



# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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## FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

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# THURSDAY, 13 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.

## PRIVILEGE

### Speaker's Ruling, Referral to Ethics Committee



**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 5 July 2022, the member for Capalaba wrote to me alleging that the member for Oodgeroo deliberately misled the House on 23 June 2022. On 21 July 2022, the Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts wrote to me further alleging that the member for Oodgeroo misled the House on 23 June 2022. As both allegations related to the same statement, I have considered them jointly. I have considered the material put forward by the member for Capalaba, the minister, and the member for Oodgeroo, and I am of the view that there is an arguable case that the member for Oodgeroo's statements were deliberately misleading. I do not consider an adequate apology or explanation has been made. Accordingly, I will be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I wish to emphasise that my role is not to determine whether there has been a proven fault, a breach of privilege, but rather whether there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of matter. I remind members that standing order 271 now applies and members should not refer to these matters in the House. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling.

Leave granted.

### SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT

Honourable members,

On 5 July 2022, the Member for Capalaba wrote to me alleging that the Member for Oodgeroo deliberately misled the House on 23 June 2022.

On 21 July 2022, the Minister for Communities and Housing, Digital Economy and the Arts wrote to me further alleging that the Member for Oodgeroo misled the House on 23 June 2022.

As both allegations related to the same statement, I have considered them jointly.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Member for Oodgeroo during debate of the appropriation bills.

Specifically, the Member referred to the discontinued funding of Housing United, a *social housing initiative in the Redlands*.

*Amongst other things he stated that:*

- *Labor members of parliament have colluded with the housing minister to white-ant that local service;*
- *They have stripped and cut funding for homelessness in the Redlands;*
- *that because that nonpartisan and independent agency would not kowtow to the member for Capalaba he worked to have them defunded; and*
- *that the Minister for Housing has rewarded such politicking and misogyny by cutting funding.*

In accordance with Standing Order 269(5), I sought information from the Minister and the Member for Capalaba.

Both the Member for Capalaba and the Minister argued that the statements were misleading because the initial funding of the pilot program had expired, and future funding was allocated through an open tender process in accordance with the Queensland Procurement Policy 2021. Homeless United were unsuccessful in this tender process.

Both the Member for Capalaba and the Minister denied influencing, or making any decisions with respect to these funding processes and provided evidence to support those positions.

I also sought further information from the Member for Oodgeroo about the allegations made against him, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

The Member for Oodgeroo claimed that the Member for Capalaba and the Minister misunderstood his statements, and that the funding he was referring to as being cut by the Government was the initial pilot program funding, not the open tender process.

The Member for Oodgeroo stated that he had a local source that informed him of the Member for Capalaba's role in the discontinuation of that initial grant funding. However, he did not provide evidence of this source.

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

I note that the Member for Oodgeroo made a statement in the House on 17 August 2022 with respect to the Minister's complaint. However, because his statement did not address all the issues raised, and did not address the Member for Capalaba's complaint, I do not consider an adequate apology or explanation has been made.

I have considered the material put forward by the Member for Capalaba, the Minister, and the Member for Oodgeroo and am of the view that there is an arguable case that the Member for Oodgeroo's statements were deliberately misleading.

Accordingly, I will be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I wish to emphasise that my role is not to determine whether there has been proven fault—a breach of privilege—but rather whether there are sufficient issues in play to warrant the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

I remind members that Standing Order 271 now applies and members should not refer to these matters in the House.

### **Speaker's Ruling, Alleged Deliberate Misleading of the House**

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, on 13 September 2022, the Minister for Police wrote to me alleging that the member for Currumbin deliberately misled the House on 17 August 2022. The matter relates to a statement made by the member for Currumbin during the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and Appropriation Bill. Yesterday, the member for Currumbin made a clarifying statement and apology in the House. Therefore, I will not be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee. I seek leave to incorporate my full ruling in the *Record of Proceedings*.

Leave granted.

### **SPEAKER'S RULING—ALLEGED CONTEMPT OF PARLIAMENT**

Honourable members,

On 13 September 2022, the Minister for Police wrote to me alleging that the Member for Currumbin deliberately misled the House on 17 August 2022.

The matter relates to a statement made by the Member for Currumbin during the cognate debate on the Appropriation (Parliament) Bill and Appropriation Bill.

Specifically, '*As if that was not enough, estimates revealed that not only has the police minister broken his promise to get more police boots on the ground, with budget documents showing that the growth rate of sworn police officers has been less than one per cent per annum since Labor's election ...'*

The Minister argued that this is misleading because the number of police officers has increased since 2015. The Minister provided an answer to a Pre-Estimates Hearing Question on Notice and a transcript of evidence from the Police Commissioner at the most recent Estimates Hearings as evidence.

I sought further information from the Member for Currumbin about the allegation made against her, in accordance with Standing Order 269(5).

In her submission, the Member for Currumbin contended that the broken promise she was referring to was the 2020 election promise by the government of 2025 more police officers by 2025.

However, in her statement, the Member for Currumbin states that the Minister has broken that promise. In my view, a promise which cannot be fulfilled until 2025, cannot be assessed as broken in 2022.

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

I note that on 12 October 2022, the Member for Currumbin made a clarifying statement and apology in the House, and this is recorded at page 2587 of the Record of Proceedings. Accordingly, I consider the Member for Currumbin has made an adequate apology.

Therefore, I **will not** be referring the matter for the further consideration of the House via the Ethics Committee.

**Mr SPEAKER:** I also table the correspondence relating to that matter.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of correspondence in relation to the alleged deliberate misleading of the House by the member for Currimbin, Mrs Laura Gerber [1646].

## SPEAKER'S STATEMENTS

### Tabling of Documents

 **Mr SPEAKER:** I and other speakers have noted on several occasions the largely unfettered right of members of this House to table documents, a privilege not extended to members in many other jurisdictions. This privilege must be balanced with the responsibility to comply with standing orders. Additionally, each tabled paper is compliance checked, scanned and electronically published and then stored at public expense forever. I therefore ask members to carefully consider the items they are tabling, and indeed whether the point the member wishes to make can be made without tabling the items.

### 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 Keebra Park State High School in the electorate of Southport, Sheldon College in the electorate of Redlands, Mudgeeraba State School in the electorate of Mudgeeraba, Pilton State School in the electorate of Condamine, and Fairholme College in the electorate of Toowoomba North.

## MOTION OF CONDOLENCE

### Perrett, Mr TJ

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (9.34 am): I move—

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

Trevor Perrett was born in Kingaroy in 1941 and was educated at the Booie State School. After his schooling, Mr Perrett worked as a grazier on the family property, Mount Hope. It was a property developed by his grandfather and one which Mr Perrett was to later acquire. He was a councillor with the Cattlemen's Union of Australia and was a member of the Rural Fire Board and president of the South Burnett Show Society.

In December 1987, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen resigned as Premier and as the member for Barambah. A by-election was held in April 1988 which Mr Perrett contested for the Citizens Electoral Council. He won the seat on preferences over the National Party's candidate, Warren Truss, who later went into federal parliament. After eight months in this House, Mr Perrett left the Citizens Electoral Council for the National Party. He went on to serve until the 1998 election, winning elections in 1989, 1992 and 1995. He was a member of the Public Accounts Committee from 1989 to 1992 and again in 1998. He was deputy opposition whip from March 1990 to September 1992, and a member of the opposition front bench from 1991 to 1996, mainly in primary industries. After the change of government in 1996, Mr Perrett became minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry in the Borbidge government. Mr Perrett left cabinet in February 1998 and lost his seat in the June election.

Mr Perrett's son, Tony, is the member for Gympie in this House. I note the rarity of an MP contributing to a parliamentary condolence motion for their parent. Earlier this year, the member and I shared an occasion at a lunch here for the Queensland Country Women's Association. He does a good job for his constituents, and I offer him my sympathy, as I do to the late member's partner, Mimi, who is with us today, along with the member for Gympie's wife, Michele.

Trevor John Perrett passed away on 10 July aged 80, and a funeral service was held in Kingaroy on 15 July. The government acknowledges Mr Perrett's time in office, and I take this opportunity to extend my sympathy and that of this House to Mr Perrett's family and friends.

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (9.37 am): Today is something of a unique occasion. As with the recognition of the service and contribution of all former members, it is tinged with sadness. However, the passing of Trevor Perrett, the father of the member for Gympie,

brings to mind the fact that few members follow their parents into this House. However, in parliament today we have five other members whose fathers have preceded them: yourself, Mr Speaker, the Premier, the member for Marochydore, the member for Stafford and the member for Traeger.

Trevor Perrett's time as a member of this House traverses a period of upheaval, uncertainty and change. The manner of his arrival was only surpassed in drama by the manner of his departure. The decade from the late 1980s to the late 1990s was one of the most dramatic in our political history. It saw six premiers lead the state, it saw the end of the Bjelke-Petersen era, and it saw the election of the first Labor government in 32 years. It was Sir Joh's estrangement from the National Party and his resignation as member for Barambah in 1987 that provided the impetus for Trevor Perrett to enter this parliament. An unabashed supporter of the former premier, Trevor Perrett launched his campaign for the seat as a member of the Citizens Electoral Council. As the beneficiary of Labor preferences, he defeated the National Party candidate, Warren Truss, and was elected as member for Barambah.

If there is one thing that can be said about Trevor Perrett it is that he was a true son of the South Burnett region. His family had farmed in the area since the 19th century and he had an affinity with and an understanding of the needs and aspirations of the people of the region. As a grazier, he had served his community and primary industry through the Cattlemen's Union, the Rural Fire Board and the South Burnett National Show Society.

In his first speech in 1988 he referred at length to the challenges facing Queensland's rural communities when he said—

One does not have to travel far from a centre of population to discover hundreds of family farms which are unlikely to be saved from financial disaster by one good season, even a record one. Throughout our primary production areas, farming families are in dire straits—honest, hardworking people in most cases too proud to ask for any kind of handout. They not only face ruin, but are in the midst of it.

His concern for the failure of policies to promote genuine decentralisation, the decline of job opportunities in rural areas, particularly for the young, and the difficulty in maintaining family farms were central to his efforts on behalf of the people of Barambah and its successor electorate, Nanango. In his campaign, Trevor Perrett captured the dissatisfaction with traditional parties. Ironically, he highlighted what he saw as a conflict between members' loyalty to their electors as distinct to party loyalty. It is not unreasonable to suggest that, from the day of his election, the National Party was keen to have Mr Perrett return to the ranks of the party. This coincided with Perrett's own assessment of the CEC and before the 1989 state election he returned to the National Party.

After the election of the Labor government in 1989 Trevor Perrett, held the shadow primary industries portfolio in a number of guises. Upon Rob Borbidge assuming the premiership in 1996, Trevor Perrett became minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry, a position for which he was well qualified. As minister, he was a strong advocate for the interests of those involved in primary industry not only within the Queensland government but with the newly elected Howard government. At the time his advocacy embraced the impact of drought on rural producers and communities and the consequences of increasing interest rates and he highlighted the importance of assisting producers gain access to finance to help with restocking as the country emerged from drought.

It is ironic that, after a decade in parliament, Trevor Perrett was one of 11 members, both National and Labor, who lost their seat to the One Nation wave that emerged in 1998. It is instructive, however, to note that his successor in Barambah became an Independent upon the implosion of One Nation after only one year and that Nanango returned to the LNP with the election of the present member in 2012.

Trevor Perrett entered this parliament at a time of great change. His decade as a member of this House covered many of the significant political events of the second half of the 20th century. It also coincided with a period of significant challenge for our rural communities. Despite this, he remained a champion of the South Burnett and a vigorous advocate for his constituents.

Today the opposition supports this motion and extends our sympathies to his son, our colleague the member for Gympie; Trevor Perrett's wife, Mimi; his daughter-in-law, Tony's wife, Michele; and his close friend and the former member for Mundingburra, Frank Tanti, and his wife, Ann, who are all in the gallery. Today we say vale to Mr Perrett.

 Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (9.42 am): I rise to speak on the motion of condolence for Trevor Perrett, who served in this chamber as the member for Barambah for a decade, and also served as a minister in the Borbidge government from 1996 to 1998. At the outset, I would like to pass on my condolences and the best wishes of all members on this side of the chamber to the member for Gympie at such a difficult time.

Mr Perrett left school at 14 and yet rose to carry the particular distinction of following former premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen in holding the seat of Barambah and, as I indicated, he went on to serve as a minister in the National Party government. Before entering parliament he had close ties to the agricultural sector, including as president of his local show society, and for six years he was president of the Queensland Poll Hereford Association.

On the back of a campaign that lasted all of five weeks, as Mr Perrett told, he was elected in a by-election and retained the seat until One Nation reached its brief peak at the 1998 election. At that first election he defeated National Party candidate Warren Truss, who of course later entered the federal parliament and rose to the rank of deputy prime minister. Mr Perrett acknowledged to media that his campaign had consisted of ‘a bunch of guys with no money and no experience’, but it was nonetheless successful. In his own words at the time, he considered himself ‘fairly moderate’ and rejected suggestions that he was an extreme right-winger.

On Indigenous land rights, he wanted to see Indigenous Queenslanders given the power to utilise their natural resources. He believed ‘there is a need for unions to look after the interests of workers’ as long as they were not ‘allowed to get out of control’. In his maiden speech he spoke passionately in support of a Swiss style model of citizen initiated referenda, arguing that such a system would make all political parties more responsive to the people and, indeed, that between parties ‘there would quickly be a loosening between them of wasteful, bitter and costly debate’.

He held the shadow portfolios of primary industries, forestry and rural communities from 1991 and in 1996 he was appointed to serve as minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry in the Borbidge government from 1996 to 1998. During his time as minister he oversaw the process of replacing the Queensland Abattoir Corporation with private operators, moving the government away from the meat-processing business.

In 1997 he supported the establishment of the Queensland Centre for Climate Applications to help agricultural industries manage climate impacts. In early 1998 he opened a \$5 million fruit fly research laboratory in Cairns with research focused on protecting and enhancing market access for Australian fruit and vegetables. He announced a \$5 million buyout offer for commercial inshore net fisheries in the gulf region and along the east coast, and also for licences in the east coast beam trawl fisheries and ocean beach fisheries of South-East Queensland. He came gunning for black marketers who threatened scallop fisheries and said they could not only risk their licences but also their boats if they continued their illegal activities. I guess some things remain the same.

Again, I offer my condolences to the member for Gympie on his family’s loss.

 **Mrs FRECKLINGTON** (Nanango—LNP) (9.45 am): I, too, rise to contribute to the condolence motion. Firstly, to my great friend and the member for Gympie, I offer my sincerest condolences to you, your wife, ‘Chelsy’, and to Trevor’s wife, Mimi, on the passing of your father, Trevor.

Trevor Perrett was the member for Barambah from 1988 to 1998. He is one of just six people who have represented my region since 1912 including Robert Hodge, Jim Edwards, Joh Bjelke-Petersen, Dorothy Pratt and myself. Trevor Perrett was born in Kingaroy in 1941 and grew up on his family property, Mount Hope, at Booie near Kingaroy. Before entering politics he was a grazier, president of the Queensland Poll Hereford Association, councillor with the Cattlemen’s Union, member of the rural furies and president of the mighty South Burnett National Show Society.

In his first speech in parliament he said—

A few months ago, I had no inclination to sit in this House. That all changed during a period of five weeks, and it is to the credit of the electors of my great electorate that I am here today, delivering my maiden speech. I thank them for their confidence in me. It is my intention to represent their will to the best of my ability and to place that will above all external pressures and considerations where possible.

He was passionate about rural industry and acted as the shadow minister for rural communities and the shadow minister for primary industries and forestry, a position that his son now holds. He was also opposition spokesperson for primary industries and served on several committees. When the coalition took government in 1996 he became the minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry, a spot we wish his son to hold as well. He served in this role for three years, although I think you could do it for longer than three years, Tony.

On 10 August 1996 the *Courier-Mail* reported on the fact that the DPI had defied national trends by increasing staff numbers. Trevor Perrett noted that was one of his first commitments as the former Labor government had retrenched 692 DPI research and extension staff over six years, with bleak prospects for rural science and agricultural graduates. The story explains that his goal was to reduce

administration costs and increase the budget for DPI research, development and extension. He promised to create career paths for research and extension officers and wanted to encourage new graduates to join the department as entomologists, agronomists, veterinary officers, plant health officers, stock inspectors, biologists, project developers and field officers to work in the fields of environmental management, crop nutrition, quarantine entry, pest management and in the pig, poultry, wool, banana, oats, cotton, eel and deer industries. He also wanted to build closer relationships with producers, key industry groups, funding bodies and colleagues in sister organisations such as CSIRO and universities.

The major refocusing of the DPI during Trevor Perrett's time was outlined in a document called *Bringing it together* to describe how the DPI would ensure maximum resources were directed into research and extension programs, particularly in the field. In Mr Perrett's last speech to the House, a matter of public interest, he spoke about the development of the Queensland wine industry. In particular, he mentioned that it was—

... dear to my heart because it is happening, to a large degree, in my electorate of Barambah.

...

Already there are 22 vineyards and three wineries in Barambah, and more are planned—some of them on a scale unprecedented in this State. These are fine examples of visionary local effort.

...

This Government has established the Queensland wine development project with the aim of doubling the State's wine industry turnover to \$34m a year. Its main purpose is to encourage the consumption of Queensland wines. The department recently selected the Queensland Dozen to stimulate the demand for our wines in bottle shops and restaurants around Australia. Two Barambah Ridge wines and one from Rimfire were included in the selection.

He went on to say—

I would respectfully suggest, Mr Speaker, that those awards qualify the Barambah Ridge wines—and those from Rimfire vineyard—for consideration on the parliamentary dining room wine list.

It is wonderful to know that the parliament still promotes and serves Queensland wines as well as the mighty South Burnett wines and it is great to know that South Burnett is represented following this vision with Clovelly Estate being offered here in the Queensland parliament, as it is in Government House, I believe. Trevor Perrett passed away on 10 July this year aged 80 years. Again, on behalf of the constituents of the Nanango electorate, I acknowledge Trevor Perrett's service and contribution to Queensland and again pass on my deepest condolences to the family. Vale, Trevor Perrett.

 **Ms LEAHY** (Warrego—LNP) (9.51 am): I rise to contribute to the condolence motion for Trevor John Perrett, former member for Barambah. I extend my sincere sympathy to Trevor's family and to my parliamentary colleague the member for Gympie. Trevor Perrett was elected to the state parliament in April 1988 at a by-election triggered by the resignation of the sitting member and former Queensland premier Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen. Mr Perrett was backed by the Citizens Electoral Council, defeating the National Party's preferred candidate, the Kingaroy shire council chairman Warren Truss. Warren Truss went on to be elected as the National Party's member for Wide Bay and in 1990 at the federal election he served as deputy prime minister. Just months after his election, Mr Perrett left the CEC and joined the National Party.

Trevor Perrett served as coalition shadow minister for primary industries and forestry and coalition shadow minister for rural communities in the Borbridge-Sheldon coalition. During his role as shadow minister for primary industries and forestry, I worked closely with his office and with him as there was considerable policy integration with the lands and water portfolios. I distinctly recall the coalition primary industries policy document that Trevor Perrett developed and presented at that time. It was one of the most comprehensive primary industries policies that I have ever seen produced by an opposition. He was knowledgeable on all aspects of primary industries. If you asked him about poultry production or fruit fly, he was well across the issue and the topic.

As minister for primary industries, Trevor restored positions and staff to the department of primary industries and created career paths for research and extension officers. Under his stewardship, the department restored and filled over 426 positions for veterinarians, scientific research officers, stock inspectors and industry development officers in just nine months. I was good friends with Trevor Perrett's electorate officer Sue, who worked in the Barambah electorate office. I recall her telling me one day that she had to come back to work to correct a reference for a constituent and I asked her what was so serious that she had to come back over the weekend to fix a letter. She explained that in the reference it is customary to write the phrase 'I don't hesitate to recommend' this person to you. The

problem was that in the word ‘don’t’ the ‘n’t’ was missing, so it read, ‘I do hesitate to recommend’ this person to you. She was mortified by her mistake and very thankful that Trevor was particularly diligent in all his correspondence and found the error before the reference made its way to the constituent.

Trevor’s achievements in the primary industries policy and portfolio were welcomed by rural and regional Queensland at that time. His family are here today and can be proud of his achievements for this state. He was a great friend to agriculture and I want to acknowledge his contribution and extend my deepest condolences to his family and my colleague the member for Gympie.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (9.54 am): Trevor Perrett was elected to state parliament in April 1988. He represented the then seat of Barambah for 10 years, but my dealings with the former member for Barambah were when he was the Queensland minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry and I was a young ABC Rural reporter for the *Queensland Country Hour*. I found Trevor Perrett to be a thoroughly decent man to deal with and his knowledge of agriculture, fisheries and forestry was comprehensive. He was a man who played his politics with a straight bat. He was determined to achieve outcomes for the industry and leave petty politics out of the decision-making. I guess his practical nature to advocacy came from his background as a grazier and local councillor. Grassroots advocacy was his speciality.

Back then, our agricultural landscape was much different but also similar to today. It was different in the fact that the minister—Trevor—had to deal with vast agricultural advocacy groups. In 1996 we still had the United Graziers’ Association, the Cattleman’s Union and Queensland Graingrowers which merged in 1998 to become AgForce. The wool industry was still coming to terms with the scrapping of the floor price. Back then, woolgrowers were getting 400c a kilogram clean for wool which was well below production costs. The sugar industry was still very regulated with no ability to price forward and a quota system still in place for the production, the timber industry was going through massive changes, the cotton industry was under the spotlight with chemical contamination issues and beef sent to Korea started the journey down to best management practices. Similar to today for the minister—Trevor—back then there was the constant presence of drought. As minister, he dealt with those issues professionally and was able to navigate outcomes that made a difference.

As a young rural reporter, he was always available to talk and offer an explanation that made sense. I will add that I had the same respect for the Premier’s father, Henry Palaszczuk, when he took over and was appointed to the position when Labor won office in 1998. Both men were true gentlemen and real advocates for agriculture. Back then we did not have Twitter or 24-hour news, so the minister really relied on the *Queensland Country Hour* to get the message out and engaged with the *Queensland Country Hour*, which already had 50 years under its belt, was widely respected by its audience and was a great opportunity for Trevor to get his message out. Also in those days Trevor had a great working relationship with giants of the agricultural industry. I am talking about Bill Bonthrone and Larry Acton from the United Graziers’ Association, Ian Macfarlane from Queensland Graingrowers and the great John Purcell and Kerry Martin from the Cattleman’s Union. To Tony and your whole family, I pass on my condolences. Your father played a significant role in agriculture and to this parliament and he would be proud of you today.

 **Mr PERRETT** (Gympie—LNP) (9.57 am): I rise to speak on the condolence motion for my late father, Trevor John Perrett. I thank the Premier, Leader of the Opposition and other members for their kind and considered reflection of his time in this parliament. I also thank members from both sides of this House who offered their support during his illness and eventual passing in July at the age of 80. I thank you, Mr Speaker, for your generosity in hosting us this morning for morning tea in the Lucinda Bar. I acknowledge his wife, Mimi, and my wife, Michele, in the public gallery. I also recognise his close friend and former parliamentary colleague Frank Tanti and his wife, Ann, who are also here. Today I wear his parliamentary gold mace lapel pin and tie he wore as a minister.

As a newly elected member to the House in 2015, the last thought which enters your mind is being here when this parliament offers its condolences for the loss of a parent—in this case, my father. History records this as quite a unique situation where a family member contributes to a motion of this nature. However, I note that there are five other members on both sides of this House who are honoured to follow our fathers into this parliament, including you, Mr Speaker. In making my contribution to this motion, I will reflect on what led him to being elected to this parliament and the impact this had in sparking my interest in politics.

Dad was born in Kingaroy on 2 August 1941. He was the first son of John and Dorothy Perrett of Mount Hope, Kingaroy. Some 3½ years later, his brother Glen joined the family. He attended a small country school called Booie State School. After finishing his education, he worked on the family property, Mount Hope.

The property was grazing and farming land and the base for the Mount Hope Poll Hereford Stud. Breaking, teaching to lead, mustering, growing and harvesting crops were part of a normal week's work. Dad was heavily involved with the showing of Mount Hope stud cattle, winning many Brisbane Royal Show broad ribbons, and sold breeding stock throughout Queensland and New South Wales. He judged cattle across Australia, including at the Poll Hereford Feature Show at Walcha in New South Wales and the Santa Gertrudis Feature Show at Cunnamulla. He was a keen poultry fancier, judging at more than 100 country and royal shows. He bred and showed large teams of poultry, specialising in heavy soft feather breeds such as Australorp, Plymouth Rock and Rhode Island Reds. Over many of these years he held the positions of president of the Kingaroy Show Society, Kingaroy Poultry Club and the Queensland Branch of the Poll Hereford Society of Australia. He was a keen participant and follower of all types of sport. He played squash, tennis and cricket. He was a good leg spin bowler and opening batsman. He travelled to Brisbane each New Year for the Country Week Carnival, on one occasion contributing an opening partnership of 144 for his team, Nanango.

Throughout the 1970s and 1980s, he found an ongoing interest in agripolitics. He was elected to the board of the Cattlemen's Union of Australia, now known as Agforce. He served for many years as a councillor, travelling the state and nation advocating on behalf of the beef industry. He established many long-term friendships as he built a reputation as a fierce representative for an industry which was integral to his upbringing.

In 1988, this interest in agripolitics led him to being elected as the state member for Barambah. We all have varying reasons for how and why we are elected to this parliament. I recall the resignation of the former premier of Queensland, Sir Joh Bjelke-Petersen, in December 1987. Dad was encouraged to contest the by-election held in April 1988 and during this period my political interest commenced. Barambah was a National Party seat held by the former premier for more than 40 years. It was inconceivable that the seat could be lost in a by-election. To the surprise of many, and following a hard-fought election, he won securing a swing of 36 per cent against the National Party candidate, Warren Truss. Labor party preferences ensured he would be the new member for Barambah. He was sworn into the Queensland parliament on 26 April 1988 and made his first speech on 30 August. In that first speech he reflected on his election, when he said—

A few months ago, I had no inclination to sit in this House. That all changed during a period of five weeks, and it is to the credit of the electors of my great electorate that I am here today, delivering my maiden speech. I thank them for their confidence in me.

He went on to say—

As one newly come to this House, I commit myself as much to learning and understanding as to advancing opinions. I am as dedicated to the essential values of integrity, truth, honour, justice and dignity as I am to any fresh contributions of my own.

He then reflected on his family's connection to the region, when he said—

My family have lived in Barambah for several generations, and I have been fortunate enough to acquire property which my grandfather selected almost 100 years ago. He was able to develop Mount Hope with only his bare hands. With a will to succeed, he forged ahead, just like many more of our pioneers, because in those days people were rewarded for hard work and effort.

He served in this parliament until 1998, holding many positions including as a member of the public accounts committee; temporary chairman of committees; deputy opposition whip; a member of the Queensland Rural Fires Board; shadow minister for primary industries, forestry and rural communities from 1991 to 1996; and minister for primary industries, fisheries and forestry from 1996 to 1998. While minister, he introduced eight bills including changes to the sugar industry, plant protection, tobacco industry restructuring, egg industry restructuring and several amendments to primary industry legislation.

He kept an active interest in the operations of parliament following his departure. He established associations and long-term friendships with members from both sides of the House, including former Speaker John Mickel; Pat Comben, former member for Windsor; Vaughan Johnson, former member for Gregory; Howard Hobbs, former member for Warrego; Dennis Young, the former member for Baroona; and Frank Tanti, former member for Mundingburra to name a few. He was an active participant of the Former Parliamentary Members Association where he was president only a few short years ago. He also took a keen interest in my parliamentary career as the member for Gympie. He was pleased when I was appointed to my current shadow portfolio and would often call to offer his view on current political issues. In closing this condolence motion, I again thank all members for their contribution. I pay my final respects as we pause to remember his service to this parliament.

*Whereupon honourable members stood in silence.*

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, question time will commence at 10.50 am.

## PETITION

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

### Nambour-Mapleton Road, Speed Limit

**Mr Skelton**, from 324 petitioners, requesting the House to make the speed limit on Nambour-Mapleton Road 40km/h permanently [1647].

Petition received.

## TABLED PAPER

### TABLING OF DOCUMENTS (SO 32)

### MINISTERIAL PAPER

The following ministerial paper was tabled by the Clerk—

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

**1648** Report to the Legislative Assembly from the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Hon. Fentiman) pursuant to section 56A(4) of the Statutory Instruments Act 1992, regarding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Communities (Justice, Land and Other Matters) Regulation 2008, the Appeal Costs Fund Regulation 2010, the Associations Incorporations Regulation 1999, the Body Corporate and Community Management Regulation 2008, the Body Corporate and Community Management (Specified Two-lot Schemes Module) Regulation 2011, the Building Units and Group Titles Regulation 2008, the Casino Control Regulation 1999, the Charitable and Non-Profit Gaming Regulation 1999, the Collections Regulation 2008, the Court Funds Regulation 2009, the Fair Trading (Code of Practice-Fitness Industry) Regulation 2003, the Fair Trading (Safety Standards) Regulation 2011, the Funeral Benefit Business Regulation 2010, the Gaming Machine Regulation 2002, the Information Privacy Regulation 2009, the Interactive Gambling (Player Protection) Regulation 1998, the Keno Regulation 2007, the Liquor (Approval of Adult Entertainment Code) Regulation 2002, the Liquor Regulation 2002, the Lotteries Regulation 2007, the Right to Information Regulation 2009, the Second-hand Dealers and Pawnbrokers Regulation 2004, the Security Providers (Crowd Controller Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Security Providers Regulation 2008, the Security Providers (Security Firm Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Security Providers (Security Officer—Licensed Premises—Code of Practice) Regulation 2008, the Tourism Services (Code of Conduct for Inbound Tour Operators) Regulation 2003, the Tourism Services Regulation 2003, the Trust Accounts Regulation 1999, the Wagering Regulation 1999 and the Wine Industry Regulation 2009.

## MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS

### Disaster Preparedness, Dam Water Releases

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.07 am): My government is committed to ensuring Queenslanders and communities remain safe. My government is committed to addressing cost-of-living pressures which are biting hard at families. Today I can announce significant moves to address both.

Earlier this week and yesterday I highlighted the urgent need for Queensland families to start preparing now for a storm season which the Bureau of Meteorology has forecast will deliver an increased risk of widespread flooding for our state. With parts of Queensland already saturated, the threat of floods is here and it is real. In light of these forecasts, families and communities must be prepared. But the government must also be ready. We have all seen what has been happening with devastating flooding in New South Wales and Victoria. Tasmania is about to experience a significant flood event. We must be ready for the worst.

From Saturday, Seqwater will begin the release of water from Wivenhoe Dam in an early move to prepare for the worst-case scenario based on the BOM advice. This release will continue for a proposed two-week period and will reduce the dam level from 90 per cent to 80 per cent. In line with legislation, the Minister for Water has the power to authorise this release. It is being done safely and in a controlled manner and it is being done to ensure we are on the front foot after the crucial BOM advice. It will involve the proposed release of 116,000 megalitres of water from the dam to improve flood mitigation capacity in a safe and controlled release to reduce capacity ahead of the 2022-23 storm season.

The good news for families and households is that this will result in a significant cost-of-living reduction. We will reduce water bills for all South-East Queensland households connected to the Seqwater grid to the equivalent of two weeks worth of free water. That will apply to approximately

1.38 million homes. It allows for the use of 13,200 litres of free water for each of those homes and families—that is about double the normal household usage over a fortnight—and it will mean a \$55 discount on water bills for each of those 1.38 million families.

It will apply to homes not only in Brisbane but also within the Redlands, Logan, the Gold and Sunshine coasts, Noosa, Ipswich, the Lockyer Valley and the Somerset, Scenic Rim and Moreton Bay regions. I encourage families to make the most of this rare opportunity and gerni away. Gerni the driveway, wash down the house, clean out your gutters, wash your cars and wash your dog. The discount will apply to water bills before December and will be fully rolled out by March.

## Exports

 Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.09 am): Exports mean jobs and revenue so more exports mean more jobs and more revenue. Queensland is the nation's exports leader and we have broken new records again. In the 12 months to August, our merchandise exports reached \$127.5 billion, which is the highest level ever and twice as high as the same time last year. It is more than New South Wales and Victoria combined. Japan, India, Korea, China and Vietnam are our top five export destinations thanks to our commodities, agriculture, manufacturing and machinery and much more.

Every year we see an increase in not only the value of our exports but also their diversity given the wide range of goods we supply the world, and modern services as well. We saw that at the Premier's Export Awards. I thank the Treasurer and Minister for Trade. It was an excellent night. I also thank his staff. I believe it was one of the best award nights we have ever had. I thank all the ministers and caucus members who attended. It was a great night with the finalists and winners in all export categories. To give some examples—

Mr Bleijie interjected.

Mr SPEAKER: Order! Deputy Leader of the Opposition!

Ms PALASZCZUK:—the Creative Industries Award was won by Next Level Racing; the Agribusiness, Food and Beverages Award was won by Bundaberg Brewed Drinks; the Manufacturing and Advanced Materials Award was won by Sun Engineering; the Resources and Energy Award was won by Real Time Instruments; the Sustainability Award was won by Hydrobiology; the Professional Services Award was won by Medical Rescue; the Advanced Technologies Award was won by Helitak; the Women in International Business Award was won by Philippa Coleman and Fiona Wiebusch; the Emerging Exporter Award was won by Plungie; the Regional Exporter Award was won by Mort & Co. That names just a few. Congratulations to the winners who will have an important story of our state's economy to tell at the national awards. The overall Exporter of the Year Award went to Bundaberg Brewed Drinks. The member for Bundaberg was also very excited about that. It is a fantastic Queensland success story.

With all our international trade commissioners in the room as well as many diplomatic guests from our trading partners, it was the perfect moment to announce that Daniel Gschwind is the new chair of Trade and Investment Queensland. For more than 20 years, Daniel was the most recognised face of Queensland tourism. That experience and his understanding of international markets and local businesses make him perfect for the new role. We also thank his predecessor, Steve Bredhauer, for his great service to Queensland.

One-in-five Queensland jobs is linked to the export sector. With exports booming and the rest of the economy in strong shape, we set another record in August: the lowest unemployment rate since records began. The rate of 3.2 per cent beat the previous record of 3.3 per cent 14 years ago, in August 2008. There are now 214,700 more Queenslanders in work than there were in March 2020 and 178,700 of them are in full-time jobs. That means Queensland has added the most full-time jobs of any state or territory since the start of the pandemic. Exports and jobs are two of the many good reasons we say: Queensland, it is our time to shine.

## Housing

 Hon. A PALASZCZUK (Inala—ALP) (Premier and Minister for the Olympics) (10.13 am): We know that there are unprecedented housing pressures across the nation and Queensland is not immune. Those pressures are complex and that means they require complex solutions that demand broad assistance from governments, the private sector, community groups and the community themselves. I want to assure Queenslanders that we are taking action to ensure everyone has access to a safe and affordable home that meets their needs.

Last month I hosted an urgent housing round table with key stakeholders to explore the immediate actions we can take to alleviate housing challenges and identify the issues that would need to be addressed at the broader housing summit next Thursday. In the lead-up to the summit we have already delivered several actions and opportunities to help alleviate some pressures. We announced changes to enable the better use of secondary dwellings or granny flats. Many home owners are able to rent out their granny flats to Queenslanders outside of their immediate family. This will provide a boost to rental options for smaller households in a tough rental market, will enable thousands of Queenslanders to find affordable housing and will add additional properties to the rental market while new properties are being built. We also announced a \$5 million boost to our \$16 million Immediate Housing Response Package for Queenslanders, delivering critical services to support Queenslanders to secure or sustain a tenancy.

Our government is working in partnership with non-government organisations and institutions. As a round table outcome, the Catholic Church identified 90 church-owned properties that can potentially be used for housing solutions and is working with government agencies to take this forward. I also announced a partnership with Griffith University to convert 200 units of student accommodation to crisis accommodation. That initiative will provide support to vulnerable Queenslanders who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. This week the Minister for Communities and Housing and the Minister for Youth Affairs have launched our youth homelessness strategy, which is underpinned by \$30 million in funding to give young Queenslanders better access to advice and services.

Overcoming the housing challenges that Queensland currently faces will require business, the community sector and all levels of government to work together. I add that invitations to attend will be forthcoming to the Leader of the Opposition, the shadow minister, members of government and a representative from the crossbench.

 **Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the Deputy Premier, I acknowledge that today in the public gallery we have a delegation from the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors led by the chair, Lord Mayor Adrian Schrinner of the Brisbane City Council. The South-East Queensland Council of Mayors delegation also includes Deputy Chair Paul Antonio, Teresa Harding, Tanya Milligan, Darren Power, Peter Flannery, Clare Stewart, Karen Williams, Greg Christensen, Graeme Lehmann and Mark Jamieson. I welcome the South-East Queensland local government leaders to the Queensland parliament. Please make them feel welcome.

## Energy Infrastructure

 **Hon. SJ MILES** (Murrumba—ALP) (Deputy Premier, Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure) (10.16 am): I too acknowledge the delegation from the South-East Queensland Council of Mayors. I look forward to meeting with them later in the day.

Queensland is ready to build the infrastructure that will deliver more clean green power generation and more jobs. From the south-east to the north, Far North and north-west, we are ready to build Australia's largest energy supergrid. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan sets out how we will construct a new backbone of high-voltage transmission infrastructure. There will be new pumped hydro projects, more batteries and more renewables located in our three Queensland renewable energy zones. The plan sets out a path to transform our electricity network with \$62 billion worth of public and private investment over the next 15 years. With that transformation comes the need for thousands of batteries, wind turbines and solar panels, and kilometres of transmission lines. Over the next 13 years, Queensland will need more than 2,000 wind turbines, more than 7,000 wind tower blades, almost 25 million solar PV modules and nearly 7,000 batteries. We want that equipment built here in Queensland so that Queenslanders get the benefits.

Last week we released the *Energy Manufacturing Opportunities Prospectus*. It is a call-out to all electricity equipment manufacturing businesses to be part of the domestic manufacturing supply chains for the renewable energy components needed to build the SuperGrid. Local manufacturing means more jobs, it means a boost to Queensland's economy and it means homegrown experts in equipment manufacturing. Our state is already well on its way to becoming one of the world's most significant renewable energy powerhouses. We are making use not only of our natural advantages like wind, solar and critical minerals but also the expertise and capability of our people to do this and do it well. So far, since it opened last week, we have had 114 businesses register their interest. The Palaszczuk government is calling on businesses and industry that manufacture this equipment in Queensland to register their interest and be part of the market sounding.

## Employment

 **Hon. CR DICK** (Woodridge—ALP) (Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment) (10.19 am): Better services and a great Queensland lifestyle are two of the three elements underpinning our government's commitment to Queenslanders, but those two would not be possible without the third—good jobs. When it comes to jobs I have great news for Queensland: the latest data—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** I thank those members opposite.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Deputy Leader of the Opposition, it is the second time today. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Mr DICK:** I thank the members opposite for welcoming this amazing news for Queensland. The latest data from the Australian Bureau of Statistics showed that Queensland's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate fell to 3.2 per cent in August. This is the lowest unemployment rate in Queensland for 44 years. A 3.2 per cent unemployment rate is the lowest recorded level since the ABS began producing monthly data in February 1978. A 3.2 per cent unemployment rate is a truly historic achievement for Queensland and one of which all Queensland workers and all Queensland businesses should be proud, because our government is proud of this achievement.

**Mr Janetzki** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** It is the perfect place from which to embark on the job creation journey of the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan. Our energy and jobs plan will act as a magnet for further investment in job creation. Around the world, businesses are looking at factors like energy costs, access to raw materials, strength of transport networks and workforce skills when they look to invest. Queensland ticks all those boxes.

The clarity of our energy plan will give local and international companies the confidence to invest here, especially in areas like energy-intensive heavy industries and advanced manufacturing. We look forward to adding another 100,000 jobs on top of the 214,700 jobs created since the start of the pandemic and, as the Premier has said, creating more jobs than any other state or territory in the Commonwealth. Most pleasingly, 80 per cent of these jobs we have added have been full-time jobs. Our energy and jobs plan will bring confidence to businesses, confidence to workers, confidence to local government and confidence to investors that Queensland is the place to be.

## State Schools, Energy and Jobs Plan

 **Hon. G GRACE** (McConnel—ALP) (Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing) (10.21 am): The Palaszczuk government's commitment to a clean energy future for Queensland is full steam ahead. I am proud to be part of a government with a visionary plan to set Queensland up for the future. We are proud that our state schools are already playing their part in reaching the targets laid out in our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan—70 per cent renewable energy by 2032 and 80 per cent by 2035. Through our \$168 million Advancing Clean Energy Schools program, ACES, a record number of Queensland schools have had solar panels installed to help slash electricity costs and cut carbon emissions.

We have 200,000 panels on more than 900 schools; that is, more panels on more roofs than we initially set out to achieve. This equates to a \$26 million saving on energy bills every single year. We have virtually created a solar farm on our Queensland state schools with enough renewable energy to power 25,000 homes. That is bigger than many country towns. The panels are right across Queensland: 18,400 panels in the Far North; 17,000 on the Gold Coast; 15,000 in the Darling Downs; 10,000 on the Sunshine Coast; 8,400 in Townsville; 7,500 in Mackay; 4,300 in Bundaberg and the list goes on.

The ACES program also supported about 1,000 good jobs—many of those jobs the Treasurer just spoke about—and kept Queenslanders working through the height of the pandemic. The completion of ACES is a significant achievement and follows the completion of the Palaszczuk government's Cooler Cleaner Schools Program in April where we announced that every single classroom, staff room and library in Queensland state schools are air-conditioned—two months ahead of schedule and six years ahead of the LNP's plan I might add. They said we could never do it. When it comes to solar panels, Queensland is leading the way.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members! Are we done?

**Ms GRACE:** I love it when they are so enthusiastic about every school being air-conditioned in this state, the only state or territory in Australia to do it—amazing. Just say thank you and you are welcome every single one of you. When it comes to solar panels, Queensland is leading the way.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take that interjection: we were so embarrassed that we delivered it six years ahead of schedule compared to the plan of those opposite. That is so embarrassing. I like to be embarrassed like that every single day.

**Ms Palaszczuk:** That's right: as the minister he closed a school in his own electorate!

**Ms GRACE:** That's right. How embarrassing that I had to save a school in his own electorate which he wanted to close that I kept open for the member for Everton.

**Mr Bleijie** interjected.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** I will take the interjections from the member for Everton Park.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Minister, through the chair.

**Ms GRACE:** I will keep taking the interjections from the member for Everton Park. What a great school that Everton Park State High is. We have invested millions of dollars; those opposite were closing it. There was a 'for sale' sign up on the school. That is really embarrassing if we think about it.

Our state has the highest rate of household rooftop solar installations in Australia with one in three homes using solar. That is more than 700,000 homes and small businesses across the state using solar to generate clean energy—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Ms GRACE:** They are still going. I will take more of their interjections if they like.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Please do not encourage them, Minister.

**Ms GRACE:** I definitely will encourage them. We have some good news on this side. I am happy to say it every single second. With the Palaszczuk government's game-changing \$62 billion Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan, the future is bright for Queensland.

## Pharmacists

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (10.26 am): Pharmacists have always been an integral part of healthcare delivery. With pressure mounting on the public health system and primary health sector, it makes sense to make better use of their expertise when it is safe and appropriate to do so. We need all of our health professionals working to their full potential and their full scope. The North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot is designed to give patients more access to high-quality, integrated and cost-effective primary health care.

It is important that I acknowledge the advocacy of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the work that the Queensland branch of the guild has done to work with the government on developing the scope of this pilot. I also acknowledge other stakeholders' input. I want to acknowledge in the gallery today: Trent Twomey, the national president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia; Chris Owen, president of the Pharmacy Guild of Australia Queensland branch; and the award winners of its annual awards last night, particularly those who received awards because of their incredible efforts in COVID. They actually delivered over two million vaccinations across this state and continue to do so today. I want to acknowledge that great work.

Today I can confirm that the scope of the pilot has now been finalised to confirm that pharmacists will be able to administer more types of vaccines and prescribe medicines for a range of common conditions including: nausea and vomiting, reflux, rhinitis, mild skin conditions and acute mild musculoskeletal pain. The scope of the pilot will also allow pharmacists to provide health and wellbeing services including: hormonal contraception, oral health screening, weight management and support for consumers to quit smoking. Pharmacists will also be able to prescribe as part of the structured chronic disease management programs for cardiovascular disease risk reduction, asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

I can advise the House that the final scope will be published on the Queensland Health website, accessible to all Queenslanders to review. Now that the scope has been finalised, work has started on implementing appropriate structures to ensure the pilot is safe and effective.

I want to be clear: these full scope services will not immediately become available in participating community pharmacies. Pharmacists participating in the pilot will now need to undergo additional training to ensure they are able to safely manage the included conditions and responsibilities. It is anticipated that the pilot will commence in the second half of 2023, once the training is complete. Participating pharmacies must also have suitable consulting spaces that provide patient privacy. I am confident in the ability of pharmacists to manage the additional responsibilities given they are already highly trained and well regulated health professionals.

I believe this pilot will benefit health consumers in Queensland, if local and international examples are any guide. We recently implemented the urinary tract infection pilot as a permanent initiative following its successful trial, which commenced in June 2020 and saw over 8,000 women access the service. We know the pharmacy prescribing models of care have been used effectively in other countries including the United Kingdom, Canada and New Zealand. The aim of this initiative is to supplement and not replace existing services and give consumers in North Queensland more access to the health care they need. It will also help ease the load on our public hospital system and the private health sector, both of which have experienced rapid growth in demand in recent years, particularly because of COVID-19.

I understand that the fulfilment of this election commitment will cause concern to some stakeholder groups. I want to assure Queenslanders that this trial has patient safety at its forefront. I look forward to monitoring the progress of the North Queensland Community Pharmacy Scope of Practice Pilot and engaging with all stakeholders, including the Pharmacy Guild of Australia, to ensure our health system is delivering results for Queenslanders. To all the pharmacists and their staff who work in community pharmacies right across Queensland, we thank them for the work they do each and every day to service their communities.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Honourable members, I am proudly wearing a Pharmacy Guild tie today. I cannot confirm or deny that I stole it from Trent Twomey last night.

**Mr Crisafulli:** We'll call you the pharmacists' friend.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The pharmacists' friend, thank you.

### Disaster Preparedness, Dam Water Releases

 **Hon. GJ BUTCHER** (Gladstone—ALP) (Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water) (10.31 am): We are all aware of the devastating impact that extreme weather can have on all of our lives, and with the Bureau of Meteorology forecasting another La Nina event for the upcoming summer, we know that preparing for potential flood events is crucial. We have already heard it from the Premier this morning, but let me detail why the temporary full-supply level of Wivenhoe Dam will be lowered. I have taken advice and information from meteorologists, scientists, dam safety engineers, the dam safety regulator and environmental experts as we plan appropriate steps for the wet season ahead.

Under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, the minister must consider a range of important factors in declaring a temporary full-supply level for the dam. These factors include expert advice, flood mitigation considerations, impacts on water security and the public interest. Considering the advice and weighing up these very important factors, I have determined in accordance with the legislation that the temporary full-supply level for Wivenhoe Dam will be set at 80 per cent. This means that from this Saturday Seqwater will begin controlled releases over the next two weeks until we reach that 80 per cent level in the dam. The new temporary full-supply level balances water security for the region and frees up about 116,000 megalitres of additional flood storage in the catchment, which is around 50,000 Olympic swimming pools. This decision does not alter the flood manual and the controlled releases will be made in accordance with the manual.

This is not a decision I have taken lightly. We saw in February that extreme weather events can be unpredictable, and keeping Queenslanders safe is at the top of my priority list. We want sufficient flood mitigation capacity in the dam to prepare South-East Queenslanders as much as possible should there be significant inflows into the Wivenhoe Dam catchment. It was confirmed in the IGEM report that during the February-March flood event, Wivenhoe Dam did its job, holding back four Sydney Harbours worth of water. Seqwater will be providing regular updates to councils and the community before releases which commence this Saturday and over the duration of the two-week release period.

The Queensland government is giving eligible South-East Queensland households a \$55 discount on their water bills to coincide with the water releases over the next two weeks. Those in eligible areas will have the discount applied automatically to their quarterly water bills. My department will be working closely with the five water service providers in South-East Queensland to support them in being ready to apply these discounts to bills.

We are preparing now to be in the best position to deal with whatever Mother Nature may throw at us this wet season. We cannot predict the future, but we can make sure that we are well prepared for what lies ahead in this state.

### Pumped Hydro

 Hon. MC de BRENNI (Springwood—ALP) (Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement) (10.35 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan announces one of the most significant nation-building infrastructure programs in our country's history—the construction of the Queensland SuperGrid. In this vast state wherever the sun is shining, the wind is blowing, our green hydrogen is producing or Queensland batteries are deploying Queensland clean energy, we can capture it, send it or store it where it is needed most—driving down energy costs. I can inform the House today of the establishment of a new government entity to deliver these projects—Queensland Hydro. Its sole task is to deliver two new hydros, including the world's largest at Pioneer-Burdekin.

On this side of the House, we are pumped up for the future of Mackay. Our five-gigawatt 80-gigalitre scheme will power millions of homes from its up to 16 turbines. This project is massive for our energy system and represents one of the most significant supply chain and economic development opportunities for Mackay and the Far North in history. We will use our publicly owned buying power and the Buy Queensland procurement policy approach to drive investment and opportunity in the Mackay region.

Today, I can announce that next week the member for Mackay and I will provide the first briefing to the Mackay business community on the first tranche of supply chain opportunities. We will brief industry on opportunities which include cultural heritage studies, ecological and biodiversity studies, hydrological modelling, shallow drilling, earthworks and the provision of catering, printing services, safety and work wear supplies, with much more to come in the future. Because Queensland Hydro is publicly owned we can prioritise local supplies and apprentices for project works. We will also brief industry on the energy manufacturing opportunity prospectus and the supply chains for the 6,120 megawatts of new wind and solar generation required in North Queensland by 2035 and potential exports through the regions three ports at Abbot Point, Mackay and Hay Point. We invite all local business to join the Growing Queensland Business Roadshow at Harrup Park next week to identify how they can grow their business building the Queensland SuperGrid.

I can also inform the House that engagement with the local community is underway on the pumped hydro project. Conversations with traditional owners are ongoing and information sessions are occurring in Finch Hatton, Eungella and Mackay.

Finally, I can advise the House that the 186-kilometre Genex Kidston connection project—a \$147 million publicly owned investment by this government in new transmission linking the 250 megawatt Genex Kidston pumped hydro scheme to the SuperGrid—has receive EPBC approval and is clear to proceed. Through the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan this Labor government will deliver a clean, reliable and affordable energy system that delivers power for generations.

### Climate Change

 Hon. ML FURNER (Ferny Grove—ALP) (Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities) (10.38 am): Every day while we are working for the people of Queensland we come across some people who make rapid judgements on people and on issues based on stereotypes. Sometimes these might have a basis in people's experience, but there are so many more that just do not stack up to any level of analysis. One, believed by some, is that city people do not care about farmers. I can tell members for a fact that that is not true. We only need to look at attendance levels at the Ekka this year and many country shows to see that is not the case.

Some people might not have a deep understanding of what the life of a farmer is like, but that does not mean that they are ignorant and it does not mean that they do not care about the outcomes for farmers. Another stereotype held by some is that farmers do not care about our belief in climate

change. That is another one that I can tell the House is fundamentally untrue. Some people have not embraced the science of climate change, but there are as many of them in the cities and regional centres as there are in rural areas of our state.

I can say that some of the most passionate advocates I have met for action on climate change have been farmers and their representatives. In fact, there is a very strong recognition of the need for action on climate change in our agricultural industries. Organisations like the National Farmers' Federation and Meat and Livestock Australia have already made notable commitments on reducing emissions in the industries that they represent. It is not because of some woke, inner-city, latte-sipping agenda. It is because that is what markets now demand and it is what the agriculture industry needs to do.

No industry is as impacted by the results of climate change as our agricultural industry, and we are backing them 100 per cent as they tackle it through initiatives such as the Low Emissions Agriculture Roadmap, where we have partnered with AgForce and the Queensland Farmers' Federation. In this context our game-changing Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is as much about protecting conditions for our farmers as it is about creating jobs. Regional Queensland is at the centre of this clean energy industrial revolution, with 95 per cent of the investment in regional Queensland. Our farmers and rural communities will reap the benefits in sustainable energy, in good jobs, in tackling climate change and in cheaper, cleaner and secure energy supplies.

### Energy and Jobs Plan

 Hon. MAJ SCANLON (Gaven—ALP) (Minister for the Environment and the Great Barrier Reef and Minister for Science and Youth Affairs) (10.40 am): The Palaszczuk government is delivering the biggest reform to renewables and climate action in our state's history. It means Queensland will soon be home to the world's largest pumped hydro station, Australia's largest wind farm and keep its title as the No. 1 state for solar rooftop penetration in the country.

By 2035, emissions from the energy sector—the state's largest emitter—will be cut by 90 per cent. By 2040, that number will be 96 per cent. This was a key part of our Climate Action Plan, and it delivers real and meaningful reform to decarbonise Queensland's largest emitting sector. As members heard yesterday, we have been overwhelmed by feedback from industry stakeholders—from the conservation movement, unions and industry. WWF's Ariane Wilkinson said, 'This is certainly going to protect Queensland, particularly the Great Barrier Reef.'

We are not stopping there. Last week I announced \$3 million for community and sporting groups to take their own climate and renewable action. They will be able to install batteries, solar panels, small scale wind generators and purchase energy efficient hot-water systems, lighting or whitegoods. I joined the member for Cairns to make that announcement at the local BMX club, which received \$30,000 to purchase and install solar panels and a battery. For them, it means they will be able to save money by generating and storing their own power during the day and using it at night when they host events. We are able to deliver our \$62 billion Energy and Jobs Plan, with cheaper and cleaner power, because the Palaszczuk government has kept and will keep our energy assets in public hands.

### Energy and Jobs Plan

 Hon. DE FARMER (Bulimba—ALP) (Minister for Employment and Small Business and Minister for Training and Skills Development) (10.42 am): Like everyone on this side of the House, I am so excited about the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan announced by the Premier the week before last—a plan that creates clean, reliable and affordable energy to provide power for generations. It will deliver 100,000 jobs over its lifetime and a \$150 million Job Security Guarantee to support all workers in our publicly owned coal-fired power stations and ensure no worker will be out of a job.

We all know that you cannot talk about jobs if you are not also talking about skills and training. Queenslanders will need the right skills to build new clean energy infrastructure and industries. That is why we will establish a new Energy Industry Council to provide advice to government on new opportunities and pathways for workers and their communities; develop a future energy workforce roadmap to make sure the right training is available in the right locations; and, working with Powerlink, we will invest \$90 million to establish two new regional transmission and training hubs in Gladstone and Townsville for the critical skills that will be needed in the energy transformation.

The work we will do to prepare Queensland's workforce for a clean energy economy is underpinned by the work we are already doing under our Queensland Workforce Strategy including identifying priority sectors and jobs of the future, making sure we provide the skills and training to prepare our workforce accordingly and tailoring those solutions to local needs.

Queensland is already leading the way in Australia in terms of meeting the future skills needs of a clean energy economy. We have invested over \$50 million in hydrogen and renewable energy training infrastructure across the state including: \$17 million towards a renewable energy training facility at Pinkenba—and I know how excited the Premier was to officially open this last week; \$20 million for stage 2 upgrades to the industry-led Queensland Apprenticeships Centre, featuring a new Hydrogen Training Centre of Excellence at Beenleigh; \$10.6 million to build a hydrogen and renewable energy training facility at the Bohle TAFE; \$2 million to upgrade facilities at Gladstone State High School to prepare students for jobs in the hydrogen industry; and \$4 million for an energy training and skills strategy under the \$15 million VET Emerging Industries initiative, consisting of an Electric Vehicle Skills Fund, a Hydrogen Skills Fund and a TAFE Renewable Energy Strategy.

We are the only state to have developed a hydrogen skills roadmap for this fast-growing sector, and I was very pleased to present that to the National Clean Energy Summit earlier this year. Very soon I will be announcing the outcome of our tender for a provider for our Gateway to Industry Schools Program specifically aimed at introducing school-age students to possible careers in hydrogen. I so look forward to working with the Minister for Energy to ensure we have the right skills in the right locations to deliver on the government's Energy and Jobs Plan.

### Critical Minerals

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (10.45 am): Critical minerals are in demand throughout the world and Queensland is ready to take up this opportunity which will create and support good jobs in our regions. Mr Speaker, you do not have to just take my word for it though, because, as of yesterday, one of the world's biggest automobile companies General Motors is investing in our future right now.

I can inform the House that General Motors has entered into a collaboration agreement with Queensland Pacific Metals to help them secure nickel and cobalt to support their fast growing electric vehicle production. This material would come from Queensland Pacific Metals' Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub, which is planned to be built at the Lansdown Eco-Industrial Precinct near Townsville. General Motors is a massive global company and they can see what is happening in Queensland right now. They know we have the manufacturing capacity with the appetite to grow our critical minerals industry, along with the renewables sector.

As the resources minister and a local Townsville member, I welcome this announcement by General Motors and Queensland Pacific Metals. The Palaszczuk government has always been a backer of the Townsville Energy Chemicals Hub at Lansdown, with it being declared a prescribed project last year. Queensland Pacific Metals' TECH project will create around 800 construction jobs and its operational phase will create an estimated 1,700 jobs—

**Ms Grace:** Wow!

**Mr STEWART:** Absolutely. This is a game-changer. It will also include 300 highly skilled advanced manufacturing jobs at the facility and 1,400 jobs in support industries.

Critical minerals, particularly in the North West Minerals Province, are a key part of Queensland's Energy and Jobs Plan and the Queensland Resources Industry Development Plan, and will become more and more in demand in the very near future. We want to continue to grow our manufacturing supply chain in Queensland. We have the confidence and expertise to do that, and global companies like General Motors can see that as well. Critical minerals, which Queensland has in abundance, will be needed for electric vehicles, which General Motors is investing heavily into as the company recognises this global demand.

It is the Palaszczuk government that is driving our economy forward, and projects like this will kickstart a new age in industry that will create jobs which Townsville and North Queensland are ready to take advantage of.

### Social Housing

 **Hon. LM ENOCH** (Algester—ALP) (Minister for Communities and Housing, Minister for Digital Economy and Minister for the Arts) (10.48 am): The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is all about a future of cheaper, cleaner and secure energy for Queenslanders, powering good jobs in new regional industries. This ambitious vision to power Queensland's future features in the design of new social housing and our neighbourhood centres, ensuring the cost of energy is cheaper for those doing it tough.

It is this government that recognises well-designed buildings, built to suit Queensland's climate and great lifestyle, which not only deliver environmental outcomes but also improve livability for vulnerable Queenslanders. We are getting on with the job of delivering new and innovative ways to

improve the design and energy efficiency of social homes in Queensland. For example, a range of smart design elements supporting energy efficiency are incorporated and adopted as livable design standards for social housing.

New social housing design considers the orientation of dwellings on site, ceiling heights and building materials, energy efficient light fittings, as well as ceiling fans and light coloured roofing. Outside, landscaping is created to provide not only shading but social and communal spaces in multi-unit developments.

New projects are also located near public transport and services, reducing reliance on cars and ensuring our social housing tenants are close to amenities. This smart approach to energy efficiency minimises heating, cooling and building costs, alleviating cost pressures and improving livability for social housing residents. My department has also been testing the viability of new solar business models in various locations across the state. There are now more than 800 social housing households in Cairns and Rockhampton generating solar power with more to come.

We are powering Queensland's housing future, and our energy efficient approach is not just confined to social housing: it also includes our neighbourhood and community centre network and other facilities through the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy. The soon-to-be-opened new Bowen Neighbourhood Centre, the Cairns Diversionary Centre and the Oasis in Townsville all have solar panels. Going forward, all new neighbourhood centres planned for construction as well as refurbishments and rebuilds will have solar energy. Our approach reduces running costs and leads to better environmental outcomes, freeing up more time and energy to provide even better services for Queenslanders in need.

## NOTICE OF MOTION

### Youth Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (10.50 am): I give notice that I will move—

That this House notes the failure of the state government to combat youth crime resulting in:

- youth car theft out of control in places including Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Cairns;
- businesspeople in places including Hervey Bay and Dingo being forced to board up their shops or close after multiple break-ins;
- innocent people being run down by stolen vehicles across Queensland including Redlands and Townsville;
- money wasted on an abandoned youth jail in Caloundra,

and calls on the government to act to protect Queenslanders.

## QUESTIONS WITHOUT NOTICE

**Mr SPEAKER:** Question time will conclude today at 11.51 am.

### Caboolture Hospital, Reviews

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (10.51 am): My question is to the Minister for Health. The same external investigator who conducted the Mackay Base Hospital obstetrics and gynaecology review is now investigating the same unit at Caboolture Hospital. Can the minister explain why this review is being undertaken and guarantee that the safety of local mums is not being compromised?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I am happy to get more information around any external review that is happening at the Caboolture Hospital right now. As the member would know, it is important we ensure that we do external reviews and that any concerns are addressed at the hospital and health service level. That includes part 9 clinical reviews, which we saw at the Mackay Base Hospital. The member is aware there are a number of matters under consideration already that have been referred to over previous months at the Caboolture Hospital. As I say, I am happy to get an update for the member in the near future.

### Caboolture Hospital, Reviews

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** My question is to the Minister for Health. The opposition has been told that a separate wideranging external investigation into the culture of Caboolture Hospital has been completed. Will the minister confirm she has read the report, and why has it not been made public?

**Mrs D'ATH:** I just said there were a number of matters being reviewed at Caboolture Hospital. I am happy to follow up if the member wants to tell me exactly which report they are talking about. The opposition is very good at putting general statements out there.

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Leader of the Opposition, the minister is responding to the question asked in, I believe, a genuine way. I would like to hear the answer. I suggest that you should also hear the answer.

**Mrs D'ATH:** The opposition tends to make very general statements about reports. There has been a previous investigation report released on Caboolture without any time frame from the opposition. I do not know if the Leader of the Opposition is referring to the previous reports that have already been released or if he is talking about something else. When it comes to releasing reports I will say that the hospital and health service boards have shown that they have been willing to be transparent around these reports, which is something the opposition did not do when they were in government. I am happy to be corrected but, as I said yesterday, we have not found any evidence that when they were in government the opposition released one part 9 investigation report—not one. When they talk about transparency—

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members!

**Mrs D'ATH:** They sacked health workers. They hid reports. They closed the Barrett centre. They took money off NGOs and primary healthcare centres. What we have shown—

**Ms Grace:** And they are trying to lecture us!

**Mrs D'ATH:** I will take that interjection from the education minister. They try to lecture us when our hospital and health service boards and our hospital and health services have been transparent around the reports that have been completed and have released what is appropriate and available to be released without divulging people's private information. Those opposite say, 'There's been a report and it's been finished. Why hasn't it been released?' They have not identified what report they are talking about. Quite honestly, I listened to the opposition yesterday time and time again misleading this parliament about a whole range of issues. The member for Mudgeeraba time and time again said that she wrote to me and I never responded. In *Hansard* it specifically says, 'I received your letter the day before and here's the response.' It is in *Hansard*.

(Time expired)

**Mr SPEAKER:** Before calling the questioner, I caution the Leader of the Opposition and other members who are providing what appears to be a running commentary in terms of the response from the minister. That is not called for. The minister has been asked a question and the minister will be given the courtesy of answering the question.

## Federal Budget, Priorities

**Mr POWER:** My question is for the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on priorities for Queensland in the upcoming federal budget and any alternative views?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. The federal budget is due to come down later this month and Queensland would like to see its fair share in the federal budget, just as we have always maintained previously. As we know, there are a few issues we have been raising at length. One of those issues is in relation to moving people who are aged or people with a disability out of our hospitals into more appropriate care. I stand by that and I know that the health minister does. It is something we would like to see in this budget. Secondly, we would always like to see more health funding. I have been very clear on this. As we know, we are always arguing for fifty-fifty.

**Dr Miles:** Really?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** We are; that is correct.

**Government members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right; they are always silent.

**Dr Miles:** That's leadership!

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Thank you. We would also like to see—and we know this is of fundamental concern to Queenslanders and families—more access to GPs. We know this is a federal issue, but we know that families need more access to more GPs. We need to see more training of GPs coming through our tertiary institutions and we need to be attracting more GPs to rural and regional cities across our state.

We would also like to see more funding for housing. We know that housing is an issue. There are pressures on our housing system. Both housing and health are national issues in terms of pressures that all states and territories are feeling at the moment. It is not an issue unique to Queensland which the opposition likes to maintain it is. I had the opportunity for a conversation with the Prime Minister about our energy and jobs plan. We have now forwarded all of that information to the federal Commonwealth. We know how important it is with the building of these two pumped hydros in Borumba, west of Gympie, and the Pioneer-Burdekin west of Mackay. It will be lovely to see both of those jointly funded between the state and federal governments.

We will work very closely with the federal government. In fact, I have had more meetings with this Prime Minister in just two weeks than I had with the previous four. There you go, that is the level of consensus and the level of collaboration, the likes of which we have never seen before.

### Caboolture Hospital, Reviews

**Ms BATES:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Whistleblowers have told the opposition that up to 40 public interest disclosures have been made to the wideranging investigation into culture at Caboolture Hospital. Many allege adverse patient outcomes because of inappropriate clinical practices. What action has the minister taken to investigate these allegations?

**Mrs D'ATH:** While I am on my feet, I can advise that in relation to Dr Sweeney he was engaged by the HHS to oversee and conduct a review of the implementation of the recommendations coming out of the previous report. Dr Sweeney had been engaged to review Metro North's progress against his 19 recommendations. This follow-up review occurred on 26 and 28 September 2022 and Dr Sweeney's final report is anticipated to be received this month.

I am happy to follow up to see whether the HHS has received that or not. I believe he did a review into one particular incident in relation to obstetrics. Based on the information I have—and the opposition raised this back in August and did receive information around this; I did respond in the chamber in relation to those queries at that time—there have been no findings against any staff in relation to any practices as a result of that one investigation.

In relation to any PIDs—

**Opposition members** interjected.

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

**Ms Camm** interjected.

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

**Mrs D'ATH:** In relation to any public interest disclosures, if they come to my office I follow the proper protocol, referring them to the relevant agencies or other regulatory bodies for investigation. Every single one of those is referred either back to the department, as they are supposed to be, an external adviser or investigator or the Crime and Corruption Commission, depending on the allegations. I can only speak to those that are referred to me. As it says in the public interest disclosure legislation, those PIDs should first go to their immediate supervisor and then be escalated and if it involves those individuals then it should go higher. I would expect, of course, that any of those individuals who have received those PIDs have followed the proper process.

### Energy and Jobs Plan, Hydrogen

**Mr WALKER:** My question is to the Premier. Will the Premier update the House on how the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan includes investing in hydrogen to support regions like North Queensland?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Mundingburra for the question. Of course our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is here for everyone to see. We proudly carry this around everywhere we go across regional Queensland because this means jobs, jobs and more jobs. It is the most comprehensive plan. It took over a year to put together—100,000 jobs. It backs regional Queensland.

As I said yesterday in this House, soon every member of this House will have the opportunity to vote on whether or not they support our 70 per cent renewable energy target by 2032. That will be a very interesting vote because I know that Queenslanders care about climate change and they want their government to act. They have actually been doing their own things, whether it be recycling or purchasing electric vehicles. We want to ensure that we are providing the leadership that Queenslanders expect of us.

Secondly, in Townsville there are so many opportunities, especially when it comes to hydrogen. It is always great to visit Sun Metals to see the extraordinary work they are doing—huge solar farms and looking at investing in hydrogen trucks. It is also part of a consortium with Ark Energy looking at how we can export more green, renewable hydrogen to South Korea over years to come. This is very exciting as they also look at investing and creating a precinct in Collinsville. People can see where the new jobs are coming from, where this transition is happening. That is thousands of jobs in regional Queensland. As well as that we will be investing in ensuring that our local schools and TAFEs are linked in so our young people can have the opportunity to get jobs in these new industries. This is an exciting time for Queensland, it is an exciting time for the workforce and it is an exciting time for people who want to be in renewable energy.

They are also developing the SunHQ hydrogen hub at Sun Metals. As I said, that will produce green hydrogen from a connection to their solar farm, supported by \$5 million from our Hydrogen Industry Development Fund. Our hydrogen roadmap was released before any other state's and before the federal government's. We saw an enormous opportunity that hydrogen would bring to this state and now it is being backed up. We know that Fortescue is investing in Gladstone. There are opportunities in Gladstone, out of Abbot Point and out of the Townsville port. These are regional ports that are going to service this growing and booming industry across our state resulting in thousands of jobs.

### Caboolture Hospital, Reviews

**Mr BLEIJIE:** My question is to the health minister. Will the minister explain why the wideranging Caboolture cultural investigation, not the Sweeney review, initially run by the Metro North integrity unit, was handed over to an external legal firm; and can the minister provide a time frame on when this review will be released?

**Mrs D'ATH:** Those are matters for the hospital and health service and the hospital and health service board if they have undertaken a review of the culture within their HHS or a particular hospital. Can I say that I welcome a HHS board actually looking at the culture of their hospital. I absolutely welcome that. As I said when the Mackay investigation report came down, we do need to look at the culture within the health system. We need to make sure that staff and consumers feel that they can come forward and make complaints. If there are barriers to that, they need to be addressed.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Members to my left, the response from the health minister as I hear it is being responsive to the question as asked. I ask that you hear the answer.

**Mrs D'ATH:** As I said, these are human resource and industrial relations matters which the HHS deal with at hospital level.

When I talk about culture, when I talk about the importance of staff having a voice, I do want to make this point to the member for Mudgeeraba. In relation to her previous question on the 40 PIDs, I can only assume that the member is aware of 40 PIDs because they have been brought to her attention as a member of parliament. There is an obligation under the act for that member to act on those 40 PIDs in the appropriate way and refer them to the appropriate authorities. I am pretty sure they have not been referred to me, so I do hope—I certainly have not seen 40 PIDs from Caboolture—that the member is fulfilling her role as an elected member of parliament who is aware of public interest disclosures, because that is extremely important.

### Climate Change

**Ms BUSH:** My question is to the Deputy Premier and Minister for State Development, Infrastructure, Local Government and Planning and Minister Assisting the Premier on Olympics Infrastructure. Can the Deputy Premier outline what action the Palaszczuk government is taking on climate change, and is the Deputy Premier aware of any other approaches?

**Dr MILES:** I thank the member for Cooper for her question. I know she is determined to see Queensland do its part to decarbonise our economy and in the process create hundreds of thousands of good jobs for Queenslanders. The fact is Queensland and Queenslanders are already experiencing the impacts of climate change.

Recently we were in the Torres Strait with the member for Cook where we saw firsthand how Queenslanders living there are already experiencing the impacts of higher sea levels and tidal surge levels. Across the state we continue to experience more severe weather and bushfires. Since 2011, we

have had 98 natural disasters. That is why it is critical that we do our part to achieve net zero emissions, and that is exactly what our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan does. In the process, we will create more than 100,000 jobs.

The plan outlines how we will achieve a 50 per cent renewable energy target by 2028, two years ahead of schedule, a target those opposite said was impossible and could not be done when they opposed it. The Premier just outlined how we will legislate our 70 per cent target by 2032, the year that we will deliver the climate-positive Olympic and Paralympic Games. We are working towards achieving 100 per cent renewables by 2030 for our large government sites. These kinds of initiatives are only possible—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Apologies, members, my phone is doing strange things. It is on silent; it is just making noises. I may well extricate it from the chamber, at least for one hour.

**Dr MILES:** Whoever is ringing the Speaker, please stop! These important economic transformations are only possible because we have a Labor government. Those opposite would have sold off the very assets we are using to decarbonise our economy. The LNP vetoed federal funding to the Kaban wind farm which we connected to the grid recently. When in office, those opposite sacked the entire Office of Climate Change. They banned councils from incorporating sea level rises in their planning schemes. Who could forget the war they waged against Ben & Jerry's ice-cream for daring to campaign to save the Great Barrier Reef? On this side of the House, we will meet our climate targets. We will meet our renewable energy targets, and we will create good jobs for Queenslanders in the process.

### Caboolture Hospital, Reviews

**Mr POWELL:** My question is to the Minister for Health. Was Dr James Sweeney, who undertook the Caboolture surgical services review, ever told about the wideranging culture investigation and provided with the allegations of inappropriate clinical practices, or was information deliberately withheld from him?

**Mrs D'ATH:** As the member should be aware, I would not have direct knowledge of what Dr Sweeney was advised of by the HHS in his investigation report.

### Energy Industry

**Ms HOWARD:** My question is of the Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment. Will the Treasurer tell the House how Queensland will generate our affordable, reliable, emissions-free energy and is the Treasurer aware of any alternative approaches?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ipswich for her question. The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan is a comprehensive road map to our future economic prosperity and to play our state's part in reducing emissions and to use renewable energy storage and transmission to insulate ourselves from the impact of what is happening with the international and global energy market. We know what is happening in Europe. There are many in the LNP who blame renewables for the increased cost of energy, but the truth is Vladimir Putin's war in Ukraine is driving up energy costs around the world. One thing we know about Queensland sunshine and Queensland wind is that despotic dictators like Vladimir Putin will never be able to control our sunshine and our wind. That will always be free. It will always be free for Queenslanders.

We know there are members of the LNP who deny the science of climate change and the economics of renewable energy. We have a federal shadow minister for climate change and energy, the Sunshine Coast's Ted O'Brien, calling more loudly than ever for nuclear power stations in Queensland. He is joined by another Queenslander, Keith Pitt, the federal member for Hinkler. This is actually a genuine LNP policy. This is a policy of their party, endorsed by their federal leader, Peter Dutton, and forms part of their federal policy framework. The question for this House and the question for the LNP is where does this Leader of the Opposition stand? Does he support Ted O'Brien's call for nuclear power in Queensland? In doing so, surely Ted O'Brien will not put that off to others. He must stand by his own policy in his own electorate of Fairfax.

How does the member for Maroochydore stand on this? Does she support a nuclear reactor at Maroochydore or Mount Coolum? We know that nuclear reactors need water and they need a quick connection to an energy system. Will the member for Kawana support a nuclear reactor at Currimundi or Meridan Plains? If Keith Pitt wants one, will the member for Burnett support one in that region? You cannot have a policy without implementing it in your own community. That is the reality.

Where does the Leader of the Opposition stand on the Energy and Jobs Plan? Does he support renewable energy? Does he support our plan? Or does he support a nuclear future for Queensland? That is your federal policy, Leader of the Opposition. That is the federal policy of the LNP. Where do all of those members opposite stand on this policy? The member for Callide wants one, I think; he is keen on it. Where do all those members stand? Nuclear reactors need water, they need people and they need connection to an energy system, and that will happen on the coast of Australia if the LNP's policy comes to light. It is not a thought bubble, it is not auto babble; this is a genuine policy. The members of the LNP and the Leader of the Opposition need to say do they support the Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan or an LNP nuclear future for Queensland?

### **Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities**

**Mrs FRECKLINGTON:** My question is to the Premier. I refer to comments made by the agriculture minister in this chamber yesterday and I ask: what actions will the Premier take other than giving the minister a stern talking-to?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for the question. This is the same member when she was the leader of the opposition who attacked me for the clothes that I was wearing.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right—front page of the *Sunday Mail*. That is very disappointing, member for Nanango.

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Pause the clock! Resume your seat, Premier. Member for Nanango, you have asked the question and you continue to interject over the Premier. You are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I have spoken to the minister. The minister has unreservedly apologised to the House. I have reminded all caucus members about being respectful in this chamber, and I think it is a timely reminder for all members across all political parties and everybody in this chamber to bring more respect and decorum into this House.

### **State Schools, Renewable Energy**

**Mr MARTIN:** My question is of the Minister for Education, Minister for Industrial Relations and Minister for Racing. Can the minister advise how our state schools are playing their part in powering Queensland's renewable energy future and is the Minister aware of any alternative approaches?

**Ms GRACE:** I thank the member for Stretton for his question. I know how happy he is with the 1,800 panels that are installed at five schools in the Stretton electorate, including 606 panels at the Stretton State College alone. As I said earlier, this is an outstanding program that is delivering for schools right across the state. Those solar panels are helping to power our air-conditioning units. It was a no-brainer. We use the air-conditioning units during the day. Solar panels generate power during the day, saving millions of dollars in electricity costs. Rolling these out together was an absolutely fantastic program. We installed them all during the pandemic—six years ahead, I might add, to any alternative policy, member for Stretton, than those opposite.

I do recall that when the member for Surfers Paradise was the education minister in 2013 or 2014, he was asked about air-conditioning and they put a price back then of \$2 billion to do this job. I tell those opposite and the House that we did it for a lot less than that and we achieved a lot more. They were just talking about classrooms. We did classrooms, staffrooms and libraries as well. We did it under budget. We delivered it ahead of time. It was absolutely an incredible program. We are the only state, of all states and territories in Australia, to ever have achieved it. Students right around the state are benefiting from the air conditioning that we have put into every state school in Queensland.

Can I also say that there are schools that are using that technology to learn about renewable energy. When I visited Petrie Terrace State School they were connected, and students were actually seeing how much power was generated by the solar panels and what they were saving, learning about renewable energy. That is really terrific for those students. I am looking forward to working with the energy minister on developing materials that schools can use about the Energy and Jobs Plan that we are rolling out over the next 10 years or so. It will be a great educational tool.

It is only this side of the House that has a fundamental plan for renewable energy. We are actually delivering it—we have wind farms and solar farms—and we are educating our students about all of it. There is absolute silence from those opposite.

*(Time expired)*

### **Comments by Minister for Agricultural Industry Development and Fisheries and Minister for Rural Communities**

**Ms CAMM:** My question is to the Minister for Women. Given that the member for Mudgeeraba has publicly spoken about her personal experiences as a survivor of domestic violence, does the Minister for Women support the minister for agriculture remaining a White Ribbon ambassador?

**Ms FENTIMAN:** I thank the member for the question. The minister has unreservedly apologised. I think that is the end of the matter. As the Premier has said, this is about respect. I think all of us can do better to make sure that, as leaders in the community, we set an example of respect. We are rolling out Respectful Relationships in all of our schools and it is incumbent on all of us to make sure that we are respectful to one another in this place.

**Mr Crandon** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Coomera.

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order, members. I will remind members of the statement just made by the Attorney-General about respect in this chamber. That was not respectful, member for Coomera. You are warned under the standing orders. Members to my right, there were multiple members speaking directly to the member. I have made it very clear that that is not the practice in this House. Comments will be directed through the chair. I call the member for Bundaberg.

### **Regional and Remote Queensland, Health Services**

**Mr SMITH:** Thank you, Mr Speaker. Apologies for calling your phone earlier. My question is of the Minister for Health and Ambulance Services. Will the minister please update the House on how the Palaszczuk government is building new facilities and introducing new health services across regional and remote Queensland?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Thank you, member for Bundaberg, for the cover!

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank the member for his question. It was a pleasure to recently tour several health facilities in Far North Queensland that are receiving upgrades and new infrastructure thanks to the Palaszczuk government's significant investments. I know that the member is well aware of the investments we are making in his area and right across Queensland. Particularly, it was a pleasure to recently join the Premier to inspect the redevelopment works underway at the Thursday Island Hospital which total more than \$40 million. We were pleased to announce that a new CT scanner will be installed at the hospital early next year. This will mean that people living in the Torres Strait will be able to access CT scans closer to home, rather than having to travel to Cairns. We know that this will make such a difference for the local communities in the Torres and cape. I also visited the Thursday Island Primary Health Care Centre, which underwent a \$10 million redevelopment that was completed earlier this year.

My next stop was the Cairns Hospital, where we inspected the works underway on the new \$70 million mental health unit. It was great to see that coming out of the ground and to actually see the prototype. They have done up a prototype room. They have taken advice not only from those who work in the mental health unit but also from consumers about what they can do to make this room more suitable for the situation. It is something as simple as people being able to turn their own lights on and off and not have them controlled from outside a locked door. That makes a world of difference. I acknowledge the staff for their efforts in this.

I then visited Cow Bay Primary Health Centre, which will be replaced with a brand new, modern facility under our \$1 billion Building Rural and Remote Health Program. I met with the staff at the Mossman Hospital, which received a \$6.9 million upgrade of its emergency department, which was completed last year.

The Palaszczuk government is building new health facilities and expanding health services right across regional and remote Queensland. I am pleased to announce that our latest investment in expanding rural health services is with Charters Towers, which is going to receive its first CT scanner.

This investment will mean that patients in Charters Towers and the surrounding areas will not need to travel to Townsville for a CT scan. I thank the member for Thuringowa for his strong advocacy for this project.

Another project is the \$1.2 billion investment in the new Bundaberg hospital. I am sure that the member is thinking, 'When is she going to talk about Bundaberg?' This \$1.2 billion investment is a game-changing infrastructure project for the Bundaberg community. I thank the member for Bundaberg for his strong advocacy for this project. Interestingly, I cannot say the same for the federal member for Hinkler, Keith Pitt, who actually criticised this and put out misinformation. I know that the member for Bundaberg is out there—

(*Time expired*)

## Nuclear Energy

**Mr KATTER:** My question is to the Premier and Minister for the Olympics. Queensland has a great opportunity for significant baseload energy to be brought online by low-emission nuclear energy plants in geologically safe areas like the north-west. Given the energy crisis and the government's declaration that it will phase out coal-fired power by 2035, can the Premier outline what evidence the government has relied on to maintain Labor's strong opposition to this technology, or is it purely ideological?

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Traeger for the question. The Treasurer did a very fine job, I thought, of conveying to this House that we on this side of the House do not support nuclear energy whilst those in the LNP do support nuclear energy—namely, Mr Ted O'Brien on the Sunshine Coast. We would like to know where on the Sunshine Coast the LNP—the Leader of the Opposition and the members for Kawana, Maroochydore and Buderim—would like this nuclear power plant, because this will be the opposition's policy going to the next election. We also know that they love selling off assets. We are building the SuperGrid—

**Mr Minnikin** interjected.

**Mr Dick** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** The member for Chatsworth and the Treasurer will cease their interjections.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** Does the member for Chatsworth like nuclear? Maybe.

**A government member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** That is right. Thank you. Of course, nuclear energy is very expensive. We have said very clearly that our comprehensive energy plan takes us to being a global leader when it comes to renewables and hydrogen. We have committed to CopperString going from Townsville out to Mount Isa. We recognise that there are a lot of communities, including Barcaldine and Longreach—smaller rural communities—using adaptive renewable energy as we speak. The member would have heard the Deputy Premier today talking about the fact that we want to build more in Queensland. We are asking for expressions of interest for extra jobs—building those turbines, building those solar panels and helping with the transmission lines—as we take Queensland into a bright future.

This plan was not done lightly. I thank the minister and all of the state government agencies that worked so collaboratively. This is what you can do in government when people work together.

**An opposition member** interjected.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** You may laugh, because when you were in office—

**Mr SPEAKER:** Through the chair.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:**—there was no working together. The right hand did not know what the left hand was doing. Anyone who would like a history lesson should just talk to the member for Kawana. He can give all LNP members a history lesson—

(*Time expired*)

**Mr SPEAKER:** I caution the Leader of the Opposition. I have given guidance today.

## Palaszczuk Labor Government, Cost of Living

**Ms PUGH:** My question is of the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Minister, can you outline how this government is addressing the global energy crisis that is putting pressure on the cost of living?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Mount Ommaney, I will ask you to rephrase that question to ask that question of the minister, not direct it to the minister.

**Ms PUGH:** Indeed. Would you like me to repeat the entire question, Mr Speaker?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Only the last part, member.

**Ms PUGH:** Can the minister please outline for the House how this government is addressing the global energy crisis that is putting pressure on the cost of living?

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. For decades Queensland has benefited from fossil fuel energy from our Queensland resources. Prices for coal and gas around the world have been historically low, but I am sure that the member is aware that there are now new global challenges in the energy system. In the last 2½ years the global price for gas has gone up 217 per cent. The thermal coal price has gone up a staggering 502 per cent. As the Treasurer said earlier today, Australia's exposure to global energy markets has a real impact in Queensland. The Australian Energy Regulator forecast prices this year of a \$165 increase for South-East Queensland and \$119 in regional Queensland. Why did the market regulator say that these prices would go up? It said it was because of Putin's illegal war on Ukraine. It also pointed to extreme weather events around the world, and that is why this government is taking action on two fronts.

Firstly, we are helping families tackle the cost of living. Immediately upon hearing the Australian Energy Regulator's forecast price increase, we announced a \$175 cost-of-living, bill-busting electricity rebate. I am pleased to update the House that as at 30 September Queensland's top 5 retailers have so far paid out 840,183 rebates or put \$147 million back into the pockets of Queensland households. Where did those funds go? Those funds went to households to pay for new school shoes for their kids, \$175 back into your pocket when you are at the checkout at the grocery store or \$175 tucked away for Christmas presents. More important is where those funds did not go. Those funds did not go to pay for some billionaire's yacht. They did not go off into some tax haven for the world's richest in the Cayman Islands, and the difference is because Queenslanders own their electricity system. In Queensland we kept over \$350 million in the pockets of Queensland households. In the New South Wales privatised system, up to \$400 million in electricity bill increases went into private hands. That is money for schools, for hospitals and for emergency services gone, and that is the LNP policy on energy.

Secondly, we plan to bust the bills of the future. We know that the price of coal and gas is still going up, renewables are dropping and, thanks to Putin, there will be challenges for years ahead. That is why our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will work to deliver this state's energy independence. We want the bills of the future to go down, not up. That is why we are investing in more wind, more solar and new hydrogen gas ready peaking—publicly owned, an orderly transition and lower bills under this government because Queenslanders kept their energy system in public hands.

*(Time expired)*

### Renewable Energy, Emissions

**Mr ANDREW:** My question is to the Minister for Energy, Renewables and Hydrogen and Minister for Public Works and Procurement. Would the minister please advise whether the climate emissions created by renewable energy projects—manufacturing and waste—are included in Queensland's annual CO<sub>2</sub> emissions calculation and, if not, why not?

**Ms Scanlon** interjected.

**Mr de BRENNI:** I thank the member for the question. The emissions calculations are the responsibility of other ministers, but I am happy to speak to the general terms—and the federal government, of course; I take the interjection from the Minister for the Environment and the Minister for Science.

What we know is that we should continue to shift and transition in an orderly way to an economy that is based on Queensland publicly owned renewable energy. That is why we are investing in 12,000 megawatts of new wind generation in Queensland and 10,000 megawatts of new solar generation. That is why we are investing in the world's largest pumped hydro-electric scheme in the member's electorate so that we can deliver the clean energy that manufacturers need to make things with lower emissions.

To go to the member's point, it is the boardrooms and consumers around the world who are demanding clean energy. They are demanding to see lower and bettered emissions in all of the things they buy. Whether it is a wind farm tower, an electric vehicle or the concrete that gets used in pumped hydro-electric storage facilities, citizens globally want lower emissions and they want lower emissions because they are sick and tired of waking up every morning and turning on their televisions and seeing another devastating natural disaster.

Today the people of New South Wales are experiencing the third devastating flood in as many months, and that is down to nine years of inaction from the federal coalition government. It was called out earlier this week by the *Australian Financial Review* that the climate crisis around the planet has been significantly contributed to by a lack of action from the Liberal National Party when it was in office for nine years. It had over 3,000 days to take real action on climate change. It chose to do nothing.

Earlier we heard from the Deputy Premier about significant renewable energy projects to reduce embedded emissions in everything we buy, in everything we trade. The biggest thing that those opposite did when it comes to clean energy and when it comes to reducing emissions in those sorts of products was to try and block a renewable energy project in North Queensland—a project that supported 250 jobs in North Queensland. It is clear that only Labor has a plan to cut emissions. It is clear that only Labor has a plan to reduce the impact of natural disasters on Queenslanders and Australians. Our Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan will significantly reduce the embedded emissions in everything that Queenslanders consume, everything they buy and everything that they drive. Only Labor can be relied on to take real action on climate change.

**Mr Nicholls** interjected.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Clayfield and member for Cairns, you are both warned under the standing orders for quarrelling across the chamber.

### **Renewable Energy, Ports**

**Mr MELLISH:** My question is of the Minister for Transport and Main Roads. Can the minister provide an update on the role Queensland ports play in the energy transition, and is the minister aware of any alternate approach?

**Mr BAILEY:** I thank the honourable member for the question—a very strong supporter of keeping our assets in public hands. Our ports have been critical to doing that, and they would not be in public hands if Strong Choices had been implemented.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Order! The member for Toowoomba North is also warned under the standing orders.

**Mr BAILEY:** Whenever I mention the words ‘Strong Choices’, those opposite get upset. We know that the defeat of Strong Choices meant that our ports could play a very key part in our energy transition. The port of Cairns has recently seen the wind turbines come in for not just the Mount Emerald wind farm but the Kaban wind farm being uploaded and put into place as part of our clean energy transition.

What did we see when the members for Broadwater and Everton and Surfers Paradise and Chatsworth and Clayfield were in government? Not one single large-scale renewable energy project happened in three years. The whole country was hopping with billions in investment and they actually stopped it. They stopped clean energy investment, and look at them: they are all still in control over there. We just cannot trust that side understanding the new energy commitments of a new economy and the transition to clean energy.

Is this some sort of historical thing? No. At the last election less than two years ago those opposite promised to scrap the renewable energy target—less than two years ago. That is the side that wants to be the next government of this state while this government has now put our renewable energy mix up to 21 per cent off a low base of four per cent because of the geniuses opposite and their appalling record. We remember the former member for Callide, Colin Boyce, saying that climate change is not man made and that it is not a risk to our future—something that was never called into account by the Leader of the Opposition. He never called him to heel; he let him go, and we know his right-wing credentials. Now we have Colin Boyce pretending to care about renewable energy. He realises now that he is in a bit of strife and he is having a bet both ways. This LNP obsession against renewable energy continues with its commitment to nuclear—the most expensive form of power in the world—and that is its way forward.

This week Senator Canavan tweeted a picture of a nuclear power plant in Germany saying it was evidence. It has actually been shut down. Senator Canavan is obviously struggling without staff. The question is if those opposite support nuclear power, where are the reactors going to be? Will there be a Ninderry nuclear reactor and will you support it, member for Ninderry?

(*Time expired*)

## Palaszczuk Labor Government, Performance

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. The chief whip has broken ranks to contradict the health minister, a cabinet minister has threatened resignation because of service cuts to his community and the Premier and the Treasurer are at war—

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

**Mr SPEAKER:** What is your point of order?

**Mr BROWN:** Imputations.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member, I do need to hear the question in its entirety before I can make a ruling on your point of order. I will come back to you.

**Mr JANETZKI:** My question is to the Premier. The chief whip has broken ranks to contradict the health minister, a cabinet minister has threatened resignation because of service cuts to his community and the Premier and the Treasurer are at war over a land tax thought bubble. If the government cannot govern itself how can it govern Queensland?

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** First of all, I will hear the questions in silence. There will not be interjections during the questions. Member for Capalaba, do you have a point of order?

**Mr BROWN:** Yes, I do. There are clear imputations and clear inferences.

## Speaker's Ruling, Question Out of Order

**Mr SPEAKER:** I agree with the fact that there are imputations in that question and I rule the question out of order.

## Energy and Jobs Plan

**Ms LAUGA:** My question is to the Minister for Regional Development and Manufacturing and Minister for Water. Will the minister update the House on how the Energy and Jobs Plan will help regional Queensland and, in particular, Central Queensland?

**Mr BUTCHER:** I thank the member for the question. I know she is a massive supporter of jobs in regional Queensland, especially manufacturing jobs.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Mr SPEAKER:** Member for Everton, you are clearly flouting the standing orders by speaking over the member and directing your comments to the member. I ask you to leave the chamber directly for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Everton withdrew from the chamber at 11.41 am.*

**Mr BUTCHER:** The Palaszczuk Labor government is all about good jobs, better service and a great lifestyle. Central to that is the Energy and Jobs Plan. There is a 100,000 jobs guarantee and \$62 billion of investment mostly in regional Queensland. Central Queensland's pre-existing industry, ports and manufacturing potential certainly puts us in pole position to take advantage of this clean energy revolution.

This plan is a result of a lot of hard work and consideration by the Queensland government. It does not mean the end of jobs in Central Queensland as those opposite are saying. Instead it is a jobs revolution. This new plan delivers \$365 million for Central Queensland's SuperGrid reinforcement. To build that SuperGrid, Queensland is going to need thousands of new workers. That is why we are building a transmission and training hub in Gladstone, as well one up in the Townsville region, that will support 570 workers each year. That means more opportunities for local kids to develop their skills locally and to stay in those regional communities.

On top of that, the Queensland government is making a \$200 million downpayment to the Regional Economic Futures Fund. This fund will support work with local communities to develop regional economic future strategies for regions including Gladstone, Rockhampton, Kingaroy, the Darling Downs and also Biloela. Speaking of Bilo, I must say I was shocked to see the member for Callide have a go at the plan on Facebook—the only place that he feels relevant these days.

This side of the House recognises that Queensland has a bright future and we want to harness the future opportunities and advocate for the job opportunities that come through investments, certainly in new industries. We are not shutting the gate on power station workers. Communities such as Gladstone, Bilo, Kingaroy and Chinchilla will play a leading role in the clean energy transformation.

I was shocked, but not surprised, that the member for Callide talked down this plan. It was the member for Callide who used his maiden speech to shoot down Containers for Change in this state. Let us not forget where he is sitting. He is sitting in the seat of the former member for Callide, Colin Boyce, who is a self-confessed climate change denier. We know where that is going. I know he is new here so I think it is important to remind the member for Callide that he is here to help his community, not mislead it.

(*Time expired*)

### Land Tax

**Mr PURDIE:** My question is to the Treasurer. On 26 September the Treasurer said we do not need the help of other states to implement the interstate land tax. Four days later the Premier shelved the tax saying it required the support of other states. Who is correct, the Premier or the Treasurer?

**Mr DICK:** I thank the member for Ninderry for his question. I know he is disappointed given he supported the measure in the parliament.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** The LNP voted for all of it. We made a decision on that measure. That is how government works. What we have heard today about revenue, about our budget and about jobs is that Queensland has the strongest performing economy in the country. That is because we have a Labor government in Queensland. Those members opposite want to deny science and deny the future of renewable energy. They want to support the most costly form of power in the world that will take decades to develop, to implement and to technically apply. They want to support nuclear energy, which is their federal policy supported by their Queensland federal leader and Queensland LNP MPs on the Sunshine Coast—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DICK:** I take the interjection from the Leader of the Opposition. I would not be interjecting, Leader of the Opposition—through you, Mr Speaker—I would be explaining clearly to Queenslanders where you want the nuclear power plant to go. Does that include the Gold Coast and the electorate of Broadwater? We have made a decision on our revenue measures. We are delivering for Queensland. We are delivering the jobs and the services and a world-leading Energy and Jobs Plan for this state.

**Mr Lister** interjected.

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

**Mr DICK:** That is the future, a golden future for our state leading into the Olympics: building infrastructure, supporting our regions and developing this state in a way that only Labor governments do.

### Critical Minerals

**Mr HARPER:** My question is to the Minister for Resources. Can the minister please inform the House of the role critical minerals will play in the Energy and Jobs Plan?

**Mr STEWART:** I thank the member for Thuringowa for his question. He knows how important our critical minerals are for our future and, in particular, for his electorate. The kids in his electorate know they have a very bright future. Our Energy and Jobs Plan is truly revolutionary. I cannot wait to see what opportunities it will provide for regional Queensland.

The Queensland Energy and Jobs Plan represents \$62 billion worth of investment in the energy system right up to 2035. Here in Queensland we have the renewable resources above the ground as well as the critical minerals below the ground to be a renewable energy superpower. We have our North West Minerals Province, home to an abundance of critical minerals, including copper, vanadium and cobalt, and our North East Minerals Province where large deposits of critical minerals, including tungsten, molybdenum and tin, are being rediscovered and mined as demand for these minerals increases domestically and internationally. Right across our great state we have other significant deposits of critical minerals.

Demand for these critical minerals is increasing exponentially as the world moves towards decarbonisation. Our Resources Industry Development Plan will work hand in glove with the Energy and Jobs Plan to help get these minerals out of the ground to build the solar panels, wind farms, electric

vehicles and batteries we need for the future. Those opposite have a different idea of which mineral will be most valuable for our energy future. It is not copper, which will help build our Queensland SuperGrid, our solar panels and our wind turbines. It is not vanadium, used in our redox flow batteries capable of storing significant amounts of energy. It is not cobalt. It is not molybdenum. It is not nickel. It is not our rare earths for our electric vehicles.

Would you believe that Matt Canavan and the vagabond gang of federal LNP senators are putting the house on uranium? They are so out of touch that instead of embracing our renewable future and the opportunities it presents for Queenslanders across our great state, they are spruiking a nuclear solution. Compared to our energy plan, Senator Canavan's energy proposal is going down like a lead balloon. Nuclear power or solar? In our state, with an average of 283 days of sunshine each year, I know which one I would choose each and every day. Like uranium itself, Senate Canavan shows just how dense the LNP actually are and how radioactive they are to the people of Queensland. Because they are so unstable, they are prone to disaster.

### Gladstone Hospital, Birthing Services

**Mr HEAD:** My question is to the Premier. Has the Premier received a date from the health minister for the return of birthing services to Gladstone Hospital, ensuring the Premier does not have to accept the water minister's resignation?

**Mr SPEAKER:** Premier, you have one minute to respond.

**Ms PALASZCZUK:** I thank the member for Callide for the question. My understanding is that the minister is seeking further advice on that. It is not far off. I understand how important the issue is for locals and they are working on a local solution.

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

## HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from 12 October (see p. 2657), on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr KNUTH** (Hill—KAP) (11.51 am): I rise to speak to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. This bill is complex and can be summed up as giving the government the ability to control the sphere, narrative and delivery of medical and healthcare advice to Queenslanders. This should ring alarm bells across the state. Regulation is important, but we must not be tempted too far down the path of regulatory overreach, which this bill allows.

On the weekend I read with interest an article in the *Australian* titled 'Health disgrace: bureaucrats in bid to silence our doctors'. The article provides a very straightforward and rational explanation of the dangers of the legislation and all Queenslanders should read it. I table that article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Australian*, dated 7 October 2022, titled 'Health disgrace: bureaucrats in bid to silence our doctors' [1649].

It is very clear that during the COVID period, through the lockdowns and mandates, the government became drunk on power. Instead of giving that up now, what do they do? They legislate to give themselves more power as they see themselves as emperors of the state rather than servants of the people. Through this bill, either the government is attempting to expand control over the health narrative or it simply has not thought through the implications on doctor-patient relationships and a doctor's ability to give the best medical advice based on a patient's situation and medical history. It would be very naive to believe this bill will not result in negative implications to doctor-patient relationships, which should be considered a private space. Off the back of the COVID-19 pandemic, which saw unprecedented health measures enforced on Queenslanders, some of which are still in place, we need to be very cautious of this overreach.

An incredible admission was made during a European Parliament inquiry. According to a news.com.au article, a Pfizer executive has admitted that the company did not know whether its COVID vaccine stopped transmission when it began rollout. I table that document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from news.com.au, dated 12 October 2022, titled 'Pfizer did not know whether Covid vaccine stopped transmission before rollout, executive admits' [1650].

Despite that, our government was advising everyone to get the vaccine to stop the spread of COVID—which this admission now questions. The advice was the basis for the government enforced vaccine mandate that led to unfair discrimination against and segregation of those who did not take the advice. They were ostracized from society and many lost their jobs and are unable to work today because the government continues to hold onto those mandates. This shows the danger in placing all medical advice in the hands of bureaucrats instead of a patient's own medical practitioner.

If this bill is passed, there will be absolutely no way a patient can have confidence that their doctor is providing the best advice based on their medical history or individual circumstances. Right now, a doctor's primary concern is focused on patient welfare. The bill changes that relationship so that their primary concern will be to not contradict the advice of government and the national regulator rather than focusing on their patients' best interests. This will lead to a rapid collapse in the trust patients have in their GPs and could have disastrous effects on the already crumbling health system in this state. In fact, in its current form this bill could discourage young people from taking up medical professions, which would be disastrous for rural and regional communities already struggling to get GPs. This type of legislation flies in the face of all international protocols to ensure no government should ever sit above the doctor-patient relationship.

It is incumbent on all doctors, under all existing medical ethical standards around the world, to seek the informed consent of patients. 'Informed' means you must explain the different treatment options, you must explain the benefits and you must also explain the risks that go with them. 'Consent' means no coercion, compulsion or manipulation by the doctor. Under the proposed legislation it is not possible to get informed consent, which represents a violation of all international codes of behaviour and ethics.

The government will attempt to ridicule these concerns as conspiracy theories and try to discredit any opposition to the bill, but the fact remains that this reform has been met with stiff opposition from those in the medical profession and should be viewed in light of the admission made yesterday by the Pfizer executive. The concerns must be heard. They are legitimate concerns and cannot be cast aside by the government, which wishes to impose bureaucratic intervention in doctor-patient relationships and control what health advice is given or followed. For health bureaucrats and regulators to attempt to claim or enforce a monopoly on scientific truth is absolutely outrageous. In good conscience I cannot support this bill.

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (11.57 am): I rise to give a brief contribution to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. This is a wideranging and extensive bill that was formulated from a number of reviews undertaken nationally over a number of years. The national scheme commenced in 2010 following the Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions. At that time in 2010, there were approximately 500,000 health practitioners across 10 registered health professions. Now the scheme has over 800,000 registered health practitioners across 16 professions—and they are professions, which the member for Hill might like to take heed of, especially when he wants to attack our bureaucrats who are medical professionals. Subsequent reviews over previous years have thought about the current reforms now being proposed.

As I said, the bill is broad in its reforms. I will concentrate my focus on a selection of key clauses. Largely, most of my focus will be on the achievement of the objectives of the bill that aim to strengthen public safety and confidence in the provision of health services. The guiding principles of the national law provide focus for all regulatory decision-making by entities in the national scheme. These decisions are broad and include decisions on accreditation and registration standards, registration decisions and decisions to take health, conduct or performance action against a practitioner.

There are two key principles highlighted for the reform in this bill that I will speak on: the paramount principle and the principle ensuring the development of a culturally safe and respectful health workforce that is responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I think the word 'responsive' is key and I will get to that later in this contribution.

The paramount principle seeks to ensure that protection of public and public confidence in the safety of services provided by registered health practitioners. The goal of this principle is to impose a legislative obligation on entities under the national law. It is very important that that key principle, the paramount principle—protection of the public and public confidence—is foremost. Part of the bill that meets that principle is the aim to strengthen the registration process.

In my community, the name Jayant Patel still ripples through the community; in fact, it is a name that strikes at the core of every single Queenslander and their confidence in the health system. We cannot deny that that particular individual has imposed that upon Queenslanders and the people I represent in my community. In fact, it is a name that I doubt will ever be erased from the minds of people in Bundaberg for many decades to come.

Health workers across the state still remember the name and attribute it to Bundaberg. When I visited the hospital and spoke with its health workers—those who were there at the time, I know how much it impacted on them and made them reflect on their own profession to ensure that they meet their standards to the highest expectations of community. I also pay tribute to all of the health workers across the Bundaberg region who make sure they are doing their utmost to protect the people and the confidence of the people in our community.

It is that paramount principle, protection of the public and public confidence, that must be foremost. This bill is not coming as a result of the light of COVID-19, but there is a place for perspective of this bill in the light of COVID-19. It has especially come from those who spoke against this bill so far in the debate. It is important to look at the history of COVID-19 in Queensland. The medical profession identified the virus. The medical profession identified the risk of the virus. The government turned to the medical profession for advice. The government received and responded to that advice through policy and legislation. The government and the medical profession worked together to protect the public and relied on the confidence of the public to combat the spread of the virus.

It is very clear: we would not have had the success we had in Queensland if we did not back our medical professionals and make sure that that confidence in the public was strong. That is why the lockdowns were successful. That is why regional Queensland did not face the same lockdowns as Brisbane because people in Brisbane did the right thing, locked down and did not travel to the regions as they had confidence in the Chief Health Officer and of course the government led by our Premier.

We should look at the success of Queensland versus other states, New South Wales in particular, which refused to accept COVID-19. What about the pressures it put on the lives and health of people? Public confidence in New South Wales was shot because of its government response to the medical professionals. It would have happened here in Queensland if the LNP were in government at the time. How do we know that? Because members of the LNP made very clear their policies when it came to protection of the public and public confidence when they demanded borders be open 64 times. They wanted the virus to come and rip through the community. It would have spread all across regional Queensland. Members opposite would have enforced month-long lockdowns and would have absolutely crippled and wiped out small business across regional Queensland. That is what would have happened.

We would not have had a community protected and confident waiting for a vaccine to be developed. That is what happened. Queenslanders were protected. They had confidence in the health professions, and they waited for that vaccine. When the vaccine came out, members of the community rolled up their sleeves for vaccination because of their confidence in the medical profession and the government together. It is very important.

The next core principle is very important. I know that the member for Greenslopes spoke about this, especially in terms of his former role as a medical professional—to make sure that there is a culturally and respectful health workforce around Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The principle ensures the development of a culturally safe and respectful health workforce that is responsive to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I foreshadowed earlier that word ‘responsive’. It is so important that we create a health system that listens to our First Nations people. It is not just asking, ‘What is best for you?’ It is listening in terms of the cultural sensitivities in the health system.

I spoke to a gentleman who is an elder of the Butchulla community on the Fraser coast who often spoke about the difference between men’s business and women’s business when it comes to health and cultural sensitivities. Those of us non-Indigenous may feel perfectly fine, as I do, talking about my health to a practitioner of any gender, but we know that there are cultural sensitivities at times among different cultures. It is important that we create a health workforce respectful of that culture, because that is the best way to ensure that that particular person can get the health care they need.

I refer to cultural matters around age, elders, the level of respect, who can talk to whom within community, making sure that we have liaison officers in our emergency departments and to making sure that they are on our medical wards as well so we can respond to the cultural needs, requirements and understandings of our First Nations people.

One particular response that I am very proud to have attended and helped set up in Bundaberg is 13YARN which is an extension of Lifeline. Their motto is 'mob talking to mob'. This is about making sure that, when a First Nations person is in a vulnerable state where there are suicidal ideologies entering their mind or even thoughts of suicide where they feel uncomfortable having a non-Indigenous person on the other end of the Lifeline call, they know they can call 13YARN to speak to a First Nations person with cultural understanding and sensitivity. That means so much especially when one is in a time of need and vulnerability.

One of the key aspects of this principle which I hope we will make sure that Queensland Health continues to roll out and consider concerns when we do need to enact those health rollouts. We know the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine. We cannot deny that there was a difficulty in earning the trust of some more remote Indigenous communities who do not trust when government vehicles show up to community. When we think about our history across Australia, but of course across Queensland, so often a government vehicle showing up to community meant that a family was going to be torn apart. It meant very much that a child may not see their parents ever again. That is why this principle is so important. This is an important bill. Of course, I will be supporting it.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (12.07 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill is for an act to amend the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Act 2009 for particular purposes. I thank the shadow minister, the member for Mudgeeraba, for her contribution, and the Health and Environment Committee. I note the report with the statement of reservation of the member for Southport, the deputy chair Rob Molhoek, and the member for Bonney. Of course, the opposition recognises the importance of legislation which ensures health professionals in our state are held to the highest of standards.

Having worked as a dental surgeon or a dental student for three decades, the balance between legislation and ethics is one that we were constantly made aware of, because legislation cannot cover all of the procedures that practitioners can perform. In an inexact science as many medical and dental procedures are, the practitioner is expected to understand their limitations and refer procedures beyond their capabilities to others. Legislation cannot always cover the procedures that practitioners can perform. That is why we have the other tranche that practitioners have to be aware of, that is, ethics, a set of moral principles underpinning professional behaviour.

There is also the dilemma, though, that practitioners have in that some practitioners will gain experience by doing more procedures and improve their outcomes as they do more, because when one is at university one gets a limited amount of practice doing particular procedures, especially complex ones. That means that some practitioners will sometimes be doing these more complex procedures because we cannot practice them; we actually have to do them on patients.

The commercial imperative sometimes creates a dilemma for the practitioner who can become deskilled if they limit their procedures. That is one of the issues for practitioners. It is not like fixing a car. With a vehicle and engine if someone replaces particular parts they will always get a particular result. That is not how medicine and dentistry work. Practitioners face the dilemma of balancing their legislative responsibilities and ethical responsibilities. It goes without saying that Queenslanders must have complete confidence in the health practitioners working across our state. In light of ensuring the best possible health care for Queenslanders, it is proper that these practitioners are appropriately regulated across the sector.

Throughout the committee's consideration of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, a number of concerns were raised about the bill in its current form. After considering the submissions provided to the committee both in writing and during public hearings, the opposition holds reservations with respect to two components of the bill. The first component concerns issues of natural justice. Queenslanders should expect that natural justice will prevail. The government must meet these expectations head on. Stakeholders across the health sector have raised concerns about natural justice being subverted due to the proposed amendments to the Health Ombudsman Act 2013. These concerns are warranted.

The bill will allow for a public statement to be issued prior to a proper investigation being completed into alleged practitioner misconduct. No such statement should be made without a comprehensive investigation being conducted and finalised. This would endanger practitioners being inadvertently penalised for complaints which are later proven to be vexatious or unsubstantiated. I table

a news article from the *Sydney Morning Herald* on 8 June 2022 titled 'Doctors resist push to name and shame those under investigation for misconduct' where President of the Australian Medical Association, Omar Khorshid, said—

The proposed change, part of a suite of amendments to the national health practitioner law, was a breach of natural justice and would put doctors at risk of having their reputations destroyed.

I table the document.

*Tabled paper:* Article from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, dated 8 June 2022, titled 'Doctors resist push to name and shame those under investigation for misconduct' [1651].

A public statement is not the only mechanism the Health Ombudsman or the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Authority, Ahpra, have at their disposal to uphold patient safety. This is not the time for Labor to act at a normal, leisurely pace. If this situation were to arise, it could do untold professional, reputational and emotional damage to the practitioner involved. The government must consider alternate options for regulatory authorities to ensure patient safety without issuing a public statement.

The second area of concern relates to testimonial advertising. A broad cross-section of stakeholders almost unanimously recognised that removing the prohibition of testimonial advertising will not lead to improved patient outcomes, so why risk people's jobs amidst the Queensland health crisis? The manipulation of testimonial advertising has the potential to worsen the current situation. Both in the public discourse and through the health committee's review there was an acknowledgement that regulators are routinely unable to monitor and penalise unscrupulous operators and clinicians who breach testimonial advertising conditions. The opposition holds concerns that if the proposed amendments are passed it could 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. Australia ranks in the top 10 countries spending the most money on cosmetic surgeries, with spending well over the billion dollar mark. Yes, people should know they can trust the clinicians who treat them, but there needs to be the appropriate levels of transparency. Health care in Queensland should not be about which clinician can run the best ad campaign or the best testimonial.

Speaking from personal experience, dentistry had the most restrictive advertising guidelines right through until the 1990s. Honourable members may remember that there were times when they would go to a shopping centre and there would be signs of a particular size throughout the shopping centre, but under the then dental board and our act the lettering detailing where a dentist was practising was limited to about two to three inches. As advertising increased dentists had to rely basically on word of mouth. We were allowed a very small advertisement in the yellow pages which was the form of advertising at the time. The profession was warned that if we freed this up we would end up with—as we have now come to see in Australia—what has happened in the USA especially, which is testimonials and massive ads in particular magazines that lead to people going to those spending the most money on advertising.

There are significant concerns from stakeholders about the proposal to allow testimonials in health service advertising which could open the door to false and misleading advertising. In terms of dentistry, I will regularly see advertisements showing people who will not have had the procedures performed on them that are supposedly the subject of the advertisement. Young people who may have had lots of orthodontic treatment or young people who have very nice teeth may have had nothing done to their teeth so a testimonial suggesting that a dentist has done work on them is completely misleading because when one looks at them it is obvious that they have not had any work done.

Submissions received by the committee raised a number of issues in relation to testimonials, including the subjective nature of testimonials, the lack of robust evidence, the potential to mislead, particularly vulnerable people, and the increased risk of false expectations about services and outcomes, resulting in financial cost to patients as well as adverse impacts to their health and wellbeing. No self-serving agenda can come above patient safety. The opposition urges the government to protect patients in our state from those who stray from their obligations as health practitioners, ethically and legislatively. Our commitment to this philosophy is unwavering. There is a balance to be struck between protecting patients and ensuring that the health practitioner workforce is able to appropriately undertake their jobs.

Whilst we acknowledge that the bill is hinged to nationally agreed laws, sections surrounding natural justice and testimonial advertising must be reconsidered. Put the other agendas down and listen up: the expectations of Queenslanders and the health sector must be met.

 **Mr McCALLUM** (Bundamba—ALP) (12.16 pm): I rise to contribute to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. On 18 February this year national health ministers agreed to amend the health practitioner regulation national law. This bill gives effect to those agreed changes.

The national scheme commenced in July 2010 with approximately half a million health practitioners registered in 10 professions. In 2022 there are approximately 825,000 health practitioners across the nation, with approximately 168,000 practising in Queensland. That is, of course, a huge amount of growth. In fact, since 2015 and the election of the Palaszczuk government our Queensland Health workforce alone has grown by 10,638 nurses, which is an increase of 38.1 per cent; 3,106 doctors, an increase of 39.2 per cent; 1,103 ambulance officers, an increase of 29.7 per cent; and 2,418 allied health professionals, an increase of 24.5 per cent. We have record numbers of frontline health workers in Queensland—the same workers who have helped us get through the pandemic so well in Queensland.

This new framework, this national law, is going to help protect the medical profession and the allied health professions that we rely on so heavily. The main objectives of this bill 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.

The bill inserts a new paramount principle making protection of the public and public confidence in the safety of services provided by registered health practitioners and students paramount. This places an explicit legislative obligation under the national law to place protection of the public and public confidence foremost in all decisions and actions.

Here in Queensland we already have this as a paramount principle under our state based national law act. Queensland is already leading the way, as we so often do. With this amendment, Queensland's existing modification making the health and safety of the public a paramount principle will be duplicated. As such, we will amend the Queensland national law act, as the paramount principle will be enlivened through the amended national law.

The bill contains amendments to strengthen public protection and increase public confidence in health services registered under the national scheme, as well as implement reforms to improve the governance and operation of the national scheme, to help ensure the national scheme remains up to date and fit for purpose. 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.

The bill includes two reforms to strengthen the registration process that are aimed at improving protections for the public. The first empowers a national board to withdraw a practitioner's registration if the board reasonably believes the registration was improperly obtained because of the provision of false or misleading information. This will allow for a swifter and more appropriate response to managing falsely obtained registrations. I think everybody in this place would be in agreement that that is a particularly positive and needed extra protection.

To ensure procedural fairness, the power will be subject to a show cause process and an appeal process to one of the responsible tribunals. The show cause process will not prevent a national board from taking other immediate action that is available under the national law. I do think that this responds to some of the concerns that have been raised by previous speakers on this bill. The second reform clarifies that suspended practitioners whose registration otherwise would have expired during their period of suspension must apply to renew their registration within one month of their suspension ending. That is eminently sensible.

The bill also provides for the issue of interim prohibition orders to unregistered practitioners including practitioners whose registration has lapsed or been suspended. The amendments require a show cause process to be undertaken as part of the process of issuing an interim protection order. These powers complement the existing powers of the Health Ombudsman to issue interim prohibition orders. I think that is extremely fair and balanced.

The bill will also empower the national agency and the Health Ombudsman to issue public statements about persons, including registered practitioners, who are the subject of investigations or disciplinary proceedings—which some previous speakers have raised some concerns with—and whose conduct poses a serious risk to public health and safety. That is the standard. The provisions in this bill

will allow the public to be warned about the public safety risks that could be posed by these people. I can hardly imagine that anyone would oppose that. The decision to issue a public statement is also subject to a show cause process and an appeal process to a relevant tribunal. There are some very clear and strong safeguards that provide for natural justice and procedural fairness.

I was somewhat surprised to read the LNP statement of reservation. The LNP are on record as opposing these public statements. The statement of reservation reads—

We believe that no such statement should be made without a comprehensive investigation being conducted, and finalised ... If this situation were to arise, it could do untold professional, reputational, and emotional damage to the practitioner involved.

I find that to be a little bit hypocritical given that this is from the same political party that are only too happy to use health matters that are under investigation if it suits their political agenda. This is the same political party who are only too happy to inflict—and to use the words in the statement of reservation—‘untold professional, reputational and emotional damage to the practitioner involved’ by sacking hundreds of our frontline health workers the last time they were in government in Queensland.

This bill represents a significant step forward for public safety. It is a step forward for our hardworking health workers. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (12.26 pm): Our local nurses, midwives, chiropractors, dentists, pharmacists, optometrists, physiotherapists, psychologists and doctors are just some of the health practitioners affected by this bill who care for our community day in and day out. Their work plays a central role in improving access and quality health care in our community.

I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank every single member of our hardworking health workforce for their unwavering service to our community, with the strain they have worked under in recent years and the significant challenges they have faced, particularly the health workers in my border community who during border closures were locked out and had to fight to be considered essential and then battled the border closures every single day just to be able to serve our community. The resilience and dedication they have shown is incredible.

All of the difficulties you have faced in these past years you have taken in your stride, and I am immensely grateful for all the work you have done. My LNP colleagues and I know that you have been crying out for more support. The Queensland Health system is in crisis. Just last month ambulance ramping hit 45 per cent across the state.

**Mr KELLY:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order on relevance.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): I will seek some advice. Member for Currumbin, you have been broadly relevant to the bill. Other members have spoken about the issues you have been speaking about. However, I advise you to come back to the long title of the bill as much as you possibly can.

**Mrs GERBER:** To our overworked doctors, nurses and paramedics who are doing their absolute best to hold this broken system together: we hear you, we see you, we respect you and we admire you.

This bill amends the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law, which is the national scheme that ensures that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practice in a competent and ethical manner are registered and it allows for their registration to be recognised anywhere in Australia.

Given the important work that health practitioners do and the crucial role they play in upholding patient safety, it is incredibly important that health practitioners are held to the highest standards. They must be beyond reproach. This is vital to ensuring that Queenslanders have complete confidence in the health practitioners who are working in our community. For the most part our health practitioners do their jobs to the best of their abilities, but there is a very small minority of health workers who choose to do the wrong thing from time to time. This is where the regulator steps in. In Queensland we have adopted a co-regulatory model of dealing with notifications about registered health practitioners.

Debate, on motion of Mrs Gerber, adjourned.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Members, it is time for the introduction of private members' bills.

**Ms Boyd:** Has the LNP got one?

**Mrs D'Ath:** No!

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! You are warned, member for Pine Rivers.

## LIQUID FUEL SUPPLY (MINIMUM BIOBASED PETROL CONTENT) AMENDMENT BILL

### Introduction

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.30 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Liquid Fuel Supply Act 1984 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:* Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022 [[1652](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [[1653](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1654](#)].

While the minister is in the House, I must acknowledge that in 2015 the Hon. Mark Bailey, Minister for Transport and Main Roads, introduced the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill 2015. It passed, and that mandate commenced in 2017. Since then we have had a slight increase in the use of ethanol or biofuels in our liquid fuel across Queensland. We have gone from 1.5 per cent before the four per cent mandate was introduced; we are now at 2.9 per cent. That is nowhere near the four per cent we would like to see in Queensland.

Today I introduce the Liquid Fuel Supply (Minimum Biobased Petrol Content) Amendment Bill 2022. As stated in the explanatory notes, the policy objectives of this bill are: (1) to increase twofold all penalties for noncompliance by liable fuel retailers liable with the state's bio-based petrol mandate, which presently sits at four per cent of the total volume of all petrol sold; and (2) to require that fuel retailers take reasonable action, on a continued basis, to ensure that the bio-based petrol blended fuels, referred commonly to as E10, they sell contain a minimum of nine per cent ethanol and is advertised as such.

The bill seeks to address the issue that exists with the operation of Queensland's bio-based petrol mandate which, despite being in operation since 2017, has failed to drive a biofuels market and bolster production in Queensland. The ethanol and other biofuels mandate was enacted following the passage of the Liquid Fuel Supply (Ethanol and Other Biofuels Mandate) Amendment Bill in 2015. At that stage we had only two biofuel plants running in Queensland—at Sarina and Dalby. Since then the Dalby plant has closed down. Most people would ask why that has happened, and it is because there is not enough demand in the Queensland market right now for ethanol fuels.

From the outset I must say that this is not about forcing people to use E10 in Queensland. This is about those people who choose to use E10 being assured that the petroleum blend they put in their car at the bowser has at least nine per cent ethanol in it. People make all sorts of choices when it comes to using ethanol-based fuels. Some people use it because that fuel is better for the environment because it is also a green and renewable fuel source. Other consumers may use it to support not only sugarcane farmers but also grain farmers who feed ethanol plants in Queensland and across Australia. Right now when we go to the bowser in Queensland we are not assured that what we are getting is E10. I think that when consumers buy E10 they have the right to be assured by state government legislation that what they are buying is in fact that.

During the January to March 2016 quarter, the period of the commencement of the mandate, ethanol only accounted for 1.5 per cent of the regular unleaded petrol sold in Queensland. In comparison, during the recent 2021 quarter ethanol sales in Queensland only amounted to 2.9 per cent despite a target of four per cent. This clearly indicates that the mandate is failing in Queensland and more needs to be done.

Approximately 570 megalitres of ethanol blend is sold in Queensland. We produce around 65 megalitres in Queensland. The minimum potency of E10 should be at least nine per cent. As has been highlighted in the media, fuel retailers across Queensland have been selling E10 containing as little as one per cent ethanol. Ethanol fuel has a higher RON than regular unleaded fuel. It sits at about 94 RON; regular unleaded sits at about 92, 93 at max. Petroleum cars out there—

**Mr Nicholls:** For the energy geeks in the class.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Yes, that's correct. I will take that interjection from the member. The reality is that cars being used by 85 per cent of the unleaded fuel users in Queensland can use E10, and they expect cleaner and higher octane fuel than anywhere else. These things need to be taken into consideration, especially when you take into account that regular unleaded fuel in Australia is some of the dirtiest in the world.

As I said at the outset, we are not trying to force people away from that fuel right now because we understand that people must be able to afford what they put into their tank. The reality in Queensland is economies of scale. The more ethanol you produce in Queensland, the cheaper it will become for the end user to buy it from the bowser. At this stage there is nothing to force retailers to ensure their E10 blend has at least 10 per cent ethanol in it. There is nothing to give consumers and the market confidence to invest in ethanol in Queensland.

I must also point out that in 2021 there were 164 time-limited exemptions guaranteed to fuel retailers across Queensland, saying they did not have to comply for whatever reason with the four per cent mandate. That is an absolute shame. We have had enough time to transition petrol stations and fuel retailers. This comes at a time when we have a state government that is hell-bent on pushing us towards 70 per cent renewable energy when it comes to electrical generation in Queensland—

**Mr Katter:** But what about fuel?

**Mr DAMETTO:** But what about fuel? I take the interjection from the member for Traeger. We are trying to push towards renewable energy in every other space with cleaner, greener sources, but we have failed to do that in the liquid fuel market. I have no doubt that we will see a transition at some stage to electric vehicles, but right now we are not in that space. We are probably 15 to 20 years away from having a vehicle that can travel 1,000 kilometres through regional Queensland on a single charge. Having the opportunity to buy renewable fuel at the bowser quickly and easily is something that Queenslanders demand.

It has been said that there will be a transition. We will not go straight to electric vehicles for the masses, although there are very reliable electric vehicles out there right now for someone in the city who wants to use them. There will be a transition, and hybrids will bridge the gap between electric vehicles and the liquid fuel vehicles we use now.

Using E10 in your vehicle can reduce your tailpipe emissions by up to 28 per cent. Just think of that right now. If every vehicle in Queensland that burns unleaded fuel was using E10, that would be like taking 28 per cent of all vehicles off our highways. That is a great idea for any government that seeks to bring down CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

**Mr Knuth:** It is common sense.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I take the interjection from the member for Hill. Not only do biofuels ensure we have a reliable fuel source being produced in Queensland; it also plays into fuel sovereignty. Fuel sovereignty has been highlighted by the recent overseas conflicts which have seen oil prices soar and therefore petrol prices soar for everyone at the bowser. Wouldn't it be great if we had biofuels being produced here en masse which could bring down the cost of fuel?

Something very tricky has happened out there, and the fuel retailers have played this very well when it comes to marketing. They market E10 at two cents to three cents cheaper than unleaded fuel, but, because E10 burns a little quicker, it is comparable when it comes to mileage and cost efficiency. If ethanol was cheaper to produce and could get to the market cheaper, people would make a conscious decision to change to E10. I point out that in 2015 there were submissions to the committee on ethanol fuels by the RACQ. I think there was some scaremongering done by the RACQ and there are a number of allegations about the reason for that. I will not continue with that now in the House, but the fact is that the vehicles we import into Australia are being detuned to run on dirty Australian regular unleaded fuel. That is a fact.

Have a look at what is happening now in the US and what has been happening for years. Ninety-eight per cent of all unleaded fuel sold in the US has at least 10 per cent ethanol. Do members know how that was achieved? Because a political war pushed ethanol-based fuels in America. It played into the leadership of the US at the time that pushed that narrative and eventually made legislative change; it also secured a section of fuel supply and gave profitability and opportunity to sugarcane-growing areas to profit in times when the world market in commodities saw a sharp dip.

I represent the Hinchinbrook electorate. The east coast of Queensland has a number of large sugarcane-growing communities. I see a number of members in the House right now who represent those communities—from Whitsunday through to Mackay. Those communities are seeking ways to tap into other income streams and revenue sources for their sugar cane. When the sugar price is up, which it is right now, everyone is pretty happy and the biofuels conversation falls off the table. At a time when the world sugar price dips because of subsidised sugar being dumped on the market by Pakistan and India, everyone seems to get excited about the prospect of building sugar mills that would produce ethanol. We would not have to wait for that conversation if there was legislative or regulatory change which allowed the market to see that there is confidence in investing in new ethanol plants across Queensland.

I have heard the debate before that ethanol takes food off the plates of the world. That is not a fact. Sugar cane in the Hinchinbrook electorate would still produce sugar and, through generation 2 ethanol production, use the bagasse left over to produce the ethanol. That type of ethanol production is being used by the Manildra Group in New South Wales. While I continue to talk about the bill before the House, the reality is that if this bill were to pass it would align with what happens in New South Wales so we would have some continuity in regulation and legislation between the two states—

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that the member is straying into pre-empting the debate on the bill and not just introducing the bill.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Capalaba, you have no point of order in that respect. The bill is being introduced. It is not on the *Notice Paper*. There is no anticipation.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I have a lot of respect for the member for Capalaba but he has wasted my time and the time of the House.

**Mr BROWN:** I take offence at that comment and ask that the member withdraw.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member for Hinchinbrook, the member for Capalaba has taken personal offence at your comments and I ask that you withdraw.

**Mr DAMETTO:** I withdraw. This bill will achieve the policy objectives in a number of ways. The first mechanism will be to increase fines for noncompliance through amendment to section 35B of the act in relation to the sustainable bio-based petrol requirement. The bill provides twofold increases to the fines for noncompliance by liable fuel sellers with the ethanol mandate. The maximum penalty fine will increase from 200 penalty units, which is \$27,570, to 400 penalty units. For the interest of the member for Capalaba, that would be \$55,140 if this were to pass. This would also align with what is happening in New South Wales. The increased fine seeks to mitigate the issue of the unsatisfactory level of compliance which has been seen and was previously outlined in part of my introductory speech. Noncompliance in the marketplace by retailers is giving them a hall pass from this government.

**Ms Boyd:** A hall pass?

**Mr DAMETTO:** Yes, a hall pass. Like I said, this government had handed out over 160 exemptions as at 2021 for anyone who did not want to sell E10 at the bowser of their fuel station.

The bill also creates a new requirement that all fuel sellers—not just those liable to comply with the ethanol mandate—must sell petroleum-based blends that contain at least nine per cent bio-based fuel, ethanol, in the blend if they are to advertise it as E10. The maximum penalty unit for failing to comply with this requirement for the first offence will be 400 penalty units. The second offence will be 4,000 penalty units for misleading the public.

In a proceeding for an offence against this requirement, the bill outlines that it is a defence for the fuel seller to prove that the person did not know, and could not reasonably have known, that the bio-based blend contained less than nine per cent of bio-based petrol. That is why we would like to see that tidied up as part of the bill. We want whoever is supplying the fuel to the retailers to have to give a certificate of authenticity or something like that to ensure that what they say they are selling to them to sell to the consumer is what it is.

We will also be inserting a new section 35T. This section applies to fuel wholesalers that supply bio-based fuel blends to a fuel retailer and requires the wholesaler to provide the fuel retailer with a document which states the minimum percentage of the bio-based fuel, which I just outlined. We will also be inserting a new part 9. This section is transitional only and provides fuel retailers a 12-month grace period for the take-up of the new legislation and policy.

This bill is consistent with the fundamental legislative principles. As I said, it seeks to do a number of things: it seeks to ensure that people in Queensland know exactly what they are buying from the bowser; it ensures that there is confidence in the market for people to invest in biofuels; and it helps this state government have the stick required to make sure that fuel retailers are complying.

## First Reading

**Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (12.50 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a first time.

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

Motion agreed to.

Bill read a first time.

**Referral to Transport and Resources Committee**

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

**LAND TAX AND OTHER LEGISLATION (EMPTY HOMES LEVY) AMENDMENT  
BILL****Introduction**

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (12.50 pm): I present a bill for an act to amend the Land Tax Act 2010 and the Land Valuation Act 2010 for particular purposes. I table the bill, explanatory notes and a statement of compatibility with human rights. I nominate the Economics and Governance Committee to consider the bill.

*Tabled paper:* Land Tax and Other Legislation (Empty Homes Levy) Amendment Bill 2022 [[1655](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Land Tax and Other Legislation (Empty Homes Levy) Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes [[1656](#)].

*Tabled paper:* Land Tax and Other Legislation (Empty Homes Levy) Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights [[1657](#)].

Across the state, rental availability is at an historic low, less than 0.4 per cent in some parts of the state. Every week we see more and more stories from families moving into caravans, cars and tents because they cannot find anywhere to live. Yet we know from census data that there are around 87,000 homes sitting empty long-term across the state while thousands of working Queenslanders are struggling to find an affordable place to live, paying hand over fist for a roof over their heads or raising their kids in caravans.

Today I am introducing a bill for an empty homes levy, a levy on residential properties that have been sitting empty, encouraging wealthy investors to rent out those empty properties—

**Mr BROWN:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order under sections 174 and 175. It is my understanding that appropriation bills must be accompanied by a message from the Governor before their introduction. This is similar to the big bank levy that the member introduced a couple of years ago or a year ago that was ruled out of order. I understand that this is in a similar vein and should also be ruled out of order.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Krause): Member for Capalaba, I have sought advice about your point of order. At this point in time, while the bill is still being introduced, it is not possible for that point of order to be considered. That is the advice that I have been provided with. Your point of order is noted, but the member for South Brisbane has the call as she is still introducing the bill to the parliament.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Today I am introducing a bill for an empty homes levy, a levy on residential property that has been sitting empty, encouraging wealthy investors to rent out those empty properties, boosting rental availability so that we can house those Queenslanders struggling to find a place to live and bring down the skyrocketing rents we are seeing across the state. To clarify, the goal of this bill is to gather no levy whatsoever but to bring over 20,000 homes back onto the rental market.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that there are 87,000 long-term vacant homes in Queensland sitting empty and unused while kids are growing up living in cars, workers are sleeping on couches and pensioners are moving into tents. There are tens of thousands of homes that wealthy investors would rather sit empty than house a Queensland family.

Governments across the world are tackling this head-on. Cities like Vancouver and Paris already have levies on vacant residential property. Places like Los Angeles, Hong Kong, Barcelona and Ireland are all implementing a range of policies to tackle the issue of long-term empty homes, from vacant property taxes to forcing the sale of empty properties. These policies have been a resounding success. In Vancouver, an empty homes levy on vacant residential properties has brought a quarter of that city's long-term vacant properties back into the rental market.

It is time that a levy on vacant homes in Queensland was implemented. We could see more than 21,000 homes that were once sitting empty house a family, house a working Queenslander, or house someone's grandparents. An empty homes levy is a straightforward solution to boosting supply, but this government has been dragging its feet on actually addressing the housing crisis. We have an undersupply of social housing, we have uncontrolled cost-of-rent increases, yet there are tens of thousands of vacant homes and the wealthy real estate lobby is calling the shots.

I urge the government to listen to everyday Queenslanders, listen to housing advocates and even listen to their own Labor counterparts in the Brisbane City Council or in Victoria. The government's Labor counterparts in Victoria introduced a vacancy levy five years ago. In the last month, Labor councillors in the Brisbane City Council backed a Greens motion to increase rates on vacant properties.

I urge the Premier and the housing minister to take this bill and our rent-freeze bill, read them, put them forward at next week's housing summit and implement these straightforward measures to address the housing crisis.

The empty homes levy bill introduces a levy for any residential property which has been left vacant for more than six months of the year for no good reason. It will target tens of thousands of vacant properties that could be used for housing people right now. Any residential land that is left vacant without good reason will be subject to a levy equal to five per cent of the capital improved value of the land. To clarify, the goal is to gather zero dollars; rather to bring 20,000 homes back onto the rental market.

The levy will incentivise property investors to use these properties to house people, rather than speculate on property prices. The empty homes levy will also apply to empty land that is reasonably suitable for building new homes. This levy will discourage land banking during a housing crisis and encourage the development of housing in high-demand areas. Investors who do not want to pay the levy on empty land will have to put it to use or sell it. If investors want to avoid the levy, they need to house people or they will need to sell it to someone who will.

Again, this is not a novel idea. Across the world, governments are taking genuine action on high rents and low vacancy rates. We know that this works. Dublin and Singapore have restricted short-term accommodation like Airbnb. New York, Scotland and Berlin have frozen or capped rents. Spain, France and the Netherlands all have levies on vacant properties. The federal government has also implemented a vacancy tax for foreign owners. In Seoul and Washington DC, governments tax empty, undeveloped land in the inner-city, encouraging developers to build housing or sell it to someone who will. Cities around the world, from Washington DC to Seoul, are already doing this. Governments across the world are recognising that residential properties should be used to house people first and foremost and not used as a tool for property developers to get even richer. This bill looks to some of these global examples to create a more humane, sustainable and economically sensible housing system that actually provides people with homes.

It is worth noting that the average investor who already rents out their property will not be affected by this levy. Only those property investors who are wealthy enough to leave a house empty for no good reason in the middle of a housing crisis will be impacted by this levy. Only those property investors wealthy enough to sit on a block or a home for years and years waiting for a rezone or for property prices to rise, while mums and dads raise their kids in caravans, will be impacted by this levy.

We only need to listen to renters to hear what everyday Queenslanders are going through. The picture is grim. Record low vacancy rates, skyrocketing rents, bullying by real estate agents, no-grounds evictions—my office hears these stories every day, and I am sure every MP in this place is hearing these stories, too. These stories of desperation and suffering are happening in every electorate in Queensland. A renter in West End has said—

I am living in a one-bedroom apartment in West End. Trying to find a place to live was an atrocious experience. Every open inspection had at least 30 people, and on many occasions I overhead prospective tenants tell the property manager they are willing to pay more rent than advertised.

A tenant in Coorparoo said—

After the recent flooding in and around Brisbane, I was forced to find a new place to rent. Because so many people have been displaced at the same time the competition made finding affordable housing increasingly difficult, on top of which my then roommates and I had to split up to find somewhere suited to us and in our price ranges. I ended up going from paying \$190 to \$340 a week.

A person in Carindale writes—

I was personally forced to vacate a property two months ago due to a rent increase and haven't been able to find housing since. I've been applying for a total of four months for housing in Brisbane and have been unsuccessful for every single one. I am tired. I am overwhelmed. I cannot settle down or relax or be at home.

The empty homes levy will make it less lucrative for those wealthy few who would rather let a perfectly good home sit empty and wait for property prices to rise while people across our state are crying out for housing. We could implement this now and bring over 20,000 homes back into the rental market. The government that puts the interests of investors and their ludicrous property portfolios ahead of kids having a home to grow up in is a government that has lost touch.

Debate, on motion of Dr MacMahon, adjourned.

Sitting suspended from 1.00 pm to 2.00 pm.

## HEALTH PRACTITIONER REGULATION NATIONAL LAW AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

### Second Reading

Resumed from p. 2714, on motion of Mrs D'Ath—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (2.00 pm), continuing: Queensland complaints against a registered health practitioner in terms of their health, conduct or performance can be dealt with in Queensland by the Office of the Health Ombudsman, the national agency and the boards. As many in this chamber know, before I was elected as the member for Currumbin just over two years ago I was a prosecutor. I worked in-house at the Office of the Health Ombudsman prosecuting disciplinary proceedings and protecting the public from health practitioners who endanger the public through their own health, conduct or performance.

Throughout the Health and Environment Committee's examination of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill it became evident that stakeholders, both in their submissions to the committee and their attendance at public hearings, were concerned with a number of aspects of the bill. The main concern I share relates to the bill allowing the Health Ombudsman to make a public statement about a practitioner prior to a fulsome investigation.

As anyone who works in the disciplinary space knows, there is a small minority of people who do the wrong thing and require the regulator to step in to ensure the public is protected. As a disciplinary prosecutor, I prosecuted health practitioners who posed a serious risk to the public. For context, some of the types of prosecutions concerned fraud, inappropriate prescribing, poor clinical performance, possession of child exploitation material, practitioner-patient boundary violations, drug offences and sexual assaults.

The process when I was a disciplinary prosecutor worked like this. The OHO would receive a notification about a health practitioner's health, conduct or performance. This would be triaged and a determination would be made as to what steps should be taken next. Relevantly, the Health Ombudsman may decide to assess a complaint under part 5 of the act to obtain any further information they might need in order to determine the appropriate outcome. After assessment, it may be that the complaint is referred for a full investigation under part 8 of the act. At the conclusion of the investigation the matter may then be referred to the DoP, which is the legal department, the Director of Proceedings, for a disciplinary prosecution or a determination as to whether or not the matter should be referred to QCAT.

During this process immediate action may be taken by the Health Ombudsman against the health practitioner at any time in order to protect the public. The regulator is empowered to use its immediate action powers to prevent an individual practising or to put restrictions on the way an individual practises in circumstances where the regulator is of the view the individual presents a risk to the public. Any restriction placed on the registration is published on the publicly available register of practitioners and fulfils the function of protecting the public while an investigation or a prosecution is underway.

This bill as it stands will allow for a public statement to be issued prior to an investigation into any alleged practitioner misconduct being completed. As I have already stated, the public statement is different from immediate action to protect the public. At any time the Health Ombudsman may take immediate action to ensure the public is protected from serious risk that might be imposed by a practitioner. The ability to issue a public warning through a public statement prior to any investigation is an extra power. In my view, it could result in practitioners being penalised for complaints that, after proper investigation, are found to be unsubstantiated or there is insufficient evidence to proceed with disciplinary action.

In their submission to the committee, the AMA argued that a public warning is a severe and non-retractable step and should be undertaken only after a health practitioner has been shown to breach a code of conduct or convicted of a relevant offence. The Queensland Law Society adds to this, raising concern that the proposed provisions relating to the public statements may contravene the principles of the presumption of innocence and natural justice.

The AMA and QLS are not the only groups with reservations about the public statement clause proposed in this bill. The Australian Dental Association of Queensland, Speech Pathology Australia, the Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, Australian Paramedics Association, Australian Association of Psychologists, Australian College of Rural and Remote Medicine and the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons all expressed the same concerns.

If we go back to the operation of the Health Ombudsman Act, once an investigation is completed and if it is referred to the Director of Proceedings for disciplinary proceedings, the legal department—the department I worked in—assesses the matter to determine if it should be referred to QCAT for a disciplinary determination. It may refer the matter back to the Health Ombudsman with a recommendation if it is not ready for QCAT proceedings or because there is insufficient evidence to prove the allegations or for there to be no further action.

When looking at the OHO's annual report it can be seen that in 2019-20, 85 matters were referred to the legal department for consideration as to whether or not they be referred to QCAT. Of those matters, the legal department referred 42 back to the Health Ombudsman. In the year 2020-21, 89 matters were referred to the legal department and 41 went back to the Health Ombudsman. I know from my experience as a disciplinary prosecutor that among the reasons for the legal department to refer matters back to the Health Ombudsman is that the investigation lacks sufficient evidence to prove the case on the balance of probabilities, which is the legal standard required for a disciplinary prosecution in QCAT. Other reasons are no further action or that further evidence is required.

Given the rate of matters being referred back to the Health Ombudsman from the legal department—almost half—if a public statement can be issued by the Health Ombudsman before a matter is properly assessed, that is very concerning and leaves health practitioners open to reputational damage from vexatious or unsubstantiated complaints when after proper assessment it might be determined that there is insufficient evidence to proceed with the complaint.

The provisions in the bill allowing for the Health Ombudsman to revoke or retract a public statement if the complaint is subsequently found to be unsubstantiated, quite frankly, do not adequately fix the harm that will be caused as a result of the public statement being made in the first place. Once the public statement is made, the practitioner's reputation is damaged permanently and there is no removing that from the internet. There is no removing that from a Google search.

I turn now to the second part of the bill that I took issue with, and I acknowledge that the government has made some sensible amendments to keep the ban on testimonial advertising in place. The submissions made to the committee almost unanimously recognised that removing the prohibition on testimonial advertising would not lead to improved patient outcomes. I welcome the government recognising this with their amendment. In fact, throughout the committee process stakeholders suggested that the manipulation of testimonial advertising has the potential to worsen the current situation. This was certainly the message from the Australasian Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgeons, who said—

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.

It is undeniable that advertising can influence a consumer's decision when making decisions for their healthcare needs. It makes it incredibly important that patients have access to information that is not just accurate but is also not misleading and is supported by acceptable evidence.

In conclusion, the absolute vast majority of our clinicians do the right thing day in, day out. To all those practitioners, I say a heartfelt thankyou. This bill is for that minority of practitioners who do the wrong thing, and the balance must be struck. Unfortunately, with the public statements clause, the appropriate balance is not being struck.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (2.08 pm): I rise to speak on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I would like to acknowledge the Minister for Health, Yvette D'Ath, the committee chair and members, the committee secretariat and Hansard for their work in the examination of the bill. The committee invited written submissions and received 40 submissions from the public, identified stakeholders and email subscribers.

The policy objectives of the bill are to amend the health practitioner regulation 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; improve the governance of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme for health professionals; and enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of the national scheme.

This is a very important piece of legislation that would ultimately enhance consumer trust and confidence in the provision of health services. It is particularly important for health practitioners because it affects the way they manage their relationships with consumers in delivering good quality health care under a very complex system. The only way we could really achieve this is with tighter regulations that assess health professionals' registration against consistent, high-quality national professional standards. Having the right mechanisms in place means that we can strengthen consumer confidence and increase the ability of consumers to use those services effectively. We can all agree that Queenslanders deserve peace of mind when it comes to accessing health care and they have every right to know that they are in good hands and that their best interests will always be met with health professionals who are suitably trained and qualified.

I acknowledge all of Queensland's health professionals and the work that they do to take care of Queenslanders every day. I also acknowledge that the vast majority of our health professionals go above and beyond for their patients' health needs. I acknowledge those members in this House with health backgrounds who have lived experience taking care of the health needs of others. It is a selfless job and I commend the work you do. I have doctors that I see regularly for my health needs—doctors whom I have seen over many years—and I put my complete faith and trust in them to give me the right advice.

My experience has always been very positive and I hope this would be the same for everyone. However, we know that this is not always so. Anyone questioning the importance of this bill should be reminded of the disgraced Bundaberg surgeon and the impact on that community. According to researched history, there were many red flags to suggest that he was in no way fit to carry out his duties as a medical practitioner, but he did. Imagine if there were tougher measures to assess his credentials back then. This bill is because of the very few people like him in that it enforces the need for stricter regulations to safeguard our service provision and maintain public safety. As policymakers we have an ethical obligation to the people of Queensland to ensure public safety is upheld to the highest priority.

The national law sets out the legal framework for the national scheme. It establishes national boards as the principal regulatory decision-makers for each profession and the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency as the national organisation responsible for implementing the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme across Australia. The national scheme and national law ensure that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered. Having one national scheme for the registration of health practitioners reduces red tape and delivers improved administrative efficiency and consistency. 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.

The key reforms in the bill include refocusing the objectives and guiding principles of the national law to make public safety and confidence paramount considerations; to recognise the national scheme's role in 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 to issue public statements about persons whose conduct poses a serious risk to public health and safety; removing barriers to information sharing to protect the public and enable more efficient and appropriate resolution of notifications; and, lastly, improving processes by which national boards make registration decisions and manage health conduct and performance issues.

The bill also makes minor and technical amendments to the national law to correct typographical errors, make terminology clearer or more consistent, update references and contemporise some provisions. To accommodate Queensland's co-regulatory arrangements for registered health practitioners, the bill also amends the Health Ombudsman Act 2013 and makes minor modifications to how certain amendments to the national law operate in Queensland. If the bill is passed, the amendments would automatically apply in all states and territories that are part of the national scheme except Western Australia, which must pass corresponding legislation, and South Australia, which must make regulations to apply the changes.

The public has a right to feel safe when putting their life in the hands of health professions from whom we expect to receive nothing less than good quality health care. I will always speak up for public safety and I wholeheartedly support this bill. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr O'CONNOR** (Bonney—LNP) (2.15 pm): Most of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill is uncontroversial and necessary, and that is why we will not be opposing it as a whole. This bill includes faster rejections of false registrations, reforms around suspended practitioners, expanded interim prohibition orders, more disciplinary action powers for lapsed registrations and increased penalties for breaching advertising restrictions. We support the increased penalties issued by the Office of the Health Ombudsman, more transparent reporting of charges and convictions of regulated medicines and poisons offences and the many other administrative changes which make sense for our health system.

This bill will help better regulate how things operate and I am sure that all members received a lot of correspondence into their electorate office inboxes. The member for Southern Downs was just telling me how thankful he was for all of the emails that he received from his constituents and I want to thank everyone who got in touch with me as well about this bill.

There are two aspects of this legislation which we do have issues with. The member for Southport and I outlined these in our statement of reservation in July when the committee's report was finalised, so I will focus my contribution on those matters—that is, the natural justice concerns and the removal of the prohibition on testimonials, noting that in the case of the latter the health minister will be proposing to omit that particular change from this bill through an amendment.

Firstly on natural justice, we have concerns around statements being put out about individual practitioners before proper investigations are completed. Without a proper investigation, we cannot know whether the claims made are substantiated. The statements could do significant professional, reputational and emotional harm to a practitioner, so we need to be very careful with how we regulate this. At the public hearing the Australian Medical Association of Queensland confirmed that allowing a practitioner seven days to respond to an allegation and three days notice to publish instead of the proposed single day would be its preferred outcome. However, it did make it clear that it believed that public statements do go in the wrong regulatory direction generally. AMA President Dr Omar Khorshid said that the longer time frame suggested—

... does not put the public at any increased risk and would give the practitioner a reasonable opportunity to respond.

In terms of the state government's proposed and now foreshadowed to be amended removal of the ban on testimonial advertising, there was near unanimous support among stakeholders that this was a bad idea and that it would not lead to better outcomes for Queensland patients and that there was clear evidence that it would have the potential to do a lot of harm. The key reason for this is that Ahpra struggles to regulate the current environment, and that is an understatement. Anyone who watched the *Four Corners* investigation 'Cosmetic Cowboys' will know that there is practically no proactive enforcement happening in the lucrative and fast-growing cosmetics industry.

At this point I want to make mention of consumer advocates and a constituent of mine Michael Fraser and his colleague Maddison Johnstone for their huge amount of work to expose this. At the very least, keeping the ban on testimonials sends a clear message that the risk of misuse is too high. It allows practitioners to know what is and is not allowed. We will always get bad eggs, but it is a huge incentive for them to do the right thing and to comply with the law as it stands if we keep this ban on testimonials. Ahpra and the related regulatory bodies barely regulate the current rules on advertising, so removing the ban would have made it more of a free-for-all and it is clear that a lack of resourcing to enforce the current regulations is a massive issue.

This is important because we are talking about procedures that in some cases have a one in 3,000 mortality rate. It is serious stuff. Social media has made Ahpra's job a lot harder. It is so easy for someone to post about their experience now. There are testimonials that are already occurring. Influencers, for example, are making you think that you might need one of these procedures to look like them. I have heard reports of people who are getting discounts if they post about the cosmetic work that they have had done and give a shout-out to the surgeon or the surgery. The doctor will then share these posts as a positive commentary on their work. That is happening under the current system.

In our public hearings the president of the Australian Society of Plastic Surgeons, Dr Daniel Kennedy, raised the issue of the information given to prospective patients needing to be based on research and to be scientifically sound. That is in the context of a public who, as we know, generally have a very limited scientific literacy at this level. Most people cannot easily discern what a reliable source is, especially when it comes to medical procedures and practitioners. Regulation is what they rely on to define that baseline. The idea of a free-for-all, getting the regulations wrong, opens people up to potential abuse.

In our hearings Dr Kennedy talked about the need for a clear distinction between information and enticement, for ‘when people are seeking to influence a patient who is not otherwise considering a procedure to have that procedure, whether it be directly in the wording of their website or whether it be in response to a post that a patient has made, it can be very problematic and damaging to that person’s psyche.’ The potential to mislead here is enormous. Can your average consumer really make an assessment over how a medical practitioner is able to perform a service? Do they have the right background knowledge to make an assessment like that? I would argue it all looks the same to them. It is hard to tell the difference between a particular surgery or a particular practice, so no consumer could ever be fully aware of what is good or bad. Regulating testimonials less would have only made that more difficult.

As we considered this bill we heard Ahpra say, essentially, it is all fine because it is not a complete removal of testimonials, and misleading and deceptive testimonials would still be banned. Again I reiterate that they are barely regulating or enforcing the current rules on testimonials. They did use the comparison of the ACCC, which is also not putting a blanket ban on testimonials, but I think this does not take into account the special nature of these medical testimonials and the potential harm they could cause so many people. It is clear from what I have seen that Ahpra does not adequately monitor the cosmetic industry—in fact, that is an understatement. This means the industry falsely looks better than it is because penalties are not being issued where they almost certainly should be.

We do not oppose this bill. As a committee member I will say it is nice to have our statement of reservation acknowledged with the amendment proposed and to have at least one of our issues with the bill removed. I conclude by sincerely thanking the hardworking health practitioners that I represent in my part of the Gold Coast.

 **Mrs GILBERT** (Mackay—ALP) (2.22 pm): I rise to contribute to the debate on the bill and to give my support to the passage of the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. The bill contains the second stage of amendments to the national law and includes a range of significant reforms, including important measures to protect the public and to ensure the national scheme remains effective and up to date. I thank stakeholders and the Health and Environment Committee for its comprehensive consideration of the bill.

The Minister for Health and Ambulance Services and Leader of the House has already outlined major amendments to the bill so I will take this opportunity to highlight some considerations regarding the introduction of the new principle and objective of cultural safety. Improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in our nation is a priority. To achieve this, states and territories must continue to work together to promote better health outcomes and health equity. As part of the national commitment to improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and close the gap, the bill introduces a new guiding principle and objective which aims to support the delivery of culturally appropriate and high-quality health services. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples face unique challenges in the healthcare system. For them good health is more than the absence of disease or illness; it is a holistic concept that includes physical, social, emotional, cultural and spiritual wellbeing for both the individual and the community.

The national scheme and the health practitioners have had an important role to play in resolving past inequities and improving the health of our First Nations people. This important amendment will acknowledge the national scheme’s role in improving culturally safe and respectful health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as well as the elimination of racism in the provision of health services.

The guiding principle will also require national scheme entities to consider how regulatory decisions may impact the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and their confidence in the safety of health services. Equity has been a key focus of health reform over recent years and a priority into the future.

In August of this year the Palaszczuk government launched the historic start of the formal Path to Treaty in Queensland. This was an important landmark occasion for Queenslanders and a significant step forward on the path towards recognition and reconciliation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples across the state. In line with the Palaszczuk government’s commitment to Closing the Gap, the new guiding principles will provide direct levers to influence cultural safety for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. For example, this may include minimum levels of practice that registered health practitioners must meet and setting standards for educational courses that lead to registration. In this way the national scheme can contribute to real change on the path to achieving health equity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

I would like to congratulate and thank our Indigenous liaison workers in our hospitals ensuring that there is support for patients and staff to deliver culturally appropriate care—people like Philip Kemp in Mackay, a Yuwi elder. He is respected in our community and is providing a cultural bridge at Mackay Base Hospital. In my region we boast of being an integrated, multicultural community. At each citizenship ceremony the mayor announces the number of countries our new citizens have come from since 2012. We now have over 90 different ethnic backgrounds that call Mackay home. Some of these people work in our health system. They are very good health practitioners. As members can see, we have an exciting but complicated mix of cultures working in our health system. It is important that the work of Philip Kemp and others continues.

Before I finish, I would like to have a proud aunty moment. In my family we are usually tradies or teachers. In November my niece Lauren, a proud young woman of Torres Strait Islander heritage, will graduate from medicine. Lauren already has a nursing degree. She has done a lot of community nursing. She is a great example for our young First Nations people that there is a wonderful career in medicine out there waiting for them. Good luck, Lauren, in your future career. I would like to say thank you to all of our wonderful health workers who are doing such a wonderful job in our Queensland health system. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr DAMETTO** (Hinchinbrook—KAP) (2.29 pm): I rise to give my contribution to the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. From the outset I want to thank and show my appreciation for every GP and doctor who works in regional Queensland. Of course, GPs and doctors do important work across the whole of the state of Queensland but in regional Queensland there is nothing more important to people than their GPs and the work they do. However, it is becoming harder and harder to attract GPs to the regions. There are a number of things that state and federal governments can do to amend that shortfall but, as I said, it is getting difficult. I understand that this legislation may make it even harder to attract GPs to regional Queensland and I will get to that in a second.

This bill seeks to update the Australian national scheme for health practitioners, which commenced in 2010 with the adoption of the national law by all participating jurisdictions, with the exception of Western Australia. The scheme was established under the Intergovernmental Agreement for a National Regulation and Accreditation Scheme for the Health Professions, which was an agreement signed by all states and territories and the Commonwealth in March 2008. The national scheme ensures that only health practitioners who are suitably trained and qualified to practise in a competent and ethical manner are registered.

Queensland is the host jurisdiction for the national law, meaning that any legislation to update it is passed through this House, hence the bill before us today. The bill has attracted some controversy. As the member for Bonney quite rightly pointed out a little earlier, a flurry of emails has been received in the office of every member of parliament. Those emails raise concerns from not only patients but also practising GPs and doctors who are worried about what the passing of this bill could mean in terms of enhancing Ahpra's powers and further regulation of the doctor-patient relationship by the state.

Ahpra manages applications for registration for the 16 registered health professions such as doctors, nurses and other allied health practitioners. There is concern that there may be political influence on Ahpra and Ahpra's internal political persuasions may have some sway not only over how doctors administer drugs and provide treatment but also over the doctor-patient relationship into the future. Concerns have been raised that there may be an overarching way of practising medicine in this state and country if this legislation is passed.

From talking to medical practitioners my understanding is that medicine is a fluid and live thing. They say that the way we treated something five years ago is not always the way we treat it now, and that may be through a change in the administration of drugs such as viral medications and those sorts of things. The practise of medicine is a constantly moving process. One concern that was raised in my office involved looking at medical administration into the future and how that ties in with what has happened over the past couple of years with the COVID-19 pandemic. The kind of language being used worries us because what is in the best interests of everyone may not be in the best interests of an individual patient, especially if they are being forced or coerced into certain things.

**An honourable member** interjected.

**Mr DAMETTO:** Coercion, yes; I take that interjection. Last night news.com.au published an article that raises concerns. Yesterday, an executive from Pfizer admitted that before the rollout they did not know whether or not the COVID vaccine would stop transmission. That should be concerning.

There are a couple of other things that I would like to raise. There are approximately 825,000 health practitioners in Australia, with approximately 168,000 practising in Queensland. This bill is extremely controversial for some of those practising in Queensland. They are worried about the ability of Ahpra to control the medical sphere and the delivery of medical and other health care in Australia, and rightly so. Doctors know more about medicine than bureaucrats. I note that earlier this week the member for Pumicestone made some comments about the member for Mirani, saying that he is not a doctor and he does not have any idea about medicine. I do not see 'Dr' in front of her name either. I am concerned about people making comments like that when someone offers a different point of view in this House.

**An honourable member interjected.**

**Mr DAMETTO:** No, and I do not pretend to be a doctor, but I stand up for the doctors who have contacted my office and the offices of other members of the Katter's Australian Party seeking representation in this House.

It is important that we do not have cowboy doctors and nurses and parts of this legislation will go some way towards providing regulation in that regard. However, the fact is that not everyone who is trying something a little different—or perhaps controversial from where Ahpra sits, remembering there may be certain political persuasions within that cohort—are doing the wrong thing. The member for Bonney pointed to cowboy cosmetic surgery and that is a space that needs better regulation and oversight. However, people who are trying a controversial cancer treatment, for example, should not be ridiculed but should be given the opportunity to do that. People coming to the end of life, having gone through cancer treatment, should be afforded the opportunity offered by a doctor who may be trying different things. It is concerning that those doctors could be labelled and tarred through this process.

These days it is the way of the world that we have trial by social media and other forms of media. The fact that, through this bill, some doctors may gain a bad reputation when they have not been afforded natural justice should be of concern to everybody in this House. I table a *Sydney Morning Herald* article titled 'Doctors resist push to name and shame those under investigation for misconduct'. That goes to what I was just saying. I also table an article from newsGP titled ' "Not right at all": College outlines concerns on Ahpra bill'.

*Tabled paper:* Bundle of media articles regarding various health practitioner matters [1658].

The KAP will be opposing the passage of this legislation through the House. I look forward to consideration in detail to examine some of the amendments.

 **Ms BOYD** (Pine Rivers—ALP) (2.37 pm): I very much look forward to the next exciting instalment from the member for Hinchinbrook during consideration in detail. I am sure there will be just as many puzzled looks in the room when that happens.

One of the greatest jobs that I have had the honour to perform is alongside health practitioners as an official of the United Workers Union in Queensland. Day after day we hear health practitioners talked down by those opposite. In fact, the only thing the LNP prefer to do more than talking down our health practitioners is sacking them. I stood beside health practitioners as those opposite, for the short time they sat on the government benches, gutted the health system and threw our frontline workers on the scrap heap. While this may be a hard truth for those opposite to confront, it is their record and while their memory may be short the memories of those workers and their families is not. Today, the wounds are just as raw as they were under the LNP Newman government and it is not forgotten or forgiven. The wound is reopened each election campaign when, without ever apologising, leader after unsuccessful leader, the LNP takes the same failed policy back to the ballot box with the same net outcome: defeat. We remember the record of those opposite in government and we will not forget.

Their record in opposition is not much improved. The Leader of the Opposition said he intends to do the same thing, only slower. What a terrifying mental image that conjures up.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I ask you to draw the member back to the long title of the bill. She is obviously straying from it.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Martin): Member for Pine Rivers, I ask that you come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** Thank you for your guidance, Mr Deputy Speaker; it is very much appreciated. Here in this place we see parliamentary question time often as a location to use our hardworking health workers as the opposition's personal punching bag. This term alone we have seen well over 100 questions during question time from the LNP running down our health workers and our health system. With a confected crisis often—

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I believe that you gave direction to the member about the long title of the bill and it appears that she has ignored your direction.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, you may continue, but I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** In relation to natural justice, which the LNP's statement of reservation directly speaks to, I draw the House's attention to the correlation that in fact exists between the LNP's own concerns around the natural justice of health workers and the hesitation of LNP members when they come into this place and run down health workers, often with no regard to natural justice whatsoever. There is a direct correlation in terms of the statement of reservation that the members for Southport and Bonney wrote and attached to the committee report and the performance of the LNP in this place. We have seen over 100 separate attempts to run down health workers here in this chamber in just this term of government.

**Ms BATES:** Mr Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. The long title of the bill clearly talks about notifications of health workers who have done the wrong thing. It is not an opportunity for the member to drag up anything that has been in question time over the past seven years.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Member, I understand that you are responding to the statement of reservation; however, I would ask that you come back to the long title of the bill.

**Ms BOYD:** In relation to the concerns that the members for Southport and Bonney raised in this statement, their very actions in the place, which they perpetuate every time they come in here, run down our health workforce. Consider this my statement of reservation on those opposite for the contempt they have for hardworking frontline health workers and their families.

On this side of the House we are not interested in talking down our communities, our health workers or our health facilities. Do members know why? It is because we are too busy building them up—investing in our frontline workers, upgrading and extending hospitals, building satellite hospitals so that people can get care closer to home and, of course, working with our health practitioners so they are best resourced to do their essential job and provide such a critical service to all Queenslanders. Our government continues to invest in public safety services with confidence, effectiveness and efficiency. I commend the work of our dedicated health practitioners and this bill to the House.

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (2.42 pm), in reply: I thank all members for their contributions to the debate on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I thank members for their support of these important reforms. As I noted at the outset of this debate, these are the most wideranging reforms in the scheme's history and represent a major milestone for the regulation of Australia's health professions. I am proud to be supporting legislation that strengthens public safety and increases public confidence in health services provided by registered health practitioners.

I would like to address several points raised by members during the debate. I will begin by responding to the opposition's claims about natural justice and procedural fairness. I will also speak to some of the specific points raised, in particular the provisions in the bill that will enable regulators to warn the public in rare cases where a practitioner's behaviour is placing patients or other persons at serious risk.

While protection of the public must always be paramount, it is also important that practitioners be treated fairly when regulatory actions are taken under the national law. I fully acknowledge the concerns raised by health professional stakeholders that regulatory actions can significantly impact a practitioner's reputation and livelihood. It is for this reason that the new regulatory powers proposed in this bill, including the power to issue public statements, are subject to strict limitations and include significant procedural and review rights. These safeguards will ensure that regulatory actions are not taken prematurely or without adequate grounds.

The need to balance the rights of practitioners and the protection of the public was front of mind for policymakers during development of the bill. Extensive consultation was undertaken with stakeholders, and great care was taken to ensure that new measures aimed at promoting public safety are narrowly tailored and provide procedural fairness for practitioners. With very few exceptions, the bill provides practitioners with the opportunity to make submissions before regulatory action is taken. In many cases, practitioners are also able to seek review of regulatory decisions after the fact.

The member for Mudgeeraba stated that the opposition's primary concern with the bill is that it will allow regulators to warn the public about serious dangers before completing a comprehensive investigation into allegations of misconduct. Some members speculated that this power could be

misused by overzealous regulators who are out to name and shame practitioners and to ruin their careers. That is a gross mischaracterisation of the proposed reforms. Let me be absolutely clear: the purpose of empowering regulators to make public statements is not to name and shame practitioners. It is not to be used as a punitive or disciplinary measure. Rather, this power will be available in a very small number of cases where there is a need to immediately warn the public because a practitioner is engaging in conduct that poses an imminent danger to patients or other persons.

Given the strict criteria for making a public statement, regulators are expected to exercise this power sparingly, in cases where the public clearly has a right to be warned of immediate and serious risks. For example, in 2009 a Victorian anaesthetist infected over 50 patients with hepatitis C after injecting himself with the opiate fentanyl before using the same needles to administer the drug to his patients. This is the type of very significant case where a public statement might be used, given the immediate risk to public health and the need for patients to be notified.

As I have said, the bill strikes a careful balance between ensuring that regulators have the tools they need to protect the public from harm while also protecting the rights and professional reputations of registered health practitioners who are doing the right thing. The reputational risks to practitioners were carefully considered in developing the amendments. The bill tightly constrains the powers for regulators so that public statements can only be made about a person in appropriate circumstances.

The bill also includes other checks and balances prior to making a public statement. The regulator must allow the practitioner to make written or verbal submissions about the proposed statement and must consider these submissions before making a decision. The regulator must also revoke a public statement once the grounds for the statement no longer exist. A decision to make a public statement can also be appealed to the relevant tribunal; in Queensland this is QCAT. The Victorian Health Complaints Commissioner has had a power to issue public warnings since 2018. The power has only been used 10 times against seven practitioners, when the commissioner determined it was necessary to issue a public warning to avoid a serious risk to the life, health, safety or welfare of persons or the public. These public warnings were primarily about unregistered health practitioners suspected of performing dangerous and in some cases unlawful procedures such as providing unregulated homebirth services or unlawfully possessing and administering cosmetic injectables.

Beyond the specifics of this bill, I feel compelled to comment on the rank hypocrisy of those opposite. It was particularly galling to hear the member for Mudgeeraba's contribution. According to her speech, she apparently fears that the bill would degrade the principles of natural justice. Apparently she does not believe that a statement should be made against a clinician without a comprehensive investigation being conducted and finalised. I am not sure how the member for Mudgeeraba was able to read her speech with a straight face, to be honest. This is the person who has been chastising the Palaszczuk government for awaiting the findings of investigations before taking action against clinicians!

Somehow the member thinks it is appropriate for politicians to be making judgement calls on who works in our hospitals prior to investigations being completed, but it is entirely illegitimate for our health regulators to take appropriate action in exceptional circumstances. The member for Mudgeeraba has no issue completely contradicting herself in the way that they seek to make commentary in this chamber about doctors—whether they are or are not being investigated—before any findings and that it is appropriate for the opposition to do that but not regulators.

This bill has been through significant consultation and is the subject of national consensus among all health ministers across the country—every state and territory health minister and the Commonwealth health minister. It is a national bill agreed to at a national level.

The member for Mudgeeraba asked me as the minister to confirm that the proposed amendments to insert a new paramount principle about public safety and confidence will not lead to practitioners being in conflict with their codes of conduct or common law obligations. A similar issue was raised by the member for Mirani and a number of other members. The bill establishes a new guiding principle in the national law to make protection of the public and public confidence in health services the paramount consideration in administering the national law.

I believe this amendment has been misunderstood and mischaracterised by those opposite. The guiding principles in the national law do not apply broadly to govern all aspects of health care or the relationship between a patient and their health practitioner. The fact is that the guiding principles are there to guide the regulators and they do not apply to individual health practitioners. I emphasise that

the provision of health care will continue to be guided by universal practices, including informed consent, medical ethics and individualised treatment tailored to each patient. Health practitioners will continue to act in accordance with their training and their professional obligations by explaining the risks and benefits of care in a way that can be understood by their patients.

Let me explain which entities these principles in the national law will apply to. The paramount principle in the national law is directed at entities exercising powers under the national law, including the Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency, national boards, the Queensland Health Ombudsman, the National Health Practitioner Ombudsman, accreditation authorities such as the Australian Medical Council, administrative tribunals, courts and other entities exercising functions under the national law. The guiding principles will apply to a broad range of decisions made by these entities, including decisions about accreditation and registration standards for health practitioners as well as decisions to take health, conduct or performance action against practitioners. The new guiding principle will create a specific legislative obligation to place public safety and public confidence as the most important factor in all decisions and actions of entities exercising functions and powers under the national law. This approach will encourage a responsive, risk-based approach to regulation across all health professions regulated under the national law.

As many members noted, public and community confidence in health services is strengthened when the few practitioners who do the wrong thing are subject to disciplinary action. The new paramount principle, which in part requires national scheme entities to consider community confidence in health services, reinforces this message and helps to achieve good health outcomes for patients and health consumers. The inclusion of the new guiding principle does not make a significant change to the law in Queensland. The guiding principles of the national law in Queensland have been modified to make health and safety of the public the paramount consideration. This paramount principle already guides regulatory decisions in Queensland.

The member for Mirani stated that the amendments updating the functions of Ahpra will give it broad discretionary powers. This amendment was recommended in the review of governance of the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme commissioned by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council. The review recommended this amendment to recognise Ahpra's coordinating role in administering the national scheme and its wide range of functions. I would like to make clear that this amendment is not intended to extend the scope of Ahpra's powers. Rather, it recognises that Ahpra may do anything incidental or ancillary to fulfil the specific powers and functions already conferred on it. The amendment mirrors the language of a similar function given to national boards, which is appropriate given Ahpra's role in administering the national scheme. This type of provision is common across the statute book. For example, similar provisions are included in the Queensland Biosecurity Act 2014 and the Queensland Guardianship and Administration Act 2000.

As outlined in my second reading speech, I intend to move amendments during consideration in detail to withdraw provisions from the bill that would allow the use of testimonials in health service advertising. I appreciate the comments of members expressing support to withdraw these provisions based on developments that have occurred since the bill was introduced. I noted that some members had not realised that we are going to be moving these amendments. Either their side did not fill them in or they did not see the amendments circulated because they were still saying in their speeches that we should do this without acknowledging that we had already flagged that we were going to be doing it. It is hard to move from the script sometimes.

As I explained in my second reading speech, the amendments to regulate testimonials in the same way as other health service advertising are being withdrawn so they can be considered in the context of broader reforms to increase protections in the cosmetic sector. This is consistent with the recommendation from the Health and Environment Committee and with the views expressed in some submissions to the committee's inquiry. Withdrawing the amendments at this time also recognises the concerns expressed in the independent review of the regulation of medical practitioners who perform cosmetic surgery, which was handed down after the committee tabled its report. Health ministers across Australia have agreed to the withdrawal of the amendments as well as to making significant changes to increase safety for people considering or undergoing cosmetic procedures.

In closing, I would like to take this final opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed to the development and debate of these important reforms. I thank the staff at Queensland Health, our state and territory counterparts and the many individuals and organisations who have helped shape the reforms and provided input into the bill.

Lastly, I wish to once again acknowledge the extraordinary work of our registered health practitioners and all health professionals who continue to care for record numbers of patients throughout Queensland and across Australia. Despite the many challenges in recent years, their resilience and professionalism have saved countless lives and contributed to the health and wellbeing of our communities. Their dedication to improving the lives of others is a source of comfort and inspiration for all of us. 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

Clause 1, as read, agreed to.

Clause 2—

 **Mrs D'ATH** (2.56 pm): I move the following amendment—

1 **Clause 2 (Commencement)**

Page 12, line 12, '85(1) and (4),'—

*omit.*

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

*Tabled paper:* Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, explanatory notes to Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[1659\]](#).

*Tabled paper:* Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, statement of compatibility with human rights contained in Hon. Yvette D'Ath's amendments [\[1660\]](#).

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 2, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 3 to 19, as read, agreed to.

Clause 20—

 **Ms BATES** (2.57 pm): The LNP will not be supporting clause 20 of this bill. I raised the LNP's concerns in my contribution to the bill and I will reiterate those concerns. 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. That investigation may then result in no finding against the practitioner. We must let natural justice run its course. A public statement is not the only mechanism the Health Ombudsman or Ahpra have at their disposal to uphold patient safety. There are other ways.

The system to protect patients is not working like it should in Queensland right now—it is just not. Now we are seeing the government embarking on these legislative changes without addressing the failings of the system as it already is. I gave the example of Dr William Braun yesterday and I will repeat it. It hammers home the problems that I am talking about. On the one hand we have the government legislating for the Health Ombudsman to make a public statement about a practitioner before investigations into them are even finalised. That is what we are seeing with this clause in this bill.

Yet, on the other hand, just months ago in the case of Dr William Braun the Health Ombudsman could not even meet its own legislated deadline, so Dr Braun's lawyers get the case thrown out of court, not once but twice. Seriously, imagine being those poor patients of Dr Braun! They were horribly wronged and the system there to protect them and to protect others from the same fate failed miserably.

If our framework to protect patients was working, Dr Braun would not have walked out of court scot-free. He did. That is but one case. We fear there are more. Here we have a situation where these agencies cannot get the basics right. They cannot prosecute a case of someone who has done wrong, and it is devastating for patients and imposes a risk across the system. Yet the government is not seeking to right those wrongs or review the fundamental errors and address it through legislative changes.

Let's get the priorities right and have the system working properly as it stands before embarking on changes like we see in this clause. Hopefully we will never see a case like Dr Braun's again. My fear is that if the government is not addressing the basic failings of the patient safety legal framework then it could well happen.

I want to round out by saying this: the government are not striking the right balance. My fear is that innocent practitioners could be caught up in these changes and that patients are being failed when clear cases of clinician misconduct are brought to the attention of authorities, yet no action or no prosecution ever eventuates. For those reasons outlined, the opposition will be voting against this clause.

**Mr LISTER:** I am very pleased to speak after the member for Mudgeeraba. I indicate that I, too, will be opposing this particular clause. I would like it to be put on record since I was guillotined and could not speak that the debate surrounding the provisions in this clause has been disappointing when it has labelled those who have reasonable objections as being conspiracy theorists or mad and so forth. I have heard all of that kind of thing in the chamber.

I speak for very reasonable people in my electorate—doctors and other practitioners—who have contacted me with very reasonable concerns about the powers which would be provided to authorities under this particular clause. They are not conspiracy theorists. They are not unworldly hotheads. They are respected medics in my community, some of whom have been practising for decades, who have said to me that these constraints provide egregious powers to those who are effectively unaccountable for their exercise.

It is a mechanism by which the bureaucrats are able to influence and insert themselves into the doctor-patient relationship. That is a difficult thing for professional medical people whose sole focus and their only consideration is what is best for their patients. I will certainly be joining the opposition, as you would expect, in opposing this particular clause. I ask everybody to bear in mind that not everybody shares the same opinion and that bureaucrats do not know everything.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I thank members opposite for their contribution. It appears that natural justice does not apply when you have the protection of privilege. I look forward to all future contributions from those on the other side, when they are making commentary around doctors who may be under investigation or not and who do not have findings against them, to show that natural justice which they have such interest in right now. I look forward to it. I really do!

**An honourable member:** But that's different!

**Mrs D'ATH:** It's different—of course it is!

**Mrs Gerber:** Ahpra does it anyway.

**Mrs D'ATH:** I take the interjections, 'Well, that's Ahpra,' so as politicians they can do what they want.

I remind the member for Mudgeeraba that these are provisions that will be implemented across the country. Every state and territory minister has supported these provisions. It is not a Queensland-specific situation. I do point to the fact that Victoria has had these public statements since 2018, and the fears that those opposite have not been exercised at all in that jurisdiction. There is no evidence that those who have spoken against these provisions have been able to point to in Victoria that show that it has been misused by the regulatory body.

Queenslanders deserve safe and high-quality health services. They rightly expect our healthcare regulators to have the right tools to ensure practitioners are practising safely, competently and ethically. They also rightly expect regulators to have the right powers to take action in the rare instances when a health practitioner flaunts the rules.

To vote down the amendments about public statements would be completely inconsistent with the fundamental purpose of this bill, which is to ensure these expectations are met. This includes ensuring that in rare cases where a practitioner is doing something egregious—something that is putting patients and the community at serious risk—regulators can notify the public and take swift action to protect the community from further harm.

The member for Mudgeeraba and others opposite have raised concerns about whether the bill provides sufficient natural justice for practitioners. The bill sets a very high bar for issuing a public statement and includes a range of protections to ensure the power is not misused.

The Health and Environment Committee carefully examined these safeguards and concluded they strike the right balance, noting that ultimately that balance must favour public safety and confidence. As the member for Mudgeeraba herself acknowledged, the overwhelming majority of health practitioners here in Queensland do the right thing. Their conduct is exemplary and patient care is always at the front of their mind, but we have seen rare instances where a practitioner has dangerously abused their professional obligations and the trust placed in them by their patients, sometimes leading to devastating results. It is in these instances where regulators need to have the right powers to take action to protect the public.

Also, it seems the opposition would have us vote down these three clauses of the bill in their entirety. This would have the effect of preventing these public safety measures from taking effect in all states and territories, not just Queensland. That would be contrary to what has been agreed to by Australian health ministers. While we can modify the application of the national law in Queensland, we have no licence to rewrite the law for the entire country based on the views of those opposite.

Division: Question put—That clause 20, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 50**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 37:**

**LNP, 32**—Bates, Bennett, 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.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Farmer, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 20, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 21 to 84, as read, agreed to.

Clause 85—

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (3.11 pm): I move the following amendments—

**2 Clause 85 (Amendment of s 133 (Advertising))**

Page 65, lines 13 and 14—

*omit.*

**3 Clause 85 (Amendment of s 133 (Advertising))**

Page 65, lines 21 to 23—

*omit.*

Amendments agreed to.

Clause 85, as amended, agreed to.

Clauses 86 to 99, as read, agreed to.

Clause 100—

 **Ms BATES** (3.12 pm): The concerns I raised in relation to clause 20 are directly relevant to clause 100. For those reasons I outlined earlier the opposition will be voting against this clause.

Division: Question put—That clause 100, as read, stand part of the bill.

**AYES, 50:**

**ALP, 50**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**NOES, 37:**

**LNP, 32**—Bates, Bennett, 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.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Farmer, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Clause 100, as read, agreed to.

Clauses 101 to 147, as read, agreed to.

### **Third Reading**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.15 pm): I move—

That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

Division: Question put—That the bill, as amended, be now read a third time.

**AYES, 82:**

**ALP, 50**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**LNP, 32**—Bates, Bennett, 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.

**NOES, 5:**

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Farmer, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Bill read a third time.

### **Long Title**

 **Hon. YM D'ATH** (Redcliffe—ALP) (Minister for Health and Ambulance Services) (3.17 pm): I move—

That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

Division: Question put—That the long title of the bill be agreed to.

**AYES, 84:**

**ALP, 50**—Bailey, Boyd, Brown, Bush, Butcher, Crawford, D'Ath, de Brenni, Dick, Enoch, Fentiman, Furner, Gilbert, Grace, Harper, Healy, Hinchliffe, Howard, Hunt, Kelly, A. King, S. King, Lauga, Linard, Lui, Madden, Martin, McCallum, McMahon, McMillan, Mellish, Miles, Mullen, O'Rourke, Palaszczuk, Pease, Power, Pugh, Richards, Russo, Ryan, Saunders, Scanlon, Skelton, Smith, Stewart, Sullivan, Tantari, Walker, Whiting.

**LNP, 32**—Bates, Bennett, 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.

**NOES, 5:**

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Farmer, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

## CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL

Resumed from 26 May (see p. 1432).

### Second Reading

 Hon. SM FENTIMAN (Waterford—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence) (3.20 pm): I move—

That the bill be now read a second time.

I thank the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee for its consideration of the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the industry and community stakeholders who took the time to make written submissions and appeared at public hearings to assist the committee in its consideration of the bill. The committee tabled its report on 22 July, including with the recommendation that the bill be passed, and I formally table the government's response to the report.

*Tabled paper:* Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: Report No. 28, 57th Parliament—Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022, government response [[1661](#)].

The Palaszczuk government is committed to ensuring that casinos in Queensland are safe and responsible and adhere to the high standard of conduct expected of them by the community. On 6 October, I announced that the government had accepted the findings and the recommendations of the independent review into the operations of the Star Entertainment Group which was conducted by the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO KC. Mr Gotterson made 12 recommendations to enhance the integrity, minimise the potential for harm, ensure probity and restore public confidence in the operations of Queensland casinos. I would like to thank Mr Gotterson, Dr Jonathan Horton KC and Ms Angela Hellewell for their work in conducting this important review. As a result of Mr Gotterson's report, the government will be progressing a number of urgent amendments to this bill which I will address shortly.

Many of the provisions contained in this bill have come from recommendations made following inquiries held in Victoria and Western Australia. The bill is also informed by investigations undertaken by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. Those opposite, including the member for Clayfield, have claimed that this legislation was rushed, saying that we should have waited for Mr Gotterson's recommendations before beginning the process of introducing a bill. Those opposite would have us delay strengthening casino regulation, despite the very concerning revelations that came out of a number of jurisdictions. I am proud that the Palaszczuk government moved to proactively strengthen our casino regulation. In fact, Mr Gotterson himself noted that this legislation was very clearly informed by the outcomes of the Bergin, Finkelstein and Owen inquiries and that this bill allowed him to 'start from a much more advanced position than would have been the case had it not been undertaken'. In addition, Mr Gotterson highlighted that this bill 'deals with some of the concerns about which this Inquiry heard', particularly when it comes to matters of integrity.

This bill seeks to enhance the oversight of Queensland casinos. Specifically, the bill introduces some key reforms to strengthen the accountability and transparency of casino operations, including new obligations for casino entities and associates to self-report breaches of the Casino Control Act. There is also a new duty to cooperate, which will obligate a casino entity and its associates to comply with all reasonable requests made by the minister, the chief executive or an inspector and to do everything necessary to ensure that the management and casino operations of the relevant casino operator are conducted in a fair and honest manner.

In relation to some of the concerns raised with the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, I can advise that the duty to ensure that the management and casino operations of the relevant casino operator are conducted fairly and honestly is purposefully broad and drafted in plain English to allow it to evolve to meet not only standards imposed by the law but also norms of conduct that are expected by the community. As long as casino entities and their associates are conducting themselves consistent with these principles, they can be considered to have met their duty to cooperate in regard to the fair and honest operation and management of a casino.

The bill also expands information gathering powers by providing the minister and the chief executive with a broad power to request any information from a casino entity and its associates that is reasonably required to administer the Casino Control Act. Importantly, the bill provides meaningful deterrent to noncompliance by, for example, introducing pecuniary penalties as a form of disciplinary

action. Where warranted, the bill permits a pecuniary penalty to be imposed for past misconduct. This reflects the importance that the state and the community place on ensuring casinos are conducted with the utmost integrity and fairness and remain free from criminal influence and exploitation. The public, therefore, expects that casino entities should take full responsibility for any misconduct, regardless of when that misconduct may have occurred. I can advise that I will be moving an amendment during consideration in detail to increase the maximum pecuniary penalty that may be imposed by Governor in Council as a disciplinary action upon a casino entity to \$100 million.

The bill also enables reasonable departmental costs associated with disciplinary action to be recovered from the entity being disciplined. The bill recognises that the ability to conduct casino gaming is a lucrative benefit, bestowed only through licences issued by the Governor in Council to persons who are suitable. Running a casino is not a right; it is a privilege that can be revoked.

As I advised earlier, the bill is the Queensland government's first response to the need for enhanced regulation of casinos. A second tranche of amendments will be progressed next year to implement the remainder of the recommendations of Mr Gotterson. Those recommendations include a requirement for mandatory carded play in casinos and the introduction of mandatory pre-commitment facilitated by carded play. The government's in principle support of Mr Gotterson's recommendations will also require casino operators to pay a supervisory levy, observe interstate police exclusion directions and comply with a safe gambling code of conduct. Casino licensees will also be subject to periodic suitability reviews which will have inquiry powers.

The amendments I will move during consideration in detail of this bill are also intended to immediately implement one particular recommendation from Mr Gotterson's report. I will be proposing that the bill address Mr Gotterson's recommendation that the Casino Control Act be amended to provide for the appointment of a special manager in circumstances where it is necessary to discipline and potentially remediate a casino licensee back to suitability. The current casino legislation requires the appointment of an administrator when a licence is cancelled or suspended for more than three months. As Mr Gotterson points out, an administrator generally has a specific role under corporations law which may not always be compatible with the disciplinary measures desired by government.

A special manager would be appointed on terms determined by the Governor in Council on the recommendation of the Attorney-General and required to act in accordance with directions from Governor in Council. It would, however, be funded entirely by the casino licensee. The special manager would be required to report periodically to the government on the special manager's operations and be required to report on the remediation of a casino licensee or operator and that entity's progress towards suitability in accordance with a remediation plan.

The special manager will also consult on and assist in developing the plan, which must be approved by the minister. The plan will be considered part of the casino's internal control system, and penalties of up to 400 penalty units, and perhaps further disciplinary action, will apply should casino entities not comply with the plan. Provision for a special manager would provide the government with further flexibility in how it responds to the issues identified by Mr Gotterson. The Governor in Council would retain the ability to appoint an administrator where it was necessary to do so.

I will be moving an amendment to clause 9 of the bill to increase the proposed maximum penalty that the Governor in Council may apply to a casino entity as a disciplinary action from \$50 million to \$100 million, as previously discussed. I consider this amendment to be justified by Mr Gotterson's findings of egregious conduct by Star and the fact that both New South Wales and Victoria have provided for similar penalties in respect of misconduct by casino operators in those jurisdictions.

I will also move amendments to neutralise claims to compensation by casino entities that arise from regulatory action in accordance with triggers established in any agreement between a casino entity and the state. As Mr Gotterson points out, the proper regulation of casinos demands that the state be 'unfettered' and free to impose reasonable controls on the operations of casinos. The state must be able to adjust those controls as circumstances demand and in order to protect the public interest. New South Wales and Victoria have acted to extinguish compensation triggers that may impede the proper regulation of casinos in those jurisdictions, and I propose that the same action be undertaken here.

Over the last few weeks, we have heard from those opposite that the review's terms of reference were too narrow and that Mr Gotterson should have considered further dealings between government, industry and unions. I have to question whether those opposite have indeed read the terms of reference, which clearly provided that Mr Gotterson could inquire into whether any further improvements are warranted to enhance integrity, minimise the potential for harm, ensure probity and restore public confidence in casino operations.

In addition, Mr Gotterson noted in the media conference last week that ‘nothing was thrown up which suggested that the current circumstances were in some way a product of those kinds of things. It just didn’t generate anything.’ Not only was it not raised here in Queensland in this inquiry; this is not an issue that has been brought out in any of the reviews or inquiries in any of the multiple jurisdictions that have inquired into casinos. Instead, what we are dealing with is corporate misconduct—corporations focused completely on profits and not acting in the public interest.

The bill amends the Casino Control Act to achieve two other purposes not related to casino integrity issues. The first purpose is to remove a provision which is incompatible with the Human Rights Act as it limits the right to freedom of movement and the right to liberty and security by permitting the detention of persons suspected of cheating or possessing unlawful equipment by the casino operator and its employees and casino inspectors. The limitation is not considered to be reasonable or justifiable, particularly when no similar power is required for more serious crimes such as assault.

The second purpose is to remove certain prescriptive requirements that apply under the act to applications for casino employee and key employee licences. In this regard, the bill removes redundant requirements for an applicant to furnish fingerprints and a photograph as part of their licence application and the requirement for the casino operator to provide a letter to the regulator advising of the operator’s intent to employ the applicant. The removal of these requirements will assist in facilitating a largely electronic process for licence applications by prospective casino employees without materially reducing the scrutiny of applicants by the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation.

In addition to providing the first stage of the Palaszczuk government’s legislative response to casino integrity issues, the bill also seeks to modernise Queensland’s suite of gambling acts to provide regulatory agility around cashless payment methods. I want to make it clear that the amendments proposed will not automatically introduce widespread cashless gaming; rather, they remove impediments to cash alternatives and create frameworks for the regulation of cashless payment methods and technologies. What this means is that the bill seeks to facilitate the consideration and, where necessary, technical assessment of cashless technologies and payment methods. Only if the cashless technology or payment method is deemed appropriate for introduction will approval be granted.

I would also point out that cashless gaming presents a number of harm minimisation benefits. For example, it facilitates precommitment and limit setting, which cannot be implemented through anonymous cash gambling. The harm minimisation benefits of a cashless gaming proposal will be a matter for the commissioner or chief executive in the consideration of any proposed cashless gambling scheme, and the bill will ensure that the commissioner and the chief executive are afforded a guideline power under each of the gambling acts.

The bill also amends various gambling legislation to provide a regulation-making power which will enable a regulation to be made to regulate the different types of payment methods which may be used to enter a game or make a bet, deposit into or withdraw from a gambling account, and pay winnings, prizes and refunds. In light of the rapid developments associated with payment technologies, this approach of delegating such matters to regulation will assist to ensure that Queensland’s gambling legislation remains responsive as payment systems advance.

The bill additionally introduces a specific regulation-making power for harm minimisation to all gambling acts. This amendment will provide the government with the flexible means to respond to emergent harm risks as a result of new gambling products or technologies. The power will enable the making of a regulation which prescribes measures that have the purpose of minimising the potential for harm as well as persons who are required to implement the measures. Different measures will be able to apply to different classes of licensees based on relevant factors such as the type of gambling licence held by the licensee or the number of gaming machines at the premises. I wish to emphasise that consultation is intended with industry and community in accordance with the Queensland Government Guide to Better Regulation before any measure is proposed to be prescribed to ensure that considerations relating to impact, risk and proportionality are taken into account.

To confirm a longstanding administrative arrangement, the bill also amends the Gaming Machine Act to provide an automatic extension of gaming hours until 2 am on New Year’s Day to align gaming machine trading hours with liquor trading hours for the New Year’s Eve trading period. The bill also modernises aspects of the Wagering Act to provide a framework for Queensland’s sole sports wagering licensee to conduct wagering on approved simulated events and simulated contingencies. Simulated events are limited to virtual racing or virtual sporting events where outcomes are solely determined by

a random number generator. Finally, the bill inserts a deemed registration framework, fulfilling the Palaszczuk government's commitment to introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising.

Consistent with the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's first recommendation, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr NICHOLLS** (Clayfield—LNP) (3.35 pm): I think I have heard it all. Here we have a government that has been forced, kicking and screaming, to conduct an inquiry into casino operations here in Queensland, and now we have the Attorney-General turning up today and dropping 27 pages of amendments at three o'clock this afternoon, half an hour before a debate is about to start. That is a sign of a government that is dysfunctional and an Attorney who has taken her eye off the ball. Then the Attorney jumps up and says, 'Oh, look, all we have been doing is fantastic and it has been approved by Mr Gotterson KC,' and proceeds to quote from his report. Here is what his report actually says—

In doing so, I owe a considerable debt to the extensive and in-depth work of the Bell, Bergin, Finkelstein and Owen Inquiries in particular.

We did not hear that from the Attorney-General. She made no comment about all the work that had been done by governments in Victoria, New South Wales and Western Australia. She made no comment about that. It goes on to say—

That body of work has informed not only my consideration of these matters—

so that body of work by those inquiries and those commissioners—

but also, evidently, the Queensland Amendment Act and the work of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee of the Queensland Parliament. This Inquiry was able to benefit from that work.

This is from the work of Bergin, Finkelstein, Owen and Bell, not from the work of the Labor government in Queensland. It would be a cold day in hell if they waited for work from a Labor government in Queensland to address any of the issues! Just ask the people at the Forensic and Scientific Services laboratory how that is going. Just ask the people in the youth justice department how that report from Bob Atkinson is going. Just ask the people at the Mackay Hospital how that work is going. It is a farcical comment.

**Ms KING:** Madam Deputy Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I would ask you to bring the member back to the long title of the bill. He appears to be straying.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Lui): Member, I ask you to come back to the long title of the bill.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** Let me then also reference some of the statements that the Attorney-General has made with regard to the amendments that have been dropped at three o'clock this afternoon, half an hour before debate starts—27 pages of them—going to some very serious matters that will not be now discussed by the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee and which will have a minimum of scrutiny by this place as a result of this government's dysfunction.

Let me refer then to the fact that the minister said that she has decided to increase the penalty from \$50 million to \$100 million. Let's have a look at the explanatory notes that came in when the bill was introduced back in May. Some of the affected businesses suggested there should be consistency between jurisdictions in terms of the penalty which may be imposed on a casino; however, this is not possible as the maximum penalty permitted in other states and territories varies from \$1 million to \$100 million, yet we have just had the Attorney tell us that it should be the \$100 million, the same as New South Wales and Victoria. Guess what? It was \$100 million in New South Wales and Victoria on 26 May when this bill was introduced.

If anyone is looking for consistency, if anyone is looking for logic, and if anyone is looking for a proper response to gaming harm here in Queensland and the regulation of the industry, they will not be seeing it from this government, and now we have this mysterious second tranche of amendments. When was the second tranche ever announced? It never formed any part of Minister Grace's introductory speech when the bill was introduced back in May—no mention of it whatsoever. 'We do not need to do anything more than that.' No second tranche was ever discussed before, but now here on the day of debate we are told there is going to be a bunch of other amendments coming through in relation to the imposition of cardless pay and cashless gaming and those types of things, over and above what we already see in the bill. We await those with anticipation and we wonder if they will be

consulted on in the same way that the amendments to this bill were consulted on with the Ville and the Reef Casino. These amendments were even consulted on directly with Star themselves and, of course, our friends at the United Workers Union. We all remember the United Workers Union.

It is a farce: this legislation is a farce, the response of this government is a farce and the management of casinos and gaming in this state by this government is a farce. Let's not forget that when the Queen's Wharf casino agreement was entered into by the then Palaszczuk government in 2016 they compelled Star casino to take an extra 400 gaming machines at a cost of \$40 million. Star did not want them. That was part of the deal forced on Star by this government.

Proper and effective regulation of casinos and gaming is essential to ensure Queenslanders can have confidence that crime is not being committed, money is not being washed through casinos and gaming harm is being minimised. Without that certainty and assurance, the community rightly asks whether casinos should operate legally here in Queensland.

I think it is important to note that what I am saying is not controversial and it is not a new view. In fact, Mr Gotterson AO, KC, the commissioner who recently completed an inquiry into Star Entertainment Group's operations in Queensland, at paragraphs 43 and 44 on page 12 of his report repeats the wise words of the then deputy premier and treasurer, Sir Llew Edwards, in 1982 where he says—

It is clear to me that unless a casino licence-holder and those associated with the operation are persons of proven integrity, the Government will be faced with immense control problems in the future. It is therefore important that the Governor in Council be fully satisfied that such persons are suitable persons in all the respects laid down in [clause 20].

He goes on to say—

He noted the very real risk of casinos attracting illicit and antisocial activities and behaviour:

'... A regulatory system that is initially above reproach may be corrupted over time without the application of a constantly vigilant, competent and honest control personnel and management staff. Any unsavoury seepage of this kind must be rejected if the public confidence and trust that are so essential for a successful operation are to be obtained and if the good reputation and honour of this Government are to be preserved. I do not want to labour to excess the point that the integral and essential element of the regulation and control of casino facilities by the State rests in the public confidence and trust in the credibility and integrity of casino operations and the control functions.'

The LNP members' statement of reservation in the committee report on this bill says—

The LNP supports legislation that is modern, informed by best practice and evidence and ensures Queensland's casino industry is above reproach, thwarts criminal activity and money laundering and meets community expectations.

It is apparent that the Labor government has been caught napping when it comes to supervision of casinos in Queensland. They have fundamentally forgotten the words of Sir Llew Edwards when the legislation was introduced in 1982. This bill is a rushed and half-baked attempt to address that deficiency.

The bill was rushed because it has taken so long for the Labor government to act in the first place. It failed to act despite media reports going back to 2019 and despite other investigations into casino operations in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia. It is self-evidently half-baked because we will now be discussing 27 pages of amendments to an amending bill that was introduced in May. It is half-baked because in its rush to be seen to be doing something the government did not consider it would have to do more.

We have to ask why. Why was there the rush in May to introduce this bill? What did the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation discover and report on in April this year that led to this bill? Mr Gotterson refers to that interim report. We have not heard anything about that report—not a word. Why has that OLGR interim report referred to by Mr Gotterson, carried out by the regulator, not been released? There has been not a word.

Again, why did the government resist a public inquiry for so long and only act after a series of articles in the *Australian* newspaper highlighting links between Star and the Labor government, and why the secrecy? It was only after the government was forced by those reports and increasing public concern to appoint the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO, KC and during the committee inquiry into this bill that OLGR officers acknowledged that if the inquiry recommended more changes, there would need to be even more changes. Why introduce a bill that even officers of the department acknowledged might need further amendment?

This bill and now the amendments to be moved to it by the Attorney-General during debate highlight the dysfunction and chaos of the Palaszczuk Labor government. The lack of proper ministerial supervision, the dodging of responsibility, the failure to uphold convention and the inability to separate

the interests of Queenslanders from its own political interests are all hallmarks of this Labor government on display today. There has been review after review, as I have said, reports into youth justice, excuse after excuse, premiers making tax decisions without telling treasurers and completely contradicting him in doing so, ministers saying they will resign if hospital services that their own government cut are not reinstated, government whips taking on the health minister and hospital board reports by the score. Dysfunction is the word for this government.

Gambling in Australia and in Queensland is big business. According to the 36th and latest edition of the Australian gambling statistics compiled by Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, in 2018-19 total gambling turnover in Australia was more than \$225 billion. To put that in some sort of context, Queensland's gross state product is about \$350 billion. That turnover is bigger than Western Australia's gross state product. Queensland's contribution to that total is the third largest in Australia at \$38.7 billion. New South Wales is \$96½ billion and Victoria is \$47.8 billion. That is turnover, both money in and money out.

Let's talk about something much more important. Let's talk about what is called total expenditure, which we would say is the gambling losses. In the same period Australia-wide those losses were \$25 billion. That is in the one year, 2018-19, for which the most recent statistics at that national level are available. In Queensland in that same year it was \$4.29 billion. Over 84 per cent of that money in Queensland—that \$4.29 billion—is spent in casinos at 23 per cent and gaming machines at 61 per cent. It has been suggested in the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare gambling report from September 2021 that Australians are the largest per capita gamblers in the world.

The earnings potential of gaming is extraordinary. The Star Entertainment Group recently lodged its unaudited earnings in a media release with the Australian Stock Exchange. It reveals for the Star Entertainment Group total statutory gross revenue of \$1.534 billion and normalised gross revenue of \$1.532 billion; statutory earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortisation of \$239 million and the same figure normalised of \$237 million; and earnings before interest and tax of \$31 million and normalised at \$28 million. That is a lot of money. That was \$1.5 billion of gross revenue.

For its Gold Coast operations, Star reports strong domestic revenues when its casino and hotel are open on an unrestricted basis, with the June quarter 2022 domestic revenue up 48 per cent on pre-COVID levels. That is before COVID. Slots revenue was up 50 per cent, domestic tables revenue was up 23 per cent, their other revenue, non-gaming—so rooms, venues and food and beverage—was up 69 per cent. The normalised revenue for 2022 at the Gold Coast Star was \$424 million. For the Treasury here in Brisbane, domestic revenue in the June quarter was up 13 per cent on pre-COVID levels. Slots revenue was up 26 per cent and normalised gross revenue for 2022 was \$326 million, of which \$93 million came from the June quarter. That is a lot of money.

Further in the post-reporting period—this is the period from 1 July to 18 August—Star Entertainment Group's domestic revenue was up a further nine per cent, Gold Coast revenue was up 26 per cent and Brisbane domestic revenue was up 18 per cent. Consider that that revenue growth has occurred notwithstanding the controversy over Star's compliance or otherwise with legislation regulation and codes of conduct, and the big money does not stop there: total government revenue from gambling here in Queensland exceeds \$1.2 billion and a very substantial part of that \$1.2 billion and growing amount is made up of gaming machine taxes and casino taxes.

It also benefits those at board and executive level at Star, although no doubt this type of remuneration applies in other gaming and casino organisations. The 2022 annual report shows the former chair and sometime executive chairman and Olympics facilitator John O'Neill received benefits totalling \$857,000 for 11 months to 31 May, including \$370,000 for a seven-week tenure as executive chairman of Star. Each director—some of whom have quit; some of whom have said they will—who sat on the board while all of the things that we saw in New South Wales and in Queensland were going on who served a full 12-month term received over \$210,000 and senior executives received fixed remuneration of up to \$1.87 million and incentives, potentially adding hundreds of thousands and, in some cases, millions more to those packages.

I have no brook with the way organisations set their remuneration. That is entirely appropriate and entirely up to them to do that according to their best lights and the wishes and interests of their shareholders in how they think the company should be run, but it is important to understand and know the vast sums of money involved in casino operations in order to understand why strong and effective regulation is required and to understand why casino licensees and operators spend so much time and

money to try and influence policy outcomes. There is a lot at stake. It explains in my view why former Star executive chairman John O'Neill tried to have the Bell inquiry in New South Wales held behind closed doors. In fact, in October last year he emailed a fellow director of Star, saying there was—

... overt and covert work underway with ... extreme urgency to achieve the number one objective/imperative at the moment of ensuring the Bell review remains in camera.

What did he want? He wanted a secret hearing. He did not want it in public. Do members think the \$875,000 might have had something to do with that? Do members think the \$1.5 billion in gross revenue might have had something to do with that? In the Bell inquiry when questioned about that email, Mr O'Neill said that 'covert work' referred to conversations between Star's government relations representatives and New South Wales ministerial chiefs of staff. Of course, Mr O'Neill resigned shortly thereafter. It is important to note the importance Star placed on government relations representatives and avoiding public hearings into its behaviour in New South Wales. Indeed, it would be surprising if Star in Queensland did not have similar thoughts, but we will never know the answer because Labor in Queensland failed to have a properly broad inquiry in the same manner that the Bell inquiry was conducted in New South Wales.

In Queensland the desirability of a full and broad-ranging inquiry was amply demonstrated by the myriad media reports about links between the now Labor lobbyist, founder of Anacta Strategies, Labor predecessor to the Attorney-General as member for Woodford, member of the Left faction and Labor Party donor—who am I speaking about?—Mr Evan Moorhead with Gary Bullock, the so-called Labor Left powerbroker from the United Workers Union—a union that stridently opposed Star being granted the Queen's Wharf development project and supported Crown, so imagine how well that would have gone; United Workers and Crown together, and Crown did such a fantastic job in Victoria and New South Wales, and Western Australia by the way—until, miraculously, he negotiated a union workplace agreement with Star and then all his opposition changed. Then there is Star's government relations executive and former Palaszczuk staffer and failed Labor candidate for Petrie, Corinne Mulholland, and there are also widespread reports of fundraisers hosted by Star for Labor ministers with actual control over Star's operations, including then attorney-general Yvette D'Ath.

The *Australian*'s Michael McKenna and Sarah Elks reported on the ease of access to decision makers in the Palaszczuk government in an article of 18 June. The details of that article are available to one and all, but I think of interest it pays to read—

The Premier's announcement followed a report in the *Australian* that Star had secretly hired Labor lobbyist Evan Moorhead ...

It goes on to talk about that. It then says—

It can also be revealed that there was infighting within cabinet—

we know that happens on a daily basis; it happens outside cabinet as well on the Labor side—

and the upper echelons of the Public Service over Star ahead of the sweetheart deal it ultimately secured on the Gold Coast.

Sweetheart deal. It is nice to know there are sweethearts in the Labor Party! It continues—

At one stage the perceived easy access for Ms Smith, usually accompanied by Star boss Geoff Hogg, to government offices prompted then tourism minister Kate Jones to warn colleagues and bureaucrats about requirements to have probity officials present at any meeting.

'It seemed to be an open door policy,' one government source said of the pair's access to senior mandarins and ministers.

That is why the LNP has consistently said there ought to have been a full and broad-ranging inquiry by Mr Gotterson. In fact, Mr Gotterson, as he freely says in his report, had limited powers in relation to parts B and C of his terms of reference and no ability to make recommendations about Star's suitability to hold a licence. He did not have the power to make that recommendation—in New South Wales Adam Bell QC, now KC, did—and nor did he have powers of compulsion outside the specific terms of part A of his inquiry. He had no power to compel evidence. He had no power to call for statements. He had no powers to protect people. He could not look at allegations in relation to junket operations at other casinos—and we have seen how those have been exposed by *60 Minutes* on Channel 9 and by the ABC—and nor could he more broadly look at the exercise of influence by the gaming industry on government. Equally and importantly, he could not look—and this is very important—at the relationship between the regulator and the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and the casino operator.

In this regard, as I have said on many occasions, this is a missed opportunity. Mr Gotterson had no power to compel documents or witnesses or hold public hearings into the relationship of the regulator and those it regulates. There was no power to provide for sworn testimony or to protect witnesses who

might have provided vital information about this most important of functions. In that respect and because I was concerned about this, I table a letter I wrote to Mr Gotterson on 1 July after the terms of reference were issued and table Mr Gotterson's response and in doing so note from paragraph 4 of his response—

So too, the casino's relationship with the Regulator falls outside the statute's definition because the focus is the operation and conduct of the casino and not those charged with its regulation and control.

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 1 July 2022, from the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, to the External Reviewer, the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO KC, concerning the external review into the Queensland Operations of the Star Entertainment Group Ltd [1662].

*Tabled paper:* Letter, dated 5 July 2022, from the External Reviewer, the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO KC, to the member for Clayfield, Mr Tim Nicholls MP, concerning the external review into the Queensland Operations of the Star Entertainment Group Ltd [1663].

There it is. The Attorney-General comes in and says, 'Nothing to see here.' The reason there is nothing to see here is because no-one was given the power to look. You cannot open the door, pull aside the curtain and ask people what they see and what they are doing. No, but here is what Mr Gotterson says—

... the casino's relationship with the Regulator falls outside the statute's definition ...

That is not me saying it. That is not the shadow Attorney-General. That is not the LNP; that is the commissioner of inquiry himself who says it falls outside the terms.

I turn now to some of the evidence to the committee and why a look at the relationship between the regulator and those it regulates is so important. Evidence to the parliamentary committee from former acting CEO Mr Hogg revealed Star had not been prosecuted or fined in the five years prior to the introduction of this bill and that evidence was never controverted. No statement was made by OLGR saying that that evidence was wrong. No-one came forward and said, 'Hang on! I can remember when this occurred—not one fine, not one prosecution: amazing statistics!'

Mr Hogg also gave evidence that of the action that was taken, it was in the main as a result of Star self-reporting and not as a result of actions by OLGR. What were OLGR doing? Maybe Star was exemplary, but I do not know whether Mr Gotterson's report of a couple of hundred pages would lend credence to that argument. That is an incredibly concerning statistic. It may have an explanation, but we will never know. It requires more explanation than we have received to date.

I also note that ABC state political reporter Rachel Riga sought information about prosecutions of casinos for breaches of liquor or gaming regulations or laws. While she could be provided information about the number of prosecutions against individuals who had broken the regulations or the laws, for example, under-age on a casino floor or a dealer in cahoots with someone in relation to gaming, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation said that due to the confidentiality provisions—presumably in clause 14 of the bill—they cannot give any information about investigations or prosecutions of casinos. What did John O'Neill want? Secrecy.

What do we have from the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to a valid request by a reporter about how many have you prosecuted and who were they? Radio silence. That is why in consideration in detail I will be moving an amendment to overcome that restriction. The test of this government and whether they believe in openness and transparency will be an amendment that simply allows the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to provide information on the number of investigations and the outcome of those investigations. Queenslanders deserve nothing less.

I acknowledge that Mr Gotterson has looked at the regulator and has not made recommendations for significant change, but, in reality, how could he, given the limited terms of the inquiry? It is not just the opposition that has highlighted the shortfall in the inquiry. Others, including antigambling and gambling harm advocates, as well as experienced industry professionals both here in Australia and overseas, have all said the inquiry ought to have been broadened. All the Attorney offered by way of excuse was that if anyone had any allegations of misconduct into the OLGR they should report them to the CCC. We all know what happens when it goes to the CCC: it gets referred back to the department. We all know what happens when it gets referred back to the department: nothing. We know that because that is the experience. We know that because we have just seen what happened with Forensic and Scientific Services, where even the minister and the director-general of that department now claim they were not given any information so how could they know. It ignores reality. It defies reality.

The decision of this government not to broaden the terms ignores the opportunity offered by the Gotterson inquiry to make a substantial leap forward in casino regulation and regulatory supervision of a very large industry with significant resources and a significant interest in not having its operations scrutinised. Does anyone seriously think the regime in Queensland would not benefit from an inquiry into casino regulation across the board? This is a missed opportunity and it begs the question why the Attorney and this government are so opposed to clearing the air and shining sunlight into the operations of OLGR. What is the reason for their reluctance? It has never been sufficiently explained. No-one has ever put forward an alternative view as to why it should not have been done.

I do not want people to think that I am some sort of wowser. I want to make it clear that I support the concept of properly regulated casinos as part of a well-thought-out and planned tourist strategy that provides investment, jobs and entertainment to many in the community. For many people in the community they are terrific places to go, have dinner, enjoy celebrations, have a flutter, spend some money, stay overnight, really make a day, a night, a weekend, a week of it. They are great. We need to understand that those benefits also come with some dangers. On balance, in my view—others will have a different view—those benefits outweigh the undoubted dangers of casinos in terms of gaming harm and the potential for criminal and other unsavoury activities. Although not a regular gambler myself, like I am sure many people I occasionally enjoy a bit of a punt on the races—badly, because I take my advice from the member for Mermaid Beach and he only gives it to me after they have jumped.

**Mr Hinchliffe:** Big mistake. Don't follow anything he does.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I learnt that lesson a long time ago, member for Sandgate. I also occasionally put a few dollars at a very low limit on black jack tables. My attitude to gaming stems from working for the concert promoters for ZZ Top at the old Gold Coast Raceway in 1986.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER (Ms Lui):** Member, your time has expired.

**Mr NICHOLLS:** I am sorry I will not be able to regale you with that story. Time in consideration in detail beckons beautifully.

 **Mr RUSSO (Toohey—ALP) (4.05 pm):** I rise to speak in support of the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the amendments to be moved during this debate. The Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill was introduced into this Legislative Assembly and referred to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee on 26 May 2022. The bill proposes to implement a range of reforms to the regulation of liquor, gaming and fair trading in Queensland, including amendments that aim to strengthen casino integrity and modernise gambling legislation; introduce a framework for wagering on simulated events; extend New Year's Eve gaming hours; and introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising.

The committee, in its report which was tabled in this Assembly on 22 July 2022, has recommended to the Assembly that this bill be passed. The committee has a further recommendation in relation to the bill, that being that the Queensland government engages with stakeholders to review the legislative framework for charitable fundraising, giving consideration to the relevancy of other state and federal legislation, including consumer law.

The committee was provided with a detailed briefing by the Department of Justice and Attorney General for our consideration which addressed the policy objective reforms of the bill. As set out in the explanatory notes provided by the department to the committee, consultation was undertaken in March 2022 with Queensland casinos, the Alliance for Gambling Reform, United Workers Union, Victorian Gambling and Casino Control Commission and New South Wales Independent Liquor & Gaming Authority. The proposed amendments were generally supported or accepted by stakeholders, with concerns raised on the introduction of a pecuniary penalty as a form of disciplinary action; the introduction of a power to require information on oath or affirmation; and the introduction of an ability to require the engagement of a qualified external adviser.

Stakeholders and subscribers were invited by the committee to make written submissions on the bill which resulted in submissions being received by the committee. The committee's examination of the bill addressed each of the identified objectives and proposed reforms to be introduced. The general public would be aware that inquiries and investigations have been undertaken in multiple jurisdictions in Australia into casinos operated by subsidiaries of Crown Resorts Ltd and the Star Entertainment Group. Allegations of money laundering, criminal infiltration and other serious integrity issues raised in the media were substantiated against Crown's subsidiaries. It should be noted that Crown does not operate casinos in Queensland. The findings of these interstate inquiries identified serious concerns, suggesting that the wider casino sector should be subject to stronger regulatory scrutiny to ensure casinos operate with the highest standards of integrity.

The bill proposes to address matters raised in the inquiries in other jurisdictions by enhancing the Casino Control Act. The mechanisms proposed for this are: introducing and increasing penalties for critical offences to ensure there are meaningful consequences for breaches of the law; imposing a requirement on particular entities to self-report contraventions of the law and breaches, and for the entities to comply with all reasonable requests made by the minister or regulator under the act and for them to do everything necessary to ensure that the management and operations of the casino operator are conducted honestly and fairly; expanding information-gathering powers and introducing other powers that are considered necessary to reflect the complexity of regulating casinos in current times; and a broad prohibition on false and misleading information. The bill proposes meaningful consequences for misconduct and breaches of the law through a penalty administered through an approved control system of penalty points and pecuniary penalties.

To reflect the complexity of modern casino operations, the bill expands the powers of the regulator and minister by bolstering general information-seeking powers to enable any information to be sought from a casino entity or associated person and, if appropriate, for that information to be provided on oath or by statutory declaration. Further, the threshold for taking disciplinary action would be lowered and reasonable costs and expenses of any disciplinary action would be able to be recovered from a casino entity.

The department emphasised that the state and community expects casinos to operate with ‘the utmost integrity and fairness and remain free from criminal influence and exploitation (which is a significant risk for this industry)’, and that the public ‘expects that casino entities should take full responsibility for any misconduct regardless of when that misconduct may have occurred.’

While concerns were raised by a stakeholder to the proposal that the operations of an associate may be investigated and considered to determine the suitability of a Queensland casino entity, the department advised that the Casino Control Act has always recognised that a casino entity’s associates are relevant to this ‘in order to prevent criminal involvement and influence, and maintain public confidence in the integrity of the industry’. The committee supports the department’s view that the object of the Casino Control Act is to ensure that the state and community as a whole benefit from casino gambling and that, in a circumstance where an act or omission by a casino entity is so serious that it warrants disciplinary action by the Governor in Council, it is necessary, on public interest grounds, for the Governor in Council’s decision to be final and non-reviewable so that the casino entity can be disciplined as quickly as possible and with certainty.

The department also advised that the casino integrity reforms contained in the bill are considered to be examples of best practice casino regulation that will be applicable to all casinos and are not in response to any specific allegations or findings against Queensland casino operators. Many of the amendments will ensure appropriate action can be taken against casino entities if misconduct or breaches of the law have been substantiated such as the amendments to introduce new disciplinary fines and the ability to recoup the reasonable costs of taking disciplinary action against a casino entity.

The committee examined the amendments proposed in the bill to various gambling legislation to reduce red tape and modernise the increasingly complex legislative environment. The key amendments would facilitate the transition to safe cashless gambling. The Victorian Finkelstein inquiry found that ‘cash is a medium favoured by criminals and leaves casinos particularly vulnerable to money laundering’. The bill amendments propose to remove any legislative barriers to considering and approving cashless payment methods. The implementation of cashless payments for gambling are not proposed for immediate or mandatory use. There is balance provided through the introduction of broad conditioning powers to enable conditions to be placed on all equipment approvals.

Charities and not-for-profits are increasingly operating across state borders and online. To reduce the regulatory burden to the sector with regard to the compliance of fundraising requirements across jurisdictions, the bill amends the Collections Act 1966 to introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising. The committee noted the support and arguments from key organisations and experts regarding a review of fundraising legislation. While the committee acknowledged a review of fundraising legislation was outside the scope of the bill, it is of the view that consideration be given to a review in the future. It was for this reason the committee made our second recommendation to review the legislative framework for charitable fundraising.

On behalf of the committee, I thank those individuals and organisations who made written submissions on the bill. I also thank our Parliamentary Service staff and the Department of Justice and Attorney-General. I commend the Attorney-General for her response on 13 September when she commented on the findings and allegations of criminal infiltration, money laundering and institutional concealment presented at the NSW inquiry. I commend the bill to the House.

60 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.15 pm): Queensland's casino industry must be above reproach. As it stands, the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill aims to increase the regulatory scrutiny of casinos and ensure they operate with a high standard of integrity. This is absolutely imperative and I will always support legislation that is modern and informed by best practice and evidence. However, this bill was spurred by revelations of misconduct in New South Wales that saw the government belatedly commence an inquiry into the operations of the Star Entertainment Group Ltd in Queensland. New South Wales announced their review of the Star Entertainment Group late last year. In Queensland, our government did not take action until mid-June this year. That is despite months of serious allegations of misconduct, including from the lawyers for the New South Wales inquiry stating that Star was not suitable to hold a casino licence back in May. That delay is unacceptable.

As parliamentarians, it is our responsibility to do everything in our power to thwart criminal activity and money laundering. I know how insidious crime syndicates and organised crime can be. I started my career as a federal prosecutor, confiscating proceeds of crime from underworld criminals. We know there is a real risk of money laundering, the washing of proceeds of crime, through casinos. But this bill has been rushed and is a missed opportunity to make meaningful improvements in this area.

There is still a lot of work to be done. After being so slow to act, now we see the state government is forced to rush this bill through and, sadly, it represents a missed opportunity to enhance Queensland's casino regulatory framework. When drafted, this bill draw on recommendations from the Finkelstein inquiry. We on this side of the House called the bill out as premature, given that at that time the New South Wales Bell inquiry and our Queensland Gotterson review into the Star Entertainment Group had not yet been completed. Not two weeks ago, the Gotterson review was handed down and contained findings that the Star Entertainment Group is unsuitable to hold a licence, with findings of serious misconduct on their behalf.

Regrettably, the hands of the Hon. Robert Gotterson AO, KC were tied in this review. The terms of reference were so narrow that he could not fully investigate the role of the regulator, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. He could not investigate what they knew. He could not investigate what they did not know. He could not investigate what they acted on or, more importantly, what they did not act on. Gotterson was also unable to consider the undue influence of a minister and, given the close connections that have been publicly reported between the Labor Party and Star Entertainment Group, that is very concerning and no doubt deliberate by the Labor Party.

Let us go through some of what has been publicly reported. On 14 June 2022, the *Australian* reported that a Labor lobbyist behind the Premier's re-election had been secretly working for Star Entertainment Group. The *Australian* also revealed close backroom ties between senior Queensland Labor figures and Star, which has both hosted and paid for fundraisers for Palaszczuk government ministers.

It is reported that Star Entertainment Group hosted and covered the costs of a Labor fundraiser at its Brisbane casino hotel for the former Queensland attorney-general and now embattled health minister. At the time, as attorney-general she regulated the gaming industry and was in the process of considering the approval of the gambling giant's master plan for its Gold Coast operations. It was a fundraiser held in a private dining room at the Treasury Hotel in the Brisbane CBD in the lead-up to the 2017 state election, with food and alcohol also paid for by the listed gambling company. It is understood that the fundraiser, billed as 'The great debate: lawyers make the best politicians', raised tens of thousands of dollars for the former attorney-general's campaign.

It is completely inappropriate for Labor's attorney-general at the time—now the embattled health minister—the key decision-maker for casinos, to be accepting political donations from Queensland's main casino operator. At the time, this raised significant questions about the government's refusal to appoint an external investigator for review of the company's fitness to operate our state's two biggest casinos as well as its flagship \$3.6 billion Queen's Wharf being built just across the road from 1 William Street.

Now, just months on from Professor Coaldrake's review, which raised significant concerns about the influence of lobbyists, the state government chose to make sure the terms of reference for the Gotterson review were not broad enough to review the links between Labor and lobbyists. It is extremely disappointing but it is what we see time and time again from this state Labor government, a government that is more concerned with how things look than actually getting to the root of problems and with saving its own political bacon than actually caring about people.

We know that the state casino regulator, the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation, is still investigating organised crime links associated with the key backer of the Queen's Wharf casino following revelations by the ABC in August. The Attorney-General stated that she will release those findings, but do not hold your breath. However, again in the terms of reference here was a missed opportunity. The Queensland Gotterson review had no compulsory powers to investigate the shareholder and close associate of Star alleged to have organised crime links as part of the review.

The Gotterson review made 12 recommendation pertaining to carded play, cashless gaming, limits on gambling, collections of carded play data, availability of carded play data, terminology of the Casino Control Act, a code of conduct for safer gambling, supervision levy, periodic review requirements, interstate gambling exclusions and the provision of a special manager. The government has in principle accepted all of these recommendations.

Given this acceptance and the turnaround time of the Gotterson review, there is no good reason why—having failed to take action for so long—the government needed to hastily rush this bill through the committee process without the benefit of the Gotterson recommendations or even the recommendations from the New South Wales Bell inquiry. We need casino operators to operate with the utmost integrity. For that, we need a regulator that is proactive and effective in its role. To get this legislative protection, the terms of reference of the Gotterson review needed to be broader. They needed to be wideranging. The committee inquiry into the bill needed the benefit of that report to take into consideration when inquiring into the bill.

As deputy chair of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, the committee that conducted the inquiry into the bill, it is extremely concerning to me that we did not have the benefit of the Gotterson review before our committee tabled its report. It is yet another example of this state government avoiding scrutiny. Now we see the amendments to this bill being moved in consideration in detail again without the opportunity for scrutiny and without going through the committee process. There are amendments that we in opposition have only just been shown. The committee has not had the opportunity to review and scrutinise. This is not how good government should operate. That is not consultation.

Another issue I want to touch on, separate from the casino integrity issues, is that throughout the committee process we heard from submitters that our Queensland fundraising legislation is significantly outdated. As such, a review into the legislative framework for charitable fundraising needs to be completed as proposed by the bill. The Queensland Law Society stated in its submission to the committee—

We also renew our repeated requests for a complete review of fundraising legislation in Queensland and its harmonisation with other jurisdictions. The current initiative will involve charities, but there are many community organisations that do not qualify for charitable status, such as sporting bodies, service clubs, neighbourhood centres and interest associations that are not regarded as charities, even though they are not for profit ...

Given this submission from the state's peak professional legal body for legal practitioners, I encourage the government to conduct a review into Queensland's fundraising legislation.

The bill proposes to implement a range of reforms. I will always support reforms that mean we reduce the harm caused by gambling and the harm caused by gambling in our communities. As such, I support the measures proposed in this bill; however, I reiterate my concerns that this bill is a missed opportunity. The fact that it is being put through parliament so hastily and being rushed through the committee process when the state government has done nothing on this issue for years demonstrates the absolute dysfunction and chaos within the state government right now.

This is why I will be supporting the shadow Attorney's amendments which will allow the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation to release its prosecution statistics against casinos, because the public should be aware of what the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation is doing in order to protect them. That is its job. The fact that the Gotterson review was not broad enough to look into that or into the links between Labor lobbyists and Star casino and casinos in general is a disgrace. That is a complete missed opportunity by this bill. I have no doubt that it was by design. I have no doubt that the limited terms of reference of the Gotterson review were completely by design so that this state Labor government could avoid scrutiny and avoid what good government should do, which is to be open, honest and transparent. They have failed in that in every respect.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (4.25 pm): I rise today to speak to the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. I thank the Attorney-General for her tireless work and the indefatigable attention to detail that has become her hallmark. Before addressing the bill, I take the time

to thank the other members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee: chair Mr Peter Russo, member for Toohey; deputy chair Mrs Laura Gerber, member for Currumbin; Ms Sandy Bolton, member for Noosa; Ms Jonty Bush, member for Cooper; Mr Jon Krause, member for Scenic Rim; and of course the diligent and hardworking members of the secretariat who make the task immeasurably smoother and easier. They are utterly indispensable.

On 31 May 2022 the committee invited stakeholders and subscribers to make written submissions on the bill. Eight submissions were received. The committee received a public briefing about the bill from the Office of Regulatory Policy—Liquor, Gaming and Fair Trading, Department of Justice and Attorney-General on 8 June 2022. A transcript is published on the committee's webpage. The committee also received written advice from the department in response to matters raised in the submission.

The committee held a public hearing on 11 June 2022. Subsequently, the committee made two recommendations. The committee recommends: that the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 be passed; and that the Queensland government engages with stakeholders to review the legislative framework for charitable fundraising, giving consideration to the relevancy of other state and federal legislation including consumer law.

The explanatory notes outline the objectives of the bill as implementation of a range of reforms relevant to the regulation of liquor gaming and fair trading in Queensland—

The amendments in the Bill are to:

- ensure casino integrity and modernise gaming legislation;
- introduce a framework for wagering on simulated events;
- extend New Year's gaming hours; and
- introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising.

By way of background, inquiries and investigations have been undertaken into casinos operated by subsidiaries of Crown Resorts Ltd, known as Crown, and Star Entertainment Group Ltd, known as the Star or Star in multiple jurisdictions. The findings of these inquiries—the Finkelstein inquiry in Victoria, the Bergin inquiry in New South Wales and the Owen inquiry in Western Australia—suggest that the wider casino sector should be subject to stronger regulatory scrutiny.

The bill will seek to confront the matters raised by the previous inquiries via a number of avenues that will enhance the Casino Control Act. The bill will significantly increase penalties for critical offences; impose a requirement to self-report contraventions while complying with all reasonable requests from the minister or regulator; expand information-gathering powers; and introduce other powers which are considered necessary to reflect the complexity of regulating casinos.

As we all realise that casinos are indeed complex structures, the bill will further bolster general information-seeking powers to enable any information, including information that is subject to legal professional privilege, to be sought from a casino entity or a person associated with a casino entity and for that information to be provided on oath or by statutory declaration.

The bill will also lower the threshold for taking disciplinary action including making the contravention of the Casino Act a ground for taking disciplinary action and enabling reasonable costs and expenses of disciplinary action to be recovered from a casino entity.

While it is true that the QHA expressed some concerns around the bill citing a need for substantial evidence required for regulators as opposed to simple allegations, the department responded—

The casino integrity reforms contained in the Bill are considered to be examples of best practice casino regulation that will be applicable to all casinos and are not in response to any specific allegations or findings against Queensland casino operators.

Many of the amendments will ensure appropriate action can be taken against casino entities if misconduct or breaches of the law have been substantiated such as the amendments to introduce new disciplinary fines and the ability to recoup the reasonable costs of taking disciplinary action against a casino entity.

The committee further heard that the Finkelstein inquiry recommended that Crown Melbourne be directed to phase out the use of cash for gaming transactions over \$1,000 as cash is a medium favoured by criminals and leaves casinos particularly vulnerable to money laundering. In this regard, the bill proposes to remove any legislative barriers to considering and approving cashless payment methods—that is, allowing an alternate payment method such as EFTPOS to be considered and approved; and ensuring that cashless systems and technology can be approved with conditions if required and made to undergo technical evaluation if considered necessary before their use in the gambling market.

In response to a submission from the Cancer Council of Queensland around premium gaming rooms not being subject to smoke-free laws, the department advised that this was outside the scope of the bill. That said, the committee is of the view that the Cancer Council of Queensland has highlighted an area of potential reform of the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act 1988 in relation to smoking in premium casino gaming rooms. In this regard, the committee encourages the Queensland government to undertake consultation with the relevant stakeholders including casino operators, the Cancer Council of Queensland and unions with a view to removing smoking in all Queensland casinos.

In addition, the bill proposes to amend the Wagering Act 1998 to authorise sports wagering licensees to conduct wagering on simulated sports and simulated racing events and related contingencies that are approved by the minister. The bill confines the definition of a 'simulated event' to a race or sporting event simulated by a computer where the outcome is solely determined by a random number generator. To ensure the fairness and integrity of the product, the simulated event random number generator will be brought within the existing regime under the Wagering Act and Wagering Regulation 1999 for technical evaluation and equipment approvals. The amendment proposed by the bill will allow Ubet to offer the same wagering products offered by Tabcorp subsidiaries in New South Wales, Victoria and the Australian Capital Territory, subject to ministerial approvals of those products.

As can be imagined, this did not go without commentary from Responsible Wagering Australia, but the department was able to advise—

The Bill provides additional safeguards by allowing the chief executive to condition equipment approvals. Additionally, Ministerial approval of a simulated event or simulated contingency may be withdrawn for any reason the Minister considers appropriate, including if the simulated event or simulated contingency is contrary to the public interest. A decision of the Minister to withdraw approval is not reviewable.

Naturally the findings of the Gotterson report have and will have an impact on this report and the issue of casinos more broadly. The government supports all 12 recommendations of the Gotterson review including: as a priority, amending provisions of the Casino Control Act to allow for the appointment of a special manager to increase supervision and integrity of operations; with powers akin to those in the New South Wales Casino Control Act, institute periodic investigations into the suitability of all Queensland casinos paid for by the casinos; casino licensees to pay a supervision levy as a condition of their licence; and a mandatory code of conduct for safe gambling with significant fines for noncompliance.

Significantly, Mr Gotterson found no suggestion of any inappropriate interference by the minister of the day or the government in regulatory decisions relating to Star. Similarly, Mr Gotterson did not find sufficient justification to change fundamentally the structure of the Queensland regulator. However, in regard to the Queens Wharf financial commitment agreement regulatory restrictions and compensation clauses, he noted that the state legislature should not be fettered in its capacity to impose controls on casinos or compensate them in any way for having done so. The government has agreed with Mr Gotterson and will act accordingly.

Casinos will be required to make reasonable endeavours to exclude persons subject to the exclusion directions of police commissioners in other states. A number of recommendations were made to improve gambling harm minimisation including mandatory carded play and limits on cash transactions. The government has also determined to raise the maximum penalty that can be imposed on a casino to a proposed \$100 million.

I conclude by observing that, while I do not gamble outside of the Melbourne Cup—and my scientific method then is to essentially look at the colours of the jockeys' silks and decide which name I like—or scratching an occasional scratchy, I have absolutely no issue with others indulging. However, it is an industry that demands extremely close monitoring and regulation. This bill and the amendments provide reassurance to me that this government is keeping the best interests of all Queenslanders uppermost in mind. On that note, I commend the bill to the House.

 **Ms BOLTON** (Noosa—Ind) (4.34 pm): It is crucial for the Queensland government to regulate and oversight the gambling industry on behalf of the Queensland community for, while gambling is enjoyed responsibly by many, we must continually guard against the twin issues of problem gambling and corruption. We have had several major interstate inquiries—which we have heard about earlier—into corruption in casino operations and now the external review of the Queensland operations of the Star Entertainment Group which has reached some concerning conclusions on the operations of casinos in Queensland.

The Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 seeks to strengthen casino integrity and regulation by imposing increased obligations on casino operators. These include a duty to cooperate with the government and a duty to ensure that casino operations are conducted honestly and fairly. During the committee inquiry there were no submissions opposing these changes in this bill.

Whilst supporting the intent of the bill, there are two main areas of concern that I outlined in my statement of reservation. Firstly, the bill proposes to remove barriers to cashless payments and cashless gaming, yet it does not propose any additional harm minimisation mechanisms to go with these changes. Although the bill provides a regulation-making power to prescribe harm minimisation measures at some point in the future, there has not been any indication during the scrutiny of the bill as to what these will be.

Cashless payments and gaming have the potential to reduce the effectiveness of current harm minimisation. For example, it would reduce interactions with cashiers and staff such that self and venue excluded gamblers may be less likely to be identified. It would have been possible during the development of this bill to craft these harm minimisation measures and I really cannot understand why it was not done. However, I acknowledge the minister's reassurances that the cashless technology will only be installed in appropriate environments.

Secondly, the bill also provides for amendments to the Wagering Act to allow Tabcorp to conduct wagering on simulated sports and racing events. In this case, a simulated event is one where the outcome is randomly determined. While this product is intended to be a replacement for the existing Keno Racing, it is actually an expansion as it allows for not only simulated racing but also sports events.

The Cancer Council in its submission urged that the historical anomaly where premium gaming rooms are the only public enclosed spaces that are not subject to smoke-free laws should be removed. Subsequently, Star casino wrote to the committee stating that it has committed to its casinos becoming smoke-free indoor environments by the end of 2022.

The bill also proposes to amend the Collections Act to streamline the registering of charitable fundraisers. This will be done by providing for the deeming of registration under the Collections Act in Queensland for entities registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission. These amendments will be helpful in removing the red tape for charities and in particular for those that operate cross-border. Both the Queensland Law Society and Justice Connect supported these changes; however, they also pushed for a much more extensive review and harmonisation of fundraising legislation, which I understand has been a long-term goal of the not-for-profit sector for many years. There is a real opportunity here for the states and territories to come together and harmonise fundraising requirements across the country.

The striking aspect of this bill—and we have heard about this earlier—is the question why it needed to come before parliament at this time. We have now had an independent inquiry which has made extensive recommendations for legislative change around limits on the use of electronic gaming machines, play and break time controls, data collection, a code of conduct and general updating of the act. Waiting until this report was delivered would have allowed more work to be done on the issues that were raised during the inquiry including whether any recommendations should flow on to other gaming environments.

The minister has outlined amendments in response. However, receiving these at the last moment makes it impossible to scrutinise fully and appropriately. Waiting would have also provided an opportunity to address the issues raised by various gaming entities, both Queensland and Northern Territory licensed operators, regarding the taxation, regulation and responsible gambling requirements in Queensland.

In closing, I would like to thank our chair, secretariat, fellow committee members, submitters, attendees to the public hearing and public briefing and the department for their work. Even though originally fully in support of the bill, I believe it is difficult to do so until being able to understand what the amendments do to the bill that the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee originally scrutinised.

 **Ms BUSH (Cooper—ALP)** (4.39 pm): I rise to speak in support of the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. Its principal objective is to strengthen the integrity of casino operators in Queensland. As the Attorney-General has said, she will be moving amendments to the bill which will advance this objective further.

As part of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, our committee was responsible for reviewing this bill. In May we invited stakeholders and other interested people to make written submissions. We received eight submissions. We held a public hearing in July and received written departmental advice. The committee's report into this bill was published in July this year and is available, along with all other relevant documentation, on the Queensland parliament website.

The committee made two recommendations: firstly, that the bill be passed and, secondly, that the Queensland government engage with relevant stakeholders to review the legislative framework for charitable fundraising. I will speak to that later in my contribution. I do not think that there would be a person in Queensland, or in fact nationwide, who does not recognise the value in strengthening the integrity framework for casino operators at this time. I think it is really important to say at the outset that this bill is being debated in the context of some significant investigations and findings relating to casino integrity throughout the country.

Media reports on the practices of some operators which were unethical and in some cases unlawful—practices which include money laundering, criminal infiltration and associations with casinos particularly—have resulted in closer scrutiny of casino practices and operators and prompted several major inquiries into Crown Resorts Ltd and The Star Entertainment Group Ltd. These inquiries, as others have said, include the Finkelstein inquiry in Victoria, the Bergin inquiry in New South Wales, the Owen inquiry in Western Australia, the Bell inquiry in New South Wales and the Gotterson inquiry in Queensland—which for context commenced midway through our committee's inquiry into this bill and the Gotterson report was provided to the Queensland government 13 days ago today.

A number of findings have already been made from these inquiries specifically in relation to the casino operators, but generally these events, the inquiries and recommendations arising from them have highlighted that the wider casino sector should be subject to stronger regulatory integrity, transparency and accountability. I recognise the comments made in the statements of reservation that the government ought to have delayed this bill and instead deal with the entire suite of casino reforms that have now been recommended in the Gotterson inquiry. I do recognise that argument. Naturally, I have a different view.

**Mr Krause** interjected.

**Ms BUSH:** I know, surprising. When the government reaches the point where a reasonable person would suspect that there is a problem and that the problem is likely to impact significantly and negatively on Queenslanders—and it is within the government's authority to act—then the government should act.

If we reflect back to the period when the bill was introduced, two independent inquiry reports into Crown casino had been handed down which resulted in Crown subsidiaries being found unfit to hold casino licences in those states. The Bell inquiry into Star Sydney was underway and public hearings had already revealed concerning information. Given this and the shared governance and operational arrangements of Star Group entities more broadly, and information gleaned through Queensland's own casino regulator, I totally back the Attorney-General's decisive action in introducing this bill when she did.

I recognise that it does not deal with all of the issues contained in the Gotterson inquiry, but this bill was never designed to do that. It was designed to bring about some immediate and necessary reform to strengthen the integrity framework for casino operators. Queenslanders need to trust that casinos are operating ethically, lawfully and with transparency and accountability. I believe that this bill will absolutely advance that which is why I will be supporting it and will be supporting the amendments which the Attorney-General has foreshadowed she will move during consideration in detail.

The bill proposes to address matters raised during the inquiries by enhancing the Casino Control Act through introducing and increasing penalties for critical offences to create stronger consequences for breaches of the law; imposing a requirement on particular entities—that is, casino licensees, casino lessees, casino operators under casino management agreements and their associates—to report contraventions of the law and breaches of certain prescribed agreements to which they are a party and to comply with all reasonable requests made by the minister or regulator under the act and do everything necessary to ensure that the management and operations of the casino operator are conducted fairly and honestly; and expanding information-gathering powers and introducing other powers which are considered necessary to reflect the complexity of regulating casinos in current times.

The bill was generally supported by stakeholders. There were some issues raised including that the financial penalty that could be imposed on casinos be raised to \$100 million in line with other jurisdictions. The Attorney-General has spoken to this today and will be introducing amendments to that effect. The Attorney-General's amendments allow the Governor in Council to appoint a special manager who will oversee and monitor the casino's operations and ensure it is complying with approved remediation plans, similar to models introduced in New South Wales and Victoria.

Stakeholders raised issues relating to the harm minimisation aspects of the bill, with many industry submitters submitting that the current voluntary model of regulation was working. This bill is proposing stronger prescribed harm minimisation. The method to achieve that will be through subordinate legislation which should enable industry and the relevant minister to take a more responsive approach to individual pubs and clubs. I recognise industry feedback that the demands on our different pubs and clubs throughout the state do differ. Obviously the needs of a nightclub operating in Surfers Paradise are quite different to the needs and demands on the Nindigully pub, for example. I recognise that feedback.

Finally, the committee did make recommendations that the Queensland government engage with relevant stakeholders into the relevant framework for charitable fundraising. This recommendation was a reflection of the views and wishes of stakeholders who made submissions to the committee, notably the Queensland Law Society and Justice Connect. I want to thank them for sharing their valued observations and findings.

I note also that the Queensland government is an ongoing participant in national interjurisdictional efforts to harmonise fundraising legislation including the development of the cross-border recognition model introduced by this bill, removal of duplicated financial reporting requirements and ongoing work to harmonise fundraising conduct regulations. There has been reform already even in the past few months in this space including amendments to the Associations Incorporation Regulation and the Collections Regulation to reduce the reporting burden from some classes of charities.

Further, a consultation paper was published on the Office of Fair Trading website in August asking for feedback on whether changes are needed in relation to the revenue and assets threshold for reporting obligations for charities under the Associations Incorporation Regulation and the Collections Regulation. Feedback is closed and I look forward to the findings and recommendations which stem from that.

This is a good bill and it is an important bill. No-one in this room is debating that it will make improvements and enhance the integrity framework for casinos in Queensland. The Gotterson inquiry has made recommendations which the government has accepted in principle. We will see further reform in this space. This bill is an excellent step in that direction and I commend it to the House.

 **Mr KRAUSE** (Scenic Rim—LNP) (4.48 pm): In opening I would like to accord myself with all of the remarks from the member for Clayfield, the shadow Attorney-General, about this bill.

**Mr Nicholls:** Including the ones that I didn't get to!

**Mr KRAUSE:** Perhaps we should revisit that, member for Clayfield. In my time in this place I think it is fair to say that I have developed somewhat of a suspicious mind especially when it comes to dealing with government bills and statements of the government about their intentions for doing things. That has been heightened even more by the way that this bill has come about in this House, because the sequence of events seem altogether too convenient for the government.

Late last year and earlier this year we saw storm clouds on the horizon down south with casino regulation. Then we had this bill—which is a step in the right direction but lacks detail in many respects—introduced into the parliament in May. The committee process was put in train and completed before Mr Gotterson KC, assisted by Mr Horton KC, could conduct their public hearings, so the committee process was blind to some of the things that came out in that inquiry in their consideration of this bill. Then amendments were brought into this House by the Attorney-General, as I think has been noted by other members, 13 days after the report was handed to the government by Mr Gotterson—amendments that the committee now will not have the opportunity to deliberate on, will not have the opportunity to take evidence on and will not have the opportunity to take submissions on, but they will be rammed through this House with the government's numbers. This bill looks awfully like the government is circling the wagons to protect themselves from attack for their failure in the casino regulation space, timed deliberately to head off criticism in respect of their own misdeeds.

One of the things that came out of the committee process which the member for Clayfield asked a question about was the number of enforcement actions Star has been subjected to in the last five years, I think it was. The then acting CEO answered and said zero. Given what has come out of the Gotterson review and the fact that the Attorney-General has given them a show cause notice about why they should continue to hold a casino licence, the fact that they have not had any enforcement action taken against them in the last five years is absolutely incredible. They could have their casino licence taken off them, but that will be the first enforcement action in the last five years. What has the OLGR and the government been doing about Star's conduct over the last five years?

I point to comments made by the shadow Attorney-General where it was made quite clear in correspondence back to him from Mr Gotterson that the casino and Star's relationship with the regulator fell outside the terms of reference for his review. It fell outside the terms of reference of this inquiry as well because it is not dealt with in the bill. It should have been dealt with in the bill. That is why the statement of reservation says that this bill is too early and it should have been delayed to deal properly with Gotterson's report and not just dealt with by amendments brought in by the Attorney-General that are not subject to any review.

We have seen what happens in the past when that is done: there are normally mistakes. We will be back here later in the year or next year to fix mistakes that might have been picked up if they had gone through the committee process and been subject to public review. It might be pretty embarrassing for the government if these amendments were subjected to public inquiry and examination by the committee. There might be some uncomfortable questions asked.

If the terms of reference had been framed correctly, perhaps there might have been some uncomfortable questions asked too by Mr Horton, who assisted Mr Gotterson. The bill is as it is. We are supporting it, but it could have been so much better. This is a massive missed opportunity for this government to deal properly with the issue of casino regulation.

The member for Cooper said in her contribution here just a few minutes ago words to the effect of 'the bill is not designed to deal with all issues'. I believe that in itself is a concession that it should have been dealing with other issues. It could have been dealing with other issues including the—

**Mr Power:** That is why you are moving amendments.

**Mr KRAUSE:** I will take that interjection from the member for Logan. There are amendments on the table that should have been subject to the committee process if the—

**Mr Power:** But what are you moving?

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly):** Order! The member for Logan's comments will come through the chair.

**Mr KRAUSE:** As I said, member for Logan, this is all about circling the wagons, protecting the government, you and all of your colleagues in the government from uncomfortable public review. When you see the allegations that have been made in Sydney in relation to Star and other casinos around the country concerning the influence of Chinese gambling syndicates, the misuse of China UnionPay cards for money laundering, and the influence of criminal gangs from overseas in this process, it is no wonder they want to avoid scrutiny of the actions of the regulator and the relationship between Star and the regulator. It might get a little bit uncomfortable. That is why the amendments are not going through the public process, and that is why this bill was brought into this House in May ahead of Gotterson to head off uncomfortable questions for the government, the Attorney-General and everybody on the government benches who has been a party to this in the past few years.

The member for Clayfield also briefly mentioned the sweetheart deal being done when it comes to virtual racing and asked whether that raises any other integrity questions. There were questions asked about that in the committee process, but we were stonewalled in every attempt to get details out about that and whether there was an open process for the awarding of that and whether there will be in the future an open process for the awarding of those contracts.

When it comes to integrity, openness and taking action when action needs to be taken, this government and the OLGR look for all intents and purposes to be totally asleep at the wheel. There should have been a widening of those terms for the Gotterson inquiry. All I can say is that it must be extremely embarrassing. There must be some incredibly embarrassing facts to be revealed about the action or inaction of the government for them not to agree to a widening of those terms because it is such a serious issue. There are billions of dollars that have been invested just across the road at Queen's Wharf that are largely contingent on there being a successful casino operation, yet they are covering up and refusing to let the light shine in on what the truth is when it comes to the operations of Star in this state and to get the casino regulatory framework right in this state.

When it comes to this process and the truncated approach that has been taken by the Attorney-General I want to compare it to the actions of the Attorney-General when it comes to reforms to the CCC. By my last reckoning there were between 10 and 20—and perhaps even a couple more—reforms with legislation that have not been brought to the House by the Attorney-General to reform the

CCC that they have agreed to, apparently, some dating back to 30 June 2021. That is 16 months ago, yet there has been no legislation brought forward to enact them even though they apparently agree with them.

When this issue came up, when there were storm clouds on the horizon, the Attorney-General acted so quickly, brought this bill in, truncated the process and headed off debate about the real issues—which were contained in the amendments—that will not go to committee. It certainly looks like this government is circling the wagons to protect themselves from the embarrassing fact they have failed when it comes to holding Star to account and to hide some uncomfortable facts about relationships between the Labor Party, their members and ministers and Star Entertainment Group. We are supporting this bill, but it is a massive missed opportunity.

Debate, on motion of Mr Krause, adjourned.

## MOTION

### Youth Crime

 **Mrs GERBER** (Currumbin—LNP) (4.58 pm): I move—

That this House notes the failure of the state government to combat youth crime resulting in:

- youth car theft out of control in places including Gold Coast, Toowoomba, Townsville and Cairns;
- businesspeople in places including Hervey Bay and Dingo being forced to board up their shops or close after multiple break-ins;
- innocent people being run down by stolen vehicles across Queensland including Redlands and Townsville;
- money wasted on an abandoned youth jail in Caloundra,

and calls on the government to act to protect Queenslanders.

Enough is enough. Queensland is in the grip of a youth crime wave, and this state Labor government is not acting and they are not listening. Queenslanders right across this state from Coolangatta to the Torres Strait are fed up with this government prioritising politics over people. The state Labor government has absolutely no idea and no plan when it comes to youth crime. The youth justice system is broken. As the shadow assistant minister for justice and youth, as a former prosecutor and as a mum, I know it. The police out there know it and—do you know what, Mr Deputy Speaker?—the youth criminals know it.

The Premier, her police minister and the youth justice minister have been idly sitting on their hands while youth car thefts rise out of control, innocent people are being killed by stolen cars and families are being terrorised. The human toll of this state government's inaction and weak laws over the last two years is 11 people—five innocent people and six juveniles. That is the human cost of this state Labor government's weak laws. I am going to read that into the record.

On 26 January 2021 in Alexandra Hills, Matthew Field, Kate Leadbetter and their unborn son, Miles, were heinously killed by a repeat juvenile offender. He was in a stolen car, he was drunk, he was high, he had a criminal history as long as my arm and he was out on bail. On 5 February 2021 in Townsville, Jennifer Board was tragically killed by a vigilante pursuing a juvenile in a stolen car. On 9 June 2021 in Bowen, a juvenile who was in state care at the time was killed after stealing a car from the care facility. On 14 February this year in Cairns, Bradley Smith—a passenger in a stolen car driven by a juvenile—was killed. There were six juveniles in that car, and four were allegedly on bail. On 7 June in Townsville, four juveniles were killed in a stolen car. On 26 September in Wynnum West—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, resume your seat while I take some advice. I will issue general guidance to all members. If members refer to matters, the cases and the convictions need to have been finalised. If those matters are ongoing, they would be subject to the sub judice rules in the standing orders of the House. I ask members to ensure you comply with the standing orders.

**Mrs GERBER:** This is the human cost of Labor's weak laws and their failed youth justice bail legislation. On the Gold Coast there is a culture of crime, with teenage thieves banding together to scope out and stalk unsuspecting community members. They call it creeping. They are stealing whatever they want—cash, cars and valuables—and then boasting about it on social media. Mark said, 'These repeat offenders are just laughing at us and they're effectively being rewarded for bad behaviour.'

Andrew Farquharson is another victim of youth crime. He said he has been terrorised. These brazen youth crims posted a video on social media of the Farquharson home and informed other youth crims that it was an easy target. Andrew's daughters are afraid to go home. They are studying in Brisbane and they are afraid to go to their Toowoomba home because of the exposure they have had to youth crime. It is an absolute disgrace that Queenslanders are living in fear like this.

What more does this state government need before they take some real action to prevent youth crime tearing Queensland families apart? How many more people need to be killed before we see consequences for actions? How many more of these teens need to die before police are given powers to protect juvenile offenders from themselves? How many more Queenslanders need to lose their lives before the government releases the Bob Atkinson review into their failed youth bail legislation?

It is not just the victims of crime coming to me; it is the families of the youth criminals. They are in our offices and they are telling us they want to see these laws to protect their kids because they are afraid their kids are going to be the next statistic. It is not good enough that this state government is not doing anything. It is not good enough that their bail laws have failed Queenslanders and failed us so miserably. Queenslanders deserve to see breach of bail as an offence, we deserve legislative change, and police deserve the powers to be able to do something about youth crime in this state. It is tearing us apart. It is not just that people are dying, because the human cost of Labor's weak laws and their failed bail laws is that 11 people have died; we are seeing the flow-on consequence of that. Families are being torn apart by this crime wave, and that lies at the feet of this minister.

*(Time expired)*

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (5.04 pm): I move the following amendment—

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

- (a) the record investment and action over successive years by the Palaszczuk government in community safety and youth justice measures;
- (b) the impact that crime, including youth crime, has on individuals, communities and businesses in Queensland;
- (c) the work of the dedicated Queensland frontline workers, including Queensland Police Service officers, youth detention workers, youth justice officers and Queensland Corrective Services officers in keeping our community safe;
- (d) the Queensland government will continue to implement evidenced-based initiatives to protect Queenslanders.'

I start by acknowledging the significant trauma and tragedy associated with crime in any state and any community. It is very human; it is very real; it is very personal. I am very sad about those examples of trauma and tragedy associated with criminal offending. Every member of this House is moved by those tragedies, and every member of this House is committed to ensuring that victims of crime are supported and perpetrators are held to account. This government is very serious about those approaches. We do support victims of crime, we do prioritise initiatives to support victims of crime and we do take a strong approach to ensuring perpetrators are held to account for their criminal offending. That is a commitment of this government and it is a commitment that we take very seriously.

I am still disappointed in those opposite. There was a commitment made by the member for Burdekin 21 months ago, or 91 weeks ago, or 640 days ago, that the LNP would have a plan when it comes to community safety. The member for Burdekin has failed to deliver. It is probably that failure to deliver which has reinforced the attitude of those opposite when it comes to their treatment of police officers and former police officers. We see the member for Lockyer who got sacked and moved up the back, we see the member for Ninderry who got sacked from the shadow portfolio, and now we see the member for Burdekin has been sacked from moving the motion on law and order.

This is a very serious issue that the government takes seriously and that we act on. We have strengthened laws in this state. Our youth bail laws are among the strongest in the nation. We have increased resourcing for intervention programs and youth justice rehabilitation programs, and we have increased resourcing for the Queensland Police Service. Those increases in resources, particularly for the Queensland Police Service, have allowed for additional activity to be done to promote community safety.

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): The members for McConnel and Theodore will cease their quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr RYAN:** For instance, under our five-point youth justice plan, police have conducted over 20,000 bail compliance checks and police have reviewed over—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Mr Boothman** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Theodore and member for McConnel, you are both warned. I asked you to cease your quarrelling and you continued.

**Mr RYAN:** Police have reviewed over 5,000 bail decisions, co-responder teams have had over 36,000 engagements and we have brought more than 3,000 offenders before the court. There is always a contrast. Those opposite have no plan, notwithstanding the promise of 640 days ago to have a plan. They also have a track record of cutting. We invest; they cut. The Queensland Police Service strategic review found that when the LNP were in government they cut 110 senior police and 500 police personnel positions, but they also cut monitoring for paedophiles. Do members remember when they let 1,700 paedophiles off the hook? They turned the switch off on the monitoring.

It also happened as recently as the last election. The plan they took to the last election would mean we would have had fewer police in our state if they had been elected. For instance, in the north coast region, which includes Caloundra and Hervey Bay, there would be 150 fewer police under the LNP if they had been elected; in the far northern region, which includes Cairns, there would be 90 fewer police; in the northern region, which includes Townsville, there would be another 90 fewer police; in the Gold Coast and south-eastern region, there would be 70 fewer police; and in the southern region, which includes Toowoomba, there would be 150 fewer police.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr LAST** (Burdekin—LNP) (5.09 pm): I rise in support of the motion moved by the member for Currumbin. In March this year I stood up in this place and talked about this very issue. I talked about the crime wave in Townsville and Cairns, a crime wave that has now become a tsunami which has washed through those communities and absolutely torn them apart. I will talk about some statistics in a minute. You only have to go to those communities today and talk to those people—the victims of crime, the business owners, the leaders in those communities—about the impacts that this juvenile crime wave is having on those communities to understand what I am saying.

Whilst this government continues to come into this place and talk down the effect that this government's failures are having on families, business owners and tradespeople, we are going to continue having a problem. For the minister to stand up in here and tell us that the youth justice laws are the strongest in the country, with record investment in this space, you have to ask the question: what are we getting for that? What are we getting for that in communities like Townsville and Cairns? It certainly is not delivering the outcomes that those communities expect.

If you want to talk about an example, the member for Nudgee on 22 June this year said, 'The number of youth offenders across Queensland is at its lowest level in a decade.' That got me thinking. Let's have a look at the figures of the last decade. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle by juveniles has more than tripled, including in the last 12 months—this is in Cairns—an increase of 72 per cent. In the last decade in the Far North Queensland police district, unlawful entry by juveniles has more than doubled, with an increase of 72 per cent in the last 12 months. They are on top of it! Let's not forget that—they are on top of it! There is no good news in Townsville: over the last decade, a 76 per cent increase of unlawful entry by juveniles, and a 64 per cent increase in unlawful use of motor vehicles by juveniles! The stats do not lie. The stats are painting a picture that is absolutely horrific, and this nightmare is being lived on a daily basis in those communities.

Every single day my office is contacted by victims, victims like Sarah Martin, who is moving house because she and her seven-year-old son are so scared. What do we hear from the ministers and the MPs on that side of the House? In Cairns and Townsville, there have been over 1,000 motor vehicles stolen in each of those communities so far this year—1,000! You only have to drive around those communities to see the evidence: the stolen cars on the side of the road, the burnt-out vehicles on the side of the road. We are talking about Queensland here. We are not talking about some war-torn country overseas; we are talking about Queensland.

What did the member for Cairns tell the *Cairns Post* on 1 October? 'It takes time to implement changes.' Member, where have you been for the last five years, and how much longer do you need to actually do something? The member for Nudgee told the same publication on 8 September that she was in Cairns 'not to tell the community about what they needed but rather to hear their concerns'. There are plenty of people up there telling the minister their concerns. It took a civilian, a victim of crime

herself, on two occasions to tell the minister. After that meeting, the minister told the *Cairns Post* that if the needs of the community were not being met it was her job to 'go away and argue for those resources' and that she knows that more needs to be done.

Minister, your opportunity arises today in this chamber in a few minutes time. We want to hear what your plan is. We want to hear what you are going to do to address this problem. It is one thing to say you are listening and it is one thing to say you are going to deal with it; it is another thing to deliver. As Kylie Lang said in the *Courier-Mail* on 1 October—

Queenslanders are dying, their loved ones left traumatised, and our taxes are being frittered away by a bunch of incompetents while juvenile criminals have the last laugh.

As the people of Cairns say—and it is displayed on a burnt-out stolen car being towed around the streets—'Enough is enough'. Queenslanders have had enough of living in fear, enough of their homes being broken into and enough of their vehicles being stolen.

(*Time expired*)

 **Mr BROWN** (Capalaba—ALP) (5.14 pm): I note that the member for Burdekin went back to March for his previous statement, but when was the last time they brought a youth justice motion into this parliament? It was in June. Who can remember what that was about? That was about breach of bail and the petition—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** I will come to you, leader! I will come to you.

**Honourable members** interjected.

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

**Mr BROWN:** There is obviously a reason the member for Burdekin has been silent. Guess what happened to the breach of bail petition that they played politics on. The LNP mayor jumped in her car, drunk driving, and slammed into a tree. Didn't that blow up into your face! 50,000 signatures let down by the LNP. You brought in that petition on breach of bail, with all those signatures on it, to play politics—and guess what—the very next night it blew up in your face. I know why the member for Burdekin does not want to talk about that contribution. No wonder he has been relegated.

**Mr Last** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** Member for Burdekin, take a good look at the seat where you are going next. Member for Currumbin, get ready to move up: this is your chance. This is your chance because it was an absolute disaster—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Comments will come through the chair.

**Mr BROWN:** It was an absolute disaster of a motion that completely backfired on them the very next night. Oh, didn't I enjoy it!

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** Who set up the petition? We found out it was the Leader of the Opposition, handing over the words, hand-picking the mayor to lead the charge on the campaign, and what did she do the very next night? She got on a Zoom call with drink-driving victims, throwing the wines back at work, then jumped in the council Lexus and crashed. No wonder they do not talk about that motion. Why are they not talking about breach of bail anymore? Because it was a complete failure of a motion.

I am glad to rise here tonight to talk about the great things that we are doing in our area. They want to play politics with this. It is clear as day that they only want to play politics with youth crime because what we saw earlier this week—

**Mr Crisafulli** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, Leader of the Opposition, you will cease your quarrelling across the chamber.

**Mr BROWN:**—was a 44-year-old man from Kilcoy steal a car and crash into a 70-year-old couple in Sheldon who are now in a critical condition in PA Hospital. Do you think the opposition are jumping up and down and screaming for changes there? No. It is only when it comes to youth crime, only when it has to do with the kids, that they rise up and wind it up.

The member for Oodgeroo is not on this speaking list, I notice. He was the last time. He has a lot to say about a youth drink driver, but when it comes to the LNP Redlands mayor drink driving, do you know what he says? That is exactly right—absolutely nothing. I will give credit to the Leader of the

Opposition. At least he threw her under the bus two days after and asked her to resign. Their track record on youth crime is picking and choosing which ones they want to wind up and which ones they do not.

We only have to look at the stats. After the Alexandra Hills incident, we came in, acted straightaway and changed the laws—a month after. I thank the minister for that work. Guess what has happened. There has been a 13 per cent decrease in that year. Since the changes we made have been brought in, the kids are not getting bail in the first place; they are getting locked up. Because of the very changes that we made in this place, because we took tough action—the stats spell it out—there has been a decrease in crime.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** I do not know what they are going on about. There has been a decrease in crime since we have acted. Those opposite do not have a plan. They like to come in here with these silly motions about breach of bail. They know that does not work.

**Mr Last** interjected.

**Mr BROWN:** They are silly motions because you backtracked on it. You backtracked—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. The comments will come through the chair.

**Mr BROWN:** It has been a great opportunity to speak on this motion which, yet again, is on youth crime. I am happy to get up and speak every single time because it backfires in their face. Only this side of politics has a plan to deal with youth crime. It is working. Youth crime is coming down—13 per cent. We will continue to do the hard work while they continue to play politics.

 **Mr MILLAR** (Gregory—LNP) (5.20 pm): I support the motion moved by the member for Currumbin. The issue here is that it is not only affecting places such as Cairns, Townsville and Brisbane; it is now affecting regional and rural areas. I want to talk about a bloke called Darren Bauman. I have known him for a long time. He comes from the town of Dingo. The Bauman family are well known around that area. He has now had to shut down the Dingo pub because of 17 break-ins—constant break-ins.

**Ms Lauga:** It's not closed.

**Mr MILLAR:** I take that interjection from the member for Keppel. This crime spree goes from Rockhampton all the way out to the gem fields. The member for Keppel must know that this is an issue in Central Queensland. It starts in Rockhampton and goes all the way to Emerald. People's lives are being impacted by this. Not only are we seeing perpetrators losing their lives; we are also seeing innocent people lose their lives and now businesses are losing income.

I spoke to Darren Bauman this week and he has just had enough. He has had enough of continuing to see his premises such as the Dingo pub broken into, so he has decided to shut it down. There is now no pub open in Dingo. People's lives are being impacted by these juveniles who continue to haunt places in Dingo and Blackwater and all the way to Emerald. Darren also owns the Dingo Roadhouse. It is a famous roadhouse and a lot of traffic goes past it. It continues to be bombarded by juveniles trying to break in. In fact, I sat down with Darren a couple of years ago when this was all starting to get a bit too much. He has been calling on the Queensland government to try to find a solution. Basically, we have a pub that is shut down and a roadhouse on tenterhooks.

I will give honourable members an example of what happens at the Dingo Roadhouse. When something goes wrong, the police know who the perpetrators are. They ring the Dingo Roadhouse. They ring Darren or his staff at the Dingo Roadhouse and say, 'We've got a blue car that has been stolen. This is the registration. It's coming your way.' Darren says, 'Well, what are you going to do about it?' They cannot do anything about it. They cannot chase the car. They cannot stop the car. Darren has terrified staff at the Dingo Roadhouse. There was one instance where a car was coming to the Dingo Roadhouse with a certain registration number and they were told the colour was blue. The police asked them not to put fuel in the car, to stop it there. Darren said, 'Just put 10 bucks in the car to get it out of here.' We found out later that that car was carrying illegal firearms. These are the situations where people's lives are at risk when they are just trying to do their job. One of the big issues Darren has is he cannot get staff anymore. People do not want to work in an environment where they feel threatened at night.

Just for the record I will make a point about statistics. Let's look at Mount Isa. The big issue there now is that the tourism industry is under threat. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 76 per cent. Unlawful entry is up 46 per cent. Assault is up 61 per cent and other theft is up 54 per cent. If we go to the town of Goondiwindi in the electorate of Southern Downs, we see there is a huge crisis. I have a lot

of affection for Goondiwindi. It was the town I was born in and where my mother's side of the family comes from. Goondiwindi does not deserve to be treated like this. I have been looking at the statistics. Unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 11 per cent; unlawful entry is up 75 per cent; assault is up 103 per cent in Goondiwindi—103 per cent—and other theft is up 42 per cent.

These are country towns just trying to get on with the job. It is hard to get staff as it is and now we are starting to see businesses threatened by offenders continuing to try to break in. I feel so sorry for the people in Townsville. We hear those concerns about cars that are on the road all the time and people just want to lock the door. In the case of Cairns, I was talking to Darren Bauman who had been in Cairns recently. He said, 'People say, "Just don't go out tonight. It's just too dangerous at the moment."

I call on the minister to fix this. She can fix this and restore some confidence in the people of Cairns and Townsville but, most importantly for me, in Dingo, Blackwater and Emerald. Those cars go from Rockhampton all the way out to the gem fields and the thieves continue to break in at different towns and people are sick of it. Minister, fix it!

 **Ms LAUGA** (Keppel—ALP) (5.25 pm): I rise to speak against the motion moved by the member for Currumbin and in support of the government's amendment. In doing so, I would like to correct the record. The member for Gregory got up in this place today—and I note the Leader of the Opposition has made a post on social media as well—claiming that the Dingo Hotel is closed. However, this business is actually still open. I table a copy of the Dingo Hotel's Facebook page, which clearly says—

... there has been some confusion on the pubs status we are not shut we are definitely open and operating our hours are Mon through to Sat we are open 4 till required.

Lunch is only on Thursday, Friday and Saturday 12-2 and then we are open 4 till required

Sunday is 12pm-6pm Thank you

I table a copy of the Dingo Hotel's social media account.

*Tabled paper:* Extract, undated, from the Facebook page of the Dingo Hotel, in regards to the hotel's operating hours [[1664](#)].

I would encourage everyone in this place when they have the opportunity—

**Ms Grace** interjected.

**Ms LAUGA:**—and I take the interjection—to go to the Dingo Hotel during those opening hours and have a meal and a beer and support this great local business in Central Queensland. I am incredibly concerned about those opposite perpetuating these rumours about businesses being closed when they are actually still open. It is total scaremongering. I call on the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Gregory to apologise to the Dingo Hotel and correct the record in this place to ensure that people in Central Queensland and people who travel from all over the country visit that pub and support that small business.

**Mr Millar:** Why don't you come to Dingo with me? Come to Dingo with me and sit down with Darren Bauman—

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Order, member for Gregory!

**Ms LAUGA:** I would absolutely enjoy having a beer at the Dingo Hotel with you. I would love to go and have a beer with you at the Dingo Hotel.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Resume your seat, please, member. Member for Gregory, you are warned under the standing orders.

**Ms LAUGA:** I would absolutely love to take the member for Gregory up on that.

**Mr Millar** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member for Gregory, you can leave the chamber for one hour.

*Whereupon the honourable member for Gregory withdrew from the chamber at 5.27 pm.*

**Ms LAUGA:** I hope that when the member for Gregory returns he takes it upon himself at the first opportunity to correct the record in this place to ensure that everyone in Queensland and right around this country knows that that pub is still very much open. Those opposite cannot help themselves when it comes to cheap political stunts and attacks, and this is a perfect example—not only this motion but the way in which the Leader of the Opposition and the member for Gregory claim that a pub is actually closed when it is not.

**Government members:** Shame!

**Ms LAUGA:** It is shameful.

I want to take this opportunity to pay tribute to those victims of crime right across the state, including the Dingo Hotel, which has been having a very difficult time. That has not been improved by the fact that those opposite come in here saying that the pub is actually closed. For those people who are victims of crime it is an awful experience. I can speak from experience because recently someone tried to get into my car at my house. My parents also had someone try to break into their house. My partner had someone break into his car and my brother had his car broken into. It is a really scary thing to happen. That is why this side of the chamber is incredibly dedicated to ensuring we improve community safety.

We on this side come in here and talk about the ways in which we are helping to improve community safety, the investments that we are making to improve community safety, the investments that we are making to help young people get their lives back on track so that they can have happy and healthy lives contributing to our community. Those opposite do not like talking about community safety. They do not like talking about ways in which we can help improve community safety. Every time—

**Mrs Frecklington** interjected.

**Ms LAUGA:** I take that interjection from the member for Nanango, because every time those opposite move a motion about youth crime it is never about solutions and it is never about ways in which we can improve the situation; it is always about fearmongering. It is all part of this fearmongering process that they go through to scare our community when we should be talking about positive solutions. We have been waiting for 21 months now for this crime plan which they have been talking about—21 months! It cannot be that hard to come up with a few ideas. I invite those opposite to correct the record and the next time they come in here and move a motion like this they should have some workable solutions.

 **Mr MINNIKIN** (Chatsworth—LNP) (5.30 pm): I firmly believe that probably the greatest duty owed by any state government is to protect its citizens. We have successfully prosecuted a range—a litany—of failures by the current tired third-time Palaszczuk Labor government, but I have to say after listening to some of the contributions tonight there is a misalignment between the head and the heart. I am going to try and redress that over the next 4½ minutes and I am going to talk about two areas dear to my heart—my own south side of Brisbane and another part of Queensland which I will come back to very shortly.

I will never, ever forget—and, mercifully, it was many years ago—the shattered look of my wife and my two kids when we came home only to find the misery that beseeches a lot of Queenslanders: our house had been broken into. I will never, ever forget the look on their respective faces. The words that come to mind is that you felt violated. I will give the member for Keppel a very quick response in relation to one of the things that we have been banging on about for months now—breach of bail, and I will tell members why. Taking a look at the statistics before I talk about some of the human misery stories, in the South Brisbane region—I am comparing 1 January to 30 September last year to the month just ended—unlawful use of motor vehicles is up 17 per cent, unlawful entry is up 22 per cent, assault is up 26 per cent and other theft is up 10 per cent.

Before I move to another part of the state very dear to me which is the Fraser Coast, at the Hervey Bay Bunnings aisle 36 is where it stocks marine ply products. That is the aisle that is of real concern and interest to many small shopkeepers on the Esplanade because at the moment they are paying 202 bucks for a 2.4 x 1.2-metre 18-millimetre piece of plywood, and I will come back to exactly why that is going out the door at a record rate of knots. Is it any wonder when looking at the Hervey Bay-Fraser Coast region I go back to that same snapshot—that is, January to September? During that time the unlawful use of motor vehicles is up 12 per cent in Hervey Bay, assault is up 22 per cent and other theft is up 11 per cent, so that is the sterling efforts of the local member doing a great job there. This is the Fraser Coast, so let us go north to Bundaberg and again look at the same nine-month comparison: unlawful use of a motor vehicle is up 55 per cent, unlawful entry is up 10 per cent and assault is up 19 per cent.

The reality is this: members can rise in here and in a five-minute contribution talk about statistics, statistics, statistics. However, let me in the remaining one minute and 40 seconds talk about the human face of this misery. The member for Hervey Bay might like to spend some time in his own electorate to speak with Justin Van Wijk, the owner of Bay Time & Engraving, because Justin would tell the member that he has had two break-ins in the last few months and at least \$20,000 worth of damage done to his stock. Maybe the member for Hervey Bay would like to take some time to listen to Henrik Lin, the owner

of Tapas, who has had four break-ins and another estimated 20 grand's worth of damage to his windows alone—a regular shopper at Bunnings. Maybe the member for Hervey Bay would like to take some time to listen to Kym Riley, the owner of Seega Rent A Car. Kym Riley has had six break-ins and over \$30,000 worth of damage done in the last six months.

Maybe the member for Hervey Bay would like to chat with single mother and proud owner of Daisy's Phone Repairs, Daisy Owen, who was heartbroken that her small business was broken into for the third time in six years—a single mum and small business operator trying to make a go of it on her own—and every month her insurance premiums go up by another \$40 or \$45 each month. Again, sadly she is a regular shopper at Bunnings at Hervey Bay. Maybe also the member for Hervey Bay should spend some time with Chris Bye who owns Hervey Bay's Sundaes @ The Pier. This is the gentleman who has experienced three break-ins in the last 10 months. He, too, sadly is a regular shopper at Bunnings.

*(Time expired)*

 **Mr SMITH** (Bundaberg—ALP) (5.35 pm): A crime is a crime. No-one should have to be a victim of crime. No-one should have to have their shop windows smashed. No-one should have to have their car stolen or have any form of violence inflicted upon them. No-one should have to lose a life or the life of a loved one at the hands of crime. Sadly, these acts occur across the global society. Sadly, these crimes can occur at the hands of young offenders, at the hands of juvenile offenders. What is even worse is that some of these juvenile offenders are victims of crime themselves, projecting their internal trauma upon others in and across our communities. Crime is not acceptable.

As a community we cannot make excuses for criminal activities by young people, but we can reflect on the way that members in this House speak on such matters and determine their responses to such matters. We on this side of the House speak about our laws. They are the toughest in the nation. They target recidivism. We on this side talk about the intervention programs that are implemented to restore a sense of self and understanding of why criminal actions are not acceptable. We note the importance of Transition 2 Success, Changing Habits and Reaching Targets, Rethinking Our Attitude to Driving, Re-navigating Anger and Guilty Emotions, and Aggression Replacement Training. Why do we implement these intervention programs? Because locking up these kids to simply sit in a youth prison until they are 18 does not stop the behaviour and pattern of crime. It will continue and more lives will be harmed into the future.

The young recidivist offenders are often young people who are angry. They are angry at their world. They are angry at their family. They are angry at a community that they do not recognise as caring for them, and they are angry at themselves. It is not acceptable that they commit a harmful or damaging crime, but nor should it be acceptable that the LNP uses these children for its political purposes. This motion does not propose a policy, a program or a pathway forward. This motion further alienates those children who are acting out against a world that they believe has no importance or in some cases has turned its back on them: a world that has turned its back on them as their family or person of expected trust fails them; a world that has turned its back on them as their family or person of expected trust physically assaults, burns or beats them; or a world that has turned its back on them as their family or person of trust sexually abuses or rapes them.

This motion fails Queensland's young people because it fails to address the complexities of community and society that lead to unacceptable and tragic actions. This motion does not deliver any positive plan for young offenders or to stop further crime. I have known these kids. I have taught some of these kids. I have witnessed a young person in my class be arrested. That police officer was absolutely right to carry out that arrest. It was a wrong action that that student took. The action of that student was led by their father who forced him to sell drugs. Let us reflect on these young people and these complexities.

 **Mr PURDIE** (Ninderry—LNP) (5.40 pm): I rise to support the motion moved by the member for Currumbin. I am also happy to contribute to the amended motion moved by the police minister only a few minutes ago: paragraph (a), the record investment and action over successive years by the Palaszczuk government in community safety and youth justice measures. Let us have a look at their record. In 2015 the top priority of this government when they won office was to water down the legislation available to our police in the Youth Justice Act. They removed breach of bail as an offence and they reinstated detention as a last resort as the overarching principle in the Youth Justice Act. In 2016 they transferred 17-year-olds into the Youth Justice Act, essentially moving all 17-year-old prisoners out of adult jails into youth detention facilities.

**Mr Watts:** How many rooms did they build?

**Mr PURDIE:** That is exactly right. Not long after that, members will remember, there was the *Four Corners* exposé that revealed that up to 90 young vulnerable offenders were being held in maximum security watch houses.

To alleviate that problem they watered down the Youth Justice Act again in 2019 to remove further barriers to young offenders getting bail. At that time we on this side said this would end in tears, all they were doing was transferring the problem from Youth Justice back out onto the street. Unfortunately, as we have heard from other speakers tonight and from the long list of tragedies outlined by the member for Currumbin, it has ended in tears. I understand why the police minister is begging for our policy. He is all at sea when it comes to youth crime and crime and keeping us safe.

As the member for Chatsworth said, the highest priority of any government is to keep their citizens safe. In fact, the top promise of this government at the last election was to keep Queenslanders safe. How are they going with that? How are they going with that in hospitals or in ambulance ramping and how are they going out on the streets and in homes across Queensland? It is not just the tragedy on Australia Day last year at Alexandra Hills when Matty, Kate and their unborn son, Miles, lost their lives, or more recently when Michael Warburton was allegedly run down by young offenders in a stolen car—and the list goes on. It is not just statistics. These crime figures we have been outlining and the litany of sad stories we are hearing are alarming. I am mindful that the Speaker is getting some advice from the Clerk at the moment. It is not just property offences: we are not just talking about unlawful uses, we are not just talking about break and enters, we are not just talking about carjackings, we are not just talking about people's businesses and their cars stolen; lives are being lost.

Another example of this government's overt soft-on-crime regime can be seen in the first sitting day of their second term, the first full sitting day in 2018, when they moved amendments in the Tow Truck Act to try to plug holes in the previous amendments in the Youth Justice Act which was seeing young 17-year-old offenders get off serious drink, drug and dangerous driving offences. We know that a vehicle in the hands of a young inexperienced driver, whether it is stolen or otherwise, is a weapon. More often than not we are seeing these tragedies unfolding on our streets. On Monday of this week a magistrate in a local magistrates court, during an application for a restricted work licence for an offender who had previously been caught for drink driving, acknowledged the absurdity of legislation where he could not take that into account because the matter had been before the Childrens Court when the offender was 17 and those charges were dismissed. That was reported in the *Courier-Mail* on Saturday.

This government, time and time again, are not just overseeing a broken youth justice system. They broke the system and they have no idea how to fix it, which is why they are begging us for our policy. I am happy to talk about the minister's amended motion which talks about community safety more generally. They also watered down the laws available to police to rid this state of bikies. We now know that bikies are back and they are lawless. We saw a midday Monday public slaying of a biker associate in a main street in Carindale. We have learnt since then that these bikies are using feeder clubs. They are recruiting young offenders into feeder clubs such as the 13 Kings which were involved in that public slaying, because the talent pool is deep.

This government has overseen a generation of young offenders who have had no consequences for actions. Now bikies are recruiting these young kids into feeder clubs like the 13 Kings to deal drugs and to commit murder. It is another example of this government's failure to keep people safe. The only way to keep people safe in Queensland is to change the government.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Before I call the next speaker, I reiterate my warning about not referring to any matter, in any way, shape or form, that has not been finalised. It is irrelevant whether you name the offenders or not; the matters are not to be referred to.

 **Mr HUNT** (Caloundra—ALP) (5.45 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion and make plain my unwavering support for our frontline workers who keep our communities safe—more so because I was one of them for 21 years. I know what it is like to holster a glock side arm and I am familiar with the dry mouth that accompanies that particular moment when you open a cell door to a hostile offender.

I must confess to be slightly taken aback by the original motion referring to an abandoned youth jail. It bears some explanation. When I left Caloundra on Sunday the Caloundra Police Station, with its adjoining buildings, was very much functional and full of police including, I might mention, the five extra police that started there last financial year and are already having a positive impact on community safety in Caloundra, Landsborough and Beerwah. The LNP were strongly of a view that this watch house project would not go ahead and are now apparently outraged that the project is not going ahead.

This government did not play base politics with the issue, but listened to the community without using disinformation. There were excellent meetings with community leaders and I thank the minister for her attendance at those meetings. There was departmental consultation through forums, surveys into letterboxes and, finally, an extensive doorknocking campaign into Golden Beach. In this very chamber the member for Ninderry said of the Minister for Police—

He spent four minutes going through a document from 2013 in which a department person recommended that a watch house be converted to a youth jail. Do members know what the difference was? Leadership!

He went on to say—

I call for this police minister to show some leadership like the former AG, the member for Kawana, did. Say no to this youth jail in Caloundra and give the police back their watch house!

He can, and he did and, member for Ninderry, you are most welcome. I thank both the Minister for Children and Youth Justice and the Minister for Police for their leadership on this issue and for listening to me and listening to the community in and around Caloundra. Let us be honest, the LNP has no credibility on law and order or the fiscal complexities of providing it. Their record of building new police stations is well known. With regard to consultation on crime, I recently found a *Brisbane Times* article of October 2013 and it is worth reading—

In a statement on Thursday, Mr Bleijie said Queensland Corrective Services had been 'consulted extensively' about the bikie-only maximum security unit.

That is news to me because I was working at the centre at that time and we found out about it on the tele that night. From the same article we read—

When asked how much it would cost to reopen the unit the Attorney-General Jarrod Bleijie said: 'We are currently working out the finer details.'

Mr Bleijie did not respond to questions about how many beds in the unit would be recommissioned.

Somehow the member for Kawana had consulted extensively with the department, but did not know how many prisoners would be in the unit or what it was going to cost. It must have been a peach of a consultative process. For the record, that particular failed extravagance cost the people of Queensland a fortune and collapsed after four months. What a huge blow to crime that was!

The last word on this really should go to the Queensland Police Service. The reality of this supposedly abandoned building is perfectly outlined by a recently retired deputy police commissioner who said—

The intention at all times had been for the Caloundra Watchhouse to be returned to the QPS as an operational police facility supporting operations in the rapidly growing southern area of the Sunshine Coast.

Further—

Modernisation, renovation and growth of the watchhouse capability was always going to be required to meet the needs of this growing part of the Sunshine Coast in step with the growth of the capability and capacity of the Caloundra Court House. This is in addition to the State Government's already announced Caloundra South Police Station for which planning is well advanced.

There it is: the building is not advanced but it is coming back bigger and better. On that note, I thank our frontline workers yet again.

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (5.50 pm): Hearing the member for Caloundra talk about the absolute disaster involving a jail in the suburbs and the money that was wasted in reverting it back to a watch house shows that they have no clear plan. They had no plan when they took 17-year-olds out of the adult prison system and put them into the juvenile justice system even though no additional beds were available. What did they think would happen? To make sure that the centres did not get as overcrowded as they later became, they watered down the legislation, as we heard from the member for Ninderry. They watered down the legislation so that the judges could not lock up juveniles—and what happened? With the failure to lock up juveniles, in Toowoomba we have seen a growth in recidivism rates from 33 per cent in 2016 to 64 per cent in 2021. Those are the recidivism rates 12 months after people had gone through a restorative justice process. It is a dreadful and damning indictment on the process that this government has put in place.

However, that is not the worst of it. The worst of it is that in 2020 their youth justice program had a recidivism rate of 100 per cent within 12 months. I repeat: 100 per cent. In 2021, it was 100 per cent. This Labor government is hitting targets of 100 per cent—100 per cent recidivism. That is how good their youth justice programs are. What do we see in Toowoomba? I will tell the House a couple of stories. These incidents happened in Toowoomba. The people who committed the offences have gone to court and are out walking the streets.

A woman, her husband and their two daughters had been out to lunch. It was daytime. They arrived home and found a strange car parked at the front of their house. The home owners' car blocked the exit. The husband heard people inside the home. He watched as two prowlers came out of the house with golf clubs, knives and bags of goods while two people waited in the strange car. They attacked the husband. His daughters and wife did not know what was going on and were desperately trying to work out what they were going to do. The strange car in their driveway could not get out because they were blocking it. What happened? The offenders ran up to the car in which the two daughters and the man's wife were sitting. Again, they have just been out to lunch, it was daytime and they were on their own driveway. The intruders attacked the car with golf clubs. They smashed the windscreen, they smashed the headlights and then the car was rammed by the other vehicle.

Those are armed and dangerous criminals. They are people who have been to court and have been found guilty. The police have done their job. The courts have done their job. However, this government has not done their job through legislation. This government is letting down the people of Toowoomba. This government is putting people's lives in danger in my hometown.

People who are on their own driveways are being attacked with golf clubs and knives because an offender has been caught and released, caught and released, caught and released—100 per cent of the time. We know who they are. We know where they live. We know their names. We have pictures of them on CCTV. This incompetent Labor government cannot do anything to stop them because they introduced legislation that brings no consequences for actions. That is the problem. For the past 7½ years those young offenders—who are now 17, 18 and 19 years old—have been taught: 'Do as you please. We will not punish you. We will let you go. If the police catch you, don't worry about it. There's nothing the court can do to hold you. Why? Because we watered down the legislation to let you out.'

How are we going to get ourselves out of this mess? The people of Toowoomba keep saying to me, 'You have to do something about it.' I do not know what else to do except to point out the damningly obvious to the incompetent Labor government that there needs to be consequences for actions. There are two courses of action that the people of Queensland can take. The first is that they need to make sure that criminals are held responsible for the crimes that they commit and are taken away from our communities if they are a danger to our communities. The other course of action needs to be that if the government cannot legislate for the safety of people in their own homes, in their own cars and on their own driveways, vote out the Labor government because they are incompetent when it comes to youth justice. There is 100 per cent recidivism in my town. People armed with knives and golf clubs are attacking people on their own driveways.

(Time expired)

 Hon. LM LINARD (Nudgee—ALP) (Minister for Children and Youth Justice and Minister for Multicultural Affairs) (5.55 pm): I rise to speak in support of the amended motion and against the original motion put by those opposite. From the outset I acknowledge, as I always do, that one victim of crime is one too many. I acknowledge the voices of those who have experienced crime—the trauma and the financial cost, but particularly and always most importantly the human cost. Every Queenslander has a right to feel safe in their home and in their community. Whether it is offending by young people or adults, public safety is paramount and community confidence is essential. That is what our government, our frontline police, our youth justice workers, our detention youth workers and our corrective services officers work to achieve and are focused on each and every single day, as are the many community elders and services that we partner with each and every day to intervene with young people.

We know there is no easy fix for a complex issue and crime is incredibly complex. We are honest with the community about that but we are also honest that we have a clear plan. We are putting more police on the beat and we have established a Youth Justice Taskforce under Assistant Police Commissioner Cheryl Scanlon to focus on serious repeat offenders—that is, the small number of young people who are committing most offences. We have included the establishment of 18 multiagency collaborative panels across Queensland to work intensively with that small number of repeat offenders and their families. We are investing in more diversionary services and intensive interventions to stop the cycle of offending because we know that is what the community wants. We have introduced tough new measures, including a presumption against bail, to make it clear to the courts that the community must be kept safe from recidivist offenders.

Ms Grace interjected.

Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER (Mr Kelly): Member for McConnel, I ask you to leave the chamber for one hour. You have been warned and you have interjected several times now.

*Whereupon the honourable member for McConnel withdrew from the chamber at 5.58 pm.*

**Ms LINARD:** We have done all of this because we have listened to the community and we continue to listen to the community. However, while we focus on holding offenders to account, while we focus on intervening to try to stop the cycle of crime to keep communities safe and while we focus on investing in evidence based programs to address the criminogenic factors that often lead to offending, those opposite play politics with a serious issue. It has been 640 days since those opposite said they would create a crime plan. You cannot help when you have no plan. It is actually more than that, because they did not have a plan when they were in government either. They promised to come up with one but they never did.

**Opposition members** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order!

**Ms LINARD:** A press conference, a Facebook post, a parliamentary motion every sitting week does not a plan make. All politics—no plan, no policies and no idea. The community does not want politics; they want action. That is what our government is resolutely focused on. That is what our Premier is focused on.

**Mr Watts** interjected.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order! Member for Toowoomba North, you have made your contribution.

**Ms LINARD:** That is what the police minister, the Attorney-General and I are focused on. That is what our government is focused on—action and keeping the community safe. We know there is more to do. There is always more to do. The issue is complex. We have to be vigilant and constantly evaluating our approach. While those opposite will continue to offer the people of Queensland absolutely nothing but politics, we will continue to take an evidence-based approach to reducing crime informed by the expertise of the front line and we will listen to the voices of the Queensland community.

*(Time expired)*

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

**AYES, 49:**

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

**NOES, 36:**

**LNP, 31**—Bates, Bennett, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Farmer, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

Division: Question put—that the motion, as amended, be agreed to.

**AYES, 49:**

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

**NOES, 36:**

**LNP, 31**—Bates, Bennett, Boothman, Camm, Crandon, Crisafulli, Frecklington, Gerber, Hart, Head, Janetzki, Krause, Langbroek, Last, Leahy, Lister, Mander, McDonald, Minnikin, Molhoek, Nicholls, O'Connor, Perrett, Powell, Purdie, Robinson, Rowan, Simpson, Stevens, Watts, Weir.

**KAP, 3**—Dametto, Katter, Knuth.

**PHON, 1**—Andrew.

**Ind, 1**—Bolton.

Pair: Farmer, Mickelberg.

Resolved in the affirmative.

**Motion, as amended—**

That this House notes:

- (a) the record investment and action over successive years by the Palaszczuk government in community safety and youth justice measures;
- (b) the impact that crime, including youth crime, has on individuals, communities and businesses in Queensland;
- (c) the work of the dedicated Queensland frontline workers, including Queensland Police Service officers, youth detention workers, youth justice officers and Queensland Corrective Services officers in keeping our community safe;
- (d) the Queensland government will continue to implement evidenced-based initiatives to protect Queenslanders.

## **CASINO CONTROL AND OTHER LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL**

### **Second Reading**

Resumed from p. 2752, on motion of Ms Fentiman—

That the bill be now read a second time.

 **Mr JANETZKI** (Toowoomba South—LNP) (6.09 pm): This bill can only be properly understood against the backdrop of not just the Gotterson inquiry but the last six years of revelations of casino related misconduct across the nation. I want to cut to the factual basis behind these inquiries that have led us to this bill and these amendments: Crown secretly brought illegal Chinese junket operators and their clients to their casinos, and Star did too. The junket operators found wealthy operators, lent them cash and Australian casinos dealt them into the action.

Risk management and regulatory failings exposed these casinos to the junket operators' well-known criminal links to Asian criminal gangs. These were risks that inevitably were impossible to manage. Star provided customers with China UnionPay facilities that worked around Chinese regulations to facilitate the gambling of \$900 million, deceptively masked as 'hotel expenses'.

From state to state, there has been inquiry after inquiry and, finally, even here in Queensland. It has been appalling to watch. I will make some observations about corporate conduct and responsibility later in my contribution. I note the shadow Attorney-General has made some remarks in relation to directors and senior executives. I want to dig a bit deeper into some of that corporate conduct. The shadow Attorney-General has also provided some of the legislative underpinning of casino regulation here in Queensland. I do not propose to go over that old ground.

What I do want to say is that the regulation of casinos is a serious business. It is not to be taken lightly. Eminent figures have spearheaded investigations across the nation. Inquiries into Crown in Sydney and Melbourne that were headed by Patricia Bergin and Ray Finklestein respectively—not Frankenstein, as the member for Toohey thought—and Adam Bell's inquiry into Star—

**An opposition member:** Frankenstein!

**Mr JANETZKI:** Yes, it was Frankenstein. These inquiries show that the companies were law-breaking enablers. In Queensland it was Mr Gotterson who undertook an inquiry. Gotterson's findings included that 'The Star actively encouraged persons excluded at the direction of Police Commissioners in New South Wales and Victoria to gamble' in Queensland. Mr Gotterson noted—

... a poor corporate culture, a failure of those responsible for the AML/CTF Program to intervene, and a senior management that failed to have in place mechanisms to restrain the actions of a marketing team whose focus was on drawing in business.

He observed that Star was, at worst, deliberately misleading about its use of China UnionPay facilities to disguise gambling withdrawals as accommodation costs.

However, Mr Gotterson's inquiry was severely curtailed in scope, resources and time by the Palaszczuk government and the Attorney-General knows it. By contrast, Adam Bell SC's New South Wales inquiry report ran to 946 papers. The public hearings went for four months. Contrast that with the inquiry that Mr Gotterson undertook in Queensland and we start to appreciate the lack of diligence of the Palaszczuk government in determining the terms of reference and the resources that were given to the inquiry to get the bottom of what OLGR had been doing in Queensland and the scope of the behaviour and misconduct going on in Queensland.

That contrasts very starkly with the inquiry undertaken by Adam Bell in New South Wales. Adam Bell SC found that there had been extremely serious governance, risk management and cultural failures. The actions outlined in the show cause notice there included a fine of up to \$100 million, the cancellation or suspension of Star's licence and requirements forcing Star and its close associates to

enter into enforceable undertakings. Mr Bell also found that Star misled banks, breached AML measures, potentially evaded taxes and, of course, facilitated the \$900 million of banned gambling transaction through its China UnionPay facility.

I put it to the House that the Gotterson inquiry found the same things here in Queensland and only drew on issues that had already been ventilated in Adam Bell's inquiry in New South Wales. Star has been found unsuitable to hold a gambling licence here and will shortly be issued with a show cause notice by the government. It will likely face a massive fine that, under amendments to be moved by the Attorney-General during consideration in detail of this bill, will be potentially increased to \$100 million. The amendments will also facilitate the appointment of a special manager to increase supervision and undertake periodic investigations into the suitability of all Queensland casinos.

The amendments to this bill tabled at three o'clock this afternoon comprise 24 amendments across 21 pages—

**Mr Nicholls:** Twenty-seven.

**Mr JANETZKI:** I will take that, shadow Attorney-General—27. I recall back in 2020 when the then attorney-general, the member for Redcliffe, was talking about transparency and the need for consultation, at 9.30 the night before debate on the biggest electoral reforms in Queensland's history the government dropped 229 amendments over 100 pages. Time and again we see attorneys-general in Queensland take this approach. They will talk about consultation and transparency—

**Mr Nicholls:** To racing.

**Mr JANETZKI:** How can we ever forget the racing minister and all the amendments the minister dropped!

**Mr Nicholls:** Changing the voting laws.

**Mr JANETZKI:** One hundred per cent. We had all of those amendments dropped at 9.30 the night before debate. Again, we have seen this Attorney-General drop serious amendments to this bill at three o'clock this afternoon with the promise of more amendments to casino legislation to come.

I note in that respect that we accept the recommendations of the Gotterson inquiry and the bill before the House. I note at paragraph 553 of his report that Mr Gotterson said that Queensland's regulatory model was not called into question during inquiries undertaken into Crown's operations and that he did not consider there to be sufficient justification to change fundamentally the structure of the regulator in this state. Notably, in other jurisdictions—New South Wales and Victoria—they have set up separate and independent new commissions to undertake the regulation of casinos. Mr Crawford is leading the independent commission in New South Wales. In those jurisdictions they saw fit to undertake that additional independent regulation but not here in Queensland. At paragraph 560 of his report Mr Gotterson stated—

... there is a real risk of Governments experiencing a tension between the duty to regulate casinos strictly and the revenue they derive from casinos ...

I would have thought that it would be appropriate for the scope and extent of Mr Gotterson's inquiry to be expanded by the Attorney-General to start to examine some of those tensions that he talks about.

I want to give an example of one of those tensions. Back in April 2017, the then attorney-general, the member for Redcliffe, received hospitality in kind to the value of \$4,000 from Star with a range of previous Labor attorneys-general. The inquiry should have been expanded so that the inquiry could have gone down the path of looking at the tension that Mr Gotterson talked about. Five months later, in September of that year, the then attorney-general was in fact making quite significant—not day-to-day—regulatory decisions in relation to Star that saw additional gaming tables at Star Gold Coast. That was within five months of that hospitality having been given in kind. They were not day-to-day regulatory decisions; they were new rights and new privileges that were granted to Star. I would have thought that decisions like that—not day-to-day regulatory decisions—ought to have been within the remit of Mr Gotterson's inquiry. The scope of this inquiry was always too restricted.

In my remaining time I want to make a brief comment about the corporate conduct that has bought shame to the Australian corporate landscape. I remind those people charged with general counsel responsibilities and AML/CTF compliance responsibilities of their significant duties to not just be in the business but to advise and be careful in their advice to businesses because that is fundamental to the operation of corporate Australia.

*(Time expired)*

**Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (6.19 pm): I rise to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I declare at the outset, as many members have done in their contributions, I am not really a gambler at all. I do not even like to have a flutter on Melbourne Cup day. It is just not something that I get enjoyment out of. My thrill in life is watching children's sport—which is a bit weird but I love it—or watching the State of Origin. This bill is really important because it provides rigour and regulation for the vast majority of people who do enjoy gambling or having a bet in whatever form that takes.

I will start by covering some of the areas that I am most passionate about, and that is the harm reduction aspects of the bill. At the outset I want to acknowledge the very serious problem that gambling is for a small minority of people in our community. We know that this small group can experience life-changing damage from their gambling losses. It is also common for their families to be impacted as well. It is rarely one individual who experiences this tragedy; it is experienced by everyone in that family and the people who surround them. The financial losses and the breach of trust are serious issues. I know that the committee really considered that when they were forming their recommendations.

That said, I also do agree—I cannot believe I am saying this—with the member for Clayfield and his comments earlier today that there is a significant cohort of the community who do enjoy gambling and can do so while safely managing their expenditure. I know that from my experience in high-end hospitality. Other restaurateurs would often say to me that casinos do form an important part of a varied tourism strategy. It is important that we make sure that while they exist they do have that rigour and regulation around them.

We as parliamentarians need to balance the considerable benefits to the economy with the significant issues it can cause for some members of the community. In my mind it is not dissimilar to the strategies we might employ in managing alcohol abuse. There is part of the population who struggle with their relationship with alcohol, which is also legal, just like gambling. Like alcohol, most people also believe that ultimately the benefits outweigh the harm. As the member for Caloundra so astutely observed though, this is an area that needs and deserves scrutiny.

The bill also seeks to modernise the gambling acts to provide regulatory agility, particularly around cashless payment methods, delivering on the government's election commitment to investigate safe cashless gambling by removing impediments to cash alternatives and providing a framework under which the use of cashless gaming technology and procedures can be regulated. One of the objectives of the bill is to transition to safe cashless gaming which was also a previous government commitment. However, as all gambling providers are impacted by the decline of cash usage—which we know has been exacerbated not just in this sector but in many sectors by COVID and the perception of hygiene around money—the measures in the bill potentially allow safe cashless gambling by all gambling providers including the hotel sector.

The bill represents the second action our government has taken in response to safe cashless gambling. In December 2021 the Governor in Council made a regulation that enabled clubs and hotels to make gaming machine payments by EFT, electronic funds transfer. The amendments will not automatically introduce widespread cashless gambling but they will remove impediments to non-cash payments and create frameworks for consideration, approval and regulation of cashless payments methods and technologies. Cashless methods we know are generally more traceable than cash payments. I note that this is not inconsistent with casino integrity reforms. I also note that, following the in principle support for the Gotterson report, further reforms in this space will be forthcoming in the future.

I also observe that, in addition to being more traceable for criminality issues, as we know that casinos can have issues such as money laundering, they may also have the added benefit of assisting gamblers, in my view, of keeping track of their spending and how much they might be expending in a particular venue. This is obviously really important because, if you are trying to manage your budget, it is really good for you to be able to see that expenditure and where your money is going. In the event that you share an account with somebody—when I say 'account' I mean a bank account—it gives a valuable intervention opportunity to family members to have additional oversight of that potentially problematic expenditure and start that conversation. When it comes to intervention and starting conversations with people who have addictions or problematic use, whether it is drugs, alcohol or gambling, starting these conversations can often be a very important first step in getting help.

I am now going to move to a clause that is close to my heart. It was put into the committee's report but ultimately was considered outside the scope of the final piece of legislation, and that is reducing smoking. As I said, I note that the feedback was determined by the committee to sit outside

the scope of the legislation, but the Cancer Council nonetheless took the opportunity to make an impassioned request that smoking be banned from premium gaming rooms by amending the Tobacco and Other Smoking Products Act.

I am actually old enough to remember when you could smoke in pubs and nightclubs. I even remember as a little girl somebody smoking inside a McDonald's. To be fair, they might have been breaking the rules, so I am not sure whether that was allowed or not. It has been a huge effort to reduce the number of smokers in Australia to what I understand to be around 10 per cent. That has gone down significantly.

Many people, including some members of my own family, have said that quitting smoking is the hardest thing you will ever do. It is really great to be able to provide triggers to help people to make the decision to do so. This ban may be just that trigger for some smokers. Everyone's triggers are different. For some smokers I acknowledge that this ban would probably have no impact. For my mum, who was a smoker back in the early nineties, her trigger was a huge price rise. I distinctly remember her telling me that cigarettes had hit \$3 a packet—\$3 a packet! She was absolutely incensed, so she and my aunt decided to quit because cigarettes had hit \$3 a packet. I do not think that is going to be the trigger for high-end gamblers to quit. However, the inconvenience of not being able to smoke in premium gaming rooms might be a trigger. Being allowed to smoke in those rooms is obviously not going to help them in any way.

I do recall that, when we introduced city-wide bans and people were inconvenienced as they could not smoke in specific areas, it had a deterrent effect and that assisted in lowering the overall smoking rate. I am all for any recommendations that help people to quit smoking. I appreciate the committee including those remarks about smoking in their report even though it sits outside the scope of this legislation. I thank the Cancer Council for raising it. I think it is fantastic. Even if something ultimately sits outside the scope of bill, it gives us an opportunity to start that conversation and maybe move that in the right direction.

In the time I have left I want to clarify a comment I made in my contribution on the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law and Other Legislation Amendment Bill last night. At the end of my contribution I noted that the testimonials part of the bill was being reviewed by the federal government. I should also have stated at the outset of that part of my contribution that the testimonials sections of the bill will not be included in the state government legislation because the federal government will be dealing with it. I am really excited to see the outcome of that federal review and have this issue resolved at a federal level. I commend the bill to the House.

 **Dr MacMAHON** (South Brisbane—Grn) (6.28 pm): I rise to contribute to the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The Queensland Greens support any attempt to rein in the devastating effects the gambling industry and their tainted money have on this state. While some of the measures in this bill are appropriate, we have serious doubts about the Labor Party's commitment to stamping out the flow of criminal money laundered by casinos given how much money from gambling corporations ends up donated to the Labor Party coffers, not to mention the millions sucked out of working communities in the form of predatory and problem gambling.

The gambling industry has donated hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Labor Party since 2015. The Australian Hotels Association donated more than \$89,000 to the Queensland Labor Party; Clubs New South Wales donated more than \$89,000 to the Queensland Labor Party; Tabcorp donated more than \$57,000 to the Queensland Labor Party; and Star Entertainment Group, which has just been declared unfit to hold a licence in Queensland, has donated more than \$43,000 to the Queensland Labor Party.

**Government members** interjected.

**Dr MacMAHON:** I will take those interjections. Members are so addicted to taking corporate donations that they have forgotten the difference between an individual donation and a corporate donation.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Mr Kelly): Pause the clock. Member, I have been listening carefully to your contribution. I would ask you to demonstrate how your contribution is relevant to the long title of the bill.

**Dr MacMAHON:** Star Entertainment, now occupying more than 10 per cent of the Brisbane CBD, hopes to build a megacasino and luxury hotel right next to this parliament. They are advertising luxury apartments with a price tag of \$3 million at the Queen's Wharf complex in the middle of a housing crisis at a time when we should be building social housing. This government is green-lighting penthouses for their political donors.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Pause the clock. Member, again I would ask you to demonstrate the relevance to the long title of the bill.

**Dr MacMAHON:** This is the same Star that hid \$55 million in cash flows from criminal organisations and their associates and were found unfit to hold a casino licence, yet it seems they will be allowed to continue to build this megacasino right next door. Truly, the spirit of Bjelke-Petersen is alive and well in Queensland.

**Ms KING:** Mr Speaker, I rise to a point of order. I question the relevance of the member's contribution. I note your previous guidance. I am not certain there has been any change in the member's approach.

**Mr DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Thank you. I will handle the situation. I will ask the member for South Brisbane to take her seat while I take some advice. There is no point of order. I have previously provided guidance, but I will ask the member to continue to demonstrate the relevance of her contribution to the long title of the bill.

**Dr MacMAHON:** These issues with Star have all been revealed in a single toothless inquiry with submissions only lasting a week and a handful of public hearings. The Gotterson inquiry is just the tip of the iceberg. We do not know the actual extent of corruption and money laundering in this state. Who knows what remains buried and what a more substantial investigation could have uncovered. What we do know is that these gambling giants do not donate to political parties without expecting something in return. As I have mentioned, the Greens will support this bill because even a measly attempt to shine a spotlight on misconduct is better than the system that allows money to change hands between criminal organisations and casinos who then donate to both Labor and the LNP.

If this government were serious about stamping out the criminal conduct of their mates in the gambling industry, then it would not be taking their money. If this government were serious about corruption, they would tell Queenslanders how much this government has leased out prime CBD public land for on a 99-year lease. If this government were serious about corruption, it would release the social impact study of Star's megacasino and we would see just how many people are going to be sucked dry by predatory and problem gambling. The government would release Star's business case, they would release the cost-benefit analysis and they would release the terms relating to the 99-year lease of some of Queensland's most valuable land. But they will not, because the Labor Party and protecting casinos goes hand in hand. The ties between this government and the gambling industry are completely out of line with community expectations.

As I have said, the Greens welcome the minor reforms introduced in this bill, but the government has a lot more work to do if they are going to prove to Queenslanders that the Labor Party is not tainted by casino corruption and this government is genuinely willing to tackle organised crime in this state.

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (6.34 pm): I am, as so often, completely staggered by the profound hypocrisy of the member for South Brisbane in her contribution. I note the public record demonstrates that around \$500,000 in professional gambling money has been contributed to the Greens political party. My understanding is that, at the last election in 2020, \$100,000 in professional gambling donations were made to the Greens political party for their state election campaign.

We have heard a lot of commentary about gambling and the gambling economy in Queensland but the member for South Brisbane has, as usual, told one side of the story—a heavily politicised side of the story—and completely fails to be transparent about the role of professional gambling donations in supporting Greens party political campaigns. I call upon her to apologise for the hypocrisy she has demonstrated in this place and that she demonstrates every single time she stands up and attempts to lecture the government about gambling.

Turning to the long title of the bill, as the Attorney-General and Minister Grace have both noted, the ability to conduct casino gaming is a lucrative privilege, not a right. It is bestowed only through licences issued by the state, and as such it is profoundly appropriate that casino entities meet stringent requirements that enhance accountability and transparency in their dealings. While casinos generate significant economic activity and very welcome employment, they also pose very real risks around organised criminal activity and harm from unsafe gambling and gambling addiction. I will admit to being something of a prude when it comes to gambling. I am one of those people who makes a \$5 bet at Melbourne Cup Day once a year and does not take it any further. At times I have been really distressed by the impact of problem gambling on community members.

Casino operators and licensees should be required to meet the highest possible standards of integrity, governance, transparency and compliance to reduce those risks and protect the community. Many Queenslanders love a bet, but they do expect that casino entities are subject to strict integrity frameworks. This bill as introduced makes significant strides on that. I note the Attorney-General's intention to move amendments that further strengthen that integrity framework for casino operations in Queensland.

Like so many of us, I have been troubled by reports across several Australian jurisdictions of practices by casino operators that range from unethical and exploitative to frankly criminal. They include links to international organised crime, money laundering and schemes to avoid rules designed to minimise gambling harms. Those actions have led to wideranging inquiries which I have welcomed. I am heartened by the thoroughness of several reports, including the Finkelstein inquiry, the Bergin inquiry, the Bell inquiry, the Owen inquiry and most recently—and most relevant to Queensland—the Gotterson inquiry which was handed down earlier this month. I am heartened by the thoroughness of those reports and the readiness of regulators and state governments to take action.

While this bill was introduced prior to the completion of the Gotterson investigation into Star and did not pre-empt the findings of that investigation, I welcome its measures to ensure stronger integrity, accountability and transparency by casinos. Even more, I welcome the amendments to the bill foreshadowed by the Attorney-General in response to the recommendations of the Gotterson report. Contrary to the views expressed by LNP members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee in their statement of reservation, I believe that the steps taken to commence the reform process prior to the release of the Gotterson report were justified by the seriousness of the information on hand when the original bill was drafted. Reform was urgently needed, so our government acted.

The government has accepted in principle the 12 recommendations of the Gotterson report, and now the urgent amendments foreshadowed by the Attorney-General demonstrate that it was possible to get on with the job of introducing initial reforms while still being responsive to the recommendations of the Gotterson report. This bill and amendments act to address the serious issues raised in the various inquiries. They include: new and higher penalties for serious breaches of the law; expanding information-gathering powers and information disclosure duties; imposing duties on casino entities to self-report contraventions and breaches; complying with reasonable requests by the minister or regulator; and to do everything necessary to ensure that casinos are managed and operated fairly and honestly.

Importantly, the bill also introduces a framework for stronger harm minimisation measures to be introduced by subordinate legislation. That is so that the subordinate legislation can properly respond to the very diverse business environments of gambling venues—whether it be a small country pub, a large hotel in my electorate or a CBD casino.

Several specific issues attracted submitter comment during the committee's inquiry into the bill. That commentary included suggestions that the maximum financial penalty available against casinos should be raised from \$50 million to \$100 million. I welcome the Attorney-General's intention to introduce that amendment because I believe it will ensure that penalties are not, to quote the Gotterson report, 'seen as a manageable cost of doing business'. The increased penalty recognises the large financial resources of casino entities and sets a powerful deterrent to proscribed activities.

Other submitters, including the Queensland Law Society, gave feedback that they wanted to see the bill go further in progressing a single national approach to fundraising regulation for charities. The amendments proposed in this bill do take steps towards reforms that will address inconsistencies in the regulation of fundraising across borders, while other reforms to harmonise charity reporting requirements and regulate how fundraising is conducted will be progressed separately. In December 2021 the Council on Federal Financial Relations and National Cabinet agreed to develop a national fundraising framework to reduce red tape. The Department of Justice and Attorney-General have committed to continue work with the interjurisdictional fundraising working group to harmonise that national regulation of charitable fundraising with appropriate regard to cross-border legislation and Australian consumer protection principles.

This important bill will substantially strengthen the integrity framework for casino entities in Queensland. I welcome these important reforms and I commend the bill to the House.

 **Mr MOLHOEK** (Southport—LNP) (6.41 pm): I rise today to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. The bill proposes a range of reforms to liquor and gambling legislation in Queensland including: a modernisation and strengthening of gambling legislation; the

introduction of a framework for gambling on simulated events; an extension to gaming hours on New Year's Eve; and the introduction of a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising. These proposed changes are primarily drawn from recommendations of the Finkelstein inquiry and, disappointingly, the bill was drafted and tabled before the completion of the Gotterson review and the New South Wales Bell inquiry.

Members on this side of the House will support the bill. We will support any measures to reduce the harm that is caused by gambling to our communities. It is an issue that I and many of my colleagues have long been passionate about. In the context of the Gold Coast, there has been a push for the establishment of a global tourism hub which would include a second casino for the city. Given my electorate of Southport is in the relative centre of the city, most proposals have included locations that are either in my electorate or in close proximity.

In 2019 a report was released that listed public land at Carey Park in Southport as one of the 15 sites where a second casino could be built. I joined with local residents to call on the government to rule out Carey Park as a potential site—to rule out handing over public land for a casino. I want to put on the record in this House my thanks to those in the community who took up that fight with me to protect our public land—people like Paula Lipton, Desley and Dick Martin, and other residents of Huntington and the Southport CBD.

I have consistently opposed awarding a second casino licence for the Gold Coast on public land, and my community agrees. Throughout numerous surveys since I was elected in 2012, the public have consistently told me they do not want a second Gold Coast casino in our patch. Just shy of 90 per cent have said repeatedly that they are opposed to a second casino for the Gold Coast. Public land should be reserved for the amenity of our community and to be used by local communities. We should not be eyeballing public land for the development of major facilities, least of all another casino on the Gold Coast given the many challenges associated with problem gambling. That goes without saying.

Circling back, it would be remiss of me not to mention the premature nature of this bill being drafted and tabled before the Gotterson review was handed down last week. The government has accepted in principle all of Gotterson's recommendations. However, its terms of reference were too narrow. The actions of the government and the regulator and the links between Labor and lobbyists were not able to be part of the review. It is almost as if the government does not want to submit itself to that level of scrutiny and look on its own role in the misconduct of Queensland's casinos and had to be dragged kicking and screaming to set up a review in Queensland.

We know that the New South Wales government announced their review of Star Entertainment Group in late 2021. Despite months of serious allegations of misconduct and lawyers for the New South Wales inquiry stating that Star was not suitable to hold a casino licence, it took until mid-June this year for the Labor government to act. Even then, Gotterson's hands were tied with the narrow terms of reference. He was not able to investigate fully the role of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation and what they knew, did not know or did not act on. He was also unable to consider undue influence on the minister. Given the close connections publicly reported between the Labor Party and Star Entertainment Group, we can understand why.

We need casino operators to operate with the utmost integrity. For that, we need a regulator that is proactive and effective in their role. Unfortunately, there are still questions remaining as to the role of the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation. We will be introducing an amendment to clarify that the department cannot use section 14 as a reason to not disclose investigations into casinos. We have had feedback that this has happened previously, so we will be introducing an amendment to increase the transparency of the regulator's actions around casino operations. Despite the narrowness of the scope and the capacity for the government to have drafted a bill with greater protections and harm reductions, the LNP will always support measures to reduce gambling harm and therefore we support the measures of the bill. I commend the bill to the House.

Like many others who have risen in the House today and shared a bit about some of their gambling habits or lack of gambling habits, I too am someone who has always been particularly cautious in that regard. I may visit a casino on one or two occasions, but I can assure the House that I can find better things to do than waste my money on gambling.

**Mr Boothman:** It's distressing.

**Mr MOLHOEK:** I take that interjection; it is very distressing if one goes to a casino and loses significant amounts of money. I have had very direct and personal experience with helping others who have been sadly influenced by and addicted to gambling. As I stand in the House now, I have a friend who has his weekly pay deposited into an account that he cannot access and I have been helping him

for some months to manage that money and pay off some of his past debts. It is heartbreaking, it is confronting and it is awkward to have those weekly conversations with an old mate who has had to come and ask for assistance.

There is so much more that we as a parliament should be doing to regulate and support people with gambling addictions. I think I have mentioned in the House on a previous occasion that the casino in Singapore actually restricts local residents from visiting it, and I think that would be a good thing. Tourists with an international passport are very welcome to go and spend as much money as they want, but there are significant restrictions in place on locals. They actually monitor and control the frequency of visits by locals, or whether they can visit at all or the reasons for their visit. I am not sure we want to become a nanny state to quite that extent, but I believe there is some value in putting stronger controls in place around casino operations.

I want to add to the comments of the member for Clayfield, who I think quite succinctly summed up some of the challenges, issues and frustrations that we on this side of the House feel in respect of the late amendments that have been tabled for this legislation. It seems incredible that, on something as important as this, we are left to consider so many late amendments in an environment where, like so many other bills before this House, the debate will be truncated. We will not have an opportunity to debate each of the amendments either in groups or individually. I find that incredibly frustrating and I am not really sure we will achieve the best outcome as a result of that.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Before I call the next member, I would like to let all members know that we are joined this evening in the gallery by representatives from the Youth Advisory Council from the electorates of both Nudgee and Bulimba and welcome them to parliament.

 **Ms LUI** (Cook—ALP) (6.49 pm): I rise to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2022. In doing so, I would like to acknowledge the Attorney-General, committee chair Peter Russo, members of the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee, committee secretariat and Hansard for their work in the examination of the bill.

The bill implements a range of reforms relevant to the regulation of liquor, gaming and fair trading in Queensland. The amendments in the bill are to: ensure casino integrity and modernise gambling legislation; introduce a framework for wagering on simulated events; extend New Year's Eve gaming hours; and introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising.

The objectives of the bill as it relates to casino and gambling regulations are to: strengthen casino integrity and regulation in Queensland; remove certain redundant requirements under the Casino Control Act 1982; remove an identified human rights incompatibility under the Casino Control Act; and modernise the Casino Control Act, Casino Control Regulation 1999, 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 and Wagering Regulation 1999 as required to improve regulatory agility, address cashless gambling and enable gambling rules to be notified on a departmental website.

This bill aims to strengthen casino integrity and regulation in Queensland to ensure the operation of a casino remains free from criminal influence. Media allegations of money laundering, criminal infiltration and other integrity issues have, over the last 2½ years, prompted several major public inquiries and regulator and law enforcement investigations into casinos operated by subsidiaries of Crown Resorts Ltd and the Star Entertainment Group Ltd in multiple jurisdictions. Tougher gambling laws means tougher measures to ensure compliance requirements are met with increased penalties and pushes for more gambling harm minimisation measures.

Some of the allegations as they pertain to Crown subsidiaries have been substantiated by the Bergin inquiry in New South Wales, the Finkelstein inquiry in Victoria and the Owen inquiry in Western Australia which have resulted in those Crown subsidiaries being found unfit to hold casino licences in those states. Other allegations in relation to Star's subsidiaries are still being examined by multiple regulator and law enforcement agencies including by the Australian Transaction Reports and Analysis Centre and the New South Wales Independent Liquor and Gaming Authority, which has established an independent investigation into the Star Sydney casino, chaired by Mr Adam Bell SC.

These events suggest that the wider casino sector should be subject to stronger regulatory scrutiny to ensure casinos operate with the highest standards of integrity and accountability at all times. Although Crown has no presence in the Queensland casino environment, Star, through subsidiaries, is the licensee and operator of Treasury Brisbane and the Star Gold Coast. Additionally, Star has a stake in Destination Brisbane Consortium Integrated Resort Operations Pty Ltd, the licensee of the Star Brisbane, and will operate the new casino on behalf of DBC when it is anticipated to open in 2023.

The committee highlight in their report Star's advice that it has had a number of minor breaches for such matters as an exclusion or a staff error on tables over the last five years and that it had not paid any fines for these breaches.

To ensure that failings of the kind found by the Bergin, Finkelstein and Owen inquiries do not become prevalent in Queensland, the bill enhances the Casino Control Act by: introducing and increasing penalties for critical offences to ensure there are meaningful consequences for breaches of the law; imposing a requirement on particular entities to self-report contraventions of the law and breaches of certain prescribed agreements to which they are a party, and to comply with all reasonable requests made by the minister or regulator under the act and do everything necessary to ensure that the management and operations of the casino operator are conducted honestly and fairly; and expanding information-gathering powers and introducing other powers which are considered necessary to reflect the complexity of regulating casinos in current times.

The government is looking into the future by modernising the Casino Control Act. On 27 July 2021, the government released its four-year plan to prevent and minimise gambling harm. This is a significant step towards minimising the risk of harm caused by gambling because, as we all know, gambling remains easily accessible to everyone and unfortunately, if not controlled, it has the potential to destroy lives.

The Gambling Harm Minimisation Plan for Queensland 2021-2025 seeks to shift the focus away from 'responsible gambling' to 'safer gambling', recognising that a safer gambling environment requires collaborative effort between industry, community and government beyond placing the sole responsibility on gamblers to undertake responsible gambling. This is a good, sensible bill and I commend this bill to the House.

 **Mr LANGBROEK** (Surfers Paradise—LNP) (6.56 pm): I rise to speak on the Casino Control and Other Legislation Amendment Bill. I want to acknowledge the contribution of the shadow Attorney and the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee led by Peter Russo, the member for Toohey. As we have heard from speakers, the primary objective of the bill is to provide a range of reforms to the regulation of liquor, gaming and fair trading in Queensland. The amendments to the act aim to strengthen casino integrity and modernise gambling legislation, introduce a framework for wagering on simulated events, extend New Year's Eve gaming hours and introduce a cross-border recognition scheme for charitable fundraising.

There are a number of issues I would like to raise with regard to this bill. The shadow Attorney, the member for Clayfield, my parliamentary colleague, has highlighted many of those after the Attorney's second reading speech where she brought in 21 pages of 24 clauses that will not be examined by the committee. The shadow Attorney has comprehensively outlined that that means they are not subject to the same investigation and scrutiny that the original bill is. He has also pointed out that the Gotterson review's terms of reference were too narrow, completely different to the Bergin inquiry and the Finkelstein inquiry that was into Crown—under royal commission status where witnesses could be compelled—and it does mean that those limitations meant that while Gotterson KC looked at the actions of Star and advised the government they could find Star unsuitable to hold a licence, which it has done, he has not looked in-depth at what knowledge the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation had of their actions or whether they had done adequate work in monitoring Star's actions.

They are the same concerns that I have about the Office of Liquor and Gaming Regulation when it comes to my electorate, not just about Star, which is in my electorate, but about other premises and whether there are enough inspectors and, especially since COVID, whether they have been doing enough prosecutions or inspections. An answer to a question on notice I had earlier this year showed that those inspections and prosecutions have really gone over a cliff since then which means that licensees, whether it is in casinos or in pubs and clubs, will take advantage. The shadow Attorney also pointed out that, whilst there would be no prosecutions of Star, it either meant that they had been absolutely perfect or there had not been enough monitoring by the OLGR. I think that is something that OLGR and the minister need to look at significantly.

It is encouraging that the government has accepted in principle all of Gotterson's recommendations. The Attorney has announced urgent amendments to the Casino Act, which we have heard about—24 clauses in 21 pages—and I note that included in one of those amendments is that there will be an appointment of a special manager to oversee operations.

Whilst the LNP support the bill with measures to reduce gambling harm, it highlights the government's unwillingness to open itself to scrutiny and look at its role in monitoring the conduct of our casinos. I note the LNP will be introducing an amendment to clarify that the department cannot use section 14 as a reason to not disclose investigations into casinos.

The ABC state political reporter Rachel Riga details the need for legislative reform in an article from 6 October titled 'Star Entertainment Group unsuitable to hold casino licence in Queensland, attorney-general finds'. I table the article.

*Tabled paper:* Article from ABC News online, dated 6 October 2022, titled 'Star Entertainment Group unsuitable to hold casino licence in Queensland, attorney-general finds' [1665].

The article states—

Shadow Attorney-General Tim Nicholls has labelled the Gotterson review as "a missed opportunity" to look at all casino operators in the state ...

The links between the industry and the state government alongside Queensland's casino regulatory body have been entirely overlooked. The Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's statement of reservation by the deputy chair, the member for Currumbin, highlights the opposition's concerns with the bill. It states—

This Bill is rushed and represents a missed opportunity to enhance Queensland's casino regulatory framework.

The government has been slow to act. It was only the revelations of misconduct in New South Wales that finally forced Labor's hand to belatedly commence an inquiry into the operations of Star Entertainment Group Ltd in Queensland.

Debate, on motion of Mr Langbroek, adjourned.

## ADJOURNMENT

### Public Housing, Tenant Behaviour

 **Mr CRISAFULLI** (Broadwater—LNP) (Leader of the Opposition) (7.00 pm): There is an idyllic place called Paradise Point on the Broadwater and it is a proud community. However, right now there is some behaviour—unruliness—that is creating unease and it is unacceptable. I refer to some of the goings-on in Errol Avenue and a battle we have been fighting for a couple of years. It is a behaviour from a very small number—an extremely small number—of tenants in a social housing property—

**Mr Power** interjected.

**Mr MANDER:** I rise to a point of order. We have interjections from somebody who is not sitting in their correct seat.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Member for Logan, if you are going to interject you will need to move back to your seat.

**Mr CRISAFULLI:** It is spoiling the amenity of neighbouring properties—and I have spoken with families, retirees, a teacher and an airline worker—but it is also spoiling it for the tenants of that housing commission property. There are some great people in there. I want to tell the stories of two who have reached out to me about the behaviour of some of their cohort. The first one states—

The havoc—

they—

are causing me from constant loud music, swearing, unduly driving ... is so bad, I have PTSD from really bad times in my life brought on from anxiety and stress, and this is adding to it.

Another gentleman who had the tyres of his car slashed has been too afraid to go to the police. These are tenants of that public housing property and they want their serenity back. For two years we have been taking up the fight. We have spoken with local police and representatives from the department of housing. Residents have urged me to go public because nothing is changing at the moment with regard to a small number of tenants who are not being held accountable by the state government. We have written, we have called and now I am asking the government to listen. We will now be taking the fight to the minister and we are taking it publicly because this cannot go on.

An extremely high needs client resided there and was evicted from the property in April but returned the same night. The windows were smashed in the property. We need high-needs people to be able to get the care they deserve and the people on the waiting list need access to properties like this. For years this property has been an integral part of the community. Its tenants have been

welcomed. They have been embraced. Right now the unruly behaviour of a few is tearing the community apart. The businesses are reporting theft and neighbours are reporting night-times of havoc—music and vandalism—and it has to stop. The government has to acknowledge there are people on waiting lists who deserve these properties. They deserve a roof over their head and these people who are causing havoc do not deserve to live without there being protections for others.

### **Aspley Electorate, Schools; Zillmere Festival**

 **Mr MELLISH** (Aspley—ALP) (7.04 pm): I rise to speak about the impressive hard work local school communities have been putting in on a range of fronts in the Aspley area. It was an honour last week to be part of the Craigslea State High School community for the official unveiling of its First Nations mural painted by First Nations artist Jenny Kent and Manamana Dreaming. I visited along with the member for Stafford and the federal member for Lilley.

School captains Aretha, Armaan, Jordan and Covey were the drivers of the significant project which seeks to unite our community in our shared commitment to reconciliation. Through the use of native flora and fauna, this artwork stands as a symbolic reminder to us of our ongoing responsibility to respect the traditional custodians of our land. It is in a prominent location, right outside the school hall and it looks absolutely fantastic.

Jenny collaborated with the school's Indigenous students, ultimately designing a mural that encapsulates all facets of Craigslea State High School life including its students, staff, parents, core values and the local environment. I had the honour of adding my fingerprint to the mural along with many of those present on the day.

I want to recognise and thank the Craigslea State High School P&C Association for the hard work they put into the installation as well as the continued support of the school. It was an absolute privilege to be a part of this and to support this initiative, so I thank Craigslea State High School for that opportunity. I say well done to the student teachers, Michelle and the P&C, Robyn and Naomi and the school council. It is a fantastic outcome.

I am delighted to see there is another exciting unveiling of an Indigenous mural taking place tomorrow at Aspley East State School, which their P&C has brought about. While I am disappointed I will not be able to personally attend this one due to parliament sitting, I am inspired by the positive impact this vibrant mural will have on the local Aspley East community. The project will celebrate the culture and history of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians, ultimately bolstering the sense of community. Again, I say well done to the Aspley East P&C for backing this important project.

I will now touch briefly on other school projects in the area. The Aspley Special School's new block is expected to be completed at the end of this year. This is an outstanding \$11 million investment which will help provide students with a two-storey, 12-classroom learning facility which will expand the school's learning opportunities. I was there recently to check on progress. It was great to get a run-down from Broad Construction, which also did the Aspley State High School sports hall next door. The special school students especially liked hearing about progress on their new building. They cannot wait to move in.

Finally, I would like to make mention of Geebung Special School, which also put in the hard yards to install a brand new learning play centre at the back of their block. It is going to be ready in early 2023 and it will be outstanding.

Before I finish, I must say I really enjoyed Zillmere Festival on the weekend. It was great to be in the member for Nudgee's electorate. It was the first festival they have had since 2019. I say well done to Jabiru, event organisers and volunteers. It made for a very special day.

### **Treasurer and Minister for Trade and Investment**

 **Mr STEVENS** (Mermaid Beach—LNP) (7.07 pm): There was an old song that went, 'Woe is me, shame and scandal in the family,' and nothing could be more appropriate for Queensland's current Treasurer, whose brother the former councillor Dick is the Speaker of the federal parliament. Queensland's Treasurer has absolutely trashed the family reputation with his own-goal attempt at slugging interstate investors who invest in Queensland with another tax, which I believe was probably unconstitutional in the first instance.

There was no consultation with other states before his abysmal attempt at money grabbing to patch up his massive Queensland debt hole, no apologies to Queenslanders for his failed attempt at a tax grab after his Premier kicked his imbecilic idea into touch without telling him and no regrets about

pushing another tax burden in his budget after promising Queenslanders there would be no new taxes in this year's budget. Not only is he arrogant about his untruthful promises, not only is he unapologetic about his failed tax grab, but he is obviously unrepentant about his broken personal relationship with his factional ally Premier Palaszczuk, who did not bother to tell the Treasurer before she dumped his unworkable tax hike.

Does this sound like a government in turmoil to you, Madam Deputy Speaker? It certainly sounds to me like a government that is desperate for a tax grab to prop up their failed economic performance. It seems to be unravelling at a great rate of knots on the incompetent watch of Queensland's worst treasurer since Andrew Fraser, who lost Queensland's AAA credit rating, which was part of the reason for the wipe-out of the Bligh Labor government. With worst in the world economic predictions being touted by even Labor's federal Treasurer, Jim Chalmers, Treasurer Dick would be the last person I would pick to bring Queensland through the stormy economic times to a safe financial harbour.

When the Premier checks out of parliament next year in the same escape route that former premier Beattie took in 2008 to pursue her other consuming interests, it now seems certain that the leader of the Left faction, Deputy Premier Miles, will take over the Premier's mantle to the great chagrin of Treasurer Dick. I am pleased to help the Treasurer with this book that I will table for his benefit titled *Economics 101*.

*Tabled paper: Book titled Economics 101 from consumer behaviour to competitive markets—Everything you need to know about economics by Alfred Mill [1666].*

It is a basic course done at university which I did when I did my degree and it will help the Treasurer enormously in his ongoing remit to try to deal with an out-of-control debt position coming into a period of serious financial challenge. In simple economic terms—

**Honourable members** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Order! Pause the clock. Members, I am paying particular attention to this member's speech. For me to do that, I need the volume to come down a little bit please.

**Mr STEVENS:** In simple economic terms they have gone bust in an economic boom in Queensland, so when the hard times hit, as the federal Treasurer said will happen, there will be no more wriggle room or rabbit holes to pull figures out of.

### **Morayfield Electorate, Health Infrastructure; Ryan Family**

 **Hon. MT RYAN** (Morayfield—ALP) (Minister for Police and Corrective Services and Minister for Fire and Emergency Services) (7.10 pm): I rise to talk about the significant commitment of the Palaszczuk government in the Caboolture-Morayfield area, particularly when it comes to health investment, and the health investment is significant in the Caboolture-Morayfield area. Almost half a billion dollars is being invested directly into infrastructure improvements for our community.

The major redevelopment of the Caboolture Hospital is well underway. It is on track, due to be finished in 2024, and that redevelopment will see a massive reconstruction of the hospital as well as an expansion of services and capacity. It is going to have a multistorey car park with over 1,000 car parks. It is going to have a day chemotherapy unit, new clinical services, an intensive care unit, palliative care, cardiac care, more beds, more nurses, more doctors and an enhanced special care nursery—a significant investment and a great investment in the people of the Caboolture-Morayfield region in terms of not only the services available to them but also the job opportunities.

That leads me to acknowledge the significant contribution and dedication from the healthcare workers and professionals at the Caboolture Hospital—dedicated nurses, doctors, allied health professionals and also the support staff such as those in catering, the wardies, those who look after the grounds and keep the hospital running smoothly. I want to pay particular tribute to them, but that is not where the health investment stops.

There is also a satellite hospital underway in Caboolture. It is on track as well and is a significant investment in expanded service facilities and offerings in addition to the Morayfield Ambulance Station—a brand new ambulance station for our community. It is in the planning stage right now and we look forward to construction starting in the near future. These are very important services for a growing community—a growing community with more estates, more young families and more children coming to the area. That leads me to acknowledge on the permanent record a welcome to the world to my new son.

**Honourable members:** Hear, hear!

**Mr RYAN:** Gabriel Edward, or Teddy, was born about four weeks ago at a very healthy weight as my family has a tradition of delivering—that is, 10 pounds one. He does not beat the record of his older brother Flynn, who was 10 pounds 10, but is a welcome addition to our family. Just this morning my eldest son, Danny, said to me, ‘Dad, we were hoping for a girl, but Flynn and I think we’ll settle with the boy.’ My three sons are very excitable young boys. We are very pleased to have them. I want to acknowledge the outstanding efforts that my wife, Holly, goes to in caring for them and putting up with me and, of course, the long hours that all of us as members of parliament contribute. We know that being a member of parliament is a vocation—it is a tough job—but we cannot do it without our families, and I am very blessed to have a very good and special family.

### Maroochydore Electorate, Rail

 **Ms SIMPSON** (Maroochydore—LNP) (7.13 pm): I firstly want to congratulate the police minister and his wife, Holly, on that delightful news of the addition to your growing family, so congratulations. I hope you get some sleep sometime, but I am sure your wife is probably the one who is bearing the burden of a lot of that, but well done and congratulations.

It is time to get rail to Maroochydore on track. This rail infrastructure project is important to not only connect South-East Queensland for the 2032 Olympics but also connect residents in one of the fastest growing regions in Queensland. The former federal coalition government committed \$1.6 billion and budgeted this in Budget Paper No. 2 at page 139 and it needs to be matched now to get the project moving—matched by the state government to ensure that this project can get moving and be delivered in time for the 2032 Olympics. As I have said, regardless, this project needs to happen. Redcliffe had to wait more than 100 years for its rail. We do not want to see that happen when the opportunity and the need is now for the Sunshine Coast.

We have seen a record budget blowout confirmed yesterday of \$2.8 billion which was brushed under the mat as if it is just minor petty cash. However, that is significant money and there is much waste in the way that this government goes about its budgeting. There is a need to ensure that money is put aside for critical infrastructure such as rail and this money alone would have more than matched the federal funding and secured the project, but we have seen no commitment from this government and excuses.

Worse than that, we saw a situation last week when the Premier was on the Sunshine Coast as part of the Olympic delegation visit. She was asked about the rail and her response was very disappointing. She was asked about rail to Maroochydore being built in time for the Olympics and her response was—

Um, from my understanding, is, ah, from memory, we did, ah, some detailed, ah, studies with the council. Um, I'm happy to follow that up with, ah, Minister Bailey, ah, but we do know that, ah, there is both more and more people moving here to the Sunshine Coast. Ah, you have seen our massive infrastructure that we're actually spending at the moment in terms of upgrades to the Bruce Highway, ah, making travel and commutes so much easier.

Ironically with regard to the Bruce Highway upgrades, 80 per cent of those were funded by the former federal government. The Premier had no idea about when rail would be delivered to the Sunshine Coast and to Maroochydore and she did not even have the courtesy to be briefed about this. We are one of the fastest growing areas and the ninth most popular city in Australia. The state government needs to commit to this project, stop making excuses and stop coming up and having media events with nothing to contribute to the infrastructure. It is desperately needed. It is time it was delivered and committed to.

### Townsville, North Queensland Cowboys

 **Hon. SJ STEWART** (Townsville—ALP) (Minister for Resources) (7.16 pm): I rise to talk about the pride of Townsville and North Queensland—the mighty Cowboys and what they have brought to the north this year. The team had an amazing season despite many pundits—and I am sure there are many of them in this chamber tonight—claiming that they would end up with the wooden spoon. We know that when the North Queensland Cowboys are up, so is the city and the region. In fact, it really lifts the whole place. We all know that the Cowboys were robbed in their preliminary final against the Eels.

**Government members** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Yes, it is not the seven-tackle try. However, we know that the city certainly was not robbed. The game was a sell-out and Townsville's accommodation was full, as were the pubs, the clubs and the restaurants in the days leading up to the game and afterwards. In fact, the game helped

inject around \$7 million into the economy which is fantastic news for our local businesses. That is why the Palaszczuk government invested in the Queensland Country Bank Stadium because we knew that it would benefit all of Townsville and all of North Queensland.

There is a saying that the member for Thuringowa and I used to say all of the time—that is, built by North Queenslanders for North Queenslanders. Events like this help activate Townsville's CBD. Not only that; they also showcase our city to a massive audience. Who can ever forget that the first Origin game outside of a major capital city was played in Townsville? I have to tell members that the place went off like a frog in a sock. It was just amazing. The whole place was alive until they ran out on to the ground and, jeez, wasn't it like a wet blanket after that?

**A government member** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story! Townsville also has a huge opportunity during the 2032 Olympics when it hosts football which means that the capital of North Australia will again be seen by the eyes of the world.

**Mr Healy** interjected.

**Mr STEWART:** I am sorry, members for Cairns and Barron River. We have proven time and time again that Townsville is the events capital of North Australia and we are bringing more events and entertainment to the city into the future, so let us have a look at some of the things we already do—the V8 Supercars, the North Australian Festival of Arts, the Australian Festival of Chamber Music and Magnetic Island Race Week, amongst many other events. Already the Queensland Reds have announced that they will be playing two games in the stadium in Townsville next year, which will be another welcome boost for the city.

As a government we will continue to invest in ways to support Townsville's great lifestyle while also supporting great jobs. There were plenty of naysayers about building this stadium in Townsville, but there are not many of them left. This investment from the Palaszczuk government will continue to pay dividends and will be embraced by Townsville now and into the future.

### Pioneer-Burdekin Hydro Project

 **Mr ANDREW** (Mirani—PHON) (7.19 pm): The Queensland government's proposal to build the world's biggest hydro power project at Pioneer Valley in my electorate will devastate this precious region and its pristine subtropical landscape and ecosystem. It will also devastate the homes, lives and livelihoods of the many residents, farmers and local communities that live there. This five-gigawatt mega project will involve the construction of two high dams in the Burdekin catchment and another massive one in the valley below with a 60-metre wall. It will completely inundate the town of Netherdale and the surrounding valley up to the base of the Eungella Ranges. Its construction could mean cutting down thousands of hectares of evergreen and broadleaf forest and the clearing of thousands of mature trees and subtropical vegetation. Clearing so much of the area's trees and vegetation in this region will also make thousands of vulnerable and endangered species homeless. The population of many migratory species may even collapse or disappear.

Farmers in the region will also be greatly impacted. The construction of these three new mega dams will trap sediments critical for maintaining biophysical processes and soils downstream. This sediment-rich soil helps farmers to grow crops. It also gives life to marine animals. The flooding of the upper valley's forests, rivers, streams and agricultural lands will fragment the river catchment, raise methane emissions in the region and over time create methylmercury contamination. All this will cause the surrounding land to become less fertile and add many new pollutants to the waterways. It will also require an unsustainable volume of water from the Pioneer and Burdekin River catchment, adversely impacting the region's water entitlements.

There are also real concerns the project will end up using more energy, including coal-generated, than it creates, as is the case with every other hydro project in Australia. The Snowy 2.0 project has experienced significant delays and its cost is now more than double its original budget. Queensland's \$777 million Kidston pumped hydro project has taken nine years to complete and received more public funds than its total capital costs.

Another major concern is the huge new network of transmission towers needed to transport the project's electricity. According to the Premier, a new transmission supergrid will be constructed to connect the project's renewable storage to regional centres throughout the state. The government has

provided no trajectory for the Pioneer-Burdekin transmission corridor. Given the project's size, it is likely the transmission corridor will slice through many areas of the state's forests, national parks, wetlands, streams and rivers, posing a threat to vital wildlife habitats, not to mention its many local tourism and recreational attractions. Massive transmission towers and lines will also need to be built throughout many local towns, communities, rural properties and some of the state's most fertile agricultural lands. If allowed to proceed, this unique region will be lost forever to the people of Queensland and future generations. Surely the idea should be to live in harmony with nature, not industrialise it.

### Bribie Island Bridge

 **Ms KING** (Pumicestone—ALP) (7.22 pm): For the people of Pumicestone, our Bribie Island Bridge symbolises what it means to grow up, live and get older in our beautiful community. For year 12 classes graduating from Bribie Island State High School, jumping off the Bribie Island Bridge at the end of the semester is a celebration and a rite of passage. For many families like mine, the Bribie Island Bridge has happy memories of summer barbecues and fireworks to welcome the New Year. For retirees, the bridge is iconic of the Pumicestone Passage where they paddle, fish and enjoy mucking around in boats.

Every year, more visitors cross the Bribie Island Bridge and fall in love. That is great news for our local small businesses, but not so great for traffic congestion. When our bridge was first constructed in 1963, Bribie was home to only 600 people. Now, in 2022, our bridge is looking a bit retro and Bribie's population has boomed by 3,330 per cent, with well over 800,000 visitors crossing Bribie Island Bridge to visit our island paradise every year.

The 2014 GHD report suggested that Bribie Island Bridge will hit capacity during peak periods by 2031, but if you ask locals on sunny Saturday mornings, during the school holidays, or any time there is an event on at the Sandstone Point Hotel, they will tell you capacity has been well and truly reached already. I want to give a shout-out at this point to our Moreton Bay Mayor, Peter Flannery, who spent a frustrating couple of hours stuck in traffic on the Bribie Island Bridge last Australia Day. This issue goes beyond congestion. With over 55 per cent of our Bribie community aged 60 and over, people tell me they worry about ambulances getting on and off the island when traffic is heavy. Disappointingly, the LNP took funding for our bridge off the table after the 2020 election, as I very clearly remember.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER** (Ms Bush): Order, member!

**Ms KING:** By contrast, I listened to our community and worked hard to get \$4 million for a business case to plan our next Bribie Island bridge.

**Mr Mander** interjected.

**Madam DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Order, member! Pause the clock. Member for Everton, I have asked you twice now. I do not want to warn you at this time, but that will be my next move.

**Ms KING:** Now I am delighted to announce that the business case is well underway. Community consultation will be absolutely essential to the business case and I ask everyone in our Pumicestone community to have their say. We need to know what is most important to you in planning our next bridge. Do you want to see better active transport paths for mobility scooters, bikes and wheelchairs? How could a future Bribie bridge make recreational boating safer and better? What is unique about our community that designers need to know when planning a future Bribie bridge? Pumicestone, get ready to have your say on our next Bribie Island bridge for the future of our community.

### Toowoomba North Electorate, Schools

 **Mr WATTS** (Toowoomba North—LNP) (7.25 pm): I rise to talk about traffic safety around schools in my electorate. This year in the budget there was money allocated for infrastructure. We have run three petitions: one at Toowoomba State High School, one at Wilsonton State High School and one at Fairview Heights Primary School. Toowoomba State High School is of particular concern. There was an accident there last week where one of the students ended up in hospital and two cars were damaged and it obviously cost a lot of money. Although the traffic layout of Stuart Street and North Street is clearly in need of straightening up, the problem is that on a foggy day you will not see the road. That is particularly dangerous for the children who are trying to get across that road, either in cars or on foot. Toowoomba has a very large Yazidi population who are new Australians and a lot of them attend

Toowoomba State High School. They have a different sense of traffic while they are still adjusting to life in Toowoomba and they are certainly not used to fog. It is a particularly dangerous intersection that is in great need of investment to make it safer.

Wilsonton State High School needs a scramble crossing on the intersection of Richmond Drive and North Street. At the moment the children cross the road and get stuck on one corner. Simply turning this T-junction into a scramble crossing would allow them all to safely get across and it would help traffic to flow. The situation at both of these schools are accidents waiting to happen. The minister has allocated funds in the budget and they should be allocated to these schools as a priority.

The traffic situation at Fairview Heights Primary School has been an ongoing problem. A number of years ago local residents started complaining about parents parking outside their properties. Helpfully the local council came and put 'no parking' signs up everywhere. It is a dead-end street. There is absolutely nowhere to park a vehicle. You cannot safely pick up children. Traffic is going around in circles. It is chaos at pick-up and drop-off time. I am concerned that a young person will get injured. The infrastructure money that has been allocated in the budget should be used for this school so that we can get a good traffic management plan and an infrastructure upgrade to make sure the children are safe at Fairview Heights Primary School.

Wilsonton State High School needs a scramble crossing, Toowoomba State High School needs North and Stuart streets straightened up and Fairview Heights Primary School needs a car parking solution for the young children as they are trying to get into their parents cars and/or walk home. Currently none of them are safe. The money is in the budget.

### Darra, Green Space

 **Ms PUGH** (Mount Ommaney—ALP) (7.29 pm): I am delighted to have the opportunity to rise in the House tonight and speak about something our local community is incredibly proud of, and that is the new allocation of green space for Darra. For the benefit of the House I will provide a little bit of background. In my first term, I worked with locals on the maintenance of a significant piece of land at the back of Darra. The land was owned by the Department of Transport and Main Roads. It was purchased some time ago for major road upgrades that have now taken place, so the department no longer needed the land. That is about 4.88 hectares of potential space available for our community.

A number of locals suggested that Transport and Main Roads, if they no longer had use for the land, could turn the land into green space so that the entire community can benefit from it. I thought this was a fantastic idea, so for the last few years I have worked with Minister Bailey—and I thank him for his help on this—to create a plan to transition this surplus land from Transport and Main Roads into the hands of the city council and create proper, certified community green space. I am excited to share that a 4.88-hectare parcel of land on Warrender Street in Darra will be gifted from the state government to Brisbane City Council for community use.

**Mr Hunt:** A good outcome!

**Ms PUGH:** I will take that interjection from the honourable member. It is a great outcome for the community. It is a significant increase to the green space footprint in my community and certainly in the community of Darra. I look forward to working with Brisbane City Council on ensuring this space is of maximum benefit to our community.

This is a community win that has come about because of the hard work of Darra locals like the Darra Community Group. I thank vice president Kurt for meeting with me on site earlier this year so I could talk him through the proposal properly and the wonderful committee he has around him who continue to activate the Darra community around spaces like this one. The good news for Darra does not stop there.

**Mr Hunt:** You're kidding! Surely not!

**Ms PUGH:** I know! It gets better. But wait, there's more! Our beautiful Darra State School will also benefit from over \$10 million worth of new classrooms, including music rooms and plenty of room for this small but growing school. I say a special thank you to the Darra P&C, and in particular their president, Lisa, who has been at the helm for a number of years now, for creating a beautiful environment for our students to learn and thrive.

I thank the committee members, both past and present, for their continued advocacy around many issues in Darra over many years. They are the beating heart of our beautiful community and I want to put that on the record here tonight.

The House adjourned at 7.32 pm.

**ATTENDANCE**

Andrew, Bailey, Bates, Bennett, Berkman, Bleijje, 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, McMillan, 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