children?

Ms LINARD: I thank the member for the question. Those are incredibly serious—I won’t say allegations—figures that we obviously take account of whenever a young person is assessed and to which home they are allocated if they are in child safety. Whether it is a residential service or foster care home, of course an assessment is done of risk. An assessment is done of who is placed in which home. There may be other children, if it is a foster care home, in that home. The department of child safety makes an assessment about not only what is safe for the environment of those who are already there in regard to who the carer is or, indeed, if it is a residential service, who is working in that residential service, who are the appropriate people to intervene and the diversions that may be required, but also the mix of young people who may be in that residential service. Of course an assessment is made in that regard.

Energy and Jobs Plan

Mr McCALLUM: My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. How is the Palaszczuk government’s Energy and Jobs Plan helping reduce emissions in the transport sector and is the minister aware of any alternative approaches?

Mr BAILEY: I thank the member, being such an important part of the transition to clean energy in this state, for the question. In fact, we might have to change his title. We are going to meet his title two years early—the 50 per cent renewable energy target. We have upped it under the Energy and Jobs Plan—70 per cent by 2032. I thank the member whose interest and knowledge in energy surpasses certainly anyone on the other side of the chamber.

We were the first state to have a zero-emissions strategy. With this plan we are seeing 1,500 kilometres of bulk transmission lines, two pumped hydros—you would think that with a dam in there they might support it! There were no dams under them; there are already two dams under us and a third one here. What do we hear from them? Zero. That is all we hear. We have the \$62 billion supergrid coming with a thoroughly researched plan. If you are interested in the economy and jobs, that is where you need to go.

There was another transition of note happening that the chamber might be interested in, and that was at the Conservative Political Action Conference where the hard right wanted to transition the conservative forces even further right. They were celebrating the defeat of what they called ‘lefties’ in the federal election and saying we needed more of it. The members for Chatsworth and Clayfield over there and even the member for Bonney had to say that it defies all logic and reason. This was the biggest all-in brawl since the Rabbitohs v Roosters game in the final. It was popcorn material as they savaged each other about their irrelevance.

What we see from them today is: nothing. We have a thoroughly researched energy plan opus—a vision. What do they have to say? Nothing. However, their federal colleagues have come out and backed nuclear. That is their vision of the future. We have seen nuclear drop from about 17 per cent of the world’s energy mix down to below 10. I am wondering which members on the opposite side want reactors. Does the member for Kawana want a reactor in his electorate? The member for Burdekin might want one in North Queensland. How about the member for Maroochydore? I am sure they will be

putting their hands up for a nuclear reactor in their local patch. We know this is all under a Leader of the Opposition who is from the hard right. We know that when it comes to votes. He voted against voluntary assisted dying. He voted to keep abortion in the Criminal Code—

(Time expired)

Nurses and Midwives, Remuneration

Dr MacMAHON: My question is for the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Given increasing cost-of-living pressures, when will the government stop delaying the hard-earned pay rise for frontline Queensland Health nurses and midwives that was agreed to in negotiations more than two months ago?

Mr SPEAKER: I will ask the member to rephrase the last part of that question. I believe it could be asked without the imputation.

Dr MacMAHON: Given cost-of-living pressures, when will the government allow the hard-earned pay rise for frontline Queensland Health nurses and midwives?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. The Palaszczuk government is very proud of our support of workers in this state, both across government and the private sector. We have shown that since we came into government in 2015 by putting in place initiatives to support workers in industrial relations, workplace health and safety and compensation. There is no doubt that our health workers have done an extraordinary job, and they continue to do an extraordinary job each and every day. We are working through our enterprise bargaining arrangements. I look forward to delivering a wage increase for our health workers because they absolutely deserve it. I am proud that we recently announced changes in relation to COVID and sick leave so they do not need to exhaust their sick leave when they need to take leave because of COVID.

I am very proud of the efforts this government makes. The fact is that, irrespective of any questions or policies the Greens party may put up, it is Labor governments that have stood up for workers in this state time and time again. It is Labor governments that support the right to belong to a union. It is Labor governments that support the right for unions to access sites and support workers. It is Labor governments that ensure there are strong workplace health and safety laws, including industrial manslaughter laws and labour hire laws, making sure that construction companies and subcontractors are being paid so that it flows down to staff and they can make sure that people are in jobs. I am very proud of the rate of unemployment in this state—the lowest in 44 years. We are very proud of our legacy. We are proud of what we are delivering today.

We will continue to be a government that prides itself on looking after workers. That includes putting our health workers front and centre and supporting them, which is what we did throughout the whole of COVID. Every decision we made was not just about keeping the community safe, it was about protecting our health workers and making sure they were not completely overwhelmed, as we saw in other countries such as the UK, which is now looking for 96,000 workers. They have 96,000 vacancies in the national health system in the UK right now. We pride ourselves on how we have supported them, and we will continue to support them in the future.

Agriculture Industry, Energy Supply

Mr WHITING: My question is of the Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities. Can the minister outline the importance of secure, stable and sustainable energy for Queensland's agricultural sector?

Mr FURNER: I thank the member for Bancroft for his question with respect to this particularly important issue. He and every other Palaszczuk Labor government member realises that it is only a Labor government that will deliver secure, stable and sustainable renewable energy in this House. In fact, we have seen that delivered by the federal Labor government in Canberra, so we are reciprocating and delivering it here. We are on a pathway to ensure we deliver a sustainable future not only for our children but also our grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Conversely, when you look at those opposite you see they are not really into renewables. There is nothing new over there. There are a couple of recycled members over there but nothing new whatsoever. The bench of climate deniers has been lost to Canberra recently. The former member for Callide went down there to join his good mate the member for New England, Barnaby Joyce. I remember some of the comments he delivered down there in the Senate, crowing about a \$100 roast.

The last time I bought a roast it was around \$30, so that gives you an idea of the mistruths delivered by conservative Liberal National Party governments. That is why you will never see them stand up and support Queensland and renewables in this state.

Mr Millar: You don't support agriculture, we know that!

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, we have not heard from you in a while. You will direct your comments through the chair. You are warned under the standing orders.

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is being misleading because the member is the farmers' friend.

Mr SPEAKER: Thank you, Leader of the House.

Mr FURNER: I take that interjection. That is why I am called the farmers' friend. When I travel in the regions, like many of us do, of this beautiful state of Queensland I see that this government is recognised, from the Premier down to every member of cabinet and every backbencher, as friends of the farmers. We always will be because we have always supported them. That is why the energy and jobs program will support our farmers. They understand the importance of climate change. That is why the representatives of farmers, whether it be the Queensland Farmers' Federation or AgForce, are going down the path of low-emissions targets as a result of what we are doing to work with our farmers to make sure they reduce emissions. Those opposite do not realise that this outcome is consumer driven. People in not only Queensland and Australia but the world want to see change to make sure our environment and food safety are protected. It is as simple as that. Surely those opposite might get it one day.

Health System, Data Reporting

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. Internal government communications show the minister's office deliberately delayed the release of critical health data in direct contradiction to the Coaldrake findings. Why was there interference with the timing of the release of the health data?

Mr SPEAKER: Member, I would ask you to repeat the question without imputations. I have given pretty clear guidance. There were multiple opinions.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: I do not need any guidance. There were suggestions which must be substantiated as well. I ask you to rephrase that question.

Ms SIMPSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. Internal government communications released under RTI have shown that there have been delays in the release of critical health data, and this is bringing into question the findings of the Coaldrake inquiry. I ask the minister: what role has her office and the department played in delaying the release of this health data?

Mrs D'ATH: I thank the member for her question. The opposition truly do struggle when they are not impugning people. The question just put is in relation to the timing of releasing performance data prior to question time on a sitting day. The irony is that the opposition got the RTI they are relying on last month and they have chosen to wait until the start of question time to release—

Honourable members interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! The member will continue her contribution.

Mrs D'ATH: I do want to continue. The irony is that the opposition have been sitting on an RTI since September and waiting until the first question time of parliament coming back to ask why performance data was released on the morning of a question time. There is more than one question time for the opposition. There are plenty of opportunities to ask questions around the performance data. The performance data was rightly questioned by my office where they identified errors. They asked questions why certain information in the performance data, that if it had gone live, was inconsistent with other parts of the performance data that ended up having to be corrected by the department. I think it is more than appropriate that we make sure the performance data that is put out is accurate.

In contrast, and I am happy to be corrected, I cannot find one part 9 investigation that was released when the opposition were in government. We know they occurred because there are plenty of media articles about clinical reviews and investigations that occurred. None of them—not even an executive summary or the findings—were released. We know what they did with police data. We know other hospital data was not released. For those on the opposite side to criticise the release of data that was due and released in a timely way, when it was due—

Mrs Frecklington: In a convenient way.

Mrs D'ATH: I take that interjection. In fact I stood up that morning and addressed it in the ministerial statement. I said to the opposition, 'If you haven't clued into the fact that there's performance data up there, I'm letting you know in my ministerial statement that the performance data is up there.' It is not my fault that they were a little slow off the mark. I do have to point out the irony of the question.

Mr BLEIJIE: Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I move—

That the minister be further heard.

Mr SPEAKER: I ask the member if this is a serious motion. If it is not, it is frivolous.

Mr BLEIJIE: Yes.

Question put—That the minister be further heard.

Motion agreed to.

Mrs D'ATH: The opposition are happy not to ask any questions. I am more than happy to talk about our investment in the health system compared to those opposite. We have employed over 13,000 health workers; they sacked 4,400. We have opened hospital beds and we have built hospitals; they did not build one hospital. They did not release any investigation reports. I cannot believe the member for Kawana would want me to talk about his history as the former attorney-general. I know he is not minister now, but all I can say to the member for Kawana is boot camps, helicopters and pink jumpsuits—the money that was wasted—and there was the toy rat on the shoulder.


This is the man they put in as the Deputy Leader of the Opposition. We welcome the Deputy Leader of the Opposition getting up and speaking in front of the media every day because it reminds the public why they voted the previous LNP government out and got rid of them. The fact is that a large number of those sitting on the opposite side now were in senior leadership positions. The leader and the deputy leader were part of that government and they sat around the cabinet table and made the decision to sack thousands of public servants, to rip money out of this system, to take money off NGOs and to scrap Skilling Queenslanders for Work. That is the legacy of the LNP government—an LNP which has not committed to not sacking people if it were to come back into government.

(Time expired)

Mr SPEAKER: The period for question time has expired.


SPEAKER'S STATEMENT

Member for Maroochydore

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I wish to take the opportunity, as has been practice in this place, to congratulate the member for Maroochydore for reaching 30 years as a member of parliament. A week is a long time in politics, so I am not sure what that says about 30 years.

MOTION

Business Program

 **Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (11.16 am):** I move—

1. That the following business will be considered this sitting week, with the nominated maximum periods of time as specified:
 - (a) the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of two hours to complete all stages
 - (b) the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, a maximum of 4½ hours to complete all stages
 - (c) the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, to complete all stages by 5.55 pm on Friday, 14 October 2022.
2. The following time limits for the bills listed in 1. apply:
 - (a) the minister to be called on in reply:
 - (i) for the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 45 minutes before the expiry of the maximum hours


- (ii) for the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by one hour before the expiry of the maximum hours
 - (iii) for the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill by 4.55 pm on Friday, 14 October 2022.
3. If the nominated stage of each bill has not been completed by the allocated time specified in 2., or by 5.55 pm on Friday, 14 October 2022, Mr Speaker:
- (a) shall call on a minister to table any explanatory notes to their circulated amendments, any statement of compatibility with human rights or any statement relating to an override declaration
 - (b) shall put all remaining questions necessary to either pass that stage or pass the bill without further debate
 - (c) may interrupt non-specified business or debate on a bill or motion to complete the requirements of the motion
 - (d) will complete all stages required by this motion notwithstanding anything contained in standing and sessional orders.


Members will note that there are three bills subject to the business program motion: the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Members will know that debate of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill has already commenced and is in its final stages.

At the Business Committee meeting yesterday, discussion occurred in relation to the timings of these bills—in particular, factoring in time for consideration in detail. The government has taken that feedback on board and members will see that the motion before the House factors in consideration in detail time. As such, the minister will be called on in reply 45 minutes before the end of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill, one hour before the end of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill and by 4.55 pm on Friday for the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill.

As always, we look forward to a constructive debate by all members of the House regarding these bills. Members will know that the House was postponed due to the passing of the Queen and, as such, there will be a number of bills introduced this week and referred to various Queensland parliamentary committees for their detailed analysis and review before the House considers them during future sittings of this chamber. All of this is on top of the usual items which happen during the parliamentary sitting week, noting that the House will sit on Friday this week.

For the benefit of Queenslanders watching the debate, today's program is what usually happens on Tuesday, Thursday's program is what usually happens on Wednesday and Friday's program is what usually happens on Thursday. In short, we have shifted the program one day. As outlined previously, I will advise the House in due course regarding the sitting program for the remaining sitting weeks for the year, which will be via a motion in this chamber. I commend the motion to the House.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (11.19 am): The opposition will be opposing this business program motion this morning for all the reasons that have previously been expressed by the former manager of opposition business and me. They include the fact, I can guarantee all members of this House, that there will be debate guillotined as a result of this business motion, that there will be speaking lists truncated and that speakers will be cut off mid-delivery and therefore unable to represent the views of their constituency. While I do acknowledge that there is some level of discussion and flexibility within the Business Committee meeting as to how we break up the time allocated within the week, it still does not give sufficient time for all members in this chamber to represent their communities, their electorates and deliver speeches on important pieces of legislation as per their choice.

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (11.19 am): The irony continues. We have seen under the previous shadow business leader, the member for Kawana, and now continues with the member for Glass House, that the complaint is that we do not have enough time to talk, yet they always chew up this piece of time on procedural debates, arcane debates, when this is exactly how parliaments are run right across the country, right across the world which is that you need to prioritise bills and you need to prioritise debate.

I commend the current Manager of Opposition Business for at least not using up his five minutes as an amateur thespian, as we often saw with the member for Kawana. At least he has a little bit of seriousness there about him as opposed to the member for Kawana's obvious amateur thespian talents as we saw during question time today. This is ordinary management of business within a parliament. It is standard practice. For members to get up, repeatedly using the same key lines and themes, essentially often the same sort of speeches, you have to prioritise who your key speakers are and what

you want to cover. This is ordinary business. This is something that has been going on throughout this country, often throughout other international jurisdictions as well. I commend the business motion to the House.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 49:

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

NOES, 40:

LNP, 33—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pair: McMillan, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

Message from Governor



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.27 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr SPEAKER: The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3). The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3) 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the consolidated fund for the Legislative Assembly and parliamentary service for the financial year starting 1 July 2021

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 October 2022

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 [\[1614\]](#).

Introduction



Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.27 am): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay an amount from the Consolidated Fund for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service for the financial year starting 1 July 2021. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022 [\[1615\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022, explanatory notes [\[1616\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1617\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022. The objective of the bill is to seek supplementary appropriation for the 2021-22 financial year for the unforeseen expenditure comprised of \$2,185,000 for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. Unforeseen

expenditure represents the portion of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund by individual departments and the parliament that exceeds the amount approved for those departments and the parliament in previous appropriation acts.

Pursuant to section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, unforeseen expenditure, on my recommendation as Treasurer, may be authorised by the Governor in Council within four weeks of the end of the financial year. Unforeseen expenditure must also be formally approved by parliament via appropriation bills.

On 14 July 2022, the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2021-22 financial of \$2,825,309,000 which includes \$2,185,000 for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service. Parliamentary approval for the unforeseen expenditure of \$2,185,000 incurred for the Legislative Assembly and Parliamentary Service is now being sought. This bill fulfils a formal statutory requirement that all payments from the Consolidated Fund be authorised by parliament and does so in a timely fashion. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.29 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 Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)

Message from Governor

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.29 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends Appropriation Bill (No. 3). The contents of the message will be incorporated in the *Record of Proceedings*. I table the message for the information of members.

MESSAGE

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3) 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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


A Bill for an Act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the consolidated fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2021

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 October 2022

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 [\[1618\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.29 am): I present a bill for an act authorising the Treasurer to pay amounts from the Consolidated Fund for particular departments for the financial year starting 1 July 2021. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022 [\[1619\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022, explanatory notes [\[1620\]](#).

Tabled paper: Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1621\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022. The objective of the bill is to seek supplementary appropriation for the 2021-22 financial year for unforeseen expenditure comprised of \$2,823,124,000 for 14 departments. Unforeseen expenditure represents the portion of expenditure from the Consolidated Fund by individual departments that exceeds the amount approved for those departments in previous appropriation acts.

Pursuant to section 35 of the Financial Accountability Act 2009, unforeseen expenditure, on my recommendation as Treasurer, may be authorised by the Governor in Council within four weeks of the end of the financial year. Unforeseen expenditure must also be formally approved by parliament via appropriation bills. On 14 July 2022, the Governor in Council authorised unforeseen expenditure incurred during the 2021-22 financial year of \$2,825,309,000, which includes \$2,823,124,000 for 14 departments. Parliamentary approval for the unforeseen expenditure of \$2,823,124,000 for 14 departments is now being sought.

This bill fulfils a formal statutory and constitutional requirement that all payments from the Consolidated Fund must be authorised by parliament and does so in a timely fashion. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.31 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 Economics and Governance Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Economics and Governance Committee.

BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.32 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The message from Her Excellency the Governor recommends the Betting Tax and Other Legislation 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

BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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


A Bill for an Act to amend the Betting Tax Act 2018, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Racing Act 2002 and the Racing Regulation 2013 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 October 2022

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[1622\]](#).

Introduction

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.32 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Betting Tax Act 2018, the Payroll Tax Act 1971, the Racing Act 2002 and the Racing Regulation 2013 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Education, Employment and Training Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[1623\]](#).

Tabled paper: Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[1624\]](#).

Tabled paper: Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1625\]](#).

I am pleased to introduce the Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The main purpose of the bill is to amend the Betting Tax Act 2018, the Racing Act 2002 and the Racing Regulation 2013, from 1 December 2022, to implement betting tax changes and provide for a more sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry. The bill also amends the Payroll Tax Act 1971 to make consequential amendments of an administrative, machinery and transitional nature in relation to the mental health levy provisions, which will commence on 1 January 2023.

In recent days there have been extensive discussions about revenue. However, let me say this: I am proud to serve in a government that keeps its promises. We promised the people of Queensland we would not raise their taxes, and we have kept that promise. For good reason, we did not make that same promise to the corporate bookmakers, the largest of which are principally foreign owned or foreign domiciled.

During COVID, whilst Queensland households were facing increased pressure and uncertainty, these multinational bookmakers were making mammoth profits. The \$14 billion company that owns Ladbrokes and Neds, the Entain Group, turned over nearly \$2 billion in global revenue last year. The \$26 billion company that owns Betfair, Flutter Entertainment, turned over more than \$2½ billion in global revenue last year. Our government will not raise taxes on the people of Queensland. Our government will make large multinational companies pay their fair share to Queensland.

Under the existing arrangement, which was introduced under the former Newman LNP government, funding for Queensland racing was disproportionately dependent on wagering revenues. Wagering revenues have been in significant decline, consequently putting the racing industry in Queensland at risk.

There are 125 racing clubs across Queensland. For 85 of those clubs, including in communities that the member for Nanango represents, a race meeting is the biggest or second biggest event in the community each year. A race meeting is a once-a-year event that is an unparalleled opportunity for people to get together. It is big companies that are making money out of regional Queensland. The bill ensures that multinational companies that are profiting from Queensland's thriving racing industry will also invest in its future.

Toowoomba Racing Club Chief Executive Officer Lizzy King joined me the day I announced these changes. In her words, 'It's a game changer. If we're able to access more funding, that just means the facilities we can provide not only our stakeholders but also our guests are absolutely fantastic.'

On 6 June 2022, the government announced changes to betting tax. The bill implements the announcement by amending the Betting Tax Act to: apply a five per cent racing levy to the betting tax; incorporate free bets into the calculation of betting tax; and provide for the hypothecation of 80 per cent of annual betting tax revenue to Racing Queensland. The bill will provide sustainability and certainty to the industry through a secure funding stream. Eighty per cent of revenue from the betting tax will go directly to the racing industry. If the size of the pie grows, so too will the industry's share.

It is the government's intention that these amendments will commence on 1 December 2022. As the amendments commence part way through the 2022-23 financial year, the bill contains transitional arrangements relating to the taxing rate and hypothecation of betting tax revenue. Betting operators pay betting tax monthly via their monthly returns. However, their betting tax liability for the financial year is calculated when their annual return is lodged. Accordingly, the bill provides a transitional taxing rate of 17.9 per cent, which applies to the annual liability for 2022-23. The transitional taxing rate is an average, reflecting an effective income for the first five months of 2022-23, coupled with a lower rate in the last seven months of 2022-23.

In relation to the hypothecation of betting tax revenue, the bill provides that for the 2022-23 financial year payments to Racing Queensland will be based on betting tax revenue attributable from December to June. Consistent with broader amendments to the Betting Tax Act, amendments to the Racing Act and regulation are intended to provide more sustainable funding for country racing. They will deliver greater certainty for this sector, recognising the critical role it plays in the economic and social fabric of communities across Queensland. To deliver this certainty, the bill provides a head of power in the Racing Act to hypothecate country thoroughbred racing funding. This will also allow for details of the associated funding amounts and indexation to be prescribed in the Racing Regulation.

The proposed minimum dollar amount of \$20 million is broadly equivalent to current annual funding for country racing. Indexation of two per cent per annum would be applied to this amount so that it increases over time. To ensure transparency about which clubs and meetings are covered by

this funding, Racing Queensland will be required to publish an annual country thoroughbred racing calendar, in line with its responsibility to publish a calendar for each code of racing. As a further transparency measure, Racing Queensland will be required to report on country racing expenditure in its annual report. This aligns with current requirements under the Country Racing Program Funding Deed. Every dollar this bill raises goes to Queensland racing. The choice is clear for those who sit opposite me today. Does the LNP back country racing, or do they back foreign bookmakers? They cannot have it both ways.

The Revenue Legislation Amendment Act makes amendments to the Payroll Tax Act, with effect from 1 January 2023, to impose a mental health levy in relation to taxable wages paid or payable from that date, being part way through the financial year. Those amendments establish the framework for the mental health levy, including the thresholds at which it becomes payable, how the levy is to be calculated and the responsibility for payment of the levy and lodgement of returns. The explanatory note to the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 noted that as the Queensland Revenue Office prepared for implementation of the mental health levy, it would be necessary to further develop administrative, machinery and transitional arrangements in relation to the levy. Consequential amendments to the Payroll Tax Act have now been identified to support an orderly transition to, and for appropriate ongoing administration of, the mental health levy from 1 January 2023.

The bill amends the Payroll Tax Act for this purpose, with effect from 1 January 2023. Importantly, none of the amendments alter the key elements of the mental health levy already contained in the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill. These amendments do not alter the permitted use of the proceeds from the levy. This includes the provision of services and infrastructure that are consistent with the Mental Health Act 2016 or the guiding principles in section 5(2) to 5(5) of the Queensland Mental Health Commission Act 2013. The bill provides that conduct such as actual or attempted avoidance of the levy or the non-provision of information with reasonable excuse will be an offence or attract a penalty. This ensures similar sanctions apply for conduct in relation to the levy as currently apply in relation to payroll tax.

This bill delivers on two very important Queensland government initiatives. The bill provides for greater funding certainty and a long-term sustainable funding model for Queensland's racing industry. The bill also supports the implementation and administration of the mental health levy from 1 January 2023. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. CR DICK (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (11.40 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 Education, Employment and Training Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Education, Employment and Training Committee.

COAL MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Message from Governor

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.41 am): I present a message from Her Excellency the Governor.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The message from Her Excellency recommends the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation 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

COAL MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022

Constitution of Queensland 2001, section 68

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

A Bill for an Act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 for particular purposes

GOVERNOR

Date: 12 October 2022

Tabled paper: Message, dated 12 October 2022, from Her Excellency the Governor recommending the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[1626\]](#).

Introduction



Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.41 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999, the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Gas Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989, the Mineral Resources Regulation 2013 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety) Act 2004 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: Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[1627\]](#).

Tabled paper: Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[1628\]](#).

Tabled paper: Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1629\]](#).

Today I introduce to the House the Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, which delivers on two Queensland government priorities. First, the bill strengthens the safety and health culture in the resources sector through the facilitation of direct employment requirements for coalmining statutory positions. Second, the bill progresses amendments to enable implementation of a key action in the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan as well as make amendments to resources acts to address an operational issue and correct clerical errors.

In relation to resources, safety and health, the bill primarily addresses several issues raised by industry in relation to implementing the direct employment requirements first introduced into legislation in May 2020. On 25 May 2020, the Mineral and Energy Resources and Other Legislation Amendment Act 2020 amended the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act 1999 to require a person to be an employee of the coalmine operator to be appointed to a safety-critical statutory role at the time. The objective of the direct employment requirements is to ensure that holders of statutory roles at coalmines can make safety complaints, raise safety issues or give help to an official in relation to a safety issue without fear of reprisal or impact on their employment. The requirements also ensure that the coalmine operator, the entity ultimately responsible for the coalmine and safety of its workers, remains the central point of responsibility. By directly employing critical safety roles, the coalmine operator's responsibility for safety is not fragmented across multiple employers. The direct employment requirements come into full effect on 25 November 2022, when the 2½-year transition period ends.

Representatives of the coalmining industry raised with me challenges to implementing the direct employment requirements. Industry stated that requirements would have the potential to impact their ability to consistently supply coal and, as a result, would affect the financial viability and sustainability of their businesses.

I directed that a tripartite working group be established representing industry, workers and the regulator to find solutions to the identified issues. As a result of this process, the bill will amend the Coal Mining Safety and Health Act to address these implementation issues. The amendments will allow limited exceptions to the direct employment requirements while still achieving their intent. They will allow coalmine operators whose only activities are exploration activities to appoint a senior site executive through another employer. They will also allow contract companies who are responsible for substantially whole-of-mine operations to employ statutory position holders. Through this change, the

one entity, such as a contract company responsible for whole-of-mine operations, will remain substantially responsible for safety at the coalmine. The amendments will allow operators to engage statutory position holders from external sources for temporary absences of not more than 12 weeks and will allow companies associated with the coalmine operator, such as a wholly owned subsidiary or other company within the same group or family of companies as the operator, to employ persons in statutory positions.

Another matter raised with me is the need to clarify the safety focus for persons appointed to open-cut examiner, ventilation officer or explosion risk zone controller positions at a coalmine so that the safety focus of these roles is not diluted by undertaking production activities. I intend to ask stakeholders from industry and unions to consider this in more detail and to provide further advice to me on this matter.

I now turn to the second area of the amendments in the bill, which amends the Mineral Resources Act 1989 to provide a rent deferral framework for specific critical mineral mining leases. This change will implement action 10 of the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan. The bill also includes several minor amendments to the Geothermal Energy Act 2010, the Greenhouse Storage Act 2009, the Mineral and Energy Resources (Common Provisions) Act 2014, the Mineral Resources Act 1989 and the Petroleum and Gas (Production and Safety Act) 2004. These minor housekeeping type amendments will address operational issues and correct clerical errors in the resources act. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. SJ STEWART (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (11.47 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

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Transport and Resources Committee.

WATER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.47 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009, the Water Act 2000, the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008 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 State Development and Regional Industries Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [\[1630\]](#).

Tabled paper: Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [\[1631\]](#).

Tabled paper: Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [\[1632\]](#).

Water is the lifeblood of Queensland's regional and rural communities, driving economic growth and job opportunities and supporting the social fabric of these communities. The Water Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 delivers a key milestone in this government's commitment to improve water management and ensures regulatory frameworks remain effective. The bill amends the Water Act 2000 to implement Queensland's strengthened non-urban measurement policy.

The primary aim of the bill is to establish a clear and transparent framework for implementing Queensland's strengthened non-urban water measurement policy. This will improve the way water take is measured and reported across the state. The updated measurement policy was developed with entitlement holders, industry and the community. There was broad support for better measurement and accountability for water use in Queensland. Having accurate information about how much water is taken from our river catchments and aquifers is crucial to sustainable water resource management. This ensures everyone can access their fair share of this precious resource.

The framework will apply to water users who have a volumetric surface water or underground water entitlement. For water users who take water directly from a river or stream or from an aquifer, this will mean having a meter attached to their pump to record how much water they take. The framework also contains provisions in relation to measuring complex water-take operations—for example, where a water user collects and stores overland flow water on their property.

The bill provides for measurement plans which will be required for overland flow water licences in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin. Irrigators with overland flow water licences in the Murray-Darling are supportive of this measurement approach because they know better than most just how precious water resources are. Measurement plans will detail how water take is measured on-farm and provide more accurate information about the amount of overland flow and the water taken in these catchments so its impact on river flows and water availability for other users can be better understood and managed more effectively.

The development of these important measurement systems has occurred in consultation with stakeholders and industry bodies. This has been important in getting the balance right, ensuring irrigators have measurement systems in place that work for them and that properly measure water take so that our water resources are managed for the benefit of all irrigation stakeholders and the community more broadly.

The regulatory framework established by the bill will also require water users to report metered information on water take more frequently. To facilitate this for some entitlement holders in the Queensland Murray-Darling Basin, this will see the installation of telemetry devices on their meters. These devices transmit metered data in near real time and are especially useful to monitor take that is time and event based—for example, where water may only be taken when certain water flow conditions occur. The ability to capture and transmit regular data will also support irrigators because it allows them to better manage their water resources. Having this information will make it easier to monitor water take against their entitlement. This will support compliance action for anyone taking more than their fair share. Better information means better decisions about managing and allocating water. This will put Queensland in the best position to stimulate economic development in regional communities.

The bill also provides that standards can be made for meters, measurement plans and other measurement devices like telemetry. This will deliver confidence that measuring equipment is operating at an acceptable level of performance throughout its working life. Strengthened water measurement enabled by this bill is crucial to the Rural Water Futures program, which is driving more transparent and sustainable water resource management here in Queensland. Rural Water Futures is delivering projects to harness water data and to make it readily available online so water users have information about their water use, their entitlements and the water that they can buy or sell on the water market. Getting better water information in means getting better water information out. This will help water users, industry and businesses to access information they need to make informed decisions about best use of this precious resource to suit their business needs.

The bill will be supported by future regulation amendments that detail operational and administrative requirements. The bill also amends the Water Act to improve and synchronise administration of water authority boards. Amendments also ensure the chief executive can consider and decide water licence applications that may impact other water users, environmental water needs or the public interest. Minor operational amendments are also made to the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act and the South-East Queensland Water (Distribution and Retail Restructuring) Act 2009 to improve their operational efficiencies.

The bill makes minor operational amendments to improve underground water management on behalf of the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs. The proposed amendments are compatible with human rights under the Human Rights Act 2019. A statement of compatibility has been prepared for the bill. I want to thank my department for its hard work and also the irrigation communities and the stakeholders who have worked closely with the department through this process. I commend the bill to the House.

First Reading

Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (11.54 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 State Development and Regional Industries Committee

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the State Development and Regional Industries Committee.

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Introduction



Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (11.54 am): I present a bill for an act to amend the Environmental Protection Act 1994, the Environmental Protection Regulation 2019, the Land Title Act 1994, the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2001 and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 for particular purposes. I table the bill, the explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Health and Environment Committee to consider the bill.

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 [[1633](#)].

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [[1634](#)].

Tabled paper: Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1635](#)].

I am pleased to introduce the Environmental Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill will support industry and streamline administrative processes, better protect the environment, improve community input and transparency and provide for a stronger, more effective environmental regulator. The bill amends the Environmental Protection Act 1994 to ensure environmental values continue to be protected through contemporary and efficient regulation while also amending the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 and the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993. These proposed changes will ensure the environment and the community continue to be protected through effective and efficient environmental regulatory management.

The bill will also support industry by resolving a range of technical implementation issues with the mine rehabilitation framework, specifically the process for estimated rehabilitation cost and progressive rehabilitation and closure planning. The bill also inserts new transitional provisions to clarify how it was intended that environmental authority holders are to transition into the progressive rehabilitation and closure planning framework. This is needed because there are some potential scenarios where there is ambiguity about whether the transitional provisions can apply. The bill will remove this uncertainty and ensure that all relevant existing sites can operate under the progressive rehabilitation and closure planning framework.

The bill modernises and improves the efficiency of environmental authority provisions. The bill proposes amendments that will provide further detail on the operation of provisions for the suspension of environmental authorities. There are also amendments to support the short-term environmental authorities for non-resources activity to trial new and innovative approaches.

The bill enhances transparency for the community as well by requiring public notification for all major amendment applications to environmental authorities for resource activities. The change will provide greater community awareness of significant environmental authority amendments and support the public's right to know about amendments that could directly or indirectly impact them.

To assist Queensland businesses and individuals to meet environmental requirements in an emergency situation, the bill also allows the issue of temporary authorities where deemed reasonable because of an emergency situation. These amendments enable temporary authorities to be granted to ensure that operators can meet their environmental requirements when faced with an emergency like the floods earlier this year. This will be critical as we deal with more frequent and extreme weather events in Queensland as a result of global warming.

The bill improves the contaminated land framework by clarifying a range of provisions related to the duty to notify of environmental harm, grounds for including land in the environmental management register and the content requirements for contaminated land investigation documents. Additional amendments will streamline the process for landholders who ask to have their land included in a contaminated land register.

Further enhancements will be made to the Environmental Protection Act through amendments to the environmental impact statement process. These changes will enable the refusal of an environmental impact statement process proceeding if it is a clearly unacceptable project—for example,

proposing something that is banned by another law of the state or Commonwealth. This provision opens the door to an early 'no', which will save proponents and the regulator time and resources. Applicants will of course be able to amend their proposals and reapply. Other amendments provide that environmental impact statement assessment reports will lapse after three years. This will ensure that outdated information is not relied upon in assessing the environmental authority application. In order to do their job effectively and efficiently, assessment officers should have environmental impact assessments that reflect contemporary environmental standards and policies, not assessments that are based on outdated environmental knowledge that could be over 10 years old.

There are a range of other amendments that will further support the environmental regulator in achieving positive environmental outcomes for the benefit of Queenslanders. This includes strengthening provisions for executive officer liability, ensuring corporate executive officers are held accountable for serious environmental harm. The bill will also ensure the safety of officers in the environmental regulator by explicitly permitting authorised persons to use body worn cameras and to take drones into places when exercising entry powers.

The bill inserts provisions to support the implementation of the national approach for managing the environmental risk posed by industrial chemicals under the Commonwealth Industrial Chemicals Environmental Management (Register) Act 2021.

The bill will also make minor and technical amendments to the Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011 to refine administrative processes and improve its interpretation. Amendments will exempt correctional facilities from the ban on the sale of single-use plastic items, allowing the continued supply of plastic items necessary for the safe and effective operation of these facilities. The end-of-waste framework is also being refined through the bill to provide greater clarity and consistency of decisions relating to end-of-waste codes and end-of-waste approvals.

The bill amends the Wet Tropics World Heritage Protection and Management Act 1993 and makes consequential amendments to the Land Title Act 1994 in response to a public review of the Wet Tropics Management Plan 1998. This includes making it clear that mining and mining exploration are prohibited in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area. Further, the bill ensures that a plan of subdivision for reconfiguring a lot in the Wet Tropics World Heritage Area is not registered under the Land Title Act without consent from the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

Consultation on the proposals included in the bill has occurred with key industry, community and conservation groups over the last year, including with the release of the consultation paper to key stakeholders in October 2021. All feedback has been received and considered, with many of the proposals being revised based on feedback from those stakeholders.

I want to take this opportunity to correct the record on some outrageous and, frankly, unhinged commentary that we have heard from some members of this House, as well as reported in some media outlets, about both the content of this bill and the consultation process leading up to the finalisation of the bill. The member for Warrego wrongly claimed this legislation would give public servants the power to 'shut down mining and farming projects and force farmers to cut the number of livestock they own'. Bizarrely, the member also accused AgForce of entering into a secret deal with the government, a charge that was not just baseless and unjustified but showed the utter contempt the member has for proper engagement with industry on matters affecting them. We all know that the LNP's preferred approach is to rush secret laws through parliament without any consultation and without any parliamentary committee process. That is what they did last time they were in power.

The member for Gympie said the government's plan 'will force farmers to cut the number of livestock they own. It will see the government dictate what graziers and landholders can do with their land.' This statement is not true and no proposal regarding the number of livestock a grazier could own was ever considered during the consultation on this bill.

I also want to address the ridiculous and fanciful comments that were made in relation to the consultation process around this bill. The consultation process undertaken by my department was extensive, with engagement with all stakeholders over a lengthy 12-month period. This process included providing stakeholders with an exposure draft of the bill and responding to their feedback.

Naturally there was an expectation of confidentiality given the bill had not yet gone through the full cabinet process. A number of proposals were removed or amended in response to that feedback received from stakeholders. In fact, AgForce chief executive Mike Guerin said that the department's approach was appropriate because 'the whole area is one of the most sensitive but also most important to have in a rational and calm way'. In fact, he said that people like the member for Warrego were 'using farmers as political pawns'. He said changes to the global conversation around climate, around landscapes and around the part that agriculture can play are very important conversations and AgForce

needs to be involved. He said these initial consultations are designed to inform the public consultation that will follow before any legislative change takes place. The Leader of the Opposition should pull the member for Warrego and member for Gympie into line.

Mr POWELL: Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under standing order 129, introduction of bills. I would claim that the minister is starting to debate the nature of the bill rather than introducing the bill. I ask that the minister consider concluding her introductory comments and save the rest of the speech for her second reading speech.

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): Minister, under standing order 129(3)(b), I will ask that you ensure that your speech is in explanation of the bill.

Ms SCANLON: Of course. It was an explanation around how we came to the bill we are introducing in the parliament today, but I am happy to move on.

I am introducing this bill to parliament to continue this government's commitment to the protection of our natural environment across a range of matters. I would like to thank my department and staff for their work in preparing this bill and consulting extensively with industry. I want to acknowledge the valuable contribution industry and community stakeholders have made in helping to refine the proposal in this bill. I think it is only fair to say that our laws are always stronger when all parties are properly consulted by a government prepared to listen.

First Reading

Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (12.05 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

Referral to Health and Environment Committee

Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Bush): In accordance with standing order 131, the bill is now referred to the Health and Environment Committee.


APPROPRIATION (PARLIAMENT) BILL (NO. 3)

APPROPRIATION BILL (NO. 3)

BETTING TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL


COAL MINING SAFETY AND HEALTH AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Declared Urgent; Portfolio Committees, Reporting Date

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.05 pm), by leave without notice: I move—

That, under the provisions of standing order 137(1)(a), the following bills be declared urgent for report by Friday, 4 November 2022—

- Appropriation (Parliament) Bill (No. 3) 2022;
- Appropriation Bill (No. 3) 2022;
- Betting Tax and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022; and
- Coal Mining Safety and Health and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022.

 **Mr POWELL** (Glass House—LNP) (12.05 pm): The opposition will not be supporting this motion. Those time frames do not give adequate time for the relevant committees to consider the detail of the bills and to consult with the broader public. I note that the bill that the minister was just referring to,

where claims were made around extensive consultation, is not being included in these bills that will be rushed through the committee process so it is ironic that the ones that potentially have not had broader consultation are now going to be rammed through committees in under three weeks. That is not what the committee process was set up for. The committee process was set up to give due time for detailed consideration of the legislation so that we could subsequently reduce the amount of debate that occurs here in the parliament. Shortening the amount of time in committee means that there will be significant concerns that I guarantee the members of the opposition will want to raise in the debate. We should be going back to 20-minute speeches if it is the case that we are going to have committees made a mockery of in this way. The LNP will not be supporting this motion.

Division: Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

AYES, 48:

ALP, 48—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Farmer, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Saunders, Scanlon, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

NOES, 39:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

Ind, 1—Bolton.

Pairs: McMillan, Mickelberg; Skelton, Langbroek.

Resolved in the affirmative.

MOTION

Suspension of Standing Orders



Hon. YM D'ATH (Redcliffe—ALP) (Leader of the House) (12.12 pm), by leave, without notice: I move—

That standing order 87 be suspended to enable clauses 36, 37, 42, 48, 53, 79, 82, 93, 95, 101, 107, 108, 117, 142, 144 and 146 of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 to be considered.

Question put—That the motion be agreed to.

Motion agreed to.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 1 September (see p. 2504), on motion of Ms Scanlon—



That the bill be now read a second time.

Mr MILLAR (Gregory—LNP) (12.13 pm): I rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill aims to extend existing arrangements that allow beekeeping in certain national parks. The arrangements will be extended for 20 years until 31 December 2044. Finally Labor is keeping its election commitment and extending access for commercial beekeepers to national parks for another 20 years. As the member for Gympie said in this chamber, beekeepers have been given the run-around. Their concerns have been put on the backburner as successive Labor ministers have put off making a decision that will grant security for beekeepers. Five years ago, the member for Gympie and now the shadow minister for agriculture called on the government to act on the impending closures of access to national parks because beekeepers were facing a dire situation from the government's procrastination. Finally we have action because the deadline is looming.

People who run businesses need lead-in times. Those who have worked in business know that planning and financial commitments are made long in advance. Without guarantees there is no security to invest and the alternative is to close, move or find alternative work. We need to make sure that we

put in place the sorts of protections that will give confidence to beekeepers who play a significant role in our economy, not just in the manufacturing of honey but also in the pollination of crops, which is incredibly important. We need only look to the Central Highlands at the moment where growers are moving into watermelons, macadamias and figs. All such flower crops rely on the important work that the beekeepers are doing. We need to give them confidence and make sure that they have a certain future.

When the Nature Conservation Act 1992 was enacted, beekeepers were promised that the government would find alternative sources. In 2018, the government told the industry that the review into the impact of honey bees on native forests was underway. They told beekeepers that they should document the attempts they had made to identify alternative sites and why those sites may be unsuitable or unavailable. They also asked beekeepers to consider managing access tracks and other key infrastructure and to work more closely with the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service on pest, fire and biosecurity management. Beekeepers did what was asked of them but the government sat on the report. It is important that beekeepers are given respect and the ability to continue their business, which is so important.

In Queensland there are 167,000 hives, 9,000 registered beekeepers and 399 commercial beekeepers managing 114,000 hives. Commercial beekeeping occurs in 49 national parks and on 1,088 sites. Originally, beekeepers were never in national parks. Changes to government policy put them in national parks as a part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement in 1999. That agreement allows beekeeping to continue in those areas until 31 December 2024 as part of a transition period. The transition period was to minimise disruption to the industry and provide time for reallocation to other sites.

Over the past 20 years, no viable alternative locations have been found. Beekeepers actively sought out other sites on private land, but the reality is that factors such as urban sprawl mean there is not sufficient land with the specific requirements needed. A department of state development and innovation feasibility study to find alternative sites was not released to the Queensland Beekeepers' Association or the public. The Queensland Beekeepers' Association President, Jacob Stevens, told the committee that 'the results have been verbally communicated to the industry in that there was no substantial alternative resources identified'.

Even the Labor dominated committee expressed disappointment in the lack of progress on the work by the Department of Environment and Science to find alternative sites. The committee chair stated that the committee was of the view that more substantial progress should have been made on this task. There is no excuse. Annually, beekeeping contributes an estimated \$2.4 billion to the Queensland economy. Every year Queensland produces more than seven million kilograms of premium honey. It is the cleanest and greenest honey because it is chemical-free.

The QBA estimates that in 2020 the demand for managed honey bee colonies to provide pollination services amounted to 67,000 hives. Horticulture and small-crop industries will struggle to survive without beekeepers who work beside them to ensure that crops such as strawberries, avocados, watermelons and macadamias are pollinated. Macadamias are worth approximately \$180 million to the state's economy, with most of the 4,000 hectares a year being planted in Queensland. Production is expected to double within the next decade, adding a further \$150 million to the Queensland economy. Pollinating bees are essential to facilitating that growth.

Currently, horticulture is worth approximately \$3 billion to the state's economy and is responsible for more than 20,000 jobs in the regions. Continued access to Queensland's national park sites is a core regulatory condition to secure the future of both the Queensland honey bee and our horticultural sectors. It is important that we continue to support what is a very important industry. It needs all the support we can possibly give it.

In 2014, a Senate inquiry found that 65 per cent of all Australian food sources are reliant on bee pollination. The Australian Food & Grocery Council submission stated that 'by conservative estimates, some ⅔ of Australia's food crops rely on the pollination services of professional apiarists and the bees under their care'.


I call on the Labor government to please work closely with the Beekeepers' Association and those people in the industry, because they provide a significant investment in our food production which is so important. We only have to see what has happened over the last couple of years, obviously with not only COVID-19 but also the war in Ukraine and Russia which see prices going up, that food security is very important. Pollinisation and supporting our bee industry is absolutely paramount for Queensland. We have the cleanest and greenest horticultural industry in Australia and the world and we need to


continue to support them not only to provide food for our national security but also in terms of our trade opportunities in South-East Asia and those markets that we are trying to tap into. I call on the government to work closely with the bee industry.

Debate, on motion of member for Gregory, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Error in Division

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (12.20 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege. I would like to correct the last record of the vote for the government members. The number is 48 instead of 47.


 **Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Honourable members, I have been advised by the government whip that there was an error in calculating the votes in division No. 2 earlier today. The division was on the motion moved by the Leader of the House on a declaration of bills as urgent. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote; however, the record needs to be corrected. The result of the division was in fact ayes 48 and noes 39. In accordance with standing order 106(11), I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs MULLEN** (Jordan—ALP) (12.21 pm): I am pleased to rise and make a contribution to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill has a number of objectives, the primary one being to meet an election commitment providing a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping in specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044. There are also a range of additional amendments and changes to the Nature Conservation Act and Wet Tropics Act.

Commercial beekeeping has been in place in a number of national parks since the early 2000s resulting from the transfer of state forests to national parks as agreed under the South East Queensland Forests Agreement. There are currently more than 1,000 apiary sites across 49 of Queensland's national parks. As the parliamentary report indicates, most of the common sites are in natural clearings, logging dumps or gravel pits. It is important to recognise that commercial beekeeping is migratory, with beehives transported to multiple areas to meet the nutritional needs of the bees.

The Queensland Beekeepers' Association provided a comprehensive explanation of how this works with many beekeepers and their diverse portfolios of apiary sites across different land tenures, floral resource types and geographical areas. The association also submitted that national parks provide a safe refuge for bees from potentially dangerous urban and agricultural environments, including from the use of harmful pesticides and the impact of monocultures on the bee diets.

It is recognised that our honey bee industry is absolutely vital from an economic perspective. At the Queensland Beekeepers' Association event in the Queensland parliament in May this year, we heard that in Australia 35 horticultural industries depend on the pollination services of honey bees for the majority of their production, representing a \$14.2 billion contribution to the national economy each year. Growcom submitted that pollination services in Queensland are absolutely essential to the continued success and expansion of the horticulture sector, contributing approximately \$3 billion to the state economy and supporting over 20,000 jobs across the region.

In relation to the extension which allows beekeeping to continue in specified national parks for the next 20 years, I note the concerns of a number of conservation groups and appreciate that there is some inconsistency with the cardinal principle of national parks which is to 'provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values'.

The parliamentary inquiry has provided some important and valuable information on potential impacts associated with the use of national park sites for beekeeping. It is good to see the department confirming further work on the development and adoption of a code of practice for beekeeping on protected areas to address some of the issues which have been raised.

I also note the committee's view that more substantial progress should have been made over the past 20 years to identify and acquire alternative apiary sites. It is important to progress a clear strategy and plan to deal with this matter during the life of the 20-year extension.

I do not agree with the opposition's view as outlined in its statement of reservation that the end date of 2044 should be scrapped and licensed beekeepers should be able to access national parks in perpetuity. A 20-year extension is entirely reasonable and recognises that environments and industries change over time, as recognised by the Wheen Bee Foundation with a number of initiatives that could help reduce dependency on floral resources in national parks.

I cannot let pass this opportunity, when we are talking about bees and this important industry, to recognise some very special people in my electorate working to increase our knowledge of bees and their value and also offering some very delicious honey products.

Spring Mountain Honey is a wonderful, local, family owned business in the Greenbank area producing tasty raw honey. Kate, her dad, husband and mum—everyone helps—have a lovely business that really ensures that their beekeeping practices are bee friendly. As they say, 'They respect the bees and make sure their health comes first.'

Spring Mountain Honey only extract when all honey is capped and there is plenty of honey in the hive for the bees. They do not use any chemicals in or around the hives, and do not heat or filter their honey. They have hives around the local area—in Greenbank, Park Ridge, Munruben and Jimboomba. I love seeing Kate at the various markets and community events. We always have Spring Mountain Honey in our home, but I also love to use Kate's local products for our special raffles and events.

Another wonderful business is Bee All Natural. Jason and Natasha Roebig are really well known in our community and deservedly so. They are absolutely passionate about continuing the age-old techniques adopted from generations of beekeepers who have practised sustainable, natural and organic methods. Jason and Natasha are also official #eatqld champions with the Queensland government and are really committed to local produce and using only the most natural of ingredients.

Their products are of the highest taste and quality and were recently swarmed with awards at the Ekka, taking out all three podium spots in the creamed honey contest and a range of other honey awards. Their products are just incredible—from the honey itself to the beauty products and their famous peanut brittle, which is so addictive that there really should be a warning. I love spending time with the Roebigs. Their enthusiasm and drive in sharing their knowledge of bees with our broader community and particularly children is so admirable.

During the recent school holidays, they were part of the Logan City Council's KRANK program. They ran a pilot workshop in the last holidays which proved so popular they came back for more. Alongside teaching attendees about the technical aspects of beekeeping, including the lifecycle of bees and how honey is extracted, the Roebigs say they stress the importance of responsible beekeeping and encouraging a new generation to take up the trade.

The bill before us provides further certainty to the industry regarding the location of their hives and recognises the incredible importance of bees and beekeeping to Queensland. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (12.28 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution also in respect of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I note from the explanatory notes the main intent of the bill is summed up in the first paragraph, that is, to deliver an election commitment to provide an extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044.

My electorate has a very close connection to the beekeeping industry of Queensland in that Capilano Honey, which is a household name that we have all grown up with and become so familiar with, was actually established in Radford Street, Southport in 1953. It just happens to be around the corner from where I grew up. I was not born in 1953; I was born a few years after that.

Mr Brown interjected.

Mr MOLHOEK: I am not taking interjections from you. I do have very fond memories, however, of the idyllic place where I grew up in Southport when what is now a concrete drain was a meandering creek through the back blocks of Egerton, Charlton and Radford streets which ran down into the Nerang River and then ultimately out into the Broadwater.


It was there that Bert and Tim Smith sold honey from out the front of their home via an honour box. I have to say that I have not seen too many honour boxes for selling produce out the front of homes around Southport in recent years. Just around the corner from the Smith's residence, along the same

creek where many of those hives were placed, was a magnificent strawberry farm. As young children, some of my friends and I may have clambered up over the creek edges from time to time to help ourselves to a few strawberries.

What is important to note with regard to this legislation is that the beekeepers of Queensland have asked for an extension of their right to access national parks. This is important. My hope, however, is that the House will support the member for Bonney's amendment, which proposes that, rather than impose an extension of just 20 years, there be no limit to the extension. It is my hope that the House will support that amendment when it is moved later.

Beekeeping is an important industry. In his speech to the House the member for Burnett spoke about the importance of bees to the agriculture industry in Queensland. It is not just the fact that there are some 25,000 registered beekeepers or some 600,000 or 700,000 hives around the country—obviously that is important for the production of honey—but more importantly bees are incredibly important to the agriculture industry. They are important for not just honey production but for the pollination of important crops like macadamias and avocados that are planted each and every year around Queensland.

We will obviously be supporting the extension, but it is the sincere wish of the opposition that the extension limit of 20 years be lifted and there simply be no limit.

 **Hon. DE FARMER** (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (12.31 pm): I rise to speak to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As we know, the primary purpose of this bill is to provide a 20-year extension to existing arrangements that enable beekeeping to occur on certain national parks. This was an election commitment. Commercial beekeeping is essentially a legacy issue that was associated with the transfer of state forests to national parks through the state forest transfer processes that occurred in late 1990s and early 2000s.


We all acknowledge the polarities in this argument. I understand that having commercial beekeeping in national parks is something that conservationists are concerned about. They see that that is inconsistent with the management principles for national parks in the Nature Conservation Act. However, we know that the Nature Conservation Act was amended to allow beekeeping to continue in those areas until December 2024. That was to minimise disruption to the beekeeping industry.

I think the majority of people would agree that the proposal in this bill to extend the arrangement for 20 years gives ample time for those matters to be considered and, as the committee recommended, that the time be used well to make sure apiaries are developed in alternative locations outside national parks. I think any reasonable person would consider that 20 years is a generous amount of time to do that.

The other part of this is that the honey bee industry is an extremely important industry in Queensland. I was interested to read in the committee's report about the role and value of the industry. They talked about the honey bee industry producing honey and other products valued at \$64 million. They talked about not only honey production but also the significant growth in pollination and the fact that the bulk of major crops benefit from pollination. I was interested in Growcom's comment that the industry contributes about \$3 billion to the state's economy and supports about 20,000 jobs across the industry. This is a very tricky issue that has been managed. I congratulate the committee and the minister for acting on this and making sure we have a sensible and managed way forward.

As the small business minister, I want to congratulate the small businesses we are funding through our business development, COVID support and other programs to make sure apiaries are being developed and the number of people working in this industry grows. I will call out a local beekeeper, but I also want to mention other small businesses that are doing great work in this incredibly important industry and will be able to contribute to the growth in apiaries that was signalled by the committee. They include Net Connect, Funny Honey, Bidner Mining and Engineering, LM Woolley and PJ Woolley, RKA Robinson, Bee2U, Native Beeings, Goodwood Produce, Libees Honey, Arthives Holdings trading as Hinterland Bees and BnBees—there are some great names there. In fact, we have been doing a lot of bee jokes in my office this morning.

I especially want to call out Thriving Hive and Kellie-Ann Robinson who has, over the years, given me the most beautiful honey that is produced in Balmoral hives. The postcode 4171 is smack in the middle of my electorate. We have postcode 4171 honey because Kellie-Ann is building up a significant apiary there. It is fantastic to go and see her and see the innovative ways she is developing honey products and contributing to the intelligence around the industry and the growth of what is obviously an important asset. Well done to the minister and well done to the committee. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (12.37 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. In the interests of transparency, I point out that I am a beekeeper.

Ms Pease: Where's our honey?

Mr LAST: I can look after any requests for honey. I am glad the minister is here. My bees are probably harvesting pollen from Bowling Green Bay National Park given the proximity of the national park to where I live.

It is an important industry. Bees fulfil a vital role in our ecosystems around the state. I note that under the Nature Conservation Act beekeeping is inconsistent with the cardinal principle for national parks which requires national parks to be managed to provide, to the greatest possible extent, for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values. The fact remains that, without access to these national parks, a lot of our beekeepers would not be sustainable. They need access to national parks.


Quite often there is a twofold purpose in beekeepers accessing national parks. Not only does it keep tracks and fire trails open and accessible; beekeepers are an extra set of eyes and ears. A retired police officer in Bowen, Mark Inmon, is a beekeeper with a very large number of hives in that area. How good is it that we have a retired police officer travelling around with his bee hives being another set of eyes and ears for what goes on in national parks.

I have one of the largest horticultural industries in the state around Bowen and the Burdekin. Without our beekeepers that industry would flounder. That industry would not be sustainable. A lot of growers consistently call for more beekeepers and more access to bees in order to pollinate their crops. They fulfil a vital role in my neck of the woods.

One of Australia's largest beekeepers—Graeme Armstrong, who trades as G&A Apiaries Australia Pty Ltd—lives in my electorate at Brandon. He travels throughout the state. It is his full-time occupation. On that note, I support what the shadow minister is doing. Twenty years may sound like a long time, but the amendment allowing beekeepers to access national parks in perpetuity has a lot of merit in terms of giving operators like Graeme Armstrong the certainty that they need going forward of long-term accessibility to national parks. If there are succession plans—and quite often there are in a lot of these families—they give those families the certainty that they need to continue a career in the bee industry and they give them an opportunity moving forward to have long-term employment opportunities as well. Beekeepers want certainty for future generations. As I have said, I will be supporting the shadow minister's amendment.

There are some other amendments that we have not necessarily touched on. If I put my shadow minister for police's hat on, amendments to the Forestry Act and the Marine Parks Act—allowing new offences for impersonating officers and rangers and for obstructing officers and the functions of an inspector—are important. We need to give surety to staff who work in those industries. We need to make sure they have the powers that they need to do their jobs properly. It is a serious offence if someone is in those areas impersonating officers and rangers. I support those amendments regarding the provision of offences for impersonating and obstructing officers and rangers in those particular areas and the powers that relate thereto.

There is not much more I want to say, except that I fully support our beekeepers in being allowed to access national parks and state forest areas. If we want to keep the industry alive and well in this state then we certainly need to ensure that we continue that accessibility going forward.

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (12.41 pm): I rise to make a brief contribution in support of the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I reflect on much of the contributions from other members across the chamber to this bill.

I think back to myself as a young child first understanding the role of the bee in agriculture and, of course, in the production of honey. As a small child visiting farms on Minjerribah, North Stradbroke Island, from the very first time that I understood what honeycomb was and the production of honey from beehives I understood the role of bees in our agricultural sector and the role of bees in our community more broadly in our landscape and in our environment.

Today, as we debate this particular bill—and understanding that the primary purpose of the bill is to deliver on that commitment that this government made to the Queensland beekeeping industry at the last state election—I also reflect on the fact that at every point we need to ensure that we are striking that thriving balance in the way that we go forward, that we are striking the balance between economic outcomes and environmental outcomes. Not everybody will be happy with regard to the some of those

outcomes, but the balance has to be struck. I think that this bill does exactly that. As the former minister for the environment, I am very pleased to see the certainty provided to the Queensland beekeeping industry as part of the amendments to this bill. I think that that very much strikes that balance that I speak of.


I also enjoyed working closely with the Queensland Beekeepers' Association—in particular, Jo Martin—to put in place the framework for this commitment to be realised. These amendments to the Nature Conservation Act formally extend beekeeping permits for a further 20 years in certain national parks—those that were created as part of the South East Queensland Forests Agreement in 1999. Current arrangements require apiarists to transition out of national parks by the end of 2024. However, alternative suitable honey sites are yet to be achieved.

I acknowledge the Beekeepers' Association work in all of this. I know that the team have been working with First Nations groups, traditional owners and others to be able to find those suitable alternatives. I know that that work will be ongoing. I acknowledge all of the work that everybody has been doing to identify those suitable sites. I know that it has been a lot of hard work and sometimes difficult in terms of adjusting relationships that they may have had in the past. Relationships with traditional owners in particular are incredibly important with regard to those sites. In recognition of this—and with the 2024 cut-off date in sight—our government stepped in to prevent the loss of apiary sites in national parks without a viable alternative.

Passage of this bill will deliver on our government's commitment to grant a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on national parks until 31 December 2044 in areas where beekeeping was an existing use prior to the transfer of land to national park. That means our beekeeping industry in Queensland can keep producing world-class honey and therefore continue to contribute the approximately \$2.4 billion to the Queensland economy each year.

We know it is incredibly important to strike, as I say, the right balance when protecting the flora, fauna and ecosystems of our national parks while also providing certainty for industry. The amendments to the act will support the continuation of beekeeping in certain national parks while the government works with industry and other stakeholders to identify alternative sites for the future relocation of beekeeping off national parks. The bill before the House today will also make amendments to five acts and four regulations to deliver a number of outcomes regarding the future management and administration of Queensland's wildlife and protected areas such as state forests, recreation areas, marine parks and national parks.

I want to wholeheartedly acknowledge the State Secretary of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, Jo Martin; the executive of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association; and particularly all of the members of the association for their strong advocacy for beekeepers and for this important industry in Queensland. I acknowledge the committee and I acknowledge the Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs for delivering on this commitment to the beekeeping industry in such a balanced way. Again, I acknowledge all of those who have been working so hard to strike that thriving balance to ensure that we are not only protecting industry but also protecting our wildlife and our natural resources.

 **Mr LISTER** (Southern Downs—LNP) (12.47 pm): I, too, rise to speak on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Before I commence my contribution, I would like to acknowledge my constituent and very good friend the President of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, Jacob Stevens, who is in the gallery as we speak, as well as the State Secretary, Jo Martin. It is wonderful to have you both here. That shows the great interest that you have on behalf of the membership of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association in this very important legislative process.

Jacob Stevens is a good bloke, not just because he is a constituent of mine but also because he is a very able leader of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association. I credit him with the education I have had on the importance of honey bees in creating healthy food for us, but that relies on healthy bees and it relies on healthy bees having somewhere to stay when they are not pollinating crops for us. That goes to the heart of this particular bill.

I heard the member for Bulimba—forgive me if my terminology is not exactly correct—imply that what we are dealing with here is a legacy of previous eras when honey bees were in national parks. I think the real point here is that this is about national parks which were state forests that have always had honey bees stationed in them. This government has a proclivity for converting state forests into national parks. I have said in the House before—and the minister would know my views on this—that these national parks do not, in my view, come up to the standards which are described in the cardinal principles of national parks which we have heard mentioned. I think it is disingenuous to wring our hands over a matter such as honey bees, which have a very important economic contribution to make

to our state, when the national parks with which I am familiar are brimful of weeds, pests and so forth and are a nuisance to their neighbours who are, in my view, held to much higher environmental standards in terms of looking after their own properties.

We have an industry which contributes so much to our state. For too long it has been hanging on tenterhooks for this extension of another 20 years to station their honey bees in national parks. I am in favour of the amendment the opposition is putting forward to make an allowance for honey bees in those national parks in perpetuity.

One of the things which needs to be emphasised in this House is that we depend on honey bees. Pollination services are a vital part of our economy and a vital part of our food supply. I would like to acknowledge my honourable friend the member for Theodore, who himself is a primary producer in his spare time, not that he has much of that. He produces great avocados. I am sure he would agree with me that avocado production, like macadamias and other crops, depends on pollination services by honey bees, and where are these honey bees going to live between pollination servicing?

This is something that Jacob Stevens has explained to me. It is a shame that we are still trying to push for access to national parks for honey bees in perpetuity. We are talking about only brief periods when honey bees would be in national parks. We have not so far had conclusive evidence that they do damage or are a threat to the natural environment. As I said, I believe that any threat they may be held to impose—of which there is no evidence yet—would pale into insignificance when compared to the threat of other invasive species which the government is not doing enough about in those national parks.

One of the things that beekeepers do when they enter national parks is maintain roads and tracks. They bring very environmentally attuned eyes and ears to the emergence of new pests or erosion and that sort of thing and can be a great conduit to the department about the state of these national parks. I have said in this House in the past that fire access trails and the accumulation of fuels in national parks is of concern to people in my electorate, particularly the many hardworking rural fire brigade volunteers who know some of these places like the back of their hand because for 50 years they have been fighting fires there, and so have their fathers and their fathers before them. I think it is disingenuous for there to be so much attention given to this issue of honey bees in national parks when there are glaring problems which, in my view, exist to a large extent because state forests or other properties are converted into national parks. They do not exist in harmony with the cardinal principles of national parks to begin with and they continue to exist in disharmony with those principles.

I think this House needs to have a really good look at this bill. I urge everyone to support the amendment that stands in the name of the shadow minister for the environment, the member for Bonney, because we need to give beekeepers certainty not just for their own businesses—and they are great business and they work hard—but also for the wider issue of pollination services and the sustainability of the industry so we can have the food we need. When we face some kind of shock which interferes with our food supply, people are not going to be wringing their hands over matters like this. They are going to want their food and they are not going to care how it arrives; they will just want it. We all will. Pollination services will be part of that. I urge this House to do all that it can to assist the industry in the great work that it does not just in producing honey as a food and employing people in electorates like mine but also in acting as a very important part of the agricultural process with pollination services.



Mr TANTARI (Hervey Bay—ALP) (12.53 pm): I rise to add my contribution to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Whilst the primary objective of this bill is to deliver on the election commitment to provide a 20-year extension to allow beekeeping on specified national parks to continue until 31 December 2044, I will also comment on the other objectives contained in the bill which I will get to shortly.

As noted in the bill, the extension created will only apply to areas where beekeeping could be lawfully undertaken immediately prior to the transfer of land to national parks. As other speakers have indicated, whilst beekeeping is considered inconsistent with the principle that requires national parks to be managed to provide for the permanent preservation of the area's natural condition and the protection of the area's cultural resources and values, past processes have enabled beekeeping to continue temporarily in certain national parks until 31 December 2024. Past amendments provided for continued access to specific apiary sites in national parks that are utilised by the beekeeping industry which, in addition to producing honey and other honey bee related products, provide important crop pollination services that support the horticultural industry such as in Bundaberg.

Currently there are 1,088 apiary sites across 49 of Queensland's national parks, with the most common sites being in natural clearings, logging dumps or gravel pits. Eight of these are contained within the Great Sandy National Park. Loss of access to these sites on 31 December 2024 would have

a detrimental impact on the supply of these services and products at a time when the industry is concerned about the challenges posed by the threat to these glorious little six-legged insects. Yes, insects! They are insects. I want to thank the member for Bundaberg for his educational insight earlier in the debate.

Mr Smith interjected.

Mr TANTARI: I will take that interjection from the member. As members are aware, there is a threat posed to the beekeeping industry from the varroa mite, a major honey bee parasite, which was discovered in biosecurity surveillance hives at the port of Newcastle recently. Varroa mite is a parasite specific to two species of honey bee and should not attack Australia's native bees, of which there are more than 2,000 species, but there is a possibility the mite could introduce new insect viruses to Australia. The viruses, which could spread, might get into the landscape and then our native bees. The pest affects every other major beekeeping area in the world but it has never established itself in Australia before. The discovery of the varroa mite sent New South Wales into a bee lockdown, with no honey bees allowed to be moved across the state of New South Wales. Keep your fingers crossed, because the parasite has not made it to Queensland—a fear driving our biosecurity agencies to act quickly and decisively to protect against the brownish-red sesame seed sized mite that feeds on honey bees.

Since the early 20th century the mites have spread from Asia to places including North America, the UK, New Zealand and Hawaii. The mite jumped ship from the Asian honey bee, where it is relatively harmless, to the European honey bee. The European honey bee does not have a good defence against it. Just to put it into context, although the mite may be small, apparently it is one of the largest parasitic mites in the world relative to its host. For example, for a human it would be like having a dinner plate sized tick on you. What ends up happening over time is the more the bees become weak, their life span is reduced and so there are fewer of them to collect food, nectar and pollen. They become more susceptible to other pests and diseases, and eventually the population dwindles to the point of no return. If untreated, a mite infestation will cause a honey bee colony to die. Having continuous access to sites extended in this bill could provide for another layer or barrier against potential infection while having a reserve available to keep the mite at bay. Australia is one of the last countries in the world to not have this mite yet, so the potential impact is very significant. The mites have been associated with significant colony losses globally. Potential impacts have been estimated at around \$70 million to the Australian honey bee industry.

Many inquiry stakeholders identified the important role that honey bees play in the agricultural and horticultural industries. The Queensland honey bee industry produces honey and other products valued at around \$64 million. Honey production has been the major focus of Queensland beekeepers for many years, but significant growth in horticultural industries has seen a significant increase in the demand for paid pollination services. The Queensland Beekeepers' Association advised that honey bee pollination provided an estimated \$2.1 billion of economic value for Queensland in the 2014-15 financial year. The bulk of major crops benefit from pollination, with Queensland's managed honey bees providing pollination services to tree, fruit, vegetable, fodder and broadacre crops. If managed honey bee populations decline, there will be corresponding declines in the supply of about a third of the food we eat, which means increased food prices.

Another element of the bill I would like to touch on is the enhancement of the Department of Environment and Science's capacity to respond to misconduct on Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service managed areas such as state forests, marine parks, reservation areas and national parks, in particular to provide for the new offence of impersonation of a forest officer or ranger and expanding existing obstruction offences so they will apply to obstructing conservation, authorised officers and inspectors in the performance of their functions. These new offences are needed because of several instances in the past in QPWS managed areas where people, for whatever reason, have claimed to be rangers and acted in a threatening and punitive manner or denied people the right to camp on locations that had been pre-booked as a part of their visit. These sorts of dreadful actions need to be curbed and punished if discovered. The government is acting now to stop this sort of outrageous behaviour against park users, and this should be supported by all of us in this place. In my part of the world—where we have some of the most beautiful and pristine environments of land and water within the Great Sandy Marine Park and the fabulous and much loved K'gari—providing an offence for impersonation of an officer is welcomed to ensure the safety and appropriate use of these great sites.

Debate, on motion of Mr Tantari, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

MATTERS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Health System



Mr CRISAFULLI (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.00 pm): Queensland Health is facing its worst health crisis, and Queenslanders are finding it increasingly difficult to trust what this state government and this minister say. There is a widening gap between what the minister knows and what the minister is sharing with Queenslanders, and as a result the health crisis has continued to spiral for seven long years. There is a cost of inaction. It can be delays to surgery. It can be delays in getting to hospital. At its worst, the culture of cover-ups costs Queenslanders their lives. At the heart of this crisis is a state government that does not listen. It cannot be trusted and it is no longer open with Queenslanders. The health system is on red alert, the health minister is red-faced, and the government has been caught red-handed withholding information for its political survival rather than for patient survival.

The failings at Mackay are damning, and the government knew about them. The government said we were scaremongering. The health minister would not condemn it, and today the Premier would not own it, but that statement was made from that side of the House. Do you know who is worse off when a government will not own its mistakes and will not work to fix it? Queenslanders are worse off. Queenslanders are living through a health crisis seven years in the making.

In Mackay, what we have seen through the report into obstetrics and gynaecology is a catastrophic failure—three babies' lives lost and young mums who will never again be able to have a child. We met one who was 24 years of age and she will never again have a child. Next week the health minister will finally go and speak to those victims. It will be the same faces that we saw a year ago—the same people who bravely came forward and shared their stories one year ago when we were told we were scaremongering, when we were told there was 'nothing to see here', when we were told we were politicising it. How can Queenslanders and these women trust the minister and the government to fix this when they knew about it and they did not do a thing about it?

The report was delayed several times over several months, but the most damning delay was in the final week when, for political expediency, they could not even front up on the Wednesday when they had booked a plane ticket. They could not even front up because it did not suit their agenda and it might cloud the political media cycle, so those women waited another two days and they waited two days to be shut out. The only people who spoke with them were the member for Whitsunday and the shadow health minister. Those women were not given that opportunity. Then the minister, after her press conference and after those women were locked out, mentioned how sorry she was and about her desire to fix a failed system seven years in the making.

We raised the issues about the surgeon. We asked the minister what she knew about the reprimands. We asked what the minister did when she found out about them. Most importantly, we asked how many patients were put in harm's way between when the minister was informed and when they finally acted. My goodness, I hear the word 'swiftly', but there was not swift action at all. There were delays. The only reason there were delays is that it did not suit their political agenda—it did not pass through the spin cycle of the 30 media spinners—and as a result patients were put in harm's way. Boy oh boy, we will not let the government off the hook because those people deserve justice and the system deserves to be repaired.

We raised the three incidents over the 48-hour period. Let me recap to the government what they involved. A woman died due to the wrong drug dose, a stent was placed in the wrong kidney of a patient and there was an undetected heart attack in an intensive care unit patient. The minister did not even respond to a letter. Today she accused the shadow minister of not supplying enough information. I am sorry, but the way Westminster government works is that the minister actually has to take charge of her department. Yes, I agree the shadow health minister would do a far better job running the health system, but right now this minister is the one who has to accept responsibility for her failings.

We raised with the DNA inquiry the failings in the forensic services lab and the cultural issues. We said that someone had to take responsibility. When we raised it, the minister said she had no idea why we would want an inquiry and that we were politicking. The minister said there was 'nothing to see here'. Whistleblowers were discredited. Dr Kirsty Wright was discredited, for goodness sake. Imagine being a young health worker working in that forensic services lab and you turn on the TV and see the vitriol coming from the minister. Do you think you would come forward if you were a whistleblower? There is not a chance, and that is the problem with this government. That is what Coaldrake highlighted and that is why we need a royal commission into the way this mob operate. There is no way a

whistleblower can feel confident when the minister was harassing and making allegations of politicking. All the opposition and whistleblowers wanted was for a lab that did not allow rapists and murderers to walk free and for innocent people to be given a day of justice.

We raised ambulance bypass. Why did we raise ambulance bypass? Because the ambos told us to look for it. The RTI exposed that for months the government said this was not happening. The government said it had not happened for a decade, but it was happening on their watch. The briefings show that the minister knew. There is an increasing disconnect between what the minister is saying publicly and what she is being told privately. There is only one reason for that disconnect—that is, because the political agenda of the day does not suit making that open and transparent because after seven years there is no-one left to blame. After seven years of a failing health system, ambulance ramping has gone from 15 per cent to 45 per cent. In the case of the Redlands, as the member for Oodgeroo has highlighted, it is at 73 per cent—that is, three in four who turn up wait at the end of a ramp. The question remains: when will it be back to 15 per cent? When it was 30 per cent, former premier Bligh said Queensland Health was a basket case. Queenslanders will not accept a fall of a couple of per cent and say that the job is done. When will it be at the 15 per cent that this government had when it came to office and said the health system was in crisis?

Then there are the deaths in the ambulances. We were told it was not happening. An RTI from a very short window just in the south-east revealed 20 Queenslanders had died waiting for an ambo, in an ambo on the way to hospital after delays or at the end of an ambulance ramp—and the government said that was not happening. We want to see the figures for every part of Queensland. Queenslanders deserve to know what steps are being taken to heal the Queensland Health crisis.

We were told about category 1a patients. Do members remember that? The Deputy Premier got the talking notes. The health minister said every category 1a patient was being seen on time. That is absolutely categorically not true. The minister said every category 1a patient was being seen on time. That was a category 1a fabrication. It is not happening. The report that we had to go looking for—not that the government shares the information—showed just how false that statement was.

Do members want to know what is most troubling? Every single one of these things has come to light since we were in this chamber last. In the last six weeks! This is what this government has presided over in the last six weeks. Queensland Health is in crisis and no-one will accept responsibility or accountability.

In a moment, the deputy leader is going to explain how this manifests to the dysfunction of the government. Then the shadow health spokesperson will say why this matters to Queenslanders. Let me make this pledge: there are solutions on the table. We are listening. We are out there. We fronted up 25 times to a town hall and there will be more. Queenslanders deserve a world-class health system. This government has stopped listening, the government has stopped being transparent, and nothing will change until the government does.

Energy and Jobs Plan



Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (2.10 pm): The world around us, both here and abroad, is changing. It is changing fast. Everyone, from households to supply chains, companies to our biggest industries, wants cheaper, cleaner and more secure energy. Boardrooms and consumers across the nation and around the world are demanding lower-emissions products. Therefore, we are at great risk of losing out to our neighbours, domestically and internationally. The experts also agree that the high international commodity pricing is driving record prices in the wholesale energy market. At the same time, we are seeing extreme weather events, leading to demand for energy growing, seeing peak demand three times this year already. Across the nation and around the world there is disorder. We are seeing disruption through early closures and a lack of investment.

Here in Queensland, we can be confident that the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will deliver a future of clean, reliable and affordable energy for Queenslanders. Members, it could have been very different. Under the Liberal National Party, they were gearing up to lease and sell off Queensland's energy system; \$37 billion worth of port and power assets and all of the tens of thousands of jobs that come with them were on the chopping block. Under the LNP, under those opposite, Queenslanders would have been forced to say goodbye to their world-class transmission assets, their distribution networks, and say hello to cuts and chaos.

We could have forgotten about job security in regional Queensland. The LNP would have let their billionaire mates treat our coal-fired generators and their regional communities like play things on Twitter.

Opposition members interjected.

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

Mr de BRENNI: Those opposite are very noisy today. They would have sold Queenslanders out. They would have given Queenslanders lights out and blow-outs. They would have literally taken money out of the pockets of the mums and dads of Queensland and Queensland businesses so their corporate mates overseas could be sailing around, blowing their profits across the Cayman Islands. That is what they would have done. They were dead serious about it. We saw what they did at Swanbank: workers' jobs were lost when they shut down a publicly owned generator. Then they spent \$70 million of taxpayers' money on their so-called Strong Choices campaign.

Mr Nicholls interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: The member for Clayfield remembers Strong Choices very well. Thankfully Queenslanders knew better and they threw them out. Meanwhile, down in Canberra, Australians have suffered the real-life results of nearly a decade of denial and dysfunction from the Liberals and Nationals. Just this morning the *Australian Financial Review* in its Chanticleer column said of the former LNP Australian government—

The economic forces unleashed by the lack of investment in new generation over the past 10 years is now crashing up against the unreliability of coal-fired power stations, which are being closed a decade earlier than planned.

This is incredible stuff. The article in the *Australian Financial Review* said of surging wholesale electricity prices—

... are the costly legacy of the failure of former Liberal-National Party prime ministers Tony Abbott, Malcolm Turnbull and Scott Morrison.

How absolutely embarrassing that must be for all of those opposite for the *Australian Financial Review* to call it out so clearly for exactly what it is. How embarrassing that must be for that journal to call it out for what it is.


We have Australians to thank now for turving out Scott Morrison. We know what a future under the LNP would look like. There is no question it would mean higher prices for households. The experts agree that global fossil fuel markets are driving record prices in the global energy system. This nation still relies too much on overseas interests which are having a direct impact on households, but now Australian Labor and this government are acting to deliver on energy independence. However, the LNP in office would have cut this nation off at its knees, preventing us from standing as Queenslanders on our own two feet. It would have undoubtedly led to less investment under the LNP, particularly in our regions. Under them, it would have meant 100,000 less jobs—that is proved by independent modelling—and it would mean more and more emissions. Only Labor will deliver a plan—

(Time expired)

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, members! The House will come to order. Order!

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

 **Mr BLEIJIE** (Kawana—LNP) (Deputy Leader of the Opposition) (2.15 pm): It is this time of the year, midterm through the Palaszczuk government, and you can see the jitters starting to happen. I would say, as they say in the show, roll on up, roll on up because what a show it is! There is so much fighting, there is so much 'kapow!' kung-fu over there, Jackie Chan would be proud if this was a movie. Absolutely! It is a movie—

An opposition member: Wrong Jackie!

Mr BLEIJIE: Jackie Trad would be loving it, too, I have to say. It would be the Chan and Trad Show! Absolutely! We have the infighting absolutely happening over there; the movie is being created. Look at the actors we have in it. Seriously!

We ask the question first: who is producing this dysfunctional movie over there? The producer, of course, is the PNN, the Palaszczuk News Network. Who is the director? Incidentally, they are in the chamber today. We have the two ministers sitting over there, the Minister for Energy and the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. They are wondering what role they will play in this movie of dysfunction. They are certainly the directors. Look at the actors we have: Treasurer Dick, Premier Palaszczuk

herself, health minister D'Ath, Minister Butcher is playing a big role in it, and who could forget the main actor, the Chief Government Whip, Mr Don Brown! As I said, we have supporting actors here. The 'member for mango' could play a big part in this movie as an extra.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order! Pause the clock. Use correct parliamentary titles. I ask you to withdraw.

Mr BLEIJIE: I withdraw. What dysfunction we have here. Let's look at it. The Premier and the Treasurer are completely at odds; they cannot talk to each other. She said last week, 'I am getting rid of this tax.' The Treasurer's office had a statement ready to go saying, 'It was her, but I stand by everything I said.' Then the Premier was asked about it in Canberra and she said, 'No, it was him. He decided a month ago.' Two days later, the Treasurer's office backgrounded a journo and said, 'No, nothing to do with her. That meeting did not take place yesterday; that was a month ago. It is the Premier's fault.' They are a dysfunctional rabble. How can Queenslanders expect the government to govern in the interests of Queenslanders when they cannot govern themselves?

Then on top of the fight between the Treasurer and the Premier, when of course they are in the same faction, you have the chief whip at odds with the health minister putting out statements—and I table a statement from the Chief Government Whip—where he talks about his local health board which he had a role in appointing being completely sacked.

Tabled paper: Media release, dated 5 October 2022, by the member for Capalaba, Mr Don Brown MP, regarding the Board of Metro South Health [1636].

That afternoon, the health minister put out a statement saying, 'No, I disagree with the Chief Government Whip; they are not being sacked.' He then gets up and does a media conference saying, 'I disagree with the Health Minister. They should be sacked.' You would think the show would be reaching its finale. It is not! Add Minister Butcher, the member for Gladstone, who said, 'I will resign my ministerial portfolio if maternity services are not brought back to my local hospital.' Guess what, champ, they were taken away months ago! Where has the member for Gladstone been? He is a minister who sits around the cabinet table and he agreed with it. Where has he been? What an absolute comic show this government is, and they expect Queenslanders to take them seriously!

Possible titles of this movie are running through my mind. With the health minister, Yvette D'Ath, we could call it 'The Expendables', but then she is protected so it could be called 'The Protector'. Other titles such as 'Dumb and Dumber' come to mind. There is also 'The Weakest Link', which could apply to anyone on that side of the chamber. Of course, there is the chief whip, who should have resigned. He is the chief whip in charge of government discipline and he is the most undisciplined out of the government members. So, of course, the movie could be called 'The Untouchables' because the Chief Government Whip is obviously untouchable.

An opposition member interjected.


Mr BLEIJIE: I take the interjection, the left faction is fighting the left faction. This morning the supporting actor, the member for Miller, talked about a show. He said, 'Get out the popcorn.' If we are talking about popcorn I have a show in town of my own, the 'Palaszczyk News Network'.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Member, I am going to warn you. You know about using props. This has been brought to your attention on multiple occasions, so you are warned under the standing orders. If there is any further disorderly conduct I will cease your contribution.

Mr BLEIJIE: If the member for Miller wants to lecture anyone about popcorn, this is the best show in town. If he wants to Netflix binge, I suggest he get on to the 'Palaszczyk Government Rabble' screening on Netflix and any other movie network around the world. It is the best show in town. I would rather watch that than *The Crown* on Netflix and that is saying something, as my honourable colleagues would know. What a dysfunctional rabble! This government does not deserve to be in government. They are a shameful mob. They are a shameful wreck.

(Time expired)

Liberal National Party, Performance

 **Hon. MC BAILEY** (Miller—ALP) (Minister for Transport and Main Roads) (2.21 pm): The member for Kawana, who in the past has worn his favourite stuffed toy into this chamber, now brings in some popcorn. What a deficit of quality over volume! It is not even worth responding to the dribble that that speech entails. Before I speak on the very important matter of the Energy and Jobs Plan I will address a couple of points made by the Leader of the Opposition.

Obviously the matters around Mackay Hospital are serious matters. What we saw from the Leader of the Opposition again was an attempt to apply different standards to the government than he applies to himself. There are some terrible things that have occurred there which the inquiry has identified. Three of them involved the death of babies. One of those deaths was, in fact, a number of governments ago, in 2013.

The Leader of the Opposition is trying to get the health minister sacked for his political gain, but he does not inform this chamber of the facts. If he is applying that standard to this government, he should also be accepting responsibility on behalf of the previous Newman government in which he was previously a minister. Does he do that? No, he does not. He verbals people consistently. He does it in press conferences often. We saw that with the laptop controversy—five months talking about the laptop, day after day, often making allegations about raids, goons and seizures only to be found out and caught absolutely cold by the CCC's independent investigation. Did he stand up like an adult and actually apologise and accept responsibility for the fact that he was misleading people daily? No, he did not. He was caught cold

Mr Crisafulli interjected.

Mr BAILEY: There he is interjecting because he does not like the truth. He has a very thin skin.

Honourable members interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Through the chair.

Mr BAILEY: He did not apologise. He was found out by the CCC independent report in early July. Did he stand up? No, he hid from the media for a couple of days. He went to regional Queensland to duck the media gallery and just slithered away from it. That is the Leader of the Opposition—as slippery as an eel. He is a career politician and a former journalist.

The thesis that somehow, after them sacking 1,800 nurses and picking fights with doctors for three years, the crisis began when this government started re-employing the nurses we needed in our health system and started to work with the doctors to restore the health system is an absurdity. For seven years of this government we have restored the health system, because it was gutted by the Leader of the Opposition and his mate the member for Kawana and half the Newman government ministers.

Mr Minnikin interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, Minister. Member for Chatsworth, you have been interjecting repeatedly. You are warned.

Mr BAILEY: Half the Newman government ministry, all still in control, have not learnt the lessons of the past. This thesis that this has been an issue for seven years when we restored the health system, we restored the nurses, we worked with the doctors, we are building new hospitals, we are expanding hospitals after the savage cuts during the Leader of the Opposition's time in the Newman government is pathetic. It is pathetic.

I also say this. No matter someone's political view of the Minister for Health, the criticism that she engaged in vitriol is a gutter slur by the Leader of the Opposition. Whether someone agrees or does not agree with the Minister for Health on any political matter, she is not the kind of person who engages in vitriol anywhere or any time I can ever recall. The Leader of the Opposition ought to be ashamed of himself for going too far; he is the master of overreach. That is who he is; he is the master of overreach.

Look at the laptop deceptions that he brought in, and then he slithered away from that. He consistently misleads and verbals people in his daily press conferences, and to date he has gotten away with some of those. I can assure the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Kawana, who has such a thin skin he has blocked me because he also does not like the accountability of being kept honest for the sorts of things he says—the little Newmans over there have not learnt a thing. There they all are: the members for Clayfield, Chatsworth, Mudgeeraba, Kawana and formerly Mundingburra but he ran away from his home town. He was so pathetic he ran away when he lost his seat.

Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (2.26 pm): I am not going to be lectured to by someone on the other side who wants to be the Minister for Health but cannot even run trains on time. It has been six weeks—didn't you get sent to the CCC? Foolish minister.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Resume your seat.

Ms BATES: Fool!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member, I had called you to order and then you used unparliamentary language. I am going to warn you. I have called the House to order. Any commentary will come through the chair and there will be no direct exchanges across the chamber.

Ms BATES: It has been six weeks since this House has sat under normal circumstances. In that time—and I do not say this lightly—we have seen exposed some of the greatest failures in Queensland Health in living memory. It was revealed that some Queenslanders were waiting for hours after calling triple 0 for an ambulance, only for them to be tragically found dead on arrival. There were more than 20 of those devastating cases. Some waited nine hours.

We learned that we have a dysfunctional DNA lab, which has been rendered so inept that murderers and rapists might be walking free. We have also learnt that not only was the minister blatantly wrong when she said the QAS was meeting their targets, but she only wants health performance information released at a time that is politically convenient to her. I say to the minister: there is a stark difference between being incompetent and being underhanded and deliberately misleading. To the detriment of all Queenslanders, the minister is straddling all three of those things: incompetent, underhanded and misleading. The difference between what the minister is being told and what she says publicly is diverging and that divergence is growing each and every day. How then can the minister be trusted?

What I want to focus my contribution on today is the catastrophic failure in patient safety at the Mackay Base Hospital. There is no other way to put it; it is the greatest failure in patient safety that Queensland has seen since the nightmare that was the Jayant Patel saga in Bundaberg nearly 20 years ago. Since the damning revelations from the obstetrics and gynaecology report were released, my thoughts have been with every one of the women involved as well as their families. So, too, have my thoughts been with all those patients who have come forward in relation to the allegations of malpractice against urologist Dr Daryl Stephens. The opposition called for the investigation at Mackay Hospital to be broadened. We said that in the parliament, we said it outside this chamber and I even wrote to the minister directly about it. I wrote to the minister on 17 November 2021 and said—

It is my genuine worry that there may be broader issues at the Mackay Base Hospital.

I ask that the current review being undertaken is expanded to include other medical and surgical departments at the Mackay Base Hospital.

I table the letter.

Tabled paper: Letter, dated 17 November 2021, from the member for Mudgeeraba, Ms Ros Bates MP, to the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services, Hon. Yvette D'Ath, regarding the Mackay Base Hospital [\[1637\]](#).

The fears and concerns I raised in that letter were justified. We know that now because so significant were the failings across the hospital that the minister has threatened to sack the hospital board. There has been a special adviser appointed and the entire system is being reviewed. We were not scaremongering; we were raising substantive issues that the minister failed to adequately address. So dismissive was the minister that she never even bothered to send a response to my letter. She never even replied. Is it any wonder that senior health officials were dismissive of the complaints of patients and clinicians when that is the standard the minister sets? The minister sets the tone. The minister sets the culture. When she and the Premier frivolously dismiss these allegations or call them scaremongering, they say that that dismissive behaviour is fine for others. Look where that has led us. It has had devastating consequences.

On 26 October 2021 I questioned the minister in parliament. I asked if there was a doctor at Mackay Base Hospital practising with reprimands on their registration. The minister said no. The next day, 27 October, I revealed in parliament that there was at least one doctor with reprimands on their clinical registration. Only then did the minister reveal that there were two doctors with reprimands on their registration, under questioning. We now know that one of those doctors was surgeon Daryl Stephens. The minister knew. We questioned the minister and she answered—she knew—so the minister has to tell us now what she knew.

After being questioned in parliament, did the minister ever ask about Dr Stephens's history? Did the minister ever ask about the nature of his practice in Mackay? If she did ask, she would have learned that the hospital was forced to pay compensation based on the adverse outcomes a patient suffered. Further, she likely would have learned that an investigation was underway by regulators into a missed cancer diagnosis. That is why this is on the minister. The minister knew and she did not act. The minister cannot blame anyone else this time. That is why the minister's position has become untenable.

Water Infrastructure



Hon. GJ BUTCHER (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (2.32 pm): The Labor Palaszczuk government is all about good jobs, better services and a great lifestyle. Central to that is water. It is what sustains us and our communities. As elected members of parliament, given this honour by the communities we love so much, it is critical that we show up to work and do the best we can for all of Queensland—and we are.

Since 2015 the Queensland government has invested more than \$3.4 billion in water infrastructure and planning, creating 2½ thousand jobs, many of them in regional Queensland. That is 2½ thousand jobs that would not exist if the LNP were in government. Those on the other side of the House like to make a lot of noise about what we are not building in infrastructure, so let me spell it out. Since 2015 the Palaszczuk Labor government has invested \$600 million to upgrade Paradise Dam and restore it to its original full-supply level; and \$420 million in Townsville for stages 1 and 2 of the Haughton pipeline after the LNP broke their promise to build stage 2. The local federal LNP member is a disgrace and should not be doing what he is doing up there.

Mr Harper: Sacked!

Mr BUTCHER: He should be sacked—exactly right. There is more than \$300 million for the Toowoomba-Warwick pipeline; \$186 million towards the great construction going on at Rookwood Weir; \$30 million for Big Rocks Weir; \$19 million for the Southern Downs drought resilience program; \$70 million for Building our Regions specifically for water and sewerage projects for regional communities; \$40 million for the drinking water pipeline from Gracemere to Mount Morgan—it is an amazing project that the community desperately needs; \$26 million for the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct in Townsville including a reservoir and 13-kilometre link with the Haughton pipeline; \$25.6 million for the Hughenden Water Bank project; and \$107 million for stage 1 of the Cairns Water Security Program. On top of that, there is much more investment into business cases and planning to get more of these projects off the ground.

I must say that I was shocked to see that the federal opposition leader was in Bundaberg this week inciting fear in the residents of Bundaberg that Paradise Dam will not be delivered. It is absolutely disgraceful and he should be ashamed. Sunwater's dedicated team is working across multiple fronts to prepare for works at the dam as we speak. Three contracts were recently awarded for design, geotechnical and environmental services and expressions of interest have opened for the major construction contract. Once again, the LNP are coming into communities and lying and fearmongering, just to get their political point across. The road network around the site will be one of the things upgraded next year—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Minister, I ask you to withdraw that unparliamentary language.

Mr BUTCHER: I withdraw. I can understand that the LNP does not know what the delivery of a dam looks like. The state LNP's record is -1 when it comes to dams. Canning Connors River Dam was the only thing they did in water infrastructure in this state when they were in government. Over \$30 million has been allocated this year to rebuild, and that money has already been put to use so that experts can get the critical planning, the design and the early works underway for that project. We have allocated more funds for this project for this year than the total amount the LNP said the dam could be fixed for.

The LNP has no plan for water security or jobs and no vision for the future at all. In Campbell Newman's 30-year water plan, the LNP used nearly 50 pages but never actually spelled out a plan for water in Queensland. Some 10 years on, the lack of a plan was clear in the opposition leader's budget reply speech this year. There was not one mention of manufacturing, and references to water only appear as part of the word 'Broadwater'. It was this government that dragged the federal LNP kicking and screaming to support Rookwood Weir while the state LNP sat silent, failing to demand Queensland's fair share. Those opposite did nothing.

I am happy to report that there are more than 350 people onsite there, including 25 apprentices. We are a proud government that is delivering on water infrastructure. It is the members on this side of the House who are providing good jobs and better services. Whether it is through the 100,000 jobs guarantee through the Energy and Jobs Plan or ensuring water security in our Queensland communities, we are sticking to our word. That is why Queenslanders trust this Palaszczuk government. We will continue to deliver into the future.

Environmental Protection



Ms BOLTON (Noosa—Ind) (2.37 pm): Queenslanders rightfully are frustrated when, through no fault of their own, they pay the penalty for flawed legislation and decision-making such as inappropriate volumes of heavy haulage from a failed permit process overwhelming their communities, damaging their roads, their businesses and their mental and physical health. What is even worse is that, through some arcane technical aspects of legislation, departments respond that they cannot act and instead have no option but to continue to use taxpayers' dollars to fund road repairs and upgrades just to keep road users safe. This arcane legislation includes environmental authorities that are issued, for example, to quarries without any consideration of the impacts to the surrounding communities and infrastructure.

When devastation occurs, the ability to review is constrained by outdated criteria which limits consideration to within the bounds of the property or permit that the activity occurs on; hence, our environmental regulator has no ability to rectify an environmental authority that was flawed from the start or was issued prior to current standards and expectations.

Other states are not constrained in this way. With the exception of Queensland and Western Australia, ministers at any time can call for a review of environmental authorities. We have neither in Queensland. The government is in the process of creating an independent environmental protection agency. This is something that has been desperately needed and which I have sought since encountering our lack of powers to fix our failings. Of note, Victoria has had this since 1971 and it has led to greater resolutions for communities, including reducing pollution in the Melbourne Yarra River.

It appears that the department has interpreted this need narrowly, releasing a discussion paper on this proposed EPA that indicates changes to governance arrangements and literally no other changes nor any solid and reassuring powers to be able to act—yes, that word. Without it, it is a toothless tiger, making sounds yet with no bite.

Fortunately for Queensland in the development phase of its own EPA, there are those who have gone before us including Victoria, which has just undertaken an independent comprehensive review of its own EPA. This focused on three elements that are essential for an effective independent EPA that can resolve the impacts to our environment and inhabitants, including people.

Firstly, it asked what the EPA should be doing, and I love this recommendation. It said that it should place a high priority on public health and safety, address environmental problems and market failures whilst promoting other social objectives and be a regulator that is proactive and acts strategically in identifying and mitigating environmental risks, always mindful of the community's social and economic objectives and the need to minimise red tape.

Secondly, it asked how the EPA should work to meet this objective. The review emphasised taking a strategic view, including in the approach to land use planning, the sites on which people live and work, the land and air around them and the corridors on which they travel—yes, that is the roads that I have spoken about so many times in relation to the devastation through our Noosa villages. The EPA has to have a role in all of this.

Thirdly, it talked about giving the EPA the tools to do the job which, as we have seen many times in our inquiries, whether it be with QCAT or other statutory bodies such as the ombudsman, includes appropriate funding resources for better prevention, managing of risk and holding government to account. It also recommended working closely with local government, including having local EPA officers embedded in councils which would ensure that when permits are issued for major activities all impacts are considered, including on our roads with agencies such as TMR being referred to which may have prevented the devastation to our infrastructure in Noosa.

From this we can see what we should demand and expect from our new EPA for Queensland and nothing less. It must be independent. It must have the goal of mitigating environmental risks as well as impacts to communities, their residents and infrastructure. It must encompass social and economic objectives and the mental and physical wellbeing of our communities. It must have a broad scope to achieve this objective, including land use planning, working with local government and advising state government. It must have the tools it needs including the funding and power to vary environmental authorities, including retrospectively. Anything less is irresponsible and is a waste of current efforts to set something up.

North Queensland, Renewable Energy



Mr HARPER (Thuringowa—ALP) (2.42 pm): Townsville and North Queensland are literally powering ahead. This is on top of the Premier's recent announcement of the state Energy and Jobs Plan and has been widely welcomed by my constituents in Thuringowa. Just last Saturday my staff and

a team of volunteers contacted hundreds of local residents to gauge just how important it is for them to have clean, renewable, affordable energy in regional Queensland with our plan to support thousands of jobs in the energy sector which will then flow into the manufacturing sector, because we want to see battery manufacturing and even solar panels made in regional Queensland. The week before I had an excellent discussion with residents of the Upper Ross Community Voice on the new energy plan and hope that through further engagement Minister de Brenni will come to Townsville for an energy forum.

Our energy plan not only tackles climate change head-on; it provides a clear future of renewable energy for our state and, importantly, creates thousands of jobs for the future. We already know that North Queensland and north-west Queensland punch above their weight in terms of resources, including rare earth minerals like vanadium which we will not only export to the world but also use in the battery manufacturing facility in Townsville at the proposed Landsdown precinct with proponents like Queensland Pacific Metals, Edify and Imperium 3, again supporting thousands of local jobs.

I also welcome the Premier's announcement this morning that General Motors is partnering with Queensland Pacific Metals to the tune of over \$100 million to ensure that we can create mineral production and battery manufacturing for GM in its EV fleet of cars, SUVs and trucks. That is amazing for North Queensland. We will be supporting thousands of electric vehicles across the world and that support is going to come from regional Queensland. Our state government already has a clear plan to back in the Landsdown industrial precinct. I thank Minister Bailey for the \$5 million for the intersection upgrade into that site. There is a further \$12 million committed for the internal roads and \$26 million, as the Minister for Water just said, to make sure that we get that trunk infrastructure there to support that site. We are already well ahead with Korea Zinc in the process of setting up hydrogen production. It is setting up its own plant to fuel its own fleet of hydrogen trucks.

The proposed energy precinct in Mackay, the Pioneer-Burdekin pumped hydro project, will produce massive amounts of clean energy for our state. It will dwarf Snowy Hydro and produce enormous amounts of clean energy. The pumps will work with energy produced by solar and wind turbines during the day which will be stored and used to crank up the massive pumped hydro turbines during the evening. I want to put that into perspective. Kidston pumped hydro will come online in 2024. It is 270 kilometres north-west of Townsville. It has a 250-metre vertical drop. It is going to produce 250 megawatts. The pumped hydro in the Pioneer-Burdekin proposed project has a 400-metre drop and will create 25 times—five gigawatts of energy—that of Kidston.

In 2019 at the Townsville regional parliament our government committed \$147 million to build the high-voltage line to connect the Kidston pumped hydro to the grid. With this plan for nation-building infrastructure, I am very pleased to see that CopperString is going to be part of that plan. The new 1,500-kilometre high-voltage line required to take this enormous amount of pumped hydro energy created is truly nation-building infrastructure. Build it and they will come. We have many more mineral-producing mines that want to connect to CopperString, so I am really pleased to see that that is part of the north-west plan in the energy grid.

Mr Healy: That's what Labor governments do.

Mr HARPER: The member for Cairns just took the words right out of my mouth: that is exactly what Labor governments do. We have a vision and we are going to create renewable energy through massive pumped hydrogen. If there is anyone in the public gallery who knows about North Queensland—I hope you do because the Cowboys play there—we are literally powering ahead with our jobs and energy plan. I want to thank the Premier and the ministers involved for getting behind this because of the 100,000 jobs that will be created.

Ms Camm interjected.

Mr HARPER: We should be very proud of that, and I hope the member for Whitsunday is there to watch every single one of those go ahead.

Palaszcuk Labor Government, Taxation



Mr JANETZKI (Toowoomba South—LNP) (2.47 pm): I have been striving to find the right word to describe the land tax/renters tax fiasco from the Treasurer over the last couple of weeks, and I have settled on 'debacle'. It was a debacle of a performance from the Treasurer over the last couple of months when it comes to the renters tax. From the moment this tax was proposed in the MYFER in December last year, we called it out as a renters tax. It would drive out investment and drive up rents. In estimates earlier this year it became abundantly obvious that there had been very little work on this. In fact, no work had been done on this particular renters tax. Nobody had any idea how much it would raise, how it would be collected and how many people would be impacted.

It has been over the last six to eight weeks that we have seen the Treasurer's true failings and his inability to listen as expert after expert has lined up to talk about the renters tax, the implications that it would have on investment and what it would mean for renters right throughout Queensland. We heard from economists, and I heard those opposite talk a little bit about Quiggin today. I will see your Quiggin and raise you a Gottliebson and an Oliver. Gottliebson, who is one of the most pre-eminent economists in the country, said that there could not be a worse thing to be doing to the national economy right now than introducing this tax. Shane Oliver from AMP Capital said that it was basic economics that investors would pass this on to renters, thereby driving up rents. And it was not just economists; it was academics.

A University of New South Wales economics professor talked about double taxation, and then we had law firms lining up. Would members believe that perhaps the most donation-friendly law firm in the country, Holding Redlich, which has donated plenty to the Labor Party over the years, came out and said that the Treasurer's tediously repeated talking points about loopholes were wrong—wrong?

Holding Redlich said that the land tax exemptions that were in Queensland law have been there since the 1910s. The loophole that the Treasurer was talking about has been destroyed by his own law firm. Then K&L Gates said that it was going to be difficult because of the lack of harmonisation throughout the country. Next up we had tax professionals from the Institute of Public Accountants in Australia who said it was alarming. The Queensland Institute of Public Accountants said it would be very difficult to manage for the Queensland Revenue Office and it would cause all kinds of problems. The property industry, the REIQ, called it illogical. The Property Council said it was ill thought through. The UDIA said it would deter investors and drive up rents. The Property Investors Council of Australia said it was ludicrous and it was the primary reason why people would be fleeing the investment market in Queensland. Dexus, a property investment trust, said it was a wonderful way to reallocate capital from Queensland to the southern states.

Mr Nicholls: What did John Quiggin say?

Mr JANETZKI: I will take the interjection from the member for Clayfield. Surprise, surprise, he backed the government's position. That leads me to ask: why does this really matter? Firstly, in the middle of Queensland's worst housing crisis we had a Treasurer who was not listening to any experts, not the advice from tax professionals or economists, let alone real estate agents who were talking about 11 properties being pulled from the market or builders who had seen a range of building contracts pulled from the market.

Mr Nicholls: What about his backbench?

Mr JANETZKI: I am coming to that. The Treasurer proved that he could not be trusted. He breaks promises. There are outright mistruths that have been spoken. Finally, as we saw noise from the backbench, in the middle of the worst housing crisis the Premier had to step in and act because the Treasurer had not listened. He had not consulted. He cannot be trusted. Now we know the Premier and the Treasurer are at war with each other. It is a dysfunctional and divided government. The Deputy Premier sits there smirking while this government falls apart.

Smithfield Mountain Bike Park



Mr HEALY (Cairns—ALP) (2.52 pm): I rise today to inform the chamber of the ongoing transformation that is happening in Cairns in the Far North as a cycle sport destination and mecca. The latest chapter in this evolution is the incredibly successful Crankworx event that was held last weekend at the Smithfield Mountain Bike Park just north of Cairns.

Crankworx is a world tour that brings together the best mountain bike athletes from around the globe. It is an event that is held annually and has been held in Austria, Canada and New Zealand. It is the first time it has been held in Australia—and we had it in Cairns. It involves a multitude of disciplines, including some of the most spectacular cycling such as slope style, dual slalom, downhill and pump track. It is not just a fantastic competitor and spectator experience, but a massive tourism drawcard bringing visitors to the region and highlighting why events are a linchpin in our tourism economy. Much of the local success of Crankworx can be attributed to its first-class venue location in Smithfield. This mountain bike course is a proven elite venue having hosted everything up to world championships and also has become the nurturing ground for local champions and icons of the sport, Mick and Tracey Hannah.

Like anything, sport changes. We see Olympic events evolve and new disciplines emerge. What we have seen with Crankworx in Cairns is a glimpse of our sporting future, an athletic code of adventure sport that feeds into our economy with increased visitation. This has huge benefits for the tourism sector

through local accommodation, tours, restaurants and the like which benefit our entire region. Cycle tourism does not stop with Crankworx, as the northern calendar bulges with related events that not only bring tourism dollars but also encourage active participation and healthy communities. We have Iron Man; the Tour of the Tropics; the Cardiac Challenge; the Port Douglas Gran Fondo; one of the oldest and most iconic mount bike races, the Crocodile Trophy; and we have the Triple-R mountain bike race. They are just a few examples of well-patronised events making our region the cycling capital of Australia. Throw these into the current world-class suite of tourism products we have in our region and we have increased offerings of experiences to lure tourists from far and wide.

It is also testament to how the tourism industry is in collaboration with the state government in responding to new trends and attractions and meeting the market needs with in-demand and emergent products. The ability to engage with industry and identify these opportunities early and put structure around it is key and that is what this government does. Being at the head of the pack with innovation and cutting-edge attractions will maintain Queensland's reputation and standing as Australia's number one tourism destination in a wide range of areas.

I am pleased to say that the Palaszczuk government is backing all the way events such as Crankworx related to mountain biking and infrastructure right across the state. This government has invested and will continue to invest in not just showcase events but majestic tracks and trails and will continue to work with the private sector to make them happen. The number of families that were at the event on the weekend, young and old riders, is testament to how the broader community has embraced mountain biking. There is no better example of investment in infrastructure than the 94-kilometre Wangetti Trail from Palm Cove to Port Douglas, a trail that will capture the imagination of trail riders and walkers alike and when completed will have the capacity to link up with the Cairns Regional Council Northern Beaches Leisure Trail creating one of the greatest coastal and cycling/walking routes in the world.

Mr Harper: I will come up and do it with you, mate.


Mr HEALY: You are more than welcome. I will take that interjection. We continue to recognise the need for the development of a variety of trails and opportunities for all cyclists. Ensuring that we cater for a broad section of the community is the key to success. Our support for trails goes well beyond just Wangetti. Recent discussions with Glen Jacobs and his team at World Trail reveals that we have three scoping documents that are currently underway and we are working with the Mareeba, Cairns and the Tablelands councils to ensure we continue to invest and make improvements. We know what is working; and this is one of them. It is a fantastic event and I congratulate my parliamentary colleagues and look forward, as we move forward, to more of these events.

NATURE CONSERVATION AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading


Resumed from p. 2619, on motion of Ms Scanlon—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr TANTARI** (Hervey Bay—ALP) (2.57 pm), continuing: Before the adjournment I was speaking on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I was referring to the provision of new offences for impersonation of forest officers and rangers. In my part of the world where we have some of the most beautiful and pristine environments of land and water, with the Great Sandy Marine Park and the fabulous and much loved K'gari, providing an offence for impersonation of an officer is welcome to ensure the safety and appropriate use of these great sites. It should send a message as a deterrent and enhance DES's ability to act against this type of conduct.

The other area I would like to touch on before I finish my contribution is the powers to enhance the officer's ability to seize property. As always, this area is increased with caution as it relates to an individual's rights. This bill will limit the powers of an officer enacting their duties. With regard to a conservation officer, they may exercise their new powers under this act to seize an item in the following circumstances: it has been abandoned, such as a burnt-out car; it is being used to commit an offence, such as a wildlife trap used by poachers; is an item not authorised to be in a protected area, such as an unregistered trail bike; to protect the cultural or natural resources of a protected area, for example, moving a vehicle blocking access to a fire trail or other essential road; for the safety of people in a protected area; or for the orderly and proper management of a protected area, such as amplifying sound equipment being used for a rave party.

A lot of people use these protected areas. These simple changes will enhance the value and amenity of our precious natural environments by protecting them against disruptive and damaging behaviours. I thank the Minister for the Environment for introducing these changes and the State Development and Regional Industries Committee, so ably chaired by the member for Bancroft, for their work on the bill. I believe that the changes the Palaszczuk government is introducing in this bill are measured and necessary. They apply a bit of commonsense in confronting a threat to our bee industry and enhancing the usability and management of our greatest natural resource, our environment. I support the bill before the House.

 **Mr BOOTHMAN** (Theodore—LNP) (2.59 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. From the outset I thank the committee for all the work that they have done on the bill. I thank the shadow minister for his contribution, which was made some time ago now, back in August. Nature conservation is very important to all of us and certainly there are a lot of conservation groups in my area. The main purpose of the bill relates to bees in national parks. As somebody who has a bit of history to do with orchards and farming activity, I felt it would be remiss of me not to make a contribution on the bill.

Having a good healthy bee population is critically important for agriculture and the pollination of crops and orchard trees. We have to remember that almond trees require pollination as do avocado—I will talk more about avocados—macadamia, mango, apple and citrus trees. Many varieties of trees rely on pollination and it would be very detrimental not to have healthy bee populations. Fruits such as berries, melons, tomatoes and pumpkins all require some sort of pollination, which relies on good healthy bee populations. Many farmers bring in bees from other areas. In the Gold Coast hinterland we have very good beekeepers who are well and truly active. My parent's property benefits from that activity.

The avocado is quite an interesting tree. There are two varieties of avocado tree. There is an A type and a B type avocado tree. A type avocados include Hass, Lamb Hass, Pinkerton, Reed and Wurtz varieties. The flowers of those trees will open as female in the morning and in the afternoon they become male. You need to have cross-pollination from other trees such as B type avocado trees, which include Fuerte, Shepard, Sharwil and Zutano. It is critically important that you have the two varieties together and a decent bee population locally because of the issues around the timing of the flowers changing from female to male. It is very important to have very active bee populations in these type of industries. At the moment avocados, especially in the southern areas, are well and truly in flower. Down our way, macadamia trees would have flowered in August or September. I also know a bit about macadamias.


Keeping bee populations in the national parks is crucial, especially for vulnerable species of macadamia. The Bulberin nut is listed as endangered. Obviously, a lot of its native habitat has been destroyed. Having bee populations in the national parks is crucial for the survival of that species. It does not get the same focus that is given to the hybrid macadamia trees, such as the Beaumont macadamia. The Beaumont is a very successful hybrid tree that is very good at nutting, far more so than some of the less desirable species. In the wild, the endangered macadamia nut tree species are vulnerable so we need to ensure that there are healthy bee populations.

I agree with the shadow minister for the environment, the member for Bonney, who talked about allowing beekeepers to access national parks in perpetuity. Twenty years really is not a long time when it comes to keeping the bee population healthy so it is very important that we allow access in perpetuity.

The bill goes into other areas, such as the capacity to deal with individuals who pretend to be park rangers and I agree with those objectives. The member for Bonney's amendments are well considered and we should accept them. I ask the government to understand that we need clarity going forward to ensure that access is not just for 20 years, because 20 years will pass very quickly. I hope my lesson on avocados—

Mr Lister: Can you bring some to parliament?

Mr BOOTHMAN: I will have to bring some more to parliament. We need to understand that, when it comes to the agricultural industry in Queensland, pollination by bees is worth \$2 billion each year. That shows how crucial it is that we look after beehives and ensure that beekeepers can access national parks long after the 20-year period.

 **Hon. MC de BRENNI** (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (3.06 pm): We are all stewards of our natural environment, not only us in the chamber but also generations of Queenslanders who enjoy our state's great lifestyle

today. At the outset of my brief contribution to the debate I acknowledge that the natural environment was here for millions of years before us and it will endure for millions of years beyond us. I acknowledge the thousands of generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders who have cared for this land.

However, in this place we are entrusted with the heavy burden of overseeing the protection framework for some of the most beautiful natural environments on the planet. We are caretakers of places such as the tropical Daintree, which is full of biodiversity, and Lamington and Springbrook national parks with their beech trees that date back thousands of years. We are the custodians of the World Heritage listed Great Barrier Reef and coastal paradises such as K'Gari and the islands of the Whitsundays. We hold the great honour of protecting inland wonders that include relics of the world's oldest living culture and other inland wonders such as the Channel Country, which refills one of the world's largest underground freshwater resources, the Great Artesian Basin. It is more important than ever to protect those environments from natural threats such as fire, flood or storm; from introduced threats such as domestic predators or invasive flora; and from manmade climate change, which is real and not something that we ought to leave for future generations to act on. That is why we are taking action.

All of that makes it important that the House passes this bill and enhances our compliance activities in QPWS managed areas. The importance of our national parks cannot be understated. They are the backbone of our conservation system. They offer the highest level of protection to our biodiversity and our endangered species. That is a big reason why this government has made the largest single investment in national parks acquisition in the state's history. I place on record my acknowledgement of Minister Scanlon and her team. I acknowledge her leadership on this. It is an affirmation of our obligation to protect the biodiversity of not just Queensland and Australia but also the entire planet.

The bill goes to the issue of bees which, while small in stature, play an oversized role in the consideration of how we must continue to protect our national parks. Many puns have been made in this debate. As others have done, I will talk about the hive of activity in my electorate. In the electorate of Springwood, I represent people from both sides of the debate.

There are folks such as Len and Murray Arkadieff who run Farmgate Honey who have been talking to me over many years about certainty for their business. Their conservation movement has also been sharing with me its very clear views about this. They have been strident, too, in their expectations that we in this House will protect the national parks. We have decided to try and identify the sweet spot, something that delivers some certainty in a transition plan. Our approach recognises that beekeepers were assured a pathway that remains to be delivered.

What the bill does—and why I support the bill and the way forward—is facilitate an examination of options for transitioning. This is what good government does—finds a way to protect livelihoods and protect the natural environment at the same time given its critical importance to the state's future. We must also recognise that efforts were set back significantly by the LNP Newman government administration in sacking 14,000 public servants, including many in the department.


A government member interjected.

Mr de BRENNI: I take the interjection. There were rangers as well who lost their jobs and livelihoods who could have progressed this important work. I note that the previous government tore up the landmark 25-year agreement between industry and conservation groups. This interim measure is not only necessary but what has been arrived at is sensible and fair. It recognises that the loss of access to national parks sites in 2024 without an alternative, effective framework would have an impact on supply and the livelihoods of many small businesses.

On behalf of the community that I represent and the broader Queensland public, I commend the minister, the department, industry and the conservation movement on finding a suitable interim measure while work continues to find alternative sites to support adoption of industry best practice and to identify initiatives that may assist the industry to relocate off park over the next 20 years.

I am also particularly pleased that an interagency group has been set up to investigate opportunities that may exist on other land tenures to help really deliver the full ecological value of our precious national parks. For those reasons, as government, industry and the conservation movement have found a suitable interim measure, I commend the bill to the House.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Before I call the minister I remind the House of members warned earlier in the session: the members for Kawana, Chatsworth and Mudgeeraba.

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (3.13 pm), in reply: I take the time to thank all members for their participation in the debate on the Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022

and of course acknowledge the committee for its work. I also acknowledge Jo Martin and representatives from the QBA here today. I acknowledge their advocacy in creating this bill. Of course, as has been said, it was an election commitment.

The passage of this bill will deliver on the commitment we made at the election to the beekeeping industry to grant a 20-year extension for beekeeping in national parks. As stated by a number of people already, to deliver this outcome the bill will amend the Nature Conservation Act 1992 to allow existing beekeeping to continue beyond the current end date of 31 December 2024 to 31 December 2044.

I note that amendments circulated by the member for Bonney move to allow beekeeping in national parks to occur indefinitely. The government does not support this amendment. The passing of this bill will deliver on our commitment to enact what we think is a sensible 20-year extension to beekeeping on national parks, recognising the comments made around the cardinal principle striking what we think is a sensible balance between conservation but recognising that we need to also support the beekeeping industry and provide some certainty.

I want to take the time to respond to some of the comments made in the House during the debate. To be clear, this bill is not allowing beekeeping in new areas of existing national parks despite what the member for Burleigh would like when he declared—

In fact, I would take it a step ... further and ... let us let bees into our national parks in total.

I am a bit confused on what the LNP's position actually is. Despite what the member for Burleigh said, the member for Glass House agreed with those on this side of the House when he clarified by saying—

Let me be specific: we are not calling for the broader expansion of these ... apiary sites ...

There seems to be some inconsistency from those opposite about their position on beekeeping in Queensland. Let me clarify again that this bill will only allow a continuation of beekeeping in locations where it had previously been a recognised use before the land became national park. There were comments about obviously the transfer of these areas under the South East Queensland Forestry Agreement and the changes to national parks to protect more areas across our state.

Of course, the passage of this bill will be followed by the development of new regulations which will prescribe apiary areas in specific national parks and a number of individual apiary sites associated with each of these areas. This will also make clear the extent of the beekeeping activity that may occur in each of the relevant national parks and will support the continued granting of those permits.

During the debate it was disappointing, though, to hear some of the comments from those opposite in criticising our national parks and, as a consequence, some of the really hardworking QPWS rangers who work within them.

Mr O'Connor interjected.

Ms SCANLON: I am happy to talk about management, member for Bonney. The member for Nanango said that apiarists actually look after the national parks and were the ones actually doing the hard work and that the worst neighbour in Queensland when it comes to national parks is the state Labor government. The member for Scenic Rim doubled down on that saying—

... portions of the estate are managed better than other portions of the estate because this activity is being carried out by people who have an interest in looking after that part of the estate.

Those comments of the members for Nanango and Scenic Rim and in fact a number of others are pretty disrespectful to the 784 rangers employed by the Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service and undermine the hard work that they do in parks across this state.

I can hear those opposite groaning and I remind the House that, when it comes to management—particularly the member for Bonney—it was the former LNP government that cut 60 ranger positions in its term of government in stark contrast to our Labor government that has actually increased management funding for our national parks by 37 per cent compared to what it was under those opposite. We have increased parks management funding by nearly \$100 million since 2014.

I will stand up any day of the week on management of our protected area estate compared to that of those opposite, never mind talking about all the other environmental destruction that happened under their watch. This bill delivers on our election commitment and provides amendments that are administrative in nature. In closing I acknowledge and thank all the staff from the Department of Environment and Science, some of whom are here today, for their collaboration and work in progressing this bill as well as my own staff for their efforts. I commend the bill to the House.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a second time.

Consideration in Detail

Clauses 1 to 24, as read, agreed to.

Clause 25—



Mr O'CONNOR (3.18 pm): I move the following amendment—

1

Clause 25 (Insertion of new s 36A)

Page 39, line 26—

omit.

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

Tabled paper: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Mr Sam O'Connor's amendment [1638].

Tabled paper: Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Mr Sam O'Connor's amendment [1639].

This is a very simple amendment that removes the sunset clause which would ban beehives in national parks from 1 January 2045. It really answers the question: 'Why is an end point necessary?' It is all about providing certainty to a vital industry that every single member of this House who spoke on this bill said that they support. This amendment gives members an opportunity to vote for that support and to show Queensland beekeepers that they back their right to continue doing what has no evidence of harming our national parks.

The important environmental point is that in the two decades at least of the current system—let alone all the time it operated before that—there has been no evidence produced to show harm to national parks. This is a very simple amendment that removes the end date. Of course, if evidence of harm were produced we would reassess the situation. I would expect that to happen if there were any evidence produced to show that there was a detrimental impact on national parks. There is no reason to have an arbitrary end date, particularly when we think about some of the investment decisions being made by our beekeepers, many of whom are younger people who want to stay in an industry that has been operating for generations.

To conclude, I give a shout-out to the President of the Queensland Beekeepers' Association, Jacob Stevens, who comes from the electorate of Mr Deputy Speaker Lister, and secretary Jo Martin, from Boonah in the Scenic Rim electorate, who are in the gallery. I do not think I have seen any stakeholder spend the time they have in the gallery watching a debate. We very much appreciate their persistence over the many days of debate. We have forgotten when it began. I think it was in August. Thank you for coming back for the final part of the debate. I urge all members to support the amendment to remove the arbitrary end date.

Mr KRAUSE: If members can support this bill introduced by the government to give an extension to access to the protected estate for another 20 years, there is no reason they should not be able to support the amendment moved by the member for Bonney which would remove the time limit altogether. This debate about the extension of tenure has been going on for many years already and it has taken a long time to get to this point. We should not need to come back here in another 10 years to restart the entire process. It is extremely time consuming for the industry and creates an awful lot of uncertainty for participants in the industry.

This extension does not give additional rights for beekeeping to occur in new areas of the protected estate; it merely preserves rights for operations that already exist. In any case, the beekeepers of this state have traversed every square kilometre and tried to find additional lands that they could use outside of the protected estate. The simple fact is that what is in use now is the extent of it, as best we can tell.

These apiary businesses and beekeepers will be no less important in 2034 or in 2044 or in 2054 than they are now when we are all in agreement that they should stay in the estate. We will need honey and we will need the pollination that the bees provide for our industries. I thank the member for Theodore who gave an illuminating explanation about the sexes of avocados in his second reading contribution. Thank you, member for Theodore.

Certainty is the key for these businesses. It has been lacking for well over a decade now. This bill addresses it, but only in part. The bill could be made perfect if the amendment moved by the member for Bonney were supported. It would provide certainty for these family businesses and also the broader industry. Remember that it is not just the participants in the industry who need certainty but also those businesses that are ancillary to it and those that do research in it. They need to be able to plan and know with certainty that they have a future on the land that they are working on now. I would urge everyone to support the commonsense amendment moved by the member for Bonney.

Division: Question put—That the amendment be agreed to.

AYES, 36:

LNP, 32—Bates, Bennett, Bleijie, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Millar, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

KAP, 3—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

PHON, 1—Andrew.

NOES, 49:

ALP, 47—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

Grn, 2—Berkman, MacMahon.

Pairs: McMillan, Mickelberg; Skelton, Langbroek.

Resolved in the negative.


Non-government amendment (Mr O'Connor) negatived.

Clause 25, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 26 to 64, as read, agreed to.

Schedule, as read, agreed to.

Third Reading

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (3.30 pm): I move—


That the bill be now read a third time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a third time.

Long Title

 **Hon. MAJ SCANLON** (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (3.30 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.

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 11 May (see p. 1037).

Second Reading

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.30 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I would like to acknowledge the work of the Health and Environment Committee in considering the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I would also like to thank the many individuals and organisations in Queensland and across the country who assisted the committee's inquiry and participated in consultation on the bill.

On 1 July 2022, the committee tabled its report on the bill which contains two recommendations. The committee's first recommendation is that the bill be passed. The committee's second recommendation is that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services undertake not to commence certain amendments in the bill about health service advertising until the independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery is complete and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency publishes updated guidelines and educational materials on health service advertising.

I table the government's response to the committee report. The government accepts the committee's recommendations in principle. I will say more about this shortly.

Tabled paper: Health and Environment Committee: Report No. 21, 57th Parliament—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response [\[1640\]](#).

The bill contains the second stage of amendments to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The amendments were approved by all Australian health ministers in February 2022 following extensive policy development, legislative drafting and consultation.

Before turning to the specifics of the bill and the committee's report, I would like to acknowledge the significance of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the health professions and the importance of ensuring that it remains up to date and fit for purpose. Over a decade ago, state and territory governments embarked on a historic and ambitious agenda to establish a unified national scheme for the registration and accreditation of Australia's health professions. These efforts culminated in the adoption of the national law by all states and territories in 2009 and 2010.

Today, the national scheme is well established and its benefits are widely acknowledged. The scheme supports world-class professional education and training and ensures that all health practitioners, regardless of where they are registered in Australia, are held to the same high professional standards and obligations. It provides fair and transparent processes for identifying and resolving concerns about practitioner conduct, health and performance. It includes crucial public protections including provisions that restrict the use of professional titles and prohibit business practices that could compromise clinical independence and patient care.

Like any complex scheme, the national law must be kept up to date so that it can continue to meet its objectives. The bill amends the national law to implement a broad range of updates and reforms to the national scheme. The amendments build on previous reforms in 2017 and 2018.

The central aim of the bill is to strengthen public safety and confidence in health services provided by registered health practitioners. This will be accomplished through a range of measures including amendments that will refocus the guiding principles and objectives of the national law and provide regulators with new tools to proactively identify and respond to risks. The bill amends the guiding principles of the national law to make public safety and confidence the paramount consideration in administering the law.

The new paramount guiding principle acknowledges that community confidence in the health professions is important to achieving good health outcomes. It will set a clear expectation for all national scheme entities to place public safety and public confidence foremost in all decisions and actions under the national law. This will encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation across all aspects of the national scheme.

In keeping with the new paramount principle, the bill also inserts a separate guiding principle and objective to support cultural safety and positive health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The new principle and objective will set clear expectations for the national scheme to foster a culturally safe and respectful health workforce that is responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their health. This amendment is an important step towards national health equity and aligns with Queensland's commitment to improving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

While the vast majority of registered health practitioners practise safely, there will always be those who fail to live up to their professional obligations and may place patients and the public at risk. The bill includes new powers that will assist regulators to identify potential risks and take proactive steps to protect the public from harm, while continuing to provide procedural fairness to practitioners.

Under amendments in the bill, a national board will be able to notify a practitioner's employer or associates during an investigation if it reasonably believes the practitioner poses a serious risk of harm to persons or the public. This power, which is already available to the Health Ombudsman in Queensland, will ensure that national boards can alert employers and other relevant persons as soon as possible so they can take immediate steps to mitigate risks and reduce harm.

In exceptional circumstances, the Health Ombudsman or Ahpra will also have the power to issue a public statement to alert the community to serious public health risks. For example, if an investigation revealed a practitioner failed to follow sterilisation procedures and may have exposed patients to a serious communicable disease, the Health Ombudsman or Ahpra would be able to notify the community of the potential health risk while also undertaking disciplinary proceedings against the practitioner.

As the committee noted in its report, issuing a public statement is a powerful regulatory response and must be exercised cautiously to avoid unfairly damaging a practitioner's professional reputation. For this reason, the bill defines this power narrowly and includes important protections. A public statement can only be made about a practitioner who is under investigation or subject to disciplinary proceedings or who is reasonably suspected of contravening a relevant provision of the national law.

Also, a public statement can only be made if the practitioner's behaviour poses an objectively serious risk to persons. Further, the regulator must reasonably believe that issuing a public statement is necessary to protect public health or safety. Before a public statement can be issued, a practitioner is entitled to a show cause process and the opportunity to seek urgent relief from a court or tribunal.

Another key public protection measure in the bill is the new power for Ahpra and the national boards to issue interim prohibition orders to unregistered practitioners. In Queensland, the Health Ombudsman already has this power and will continue to be responsible for issuing an interim prohibition order in most instances. However, there may be cases where it is appropriate for Ahpra to issue an interim prohibition order to protect the public.

Continuing the theme of public protection, the bill includes amendments to improve the regulation of health service advertising under the national law. To protect patients' ability to make informed choices about their care, the national law restricts how health services can be advertised. It bans advertisements that are false, misleading or deceptive, create an unreasonable expectation of beneficial treatment, include improper inducements or encourage unnecessary health services. To strengthen these important health consumer protections, the bill increases the maximum penalties for persons who breach advertising restrictions from \$5,000 to \$60,000 for individuals and from \$10,000 to \$120,000 for bodies corporate.

The national law also includes a ban on the use of patient testimonials to advertise health services, regardless of whether the testimonial is truthful or accurate. The bill as introduced removes this ban, with the effect of regulating testimonials the same way and with the same consumer protections as all other health service advertising. During the committee's inquiry, stakeholders raised concerns about advertising for cosmetic surgery, including the potential for fake or misleading testimonials to improperly influence vulnerable people into choosing a medical practitioner or procedure based on unreliable or incorrect information.

The committee recommended waiting to commence the testimonial amendments until after an independent review into the regulation of cosmetic surgery was completed and any accompanying guidelines and educational material were published. The independent review was commissioned by Ahpra and the Medical Board of Australia and on 1 September 2022, its findings and recommendations were released. Some of the findings in the review mirrored the concerns about testimonials raised by stakeholders during the committee process.

All Australian health ministers have unanimously agreed to take urgent action to increase protections for people considering or undergoing cosmetic procedures. This includes: endorsing Ahpra and the Medical Board to crack down on misleading advertising in the cosmetic sector; strengthening regulatory guidance and complaints mechanisms; and credentialling providers of cosmetic procedures. Ministers have also agreed to expedite legislation to ensure that anyone calling themselves a cosmetic surgeon has the requisite training and qualifications.

To ensure amendments to advertising laws are consistent with these future actions and reforms, I will be moving amendments during consideration in detail to withdraw the provisions of the bill removing the blanket ban on testimonials. The issue of patient testimonials will be reviewed as part of the wider measures to improve safety in the cosmetic sector. This also addresses the substance of the committee's second recommendation in its report on the bill. My state, territory and federal counterparts support this change to the bill, which was endorsed at the health ministers' meeting on 2 September 2022.

In addition to the reforms I have already mentioned, the bill includes a range of other measures to enhance public safety and confidence under the national scheme. For example, the bill implements a recommendation of the Health Ombudsman to require registered health practitioners to notify national boards if they are charged or convicted with a scheduled medicine offence. While the bill's central focus is to enhance public safety and confidence, it also includes many reforms and improvements to other aspects of the national scheme.

Several reforms will be made to the process for registering health practitioners. One of these will allow national boards to withdraw a practitioner's registration if it was obtained through false or misleading information. This will avoid the need to refer these matters to a responsible tribunal, which is costly and time-consuming, and will ensure the integrity of the registration process. The decision to withdraw a practitioner's registration will be appealable to a responsible tribunal. National boards will also have the flexibility to accept undertakings from practitioners as part of the registration process, which will provide an alternative to imposing conditions on a practitioner's registration in appropriate circumstances.

The bill will also improve the processes by which Ahpra and the national boards manage notifications about registered health practitioners. National boards will be able to obtain relevant records and information during the early stages of assessing a notification. This will allow many matters to be resolved quickly and without costly investigations and proceedings. Also, national boards will no longer be required to refer matters to a tribunal when there is no public interest in doing so, which will allow resources to be redirected to higher-risk matters. Further, national boards will have more flexibility to coordinate the management of notifications with other entities that have oversight of registered health practitioners, which will improve efficiency and regulatory outcomes.

The bill will also enable the ministerial council to delegate its power to approve registration standards to an appropriate entity, provided the power is not further delegated and remains subject to ministerial council oversight. This is expected to reduce the time taken to approve routine updates and other necessary changes to registration standards.

To ensure Queensland's co-regulatory arrangements continue to operate effectively, the bill includes amendments to the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and modifies how some of the national law reforms will apply in Queensland. These amendments are necessary to ensure the amendments to the national law will operate as intended under Queensland's co-regulatory framework.

In closing, the national scheme provides the foundation for the safe and effective regulation of Australia's health professions. It is integral to delivering positive health outcomes and ensuring that our nation's health system remains among the best in the world. Over the years the national scheme has undergone significant review and reform. This bill builds on these efforts, ensuring the scheme remains able to meet new challenges and continues to place patients and public protection at the forefront of regulatory decisions.

Reforms to national scheme legislation do not happen easily. The reform process has required a tremendous amount of work by health departments, regulators and jurisdictional officers to develop and shape the reforms in this bill over a period of many years. It has also required extensive and ongoing engagement with health sector stakeholders and the broader public. Given that much of this work has occurred during the most challenging public health crisis of our lifetime, it is a further testament to the dedication and persistence of all those who have contributed to this historic process of reform. Once again I extend my sincere appreciation to all Australian health ministers for their commitment to improving the national scheme and the spirit with which they have approached these reforms.

Finally, I wish to acknowledge the great debt we owe to our nation's registered health practitioners, who have not only stepped up during the pandemic but also work tirelessly every day to improve the health and lives of people across our community. I commend the bill to the House.



Ms BATES (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (3.43 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. Speaking to this bill gives me another opportunity to place on the public record my sincere and heartfelt thankyou to all of our health practitioners across Queensland. Be they doctors, be they nurses, be they paramedics, be they allied health professionals, be they employees in our public health system, be they clinicians in privately-run facilities or be they professionals who run their own businesses, they have shouldered an immense burden in recent years and for some it has taken an immense toll. Our health system in Queensland is under enormous strain, and it is these people who have held it all together. They will not

let our health system fall; they will hold it up. We all owe them our gratitude for that. The adversity of the pandemic as we once knew it has now shifted. Our health system remains under extreme pressure. So too are the health practitioners who hold that health system up each and every day. It is a pressure the likes of which we have never seen.

The reasons for that strain, that pressure and that stress is well documented. I have spoken about the causes of those pressures and stressors each and every day for years now. Much of it stems from this government's incompetence, and I will not stop talking about that. I will not stop speaking about those pressures and the causes of them because I want to be a voice for my colleagues on the front line who face distress and the fallout of what it actually means to work through a health crisis each and every time they walk in the front door of their workplace. To those professionals I say: I want you to know that my colleagues and I in the LNP hear you, we see you, we respect you and we admire you. A life working as a healthcare practitioner is not for everyone, and that is okay. It is a vocation. It is a calling to be there as new life is welcomed onto this earth, to be there as life leaves it and all of the trials and tribulations in between.

I want to put on record my respect for my nursing and medical colleagues—unlike those opposite, who do not understand what it is like when you welcome a new life onto this earth and when you are the person holding the hand of someone exiting this life. They are the trials and tribulations that nurses and doctors deal with every single day. Our health professionals are there with us on our best days and they are there with us on our worst. Before being elected to public office, health care was my life working as a registered nurse and then managing hospitals. That vocation brought me an incredible sense of fulfilment, as I know it does to many thousands of clinicians right across our great state, so speaking to legislation which deals directly with the framework which our health practitioners operate under is of great personal interest to me. It is also of great interest given my role as shadow minister for health and ambulance services, a role in which I am immensely proud to serve.

The bill amends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as agreed by Australian health ministers earlier this year. The bill also makes related amendments to the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and local modifications to national law amendments so they are effectively able to be enforced in Queensland. The national scheme ensures that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. It allows health practitioners to have a single registration recognised anywhere in Australia and provides for uniform standards for the registration of health practitioners and the accreditation of health education providers. That system is necessary, and without it Australians would not have access to the high standard of care to which we are all accustomed.

Queensland is a co-regulatory jurisdiction under the national law. In most other jurisdictions notifications about a registered health practitioner's health, conduct or performance are dealt with exclusively by Ahpra and national boards. Queensland's co-regulatory model means there are two entities, the Office of the Health Ombudsman and Ahpra, which deal with notifications about a registered health practitioner's health, conduct or performance. These notifications are referred to as complaints under the Health Ombudsman Act.

The LNP will not oppose the passing of this bill; however, the LNP will vote against key clauses which stakeholders have raised concerns about relating to natural justice. I will speak directly to those concerns in more detail a little later in my contribution.

The opposition recognises the importance of legislation which ensures health professionals in our state are held to the highest standards. This is primarily what this legislation goes to: the professional standards of those in the health industry here in Queensland and therein patient safety. As an opposition, we will always treat those two matters with the utmost respect and so should all of those in this House. It is a given that Queenslanders should have complete confidence in the health practitioners working across this state.

A fair and robust framework should exist to ensure patients are protected and safe when they are in the care of a clinician. It is therefore proper that these practitioners are appropriately regulated and scrutinised. The right checks and balances must exist across the sector to ensure those working in the sector are beyond reproach. We know that is the case for the vast majority—in fact the overwhelming majority—of health practitioners here in Queensland. They do the right thing. Their conduct is exemplary and the care for their patients is always at the front of their mind.

From speaking firsthand with friends and colleagues in the industry, I know they have no issue with this level of scrutiny. The reason being that their practice is safe, careful and meticulous. However, for whatever reason, a very small minority of the health workforce choose to do the wrong thing from

time to time, and when it happens it is devastating. I am not talking about the potential for known complications or one-off isolated incidents where an adverse outcome may be unavoidable. What I am talking about are trends of poor behaviour by a clinician or trends of poor patient outcomes from the one individual practitioner. Devastatingly, it does happen. When it does, authorities need to deal with the bad apples to ensure patient safety. It is a must, and they must also act to protect the reputation of all those practitioners who do the right thing.

The recent revelations out of the Mackay Base Hospital and the shocking instances of patient harm show us why this is necessary. In fact, it is very timely that this chamber debates this bill while the fallout from the Mackay Base Hospital disaster is still unfolding. Those cases in Mackay are tragedies, and I do not use that word lightly. They are tragedies in the truest form of the word: mothers losing their beautiful babies; young women—women in their 20s, no less—maimed to the point where it is no longer possible for them to have children; and allegations of cancers being missed resulting in premature death. These are tragedies and are unspeakable for those involved. The failures out of the obstetrics and gynaecology department as well as the urology department are a blight on our health system. They will not easily be forgotten by the people of Mackay and, sadly, despite being warned about the problems at hand, the minister failed to act.

Mr HARPER: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. The member for Mudgeeraba is going on a political tirade. She needs to bring her speech back to the elements of the bill, which is the national practitioners—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Member for Thuringowa, you have made your point. Member for Mudgeeraba, I am mindful of relevance. I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

Ms BATES: In reference to the long title of the bill, this bill amends the Health Ombudsman Act and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act. These amendments strengthen public protection and increase public confidence in health services provided by practitioners registered under the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme. That is what I am talking about. We raised it in parliament, we raised it in the media and we raised it with the minister when we directly wrote to her and requested that a broader review take place. She never replied. She knew but she did not act. She knew and she did nothing. To a degree, so too—

Mrs D'ATH: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The member is going directly back to the same issue on which you have just pulled her up. This is not relevant to the bill. The bill talks about the regulatory bodies, but the member is straying and talking about my role as the minister. That is not part of this bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Mudgeeraba, I am mindful of the explanation you gave previously about relevance to the bill. I do take the Leader of the House's point regarding commentary on the minister. I invite you please to be relevant to the bill.

Ms BATES: Thank you. To a degree, the people who failed were the agencies who were there to protect people—the very agencies we are talking about in this bill, the Health Ombudsman and Ahpra. For whatever reason here in Queensland, I do not believe that these agencies—Ahpra and the Health Ombudsman—are striking the right balance. They are not striking the right balance between ensuring patient safety by taking necessary action for those practitioners who do wrong; nor are they weeding out complaints which are vexatious or unfounded in a timely manner. My fear with this bill is that the government is not getting any closer to striking the right balance. The priorities are not quite right.

I mentioned earlier that the LNP have concerns with the natural justice components of the bill, specifically related to amendments to the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. Clause 20 and clauses 100 to 102 of the bill deal with these provisions. Stakeholders from across the sector have raised concerns with natural justice being subverted due to the proposed amendments to the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law. The opposition's primary concern is that the bill as it stands will allow for a public statement to be issued against a practitioner prior to a proper investigation being completed into the alleged misconduct of the practitioner. We believe that no such statement should be made without a comprehensive investigation being conducted and finalised. What is more, the agency making the statement only has to provide the practitioner with a day's notice before the statement is made.

In their submission to the committee, the Australian Medical Association said—

The AMA does not support the Medical Board or Ahpra being able to issue a public warning before a tribunal has completed its actions. To do so would imply guilt and is likely to ruin a practitioner's reputation. A public warning is a severe and non-retractable step and should be undertaken only after a health practitioner has been shown to have breached a code of conduct or convicted of a relevant offence.

I know of clinicians—both nurses and doctors—who have had sanctions put on them whilst there was a current investigation on foot. It did not matter to Ahpra; it did not matter that after that investigation was completed there was no cause to be shown. Some of those clinicians committed suicide. I will leave it at that.

The AMA are not the only group with reservations about this. The Australian Dental Association of Queensland, Speech Pathology Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, the Australian Paramedics Association, the Australian Association of Psychologists, the Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australian College of Surgeons all expressed their concerns. That is some list. The crux of the issue is this: it could result in practitioners being inadvertently penalised for complaints which are later proven to be vexatious or unsubstantiated. Again, I know people who had vexatious complaints which were unsubstantiated and had black marks on their name on Ahpra and they are still trying to get their names cleared. If this situation were to arise, it could do untold professional, reputational and emotional damage to the practitioner involved. A public statement is not the only mechanism which the Health Ombudsman or Ahpra have at their disposal to uphold safety. There are other ways.

However, I do wish to be clear about this. Investigations into misconduct or malpractice which are substantiated require swift action by the relevant agency. This of course should also include a public statement being issued if that is what the regulator believes to be the right steps, but let that happen once the allegations are proven. Let natural justice run its course. I am talking about vexatious and false complaints—not people who have obviously performed malpractice. As the bill stands, given the concerns raised by countless stakeholders through the committee process, the LNP believe that clause 20 and clauses 100 to 102 do not strike the right balance and as such the LNP will be voting against those clauses.

When I talk about striking the right balance between patient safety and clinician conduct, I want to use a particular case to highlight the failures of how this legislative framework currently operates. Dr William Braun was referred to the Office of the Health Ombudsman following allegations of misconduct and malpractice. There were a swathe of complaints from doctors who had witnessed what they believed was inappropriate conduct. Many of his patients also bravely came forward with complaints. Their lives had been turned upside down as a result of surgeries which went wrong. Public reports show the allegations made against Dr Braun to the Office of the Health Ombudsman were made by the executive director of medical services at Metro North HHS no less. They detailed concerns about Dr Braun's clinical performance and post-operative care as well as inappropriate conduct 'including, but not limited to bullying and sexual harassment'.

I mentioned bad apples earlier. Dr William Braun is one of them. I raised this very issue of Dr Braun's practice in this parliament years ago now, and I did it in the public interest because people had a right to know. Here is the kicker in this sorry story and it goes right to the heart of this bill. The Health Ombudsman had their case kicked out of both the Supreme Court and the Court of Appeal because the Health Ombudsman failed to meet their own deadline in investigating the case, for which they have a statutory obligation. Let me repeat that: they failed to meet their own deadline and the case was thrown out. The Health Ombudsman must have thought they had a decent case against Dr Braun because they would not have investigated the matter if they did not. They also would not have tried to overturn the Supreme Court's decision in the Court of Appeal and attempted to save the case that ultimately proved fruitless.

When I talk about the government failing to strike the right balance in this bill, in my mind there is no clearer example. On one hand we have the government legislating for the Health Ombudsman to name and shame practitioners before an investigation into them is even finalised, and that is what we are seeing in this bill, and on the other hand you have a case which should have been a lay-down misere against a dodgy doctor, William Braun. Yet, the Health Ombudsman could not even meet its own legislated deadline, so Dr Braun's lawyers get the case chucked out of the court not once, but twice. When you look at all of this in context, when you boil it all down, are the government's priorities right? Is the system working like it should be? There are questions the health minister really has to answer and if she answered them honestly, she would give an emphatic no.

My heart goes out to all of those patients of William Braun. They are still contacting me. I feel absolutely devastated for them and I say that today because I want that on the public record. I asked the Office of the Health Ombudsman about this in estimates earlier this year. I asked how this could ever happen; how could this failure have occurred? The answer I got: 'Human error.' That is not good enough. It is not good enough because it is a slap in the face to those doctors who mustered up the

courage to call out a colleague for inappropriate conduct, and it is not good enough for those poor patients who were badly wronged by Dr Braun. They live with the repercussions every single day. That is just one case, just one example.

This is what I am talking about when I say the government is not striking the right balance. It is plain to see it is not. I am not sure what the minister's priorities are, but I would be fixing the obvious shortcomings of the Office of the Health Ombudsman before legislating new provisions like we are seeing today. How is this for a start, minister: get your own house in order first and focus on getting the known bad apples prosecuted because what we have seen with the William Braun fiasco is just not on.

I flagged earlier in my contribution that the LNP holds some serious concerns about the removal of the prohibition on testimonials. My colleagues and I fear that lifting this ban may be to the detriment of patients across Queensland. Based on the amendments tabled by the minister, the decision to back away from lifting the prohibition on testimonials is a sensible one. Both in the public discourse and through the committee's review, there was an acknowledgement that Ahpra and the Health Ombudsman are routinely unable to monitor and penalise unscrupulous operators and clinicians who breach testimonial advertising conditions.

In practice what does this mean? It means that under the law, as it currently stands, practitioners flouting the ban on testimonials are often left unpunished by Ahpra and the OHO. A broad cross-section of stakeholders almost unanimously recognised that removing the provisions of testimonial advertising will not lead to improved patient outcomes. If these amendments had not been moved, it could in fact lead to worsened patient outcomes, given the difficulty regulatory agencies have in enforcing the law as it stands now. This is particularly relevant in the cosmetic medicine industry where there have been a number of well-publicised media stories where patients have suffered as a result of poor clinical practice.

The Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons certainly believe lifting the ban was not a good idea. Their president, Dr Robert Sheen, said in their written submission that—

We consider that any weakening of restrictions around testimonials in advertising will contribute to a culture of misinformation and deceit that is already plaguing the poorly regulated cosmetic surgery sector and contributing to patient harm.

The Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons raised the same concern. Their president, Dr Dan Kennedy, wrote—

There are plenty of cases demonstrating the risks associated with attracting patients to a medical practice via testimonials. I have not seen any evidence that testimonials drive improved patient outcomes.

Many other stakeholders shared those views. It is important to note that whilst this bill was before the committee Ahpra was running a review titled 'Independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery'. That review was also assessing the suitability of advertising and testimonials in the sector. Stakeholders who made submissions to the Health and Environment Committee noted that removing the prohibition of testimonials in this legislation while the review was underway would be premature. I concur with those views.

The committee's second recommendation in its report was that the minister provide an undertaking during the second reading debate to not commence the provisions repealing the prohibition on testimonials in health service advertising until the completion of the independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery, and the accompanying guidelines and educational material have been published. The final report by Ahpra has been published and it says that practitioners should be discouraged from using testimonials. That report says that discouraging testimonials should occur until all the recommendations of the independent review have been progressed. Having only been released in the last month or so, we are a long way from seeing those recommendations implemented. Based on the overwhelming feedback from stakeholders and the finding from Ahpra's independent review, the LNP would have voted against the removal of the prohibition on testimonials if it had not been amended.

Whilst on my feet, I want to briefly touch on the proposed amendments that an individual practitioner's registration will require public confidence in the safety of services provided. Many MPs will probably have received emails from a campaign to this effect, as I did. It should be noted that no industry stakeholder really raised this as a substantive issue throughout the committee process. I appreciate that the notion of public confidence and the potential conflicts which could arise did feature in correspondence from some submitters, but this was not in the same context as the email campaign suggested. While I do not agree with many of the views shared as part of this campaign, there are some reasonable questions which the minister should answer around the vagaries of these proposed


provisions of the bill. I think that it is fair for the minister to explain that the proposed amendments will not lead to individual health practitioners being in conflict with their code of conduct or common law obligations to individual patients.


To round out my contribution, I want to say this: the absolute vast majority of our clinicians do the right thing, and they do the right thing day in and day out. They care for the patients meticulously and they conduct themselves professionally. They are to be commended for that. However, as I have spoken about at great length, when a bad apple is identified, we need the right laws in place to protect patients. Patient safety is paramount and, as parliamentarians, we should do all we can to protect patients in this state from those who stray from their obligations as health practitioners. As members of this House, it is incumbent on us to ensure that the right balance is struck between protecting patients and ensuring that the health practitioner workforce is able to appropriately undertake their job. I do not believe that this bill strikes that balance. To the minister I say this: let's get some of the issues in your own backyard sorted out before embarking on some of the changes outlined in this bill.

Debate, on motion of Ms Bates, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Error in Division

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (4.07 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege. The previous vote for the government was 47, not 48, and I would like to correct the record, thank you.


 **Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Lister): In accordance with advice from the Chief Government Whip, I note the error relates to division No. 3 earlier today. The division was on the member for Bonney's proposed amendment to a bill. The error does not affect the outcome of the vote, however the record needs to be corrected. The result of the division was in fact ayes—36; noes—49. In accordance with standing order 106(11), I have instructed the Clerk to amend the *Record of Proceedings*.

HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr HARPER** (Thuringowa—ALP) (4.08 pm): I rise to support the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is always interesting to follow the member for Mudgeeraba. I often say, 'Why do I have to follow her?' I would say that perhaps the question for the member for Mudgeeraba is why would we not strengthen public safety and confidence? That is at the very core of this bill, and her contribution, as usual, turned into a political attack, not relevant to the bill.

From the outset—and I often say this at the end—I want to thank my fellow committee members and the secretariat for their contribution and work on not just this bill but all bills. They are often a quick add at the very end of the speech. I thank everyone for their work; it is appreciated. We have a good working relationship, one that I certainly value.

The Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was referred to our committee on 11 May 2022. During the examination of the bill the committee invited submissions, and we received 40. We held public briefings and we had written advice from Queensland Health in response to matters raised in the submissions.

The objectives of the bill are: to amend the health practitioner national law as agreed by the Australian health ministers on 18 February 2022 to strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services, which as I just said is at the very core of this bill; to improve the governance of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals; and to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the national scheme. Key reforms of the bill include: refocusing the objectives and guiding principles of the national law to make public safety and confidence paramount considerations and to recognise the national scheme's role for ensuring the development of a culturally safe and respectful health workforce for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; introducing a power for national regulators to issue interim prohibition orders to prohibit or restrict unregistered practitioners from providing health services or using protected titles, similar to the power already given to the Health Ombudsman in Queensland; introducing a power for the Health Ombudsman and national

regulators such as Ahpra to issue public statements about persons whose conduct poses a serious risk to public health and safety—and I will discuss that a little further in my contribution—removing barriers to information sharing to protect the public and enable more efficient and appropriate resolution of notifications or complaints; and improving processes by which national boards make registration decisions and manage health, conduct and performance issues.

Our committee recommended that the bill be passed. The committee also recommended that the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services delays the commencement of provisions to remove the current prohibition on the use of testimonials in advertising for health services until the completion of the independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery. As the minister said, that would enable Ahpra and the national boards to consider the outcomes of the review and develop association guidelines and educational material on the appropriate use of testimonials in health service advertising. On this point, I raise the following points. Throughout the course of the committee's inquiry we heard of significant stakeholder concern regarding the national law's proposal to allow for the restricted use of testimonial advertising in relation to cosmetic surgery services. As a consequence of the significant stakeholder feedback, the Health and Environment Committee recommended that the minister await the conclusion of that review. I note the minister's advice that after the release of that review, there was unanimous agreement from all Australian health ministers to withdraw the relevant provisions from the bill so that further consideration of that matter could occur. I acknowledge and thank the minister for her willingness to listen to our committee and I look forward to this important matter being examined further.

I want to now talk briefly to an element of the bill with regard to public statements. The bill amends the national law and Health Ombudsman Act to provide that Ahpra and national boards or the Health Ombudsman may issue public statements about a person in the following circumstances: that the regulator reasonably believes the person has contravened a relevant provision such as use of protected title, unprofessional conduct or professional misconduct; the person is the subject of investigations or disciplinary proceedings; and the person's conduct poses a serious risk to public health and safety.

A decision to issue a public statement would be subject to a show cause process and subject to appeal to a responsible tribunal. This is something the member for Mudgeeraba did not talk about in her contribution. The bill provides that no liability is incurred by Ahpra, a national board or the Health Ombudsman in making a public statement in good faith. In addition, the bill provides that Ahpra, a national board or the Health Ombudsman must revoke a public statement if they are satisfied that the grounds on which the statement was made no longer exist or did not exist at the time the statement was issued. It is critical to allow regulators to warn the public about risks posed by a person under investigation or disciplinary proceedings to protect remote and isolated workforces and vulnerable communities.

Queensland Health stated that allowing the Health Ombudsman, Ahpra and the national boards to issue a public statement will enhance public protection and increase public trust in health services by increasing visibility of actions taken against practitioners and unregistered individuals. The committee notes significant concerns raised by submitters about the impact that issuing a public statement may have on a practitioner, including reputational damage, potential loss of income and employment, and the impact on the practitioner's mental health and wellbeing.

However, on balance, the committee considers that the powers are appropriate and will assist Ahpra, the national boards and the Health Ombudsman in protecting and promoting the health and safety of the public. In reaching this view, the committee noted that the threshold for using the power is high. The committee also noted the undertakings provided by both Ahpra and the Health Ombudsman to use the power to issue public statements judiciously in the small number of circumstances where issuing such a statement is necessary to protect the public from people who pose, again, a serious risk to the health and safety of Queenslanders.

As I stated at the beginning of my contribution, that is the core of the bill; that is the main part of the bill. Again, my question to the member for Mudgeeraba is: why would we not strengthen regulators to make sure that public safety is paramount?



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (4.16 pm): I, too, rise to make a brief contribution in respect of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The member for Thuringowa raises an interesting point because there is a fine line between the need to strengthen powers in regard to public safety and also the unchecked or unmeasured power of control that is often given to organisations. One of the issues that we discussed at length throughout the committee process was the extent of those powers and who should wield them. During the hearings there were

presentations around the timeliness of public disclosures or public statements regarding the conduct and performance of health professionals. That was not just in respect of doctors; it covered registered nurses and many other areas of allied health.

Having a robust system in place is important, but equally important is natural justice. In that context, we received a number of submissions from medical associations. I note that while they were not a submitter to the process, the Australian Medical Network have certainly spoken since and they have raised some concerns. I believe the amendments to be moved by the member for Mudgeeraba are reasonable because it is important that we protect not just the general public but also those who help and serve the general public. We need to ensure there are adequate protections in place for those people.

At the outset, I want to acknowledge the fact that all our health systems are under enormous pressure, as are our allied health workers, the many doctors and general practitioners who provide services through the PHN and also the thousands of employees of Queensland health and hospital services who work in collaboration with private health practices to provide medical care across the state.

It would be errant of me not to, at the outset, say thankyou to all of those people who make an incredible contribution. I think it is important to understand and provide a bit of context when discussing the work and the role of the Office of the Health Ombudsman. They carry a huge burden of responsibility for the people of Queensland and for the most part—I am not a professional so it is difficult for me to judge—from my observations, they undertake most of their work fairly diligently and they follow the processes that are outlined by the government of the day and by this parliament.

My frustration, however, is that they report almost exclusively to the minister and to the Health and Environment Committee. There are blanket provisions under the standing orders and further resolutions that make it difficult sometimes for members of parliament to speak openly about some of the investigations that are ongoing. Some would argue that maybe that is a good thing, that it is a good safeguard; others would argue that that is not always necessarily in the public interest. I believe that as a parliament it is important that we continue to work to improve our committee structures. We are very careful around the edicts of the standing orders and the use of public and private meetings, because our role is to get the best outcome for all Queenslanders.

I turn to the issue of testimonial advertising. I have to say that I am pleased with the amendments that have been foreshadowed by the Minister for Health with regard to maintaining the prohibition on testimonial advertising. It is a very complex issue. Through the course of the public hearings and some of the public and private briefings, we heard testimony from a range of service providers. Sadly, it is a little bit like the debate that we perhaps had in this House a few years ago with respect to Uber. I think there was a desire to protect the taxi industry at one point and to exercise a sovereign right as a government to restrict renegade or disruptive media and services. Without casting judgement as to whether it was a good or a bad thing, I think the fact is that that disruption saw significant change in the transport industry and it was difficult for the government to exercise any control over it.

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

An opposition member interjected.

Mr FURNER: My other point of order is: when I am on my feet making a point of order—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Lister): Minister, that is enough, thank you. I have taken your point of order. Please resume your seat. Member for Southport, can you offer any substantiation as to the relevance of what you are speaking about to the long title of the bill? I am asking that in making a ruling on the point of order.

Mr MOLHOEK: I was using that as an example of disruptive media. I was about to talk about the impact of social media in respect of testimonial advertising and some of the challenges that were brought to the committee.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is relevant. Carry on, please.

Mr FURNER: Mr Deputy Speaker, in taking a point of order I raised two matters in relation to the standing orders. I thank the member for taking his seat. The other matter was in relation to the member not taking his seat, which is under the standing orders.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have dealt with the matter, Minister. Please resume your seat unless you have a further point of order.

Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Ferny Grove, when I am in the process of dealing with a point of order, which happened to be yours, you will not speak across me and you will not converse with members across the chamber. I warn you under the standing orders.


Mr Fumer interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Member for Ferny Grove, I will not take commentary on my ruling, especially when I have just warned you for doing so. You may leave the chamber for one hour under standing order 253.

Whereupon the honourable member for Ferny Grove withdrew from the chamber at 4.24 pm.

Mr MOLHOEK: I will move forward on the point I was getting to. Disruptive media is just that: it is disruptive. Maintaining a prohibition on testimonial advertising is difficult, given the power and reach of social media and given the fact that there are many organisations, agencies or practices that will absolutely use social media as a form of advertising, promoting or providing testimonials around their practices. Not all of that testimonial commentary comes from within Queensland or Australia; it actually comes from other parts of the world. It is particularly concerning when you start to look at issues around plastic surgery and body enhancement and the pressures that come as a result of some of that advertising and marketing in terms of how it influences body image and the self-confidence and self-esteem of young people.

I am pleased that we will be seeking to maintain a prohibition on that sort of testimonial advertising, but I flag that it will be challenging and difficult for medical practitioners and the industry to be held accountable for some of those forms of advertising and marketing.

 **Ms PEASE** (Lytton—ALP) (4.26 pm): I rise to speak to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I acknowledge the chair of the Health and Environment Committee, the member for Thuringowa, Aaron Harper, for his work, together with my colleagues on the committee for the participation and the hard work that went into the review of this bill. I also acknowledge the secretariat and thank them for their hard work on this bill. I also acknowledge the 40 submitters and the departments and witnesses who attended our public committee hearings. I thank them all for engaging in the committee system and appreciate their expertise, passion and knowledge in this space. Like my colleagues before me, I acknowledge the great work of the health workers across the system and thank them for their dedication and professionalism under very difficult circumstances, particularly during the COVID pandemic. I acknowledge their great work and thank them for their continued efforts.

Throughout the course of the inquiry the committee heard significant stakeholder concerns regarding the national law's proposal to allow for the restricted use of testimonial advertising in relation to cosmetic surgery services. As a consequence of this significant stakeholder feedback, the Health and Environment Committee did recommend in our report that the minister await the conclusion of the independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery. I note the minister's advice that after the release of that review there was unanimous agreement from all Australian health ministers to withdraw the relevant provisions from the bill so that further consideration of this matter could occur. That is really great news, and it is a good indication of a government that listens. We listened to the concerns of the stakeholders that participated in the committee process. That is another great indication that our committee process does work. I thank the minister for her willingness to listen to our committee, and I look forward to this important matter being examined further.

When the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals commenced, Australian health ministers committed to continually review the scheme to ensure it remains up to date and fit for purpose. The reviews in the bill build on earlier amendments to the national law to ensure the national scheme continues to meet its objectives. Many of the reforms were recommended following the independent review of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals. Other reforms in the bill are based on subsequent reviews of the national scheme's governance and accreditation systems or address other priority issues identified by health ministers. Broadly, the reforms will update and improve the regulation of Australian health professionals by strengthening public safety and confidence in the provision of health services, improving the governance of the national scheme and enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme.

The bill implements a wide range of reforms touching on many aspects of the national scheme. Key amendments to the national law to strengthen public safety and confidence in health services include making public protection and confidence paramount considerations in the law's administration; adding a new guiding principle and objective to support a culturally safe health workforce that is responsible to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples; empowering national boards to withdraw

a practitioner's registration if it was obtained by providing false or misleading information; empowering Ahpra and the national boards to issue interim prohibition orders to unregistered practitioners to mitigate serious risks to the public; mandating reporting of scheduled medicine offences; empowering Ahpra and the national boards to make a public statement about a person where there is a reasonable belief that the person poses a serious risk to others; broadening regulators' powers to disclose information to protect the public; and increase penalties for advertising offences.

To improve the governance, effectiveness and efficiency of the national scheme, the bill will enable national boards to refer matters to other entities following a preliminary assessment such as state health complaints entities like our OHO, medicines and poisons regulators or a state employer; expand the use of voluntary undertakings; enable the ministerial council to delegate its power to approve registration standards; and update the functions of Ahpra to reflect current practice.

As I said, the objectives of the bill are to amend the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, otherwise known as the national law, as agreed by Australian health ministers on 18 February 2022. These are sensible amendments to strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services, improve the governance of the national registration and accreditation scheme for the health profession under the national scheme, and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the national scheme. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (4.31 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. As set out in the explanatory notes, the bill amends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, the national law, and implements a range of reforms aimed at revising the regulation of Australia's health professions. According to the explanatory notes, the bill's main objectives are to strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services; improve the governance of the national scheme; and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the scheme. Key changes in the bill include a refocusing of the objectives and guiding principles of the national law to make public safety and confidence the paramount consideration in health care; the granting of new powers to the national regulator, Ahpra, including the power to prohibit or restrict practitioners who have been deregistered from providing health services or using protected titles; granting Ahpra the power to issue public statements about a person whose conduct it deems poses a serious risk to public health and safety; and introduces new processes by which national boards make decisions and manage health, conduct and performance issues.

Section 3A of the bill sets out the new guiding principles for health services in Queensland, including protection of the public and public confidence in the safety of services provided by registered health practitioners and students. This overturns centuries of medical ethics which has always held as its core principle that a doctor's loyalty must, first and foremost, be to the health and wellbeing of their individual patient. The bill's refocusing of the national law's objectives and guiding principles make public safety and confidence the primary consideration for health care in Australia. This will pose a significant risk to the health and safety of individual patients and adversely impact people's trust and confidence in the whole system. If a doctor can no longer provide advice based on his knowledge and understanding of an individual patient's particular health status or help them weigh up the relevant risks of a particular type of medical care, why bother going to a doctor for advice at all? People should just go to the government website to find out what the official line is for the week.

This bill grants the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, Ahpra, a set of extremely broad and coercive powers. Page 12 of the bill's explanatory notes state that—

... the Bill clarifies that the National Agency may do anything necessary or convenient for the effective and efficient operation of the National Scheme, within the scope of the National Law.

These powers are not only broad; they are virtually without limit. It will give Ahpra carte blanche pretty much to take whatever action it deems necessary or convenient to safeguard public safety and confidence. Throughout the whole bill there is this same use of broad, vague language where so-called objectives are never properly defined or limited in any way. As the Australian Doctors' Federation commented on page 3 of its submission—

Who defines what is necessary or convenient?

This is particularly relevant given several recent court cases where Ahpra's disciplinary measures were subsequently overturned as unwarranted. That will not be possible under the changes made in this bill. No court will be able to overturn Ahpra's decisions in the future if this bill passes, as the regulator will have been made the final arbiter for determining what is necessary when it comes to safeguarding public health and safety. This will greatly increase the risk of serious human rights abuses and

miscarriages of justice taking place in the future. The Australian Doctors' Federation also point out in its submission that the bill's use of broad and loosely worded objectives will interfere with the role of the Australian Medical Council, the AMC, which has always ensured high levels of public confidence in the Australian medical profession in the past.


I also oppose clauses 20 and 100 of this bill. Through these clauses, Ahpra is granted greatly expanded powers for publicly naming and shaming practitioners who it deems poses a risk to public safety. The bill provides no definition as to what those risks may be or exactly what guidelines of set criteria Ahpra must use in determining what does and does not pose a risk to public safety. This is particularly concerning given the bill grants the regulator disciplinary rights to name and shame practitioners before they have even been charged with an offence, let alone found guilty. Making public statements about a health practitioner being a risk to safety will have significant adverse impacts on the person's reputation and livelihood. Doing so before they have even been given a chance to defend themselves robs them of the presumption of innocence, natural justice and due process. It also takes away their human and civil right to practise their profession without political harassment or interference from the state. This is a very dangerous slippery slope for medical care in Queensland. There is a real danger here for these laws to be used as a political weapon for censoring and punishing those practitioners who refuse to toe the official line on anything.

The bar for stifling or demonising doctors who are willing to debate their alternative positions in public in good faith needs to be set very high. Such powers should only be exercised in strictly limited circumstances where evidence of objective patient harm can be demonstrated. Under the provisions of this bill, such limits are completely absent. The amendments, moreover, contain no right of reply for health professionals on evidence-based research and objective data, so the truth is no defence according to the provisions in this bill. There are also no clear avenues for appeal or redress in the bill for doctors unfairly targeted by Ahpra, even if they are subsequently cleared of all wrongdoing—another clear breach of health practitioners' human and civil rights.

These are significant and coercive powers that the government is proposing to grant a public health regulatory body over which it holds no jurisdiction or powers of oversight. There is a clear risk that these powers will be misused as a tool for suppressing and punishing dissenting voices within the health profession. At the very least, this authoritarian legislation will have the effect of chilling medical speech and suppressing science. Doctors should be free to engage in debate on the effectiveness of treatment options and to advise their patients honestly on any matter raised during a doctor-patient consultation. If doctors are not allowed to discuss alternative medical options with their patients, then the legal requirement for informed consent cannot be satisfied and the standard of care for patients will suffer.

Public confidence is fostered when people know that doctors are free to speak without threat or intimidation in accordance with their many codes of conduct, including the Hippocratic Oath, the Declaration of Geneva and the international code of ethics. These codes must be respected and so should a doctor's right to practise their profession without harassment or interference. I therefore strongly oppose the proposed amendments to clause 90AA. There must always be room for dissenting views and debate in a healthy and functioning democracy.

The state should not be inserting itself into the physician-patient relationship in this way, imposing its own views on doctors and shutting down debate on issues the state decides are off limits. It is important to note at this point that Ahpra is an unelected, bureaucratic agency which is answerable to no-one—as far as I can tell, anyway. Even the federal parliament appears to have no jurisdiction over it. Its decision-making processes and policies are therefore shrouded in secrecy and there is a complete lack of transparency or accountability around its various activities. In other words, it is a shadowy group operating as a monopoly and with none of the usual democratic checks or balances. For that reason alone, Ahpra must not be given the last word on what 'truth' in medicine is, or what actions are necessary to safeguard public trust. If the government really wanted to preserve public trust then it would start by providing full transparency around all its decision-making systems, processes and procurements, making it clear exactly who is accountable for what. That will never happen because ultimately this bill has little to do with safeguarding public safety and confidence and everything to do with controlling, censoring and silencing those few who refuse to toe the official line. I strongly oppose this bill.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (4.40 pm): I rise in support of the Health Practitioner National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. It is always interesting to follow the member for Mirani. As usual, he has gone off on a number of tangents that have absolutely no relationship to the bill before us today.

In his contribution the member for Mirani hit every mark in the conspiracy theory drinking game. We have heard about the Geneva Convention, the Hippocratic Oath and shadowy unelected bureaucrats—I was expecting to hear something about QAnon!

Ms Bates interjected.

Ms KING: Ultimately, the member for Mirani is hardly an expert in medical ethics. The primacy of public safety and public confidence in our health services are literally the point of this legislation. I note that the member for Mudgeeraba is backing up her mate, the member for Mirani, the One Nation member in this House. We heard a range of incorrect claims crowdsourced from the member for Mirani's favourite Signal group, I would suggest. His conspiracy theory fuelled fantasy land that we have just heard is on point with his usual contributions through the committee process. Certainly that was what we heard in the examination of this bill. There are careful checks and balances that protect health practitioners, but ultimately the safety and confidence of the public must absolutely come first when we are talking about situations that provide opportunities for very serious harm of members of the public by the occasional health practitioner who is doing the wrong thing. It is time for the member for Mirani to stop fretting about vaccinations and read the actual bill before us and contribute to that rather than James Ashby's speaking points.

This bill is complex and the issues it covers go to the very heart of ensuring a safe and well-regulated health system in Queensland. Through the amendments to the national law we are seeking to uphold public confidence in our health system and the safety of health services delivered by individual health practitioners. As the host jurisdiction for the national law under the intergovernmental agreement, Queensland's role is nation leading. Our national scheme now covers 16 national health profession boards and over 825,000 individual health practitioners. The amendments in this bill have been examined and approved by all state health ministers and the federal health minister and the proposed changes were subject to extensive stakeholder collaboration and input from across the country, in which our Health and Environment Committee's examination and the 40 submitters who contributed to that played a part. The key reforms in this bill ensure that the national law is contemporary and fit for purpose, including enhanced investigation and enforcement measures and a new focus on cultural safety, which is very welcome.

Critically, the bill updates the guiding principles of the national law to make the protection of the public and public confidence in health services paramount when discharging functions under the national law. In practical terms this means that when a decision is made where the rights of health practitioners must be balanced with the safety of the public and public confidence in health services, the weight must fall in favour of public safety and confidence. That is absolutely as it should be. Of our 168,000 health practitioners in Queensland who each year provide hundreds to thousands of episodes of care, there were only a total of 9,000 complaints made in 2020-2021, mostly with no further action taken. Of those there were 178 investigations, 29 immediate actions, 32 interim prohibition orders, 11 final prohibition orders and 57 matters referred to QCAT. While these changes will only ever impact a very small number of practitioners, I do absolutely acknowledge the challenge of being a health practitioner who has a complaint lodged against them.

Our committee heard submissions describing the heartache that practitioners can face when a complaint is made against them and that sometimes those complaints are either improperly based or improperly motivated. I thank the organisations who submitted to our committee about the impact of those complaints and I thank each and every one of our healthcare workers for their committed work within a system where the primacy of public safety and confidence must always come first. It is not an easy role and we all appreciate that they do it.

Likewise, these are really difficult decisions for regulators. The balancing of the rights of practitioners and the safety of the public and their confidence in the provision of health services are profoundly challenging matters to weigh up. Ultimately though, the committee agreed that if a practitioner presents an unacceptable risk to public safety, such as by committing, for example, a serious boundary violation or being drug impacted in the course of their practice, or otherwise practising unsafely, the balance must land with public safety. This is not, as the member for Mirani likes to fantasise, something to do with gagging health practitioners. It is literally about the provision of health services to members of our Queensland public and nothing can be more important than public safety and public confidence in healthcare provision and our healthcare system.

Health ministers felt so strongly on this point that in 2020 they issued a policy direction providing for the paramountcy of public safety and public confidence in health services. The bill is now actually being changed to embed that already operational principle into the national law.

The bill allows Ahpra, the national boards and the OHO the power under limited circumstances to make a public statement about a health practitioner to protect the safety of the public, but by way of checks and balances it also provides safeguards and recourse for practitioners, for example by embedding natural justice and providing rights of appeal against interim orders within the national law.

Queensland Health, in fact, submitted that other changes proposed in this bill will improve and streamline the way notifications are handled and serve to reduce the impact on practitioners of the sometimes extended wait times for complaint processes to be followed through. These changes are seeking to find an appropriate balance between giving practitioners enough time to understand a complaint against them, get advice and respond, versus the public interest in a responsive complaints process and having complaints managed quickly.

The recent report in relation to health care at the Mackay Hospital and Health Service area shows exactly why it is so profoundly important that our national scheme prioritises public safety in the delivery of health services, even as we recognise the challenges that healthcare workers face.

What a massive display of double standards we heard in the contribution of the member for Mudgeeraba. The member for Mudgeeraba said that this bill will preclude natural justice and allow adverse statements to be made before an investigation substantiates a complaint, yet over and over we hear the member for Mudgeeraba demand that the minister do exactly that prior to the handing down of the report in relation to the investigation into the Mackay Base Hospital. It is exactly the kind of naming and shaming that she has tried to demand from the minister before the investigation was complete. The member says one thing to the community when tragic events occur and when those tragic events show exactly why these changes are needed, and the opposite when she is trying to cosy up to her fake union stakeholders. This has been nothing but the usual self-serving political hopscotch from the LNP and from the member for Mudgeeraba.

Originally this bill included amendments to remove the prohibitions on the use of testimonials in advertising for medical services. During the course of our committee's inquiry, stakeholders raised significant concerns regarding those changes, in particular where they relate to the use of testimonials to advertise cosmetic surgery services. That is an area of medical practice that has enhanced risks of harm and where clear and distinct advertising standards are particularly important. The committee shared those concerns.

In response to feedback, through our report the Health and Environment Committee recommended that the minister delay the commencement of those provisions until the independent review of the regulation of health practitioners in cosmetic surgery was released. The committee's view is that the delay would enable Ahpra and the national boards to consider the results of the review and develop appropriate guidelines and educational material. In that respect, I welcome the minister's advice that, following the release of the independent review, Australian health ministers unanimously agreed to withdraw changes to testimonial advertising from the national law to allow for further consideration. I look forward to hearing where they land on the consideration of that really nuanced and complex area of medical practice and advertising of services.

In conclusion, over the past 10 years since the national law was introduced Queensland has been proud to serve as the host jurisdiction as we continue our commitment to update and refine the national scheme. This bill delivers on that commitment. I commend the bill to the House.



Mr McDONALD (Lockyer—LNP) (4.50 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill amends the national law as agreed by the Australian health ministers on 18 February 2022. The bill also makes related amendments to the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the local modification provisions of the national law to ensure the national law amendments operate effectively in Queensland. The national scheme ensures that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. It allows health practitioners to have a single registration recognised anywhere in Australia and provides for uniform standards for the registration of health practitioners and the accreditation of health education providers. At the outset, I thank our shadow minister for health, the member for Mudgeeraba, and the LNP members of the committee, the member for Southport and the member for Bonney, for their guidance.

The opposition recognises the importance of legislation that ensures that in our state health professionals are held to the highest standards. That is primarily what the legislation goes to, that is, the professional standards of those in the health industry and, therefore, patient safety here in

Queensland. As an opposition we will always treat those two matters with the utmost respect and so should all in the House. Queenslanders should have confidence in the health practitioners who work right across the state. We know that the vast majority of health practitioners do the right thing, that their conduct is exemplary and that their care for their patients is always front of mind.

I take this opportunity to thank all in the health workforce who have faced immense challenges over the past couple of years and have done exceptionally well. When our communities face crisis leadership is important and our communities turn to health professionals for clear and concise communication and leadership when giving health advice. I place on the record my thanks to the health professionals who serve the Lockyer community. In the Lockyer we are split by the Darling Downs and West Moreton hospital and health services. Although the valley is divided, they provide great service. I thank the CEOs of both hospital and health services for working with us to provide certainty of service across that geographic divide. I thank all of the doctors who have chosen to work and live in our regional communities. Regional communities have faced a long-term shortage of health professionals so I thank those who live there. I thank the doctors, nurses and other health professionals who work at the Gatton Hospital and the Laidley Hospital for the wonderful service that they provide to our community.

In the Lockyer, some of our best doctors work at the Lockyer Doctors. I place on the record my thanks to Dr Phil Burrell and his practice manager, Suzanne Stott, as well as Dr Yael Kirat-Curtis and Dr Paul Curtis from Curtis Medical. I also thank the Family Health Clinic, where Dr Sultan has been practising for 21 years and where Ellisha Freeman is practice manager. All three practices have worked hard with us to fight the federal government to change our area in terms of its inclusion in the distribution priority area, which we achieved last year. Unfortunately, since then the distribution priority area has been extended so it does not make it as attractive to come to the Lockyer.

I want to mention a couple of our best practitioners. Dr Phil Burrell is the founding partner of the Lockyer Doctors. He and his wife, Wendy, have raised their three daughters and live on a farm in Mulgowie. Dr Burrell continues to provide great support to our Lockyer community, particularly the Laidley and Mulgowie communities. Dr Sultan, whom I have also mentioned, established the Family Health Clinic in 2006. For five years before that he worked as a general practitioner. The service they provide to our community is great. Dr Sultan was recognised by the General Practice Supervisors Association for his contribution to training. I encourage doctors to come to the Lockyer, enjoy our excellent lifestyle and also access very professional training. Please come and see what we have to offer. We are only an hour from Brisbane and your service would be greatly appreciated.

As the shadow health minister advised, one of our main concerns is with the subversion of natural justice enabled through the bill for those practitioners named in public statements by the Health Ombudsman. I will speak more about that in a moment. I appreciate the change outlined by the Minister for Health to allow the prohibition on testimonials to continue. That is appreciated. The opposition's primary concern relates to natural justice.


A cornerstone of our legal system is the principle of innocence until proven guilty. We are very concerned that a public statement could damage a doctor before a comprehensive investigation has been conducted and finalised. By making early statements, health professionals could be inadvertently penalised for complaints that are later proven to be vexatious or unsubstantiated. That can do untold professional, reputational and emotional damage to leaders of our communities. It should be recognised that a public statement is not the only mechanism that the Health Ombudsman or Ahpra have at their disposal and such statements should be used very rarely. However, when investigations substantiate misconduct there is a requirement for swift action by the relevant agency and that, of course, should also include a public statement issued at the appropriate time. The right balance must be struck and at the moment the bill does not provide that.

In recent times many members of parliament have probably received emails about a certain campaign. Whilst I do not agree with many of the views shared in that campaign, it does raise some reasonable questions that I believe the minister should answer. It would be fair for the minister to explain that the proposed amendments will not lead to individual health practitioners being in conflict with their code of conduct or common-law obligations to individual patients. It is very critical that they are able to continue to fulfil those duties and responsibilities.

Many doctors have expressed concern about the infringement on the rights and duties of medical practitioners to engage in public debate about matters of controversy with regards to medical science and access to current medical science in light of the individual needs of their patients. Doctors should be able to discuss the risks and benefits of any medical treatment or intervention with their patients in

order to provide full information for making informed consent decisions in accordance with those patients' human rights. People are not robots and governments cannot and should not try to control people's thinking and opinions. Doctors and medical practitioners are some of our greatest leaders and they should be able to express their considered opinions. Sure, there are some who go far beyond what would be reasonable and well thought out and I understand the concerns in that area, but there are many informed practitioners who can make a worthwhile contribution.

In closing, once again I give a shout-out to any doctors who may want to come and enjoy the wonderful lifestyle, one hour west of Brisbane, in the Lockyer Valley. We have a great lifestyle and some great training opportunities for health professionals. Thanks again to all those who work at the Gatton Hospital, the Laidley Hospital and right across the Lockyer community for the wonderful work that you do for our community in very trying times. We will continue to seek support for you.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (4.59 pm): I rise to contribute to the health practitioner bill. I begin by providing a brief overview of its history in the national context. Way back in 2014, health ministers commissioned an independent review of the national scheme. That review made 33 recommendations and led to additional reviews into specific aspects of the national scheme and the national law.

In 2017 the first stage of reforms was passed by the Queensland parliament, supported by all Australian states and territories. This included amendments to provide for the national regulation of paramedics. In 2019 the national law was further amended to clarify the mandatory reporting obligations of treating practitioners and to increase penalties for persons who unlawfully hold themselves out as registered health practitioners. These amendments were fast-tracked ahead of the second stage of amendments contained in this bill.

Building on these initial reforms, in November 2019 Australian health ministers approved preparation of a second stage of amendments to the national law. On Valentine's Day 2022, after extensive interjurisdictional collaboration, the final forms of the amendments were approved on behalf of all Australian governments.

I would like to touch on the scheduled medicine offences. We know that the bill amends section 130 of the national law to require health practitioners and students to report to the relevant national board charges and convictions of offences related to regulated medicines and poisons. This amendment was recommended by the Queensland Office of the Health Ombudsman in its *Investigation report: Undoing the knots constraining medicine regulation in Queensland*, which highlighted the risks that drug impaired practitioners can present to themselves and to the public.

Some of the offences related to regulated medicines and poisons, also known as scheduled medicines, are punishable by payment of a fine rather than imprisonment and are therefore not reportable under our existing legislation. As a result, the national boards may not even be notified of a practitioner's or student's scheduled medicine offence history even though it may be relevant to the person's suitability to hold registration. Early reporting of these offences will allow the national boards to respond quickly to risks posed to the public by practitioners or students who misuse scheduled medicines.

As there are significant differences in the types of offences that exist throughout Australia in the different jurisdictions under the medicines and poisons laws, the bill will allow participating jurisdictions to declare that offences defined under the law of that particular jurisdiction are not scheduled medicine offences for the purposes of reporting requirements in the national law. This will ensure that the new reporting requirements relate to relevant offences and are no broader than necessary to protect the public. To enliven this provision in Queensland, the bill inserts a general regulation-making power into the Queensland national law legislation. This will ensure that regulations can be made in the future if necessary and aligns Queensland with most other jurisdictions which already have a general regulation-making power under the national law.

I now turn to the parts of the bill which pertain to removing the prohibition on testimonials and how that interrelates in some parts of the medical community with wider testimonials as well. For many services, testimonials and feedback from family, friends and sometimes the internet and the wider social media network are a critical part of many people's decision-making process. To better balance public protection and consumer preferences, the bill amends section 133 of the national law to remove the prohibition against using testimonials in advertisements about regulated health services.

The prohibition is out of step with consumer expectations and current marketing and advertising practices. We know that testimonials and reviews are incredibly common online and that new forms of advertising, particularly on social media, have blurred the lines between information and advertising.

For many sectors, consumers increasingly expect to have access to accurate—and that is a key word—reviews and testimonials when purchasing and selecting their health services, and they expect to be able to share their views about health services and practitioners.

As a result of the amendment, testimonials will be treated the same as other forms of advertising. This is consistent with the treatment of testimonials under general consumer law. Advertisements, including those that use testimonials, will be prohibited if they are false, misleading or deceptive; if they offer a gift or inducement without stating those terms and conditions; if they create an unreasonable expectation of a beneficial treatment—and I will touch more on that later; or if they encourage the unnecessary use of regulated health services.

In reflecting on my own and thankfully very limited experience in engaging health professionals and that of my peers and family, I know that, whether it is formal or informal, when you are considering how to engage a healthcare professional, seeking feedback from family, friends and your wider networks is incredibly common. When you are putting your body and in some case your life in somebody else's hands, you want to make sure that you have every possible accurate assurance that you are making a good choice. In fact, yesterday I had a sit-down and a really good think about the last time I selected a medical professional without getting feedback from my peers and family and friends, and I actually cannot think of any.

If the matter is private, however, you may not feel comfortable asking family and friends. That is where testimonials can play a really critical role. It is vital that those testimonials are properly regulated—as well as looking to other forms of public feedback. As I said, it is critical to ensure that testimonials are properly regulated, just as advertising needs to be. It is important to note that many people may be unduly influenced by unregulated testimonials. That is why we need these safeguards in place.


In the time since I was a really young woman in my late teens, social media has taken on a huge significance in our society and a huge role also in spreading misinformation. If I wanted to feel inadequate about my own body in my late teens, I had to settle for reading *Cosmo* because there was no Facebook, Instagram or social media. I am pretty glad about that, I have to say!

Mr Whiting interjected.

Ms PUGH: I am sure that is what the member for Bancroft would do, too! It really does disturb me how many social media figures are not completely truthful about why they look the way they do. Historically, having had cosmetic enhancement procedures is not something that a lot of people would admit to. That is a shame, because it is important that we are up-front about what is achievable through sleep, sunscreen and a vegan diet with lots of water and what is not. I am particularly concerned for younger generations who may have taken social media influencers at their word—people like Kylie Jenner, who said for quite a while that the secret to her good looks was not cosmetic surgery but make-up you can buy. I accept that low self-esteem may have played a role in Ms Jenner's decision, but I think if you are benefiting financially from that decision to mislead the public that trumps any other issue. I am keen to see that regulated.

Honesty in influencing and testimonials is vital if we are to effectively ensure that people decide whether they are going to get cosmetic procedures or cosmetic surgery. We need to be clear about what surgery or procedures can achieve and what make-up can achieve. I know that the role of social media influencers is not within the scope of the bill, but there is a strong relationship that we may need to consider.

It is important to note that when it comes to the cosmetic surgery industry there is ongoing work at the national level—and rightly so. Recent reports on the cosmetic surgery industry have rightfully raised concerns in this sector. We need to see that these procedures are well regulated and that there is truth and transparency in testimonials and advertising. I look forward to seeing the outcome of that work. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr ROWAN** (Moggill—LNP) (5.09 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. On 18 February 2022, Australian health ministers agreed to amend the health practitioner regulation law, also known as the national law, and implement the second stage of the nationally agreed reforms to the National Registration Accreditation Scheme for health professionals.

As previously outlined, given that Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the national law, on behalf of all participating states and territories, such amendments to the national law as agreed to must first be debated and passed by the Queensland parliament. Accordingly, on 11 May 2022, the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services introduced the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and

Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 into the Queensland parliament to amend the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009. As per the explanatory notes, the objectives of the legislation are to: firstly, strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services; secondly, improve the governance of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals; and, thirdly, enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the national scheme.

As a specialist physician and as a fellow of a number of medical colleges, including the Royal Australasian College of Physicians' Chapter of Addiction Medicine, the Australasian College of Medical Administrators and a number of other colleges, I understand the importance of professional standards and what that means for good clinical patient outcomes. Having served in a number of roles as an executive director of medical services and a deputy chief medical officer, I understand the importance of robust clinical governance frameworks and what that means for safety and quality across our health system. What that also means is that I have a strong appreciation that all health professionals need to be held to the highest standards not only in Queensland but also across all jurisdictions in Australia.

Such standards, backed by appropriate checks and balances, are critical so as to ensure the optimum standards of professionalism and care are delivered to patients and that these patients and their families can have absolute confidence in the health practitioners who are registered to work in their respective fields. Equally, it is of the upmost importance that in requiring the national law to hold registered health practitioners to the highest professional standards, there must also be comprehensive mechanisms in place to ensure that any issues that may pertain to a practitioner's performance, professional conduct or personal health are appropriately considered and addressed. Ultimately, it is pivotal that there is confidence in the design, scope and application of the national law and any associated changes by both practitioners and patients alike.

To that end, I wish to turn to the specifics of this legislation. It must be acknowledged that through the examination of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 by the Queensland parliament's Health and Environment Committee, significant concerns were raised by a number of important and leading stakeholders and representative organisations. A primary concern raised and one that is specifically shared by the Liberal National Party opposition is the apparent subversion of natural justice specifically via clause 20 and clauses 100 to 102 of the legislation.

In its current form, the legislation would provide for a public statement to be issued by the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, national boards or the Health Ombudsman prior to the completion of a full and proper investigation into alleged practitioner misconduct. The profound negative professional implications of such provisions cannot be overstated. As it stands, these proposed changes have the potential to significantly penalise health practitioners for complaints which are later proven to be either vexatious or unsubstantiated.

It is not enough to simply highlight that the bill requires the revocation of a public statement if the aforementioned bodies are satisfied that the grounds on which the statement was made no longer exist or did not exist at the time the statement was issued. The revocation of such a statement will not undo the professional, reputational and emotional damage to an individual health practitioner. In effect, the damage could already be done under those circumstances. Whilst we have to balance patient safety against some of those matters related to individual practitioners, if an individual practitioner has been the subject of either a vexatious or unsubstantiated complaint and this has been put into the public domain there can be not only those reputational issues and damage but also significant harm to people's mental health as well.

As a former president of the Australian Medical Association of Queensland in 2013-14, I specifically note the submission provided by current AMA Queensland president Dr Maria Boulton and CEO Dr Brett Dale in which they state—

These amendments contravene fundamental legislative principles relating to natural justice. They expose medical practitioners to risks of permanent and irreparable reputational damage based on unfounded accusations. Naturally, where a practitioner is subject to an accusation that has been fully and fairly investigated and substantiated, then a public statement to protect public health and safety may be fully justified and would garner the support of the medical profession.

They further state—

The requirement for a public statement to be revoked if the grounds no longer exist, or never existed, is wholly insufficient to remedy the harm caused by an inaccurate public statement. The unfounded accusations will remain available, permanently, in the public domain, and a revocation by the regulator cannot effectively and practically correct the public record.

Such concerns and sentiments have also been shared by the Australian Doctors' Federation, the federal branch of the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Dental Association of Queensland, Speech Pathology Australia, Doctors' Health in Queensland, the Australian Association Psychologists and the Queensland Law Society. An appropriate balance must be struck on this important issue.

Briefly, I now also wish to acknowledge the public commentary and concerns expressed in relation to proposed amendments that an individual practitioner's registration will require public confidence in the safety of services provided. Whilst it is important that the proposed amendments do not lead to an individual health practitioner being put in a position of conflict with their respective professional code of conduct or common law obligation to individual patients, I believe it is incumbent on the Minister for Health and the Queensland government to at least consider and comprehensively address these concerns.

The events of the last two years have demonstrated the absolute importance of sound public health advice and community adherence to associated health measures. Clear, concise and accurate communication of such health advice and measures is also important. As we have seen over the last two years, there should be no place for deliberate dissemination of intentionally false or misleading information which may jeopardise public confidence in such sound public health advice. All public health measures, including COVID-19 vaccination, have been vital in reducing morbidity and mortality as well as suppressing the community transmission of COVID-19. It is very important that those who have spread inaccurate or deliberately misleading information are held to account with respect to that.


Finally, in my remaining time, I wish to address an aspect of the health practitioner regulation national law which deserves the full attention of the Queensland state government given the significant ongoing medical workforce capacity issues across our state and indeed Australia. When Queensland's most senior and experienced doctors step down from full registration, they are prevented from using their medical skills and knowledge in any way for public benefit. A solution has been proposed by AMA Queensland and the Australian Senior Active Doctors Association which would see the reintroduction of a limited registration category called senior active doctor that enables doctors to step down from full registration and regular practice to a limited registration category with occasional practice provisions for services in the public interest.

The proposed model builds on the limited registration public interest occasional practice category as described in part 12 division 11 section 273 of the national law. Such a model would see a proposed amendment to session 273 so as to allow for doctors to step down to limited registration in the public interest. I would like to take this opportunity to commend Associate Professor Geoffrey Hawson, the president of the Australian Senior Active Doctors Association and the senior doctor representative on the AMA Queensland branch council, and also Dr Kym Irving, a research consultant to the Australian Senior Active Doctors Association, for their exhaustive work and advocacy in this space. I would certainly encourage the Queensland state government to fully consider such a proposal.

Before concluding my contribution, I wish to reiterate my support for legislative and registry requirements that ensure high professional standards and recognise the critical importance of patient safety. Whilst consistency of laws is vital, particularly when we are debating laws which have been agreed to by all states and territories, this cannot be at the expense of sound policy and appropriate professional safeguards.

I wish to thank all members of the Queensland parliament's Health and Environment Committee for their work and examination of this legislation. In particular, I acknowledge the deputy chair, the member for Southport, as well as the member for Bonney, the committee secretariat for its support and all stakeholders who contributed to this committee's consideration of the legislation.

Finally, as other contributors to the debate have said, I conclude by thanking and acknowledging all health professionals for their important work over the last two years and also the work they do each and every day. I would certainly specifically like to acknowledge all of my professional medical colleagues.

 **Mr KELLY** (Greenslopes—ALP) (5.19 pm): I support the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I have been working under this legislation, or predecessors of this legislation, as a registered nurse since 1991. I know that the member for Moggill, the member for Mudgeeraba and more recently, thanks to some changes, the member for Thuringowa and, I think, the member for Barron River would have had experience working under this legislation as well. I have had cause many times to think about issues in this legislation over that period of time. It would never have struck me as a piece of legislation that would blow anyone's hair back. It is not the most exciting piece of legislation. Nonetheless it is incredibly important because it really goes to the heart of attempting to keep patients as safe as we possibly can.

I note aspects of the member for Mudgeeraba's contribution. She talked about the things that nurses do. I have never welcomed a baby into the world other than my own two daughters. I have never worked in the midwifery section, but I have been there at end of life and at many points in between. I think about the incredible situations that you find yourself in as a nurse and also our medical colleagues, our allied health colleagues, and our colleagues in pathology and other parts of the hospital.

I think about sitting on a ventilator by yourself at two o'clock in the morning when just a small tweak or a missed indicator or reading and that person's life can end really quickly. I think about pushing chemo into a patient on a manual push and it has to be delivered at a certain rate and if you do not get that right you can do untold damage to that patient. I think about the many operations and other things that I have been involved in—assisting with inserting chest drains, doing lumbar punctures and those sorts of things. All of those things are highly dangerous and require a high degree of training and precision and professionalism and can easily go wrong even with the best of intentions. I have seen that tragically on several occasions. That is why it is important that we have incredibly high standards of maintaining practice and registration for those people who are accepted by a community to be able to undertake those procedures.

I think the legislation does a range of things that improve the way that we do this. There are only a few things that I particularly want to focus on. I was really pleased to see the inclusion of the culturally safe and respectful health workforce aspects of this that ensure that we are responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. I last spoke about this issue—members may remember a gentleman named Graeme Haycroft—when I gave a speech about him in this House in 2018. He is the founder of that pretend front door for a law firm called the Nurses' Professional Association of Queensland that runs around tricking workers into effectively signing up to get some legal advice that they could get much more competently and much cheaper somewhere else. Members may remember that they had many views on vaccination—or not vaccination, I should say!

They also once upon a time had views on cultural safety. A person who has never walked into a hospital and has never been a registered nurse or a registered health practitioner of anything suddenly appointed himself as the spokesperson of all nurses and midwives in Queensland and said that nurses had to declare their white privilege whenever they were looking after a First Nations person. I have looked after many First Nations people. I have worked in many environments where I have seen many other practitioners do that. I have never seen people declare their white privilege. What I have seen is people adjusting their practice to provide the best care, and culturally safe care, that they possibly can. Our understanding, thanks to the legion of great Indigenous liaison officers in Queensland Health, has shifted immensely so that we are able to do that so much better.

The reality is that all nurses and other health practitioners adjust their practice all the time in a culturally safe way. Whether you are caring for an elderly Italian woman, a young bloke who has fallen off a skateboard, somebody from Tonga or somebody who lives in a mansion on the top of a hill, you will try to provide the best possible care to that person in a culturally appropriate way. We cannot step away from the fact that there has been consistent and ongoing institutional bias against our First Nations people. I think it is important that we quantify this and put it into this legislation in this way. I think that is very appropriate. I am really pleased to see that that has happened.

I also want to take a moment to respond to the statement of reservation by the member for Mirani. I will start with one of his statements—

APHRA must NOT be given the last word on what 'truth in medicine' is.

I actually agree with him, but they are not given the last word on what truth in medicine is. When you read his entire statement of reservation, I am not sure what bill the member for Mirani was reviewing when he wrote it. The reality is that doctors, nurses and other health professionals are just exactly that: they are professionals. They provide professional advice and service to the person in front of them and they base that on their skills, their clinical training and their clinical knowledge and sometimes on the advice of other professionals involved.

Where do they draw their practice from? In a modern sense they draw it from the best available clinical evidence. How do we develop that clinical evidence? We have an extremely robust system of testing data and information. It is extremely well developed. It is an international system. It is about 100 years old. It is improving all the time and has continued to improve all the time. As a nurse you have to base your practice on that.

If you stop basing your practice on the best available clinical evidence then there is an extremely high chance that you are going to do some damage to somebody. For example, if I as a nurse read an article somewhere that said it is okay to re-use needles from patient to patient and I decide to go out

there and start sticking the same needle in patients over and over again—I can pull out an article and say, ‘I have this article that says that I can do it’—I would rightly be pulled into line by the various bodies because I will do significant damage to those patients. If I decide that I am not going to bother to wash my hands anymore—similarly, I might read an article that says hand washing is not all that it is cracked up to be—the reality is that my registration body will pull me up on that and say, ‘You are stepping outside of clinical guidelines.’ Similarly, if a patient comes to me and wants to have a discussion about vaccination and I provide them advice that is not based on the best available clinical evidence, I am potentially harming that patient and I rightfully should be pulled up and pulled into line.

Ahpra is not given the last word on medical truth: professionals are given that word and professionals play a role in developing those standards. The regulation body plays a role in making sure that when professionals step outside those boundaries either unintentionally or intentionally there is a mechanism there to protect the public. At the core of this bill that is what is occurring here. We are simply attempting to improve the way in which we keep patients safe. It has been a system that has been continuously improved in the 31 years that I have been registered and it is a system that will continue to undergo further improvements. With those few words, I commend the bill to the House.


Debate, on motion of Mr Kelly, adjourned.

FOOD (LABELLING OF SEAFOOD) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed from 30 August (see p. 2313), on motion of Mr Katter—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Ms CAMM** (Whitsunday—LNP) (5.29 pm): I am pleased to contribute to the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill. I represent the seat of Whitsunday, where I think everyone in this House would agree we have fabulous seafood which is caught and promoted locally. Many of my constituents and those who catch seafood would love it to be promoted and labelled locally. I am very pleased to support the objective of this bill, which is the mandatory country-of-origin labelling of seafood sold across dining outlets. We already do this unofficially in the Whitsundays whether you are eating at Fish D’Vine, one of my local seafood extravaganza restaurants, Fishi takeaway in the Whitsundays or award-winning seafood from Debbie’s Seafood. They label their seafood and highlight what is caught locally because they too are commercial fishermen who have been in the industry for such a long time.

I was very pleased to see Mark and Debbie and Craig and Natalie take out the seafood industry of Australia’s 2022 Australian large seafood business of the year, so congratulations to them. In 2015 and 2013 they won best small business of the year and in 2017 they won best large seafood business. They are local long-term residents of the Mackay region who support our commercial fishing industry. Most importantly, they have expanded into retail and they know the value of promoting local seafood and ensuring it is labelled. Paton Oysters, from Seaforth on the beautiful Hibiscus Coast, similarly harvest oysters that are labelled locally. They are proud to promote their provenance, which is the Whitsunday region.

The LNP campaigned on this issue in the lead-up to the last state election. As the LNP candidate for the Whitsunday electorate I was proud to promote the LNP’s policy around seafood labelling and the opportunities for us to buy and promote local. We recognise the support of the Katter party in relation to our policy, but it is disappointing that those opposite do not embrace this opportunity to support our local seafood industry. On World Mental Health Day I read a press release from the Queensland Seafood Industry Association. It stated—

Our fishing families and onshore workers from seafood stores and processing factories are, emotionally barely treading water as it is. The continued onslaught coming from the Palaszczuk government is the boot holding their heads under water. Our industry’s men and women are fast running out of breath.


The bill before the House is a proactive approach to seafood labelling and promoting an outstanding commercial fishing industry in Queensland. It would be a win not only for commercial fishermen but also consumers in Queensland and those who visit our great state, in particular in the Whitsundays. When people come to our region they want fresh, locally caught Spanish mackerel, but they do not know where they are purchasing their seafood from because those opposite have chosen not to support this bill. Those opposite have used excuses like, ‘It would be an administrative cost burden.’ That does not seem to bother those opposite when it comes to other administrative cost burdens in relation to other policies across this state.

The Northern Territory framework has taken the lead. It was some years ago, I think, that the Northern Territory put a stake in the ground and said, 'We're going to support our fishermen whether they be recreational fishermen or commercial fishermen. We're going to promote the NT.' They already have that advantage ahead of Queensland. That is a lost opportunity for this state government to support the very sector which right now, as quoted by the Queensland Seafood Industry Association, is under enormous stress.

Some of that stress has been caused by the minister. The minister stood in this House and said that this was a great concept and he would be pleased to support it. I can almost quote him, but I choose not to tonight. He did say that it was a great concept but there are other ways we can support the commercial fishing industry. The recent changes to Spanish mackerel catch conditions certainly do not support the commercial fishing industry—not in my area of Mackay, not in the Whitsundays, and certainly not in Far North Queensland in Cairns and Townsville, where I have met with commercial fishermen. This government is placing stress on an industry that contributes so significantly to our local economy. There are multiple generations of families such as the Drapers in my community who have for 50-plus years operated commercial fishing operations—in particular for Spanish mackerel—and are out there every single day, but they were not engaged by this government when it came to the Spanish mackerel industry, seafood labelling or growth opportunities for their industry. Instead, this government decided to consult in a way that required commercial fishermen to sign commercial-in-confidence arrangements so they could not disclose or engage with their own industry partners. It is disappointing that we have a minister who claims to be the farmers' friend but in fact is no friend of the fishermen of Queensland.

I am pleased that in the Whitsunday electorate we have the Tassal prawn farm. We talk about the opportunity to have both live catch and aquaculture in our region. The Tassal prawn farm will be the largest prawn farm in Australia. Its expansion at Bloomsbury will be incredible in terms of economic benefits and job creation in the Whitsundays. Even though it is farmed here in Queensland, they would be proud to label it as farmed in Queensland aquaculture when they market it overseas. They understand the competitive advantage of marketing, branding and promoting what is Australian and Queensland grown. This government lacks the foresight to take any leadership role in promoting our incredible seafood industry, whether that be aquaculture, oysters or prawns that are caught off Hay Point. This government is out of touch when it comes to promoting and supporting provenance, aquaculture, commercial fishermen or recreational fishermen, for that matter. We saw that throughout with a lack of engagement and consultation in relation to the recent Spanish mackerel decision.

I am very proud of those who not only sell but also supply seafood across the Whitsundays, whether that is the Caracciolo in Mackay or Matt and Bron at Fishi in Airlie Beach. We have incredible retailers, wholesalers, commercial fishing operators, pro fishermen and recreational fishermen, and they know that the LNP team will back commercial fishing and recreational fishing. We will back it every day of the week. I am pleased to support this bill not just as a proud Queenslanders but as someone who represents a region that grows, sells and promotes some of the best seafood in Queensland.

 **Mr MARTIN** (Stretton—ALP) (5.37 pm): I rise to speak to the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill. This bill seeks to mandate country-of-origin labelling on restaurant menus. We already have country-of-origin labelling in the retail sector, which falls under federal regulations; however, this bill seeks to expand those rules to cover local restaurants in Queensland.

The stated objectives of this bill are (1) to increase consumer awareness; and (2) support the Australia seafood industry. I do not believe this bill will achieve either of the stated goals. Further, I believe that these rules and fines would impact local restaurants owners and are frankly unworkable. As soon as I saw this bill I knew that it would not work in my local community. It has not really considered how restaurants in Sunnybank and Sunnybank Hills work. The practical effect of these rules in my local area would be that restaurant owners would simply work around them by stating that everything on the menu was international so they would not have to change their menus every day. This would not increase consumer awareness: it would do quite the opposite. It would also not do anything to support the Australian seafood industry.

The key problem that I can see with this bill is that it is written with a particular kind of restaurant in mind—a fine-dining establishment where the chef writes a new menu every day based on local produce; a menu that would only be on one A4 piece of paper with entree, main and dessert. I certainly think those restaurants are fantastic. We are lucky to have many fantastic fine-dining and high-end establishments in Brisbane.

Ms Grace: The best are in McConnel.

Mr MARTIN: However, if members come to my electorate in Stretton, they will see restaurants that are a bit different to this and, in my opinion, member for McConnel, that are much better. I am very lucky to represent one of the most multicultural areas in Queensland. One of the great benefits of this is the fantastic food available at the many Chinese, Indian, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian and Malaysian restaurants and more. There are hundreds of restaurants in my local area, and let me tell the House that competition is fierce—competition on price, but mostly competition on taste and service. If people want to operate a successful restaurant in Stretton, they will not last long serving substandard food.

The restaurant and dining culture in Stretton—and, I would add, in the neighbouring electorate of Toohey—is strong. People talk about new restaurants opening, who owns them and, most importantly, which chef is working in them. It was big news in my local area when master chef DC Huang moved from HANA seafood at Rochedale to 9 Seafood Restaurant at Sunnybank Hills. Members here might remember DC Huang at the Parliamentary Friends of Taiwan barbecue we had on level 7 where he whipped up some delicious Australian abalone. He is a true master chef of international acclaim and I am very proud that he is based in my local area and now based within walking distance of my office.

A key point of difference—and the key reason this bill will not work—is the menus. The menus in my local area are epics; they are more like magazines or books and they are quite expensive to produce. It is a considerable cost to the small business owner to produce these menus, and they are pretty spectacular. Restaurants pride themselves on having massive menus with chefs who are capable of whipping up hundreds of different dishes in a flash. Most of these dishes contain delicious Australian seafood as well as some imported items, and many contain multiple different types of seafood. Seafood laksa, seafood fried rice or Singapore noodles, just to name a few, have many different types of seafood in them, and these change based on supply and what is available. Ultimately, it would be impossible, expensive and unworkable for restaurant owners in my local area to alter their massive menus every day based on supply.

For the benefit of the House, I have brought some of these menus along and I would like to table them. These are a sample from restaurants that are within walking distance of my office, and I am happy to say that I have dined at all of them many times. The first one is Phat Pantry. It is a fantastic Thai restaurant. I recommend the whole baby barramundi with chu chee curry sauce. My tip though is to ask for mild. I also recommend the tom yum pot which feeds three and has fish, prawns and mussels.

Tabled paper: Menu from The Phat Pantry situated in the electorate of Stretton [1643].

If members can see, these menus are huge. They have multiple pages and pictures and they would be very difficult to change every day. The next menu I would like to table is from Kung Food Noodle. This restaurant is famous because they make their own noodles by hand. Members can see that the menu is a large laminated A3 piece of paper with pictures. It is also in Chinese and English. It would be very difficult to modify this menu every day. The tip for Kung Food Noodle is the seafood laksa, but again ask for mild.

Tabled paper: Menu from Kung Food Noodle situated in the electorate of Stretton [1644].

One of my favourite restaurants is Ho Lin Wah. This is a Hong Kong style restaurant. It is an institution; it has been around for many years. It serves Cantonese style food. I think they might have one of the biggest menus in town; it is bigger than a magazine. Could members imagine trying to change the labelling on this menu every day. It would be impossible and it would not be fair to them. My tip for Ho Lin Wah—and they are well-known in my local area—is the Singapore noodles, which are already pretty mild.

Tabled paper: Menu from Ho Lin Wah Restaurant situated in the electorate of Stretton [1642].

The next menu I would like to table is from 9 Seafood Restaurant. This one is a real treat. It is one of my favourite places. This restaurant has live seafood. You can go in there and pick your Australian seafood right from the tank. You can pick the lobster that you want to eat. It is delicious. This is the one that DC Huang works at. I was very pleased to attend 9 Seafood Restaurant last week with the Hakka Association celebrating the Chong Yang Festival, which is the Double Ninth Festival which celebrates seniors. It coincided with Seniors Month in Queensland as well. I would like to table that menu as well.


Tabled paper: Menu from 9 Seafood Restaurant situated in the electorate of Stretton [1641].

I would like to say to members of the Katter party and the LNP that restaurants in my local area already support and promote Australian seafood. They love it and my consumers love it too. However, as members can see, the costs involved in modifying these menus every day would be exorbitant. They do not need to be fined, which is what this bill seeks to do. I am surprised that the LNP would be

supporting this. Fining local small businesses is essentially what the LNP will be voting on today. They will be voting to send government inspectors around to local restaurants in my community, on the Gold Coast, in the regions or wherever they might be to fine them. This would be an extra regulation. The LNP are always going on about red tape, yet they are bringing in some extra red tape to fine some small business people.

The legislation is unworkable. Busy chefs will not reprint these menus. They will order the food and then go back into the kitchens. They are not going to reprint these menus. They will just mark that everything on the menu could be international. They are not going to change things every day. The idea behind the bill will not work, and it will have the opposite effect to what this legislation is seeking to do.

I am proud of these local restaurants in my area and I will always stand up for them. I do not support the bill and I ask the LNP to consider this before they vote. I know there are restaurants in their local communities and I do not believe LNP members have consulted with those restaurant owners. Do they really support fining these small business owners? Do they really support sending inspectors in to check the menus? Do they really want more red tape? I support the seafood industry, but this bill will not support the seafood industry and it will not support local small businesses. It will do the opposite. I will not be supporting this bill.

 **Mr HART** (Burleigh—LNP) (5.46 pm): If the member for Stretton had read the report or even the bill for that matter, he would understand that this is quite a simple process to identify seafood. It does not mean that all these menus need to be changed constantly. They could be changed just once. If the restaurants followed through with what they had in their menu, then it would not be an issue. This is all about indicating to people who go to a restaurant whether the seafood is local or not and it is about supporting local seafood. It is hard to understand why the government does not support the local seafood industry.

If the member for Stretton had read the report and the dissenting report, he would understand that. This is a report of the committee. Well, it is supposed to be a report of the committee, but it is actually a report of the government. We know that the committee system in Queensland does not work most of the time because the government controls the outcomes of the committee, the government controls the voting on the committee, the government has the chairs of the committee. It is actually a chair's report or a government report. Nine times out of ten, it is not a committee report.

Ms Boyd interjected.

Mr HART: For the information of the member for Pine Rivers, I am on the committee. I have read the committee report. In fact, I had a small hand in writing the dissenting report so the member for Pine Rivers needs to be corrected. As part of the committee process, we went around and talked to a lot of seafood companies. We talked to restaurants in our local areas. I spoke to restaurants in my local area about these things. A lot of them said this was not a big issue. The catering association did not like it for sure—and I accept that—but the wholesale seafood industry already does this. They already have to tell their retailers where their seafood is coming from, so it is not a really hard thing for them to expand on.

As we travelled around all over the place—we were in Bundaberg, Cairns, Townsville, Karumba and—

Mr McDonald: The first inquiry ever to have been to Karumba.

Mr HART: I will take the interjection from the member for Lockyer. This was the first inquiry to ever go to Karumba, and we talked to the seafood industry there. I can guarantee you—and I think the member for Lockyer might back me up on this—that as we went around the place, the government members of the committee were very sympathetic to the bill. In fact, I would have almost guaranteed that they were going to support this bill, but then somebody whispered in their ear and they decided, no, they were not going to support it. The chair basically said, 'No, that is the end of story there. We are not going to pass this bill,' and the lemmings on the committee just followed along with that.

When we travelled around, as I said, we spoke to the industry in a number of places. In Townsville, Mr Partland from Ingham Seafood told us—

I am very vocal about supporting the local industry, which is under huge threats from government implementing quota and that type of thing. The labelling or identification of seafood in pubs, clubs, restaurants and the like should have been done years ago when it was implemented into our retail sector. This needs to be brought into line with that so that people have a choice and people are aware of what they are buying.

We heard from many of the contributors that you go into a restaurant and the restaurant says that they have barramundi, or something similar, and it is not in fact barramundi; it is imported fish. All we want to see at the end of the day is that if people are ordering barramundi they get barramundi and

to know whether it is coming from a local supplier or it is an imported fish. It really is not that hard. In Cairns we heard from a gentleman from the Independent Seafood Producers who told us pretty much the same thing. He stated—

At the end of the day, the crux of this bill is about allowing the consumer to make the choice at the dinner plate, which is no different to what they do at the retail counter. It is overdue. This bill is vital for Queensland.


Obviously it has been in place in the Northern Territory, so for the member for Stretton to say that this is unworkable in Queensland—it already works in the Northern Territory. Unfortunately, the committee could not actually hear from the people in the Northern Territory to see how it was going. For some reason, we could not arrange to talk directly to them about that, which is a real shame, but it has worked successfully there for years and years, and it can work here if we just give it a chance. That is all we really need to do.

The problem is that this is not a government bill. That is the only issue here. If the government had put this bill forward, the committee recommendation would have been, I am sure, that it be passed, but because it is a non-government bill in this form—a Katter's party bill—the government is just not going to support it. I suspect that the member for Stretton's speech will come back to bite him at some stage because this government is in a habit of denying crossbenchers or the opposition the opportunity to pass a bill. They say what a bad idea these things are for a number of months and then the next year they actually introduce it themselves. The member for Stretton will be back here in 12 months time saying, 'What a great bill this is. This is something we really need to pass. The government is fully in support of the local seafood industry and we need to pass this bill.' I can tell you that I, for one, will be reminding him what he said here tonight.

This is entirely workable. The government just needs to get out of the way of the seafood industry and support local seafood. We have some of the best seafood in the world. Everywhere we went—everywhere—everybody supported this bill. As I say, even the Labor members on the committee supported this bill but then they changed their mind at the last minute. That is a real problem with the committee system.

The member for Bundaberg should go back and look at the transcripts of the hearings that we had in Bundaberg, Townsville and Cairns. The types of questions the members asked there and the responses they got would have indicated to everybody—it certainly indicated to me—that they were in support of this bill and in support of the concept. If the government members thought there were issues with the implementation of this bill, they could have suggested amendments to it. They could have said, 'We will do this a slightly different way.' Instead, we got something from the health department that basically said that it may not be consistent with national law. It did not say it was not consistent; it just said it may not be consistent. I am sure we could have worked around that if the members had been real to what they said and what they did at the committee's hearings.

I am in full support of this bill, and the restaurants that I have spoken to in my area are fully supportive of this bill. In fact, a lot of restaurants already have on their menus that they are providing local seafood. They know when they buy it from a wholesaler that it is locally provided or wild seafood and they put that fact on their menu. In fact, sometimes they can charge a little bit more for that. What is wrong with that? What is really wrong with the system we have now and the system that the government wants to continue to be in place is that people do not know where the seafood they are putting in their mouth comes from. That is an issue. The government are being pig-headed about this because it is not their bill; it is the Katter's bill instead. I urge the members to reconsider that whole thing and support this bill.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (5.56 pm): I rise today to speak against the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021. It is quite astounding—

Mr Dametto: Oh!

Ms BOYD: Yes, it is a surprise to you, I am sure, member for Hinchinbrook. It is quite astounding, though, to follow on from that speech from the member for Burleigh, who made a number of assertions that, quite frankly, were incorrect. As a member of this House in the 55th Parliament, I served on a legal affairs committee that toured extensively with the member for Traeger and recommended that bills that the Katter party put before the House as private members' bills be passed. This may well come back to backfire on me now that you are sitting in the chair, Mr Deputy Speaker.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): I hope that is not a reflection on the chair, member for Pine Rivers. I will let that one slip.

Ms BOYD: I pick up on a point made earlier about the recommendation the committee made in its report that, rather than make amendments to the private member's bill, this proposition should see its way through to the federal government. I think that is the best place for it to be dealt with, as does the committee.

From the outset I acknowledge the Queensland fishing and seafood sectors and the business community for their really valuable contributions to this bill. This bill proposes to introduce mandatory country-of-origin labelling for seafood sold at dining outlets across Queensland. I note, as previous speakers have, that the State Development and Regional Industries Committee recommends that the bill not be passed.

My contribution on this bill I intend to be concise. The committee's examination of this bill has identified fundamental flaws in the content of the bill, in particular the Food Act 2006 being used as proposed along with inconsistencies from our commitments under the Food Regulation Agreement. Through the committee process, the advice of Queensland Health was that the amendments would potentially be incompatible with the national Food Regulation Agreement and that any reform in this area must be led by the Commonwealth in collaboration with all states and territories.

For those who are confused about why this is not legislation the committee could support, let us be really clear. We know through the hard work of the committee and the department that proposals for country-of-origin labelling of seafood are not a public health and safety issue but should be considered a consumer protection and information issue. One seeking to achieve the policy objective of this bill would need the right act. This bill does not propose that.

Ms Grace: A minor problem.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the member for McConnel. It is a small oversight for sure. To be very clear to those opposite who have been saying on high repeat that they cannot understand why the government would not support it, this is why. The member for Traeger came into this place and in his second reading speech he said that not supporting this bill is to continue to endorse the deceit of consumers. This may well be his opinion, but he has not proposed a way to fix it through this bill. This bill is fundamentally flawed. That needs to be highlighted and the record set straight.

The proposition of introducing mandatory country-of-origin labelling for seafood sold at dining outlets is not a new one. It is one that has already been examined in some detail, the results of which found that the cost to industry and government by far outweighed the benefits. I repeat: the cost to industry and government by far outweighed the benefits. It is not a notion and it is not an opinion. Rather, it is a position that has been established through considerable research. I note with interest that those opposing the findings do so by dismissing them as something that is unworthy of consideration, and that is a reckless approach. I also note that the committee has recommended that the proposed initiative be sent to the federal government for investigation.

In closing, I thank the committee for their work on this bill. Like the committee, while I cannot support this private member's bill, I also commend the Katter party for introducing it. I acknowledge that here in this parliament while the LNP is missing in terms of introducing private members' bills, the Katter party is punching well and truly above its weight. I thank them wholeheartedly—

An honourable member interjected.

Ms BOYD: I do enjoy sitting here and heckling them, but I thank them wholeheartedly for bringing forward—

Mr Dametto: We enjoy it as well.

Ms BOYD: Great, I am glad to hear that is mutual. I thank them for bringing forward these proposals.

Mr McDonald: An LNP policy.

Ms BOYD: While the LNP may well consider it to be their policy, I think it would stand in stark contrast to their mantra of cutting red tape for small business. I think there are some inconsistencies there, which is not uncommon for the LNP, but that is okay.

Ms Grace: They did nothing federally for 10 years.

Ms BOYD: I take the interjection from the minister.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): The Minister for Education will cease her interjections.

Ms BOYD: In wrapping up, I thank the committee for the work it has done on this bill. Like the committee, I do not believe this is a bill that I can support.



Mr ANDREW (Mirani—PHON) (6.02 pm): It gives me great pleasure to speak in wholehearted support of the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021. I would like to make a declaration that to this day I still hold my master fisherman's licence. As a very proud fisherman, I was one of the first people to cryovac fish at sea. We used a nice brine to ensure the product was the best it could be. That product was Spanish mackerel. The season has now been shut down—and I used to own eight tonnes of Spanish mackerel quota. Sadly, the industry has been devalued and a lot of people who now own the Spanish mackerel quota do not even know if their industry is going to survive the next couple of months.

I would like to thank and congratulate Katter's Australian Party for introducing the bill which proposes mandatory country-of-origin labelling for all seafood sold in Queensland hospitality venues. Many Queenslanders are probably not even aware that most of the state's seafood is now imported from countries where labour costs and food safety standards are a lot lower than those that apply here. I can vouch for that. When we started getting basa in the country, people were telling me that some of the fillets were a certain size but now they are a lot smaller. It goes to show that some of these things are not sustainable either.

Mr McDonald: They call them delta catfish.

Mr ANDREW: Yes. According to the Commonwealth department of agriculture's website, 70 per cent of the seafood consumed in Australia is imported, predominantly from Asia. With such a long coastline and a relative small population, this is really a disgrace. I have no idea of the carbon footprint of importing so much fish from overseas, but I am willing to bet it is huge.

In 2018 country-of-origin labelling in Australia became mandatory in retail shops but not in restaurants, clubs and takeaway food shops, where most seafood is consumed. If enacted, the bill will ensure that when we order fish from a restaurant or at our local fish and chip shop, we do so knowing whether it was imported or sourced from Australian waters. This bill therefore fills a big gap in consumer awareness here in Queensland. If passed, the bill would also send an important and long overdue message of appreciation and support to the men and women of the state's commercial fishing industry—an industry, I might add, that has suffered more than any other at the heavy hand of officialdom here in Queensland.

Currently, the Northern Territory is the only jurisdiction to have enacted seafood labelling at the point of immediate consumption. This is important for the purposes of this debate. In 2008 the Northern Territory government introduced legislation requiring licensed fishery retailers to label seafood as imported if it was not harvested in Australia. In 2011 the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation funded an assessment of the impact of laws which was undertaken by industry consultants under the supervision of a steering committee comprising industry and government representatives. This assessment used face-to-face interviews with food service establishments and consumers to gauge the development of opinion and the impact of laws on consumers and businesses in the Northern Territory. Consumers indicated a strong preference to purchase Australian seafood—and I do not blame them, because it is the best in the world—with a willingness to pay up to 25 per cent more for Australian product than imported.

The Fisheries Research and Development Corporation report also found that fish wholesalers reduced imported products and began to source more local products, which was driven by the consumer. The report on the implementation of legislation in the Northern Territory indicates that the cost of labelling is not significant. In fact, the study found that in the Northern Territory experience, changes to labelling were supported by fishers, seafood retailers and consumers alike and that they were very happy with the result. The report is the only authoritative study on the impact of labelling in the food service industry.

Queensland consumers want to have local and freshly caught seafood. That is why we need to know what fish on the menu is local and what is not. Fish producers also want country-of-origin labelling laws changed to give them a better chance of competing against cheap imports. When we consume seafood at a restaurant, a takeaway shop or a fish and chip shop in this state we should do so knowing its origins and we should not have to ask. The bill achieves that aim with the least possible impost on business. Above all, it offers valuable support to the fishing men and women of this state. Believe me, that means something. It means something to me.


I would like to close my remarks by offering a big thankyou to all the professional fishermen in Queensland—and the fisher ladies as well—many of whom have fished this coastline for many generations. I was taught by some of these generational fishermen. One man, Jim Edwards, who has

sadly passed away, who was called the 'King of the Red Emperor', taught me just about everything I know. He was a good man. These fishermen deserve to be honoured for their hard work and dedication to providing one of the healthiest and most sustainable food sources in this state.

The Queensland commercial fishing industry may be small but it is a mighty industry that I believe still has plenty of great potential. We live in a state that borders an ocean. That gives us vast economic value and vast quantities of resources that we make very little use of. Developing and maintaining a diversified market base in Queensland is vital for the state's food security. Honourable members only have to look to the president of the World Bank, who just forecast that in coming years starvation and death will be paramount. This has just been said. We need to ensure our food security.

Mr Dametto: Self-sufficient.

Mr ANDREW: Yes, we need to be very self-sufficient. That would protect our sovereignty and our way of life in this state. It is also important that the skills of this industry are passed down to the next generation and are not lost altogether. This is why I am very happy to commend this bill to the House.

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.08 pm): I am pleased to speak briefly on this private member's bill, the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill, introduced by the member for Traeger. I wanted to speak on this bill because, despite the fact that I represent a fairly metro electorate, Queensland produce is obviously a matter that is close to my heart. I worked in the hospitality sector for what I would call a relatively short period of time—six years or so—but my father, David, has worked in this sector as a chef for over 40 years. He turned 65 recently and since coming to Queensland and starting his career as a very young man in his late teens and early 20s his life's work has been honing his understanding of the fantastic Queensland produce and featuring it on his menus, with a few jaunts overseas peppered throughout those 40 years.

Dad was also one of the first Queensland produce champions about 15 years ago, so I can probably say that every childhood meal that was put on our table was because of Queensland produce. In fact, the clothes on my back as a kid would have been because of Queensland product. My family's restaurant would not have been a patch on what it was without Queensland produce and I had the privilege of meeting many producers of all kinds of different Queensland produce during my time at Restaurant II. One of our favourite things to do—one of my father's favourite things to do; I should not take credit for his fantastic menu—was to feature the produce of Queensland producers and mention the provenance of the product. When I look at menus today such as our own parliamentary menu, it is very proud to state the provenance of not just its seafood but a lot of different kinds of products which is a real trend that we are seeing increasing.

What I also saw from my time in the hospitality industry from a policy perspective was the push and pull of the carrot and the stick when we are regulating and how we encourage or punish or a mix thereof. That is really important, especially when dealing with small family businesses like hospitality. How we incorporate the carrot and the stick aspects into any potential policy or legislation is also very important. I commend all members of the Katter party for their full-throated support of Queensland produce, and I am right there with them on that. That is part of the reason why I am such a big supporter of #eatqld. For the benefit of anyone in the House who has been sleeping under a rock, #eatqld is a program that highlights Queensland produce—whether it is Kalbar carrots, Mooloolaba prawns, Pinkenba soft shelled crab or anything in-between. It is a fantastic program. If members are not already involved, I certainly encourage them to get involved and to get their local venues involved too.

I also want to highlight some potential challenges with any legislative or policy changes. In the restaurant that I worked in, we did not list our fish on the menu. Rather, we had a fish of the day. The fish of the day was listed on our printed menu and on any given day the waitstaff would convey that information to the customer. They would say, 'Today's fish is a Cone Bay barramundi,' or, 'Today's fish is a beautiful Tasmanian salmon.' My question then is: do we print the menu each day and explain the provenance? Can we just say verbally that the fish is local because that is how we are conveying the rest of the information as well? A lot of restaurants do that right now. What if some days the fish is from Australia but other times it is from New Zealand, which similarly has those high-quality standards—that is, it is orange roughly from New Zealand; it is not Australian fish? That would be overseas fish, but it also devalues some potentially really premium product. Would a chalkboard be sufficient because it is written down? There are a few things that we would need to work through because venues do need a little bit of flexibility. If there are garnishes and sides that go with a particular kind of fish they might not go so well with other kinds, so restaurants cannot just put any piece of Australian fish on the menu. If there is a piece of Tassie salmon that a restaurant is hoping to put the dish with but they cannot get any good ones from their supplier that day, they cannot necessarily swap it out for a piece of mackerel because the sides will not match the dish because the flavour profiles are different.

The good news is that right now there is nothing stopping hospitality venues from advertising if they want to that they do have that Cone Bay barramundi from WA for sale. Indeed, it is likely—and we certainly found—that by sharing the provenance of all of the produce wherever possible, restaurants could charge more for that product because customers like to know where that product has come from. However, if this same shop were to wilfully misrepresent the provenance of its products, it could face significant penalties from the Office of Fair Trading—as well they should—and I want to share with the House the penalties for that kind of offence.

Under Australian consumer law, businesses must not make false or misleading representations. If someone is telling you that they have Cone Bay barramundi and it is actually basa, there are penalties for that. The regulators have a number of enforcement options available to them if businesses breach this provision—for example, from the lower level of education and informal warnings if it is a first offence through to civil penalty notices, infringement notices, court enforceable undertakings or court action. Civil penalty infringement notices can be issued and there are maximum court penalties, so there are some fairly significant and hefty fines and other punishments that can be inflicted if businesses are found to be in breach of those rules.

If a customer is told at the table by the waitperson that they are going to be served a beautiful piece of Tasmanian salmon but they walk past the kitchen and see a big box of frozen basa on the bench and there is no frozen basa on the menu—there is nothing like that on the menu—they definitely have cause to ask some questions and potentially follow up with Fair Trading less that restaurant be up to anything fishy. The member for Traeger is not wrong when he says that many restaurants do already advertise the provenance of their product. That is just good policy for those venues. With the assistance of the Fair Trading department and our fantastic #eatqld policy, those are just some of the ways that we can support our Queensland restaurants to proudly share the Queensland producers that they do feature, whether that is Kalbar carrots, Daintree vanilla or Mooloolaba prawns.

The member for Traeger—and this is really important—may also be aware that the federal government is currently exploring country-of-origin labelling more broadly and obviously those provisions would apply at a national level. I quote the federal industry and science minister, Ed Husic, on the progress of that. Mr Husic said in a recent statement that—

... the department is working on the best way to take this commitment forward, which will include engaging with stakeholders. The government is considering all of its election commitments in the budget to be handed down on October 25.

Mr Husic said country of origin labelling had a 'complex history' and he wanted to ensure 'we take the time needed to get it right'.


This includes taking all previous investigations into account, gathering a comprehensive evidence base to inform decisions, and working closely with the seafood industry and hospitality sector to consider options for implementing mandatory labelling.

I do not think anybody in this House doubts that it is a great idea to be sharing this information with customers more broadly. Good ideas can of course still have really significant implementation challenges. I really love and acknowledge the enthusiasm of the Katter party in promoting these ideas and starting these conversations. I think we are going to see a good outcome in this space at a federal level, and that is really important and that is where that work needs to happen. I will not be supporting the bill but certainly support the intent.

Debate, on motion of Ms Pugh, adjourned.

PRIVILEGE

Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

 **Ms BATES** (Mudgeeraba—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. This afternoon the minister for agriculture made a deeply offensive, misogynistic and unparliamentary remark about me. That remark is offensive to all women in this parliament. The Premier must take action to set a standard so that this behaviour will not be tolerated.


Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Hart): Member for Mudgeeraba, I suggest you write to the Speaker about that.

FOOD (LABELLING OF SEAFOOD) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed, on motion of Mr Katter—


That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (6.18 pm): I rise to make a contribution to the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill 2021, the objective of which is mandatory country-of-origin labelling of seafood sold at dining outlets across Queensland. I was the architect from this side of the House on behalf of the LNP opposition who first brought this to the last election as a policy. I did so for two reasons: firstly, as we have heard here tonight, we wanted consumers to know where their seafood was coming from and, secondly, and a point that has not necessarily been debated here tonight, to put a stop to a burgeoning black market in seafood in Queensland.

As members know, commercial fishers across this state are being regulated to death. I have a number of commercial fishers in my electorate who I work very closely with, who I have a lot of time and respect for, and they are certainly finding it tougher and tougher to operate in that industry. This was one way to identify locally caught seafood—we all appreciate locally caught seafood when we go out—but, more importantly, to put a stop to the black market sale of seafood in this state which would mean a greater return for our commercial fishers who are operating under licences and regulation.

Seafood stakeholders agree that the current framework prevents consumers from making an informed choice about the seafood they consume at dining outlets. Seafood stakeholders submitted that 50 per cent of consumers assumed the seafood they buy is Australian when no country-of-origin information was available. I use this analogy: one can go down to Walter's, a steak restaurant most people know, and order a steak and on the menu it will tell you where that steak comes from. As is the case across this state, when one goes to most restaurants and looks at a beef menu, it will identify where those steaks come from. Why are we not applying the same rules and affording the same opportunities to our commercial fishers to have their seafood labelled so that we can make an informed choice when we go to a restaurant and order seafood to know exactly where it came from? We would all love to support homegrown, home-caught seafood produce in this state. Fifty per cent of consumers do not know where their seafood comes from and would love to know where their seafood comes from. I for one would rather eat locally caught seafood than something that has been imported from overseas. It is very clear that Queenslanders would prefer to buy local seafood if given that option. Here we have an opportunity to do exactly that.

We have heard those opposite giving platitudes to the Katter's Australian Party for bringing this bill before the House and saying what a great idea it is but that they cannot support. They cannot support it because it came from this side of the House and not that side of the House. That is a shame. There is an opportunity here to back our commercial fishers, to show that we value them, that we support them and, more importantly, to promote locally caught seafood in this state. I will be supporting this bill because I think it has a lot of merit. I encourage all members of this House, if they are serious about supporting local industry, to also support this bill here tonight.

 **Mr McDONALD** (Lockyer—LNP) (6.23 pm): It is a privilege to rise and speak on the Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill. It was an honour for me to be the deputy chair of the committee that undertook the inquiry into this bill. I commend Mr Katter for bringing the private member's bill to the House. It is actually a little bit of LNP homework. We certainly support the bill and the intentions of it. I recognise the member for Burdekin who is in the House who, together with our former leader, Deb Frecklington, announced the policy about three years ago. It is a sensible adjustment. Whilst government members are not supporting the bill because it was not their idea, there is certainly nothing precluding this process happening using this change of legislation.

As I mentioned, it was great to travel across the state and speak with proud Queensland fishermen who do so much for Australia and who are just seeking a little bit of assistance. People being informed about where their product comes from can help. The Australian Barramundi Farmers' Association conducted surveys to understand their customers and try to better place their product so that Australians and Queenslanders can make an informed choice. Through their surveys, investing in their industry to understand their industry, they discovered 74 per cent of Australians want to eat Australian product if they can and, in fact, will pay between 20 and 30 per cent more if it is Australian product.

We all know that Queensland has some of the best seafood. Some small changes would assist the industry so much. I am disappointed that the government has not taken that opportunity. As my colleague the member for Burleigh, who toured with us on the inquiry, mentioned, if one looks at the public inquiry videos and transcripts one can see that the government committee members—the member for Bancroft, the member for Bundaberg and the member for Ipswich West—were very supportive of and sympathetic to the reasons outlined to the committee in our inquiry and it is a shame that when they came back here to Brisbane that same level of support was not forthcoming.

We are happy to support the bill because it is LNP homework. Regularly in the House Minister Furner refers to himself as the farmer's friend. He does not very often say he is the fisherman's friend. I would suggest that at the present point in time he would not be calling himself the fisherman's friend because of the Spanish mackerel quota or the lack of support for the industry regarding the identification of imported product.

The Northern Territory introduced seafood labelling many years ago and have had a lot of experience with it. In surveys they undertook they found that there was an initial \$630 cost for venues to comply, but over a couple of years it dropped to zero cost for 70 per cent. I hear government members talk about the cost of producing additional menus. We were shown menus from seafood outlets. They already have a couple of different menus because they do get supply from different markets at different times of the year. It is something that the industry already does.

I stress that it is more critical than ever that the government support the fishing industry. There have been changes in regulation, additional regulation costs, additional and soaring fuel costs. We have seen the price of fuel for diesel motors in fishing vessels go from \$1.45 a litre to \$2.20 and it is likely to rise. That is a huge change to the operations of the seafood industry here in Queensland. It is critical that we do everything to support the industry. This is another example of the Labor government not supporting the industry when they simply could. If they allow this and mandate that 'imported' be put on menus across the state, which the industry wants, then it might achieve a five per cent improvement. There were nine submissions to the bill. Seven of those strongly supported the bill. As I said, if the government supported this sensible LNP policy that the Katter's Australian Party have brought to the House in this private member's bill, we would see an improvement and it would assist the industry.

A fundamental of business is confidence and if the government supported industry by putting this in place we certainly would see a great increase in that confidence in the face of many growing costs, whether that be in interest rates, cost-of-living pressures, energy pressures—that cost has gone up by 36 per cent under this government—or the price of diesel, which recently rose from \$1.45 to \$2.20.

I want to mention some of our great Queensland fishermen and business operators such as Col Lounds at Lounds Seafood, Mark Partland from Ingham Road Seafood in Townsville and Shawn McAtamney from the Independent Seafood Producers. For the first time a state government hearing was held in Karumba and it was very welcomed. We heard from David Wren, and Tina and Jason were great supporters, as well as a couple of marine biologists who are very concerned about the lack of support from the government. In Karumba we also heard from Jason Stapley.

This bill really affects some iconic Australian species, particularly barramundi, mackerel and our iconic mud crab. I want to spend a little bit of time talking about barramundi, which is something that I like to catch and eat. I hope members in the House and people in the community realise that, when they go to a restaurant and order a plate of barramundi and they get a whole fillet, it is likely that it will be a wild-caught fish because the minimum legal size is above 58 centimetres for professional fishermen. If they get a portion that is sized across the whole fish, it is likely to come from a farmed barramundi. There are some great farming enterprises in Queensland and Australia that we support, but there are also many imported farm products that come in that form.

Col Lounds told us that he can buy an imported barramundi fillet for about \$14 or \$15, sell it for \$20 and make a profit, but there are many unscrupulous people who will buy that imported barramundi fillet for \$14 and sell it at very high restaurant prices. That is key to why we should be protecting our iconic species. The Australian Barramundi Association, through their surveys, have done more work on that which has shown that most Australians believe when they see 'barramundi' on a menu the fish is from Australia. Unfortunately, that is not the always the case.

It is not just barramundi that is being imported. Basa is actually Mekong delta catfish. As we have heard in the House before, basa fillets used to be quite large but they are becoming smaller. They are produced very cheaply by companies across the world and brought into this country, which is affecting the Australian consumer market. When people see 'basa' on a fish and chip menu they might think it comes from New Zealand or somewhere else, but it is likely to be Mekong delta catfish.

I am very disappointed, having toured the state and listened to the passionate pleas of Queensland fishermen and the Queensland seafood industry who just want a little assistance from the government. It is a shame that the Government has failed to pick up this LNP policy, under the hand of the Katter private member's bill. The Queensland seafood industry needs every assistance that it can get. It does a great job and should be supported.



Mr BERKMAN (Maiwar—Grn) (6.33 pm): I will make a relatively brief contribution on the Katter's Food (Labelling of Seafood) Amendment Bill. Before anything else, I give the member for Traeger and the party more generally credit for having brought in a private member's bill. This is not supposed to be the exclusive remit of the crossbench, but we are almost halfway through the term and it appears to be the case this time around.

At the outset I will say that the Greens do support this bill. The Katters and I often do not agree on policy questions, but in many respects this bill strikes me as being commonsense. We can see that from the fact that a similar approach has been adopted in other jurisdictions and the government's federal colleagues have indicated their intention to pursue similar kinds of reform. Country-of-origin labelling for seafood helps to support local fishers over massive multinational corporations and it allows consumers to make informed decisions. Recent media reporting suggests that, as I said, the federal government agrees with this approach. While it is not extraordinary—in fact, it is entirely predictable—it is unusual to see such vehement opposition from the government on this as I would have thought that they would be on the same page as their federal counterparts.

In Queensland, most people entering a fish and chip shop, a cafe or a local restaurant, especially along the coast of Queensland, would assume that the fish they will be eating was caught here, whether that is in Moreton Bay, off the coast at Yeppoon or by a small business operator at Port Douglas. They would have no idea if the fish they are biting into was caught off the coast of Vietnam, bought by a Norwegian seafood company, processed in California and distributed here by a company that is ultimately run out of Tokyo. Nor would they know whether their meal is undercutting local industry and jobs, is reliant on unsustainable fishing practices or is even enabling modern slavery.

Meanwhile, from the net to the plate, multinational seafood corporations are absolutely making bank off the misery of everyday people across the world. As has been reported by Human Rights Watch and the International Labour Organization, in the Gulf of Thailand the seafood industry is tainted with labour violations, human trafficking and slavery. Often smuggled in from Cambodia or poorer regions of South-East Asia, workers are coerced or deceived into working on trawlers with no pay. They face physical abuse and even murder if they speak out and they do not have the opportunity to step on land again for several years. It is from those conditions that multinational seafood companies buy the barramundi and the prawns that are sold on and distributed in Australian restaurants, cafes and fish and chip shops. There is a direct line between that enslaved Cambodian worker, the profits of a multinational corporation and the fish that everyday Queensland families sit down to eat in their local fish and chippy.

Under current law, Queenslanders may be unknowing participants in this chain of human rights abuses because, when they enter that restaurant and look at the menu, they have no idea where the seafood comes from. It is those same dodgy multinational seafood distributors that imported from China frozen prawns diseased with white spot, which devastated our state's prawn farms in 2016 and is still causing so much financial strife and misery for the aquaculture and fishing industry workers in Moreton Bay and the Logan river area. Those multinational corporations also contribute to the global decline of fish populations and the death of threatened species such as sharks, seabirds, dolphins and turtles that are caught up in bycatch. By removing the country-of-origin labelling exemptions from restaurants and dining venues, Queenslanders will have more certainty and knowledge about the product they buy. It is really straight forward. They will be able to understand better where their meal is coming from and make better informed decisions as consumers.

Perhaps most importantly, this bill provides some hope for those small aquaculture farmers and professional fishers—the trawler operators in Moreton Bay and line anglers off the Gulf of Carpentaria—that they can compete with the giant multinational fishing corporations. It gives hope to the dozens of towns dotted along our coastlines and waterways where multinational corporations have steamrolled once-thriving fishing communities, and farming communities for that matter—multinational corporations that are more interested in the extra profits they garner through exploiting an indentured worker in Thailand than they are in paying fair wages in Queensland.

It also gives a bit of extra hope for a world where our food systems—what we eat, where our food comes from and who benefits from the labour of farmers and workers—are not controlled by CEOs sitting in boardrooms in Sydney, LA or Tokyo. We want a world where our food is made by and for everyday people and where the food industry is controlled by those who actually work the land and seas—those who steer the fishing trawlers, drive the produce trucks, prepare and cook the meals and clean the dishes afterwards.


Of course, the Queensland Greens think there are plenty of other policies that we could introduce to tackle the big money that controls our state. As a start, we should also be making them pay their fair share of tax, increasing royalties so we can get a fair return on natural resources and putting a levy on

big banks. Bills such as this from the KAP are one of the many steps needed to chip away at corporate control of our communities. It is genuinely commonsense reform. As much as the government might like to pick away at the details, we know that it is not about the details; it is simply that it has come from the wrong side of the House. We really do need to be taking these steps to avoid the kinds of global humanitarian atrocities that international practice contributes to and to give Queenslanders real choice about what they eat.

Interruption.

PRIVILEGE


Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities, Withdrawal and Apology

 **Hon. ML FURNER** (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (6.40 pm): I rise on a matter of privilege suddenly arising. Earlier today I responded to an interjection from an opposition member. I withdraw my remarks and I apologise unreservedly.

FOOD (LABELLING OF SEAFOOD) AMENDMENT BILL

Second Reading

Resumed.

 **Mr BENNETT** (Burnett—LNP) (6.40 pm): I welcome the opportunity to make a contribution to the debate of this bill. I thank all of the submitters to the committee, in particular Barry Ehrke from Australian Seafood at the Bundaberg port and Lincoln Kirchner from the Seafood Smokery, for their contributions to the regional hearings. We have an opportunity to do the right thing and to support the Queensland seafood industry and consumers of Queensland seafood, the best seafood in the world. It is not unreasonable for consumers to have confidence and be fully aware of the origin of the seafood they are buying.

With the continual attacks on the fishing industry, we know that at least 77 per cent of all seafood is imported from overseas. I and the people I represent want to know whether we are consuming food that originated in the sewers of South-East Asia. I am not surprised that the government is not supporting the Queensland fishing industry, because it has a long track record in terms of how it treats the fishing industry, particularly around policy and reforms.

I refer to the Queensland trawl fishery. Since the introduction of the new fishery management arrangements and coastal zoning, the government has created a massive level of industry uncertainty and curtailed investment and seems incapable of providing information needed for industry to adapt to poorly developed fishery management within the trawl fishing industry.

As well, the reef line fishers have raised their collective disgust at the management of Spanish mackerel, king threadfin, mud crabs and sand crabs. The list of fisheries under threat has nothing to do with sustainability but everything to do with mismanagement and political manipulation.

The coral trout fishery right now is also on the brink of collapse thanks to quota manipulation and price fixing, an all-too-common scenario. The industry had 200 tonnes stripped away by Fisheries Queensland in recent years under the fable of stocks that are in decline. The introduction of new reporting regulations was promoted to achieve better management of our fisheries. The impact of this reporting is to introduce red tape for no benefit and is used as another means to make a simple task of running a small business almost not worth the extra effort.

The government needs to reset, follow due diligence and get all of the briefs and recommendations independently fact checked and audited before continuing along a ludicrous path to destroy commercial fishing families—families who want to see seafood labelling introduced.

Fisheries Queensland's management of the east coast trawl fishery under the sustainable seafood strategy, a jigsaw of regional zones along the coastline, will soon bite into the state's local seafood supply, with closures of these trawl operations under this system imminent. Closures of this regional zoning system are rapidly looming, within weeks. The trawl fishing allocation zone from Hervey Bay to Mackay at 87.4 per cent exhausted is really disturbing. Of course, when you talk about that amount of fish—

Mr WHITING: Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance. This bill is not about a government fishing quota policy; it is about the private member's bill. The subject covered by the member is not in the explanatory notes or in the bill.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): I have been listening to the contribution. I think the member is being broadly relevant to the bill, but I would ask the member to come to the long title of the private member's bill.

Mr BENNETT: When we talk about labelling the origin of our seafood, the remaining 12 per cent of the allocation which is supposed to sustain local business reliant on the sourcing and selling of locally caught products will come to a crashing halt in November 2022. For seafood lovers who want to see labelling of origin and who reside in or visit from Hervey Bay to Mackay, it means a whole range of local trawler caught products—prawns, Moreton Bay bugs, cuttlefish and squid—that are currently caught in these waters, along with the already banned Hervey Bay scallop, will be off the menu until the government allows businesses to recommence after the November closure.

Under regional management, the pattern of statewide closures and prohibitions will impact the supply and cost of local seafood for long periods during any one year—the same seafood that we want to label in terms of origin and freshness. Resident trawl fleet families working from Hervey Bay, Bundaberg, Gladstone, Yeppoon and Mackay, who all gave evidence to the committee about seafood labelling, face the prospect of businesses closing. They might lose their local and winter tourist clientele, remaining idle at the wharf without income during peak prawn season. They will become nomadic to distant waters in other jurisdictions that will be overfished.


The silent stakeholders in fisheries management about whom we heard a lot tonight from other contributors—home cooks, tourists and food service industries—can expect to experience shortages, higher prices due to logistical costs and interrupted supply. It is not a sustainability or overfishing issue; it is about labelling and it is about the action of a government which impedes and stops the right to source seafood from our own locality. Notwithstanding that fishery managers notify fishers of closures, seafood consumers have been overlooked and need these issues brought forward.

If the government needed any reminder of why we need to back industry and support this bill, I remind the House of the almost 13,000 Queenslanders who reacted to the industry's social media post within a 24-hour period. The silent stakeholders want a say on this particular issue. The Queensland community want fresh, local seafood provided by Queensland professional fishermen. They always want the right to know from where the product originated.

I want to pick up on a couple of issues that I found really interesting. I thank the member for Burdekin for raising the black market issue. It is a present and real issue out there. The member for Maiwar raised issues about biosecurity and white spot within the prawn industry. Again, knowing the origin is really important.

In closing, I will give one example. I have been visiting the Solomon Islands for a long time with a charity I work with. When we talk about origins, it is interesting to see the canning factories and so on clearly identifying where that seafood came from. The member for Maiwar raised issues concerning overfishing. It is evident. In the first year you could hardly see anything out to sea, but over the years there has been an increase in the big mother boats coming in every night and taking all that seafood to go out and catch tuna. It is a big issue.

As a community, we should know where seafood comes from and we should have confidence in our seafood industry—the best seafood in the world which is clean and green. Let us back the bill and support what the Katters are trying to do here tonight.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (6.47 pm): I rise to make a small contribution to the debate of this bill, which I support. My question is: why do those on the government side not support it? It has come from a party that is not a part of the government but it is a good idea. In Queensland and Australia, we all want to protect our locally produced seafood. It is important. All we are asking is that Queensland and Australian seafood is identified in restaurants as Australian. The Queensland seafood industry is the envy of the world given our unique offerings and the unrivalled quality and taste of our product. Opposition members and the crossbenchers want to ensure consumers are aware of the origin of the seafood they are buying. We believe that, if passed, this bill will go a long way towards ensuring a better uptake of locally farmed products as opposed to foreign offerings.

I know that I am the member for Gregory and that there is not much sea in the Gregory electorate, which is 100 kilometres away from the ocean. I am glad about that. I do like the land. Many people here would realise—I know that the chair of the transport committee understands from our recent committee

hearings—that my sea legs are not that good. Travelling to Keswick Island on a small boat in 25-knot winds and then getting on a tender to get to the island was not really good for me, but I do love my seafood.

I have a few mates I played Rugby Union with who are in the fishing industry and are struggling to make ends meet. They have to put money into their boats. They have to get out to sea. Obviously, there is no guarantee they will get a catch. What we as the Queensland government can do is recognise the brilliance of what they bring from offshore into our restaurants—that is, first-class seafood. Whether it is barramundi, oysters or scallops, I think we need to recognise that it is the best seafood we can get in this country. That is why I support this bill. It would allow people who go out to eat seafood and are prepared to pay a little more to buy Australian seafood. That way not only am I getting the best quality seafood I can get but I am also supporting a commercial fishing industry that has been struggling over the last 20 years. There have been significant regulatory changes over the last 20 years. We have seen a massive drop in the number of commercial fishermen able to ply their trade.

This is a simple bill which would allow people who go out to restaurants to be able to say, 'I am prepared to pay an extra \$5 or \$7 for Australian seafood.' That way I would be not only getting a great dinner of clean, green and environmentally sustainable seafood, but I would be supporting a commercial industry that brings that seafood from offshore into our restaurants. I would ask members on the government side to consider supporting this bill and supporting a commercial industry that is so important to us. I hear horror stories about imports. Someone said to me the other day that 70 per cent of seafood that gets served up in Australia comes from overseas. I have been to Vietnam and seen the Mekong and it is not that hygienic. If we can support the Australian industry and allow Australian commercial fishermen to make a little more to survive and to keep their boats going I think it is a good thing.

I note some of the comments from the committee hearings. In Cairns, Mr McAtamney from the Independent Seafood Producers said—

At the end of the day, the crux of this bill is about allowing the consumer to make the choice at the dinner plate, which is no different to what they do at the retail counter. It is overdue. This bill is vital for Queensland. Obviously it has been in place in the Northern Territory for a number of years ... I think it will have far-reaching ramifications and not just in terms of consumption levels ... Certainly from my perspective, we are second generation and have 40 years in the industry and this bill is vital.

That is basically a commercial fisherman coming out and saying that they need this bill to survive. If we do not have commercial fishermen in Australian waters then the alternative is imported seafood, and I do not know where that comes from.

It was only a couple of weeks ago that my youngest daughter decided she wanted some calamari so she went and bought it from Woolworths. She pulled out the calamari and said, 'Dad, would you like some?' I said, 'Darling, let me have a look at its origin.' It came from Vietnam. I said, 'Darling, if you want to eat calamari from Vietnam that is your choice, but I would rather have Australian calamari or Australian seafood.'

This bill is easy to implement. It is simply asking restaurateurs and people who sell seafood to put a mark against what is Australian and what is international seafood. It is a stroke of a pen. Some people are saying that they will have to redesign their menus and that sort of thing. I will go around with a black pen and identify it for them. Then they can photocopy the menu and the job is done. I think it is important that we support Australian people.

I come from a rural and regional area where we support our wool industry. There is a fantastic program starting with the Tambo-Blackall council and AWI, the Australian Wool Institute. We are identifying wool grown in the local area. It has a barcode on it which tells a story of how that wool was produced—organically, ethnically and sustainably. It is taking off in Europe. Europe loves that. They want to know where their product is coming from. I want to know that my seafood is coming from Australia. I want to know that I am supporting a commercial fisherman, his family and the generations before him. That is absolutely important.


The Northern Territory framework is working. Why do we not copy that? It is the only jurisdiction in Australia that has a mandatory labelling requirement for seafood sold in the food service sector. It is working and people are embracing it. I went to the Northern Territory a couple of years ago and I made sure that my seafood came from the Northern Territory. It was beautiful seafood.

I know that we have thrown out regulatory frameworks and all that sort of thing, but let us be different. This policy has come from this side of the House—from the Katter party—but it is a good policy. It works. It is a simple policy so why not embrace it? The government is not the fountain of all good ideas. Some ideas that come from this side might work. We need to work together for Queenslanders. We need to work together for the seafood industry.

A good mate of mine who I played Rugby with—he is a pretty hard nut sort of bloke—is in the trawling industry. He has a genuine concern about his future. He has young kids. He has a boat. He has to fill it up with diesel and diesel, as members know, goes up to around 230 or 250 cents a litre. He is struggling. I want him to succeed because he brings that produce from offshore onto my plate in a restaurant. I want to know it has been caught locally. I do not want my seafood to be caught overseas. I do not want seafood from other countries. I want our local seafood because we have the best seafood here. The important thing for those in the Labor Party to note is that it is sustainably and ethnically caught and it is organic. It is a no-brainer for people in this chamber to say, 'Let's give this a go. Let's put this on the table and let make sure we work this out.' The industry needs help.

Mr McDonald: Some help.

Mr MILLAR: I take that interjection. It also needs some sort of support from the government of the day. It needs to have some confidence. This is not going to cost a lot of money. They are not asking for licences to be brought back. They are not asking for billions of dollars. What they are asking for is that we identify Australian seafood and Queensland seafood on menus. I support this bill and I ask members to support it as well.

 **Mr KATTER** (Traeger—KAP) (6.57 pm), in reply: I will turn to some of the points that have been raised shortly. Firstly, I want to address the fact that most of the contributions made—certainly the contributions by the opposition were very respectful—by government members were respectful. Interestingly, some members, including one tonight, tried to tear strips off the bill, which is interesting. The politics around this are quite funny insofar as the Labor opposition in New South Wales has twice introduced this bill. Labor are saying, 'It is all right because federally we want to achieve the same thing.'

In Northern Territory a bill based on exactly the same principle has been operating for eight years. They had a review where they said it is working really well. Here we are saying that we cannot pass this bill. We are going to find 100 reasons not to pass it—some are legitimate. No legislation is perfect and nothing we put through this place has nothing to nitpick. The question is: are the things that members opposite are listing significant enough to offset the benefits? I am going to do my best to make sure they have to explain that to their constituents.


Yes, these are minor points and cafes might have to reprint menus, but most of time they are paper menus—that is notwithstanding the colourful, glossy, laminated one that was presented by the member for Stretton. Most of what we are talking about is chalk on chalk boards and black and white printed menus. The industry group that is leading the charge against this bill appeared before the committee. Under intense scrutiny we asked, 'Exactly what is the cost we are talking about here?' They said, 'Reprinting menus. We have to print hundreds of A4 pages. That can cost a bit.' Really?

We are considering the benefits of this—stimulating the seafood industry, engaging economic nationalism again and, probably the most important of all, informing the consumers and not endorsing people who mislead consumers. So all of that is weighed up against it is going to cost too much—which in most cases is reprinting a few pages. Really? That is the best you have?

Debate, on motion of Mr Katter, adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Redland Hospital

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (7.00 pm): 'Worst ever' was the headline on the front page of the *Redland City Bulletin* this week. 'Worst ever' describes the ramping fiasco at Redland Hospital. Several articles and an editorial highlight the government's failure to deliver, and I table those articles.

Tabled paper: Bundle of articles from the *Redland City Bulletin*, dated 12 October 2022, regarding Redland Hospital ramping [\[1645\]](#).

The headlines say it all: 'Worst ever: Redland Hospital ramping figures shame', 'Redland Hospital upgrade stalled', 'MP blames the board', 'LNP says time is up for health minister'. Redland residents and hospital workers are outraged to hear the triple-barrel bad news about their hospital and, on their behalf, I am seeking answers from the health minister about this 'worst ever' week because Redlanders deserve better—Redlanders deserve the truth.

Firstly, I turn to the 'worst ever'—ramping shame. Ambulance ramping hit 73 per cent in July—we believe the highest level ever—three out of every four patients waiting in ambulances longer than recommended. Also ambulances that are tied up cannot respond to new emergencies. Unbelievably, it could get worse if the trend is not arrested. The minister previously said that things would improve but they got worse.

Minister, what are you doing new to arrest and reverse the trend? Minister, are you just asleep at the wheel or deliberately being misleading?


Ms Boyd: Through the chair!

Dr ROBINSON: Through you, Mr Deputy Speaker. Secondly, I turn to the 'worst ever'—expansion stalled. Redlanders are angry that the long-awaited expansion of the hospital has stalled. It was in the budget but is now delayed. Redlanders thought they were getting an ICU, new beds plus more—this was not about catching up on seven years of underfunding but finally some improvement—only to learn the truth: the upgrade has stalled. The reason, according to the member for Capalaba, is that the funds were sat on for two years. He went on to call for the Metro South board to go.

Thirdly, I turn to the 'worst ever'—misled regarding health. The member for Capalaba also claimed he was misled about the upgrade and that heads should roll. The health minister quickly tried to silence him and they had a divisive public spat about who is to blame. The claims are disturbing. Does the misleading go higher? Does it go up to the minister? Do the members for Redlands and Springwood support their Redlands' colleague or the minister? They have been eerily silent on it all. They have gone into hiding.

I say to the health minister that 'worst ever' is not good enough. The health minister must explain the ramping, the botched upgrade and the misleading. If the health minister cannot or the health minister will not, the health minister should resign or be sacked.

Bundaberg Electorate, Events

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (7.03 pm): It has been a revved up few weeks in Bundaberg as our local car clubs have put on some local car events. I say to every member in the House tonight: buckle up while we put the pedal to the metal and we drive through the next three minutes!

I will start with the Bundaberg Early Holden Club who held their annual motor neurone disease car run. It is a wonderful charity event that they do each and every year when they raise money to go towards finding a cure and support for those who suffer motor neurone disease. They do the ice bucket challenge. Those who follow my social media know that I am no stranger to the ice bucket challenge. This particular pour lasted for about 30 seconds, so they definitely made the most of it. I say a big thank you to the local family who put up some money so they could pour the ice cold water over their local member. All up the club raised \$3,000 in contributions through their MND run—absolutely outstanding. Well done to the new committee as well. How good was it to see that it was a Holden that crossed the line at Bathurst! Well done to the Bundaberg Early Holden Club.

Also, the Rum City Rods & Customs put on their three-day Bargara Beach Campout and their Auto-Mazing Car Show.

Mr Sullivan interjected.

Mr SMITH: That is their name, not my pun, member for Stafford. I say a big thank you to Neil, Rod and all of the volunteers. It was excellent to get out there on the last day to walk around and see so many cars from all over Queensland. That means people are coming from all over Queensland to Bundaberg and putting their money into our local businesses. That is an outstanding win for our local businesses and for our local economy. Well done to the Rum City Rods. They asked me to pick my favourite. My favourite was an orange and black 1970 Mustang. It was pretty cool. The only downside was that it came from Hervey Bay. Apart from that, the 1970 Mustang was pretty schmick, let me say that!

We had a three-day event at our speedway—the Autobarn Carina International Speedway. The member for Kurwongbah always has to hear about when I go to the speedway. Their three-day spectacular started with a rock concert where Daryl Braithwaite was the lead act—howzat! That was a pun! There was plenty of horsepower at that event. They also had the Black Sorrows and Triple M Bundy's very own Nathan 'Bossman' Bedford. Well done to the Bossman for getting up there and playing a gig.

The next night they had the monster trucks. I cannot think of a pun for the monster trucks. It was a fantastic event. So many people from Bundy got out there. There was a little bit of rain around that weekend, but they made sure they got out to support such a big event, just like the Bundaberg community does because they are so tight-knit. Unfortunately, the burn-outs were cancelled the next night. But what an amazing revved up last couple of weeks for Bundaberg—the best electorate in the world!

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Sounds monstrous!

Sexual Violence Awareness Month



Mr MOLHOEK (Southport—LNP) (7.06 pm): During the month of October it was my great pleasure and honour to officially launch Sexual Violence Awareness Month at a special function hosted by the Gold Coast Centre Against Sexual Violence. I want to pay special tribute to founder, Di Macleod and our emcee, Narelle Poole. I broke my cardinal rule about winning raffles at functions. Rather than offering it back for redraw, I knew that Narelle wanted it, so I handed over the 10-kilogram block of Cadbury chocolate that I won on the morning. Not only was it my pleasure to launch the event but I also won a raffle prize!

The morning was well attended with over 400 guests in attendance. There were many multicultural groups represented on the morning. It was especially great to see Cornelia Babbage from Multicultural Families Organisation, Ree Ali from the Indian community and Joyce Cho from the Migrant Centre Organisation.

The latest data from Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety found that 51 per cent of women aged 24 to 30 had experienced sexual violence in their lifetime. Figures like these highlight how pervasive this issue is and how hidden it has been. Each day more survivors find their voices, and we are only now beginning to understand the true extent of sexual violence in our community.

During the month of October, the theme for Sexual Violence Awareness Month is 'Help, Hope, Change'. This provides an opportunity to learn more about how we can help survivors; what hope looks, sounds and feels like after trauma; and, importantly, how we can all contribute to change that supports survivors and holds perpetrators to account. Social change takes time and a great place to begin is to start by believing. This simple change offers help and hope, and makes a huge difference to a person's healing journey.

We were fortunate to hear from a survivor Caroline Bellenger, who is a recently returned surf lifesaving champion. She has been overseas representing Australia. She said in her presentation—

Staying silent on sexual assault compounds the trauma and gives the perpetrator a free pass. This is not a secret subject, not when one in three girls and one in six boys will experience child sexual assault before the age of sixteen. Many victims just need someone to listen, you're not expected to fix their problems, you just need to start by believing. Talking about it helps lift the shame from the victim and redirects it to where it belongs, the perpetrator.

I also want to thank those who turned out to support Bravehearts Day. I give special thanks to Pushpinder Oberoi and Priya Daga from The Indian Place on Chevron Island. We raised over \$7,000 for Bravehearts from the 50 guests who attended.

(Time expired)

Bundamba Electorate; Jennings, Mr M



Mr McCALLUM (Bundamba—ALP) (7.09 pm): Today we announce the official name of our brand new school which is currently under construction in our local Bundamba community. The name of the new \$85 million school at Purser Road is Woogaroo Creek State School. This follows a comprehensive consultation process. The name has strong geographical, cultural and environmental significance for our local community. Our local First Nations community maintains a close connection to the creek after previous generations fished its waters and settled on the surrounding land. The creek is also a local landmark for many, serving as a natural boundary between the Bundamba and Jordan electorates, and its name is synonymous with our local community. We are already home to Woogaroo Field, home of the mighty Goodna Eagles, the Woogaroo Swimming Club and of course Woogaroo Creek. Now we are very happy to welcome Woogaroo Creek State School. It will be supported by another new primary school in Ripley, the Ripley Central State School, which is also set to open to more students at the start of 2023.


More than 4,500 people across our local Ipswich community are in work now compared to this time last year, and business confidence and industry investment continues to be incredibly strong. Recently we announced that one of the biggest drink manufacturers in the world is set to build a new \$400 million facility at our local community in Swanbank. The Frucor Suntory factory will support up to 600 local jobs, including 160 long-term roles. Up to 20 million cases of drinks will be produced at the facility each year when it opens in 2024, and that is all backed by our Invested in Queensland program.

In another huge vote of confidence for our local community the Southern Hemisphere's biggest and most advanced animal genomics and food safety lab is now open in Bundamba. The \$11 million Neogen Australasia facility is supporting more good, highly skilled jobs backed by our Advance Queensland Industry Attraction Fund. It means that Neogen's agribusiness operations, warehousing,

distribution and technical support are now based in one 3,000-square-metre facility that is already home to 65 workers. At least another 25 roles are expected to be added during the next five years as Neogen continues to expand its local operations.

Finally, I conclude tonight by placing on record my sincere condolences to the family and friends of long-time local Labor Party stalwart and Collingwood Park resident Michael Jennings. I first met Mickey over 15 years ago and I am very proud to call him a mate. He was a wealth of knowledge, loved a beer and had a wicked sense of humour. Vale, Michael Jennings.

Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (7.12 pm): I would like to briefly address the disgraceful, misogynistic behaviour of a male Labor minister against females in this House. It does not matter who that slur was against, it should not have happened in this House. It should not happen outside of the House. There is no place in this House for that type of vile language to be spoken to a female. I can see the puzzled looks over there. That is exactly what is wrong with the Labor Party. Ten years ago Julia Gillard stood in the federal parliament and spoke about misogynistic behaviour. Have a look at the misogynistic behaviour! It was the minister who sat in the federal Labor Party with Julia Gillard at the time. It is obvious he has not learned anything.

I ask you, Mr Deputy Speaker, what is the Queensland Premier going to do about it? Does the Queensland Premier think that a simple apology which did not even include what he said—and I will tell you what he said, Mr Deputy Speaker. That Labor minister said to a female on this side of the House, ‘You stupid, dopey woman’—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Order! Pause the clock. Resume your seat while I take some advice. Member, you cannot repeat unparliamentary language or language that you have claimed is inappropriate even if you are quoting it. I would ask you to continue your contribution without repeating the statement to which you are referring.


Mrs FRECKLINGTON: It is language against a female that should not be repeated in this House. There is no place for it. I, for one, am sick to death of the fact that this Labor Party government—all of them—sit over there and judge this side of parliament. They judge the opposition all the time. There are double standards. If a male on this side said it about a female on that side, just imagine. All of them would be lining up saying all sorts of bad things about it. The pile-on would happen. Where is it from over there now? There is complete radio silence. Look at them: all of their heads are down. Surely the Premier must come in here and reprimand that minister. It is unacceptable.

That man calls himself the farmers’ friend. I can say right here today that no farmer would ever disrespect a woman like that. It is an honour and privilege to sit in this House, and to speak about a woman on this side of parliament just because she is part of the opposition! I say enough is enough! Enough is enough from you Labor people. You think it is okay for you to say it—

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: Comments will come through the chair.

Mrs FRECKLINGTON: Well, how about they come in here and apologise and do it with meaning. The minister could not even repeat what he said, it was that disgraceful. Thankfully, the microphones did pick it up. That is the only reason why, after arguing, he came into this House. It is about time the Premier apologises.


Health Infrastructure

 **Mr WHITING** (Bancroft—ALP) (7.16 pm): I rise tonight to say that I am very glad I joined the member for Pine Rivers and the Minister for Health the other day as we broke ground on the new satellite hospital in the Pine Rivers area. It was a wonderful moment. It is always great when we start work on a new health facility in the growing Moreton Bay region. The concrete pour has now happened, and we are going to see work happen at a fast rate. I think it is a great reminder that it is this Labor Party that is delivering seven brand new satellite hospitals, including one at Bribie Island, Caboolture and in the Pine Rivers district. It is Labor that is delivering these health facilities. We would like to remind the House that they will provide day services like oncology, radiotherapy, mammograms, paediatric appointments and those appointments that need less intense care. That frees up services coming from our main hospitals. It frees up bed capacity at those hospitals so they can provide intense care at those wonderful hospitals such as Caboolture and Redcliffe.

While mentioning beds at these hospitals, can I point out once again that it is Labor that is rebuilding the Caboolture Hospital, a \$400 million project. That will deliver another 130 beds at our local hospital and a new reconstructed emergency department. It is the Labor government that is redeveloping the Redcliffe Hospital, a \$1 billion project. That will deliver an extra 200 beds. Bear in mind that this will service those booming suburbs of North Lakes and Mango Hill as they grow on the northern edge. I think that what we did at Pine Rivers the other day illustrates what we are doing, and that includes building three new hospitals, expanding 11 more and creating the new Queensland Cancer Centre. What a wonderful achievement!

On this side we are all proud of what we are delivering in the health area in terms of infrastructure. It is more than infrastructure, may I point out, that Labor is delivering. We are putting on 9,475 additional frontline workers in this term. People ask, 'Where do we get these people from?' I say that we are training Queenslanders. We are training Queenslanders like my niece Charlotte, who is studying nursing next door at QUT. They are getting ready to go out on prac into our wonderful hospitals to learn how to care for their fellow Queenslanders. It is this Labor government that is providing training programs to give our workers the skills to staff those hospitals.

Road Safety, Youth Justice

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (7.19 pm): There have been 21 people killed in traffic crashes on the Sunshine Coast this year, which is 10 more than this time last year. Across Queensland, 231 people have lost their lives, with another 490 requiring hospitalisation. Unsurprisingly, 17-year-old P-platers are at a higher risk of being killed or killing someone else on our roads. They are twice as likely to be killed as other drivers and six times more likely to be killed than learner drivers. They represent 14 per cent of Queensland licence holders but are involved in 25 per cent of road deaths. A Sentencing Advisory Council report has previously highlighted that almost 10 per cent of dangerous operation of a motor vehicle causing death offences in Queensland are committed by 17-year-old drivers, so it should be alarming to every member in this place and every Queenslanders that once again this government's broken youth justice legislation is failing to keep our young drivers and all Queensland road users safe.

Before the inclusion of 17-year-old persons in the Youth Justice Act, 17-year-old drivers were sentenced as adults for drink, drug and other dangerous driving offences. Now they are routinely getting a free pass—no fine, no licence suspension or disqualification, and no finding of guilt. They drive away from court thumbing their noses at police and laughing at the weak laws of this state, but it is no laughing matter. Innocent victims who have been injured by these dangerous young drivers often have no recourse for compensation—as occurred in a local court again this week, where a magistrate, acknowledging the stupidity of the situation, could not take a previous drink-driving offence into consideration during the application of a restricted work licence because the driver was 17 years old at the time, giving the driver a second free pass.

Amendments made to the Youth Justice Act in the Tow Truck and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 purporting to close this loophole have failed. The explanatory notes claimed the amendments would ensure 17-year-olds remained subject to mandatory disqualification periods for serious driving offences. I note that during the debate on this bill on the first full sitting day of the 56th Parliament members on this side and government ministers understood the importance of this issue. Minister Bailey said—

The bill ... makes straightforward, necessary amendments relating to 17-year-olds transferring into the youth justice system.

Minister Farmer said—

This means for the purpose of road rules 17-year-old drivers will be treated the same as adult drivers.

She said—


The risks are significant and the consequences are tragic ...

before she commended the bill to the House.

However, successful applications are still being made in the Childrens Court under section 24A of the Youth Justice Act, which allows the mandatory disqualification requirements under section 253 and 254 of the Youth Justice Act to be avoided by the dismissal of the charge because the operation of the mandatory disqualification in section 254(4) of the Youth Justice Act only applies once a child is found guilty. I call on the government to urgently rectify this dangerous failure of their legislation and admit that their soft-on-crime regime is failing to keep people safe.

(Time expired)

Algeria Electorate, Schools

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algeria—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (7.22 pm): I am fortunate to have 11 fantastic schools within my electorate of Algeria. These schools all support a safe, supportive and welcoming learning environment for students to grow, and it has been my pleasure to work with and visit these schools frequently during my time as the local member.


Education is essential, and every year I am inspired by the intelligence and tenacity of our young people. Our schools play a critical role in equipping students with the necessary skills and environment in which to learn. That is why I am proud to be part of a Palaszczuk government that values education and the space that our students learn in. With the Advancing Clean Energy Schools program, the installation of air conditioning in every classroom as well as new play equipment, learning areas and security infrastructure, the list of support is vast.

The state government is supercharging our schools' energy efficiency with hundreds of solar panels being installed. In the Algeria electorate, there are numerous schools that have had solar panels installed. Calamvale Special School received 270 solar panels, Calamvale Community College received 810 and Acacia Ridge State School received 126. There are 108 solar panels for Watson Road State School and 303 at Algeria State School. Installing solar panels in schools is just one of the ways the Palaszczuk government is delivering cheaper, cleaner and secure energy and supporting our plan to have 70 per cent of Queensland's energy supply sourced from renewables by 2032.

Across the electorate of Algeria, millions of dollars have been allocated to support infrastructure projects. Most recently, Calamvale Special School was awarded \$18.5 million for a new multistorey learning centre to deliver new classrooms and play spaces. This funding is in addition to the almost \$62,000 provided to install an outdoor sensory playground for students to learn and play. Next door at Calamvale Community College, an investment of \$9.8 million has seen the construction of a two-storey learning centre with learning spaces for robotics and electronics, design, arts, offices, amenities and a new performing arts area complete with a recording room, green room and editing room.

At Acacia Ridge State School, the Palaszczuk government has delivered on its \$150,000 election commitment with the completion of two playgrounds. There was also \$700,000 committed to installing a brand new security fence which has transformed the grounds. I have been able to speak with parents and staff who are thrilled to have this new addition for student safety. Acacia Ridge State School will also see \$850,000 to refurbish their J block. At Watson Road State School, the Palaszczuk government has also provided funding for a school security fence worth \$490,000. Algeria State School has completed a \$750,000 refurbishment of their administration block, and installation of a new \$700,000 security fence looks absolutely fantastic. It is always a privilege to visit schools across the Algeria electorate but with these upgrades it is extra special. I congratulate all of the schools and I look forward to seeing them throughout the term.

Water Infrastructure

 **Mr HEAD** (Callide—LNP) (7.25 pm): The Minister for Water today claimed that the Labor Party are big supporters of dams. I am a little shocked by this statement as many good dam proposals in Queensland lie awaiting state government support. Many proposed dams would support farmers so, no, the Labor Party could not possibly support dams that would support food security and farmers in Queensland. Instead, the only dam they want to proactively support is one that will drown farmers out.

Eungella Dairy and many neighbouring farms learnt about their future at the bottom of a dam on the front page of the local paper. This shows the Labor government do not care about our primary producers and the people who feed this state, this country and the world. They have also conveniently neglected the fact that the Pioneer Dam is near one of the best platypus viewing platforms in the state. They had to be dragged kicking and screaming to commit to rebuilding Paradise Dam. We still do not know the truth as to who is responsible for the absolute debacle that it is. We do not know this because it is a former Labor government that made an absolute mess of it, and the Labor Party will always put their mates in front of Queenslanders and the truth. Today the Labor Minister for Water claimed that 2,500 jobs would not exist if the LNP were in government.

Mr Janetzki interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member for Toowoomba South, you need to be in your own chair if you are going to interject. I give that as a general warning to all of the members of the LNP who are sitting out of their chairs.

Mr HEAD: Today the Labor Minister for Water claimed that 2,500 jobs would not exist if the LNP were in government. In fact, the LNP would have created tens of thousands of jobs because the LNP will not get in the way of dams. We will happily support rural and regional Queensland by backing new


dams. The minister today criticised the federal coalition leader for spreading fears about Paradise Dam. I will tell the House what brings fear to rural and regional Queenslanders—a Palaszczuk Labor government.

The Minister for Water can allay the very genuine fears from the Wide Bay-Burnett communities by releasing a joint statement with his federal counterparts committing fully to rebuilding Paradise Dam and highlight the funding in both the state and federal budgets. He should also give a time line on when it is going to be finished. Oh, wait a second, the member for Gladstone does not like giving time lines, just like he has not given Central Queenslanders a time line for when he will resign if maternity services do not come back online in his own electorate.

The fact that the federal government have even thought of turning their back on their promise to rebuild Paradise Dam is an absolute disgrace. The Palaszczuk government has given nothing but endless praise to their federal Labor counterparts since their election, yet here they are leaving the state with another \$600 million bill to rebuild Paradise Dam. This is a Labor government stuff-up, and the Labor government needs to come clean with Queenslanders and ensure their federal colleagues stay true to their election commitments.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will remind all members of the House that if you want to interject you need to be in your own seat.

SES Week

 **Mr RUSSO** (Toohey—ALP) (7.29 pm): In September this year I had the pleasure of representing the Minister for Fire and Emergency Services, Mark Ryan, at the launch of SES Week for the Brisbane region. Across the Brisbane region, there are approximately 1,004 volunteers who between July 2021 and July 2022 performed over 132,978 hours of service. We know the SES volunteers have been out in full force due to this year's prolonged wet season, which greatly impacted on the residents of Rocklea in my electorate.

When nature is at its worst, the SES is at its best. The extreme conditions Queenslanders faced, particularly in South-East Queensland, highlights the importance of our emergency services. It takes a special kind of person to be an SES volunteer, so I was disturbed to read that across all regions teens were the least represented group amongst volunteers and that has not been increasing. I hope they will become more eager to volunteer as they become more aware of the benefits of volunteering. We will need their skills and capacity as volunteers into the future.

The event I attended in September, on behalf of the minister, was to celebrate the hard work and outstanding efforts of the SES volunteers in the Brisbane region. The SES Meritorious Service Award is presented to volunteer members of the SES in recognition of their dedicated service. On the night there were a number of meritorious service medals presented to volunteer members, recognising their service. The number of meritorious service medals presented were: 14 medals for 10 years of service; one first clasp to the medal for 15 years of service; four second clasp to the medal for 20 years of service; and one sixth clasp to the medal for an incredible 40 years of dedicated service.

The Regional SES Member of the Year Award was also presented for distinguished service to the SES. This award was presented to Mitchell Brushe of the Cleveland SES Group. The Regional SES Group of the Year Award was very close, with the Western SES Group being this year's recipient of the award. The Moggill SES Group received a highly commended award in the same Regional SES Group of the Year category. The Regional SES Operational Response of the Year Award recognises effective and efficient operations during a major disaster event or emergency incident that occurred during the previous year. This year, three units received the award in recognition of their dedicated service to the Brisbane region community during the February 2022 severe weather and flood event. Those units were Brisbane City SES, Moreton Bay and Redland City.

The House adjourned at 7.32 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, Fentiman, Frecklington, Furner, Gerber, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Hart, Head, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Janetzki, Katter, Kelly, King A, King S, Knuth, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Lauga, Leahy, Linard, Lister, Lui, MacMahon, Madden, Mander, Martin, McCallum, McDonald, McMahon, Mellish, 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, Weir, Whiting